

GOVERNMENT OF GHANA SIGNS EURO 8 MILLION FINANCING AGREEMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) TO SUPPORT THE COCOA SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAMME (PHASE II) AND THE GHANA POLICE SERVICE PROJECT

The Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Hon. Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu has signed today 23rd November 2007, two grant Agreements with the European Commission (EC) represented by H.E. Filiberto Ceriani Sebregondi, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the EC in Ghana. The signing of these agreements will make available to the Government of Ghana a total amount of €8 million (~approximately GH¢ 9.6 million) to support the Cocoa Sector (€5,000,000) and the Ghana Police Service (€3,000,000).

The Cocoa Sector Support Programme phase II (CSSP II) which will be executed within four (4) years is aimed at contributing to an improved livelihood of smallholder cocoa farmers and to improve sustainability of cocoa production in Ghana. The programme is expected to intensify extension services to cocoa farmers through participatory training methods and tools, address the environmental and social impacts of cocoa production, and support the replanting of hybrid cocoa varieties in former cocoa growing areas, among other activities.

The Support to the Ghana Police Service (SGPS) on the other hand, seeks to enhance the capacities of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Ghana Police Service in the application of science to crime prevention and detection. To this end, the Forensic Science Laboratory of the CID will be rehabilitated and equipped with state of the art equipment including an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) to enable it undertake various types of analysis, possibly DNA analysis among others.

The SGPS is expected to be implemented within four (4) years. The project is in line with the European Commission's declared intention to increase support to Ghana in the field of good governance, which is one of the central pillars of the GPRS.