

GROUP OF FRIENDS OF CAPE VERDE AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

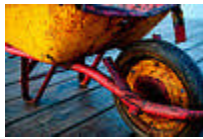


NEWSLETTER



Issue 1

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CAPE VERDE

Dear Friends,

As the Group of Friends of Cape Verde at the European Parliament implements the timely initiative of launching a News Letter, I am pleased to convey my most sincere congratulations to all European Institutions and, especially, to the European Parliament and its honourable Members. In a particular way, I would like to express warm greetings and "*morabeza*" from the People of these islands to the all distinguished Members of the Group of Friends of Cape Verde.

This message is also a token of your friendship, solidarity, and prolific action towards development efforts of Cape Verde. I would also wish that it will stimulate and encourage a continuous and fruitful participation to deepen the already existing friendly and cooperative relationship between Cape Verde and the European Union.

Cape Verde and the European Union share common values, namely human Equality and Dignity, democratic Government, and Human Rights. Along with the excellence of the actual relationship, it is with great pleasure that I remark a mutual interest in establishing stronger relations between the European Parliament and Cape Verde's Parliament.

The traditional and excellent relations between Cape Verde and the European Union have proven to be essential for the development of my country, in every aspect, and embody what we call strategic partnerships. It is a developed and mature relationship, attaining nowadays a significantly new unforeseen level not long ago.

I am referring to the Special Partnership that opened new development perspectives and holds many potentials yet to be explored. This relationship is a paradigmatic example of how much it is possible to innovate when there is political will and mutual trust.

These results were obtained due to the combined efforts to infrastructure the Country and to promote political and social stability from the first days of

independence until nowadays. I believe the institutional stability, social peace, and security allowed and amplified the economical, social, and human development, earnestly aspired to by the entire people of Cape Verde.

Cape Verde seeks to deepen and expand the potential brought about by avenues of cooperation, in order to find partnerships that contribute to its expansion and, step by step, demonstrate that, with determination and commitment, progress is always possible. The level of growth the country has accomplished today stems from the way we relate to the world through a sensible diplomacy for development and mutually advantageous cooperation. Due to the country's territorial dimension, lack of resources, demographic expression, but mainly her diplomatic experience accumulated since the days of the national liberation struggle and the political legacy of Amílcar Cabral, we believe it is possible and more advantageous to all to seek and find negotiated solutions to conflicts. Therefore, our country has tried to be helpful to the international community, contributing to dialogue and conflict resolution. For, with political and social stability, the country has earned over the years a fruitful capital of credibility, trust and respect.

Good governance is another heritage, responsible for how we determine social investments and macroeconomic gains. We have tried to rule for the people and assess the quality of our democracy by the degree of well-being already achieved in the country. I believe I can say that we are a reliable partner and an attractive and safe location for investment. In my opinion, in our relations with the world, good governance has been one of the trump cards for success.

The first multiparty elections were prepared and held two decades ago, in an atmosphere of perfect normality and a high degree of sincerity and maturity. Democratic regime is consolidated and democratic change-over has been occurring in an atmosphere of total tranquillity. However, democratic process should continue to be improved in Cape Verde.

We live in an inclusive State, ruled by the Law and it is imperative that we maintain an environment of transparency and respect for laws, stimulating individual accountability and the autonomy of citizens. In order to accomplish this, we have brought about the development of civil society by strengthening the civic responsibility, the improvement of institutional culture, teaching and culture, as well as the democratization of education.

Moving beyond survival and viability, we have new challenges, new risks and new threats ahead. We are committed to show that development and social progress are possible and are within reach. Furthermore, we are confident that with added hard work and commitment, it is always possible to do more and better.

The current classification as middle-income country turns out to be the corollary of changes that have occurred since 1975, the year of our Independence. But with the new rank, many paradigms have changed,

particularly the philosophy of assistance to development. All this requires an adequate response from the Government and institutions, but also involves behavioural changes at the population level. Ranking also challenges the International Community to find appropriate mechanisms to support countries with new classification, but still vulnerable, to maintain the pace of development and to avoid steps backward.

Most of the Millennium Development Goals have been achieved and we foresee to accomplish them all by 2015. Cape Verde will continue to invest in human resources training and development. We should focus on innovation; continue with reforms in the areas of public life and profit from all possibilities and potentialities of electronic government, information technology and financial services. But everything will be easier with the involvement and participation of concerned Cape Verdean society.

In this strenuous walk in search for peace, prosperity and well-being, Cape Verde puts a lot of confidence in the partnership with the European Union and in the contribution of her institutions and citizens. I emphasize the relevant role of the distinguished Members of the European Parliament, to whom I address a respectful and well deserved tribute. I take, finally, this happy occasion to launch a friendly appeal that more and more Members join the Group of Friends of Cape Verde.

Long life and much success to the Group of Friends of Cape Verde at the European Parliament!

Sincerely Yours,

Pedro Pires, President of the Republic of Cape Verde

Praia, 27th June 2011



A GROUP OF FRIENDS OF CAPE VERDE

A group of MEPs from different nationalities and political groups decided to create a forum for liaison between the European Parliament and Cape Verde, calling it the Group of Friends of Cape Verde. This group is mainly aimed at creating a channel between the European Parliament and Cape Verde, thus providing a forum where ideas and projects of common interest can be discussed.

Among the initiatives of this group appears this Newsletter, that here knows its inaugural issue, and which will be published three times a year and will be distributed only electronically, both in Portuguese and English. And it is quite a first edition! We have the invaluable contribution of H.E. the President of

Cape Verde, Pedro Pires, at the end of the second term, who greets us warmly and gives us a rich and detailed description of this country.

We also have two excellent articles by MEP Maria da Graça Carvalho (EPP) on the two currently existing partnerships between the EU and Cape Verde: the Special Partnership and the EU/ Cape Verde Mobility Partnership. These are two important tools of strategic cooperation that we learn more about.

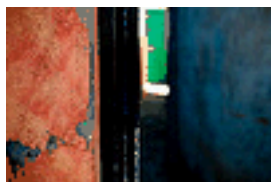
This edition also benefits from an excellent contribution of H.E. the Ambassador of Cape Verde in Brussels, Maria de Jesus Mascarenhas, who gives us a useful portrait of the country in various aspects, covering the political, social and economic situation, as well as the current relationship between Cape Verde and the European Union.

Finally, an extensive list of recent and relevant events in Cape Verde as well as those foreseen in the near future helps us to better understand the development of the country.

But the initiatives of the Group of Friends of Cape Verde are not limited by this information sheet. The group also intends to undertake an annual meeting in Brussels, bringing together high profile individuals from Cape Verde, such as writers, scientists, academics, musicians, etc. with European representatives and other interested people, thus creating another platform for knowledge and discussion. The Group also intends to organize delegations to Cape Verde, in connection with the official joint meetings of the Special Partnership, taking advantage of this opportunity to establish contacts with parliamentarians in Cape Verde.

This is our project, which aims to add something meaningful to the special relations between the EU and Cape Verde, particularly at the parliamentary level. It is a project for which we are motivated and to which we will certainly devote our best efforts.

Vital Moreira, MEP (S&D)



SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE EU AND CAPE VERDE

Introduction

The Cape Verde archipelago is located approximately 550 km off the west coast of Africa and consists of 10 volcanic islands, 9 of which are inhabited. Since independence on 5 July 1975, the country has enjoyed regular progress whilst registering a satisfactory performance in terms of human development and economic growth. However, the country remains economically

vulnerable and despite advances in the areas of social concerns a large percentage of the population continues to suffer from poverty and inequality. The Cotonou Agreement of 2000 regulates the relations between the European Union (EU) and Cape Verde and these have recently been strengthened by the signing of a European Union Special Partnership with Cape Verde (SP) and a Mobility Partnership (MP). These different measures provide a policy framework for strengthened dialogue and cooperation. The current (2008 – 2013) 10th. European Development Fund (EDF) supplies the basis for technical and financial cooperation between the EU and CV. Approximately 86% of the funds are channeled through the CV state budget with the aim of promoting poverty reduction and economic growth in a sustainable manner whilst also promoting the SP. The rest of the funds are dedicated to water and sanitation needs and various individual projects in different sectors.

Nature of the "Special partnership between the EU and Cape Verde"

The nature of the Special Partnership is laid down in the Commission Communication to the Council and European Parliament of 24 July 2007 and to the Council concerning the future of relations between the EU and CV of October 2007. The SP was adopted on 19 November 2007.

The SP is constantly developing and serves as a base for the identification and promotion of mutual interests. It sets out a range of ambitious general objectives. An innovative feature is the use of political dialogue as an instrument of information gathering, consultation and closer interaction between the different parties.

The SP is an approach to policy making that goes beyond the ordinary donor-beneficiary relationship, thus meeting other mutual interests in the areas of security and development. It is in keeping with the framework for the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement and is designed to exploit every aspect of the Agreement in order to elaborate a new model for EU-Cape Verde cooperation.

In applying the principles laid out in the Cotonou Agreement, the SP aims to broaden and deepen EU-CV cooperation and to explore new avenues in this relationship. In this respect, the SP aims to satisfy Cape Verde's desire to move beyond the framework of the existing relation by elevating them to a higher level of significantly improved cooperation. The SP includes six priority action areas or "Pillars".

6 Pillars of the special partnership

Good governance

Special attention will in particular be paid to strengthening and consolidating democracy, the rule of law and civil society participation in the political life of

the country. Enhanced policy dialogue and cooperation will be pursued, especially in the areas of democracy and human rights. There will be an increased focus on the rights of children and women, the regularization of immigrants and tackling domestic violence. The Government will undertake a reform of the justice sector and implement a national plan to tackle corruption. Public finance reform will be pursued, along with government reform and capacity-building, including in the statistical field. The Government will implement initiatives designed to improve the business climate, social governance and sound natural resource management.

Security / stability

This pillar will mainly cover the following areas: security and action to tackle transnational organised crime (cooperation on counter-terrorism, human trafficking and the smuggling of immigrants, illegal trafficking in drugs, arms, money-laundering), whilst promoting respect for human rights; effective management of migration. This includes improving the contribution of the Cape Verdean diaspora to the development of the country (remittances) and action to tackle illegal migration and to ensure maritime safety. Initiatives under this pillar, by their very nature, can only be organised and arranged on a cross-boundary and regional basis.

Regional integration

This pillar covers two areas. In the context of the outermost regions, the first involves the integration of Macaronesia with a view to a more efficient structure and increased dynamism and competitiveness in line with the approach adopted in the "wider neighbourhood" policy. The second involves the desire to integrate Cape Verde into West Africa, particularly with regard to the ECOWAS. One of the aims is to promote recognition of the specific characteristics of Cape Verde within the terms of the SP agreement. In so far as possible, assistance will also be extended to Cape Verde with regard to the EDF's Regional Indicative Programmes (RIP) for West Africa.

Technology and standards convergence

This seeks to promote convergence of technology and standards policies in order to facilitate alignment on EU standards whilst supporting Cape Verde's comparative advantages with a view to its development.

Knowledge-based society

This pillar aims to promote the development of the country for the "knowledge society". Gives priority to economic, social and cultural development, particularly through education, research, and ownership / development of information technology.

The aim of this pillar is to encourage Cape Verde's progress towards the "knowledge-based society". It prioritises economic, social and cultural development, in particular through education, research and the ownership/development of information technology.

Poverty alleviation and development

The poverty alleviation component will contribute in particular to carrying out the Cape Verdean Government's programmes under its Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (GPRSP). Measures undertaken to combat poverty take into account environmental protection, the protection of natural resources and the preservation of the marine environment including measures to reduce ocean pollution. The component also covers reinforced cooperation in support of national fisheries policy and in particular the fight against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. These measures contribute to the sustainable management of marine resources and the preservation of resources for the benefit of local people dependent on fishing.

Institutional follow up mechanism for the Special Partnership

Cape Verde and the European Union have established three levels of consultation to accompany the SP:

(A) at ministerial level, the EU and Cape Verde meet once a year (with meetings alternating between Cape Verde and the European Union) in order to further political dialogue and accelerate the progressive achievement of objectives;

(B) at Brussels level, the Technical Follow Up Group (TFG), meets every six months in order to raise awareness, to mobilise the various technical services who are required to cooperate in the implementation of the pillars, to review all ongoing activities and to prepare the ministerial meeting;

(C) at the Praia level, the Local Action Group (LAG), undertakes to continue political dialogue and to monitor the implementation of the Partnership. It is made up from, on one hand, Heads of Mission from the Member States of the European Union alongside the EU Delegation and, on the other hand, representatives from the Cape Verdean the Administration. It meets on a regular basis in response to a request from one or other of the different parties.

Maria Graça Carvalho, MEP (EPP)



EUROPEAN UNION AND CAPE VERDE PARTNERSHIP FOR MOBILITY

The Mobility Partnership is a policy framework that seeks to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with Cape Verde in the field of migration. It is above all concerned with a number of concrete initiatives on the part of the different participants. Initially, the Partnership was signed on the European side, by the European Union, Portugal, Spain, France and Luxembourg. The Netherlands subsequently joined the partnership. By and large, these initiatives aim to further, in concrete and specific ways, dialogue and cooperation between the EU and its Member States in the field of migration as well as in migration and development in exchange for greater cooperation on the part of third countries in the fight against illegal immigration and readmission.

In 2008, Cape Verde and Moldova were chosen as pilot-states for the EU Mobility Partnership and, in so far as Cape Verde is concerned, a joint declaration was adopted on 5 June 2008. A Mobility Partnership is typically made up of the following main elements

- (a) management of legal migration;
- (b) migration and development
- (c) measures to combat illegal immigration

Beyond this, a Mobility Partnership is characterized by the following two elements:

1) Third Country Commitments

- ▲ A commitment effectively to readmit its own nationals and to cooperate fully in identifying them;
- ▲ An additional commitment to readmitting, under clearly defined circumstances, third country nationals and stateless persons who have arrived in the EU through the territory of the country concerned, where appropriate within the framework of an EC readmission agreement;
- ▲ Initiatives to discourage illegal migration through targeted information campaigns;
- ▲ Efforts to improve border control and/or management, something that is supported as appropriate by operational cooperation with Member States and/or FRONTEX;
- ▲ Efforts to improve the security of travel documents against fraud or forgery, notably by using biometrics and, where relevant, making issue dependent on the security of the documents used (e.g. national identification documents);

△ A commitment to cooperating and exchanging information with relevant authorities in EU Member States with a view to reducing the security risks linked to international movements of people;

△ Specific measures and initiatives to seriously combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking in line with the Council of Europe Convention on human trafficking and the relevant protocols in the United Nations Convention concerning cross-border criminal activity and/ or relevant regional frameworks such as the Ouagadougou Action Plan concerning human trafficking (African Union/ EU);

△ Commitments to promote productive employment and decent work – and more generally to improve conditions within economic and social frameworks – should also be sought from the third country concerned as they may contribute to reducing the incentives for irregular migration.

B) EU Commitments

△ wider scope in defining legal migration for third country nationals;

△ financial assistance to third countries in order to help them enhance their ability to deal with legal migratory flows;

△ measures to deal with the risk of brain drain and to encourage circular migration or return;

△ improvement in or greater flexibility in issuing procedures for short term visas for third country nationals.

The Mobility Partnership has been designed on the basis of a long term evolutionary framework supported by political dialogue. This develops within the general framework of relations between the EU, its member states and Cape Verde. Under the terms of the specific agreement, a number of EU agencies, and above all FRONTEX, are involved in the implementation of this partnership while developments with regard to the partnership are monitored by EU- Cape Verde consulting groups.

Concrete achievements of the Partnership for Mobility in Cape Verde

The following is a non-exhaustive list of a few concrete achievements:

△ drawing up of a country migration profile that assesses the situation in terms of migration, offers a diagnosis and makes a series of recommendations;

△ negotiation of two agreements on readmission and the further easing of formalities for the issuance of visas;

△ opening of the CAMPO centre in Praia, the objective of which is to advise potential migrants to EU countries, to guide them in their search for work on the European labour market and to provide those who wish to return home with support in finding an active role in their country of origin;

△ opening of a single processing centre for visa application dealing with applications for entry into the Schengen area, something that has reduced processing time and paperwork;

- △ improvement of airport border controls, including the introduction of biometrics, cooperation in border management and the identification of travel documents and the signing of a cooperation agreement between Europol and Frontex;
- △ setting up of an information system allowing prospective immigrants to find out about admission requirements and about procedures for seeking employment in the European market;
- △ implementation of joint management of migration flows between certain the EU and Cape Verde, following the entry into force of several bilateral agreements concerning this question;
- △ negotiation, by several Member States, of agreements concerning the migration of temporary workers;
- △ simultaneous training of customs officials and of government officials responsible for the management of migrant flows alongside technical assistance and expert advice. The aim is to create an asylum system consistent with international standards as well as a system for processing and supporting migrants from third countries.

Maria Graça Carvalho, MEP (EPP)



CAPE VERDE, A DEVELOPING COUNTRY

Existing as an independent state for only 35 years, Cape Verde, the small archipelago located about 500 km from the African West Coast has ploughed through, in a consistent way, a remarkable journey of economic growth and development, granting the Country the epitome of successful example in Africa. There are, these days, abundant studies, articles and citations enhancing the progress attained in all social and economic areas since its independence in 1975, changes particularly intense in the last decade. Therefore, the recent article posted in EEAS (European External Action Service) site introduces the country in the following terms:

“Cape Verde is a functioning multi-party democracy with a growing economy and falling levels of poverty. It managed the transition from a one-party system to a democracy 20 years ago, and has never looked back. The country is on track to achieve most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Some indicators, such as life expectancy which stands at 71 years, are now approaching EU levels.”

As a matter of fact, there were important achievements in the social area. Cape Verde has already accomplished four Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and it is well positioned to complete the remaining four until 2015, the

deadline established by the United Nations. The Country holds one of the major human development indexes (HDI) in Africa.

In another article published by the European Commission, it is written: *"Cape Verde is an island nation. In recent years, its economic growth has chiefly been fuelled by tourism, and it has undergone a marked improvement in governance – not only economic governance, but also in terms of democracy, human rights and basic freedoms. In 2008, Cape Verde joined the group of middle-income countries and became a member of the World Trade Organisation. However, Cape Verde remains very vulnerable – it has scarcely any natural resources and, being almost totally barren, it is heavily dependent on imports. Development aid and money sent home by Cape Verdeans working abroad account for some 30% of its GDP. The global financial crisis has caused a drastic drop in foreign investment and income from tourism. Despite its economic success and remarkable democratic stability, Cape Verde still has far to go to eradicate poverty"*.

Besides pointing out the success in economic governance, this quote also highlights some other aspects that characterize the country, such as the existence of a large diaspora spread across various continents, which has greatly contributed to its development. On the other hand, the persistence of poverty that still affects about 27% of the population and structural unemployment that affects particularly the youngsters, are presented as major weaknesses. We would also add the qualification of human resources, the solution for energy problem and continuous improvement of infrastructures, as three other major challenges that the country needs to overcome to ensure the sustainability of development achieved so far.

While small archipelagic country without natural resources and a residing population of less than 500 000 inhabitants, which means an extremely small market and a weak and open economy based almost entirely on tourism and other services, Cape Verde has a high rate of vulnerability. Besides economic vulnerability, the country also has a high index of ecological and environmental vulnerability. Highly exposed to climate change, Cape Verde has always had very irregular rainfall patterns alternating long dry periods with short and random occurrences of rain, sometimes intense, which increases soil erosion and often causes extensive damage.

The relatively high HDI and GDP (Gross Domestic Product) per capita, were the two criteria that led to the graduation of the country to leave the list of LDCs (Least Developed Countries) and join the group of so-called middle-income countries. Although Cape Verde does not meet the third criterion of analysis, vulnerability, this has not prevented its graduation, since the completion of two of three criteria is sufficient for the decision of ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council). Being the new classification, in itself, something positive and encouraging, recognizing the work done and allowing new opportunities, graduated but vulnerable countries such as Cape Verde face a huge challenge due to the loss of favourable terms of access to

donations, concessional loans and markets for their exports, which could seriously jeopardize the successes achieved. The step back is a real risk and can derive from the lack of support from the international community to help these countries to consolidate their development process.

Being at the end of the transitional period of three years (2008-2011) agreed by the United Nations after the graduation, Cape Verde is committed along with other non-LDC but vulnerable or middle/low-income countries, to sensitize the International Community to identify and adopt new financial instruments appropriate to the level and development efforts of these countries. Concerning our country, yet we urge the International Community to extend the transition period until at least 2015 in order to coincide with the reference year for the achievement of the MDGs.

Political and Economical Situation

At the political level, the democratic rule of law is consolidated. Cape Verde has had good performance in international rankings in areas such as democracy, freedom, good governance, financial management, corruption. Its known political, social and economic stability, have always been one of the main advantages for attracting investment and cooperation and for the development of the country.

2011 and 2012 are election years. The legislative elections took place on February 6. Although now customary, the democratic, transparent and orderly way how they were held was widely highlighted internationally. The new government took office in early April and has been implementing policies to address the challenges identified in the Government Programme approved by the National Assembly. The pre-campaign for the presidential elections, that will take place on August 7, is now going on; 4 candidates are vying for election: two of the sphere of the ruling party, the PAICV (Partido Africano para a Independência de Cabo Verde - African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde), which has created a certain political friction within its ranks, a candidate supported by the MPD (Movimento para a Democracia - Movement for Democracy) and a citizen by now relatively anonymous. Despite intense, like all elections in Cape Verde, the passionate debate never became a concern in terms of political and social stability. In 2012 there will be local elections, the 6th since the opening of the country to free and multiparty elections in 1991.

Although never easy to achieve, some important consensus on matters of State are a result of dialogue between the Government and the Opposition. As a result, it was recently agreed a revision of the Constitution and of the Electoral Law. We have been working for a wider and more effective administrative decentralization and we have already approved the Outline Law for Decentralization that proposes a new morphology of the State and a new Statute for Municipalities.

Regarding the current Economic Situation, Cape Verde has withstood the global crisis despite its negative effects, particularly on tourism and real estate. The IMF 2010 assessment notes that *"The economic and financial performance of Cape Verde remains robust and Cape Verde managed the global crisis relatively well because of prudent macroeconomic policies and an adequate tax reserve which had been growing in recent years and served as a buffer against crisis"*. The document considered that the strategy of public investment in infrastructure was appropriate in order to help to reduce the costs of offer and promoting the development of exports, and especially tourism.

The "2010 State of the Nation" also states that the Country has kept during the last decade robust growth rates. GDP grew on average 7.3% per year between 2006 and 2009, up from 10.1% in 2006. From 2000 to 2008, GDP per capita grew from U.S. \$ 1,484 to \$ 3,436 U.S., i.e. a growth of 132%. Inflation has been low at around 1% in recent years. The international crisis has interrupted this expansion. But there are still good growth rates, with an expected growth of over 5% for 2011. This estimate is based on the performance of the end of 2009, when remittances from emigrants increased by 1.7% and the sectors of Tourism and Civil Construction showed signs of recovery. It is expected for 2011 a reinforcement of public and private investment. There may be a slight increase in inflation.

In general terms, beyond the known advantages, among which our geostrategic location, Cape Verde has some competitive advantages to enhance and strengthen: political, economical and social stability, the existence of a solid legal framework and institutions that work and are respected, and the low level of corruption, are important factors that have contributed to success and will continue to be vital for consolidation and further development. On top of these advantages are the Good Governance and a system of modern and transparent public financial management.

Among other positive factors generally emphasized are also the good level of training of human resources, despite the poor vocational qualifications at certain levels, and the openness and willingness to learn from Cape-Verdeans. Just to quote an illustrative example, currently more than 50% of the population is in one way or another connected to education and training, and a large segment consists of working students. More than 16,000 Cape Verdeans are studying in universities, both in the country (over 10,000) and abroad.

Another competitive advantage mentioned by all the analysts and economic agents is the Special Partnership with the European Union and the Pegged Exchange Rate (PEG) with the Euro, through the Foreign Exchange Cooperation Agreement, which has worked very well. Finally, the existence of a legal framework favourable to attracting foreign direct investment through tax incentives has also contributed to the good economic performance of Cape Verde.

We can refer elements of some, but still controlled economic stress, namely the budget deficit of 12.9% and the rising indebtedness of the State, though still within the affordable limit, due to the vast program of public investment to counter the effects of the crisis and to profit from the period of transition to middle-income country in which the concessional credits will become rarer.

The agenda of transformation

Despite the enormous challenges such as poverty, high unemployment and structural problems, which include the supply of energy and water in optimized production and distribution conditions, ensuring more efficient maritime transport, improving the state of sanitation and the environment, among others, an ambitious **Agenda of economic Transformation** and modernization of the country has been implemented and recommends:

- To continue the deep **reforms of the State**, covering in particular security and national defence, public finance, justice, decentralization, regulation, social security, electronic governance and public administration;
- To expand the economic base to transform Cape Verde into an **international provider of services**, including quality and high added value tourism and a financial centre;
- To develop a "**Cluster of the Sea**" involving fisheries, tourism, transport, ship repair, research, sports, and maritime safety;
- To develop a "**cluster**" of **information technologies**. The progress made by the Country in building the information society and electronic governance, in particular, are encouraging factors for the most audacious goals still to come;
- To develop the **air transport** system and transform Cape Verde into a passenger and cargo hub between Europe, Africa and South America;
- To address the **energy challenge** and continue to invest heavily in renewable energy. The targets of 25% in 2011 and 50% in 2020 are perfectly achievable, given the current performance of wind and photovoltaic farms recently built in the Country;
- To take advantage of opportunities that **culture** offers to develop the cultural industries as part of the process of transformation and modernization;
- To promote the development of the **private sector** and of **entrepreneurship**. The expansion of the economic base calls for the need to build a strong private sector that is globally competitive and can lead the efforts to transform and internationalize the economy;
- To modernize **agriculture** and **cattle industry** and transform them into a modern and attractive sector. We have made huge investments for the mobilization of water and facilitating access to modern irrigation technologies. The apparent modernization of road infrastructure around the country has contributed significantly to the expansion of markets and

distribution channels offering more opportunities for producers. The development of agro-food industry by articulating agriculture with other dynamic sectors such as tourism, is the step that follows;

- To continue to invest in **modern infrastructures**, including roads, ports and airports, but also social infrastructure to better serve the people;
- To continue to invest heavily in **human capital** to ensure **knowledge** and a new culture of **innovation** to new generations and build the necessary skills to perform the transformation and modernization of the Country. The compulsory basic education has been extended from 6 to 8 years and the goal for the future is 12 years as compulsory education. More than 100,000 children and adolescents get hot meals in schools and many are otherwise framed by the school health and school social support to needy students. A strong commitment to quality and on increasing the offer characterizes higher education, where the newly created University of Cape Verde stands out in the range of an already significant number of universities in the country;
- To re-structure the system of **training** to match the supply of skilled labour to the real demands of the market;
- To continue to improve the **income** and **well-being** of families, aiming an inclusive growth and development with a human face; reducing the tax burden and income redistributive policies such as extending social security to all professional categories and the creation of a non-contributory scheme have already given visible results;
- To include **Cape Verde in the world** and build a **Global Nation**. We are a global nation with Cape Verdeans present in all parts of the world. Promoting the integration of our immigrants in their host societies and to enhance the participation of the diaspora in the development process of Cape Verde are the main objectives in this area. Part of this concern is also the promotion of harmonious integration of foreigners living in Cape Verde. In his keynote address at the State of the Nation in 2010, Prime Minister José Maria Neves said: *"The State of the Nation is good. We know there are still problems to solve and that as we move forward new challenges arise. There are still significant patches of poverty, high unemployment, many Cape Verdeans live in undignified conditions. Cape Verde is now a promising country that is growing and is able to win the future. The most important thing is that Cape Verdeans have today a shared vision of the future. Cape Verdeans aspire to a modern, competitive, developed, fairer and more equal Country"*.

Cape Verde and the World / Cape Verde and Africa

Cape Verde is able and willing to act as a bridge between cultures and continents. Being the Cape Verdean Nation itself the result of the meeting of peoples and cultures, the Archipelago was, throughout its five and a half centuries of history, a reference point connecting the Atlantic Ocean. Our economy has turned around the triangular trade, maritime navigation - to

assist the steamships - and air traffic from 1930. Today, the bridge is also made at the political level. The ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) - Brazil summit held in Sal Island in mid-2010 on the initiative of Cape Verde, is an example. Culturally, the socio-cultural reality of the Islands and its Diaspora, that one of the main expressions is Cape Verdean music, has been an excellent tool for intense exchanges and complementarities with Continental Africa, Europe and the Americas.

In recent years, Cape Verde has been strengthening its integration in the sub-region. It is more active in ECOWAS and the AU (African Union). The recent creation of the WAI (West Africa Institute), an institution aiming the research and study on integration, and the ECOWAS Institute of Renewable Energy, both based in Cape Verde, illustrate this intensification in search for a dynamic integration of our country in the organization. There remain, however, some aspects for further improvements, namely the real integration of the islands in the structuring sub-regional projects and a better management of the free movement of people and goods.

Efforts are being made to build alliances for the development of Cape Verde and its competitive insertion in the global economy. Entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Special Partnership with the European Union and the Partnership for Mobility, the graduation to middle-income country, the Millennium Challenge Account with the United States of America, and initiatives within the ECOWAS above mentioned, are examples of such effort. We have been very active in the aspects of security and conflict management and in promoting peace and democracy. The same, regarding the combat to drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime in the subregion, where the role of Cape Verde has received widespread appreciation from the international community and the EU in particular.

Cape Verde and the European Union

Excellent relations of friendship and cooperation link Cape Verde and the European Union on the one hand, and Cape Verde and several EU Member States, in a particular way, on the other. From the legal and institutional standpoint, since 1975 Cape Verde and the European Union are linked by the successive Lomé and Cotonou agreements. These relations witnessed a boost and rose to a higher level with the establishment in 2007 of the Special Partnership. The Special Partnership is, above all, a space for political dialogue and should be a catalyst for a wider cooperation on areas and issues of mutual interest.

Considering the ever-growing evolution of CV-EU relations, the first EEAS article quoted above also says: *“Cape Verde is a genuine African success story. The EU has contributed to this success not just with classical projects in water and sanitation, infrastructure, health and other sectors, but above all with the provision of budgetary support to the Government of Cape Verde, for the implementation of its*

poverty reduction strategy. Cape Verde is considered a model case in the effective use of budget support, as it has consistently improved its public finance management systems."

And a recent article dated 2011 adds: "Our partnership is based on shared values, especially democracy and human rights, and also shared interests, such as protecting ourselves against illegal trafficking, in particular of cocaine. Because Cape Verde is a model country in so many ways, it has a particular value and role to play as positive example.

In the light of Cape Verde's rapid progress and its changing and evolving development challenges, in 2007 the EU upgraded its cooperation to that of a Special Partnership. The Special Partnership has since then been the cornerstone for our relations with Cape Verde. Its key features are a deep and broad dialogue, combined with broad cooperation covering a range of areas from security, to mobility and poverty alleviation. Most recently a Cape Verde-EU meeting at Ministerial level took place in Cape Verde, on 6 June 2011. It was the fourth such meeting since the Special Partnership began.

Such Special Partnerships – like this one between Cape Verde and the EU – may well point the way to the future, as to how best to partner with a resurgent, confident and rapidly developing African continent".

The intensification of the cooperation with the Atlantic OR (outermost regions), including the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands, has been another vector with great potential for mutual benefits. The December 2010 Summit in Macaronesia and other joint actions fall within this framework and seek to consolidate the special relationship forged naturally by geographical proximity and the geo-morphological and socio-cultural similarities.

The implementation of the excellent results of the last high level meeting held in Praia on June 6th and co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cape Verde, Mr. Jorge Borges, and the Executive Secretary General of the EEAS, Mr. Pierre Vimont, and the White Paper for Technical and Regulatory Convergence are the issues on the agenda within the framework of the Special Partnership CV-EU.

Maria de Jesus Mascarenhas, Ambassador of Cape Verde in the European Union

AGENDA

The Macaronesia Summit - São Vicente (Dezembro de 2010)

On 12 December 2010 the Government of Cape Verde held in Mindelo, São Vicente Island, the Summit of the Macaronesian archipelagos which aimed mainly at institutionalizing a space for dialogue and regional cooperation in Macaronesia. This summit, which was attended by representatives of the government of the Canaries, Azores and Madeira, was sponsored by the

Governments of Spain and Portugal and led to the confirmation of a political will of the four archipelagos to expand the cooperation through the establishment of a strategic partnership in various sectors of common interest, sustained by a better articulation of instruments that maximize the synergies between the European archipelagos and Cape Verde islands.

Hosting the ECOWAS Summit and the ECOWAS - Brazil Summit

Cape Verde successfully hosted in July 2010 on the island of Sal, the Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS that counted with the exceptional presence of Heads of State and Government from all the countries that integrate this West African organization. Then the Country hosted the First Brazil-ECOWAS Summit, sponsored by President Lula da Silva and supported by members of ECOWAS.

Headquarters of the ECOWAS institutions

Recently, the country has been chosen to host the headquarters of two important regional institutions of the organization: the West Africa Institute and the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy.

Cape Verde in the world

Efforts have been developed to build alliances for the development of the country and its competitive insertion into the global economy. Thus, the country's accession to WTO, the establishment of the Special Partnership with the European Union, the Mobility Partnership with the European Union, the graduation from Least Developed Countries and the selection of the country to benefit from the Millennium Challenge Account with the U.S. are examples of the progress reached lately.

Establishment of the Special Partnership between Cape Verde and the European Union - Calendar of Events

- Decision of the European Commission to create a *"Task-Force CV-EU"*, Nov.2005
- Resolution of the European Parliament dated 19.01.2006 about European Neighbourhood Policy
- Creation of the Joint Working Group CV-Portugal (former Joint Working Group)
- Creation of the Mini-Group Dublin for Cape Verde - first meeting held in Praia on July 7th 2006, fourth meeting on December 2007 - concrete recommendations sent to the Central Group in Brussels on measures to strengthen the National Security
- Approval in Lisbon by the European Council of the Communication and the EC Action Plan on the future of relations between the EU and CV (19/11/07)

Mobility Partnership between CV and the EU

10th December 2007 - the **Justice and Home Affairs Council** of the European Union, chose Cape Verde along with Moldova for the pilot project of Mobility Partnership.

05th June 2008 - signature of the Declaration of Partnership for Mobility between Cape Verde and four Member States (Portugal, Spain, France and Luxembourg). The Netherlands joined the Declaration on November/2011. This partnership aims to develop the following actions: (i) Introduction of biometrics; (ii) Reinforcement of institutional capacities; (iii) Safety and public order; (iv) Fight against document fraud; (v) Surveillance of territorial waters, patrolling and rescue; (vi) Mobilization of Cape Verdean expertise for the development of the country and joint development; (vii) Asylum policy and refugees.

23rd March 2011 - signature of the agreement between Cape Verde and the European Union on certain aspects of of air services, creating conditions for an ever growing number of airlines of member states of the EU may fly to Cape Verde and further promote the tourism market of Cape Verde on the rise.

January 2011 - signature in Brussels of the Agreement between Cape Verde and Frontex for the strengthening cooperation in the security sector

Future events:

Signature of the Agreements on readmission and visa facilitation between CV and the European Union, being the negotiations at an advanced stage of completion, at this moment.

Signature of the fisheries agreement between Cape Verde and the European Union. The same has already been initiated by both parties, just waiting for the formal signing.