



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

REMARKS BY

**H.E MAJ (RTD) JESSICA ALUPO R. E. (MP)
VICE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

ON THE

**OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY
OF THE EUROPE DAY 2026**

KAMPALA, 7TH MAY, 2026



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Your Excellency, Jan Sadek, the Ambassador of the European Union to Uganda,

Your Excellencies, Heads of Mission of the Member States of the European Union,

Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Evening!

I bring you warm greetings from H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, and from the Government and people of Uganda.

It is a singular honour to join you this evening as we commemorate Europe Day 2026 and celebrate fifty years of partnership between Uganda and the European Union since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1976.

Over the past five decades, the European Union and its Member States, working collectively as Team Europe, have contributed more than €5 billion in development cooperation to Uganda. This support has contributed to improvements in infrastructure, energy, trade, education, and community resilience across the country.



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The European Union has also remained a vital partner in addressing humanitarian needs. Uganda hosts the largest refugee population in Africa, reflecting our enduring commitment to solidarity and regional stability. We appreciate the EU's continued humanitarian assistance to refugees and host communities, as well as its support in strengthening our response to natural disasters and public health emergencies.

Excellences,

Our cooperation is increasingly being shaped by investment and economic opportunity.

Under the Global Gateway strategy, we are already seeing tangible progress. The €25 million initiative supporting cross-border infrastructure, including the Ntoroko lake port and the Mahagi corridor, is enhancing regional connectivity and trade.

In the energy sector, the €30 million rehabilitation of the Nalubaale-Kiira hydropower complex is strengthening Uganda's energy capacity and supporting industrial growth.

Trade between Uganda and the European Union also continues to expand. In 2025, Uganda's exports to the EU reached an estimated



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€1.5 billion, driven by agricultural products such as coffee, alongside the growing success of farmed fish exports to the European market.

Excellences,

Uganda remains steadfast in its pursuit of middle-income status under Vision 2040. As our economy becomes more resilient, we are making progress towards graduation from the Least Developed Country category.

While this milestone reflects important national achievements, it also presents challenges related to trade preferences and market access. Continued engagement with the European Union during this transition will therefore remain important. Instruments such as the Everything But Arms initiative and the Generalized System of Preferences continue to provide valuable support for Uganda's export competitiveness.

This transition also reinforces the importance of industrialization, manufacturing, and value addition in building a more diversified economy capable of creating employment and expanding export opportunities.



In this regard, the €1.4 billion investment roadmap presents a timely opportunity to advance mineral value addition, digital innovation, skills development, and private sector growth.

As we look ahead, Uganda stands ready to deepen cooperation with the European Union in areas that promote sustainable investment, technology transfer, and shared prosperity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me, on behalf of the Government and people of Uganda, to express our sincere appreciation to the European Union and its Member States for five decades of friendship, partnership, and solidarity.

May I now invite you to join me in a toast: to the enduring friendship between Uganda and the European Union; to the progress we have achieved together; and to a future of even greater cooperation and shared prosperity.

For God and My Country.

I thank you.