



P R E S S R E L E A S E

South Tarawa, Kiribati

Date: 24/01/2018

For immediate release

European Union Ambassador to Kiribati Presents Credentials

The Head of the European Union (EU) Delegation for the Pacific, His Excellency Ambassador Julian Wilson presented his credentials to the President of Kiribati, His Excellency, Taneti Mamau in South Tarawa on Monday 22/01/18.

Ambassador Wilson said: *"The EU has been and will remain a reliable partner of Kiribati. The EU has committed 23 EUR million for the period 2014-2020 to support the country's ambition to reduce poverty, adapt to the impacts of climate and promote inclusive and sustainable development. Kiribati is also benefitting from the EU's Regional Indicative Programme administered by the Pacific Islands Forum,"*

"Alongside the European Union, Kiribati played an important role in ensuring that the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change is ambitious and robust and we will work closely with Kiribati to ensure that the Paris Agreement is implemented by all parties. The EU will continue working together with Kiribati to address the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing issues."

"We value the strong foundations of our partnership and remain committed to contributing to the wellbeing of the Kiribati people." added Ambassador Wilson on this first official visit to the island nation threatened by climate change.

Following the credential ceremony, Ambassador Wilson met with the Vice President and Minister for Youth and Social Affairs, Hon. Kourabi and Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Hon. Dr Teuea Toatu.

Ambassador Wilson, prior to his posting as Head of the EU Delegation for the Pacific was the Acting Deputy Managing Director, Asia and the Pacific at the European External Action Services (EEAS). He has previously served as the EU Ambassador to Indonesia, Brunei, ASEAN, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Ambassador Wilson is a dual English and French citizen and is based in Suva, Fiji.

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"The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".