

# Meet the 11 EU heads

THE EUROPEAN UNION IS 60 YEARS OLD, WITH MORE THAN 500 MILLION PEOPLE



**H.E. Domenico FORNARA: Ambassador of the Republic of Italy**

**QUOTE:** "The road to pursue is neither easy nor certain, but it must be followed and it will be done!" (Cit. Altiero Spinelli, Il Manifesto di Ventotene)

**FACTS:** Italy, an EU founding member, is at the core of the European Union integration since its beginning. The 1957 Treaties of Rome were inspired by the "Manifesto of Ventotene", written by Italian political and pan-Europeanist thinkers in their years of detention as opponents to the fascist regime. EU set itself high standards, and has proven to be thoroughly successful: totalitarianism was defeated and let space to democracy; never had long time war-torn Europe experienced over 70 years of uninterrupted peace and prosperity; human rights became the bottom line of our legislative systems. Italy provided crucial contributions to all steps of EU integration, and is looking forward to an even greater engagement in the years to come.



**H.E. Kristian SCHMIDT: Ambassador/Head of Delegation of the European Union**

**QUOTE:** "United, bold and confident, we can shape the future".

**FACTS:** The European Union is 60 years old, 28 member states, more than 500 million citizens, 70 years of peace, 22% global GDP, 6% of world's population, the world's biggest development and humanitarian donor, a global leader on climate change governance, the second largest economy, the largest destination/greatest source of FDI flows, and home to the most equal and fair societies in the world.



**Günter Engelits:  
Head of Mission,  
Embassy of the Republic  
of Austria**

**Head of Office, Austrian  
Development Cooperation**

**QUOTE:** "A Union based on the principles of democracy, liberty, equality and solidarity, as well as on the respect for human rights, rule of law and the dignity of all human beings!"

**FACTS:** Unity in diversity — 24 different official languages, many more different cultures and traditions, various forms of governments and constitutions. Every year, more than two million immigrants from outside the EU arrive in Europe and more than one million migrants move within the EU. 18 member states use the Euro as their currency, but every Euro coin has one side in a specific country design.



**H.E. Dónal CRONIN:  
Ambassador of Ireland**

**QUOTE:** "Advancing the EU's and Ireland's strong relations with Uganda, promoting our values and interests."

**FACTS:** Ireland has been the fastest growing economy in the EU over the last two years; voted by Forbes as the best country in the Eurozone for doing business. The country is home to nine of the top 10 global software companies and nine of the top 10 global pharmaceutical firms.

Irish food and drink is exported to over 175 markets around the world; 40% of the almost five million population of Ireland is under the age of 29, making it the youngest population in the EU. Last year, Ireland welcomed 9 million overseas visitors.



# of mission in Uganda



**H.E. Stéphanie RIVOAL :**  
**Ambassador of France to Uganda**

**QUOTE:** "Sixty years of fraternity, sixty years of peace"  
**FACTS:** France was one of the six founders of the European community in 1957. Since the very beginning, our countries have continuously worked to promote peace between peoples and to assure European citizens' well-being. France's contribution to the EU represents 13% of the European budget, making it the second biggest contributor to the community. Most of this budget is dedicated to the objectives we share: protection of the environment, sustainable growth, security and development assistance.

Our relationship with the brother countries lies in one word: Solidarity. Together, we can make the Union even more just and stronger.



**H.E Mogens PEDERSEN:**  
**Ambassador of Denmark to Uganda**

**QUOTE:** Committed to promote social justice, broad political participation and inclusive economic development

**FACTS:** Denmark is a small country, but on the forefront on respect for democracy and human rights, gender equality, freedom of press and transparency and fight against corruption. Denmark is among the most equal societies in the world.



**H.E. Henk Jan Bakker:**  
**Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**QUOTE:** "For an open economy and society like the Netherlands, the political stability and economic integration brought by the European Union has been extremely important!"

**FACTS:** The Netherlands is a modern, creative and innovative, open and tolerant country. It is one of the founders of the EU. Despite its small size, the Netherlands is the second largest agricultural exporter in the world. With the Port of Rotterdam, Schiphol Airport and the Amsterdam Internet Exchange (one of the world's largest internet hubs), it is the "Gateway to Europe". It is the country of Rembrandt and Van Gogh, but also produced Johan Crujff, one of the best footballers in history.



**H.E. Peter West C.M.G:**  
**British High Commissioner**

**QUOTE:** "While the UK is leaving the EU, we remain committed partners and allies to our friends in Europe. As the Prime Minister has said, the UK wants to make sure that Europe remains strong and prosperous."

**H.E. Per Lindgärde:**  
**Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda**

**QUOTE:** "Equality, openness, sustainability and innovation. Inclusive societies are strong societies".

**FACTS:** Sweden has a population of 10 million people. Sweden joined the EU in 1995 and the EU membership is a cornerstone of Sweden's foreign policy. Sweden is a member of the UN Security Council 2017-2018 and is the fourth largest bilateral donor of humanitarian aid globally. Sweden is ranked as one of the most environmentally friendly, innovative and equal countries in the world, with more than 200 years of peace. Sweden pursues a feminist foreign policy: to strengthen women's rights, access to resources and representation worldwide.



**H.E Hugo Verbist:**  
**Ambassador of Belgium**

**QUOTE:** "...it has been said many times, but it can never be repeated enough, the generous way in which Uganda is welcoming refugees from the region is an example to the entire world." – Hugo Verbist (King's Day reception speech Nov.2016)

**FACTS:** Belgium is one of the six founding countries of the EU and hosts the official seats of the European Commission, Council of the European Union and European Parliament in the country's capital, Brussels, also known as the 'capital of Europe'.

Belgium is also a founding member of NATO, which has its headquarters in Brussels, as well as many other international organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and World Trade Organisation, and is part of the trilateral Benelux Union.



**Petra Kochendörfer:**  
**Chargé d'Affaires a.i. German Embassy, Kampala**

**QUOTE:** "Six decades of European unity – a success story"

**FACTS:** Europe, firstly and most importantly, means peace. Never before has there been such a long period of peace in Europe. In addition, Europe is also a great success as an economic area. The historic task that we now face is to create a better and stronger Europe. We must invest together in the European Union and make the most important project for peace and prosperity of our age fit for the future.