



## Statement Coordination Europe-Haiti

*'Deteriorating situation in Haiti requires clear stance from the EU'*

Brussels, 19 March 2015

Taking note of the current political situation in Haiti, the Coordination Europe-Haiti calls upon the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission to express a clear position and take corresponding action.

1. On January 12 the mandate of the Haitian House of Deputies expired. One-third of the Senate had already termed out in 2012. A second third termed out on January 12, five years after the earthquake, which means that the current Senate only has ten members. Effectively, President Martelly currently governs the Republic of Haiti by decree. The necessary checks and balances in the system are dysfunctional. In view of the State Building Contract that was agreed between Haiti and the EU in 2014, and also in view of the general EU policy of support to third countries, the current institutional crisis requires that the EU clearly speaks out about its relation with the Haitian Government. As the EU development policy strongly underlines the need for transparency and democratic accountability about the spending of the national budget, and therefore also the spending of the EU contribution to the budget, our platform asks the EEAS and EC to clarify their position publicly, both towards the Haitian government and towards the European Parliament, demanding a follow-up of the use of the funds in a ways similar to the requirements of NGOs towards their own Haitian partners.

2. The Haitian Electoral Commission recently published its calendar for parliamentary and presidential elections. As it stands now, legislative elections are scheduled for this summer, presidential elections as well as local elections are foreseen for October. A new President should be sworn in before February 7, 2016. All this means that the prospect of the upcoming elections will to a large extent determine political life in Haiti for the rest of the year. In the light of the irregularities during the 2010 presidential elections, it is required that the international community, in close dialogue with the Government of Haiti, determines the support it will give to the preparation and organization of the elections, which should be peaceful, inclusive, free and fair. The Coordination Europe-Haiti welcomes the support of the EU to the election process via UNDP, but would also appreciate if the EU representation in Port-au-Prince speaks out in a constructive and open manner about the need for such elections to guarantee the rule of law.

3. The current social and political situation in Haiti should be monitored closely. Since November 2014 demonstrations are the order of the day. Social and political divisions about a wide range of issues are deepening. The Coordination Europe-Haiti is very much aware of the importance the EU attaches to a deep and ongoing dialogue between political and civil actors and movements in Haiti. We urge the EU to do whatever it can to promote and where needed to facilitate this dialogue, so as to contribute to an easing of the current tensions.

### **About the CoE-H**

The Coordination Europe-Haiti (CoE-H) comprises of a network of thirteen European international development and solidarity organisations and platforms. Since 2004, we have played an instrumental role in pushing for Haiti to be placed on the European agenda. Acting as an intermediary between civil society organisations (CSOs) in Haiti, our supporters in Europe and the representatives of institutions and governments in Europe, we are a dynamic network and collaborate with a wide range of Haitian civil society organisations and leaders. Through this position, we facilitate dialogue and share their experiences via our direct contact with European Union (EU) institutions.

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