Delegation Dispatch
In-house bulletin of EU Delegation to Ethiopia
November 2026

The Ambassadors Corner

Dear Colleagues and Partners,



October and November are normally very busy months. This year has proven to be no exception. High level discussions have taken place among our leaders, and the EU's Political and Security Committee just concluded its visit to Addis which also included an Ethiopia bilateral program, as did the EU External Action Service's Managing Director for Africa Patrica Llomart Cussac and EU Commission, International Partnership's Director Stefano Signore. This season is also very much focused on creating opportunities for people to people contacts through culture, sports and student exchange. The EU Film Festival is running until the end of November with movies from 27 EU member states and friends of the Union. We are showcasing European diversity through our cultures, history, traditions, languages and geography. At the same time, even as we originate from different continents as human beings we have so much in common; emotions, dreams, hopes and challenges, thus film connects, brings us closer together and creates ties beyond borders!

In the framework of the "EU visits your university" series we went to Dire Dawa, for our first event outside Addis. My take from the discussions with the Dire Dawa University President, Vice-Presidents, academic staff and students was that there is big interest in collaborating more and working together in fields like health and digitalization. To explore such opportunities, November is a big month, as applications open for this year's Erasmus+ scholarships, I can also recommend a visit to the upcoming Study in Europe Fair 26-27.11. The visit to Dire Dawa was rewarding in many other ways as well, it is an example of the long ties between EU and Ethiopia, as in 1894 Emperor Minelik II granted a French company a concession to construct the Ethiopia-Djibouti railway!

What would be a better way to connect people than through sports. Many of us followed online as the Swedish runner Andreas Almgren won in his marathon debut the legendary New York City marathon followed by Italy's Crippa. This was an amazing moment for us runners! Closer to home we look forward to the Great Ethiopian Run in the end of November with nearly an equal number of runners as in New York! EU is a proud partner and sponsor of this year's run and as we are celebrating 51 years of EU-Ethiopia partnership. With fellow members of Team Europe we are looking forward to hitting the streets of Addis together with thousands of Ethiopian runners!

Sofie

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What's New in the Delegation?

Mission Statement of Our Delegation

To build a competitive, innovative, and trust-based EU-Ethiopia partnership rooted in shared values for sustainable investment.

Press and Information

More than 50 years of partnership. A commitment that continues to grow



The European Union has stood alongside Ethiopia for five decades, supporting its development through progress and challenge. Today, we are Ethiopia's biggest development partner, committed to strengthening cooperation and creating new opportunities for its people. During his visit to Ethiopia on 5–6 November, Stefano Signore, the European Commission's Director for Africa (DG INTPA), reaffirmed this commitment and explored opportunities to expand our partnership. He met with Ethiopian government representatives, including the Ministry of Finance, the Ethiopian Investment Commission, and energy sector leaders to discuss economic reforms, investment, and future EU cooperation.

He visited Ethiopian businesses in the horticulture and agricultural sectors, exploring opportunities to strengthen production, trade and access to international markets. At the Gela Dry Port, he explored opportunities for better railway connections, modern logistics and cold-chain infrastructure to help Ethiopian products reach new markets. Together with EU Member States and European businesses, the discussions focused on turning shared priorities into concrete investments through Global Gateway. The EU is a reliable, long-term partner of Ethiopia. We are here to stay, to invest in our partnership and to build a more prosperous future together



EU Comes to Your University – Dire Dawa

As part of the "EU Comes to Your University" series, EU Ambassador Sofie From-Emmesberger visited Dire Dawa University to engage with students on EU-Ethiopia relations and learning opportunities available to Ethiopian students in Europe, including through the @Erasmus+ programme. She also had the pleasure to engage with the President of Dire Dawa University, Dr. Ubah Adem, to explore opportunities for strengthening academic cooperation in areas of research and innovation.



The day also offered an opportunity to visit the Ethio-Italy Polytechnic College to learn more about the technical and vocational education and skills development programmes offered to youth.

EU Ambassador Sofie From-Emmesberger culminated with a warm reception by the Mayor of Dire Dawa, Mr. Abdullahi Aden Yusuf, to exchange on local development priorities and potential areas for further cooperation.







Human Development Team

On 6 October 2026, the Programme Technical Committee (PTC) for the EU funded programme" Support to Sustainable and Integrated Responses to Forced Displacement and Labour Migration in Ethiopia"-AAP 2024 met to review progress on advancing sustainable responses to forced displacement in Ethiopia. Members discussed key achievements, implementation challenges and priorities for the next season. The meeting highlighted the importance of strengthened coordination, local ownership and inclusive approaches to support displaced and host communities. Participants also reaffirmed their commitment to durable solutions and continued collaboration among partners.

On 25 September 2026, the Human Development Section launched a EUR 9 million Call for Proposals to promote economic transformation in conflict- and migration-prone regions and strengthen IDP policy and programming.(https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/prospect-details/187801PROSPECTSEN) This grant will be the final contract under AAP 2024 – Part I. An information session held on 23 October 2026 attracted over 100 registrations from international organisations, civil society and community-based organisations, research institutions, private companies and universities, with participants joining both in person and online. The deadline for concept note submission is 20 November 2026.

On 27 October 2026, we convened the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Programme Technical Committee (PTC) meeting to review progress under the Post-Conflict Health and GBV Programme (ACT-62591). The programme focuses on the rehabilitation of health infrastructure; the strengthening of GBV case management and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services; as well as support for the socio-economic reintegration of GBV survivors and other vulnerable conflict-affected groups in the Tigray, Afar and Amhara regions.

The meeting provided an opportunity to facilitate exchange of learning on GBV programming, approaches, and standards, while enhancing harmonisation and coordination among the various implementing partners and government stakeholders.

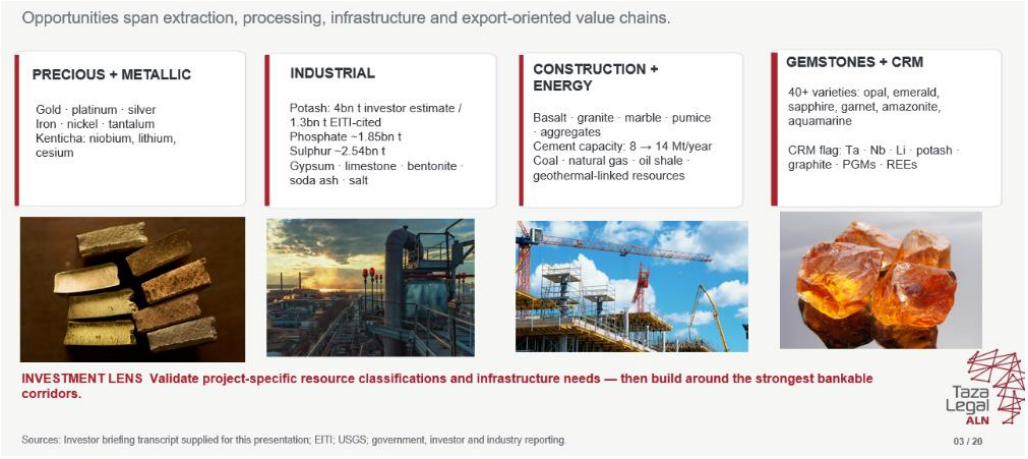
The PTC brings together implementing partners such as CARE, Save the Children, Trócaire and Expertise France, as well as government counterparts, including the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA)

Following the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (August 2026) between Ethiopia and Malawi on combating trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants, the ROCK project convened a two day working meeting in Addis Ababa on 5–6 October 2026 to review and finalise the related Action Plan. The meeting brought together Ethiopian and Malawian police and justice points of contact and liaison officers, with the participation of representatives of the EU Delegations in Ethiopia and Malawi. Building on the initial discussions and the priorities set out in the MoU, the draft Action Plan aims to translate political commitments into practical cooperation through concrete activities, clearly assigned responsibilities, timelines and monitoring mechanisms. It remains subject to collective discussion and validation by all partners.

The discussions also underscored the importance of timely intelligence-sharing, coordinated investigations, strong police–justice cooperation and a victim-centred approach. They further highlighted the value of combining bilateral cooperation between Ethiopia and Malawi with a broader regional perspective, in line with the EU's continued support for African-led and regional responses to these criminal networks.

The Green Deal Team organised a Team Europe Coordination meeting on Critical Raw Material (CRM) at the Delegation on 8 October 2026

We had the pleasure to welcome Mrs. Hanna Mulugeta, Partner at Taza Legal LLP, who made a presentation of the mining ecosystem in Ethiopia, the state of mining exploration and processing of the main value chains in the country, the lessons learned as well as the legal context and the state of the reforms. Mrs. Mulugeta highlighted that the policy had shifted in 2018, when the mining sector becoming a strategic pillar of the economy (mainly gold but also other mines). Opportunities to invest exist in the following CRM: tantalum, nobium, lithium, potash, graphite, PGMs and rare earth.



We then had a presentation from Elisabetta Sartorel, European Commission, CRM expert at INTPA E2 (trade, investment climate, entrepreneurship & value chains) on the EU strategic orientations and case studies (South Africa and Zambia) from Team Europe work in CRM in other countries.

A mention was also made of the Panafgeo programme benefitting 49 countries. 17 geologists have been trained in Ethiopia over the years.

After that, Mr. Tomi Sarkioja, Head of Development, Embassy of Finland shared inspiring ideas for Team Europe engagement and lessons learn by Finland on Circular Economy. Finland has quite a sophisticated mining cluster, with highly specialised public bodies providing solutions in the mining sector. Metso (5 bio/year and 18,000 employees) https://www.metso.com/.

Mr. Sarkioja indicated Finland interest in partnering on the TAIEX project that will start shortly Geological Institute of Ethiopia (GIE). It will be a five-day institutional assessment programme for the GIE under the TAIEX Peer-2-Peer Technical Assistance initiative, to evaluate GIE's organizational and technical capabilities, and its operational effectiveness in response to Ethiopia's evolving mining sector reform and geo-energy development priorities.

Finally, the EU Delegation informed Team Europe colleagues about a workshop that we are organising with the Ethiopian Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) on the 3rd of November 2026, on critical raw materials/circularity and requested the Team Europe colleagues to help us identify an expert from an EU Member State to participate in the discussions.

Agro-logistics and railway Global Gateway Coordination meeting

The EU and Member States had a Global Gateway Coordination meeting on 1st October focusing on opportunities for potential investments in Ethiopian railways and new initiatives in agro-logistics and cool chain infrastructure. Key railway developments and proposals for a French-led railway modernisation project in 2027/28, which builds on the Innotrans exhibition in Germany in September. Member States also shared potential interests from their respective private sector.

In agrologistics, the Netherlands' active initiative in Ethiopia's horticulture and floriculture sectors was highlighted for the EUR 7 million "Freshway" programme, focusing on commercial fruit farms in southern and central regions to optimize marketing, sorting, grading, and packing. These European initiatives would be synergised with other ongoing initiatives such as the Cool Port facility at the Modjo Dry Port along the Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway line.

Governance and Peace Team



On 16 October 2026, the EU Delegation to Ethiopia, in partnership with the EU funded project #defyhatenow-Ethiopia, brought together members of its Youth Sounding Board for a one-day training on Gender Based Violence and Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The training combined discussions on the different forms of GBV with practical exercises on digital security, messaging privacy, and the safe handling of digital evidence. YSB members also shared personal experiences, learned from one another, and gained hands on experience in documenting and reporting incidents of GBV and TFGBV.

By investing in young people's knowledge and practical skills, the EU Delegation to Ethiopia is strengthening the YSB's role in promoting gender equality, raising awareness of online violence, and contributing to safer and more inclusive digital spaces.

The training reflects the EU Delegation to Ethiopia's commitment to meaningful youth participation and to ensuring that young people have the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to make a difference in their communities.

EURECS II – Project Steering Committee Meeting

On 20th of October a Steering Committee meeting was held in the project EURECS II, an intervention focusing on electoral support with funds from KfW and the EU. The committee meeting was attended among others by NEBE chair Madam Melatwork and three representatives from Ministry of Finance. The strategic direction of the project was agreed upon, to stand ready to support any electoral exercises coming up during the project implementation period, while also focusing on the sustainability of project activities, to make the impact last beyond the implementation period."

PEFA preparation Workshop

A three-day Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) preparation workshop took place in Addis Ababa from 27 to 29 October 2026. The workshop marked the first activity of the PEFA exercise, which is supported and financed by the EU, AFD, FCDO, and UNICEF, and managed by the World Bank.

The event brought together representatives from development partner organisations, as well as federal and regional government officials. In his opening remarks, H.E. Mr Fikadu Horeta, State Minister of Finance for Public Finance and Fiscal Policy, highlighted the government's strong commitment to the process.

The PEFA assessment is scheduled to begin in mid November 2026 and will cover the federal level, as well as selected regions and city administrations. The purpose of the PEFA is to assess the performance of Ethiopia's public financial management (PFM) systems and to identify both strengths and areas for improvement.

HoD visit to the Federal Supreme Court's new premises

On 01/10/2026, the EU Ambassador, together with the President of the Federal Supreme Court of Ethiopia, visited the newly built Federal Supreme Court. The visit highlighted the smart courtrooms established with EU support, showcasing how digital solutions can help make justice more efficient, transparent and accessible. A key moment was the inauguration of a sentencing guideline translated into three local languages, also supported by the EU, helping bring justice closer to citizens. Through its support to the digitization of the judiciary, the EU is contributing to faster, more efficient and more inclusive justice services. This also reflects the Global Gateway approach: investing in trusted, sustainable digital transformation that strengthens public institutions and delivers tangible benefits for people.



From the History Book

November in the history of the European Union

November has played an important role in the history of European integration. Several major political decisions, treaties, institutional developments and symbolic events connected with the European Union (EU) have taken place during this month.

1 November 1993 – Establishment of the European Union

The Maastricht Treaty enters into force, officially establishing the European Union. It introduces EU citizenship, lays the foundations for the euro and strengthens political cooperation between member states.

9 November 1989 – Fall of the Berlin Wall

A landmark event in European history. The fall of the Berlin Wall accelerated the end of the Cold War and opened the way for German reunification and the future enlargement of the EU.

27–28 November 1995 – Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Conference

The EU and its Mediterranean partners launch the Barcelona Process, establishing a framework for political, economic and cultural cooperation between Europe and the southern Mediterranean.







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European Union Delegation to Ethiopia