

Brussels, 3 March 2015

## **Commissioner Mimica signs €279 million development programme for Liberia**

Today, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, signed the National Indicative Programme (NIP) for EU development cooperation with Liberia for the period 2014-2020, which amounts to €279 million. The signing ceremony with the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Amara Konneh, took place on the sidelines of the high-level international conference “Ebola: From Emergency to Recovery”, in Brussels.

Commissioner Mimica commented: *“Today’s signature shows the EU’s strong commitment to promoting stability and reconciliation as well as equitable and inclusive development in Liberia. Our support will target important drivers for sustainable development and growth, continuing our long-term partnership with the Liberia. A key priority is to bolster areas which are essential for recovering from the medium and long term consequences of the Ebola epidemic.”*

EU cooperation with Liberia in the years till 2020 will focus on four main sectors:

**Good governance:** this will support the overall improvement of the management of the public sector and also address the ability to deliver services as well as focus on the consolidation of peace, democracy, the rule of law and security.

**Energy:** improving access to sustainable and affordable electricity for the general population and for productive activities.

**Education:** improving quality, equity and accessibility of basic education and of the technical vocational education and training

**Agriculture:** sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and added value; including improving access to domestic and international markets and developing nutrition-sensitive productions systems.

### **What is a National Indicative Programme?**

National Indicative Programmes represent an important step in the programming of EU aid with the 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries through the 11th European Development Fund (EDF).

NIPs define the strategy and priorities for EU aid in each particular country and are prepared done in close cooperation with the partner countries so as to ensure that they support national priorities and reflect the local context.

This is in line with the EU’s vision for future development cooperation, the “Agenda for Change”, which calls for resources to be targeted where they are most needed and can be the most effective. EU funding will focus on a maximum

of three sectors per country (possibly four in the case of fragile countries) to achieve maximum impact and value for money of EU cooperation.