



**Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries
Vienna – 3 November 2014**

**Statement of European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development -
Neven Mimica
on behalf of the European Union and its Member States**

[Excellencies, to be updated]

First of all, I would like to thank the host country for its support in organizing this Conference and Secretary General Ban, the United Nation secretariat, and in particular Under-Secretary General Acharya, for their tireless work and advocacy in favor of the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

On behalf of the EU and its Members States, let me underscore our commitment to engage actively with LLDCs, with transit countries and with all partners and stakeholders, public and private, to make the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries a success.

With LLDCs in the lead, and drawing from lessons learnt from the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, we are determined to support them in core policy areas aimed at addressing the serious constraints on their sustainable development due to remoteness, lack of territorial access to the sea and limited access to world markets. This means concentrating our efforts in the areas of trade facilitation, transit, transport infrastructure and regional integration and cooperation.

Our current and future cooperation with LLDCs, both bilateral and regional, is geared towards these areas to ensure that our partnership translates into transformational policies and programs on the ground.

For example, through the European Development Fund (EDF), the EU has been supporting the development of strategic corridors in Africa. Investments resulted in more than 7000 km of roads constructed or rehabilitated to stimulate inclusive growth at national and regional level by connecting areas with high economic and agricultural potential and linking them with markets. Major projects supported are for instance the massive network of the North-South Corridor, the main transport route to supply the countries of Zimbabwe, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo; the Northern Corridor linking Kenya with Rwanda; and in the Western part of Africa, the strategic link between Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. Besides investments, addressing sector inefficiencies at governance level for improved trade and reduced transport

prices has always formed an integral part of our approach. We are also supporting the development of integrated regional energy markets, for example through the Zambia-Tanzania-Kenya regional power interconnector.

As the biggest donor of aid for trade, we will collectively continue to support trade facilitation in the context of our development policy. We are committed to continue providing developing countries with technical assistance in order to help them to implement trade facilitation reforms.

We are encouraged by the broad participation of so many stakeholders to the Conference, notably the private sector. Private sector contribution will be fundamental and the creation of an enabling environment for increasing the private sector investment and fostering inclusive and sustainable growth remains critical.

Mr President,

It is clear to us that a large number of the challenges facing Landlocked Developing Countries cannot be resolved in isolation but require national efforts from all stakeholders, but also regional and global engagement and solutions. With LLDCs in the lead, we are very pleased that this Conference will adopt a result-oriented Programme of Action, which will provide a set of internationally-agreed orientations for actions at multilateral, regional and national level in support of the efforts of the LLDCs. We look forward to working with the LLDCs, the UN system and all partners in putting this programme into operation.