

MFA/350/8

NOTE NO : 4 /2012

*The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Seychelles presents its compliments to the Delegation of the European Union in Port Louis and has the honour to request the latter to kindly transmit the enclosed letter from **Mr. James Alix MICHEL, President of the Republic of Seychelles** to **H.E. Baroness Catherine ASHTON, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs, Vice President of the European Commission.***

A copy of the letter is enclosed herewith for the delegation's information.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Seychelles avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Delegation of the European Union in Port Louis the assurances of its highest consideration.

**VICTORIA
14TH MAY 2012**

**DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
P.O.BOX 1148
ST DENIS STREET
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ENCL

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

"Maison Quéau De Quinssy"

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Mahé, Seychelles



The President

STATE HOUSE, VICTORIA, MAHE
REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

State House, 8th May 2012

**H.E. Baroness Ashton
High Representative of the European Union
For Foreign Affairs
Vice-President of the European Commission
BERL 2/207
200 Rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels
Belgium**

Your Excellency,

I would like to convey my sincere appreciation for your most kind invitation for me to visit Brussels to be able to further strengthen the exemplary partnership that Seychelles and the European Union share.

As has undoubtedly already been communicated to you, I regret that previously unforeseen national commitments in Seychelles that unavoidably clash with the previously agreed time at the end of May have forced me to kindly beg your understanding to postpone this visit to a mutually convenient time possibly in the fourth quarter of this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to underline the appreciation of Seychelles for the support of the European Union at this most critical juncture.

We all know how much disruption the scourge of piracy in the Indian Ocean has brought to world trade. For Seychelles, this risk is even more immediate as it further underlines our already pronounced economic isolation and vulnerability to external shocks.

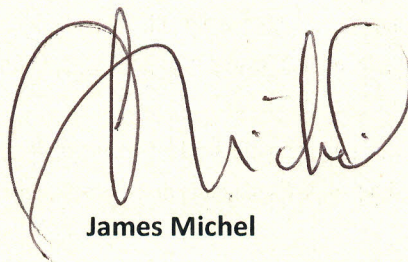
While our recent successful economic reforms have dramatically improved our perspectives for the future, we are very conscious that we will only truly be able to develop a sustainable

model for our development with the help and support of longstanding and staunch development partners such as the EU. This has been underscored recently through two projects on which we are partnering and which have a transformative scope for our development: the laying of fibre optic cable to connect Seychelles to the digital age and a new water master plan. Both have used innovative financing mechanisms under the EIB which can also provide models to other development institutions.

I very much look forward to be able to meet with you and enhance our discussions and exchanges on ways in which Seychelles and the EU can continually support each other whether it be in combating the global menace of piracy, or in developing resilience building mechanisms that can better support Small Island Developing States such as Seychelles.

It was a great pleasure to have received you in Seychelles in 2010, and it is with great optimism that I look forward to finalising the details of my proposed visit to Brussels later this year.

Please accept Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



James Michel