

REMARKS BY HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF FOUR (4)
NEW FINANCING AGREEMENTS

Your Excellency, Mr. Claude Maerten, Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation in Ghana

Colleague Minister (s)

Chief Director and Officials of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

Representatives of Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Members of Staff of the European Union Delegation in Ghana

Members of the Press/Media

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

Since this encounter happens to be the first of its kind at the start of the year 2011, let me begin by wishing Your Excellency, the entire EU Community in Ghana and all gathered here this morning a happy and prosperous new year. It is my fervent hope that the cooperation between Ghana and the EU will continue to improve from strength to strength in the coming years.

2. It is recalled that barely a year ago, we witnessed the signing of a second Addendum to the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) Country Strategy Paper/National Indicative Programme (CSP/NIP) for the period 2008-2013. With the signing of this second addendum, the EU provided exceptional financial resources in the sum of €35 million to Ghana in the form of General Budget Support (Vulnerability – Flex Mechanism) to assist Ghana mitigate the observable impact of the global financial and economic crisis. Ghana happened to be one of the few countries that benefited from this facility.

3. I must therefore commend the EU for this kind gesture at the time when Ghana was hard hit by the financial crisis and the Government was seeking additional financial support from its development partners, to enable us implement our policy

objectives and programmes. The support was also to enable the country contain the pressures that could be associated with a potential second round impact of the global financial crisis.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. My information is that during your interactions at this morning's Roundtable Stakeholders Seminar you all had fruitful deliberations on the Green Paper on EU Development Policy in support of inclusive growth and sustainable development.

5. As I understand, the Roundtable Seminar forms part of the global consultation process to exchange ideas and opinions on issues raised in the Green Paper. Such interactive sessions will enable the EU modernize its Development Policy to meet its four (4) broad objectives of ensuring high impact of the EU's development policy, facilitating more inclusive growth in developing countries, promoting sustainable development as a catalyst for progress and achieving durable results in the area of agriculture and food security.

Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen,

6. As I mentioned earlier on, four (4) Financing Agreements are to be signed today. These comprise a total amount of **€26.0 million**. This amount represents about **8%** of the 10th EDF National Indicative Programme (NIP) of **€367.0 million** committed for envelope A (Programmable Aid). I am pleased to indicate also that under the 10th EDF programme (2008-2013), the EU has extended to Ghana nearly **50% (€175.0 million)** of the total indicative programme in the form of General Budget Support. This is being provided in annual base and performance tranches through Ghana's country systems. This arrangement not only ensures the Government of Ghana's ownership and commitment, but also facilitates better predictability of funds to enable Ghana implement its development agenda.

7. The four (4) Financing Agreements to be signed are in respect of the following projects/programmes:

- ***Trade-Related Assistance and Quality Support Programme (TRAQUE)*** in the sum of **€9.0 million**, with the ultimate objective of facilitating trade and stimulating trade led pro-poor growth to specifically improve the trade related capacity and performance of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) and its related agencies. The TRAQUE Programme will also support the national Quality Policy and the creation of a National Quality Infrastructure;
- ***Support to Civil Society in Ghana*** is a pool fund facility being jointly financed by five (5) Development Partners, namely: EU, DFID, CIDA, USAID and DANIDA. The total estimated cost of the programme is **€33.75 million** with an EU grant contribution of **€8.0 million** while the other four (4) financiers are providing an amount of **€25.75 million**. The programme is intended to increase the influence of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the governance of public goods and service delivery, as well as increase the accountability and responsiveness of government, traditional authorities, and private enterprises to Ghanaian citizens;
- ***Support to Independent Governance Institutions involved in the electoral process*** with a total amount of **€7.0 million** earmarked for this intervention. The project aims at reinforcing the democratic environment and creating conditions conducive to peaceful, transparent, all inclusive and credible elections in 2012. The three (3) institutions targeted to benefit from the programme are: the Electoral Commission (EC), the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) and the National Media Commission (NMC); and
- ***Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF 3)*** with a total budgetary provision of **€2.0 million**. The TCF is a flexible facility that aims at facilitating and supporting the implementation of EU-funded projects and programmes by providing funds

for various activities, including auditing, evaluation, studies, training and conferences.

Conclusion

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Given the diverse areas of support by the EU, I must indicate without hesitation that we are very grateful to the EU for the immense support they have continued to provide the country. These areas of support are very vital for the socio-economic transformation of the Ghanaian economy. It is therefore our expectation that future programmes of the EU would continue to provide more funds to complement and supplement Government efforts in meeting the aspirations of the Ghanaian citizenry. I am hopeful that more of such Financing Agreements will be signed in the very near future.

9. I thank you for your attention.

