

## REMARKS ON PRESENTING LETTERS OF CREDENCE

HE Mr Paul Jansen  
Ambassador-Designate  
Ambassador of HM the King of Belgians  
Presidency of the Council of the EU

**Lozitha Royal Palace, 16 September 2021**

*Bayethe,*

I have the honour and privilege to address Your Majesty on behalf of the seven countries that today have presented Your Majesty, together with the Letters of Recall of our predecessors, the Letters by which our Heads of State request that we be accredited to the Kingdom of Eswatini as Ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary.

This is a particular ceremony today. As Ambassador of His Majesty Philippe the King of the Belgians, I represent the Kingdom of Belgium, which currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Therefore, I speak on behalf of my distinguished colleagues from Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Spain today.

Our gathering today is a testament to the shared values and interests that unite us. As members of the European Union, we have fostered a robust partnership with the Kingdom of Eswatini for over half a century. Since Eswatini's independence, the EU has been a steadfast partner, working hand in hand towards the Kingdom's journey to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and elevate it to first-world status.

The question of why our countries support Eswatini is a valid one. The answer is that the EU and its Member States stand by Eswatini as friends, sharing the same values enshrined in the Cotonou Agreement and its successor, the Samoa Agreement. These values include the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of human rights, democratic principles, the rule of law, and good governance, with a special focus on gender equality. We are committed to building peaceful and resilient states and societies, addressing both ongoing and emerging threats to peace and security and fostering human and social development. We aim to eradicate poverty and address inequalities, ensuring a life of dignity for all while leaving no one behind.

Our countries are currently facing the most severe security crisis that the EU has encountered on its borders since its inception: the illegal, unprovoked, and unjustified

Russian aggression against Ukraine. In this challenging time, we stand in solidarity with Ukraine, a candidate to join the EU, as we advocate for a rules-based multilateral global order. Despite the significant financial impact of this crisis, the Member States and the EU remain the leading global donors of official development assistance and humanitarian aid. In 2022, we collectively provided 92.8 billion Euros (almost 2 trillion Emalangeni), representing 43% of global development assistance internationally. This assistance, often channelled through key partners such as UN agencies, is a testament to the EU taxpayers' substantial contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. Since December 2021, the EU and its Member States have been implementing Global Gateway, our strategy for sustainable investments in global infrastructure.

Over the years, support funded by European citizens, our countries' citizens, has helped improve the lives of thousands of Eswatini through access to clean and potable water, electricity, education, health, support to agriculture, infrastructure development, strengthening of governance, democracy and human rights, social protection, institutional capacity building, fostering business climate and new trade opportunities. The preferential access to the European Union market granted through the SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement is also a strong driver for growth and jobs.

As partners, we need to support each other, and we would welcome Eswatini's support in the UN fora, as well as that of a member of SADC and the African Union to achieve just peace in Ukraine. Our shared priorities are also green and digital economic transformation, decent job creation and human capital development. Economic recovery must be inclusive to be sustainable; it depends on the talent and resilience of all, particularly youth and women. To make growth sustainable, we will continue to support education and the green economy, including sustainable agriculture, renewable energies, and small businesses.

Your Majesty, we embark on this new assignment with a deep sense of honour and satisfaction. My colleagues and I are fully dedicated to enhancing and furthering the cordial relations between our countries and the Kingdom of Eswatini. On my behalf and that of my friends from the six other countries represented here - Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Spain -, I reaffirm our full commitment and dedication to this mission. We are confident that our collective efforts will strengthen our diplomatic ties and lead to mutual prosperity.

*Bayethe!*