



European Union Quarterly Newsletter

October 2016

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Editorial

The European Union and Ethiopia confirm their partnership in Climate Diplomacy

"Europeans are the world leaders in climate action. It was Europe that brokered the first-ever legally binding, global climate deal. It was Europe that built the coalition of ambition that made agreement in Paris possible."

Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union 2016



Following his State of the Union speech on 14 September 2016, European Union (EU) Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker outlined the renewed vision towards a better Europe, capable of protecting, empowering and defending. His call for positive actions worldwide was well received. In this context, climate change action is a clear priority. The Climate Diplomacy Week, organized in September 2016, is a global initiative reflecting the EU's longstanding experience in developing and implementing climate policies.

In line with its global climate commitment, the EU is supporting Ethiopia and other climate vulnerable nations in developing national climate strategies and in making the transition to low-carbon climate-resilient economies possible. The first ever legally-binding climate agreement signed in Paris in December 2015, outlines a global action plan to save our planet.

We congratulate Ethiopia for showing leadership by being one of the first countries to sign the agreement and we encourage the country to ratify it soon. Over the years, the EU and Ethiopia have built a solid cooperation in various sectors, and we are very proud of the numerous positive results achieved together. Although ratification is an important step towards the implementation of the Paris agreement, we are aware that only concrete action will allow us to achieve our common goals. The Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy of Ethiopia is a sign of the country's commitment to building a low carbon economy. The EU stands ready to support Ethiopia in this incredible challenge.

In this newsletter, we highlight some of the main activities of the EU Delegation to Ethiopia, from July to October 2016. We hope that you enjoy the reading.

Chantal Hebberecht

EU Head of Delegation to Ethiopia



Bringing Climate Agreements Into Practice

Daniele Morbin, Programme Manager of the Rural Development and Food Security Section at the EU Delegation, explained how Ethiopia is planning to translate climate agreements into practice.

Salaheddine Mezouar, President of the COP 22, has recently stated that the Marrakech conference in November 2016 will be about taking action. What will be the role of Ethiopia during the conference?

"Marrakech represents a real turning point in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) history. It will show when and how the Paris Agreements will entry into force. The Ethiopian context is really interesting as Ethiopia has recently taken over the chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), a 43-strong group of countries committed to more ambitious climate targets. Consequently, Ethiopia will make use of the COP22 platform to increase pressure on other global actors to coherently implement the policies needed to limit the rise of global temperature to 1.5C degrees. To understand Ethiopia's commitment on the matter, one must look at national policies, of which the Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy is the most eminent one".

So, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) is truly pushing for the adoption of a results-driven strategy. Could you tell us more about the results achieved by Ethiopia?

"Climate change has become a true priority for the GoE. In fact, it is seen as a cross-cutting issue within the Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTPII), which defines the strategies pursued by the GoE towards becoming a lower medium income economy by 2025 with a net zero Greenhouse Gas emissions. The most important results have been reached in what has been defined as the Participatory Forest Management (PFM). Forestry, agriculture and livestock represent three fundamental sectors in the Ethiopian economy: 85% of all employment is focused on the primary sector".

Furthermore, by taking inspiration from some of the policies adopted by the European Union, the GoE has developed strategies to recover deteriorated areas and to manage natural resources, therefore reducing deforestation and enhancing productivity. Mainstreaming Climate Smart Initiatives within the existing flagship programs, such as the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) and the Sustainable Land Management Program (SLMP) have the potential to up-scale mitigation and adaptation achievements as well as to improve the effectiveness of these actions. The EU is supporting these flagships programmes".

Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy

What is CRGE?

- The major initiative developed by the Ethiopian Government outlining the vision, financing strategy and institutional arrangements to help the country building a climate green and resilient economy.

How is the EU helping?

- Mainly through the adoption of the National Indicative Program (NIP) covering the 2014-2020 period. It includes several programs in support of climate related actions.

What is the aim of NIP?

- To support Ethiopia in making decisive progress in sustainable socio-economic development by raising competitiveness and increasing both public and private investment in the country.

Is the action of the EU Member States in fighting climate change in Ethiopia sufficiently coordinated?

"There are two coordination levels. The first one is the so-called Development Assistance Group (DAG), which comprises 29 bilateral and multilateral development agencies providing development co-operation to Ethiopia. The second level refers to "Joint Programming", a new collaborative approach in which the EU Delegation and Member States come together to define a common vision to address main challenges facing Ethiopia. There is still room to improve coordination. The strong Ethiopian ownership, together with good coordination, are keys to success.



For David Mogollon, a sound coordination between ECHO and DEVCO, the EU Commission departments in charge of humanitarian aid and development, is at the heart of the EU support to resilience.

David Mogollon, Team Leader in Rural Development and Food Security at the EU Delegation, shared his ideas on the importance of specific sectorial projects to enhancing the effectiveness of climate change strategies.

"The EU helps the GoE mainly through the establishment of direct funding channels aiming at increasing the number of sectorial projects, which in the end make the real difference in fighting climate change. For instance, the planned Sector Budget Support to climate change and environment estimated to be between 32 and 40 million Euros is a funding facility that will allow Ethiopia to improve both the mitigation and adaptation policies included CRGE's strategy. At the moment, the EU is funding more than 60 projects with the help of Member States, NGOs and international partners, and certainly hopes to increase its action in the country".

What can the EU do to improve its action in Ethiopia?

"First of all, we need to increase the coordination between Member States and the EU. Joint Programming is still at an early stage and we are doing everything we can increase its effectiveness. Moreover, we are currently working with our partners in order to re-establish an EU Green Sector Platform that would further enhance cooperation among actors and areas of expertise. Some significant issues, such as rural development, food security, population growth, as well as environmental degradation, need to be addressed simultaneously.

Secondly, the EU is sufficiently active in helping Ethiopia implementing adaptation policies, but it needs to consolidate its position. At the moment, the EU acts as a Co-Chair, together with the World Bank, in the Food Security and Rural Development Dialogue. In this dialogue, the EU is working with more than 30 partners to improve and create new adaptation policies".

The EU-Ethiopia Climate Change Project Highlights



Power Kiosk Project

Since 2014, Solar Kiosk has been implementing the POWER KIOSK project. Co-financed by an ACP-EU Energy Facility grant of up to 5,4 M EUR, the project consists in building and operating solar-powered kiosks in 160 rural off-grid villages of Ethiopia, Kenya and Madagascar. Through the provision of clean energy services (e.g. phone and battery charging, Wi-Fi internet etc.) it will help promoting new types of commerce and improve social conditions relating to health and education.

Wild Coffee Conservation by Participatory Forest Management Project (WCC-PFM)

The WCC-PFM is financed by the EU. It was implemented from January 2010-May 2016 by the University of Huddersfield, in collaboration with other national and international partners. The objective of the project is to contribute to the conservation of coffee biodiversity through the application of simplified Participatory Forest Management (PFM) procedures.



Support for climate smart rural livelihoods through promotion and dissemination of improved cook stoves

The project is financed by Irish Aid, which allocated over €1.2 million to the project since it started in 2014. Irish Aid supported the Energising Development (EnDev) Programme to distribute 33,675 improved cook stoves to rural households. This has contributed to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 180,260 tons of CO₂ and a reduction of indoor pollution.



Land Management Programme (SLMP) in cooperation with Germany

The Sustainable Land Management Programme's objective is to improve the livelihoods, food security and economic well-being of the country's farmers, herders and forest resource users. Through the support of German Cooperation, and other donors, the SLMP has reached approx. 1 million people in Ethiopia. These farmers now have improved knowledge and skills on sustainable land management and apply these practices on around 390.000 hectares, therefore contributing to an increase in productivity and income.





Biogas Dissemination Scale-Up Project (NBPE+)

The €21 Million Biogas Dissemination Scale-Up Project (NBPE+) aims at improving the living standards of rural Ethiopians through supporting the installation of 36.000 biogas digesters in eight regions of Ethiopia. At a household level, NBPE+ will provide beneficiaries with clean and renewable energy (replacing wood fuel and agricultural residues as well as dung-cake and kerosene), health benefits (in terms of reducing the negative respiratory and improved sanitary conditions. It also helps increase agricultural production.

Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP)

The EU supports the Productive Safety Net Programme since its creation in 2005. The PSNP Climate Smart Initiative illustrates the important benefits from improving woodland and cropland for avoiding soil erosion and enhancing organic matter, which represent a significant contribution to climate change. The results include: reduction of loss of sediments by 40-53%, enhanced land productivity by 3-4 times and less incidence from seasonal flooding.



Enhancing climate resilience, food and nutrition security in the Lake Hawassa Eco-System

Irish Aid allocated 650 Irish Aid allocated €650,000 to strengthen communities' resilience to climate change. The project is implemented by a consortium of non-governmental organisations led by SOS Sahel Ethiopia. 2,740 hectares of degraded land have been rehabilitated in Tigray and SNNPR, protecting vital natural resources for rural households. In SNNPR, protection of the ecosystem around Lake Hawassa has also gained momentum with collaboration across

French Projects promoting renewable energy: wind power and geothermal power

The French Development Agency (AFD), in collaboration with the European Union, has contributed to fund the second largest wind farm of the country, in Mekele. The wind farm was built by Vergnet, a French Company. The powerful wind resource allows the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo), the national electric company, to produce energy at low cost. AFD and the European Union are also helping Ethiopian Electric Power to develop geothermal energy in the Afar region.



The EU External Investment Plan: New Opportunities for Ethiopia

Interview with Francisco Carreras, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation



What is an EU External Investment Plan (EIP)?

The main challenge for developing countries remains achieving inclusive and sustainable growth and creating jobs, and that accounts for Ethiopia as well. The EU External Investment Plan (EIP) builds on the previous efforts by the EU towards the development of our partner countries. The aim is to promote a new model of participation of the private sector and to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is a crucial opportunity for African countries because it offers new investment possibilities and financing opportunities.

What is new about the EU EIP?

Traditional development assistance alone cannot meet the challenge of achieving sustainable development. It must be complemented by other tools, in order to make best use of scarce public funds. The implementation of the EIP will allow the EU to lead by example in developing more effective partnerships that go beyond development assistance. The new European Fund for Sustainable Development, which lies at the core of the EIP, is expected to trigger greater amounts of private and public investments compared to previous strategies. We expect to mobilize investment for up to EUR 44 billion. This could reach EUR 88 billion if also the Member States will match the contribution to the blending operations with financial institutions.

Why was there the need for this plan and how is Ethiopia going to benefit from it?

Ever since the financial crisis in 2008, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and other private financial flows have declined across developing countries. Economic growth has now reached its lowest level since 2003. Conflicts and instability have been exacerbated by the global economic crisis, which has led to overall indebtedness of many of the countries involved. Ethiopia has until now relied on various loans, coming from the African Development Bank or the World Bank for instance. These loans have almost 0% interests and repayment in a 40 years' period. These loans were sometimes abused given their easy conditions and this has led to excessive indebtedness. In contrast, the EIP is a form of lending that through private guarantees and a safe blending scheme will allow Ethiopia to diversify its portfolio with good quality investments.

To conclude, how is the EU going to make sure that its efforts will translate in the creation of jobs and growth for the local economy. In what sectors will most of the investments be directed to?

Each investment operation will be assessed politically and technically, by looking at how much employment and growth it will generate. To issue the blending with grant and guarantee, every investment plan will be carefully analysed by the EU. Concerning the sectors, many developing countries are always attractive to investors because there are many investment opportunities, even if countries undergo difficult times. In Ethiopia, many investors are interested in investing in the Awasa Industrial Park. There were only 25 places, but 50 applications were received.

Diplomatic Highlights: EU Climate Diplomacy Week & Beyond



Green Sector Coordination Meeting, 14 September 2016

As the first event of the EU Climate Diplomacy Week, the EU Delegation to Ethiopia welcomed representatives from various EU Member States to share information about Climate Diplomacy activities and recent engagements on the green sector. During the meeting, the representatives also discussed about the importance of reactivating the EU Green Sector Platform to improve coordination among Member States and partners.

European Union Media Seminar

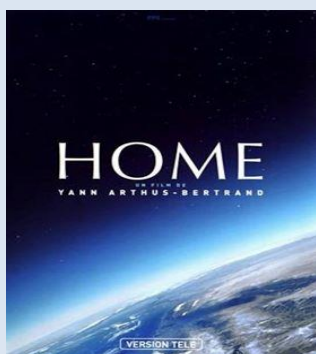
On 21 September 2016, the EU Delegation held its 3rd EU Media Seminar in 2016. The meeting's main purpose was to share information about EU activities and future plans in the country. The discussion focused on climate change and the new EU investment strategies.

(Photo: EU Ambassador Chantal Hebberecht speaking to journalists)



Biodiversity Round table at the Italian Cultural Institute

On 24 September, the Italian Cultural Institute in Addis Ababa hosted a biodiversity round table at the margins of the "Winter School on Sustainable and Agro-Ecologically and Compatible Development Options in Ethiopian and Sub-Saharan Rural Areas". It was organized through an extensive collaboration between the University of Padua, Addis Ababa University and Hope University. The round table, open to a wider audience, was an occasion for the participants to share their findings on the correlation between the use of primary energy resources and the impact on the ecosystem.



Movie screening and cocktail reception at Alliance Francaise

On the occasion of the Climate Diplomacy Week, the EU Delegation and the Embassy of France organized on 22 September at the Alliance Francaise the screening of the movie *Home*, by Yann Arthus-Bertrand. The documentary shows the diversity of life on our planet and how humanity is threatening the ecological balance of our *home*. The EU Delegation also screened the video about EU-Ethiopia cooperation on climate change. Afterwards, participants shared impressions during a cocktail reception to mark the end of the Climate Diplomacy Week.

Implementing EU Programme to help stemming irregular immigration from Ethiopia

On 28 July, EU Ambassador Chantal Hebberecht attended the signing ceremony for two grant agreements with the United Nations Agencies ILO and UNIDO under "Stemming Irregular Migration in Central and Northern Ethiopia" (SINCE) – a 20 million Euro project funded through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa – and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Addis Ababa.





EU Team visited Benishangul-Gumuz region to identify cross-border projects on resilience

In early August 2016, in the context of a new cross-border initiative under the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF), EU colleague Luis Lechiguero joined a team of experts to map and analyse the situation in the region of Benishangul-Gumuz in Ethiopia and its border with Sudan. This cross-border initiative coordinated with IGAD and its member countries aims to build resilience in marginalised border areas where migration or potential displacement is most acute.

European Union supports social enterprise development in Ethiopia

The EU Delegation to Ethiopia delivered a statement at the opening session of a national consultative workshop organized in Jupiter hotel on 23 August 2016 in the framework of the EU funded project "Support to Social Enterprises in Eastern Africa". This 2 year pilot project, benefiting from a 1 Million EUR funding and implemented by the British Council is aimed at supporting promotion and strengthening of evidence based social enterprise approach in addressing development priorities in Ethiopia.



Towards the strengthening of Civil Society in Ethiopia

The 17 new grant projects of the second phase of the EU-Ethiopia Civil Society Fund (CSF) were launched on 24 August 2016 in the presence of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MOFEC) and the EU Delegation to Ethiopia. A total of 44 organisations, including Ethiopian CSOs, higher learning institutions and chambers of commerce, will be supported with a total EU grant of 3.7 million EUR. The grants will support work on natural resource management, key governance areas and sector-wide civil society capacity building. Since 2006, the Civil Society Fund, one of the flagship programmes of the EU-Ethiopia cooperation, has contributed for a total of 14.9 million EUR to over 250 CSOs and non-state actors.

Green EU Delegation initiative launched!

On 30 September, the UNESCO Science Team presented its "Greening the Blue" initiative aiming to promote recycling in the UNECA compound to the staff of the EU Delegation. The EU Delegation has also formed a Green EU Delegation Task Force to promote recycling, sustainable development and environmental awareness in the EU in Ethiopia.



High-level visit to Ethiopia to discuss migration

On 2-7 October, a high-level delegation from the European External Action Service (EEAS), DG DEVCO and DG HOME visited Ethiopia to discuss migration and job creation related issues.

Upcoming Events



EU Film Festival – EU Film Festival

The European Union Film Festival 2016 takes place from 22 October to 6 November 2016. The festival shows 18 films from different European countries, so it is a unique opportunity for the cinema lovers to discover the European cinema in all its facets. The festival is coordinated by the Italian cultural institute. Please join us for this unique cultural experience!

EU Film Festival Schedule

COUNTRY	TITLE	WHERE	WHEN	TIME
SLOVAKIA	NICKY'S FAMILY	ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22	5:00 PM
POLAND	THESE DAUGHTERS OF MINE	BRITISH COUNCIL	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23	4:00 PM
HUNGARY	SUN STREET BOYS	BRITISH COUNCIL	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23	6:00 PM
AUSTRIA	BROTHERS OF THE WIND	AUSTRIAN RESIDENCE (open air)	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26	7:00 PM
CZECH REPUBLIC	CITIZEN HAVEL	ALLIANCE ETHIO - FRANCAISE	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27	6:00 PM
ESTONIA	LIVING IMAGES	ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28	4:00 PM
PORTUGAL	OS GATOS NÃO TÊM VERTIGENS	ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28	6:30 PM
FRANCE	LA FAMILLE BÉLIER	ALLIANCE ETHIO - FRANCAISE	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29	4:00 PM
SPAIN	LA ISLA MINIMA	ALLIANCE ETHIO - FRANCAISE	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29	6:00 PM
NETHERLANDS	THE STORM	BRITISH COUNCIL	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30	4:00 PM
UNITED KINGDOM	SUFFRAGETTE	BRITISH COUNCIL	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30	6:00 PM
SWEDEN	NICE PEOPLE	GOETHE - INSTITUT	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 02	6:00 PM
DENMARK	A WAR	ALLIANCE ETHIO - FRANCAISE	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 03	6:00 PM
GERMANY	LABYRINTH OF LIES	GOETHE - INSTITUT	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 04	6:00 PM
ITALY	PARTLY CLOUDY WITH SUNNY SPELLS	ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 05	4:00 PM
IRELAND	FRANK	ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 05	6:00 PM
BELGIUM	ALLEZ, EDDY !	GOETHE - INSTITUT	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 06	4:00 PM
FINLAND	THE FENCER	GOETHE - INSTITUT	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 06	6:00 PM

OCT 22 - NOV 6
FREE ENTRANCE

Great Ethiopian Run – "Running for a cause"

On 6 October, the Great Ethiopian Run launched the official charity campaign called "Running for a Cause", in connection with the **2016 Total Great Ethiopian Run** planned for the end of November 2016 in Addis Ababa.

