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Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Royal Government of Bhutan

### Press Release on the visit of EU Ambassadors based in New Delhi

H.E. Mr. Tomasz Kozlowski, Ambassador of the European Union to Bhutan led a delegation of EU Ambassadors based in New Delhi from 2-4 April 2019. The delegation consisted of H.E. Mr. Milan Hovorka, Ambassador of the Czech Republic; H.E. Mr. Riho Kruuv, Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia; H.E. Mr. Radu Octavian Dobre, Ambassador of Romania; H.E. Mr. Julius Pranevicius, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania; H.E. Mr. Jean Claude Kugener, Ambassador of Luxembourg; H.E. Mr. Artis Bertulis, Ambassador of Latvia; H.E. Mrs. Eleonora Dimitrova, Ambassador of Bulgaria; Mr. Robert Dziedzic, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Poland, and Mr. Stijn Mols, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Belgium. This was the fourth such visit to Bhutan by the EU Ambassadors based in New Delhi.

The delegation received an Audience with His Majesty The King and called on Hon'ble Lyonchhen (Dr.) Lotay Tshering; Tshogpon Wangchuk Namgyel, Speaker of the National Assembly; Lyonpo (Dr.) Tandi Dorji, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Lyonpo Namgay Tshering, Minister for Finance; Lyonpo Yeshey Penjor, Minister for Agriculture and Forests and met other senior officials of the Royal Government.

During the meetings, the EU Ambassador conveyed that the EU remains committed to provide support and contribute to the socio-economic development of Bhutan as it transitions from LDC status and beyond. He said that EU-Bhutan relations has intensified during the last few years and that the EU is in the process of preparing the new financial perspective for the period 2021-2027. He said that the EU perceives its partnership with Bhutan not only through its support and assistance to Bhutan but through political, global, international frameworks, climate change and the UN system. Both sides agreed to continue the current momentum of partnership in line with the changing priorities and requirements of Bhutan-EU relationship.

The EU delegation also hosted a dinner reception on 3<sup>rd</sup> April at Hotel Le Meridien to celebrate EU-Bhutan Friendship where the Hon'ble Prime Minister was the guest of honor.

Formal diplomatic relations between Bhutan and the EU were established on 9 August 1985. However, engagement between Bhutan and the EU started since 1982 when the EU first started financing development projects in Bhutan. Since then, the EU has been an important development partner for Bhutan and is one of the few traditional partners still active in Bhutan.

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