



## **EU Ready to Strengthen Engagement and Partnership with Eritrea**

The outgoing Head of the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Eritrea, Ambassador Marchel Germann, underscored that relations between Eritrea and EU are anchored on mutual interest and shared values. Furthermore, he expressed EU's readiness to enlarge and strengthen its engagement and partnership with Eritrea. He made the statement in an interview with the local media on 31 July in Asmara.



on the development priorities set by the Eritrean Government, and cited the building of a gas terminal in Massawa, as well as irrigation and agro-processing projects as some of the programs being implemented under the partnership.

The outgoing Head of the EU Delegation commended the frank discussions and consultations he held with Eritrean

Ambassador Germann elucidated that EU's collaboration with Eritrea is based

Government officials and the warm hospitality accorded to him during his tenure in Eritrea.

## **Eritrea Continues to Register Progress in Combating HIV/AIDS**

Eritrea has strong record in battling HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases. The country is on track to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goal related to combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.

Eritrea's HIV-related figures are amongst the best across the African continent. According to a report released last month by the UNAIDS:

- ◆ with 0.6% HIV prevalence rate, Eritrea has one of the lowest rates in the continent,

- ◆ between 2005-2013, Eritrea succeeded in decreasing AIDS related deaths by 67% (the Sub-Saharan average was 39%),

- ◆ at close to 60%, the antiretroviral therapy (ART) treatment coverage in Eritrea is among the top in the continent.

Eritrea's success in combating HIV/AIDS is founded upon the multi-sectoral and self-reliant approach it adopted towards combating the scourge.

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## Eritrea Participated in COMAI VII

An Eritrean Delegation participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of African Ministers in charge of Integration (COMAI VII) that took place from 14-18 July 2014 in Ezulwini, the Kingdom of Swaziland, under the theme “*Infrastructure and Integration.*”

The Conference adopted strategies and action plans to speed up infrastructure development to support regional integration. The Ministers also recommended the establishment of an African Integration Fund and endorsed a new African Regional Integration Index that will help track the status of integration in the continent.

## Eritrea’s Membership in Regional and Continental Organizations

Eritrea is an active member of all the three major Pan-African Organizations and three of the eight African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), i.e. African Union (AU), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA),

African Development Bank (AfDB), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD).

