

EUROPE DAY

9 MAY 2020

#EUROPE DAY

#TOGETHERWEAREEUROPE



Ambassador's Message

business and the removal of trade friction between Member States. I would have dwelled on the importance of our relationship with our partners across the globe, including with Trinidad and Tobago, and I would have called for continued good relations in the future.

But we are not living under normal circumstances. The corona virus, COVID-19, has shaken our world and forced Governments in all corners of the world to take draconian measures to try and eliminate the spread of the virus. We need to respect physical distancing and wear masks to protect ourselves and our fellow citizens. Many companies are closed or have had to reduce their activities. Employees are losing their jobs. Government revenues are shrinking and debts are rising. We cannot organise social events, we cannot celebrate the way we were used to and the celebratory tone of my speech as I had planned is no longer appropriate under the circumstances.

The essence, however, of Robert Schuman's declaration remains as valid now as it was then: World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it. The pooling of productive resources and the merging of economic interests reduce the risk of conflict, contribute to solidarity among the participating states and raise the standard of living of the population.

It is precisely in times of crisis that we need to show solidarity and work together on fighting common challenges and achieving common goals. COVID-19 is a crisis that runs deeper than any that we have seen for a very long time. We need strong international cooperation

and strong multilateral organisations that can help guide the way forward and promote interaction and solidarity between countries. The Global Response Pledging Event against Coronavirus organised last Monday between the European Union, Britain, Norway, Japan, Canada and Saudi Arabia, the World Bank and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate the development, manufacture and delivery of vaccines, tests and treatments to everyone, everywhere, at an affordable price, is an example of such collaboration. Calls that international cooperation and multilateralism are things of the past and do not contribute to the well-being of nation states are disingenuous and dangerous.

It is also in this spirit that the European Union will keep building on past achievements and looks forward to further deepening the relationship with Trinidad and Tobago through an in-depth political dialogue. The new multilateral agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States that is currently under negotiation and is expected to be concluded by the end of 2020 will provide a solid basis for the continued partnership.

In conclusion I wish to raise a virtual glass to the good health and the wellbeing of H.E. Paula May-Weekes, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister, and to the people of Trinidad and Tobago and to a continued good relationship between the European Union and this beautiful country.

Aad Biesebroek
Ambassador

Europe @70

"World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it."

Robert Schuman May 9th, 1950

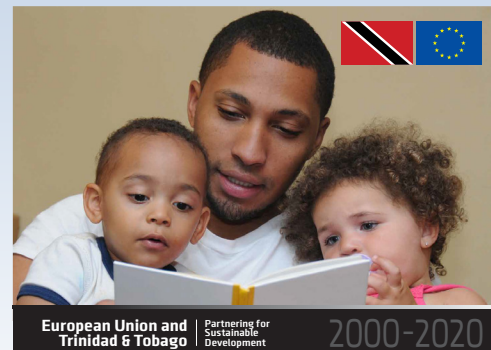
Europe Day is the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration in 1950 which culminated in the creation of the European Union. It is a celebration of peace and unity for Europe. This year's observance takes a different shape from the traditional celebration as the world battles the coronavirus pandemic. But the significance of Europe Day as a show of unity including with partners around the world is more crucial than ever if we are to rise above this and all global challenges. #StrongerTogether

Newly Published:

EU and Trinidad and Tobago – Partnering for Sustainable Development

The EU's partnership with Trinidad and Tobago spans some 44 years. Since that time, the partnership has evolved from one that was based on development cooperation and trade to a partnership of equals. The Delegation collaborated with the Ministry of Planning and Development to publish the first ever retrospective on the partnership between the EU and Trinidad and Tobago from the year 2000 to 2020. Explore the publication online here:

<https://europa.eu/IXY77xD>



For more information about the EU in Trinidad and Tobago, including our support to civil society and human rights defenders visit our website:

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/trinidad-and-tobago_en

Cooperation with Trinidad and Tobago

Joining the Fight against COVID-19 in the Region

The EU makes contributions to global health initiatives that include the Vaccine Alliance (GAVI), the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis, Malaria, the Global Financing Facility, and the World Health Organisation. On May 4th the EU and international partners launched an event to raise an additional €7.5 billion for research on diagnostics, treatment, and prevention of COVID-19. As part of the response, Trinidad and Tobago will benefit from support allocated to the region – €9 million in support to PAHO and €8 million in support to CARPHA. In addition, the European Investment Bank has made an additional €5.2 billion in emergency financing available to countries world wide. Learn more about the EU's international coronavirus response: <https://europa.eu/!rG76Jp>

Combatting Gender Based Violence

Gender based and family violence is one of the most persistent human rights violations facing the world today. The recent spike in local reports of violence as the shelter in place restrictions continue makes the protection and empowerment of women and girls even more critical. The Spotlight Initiative - the partnership between the EU and the UN to eliminate all violence against women and girls by 2030 has been launched in Trinidad and Tobago and is being implemented by the UNDP. Learn more: <https://spotlightinitiative.org/>

Support to a Competitive and Innovative Economy

Stay tuned for the launch of this €8 million programme! The Innovation Programme will be an important stimulus for the private sector once the COVID-19 situation is under control and economic activities resume. The programme intends to contribute to creating a business environment that drives competitiveness and a more diversified economy in a socially and environmentally sustainable way. The main element of this program is the Innovation Challenge Fund (EUR € 6.7M), a competitive, demand driven fund, offering grant financing for innovation, primarily targeting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).



This initiative is funded by the European Union

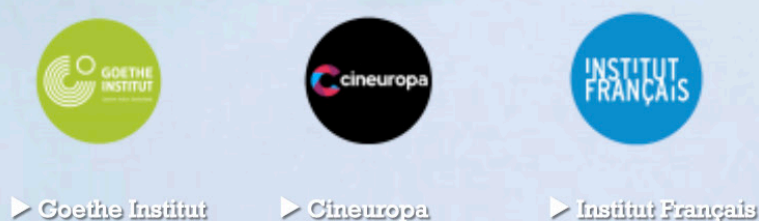
EUFFestival - Online Film Festival

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