

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



Head of Division

MD Africa

AFRICA.1 - Horn of Africa, East Africa and Indian Ocean

Brussels, 17.06.2016
EEAS/ D (2016)

Dear Petitioner,

I would like to thank you for the comprehensive information you provided on Eritrea in your document "Eritrea, a Reliable Partner".

The EU believes that continuous EU engagement with Eritrea is essential for two reasons: firstly to regularly recall the importance of adhering to international standards on human rights and induce reforms across the board, and secondly to support the population through EU development projects.

EU- Eritrea development cooperation aims at improving the livelihoods of the Eritrean people. It is implemented on the basis of projects that are subject to strict screening and monitoring to make sure that EU aid is benefitting people and reducing poverty. Current EU support is focusing on enhanced food security through the improvement of agricultural production and yields. In January 2016, the EU has signed with Eritrea a new development programme, which foresees interventions in the energy sector with the objective to increase access to energy for the population. The programme also foresees interventions to improve the governance situation in Eritrea. The EU will support the implementation of recommendations made to Eritrea under the UN- led Universal Periodic Review.

The EU will continue to engage with the government of Eritrea on a broad range of issues, stress the need to improve human rights and to provide assistance to the people of Eritrea. Our final objective remains to assist the people of Eritrea to enjoy a peaceful life in a rewarding environment.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Wiedey', is written over a faint, illegible stamp.

Claudia WIEDEY