



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

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NIGERIA, EUROPEAN UNION DEEPEN ENGAGEMENT ON MIGRATION, DEMOCRACY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Ambassador Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu**, received in audience, the Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Nigeria and ECOWAS, **H.E. Gautier Mignot**, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday, 17 September 2026.

Their discussions centred on strengthening Nigeria-EU relations and enhancing cooperation in areas of mutual interest. Both sides exchanged views on developments in West Africa, Nigeria's forthcoming general elections, migration and mobility, security, multilateral cooperation, sustainable development, and preparations for high-level engagements between Nigeria and the EU.

In their deliberations on West Africa, Ambassador Odumegwu-Ojukwu and Ambassador Mignot agreed on the importance of inclusive, peaceful, and credible electoral processes for the promotion of democratic stability in the West Africa sub-region. They underscored the need for continued regional and international support for ECOWAS, to further strengthen its capacity for the advancement of democracy in the region.

Ambassador Mignot briefed the Honourable Minister on EU's engagement with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and informed of EU's decision to deploy an expert mission rather than a conventional electoral observation mission for the forthcoming 2027 general elections. He also apprised of EU's plan to sustain its support to INEC, the media, civil society organisations, political parties and the National Assembly, in further strengthening electoral processes and democratic institutions in the country. He underscored the importance of electoral inclusivity, voter education and adequate preparations for elections, stressing the need to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities and strengthen public confidence in the ongoing electoral process.

Speaking on Nigeria-EU cooperation on migration management, combatting human trafficking, legal pathways for migration, returns and readmission, Ambassador Mignot informed that technical work was progressing toward formalising a readmission agreement, building on existing informal arrangements between Nigeria and individual EU Member States. Both sides recognised the importance of cooperation on regular migration pathways and arrangements that uphold human dignity. In this regard, they agreed on the need for continued technical consultations to advance necessary agreements and other aspects of Nigeria–EU migration partnership.

Both sides also reviewed cooperation under wider EU international initiatives, including the promotion of freedom of navigation, the Global Green Bond Initiative, and the Electrify Now initiative aimed at accelerating global electrification and access to clean energy. These initiatives were considered within the context of Nigeria’s development priorities and broader international efforts on sustainable energy, climate action and economic resilience.

The Honourable Minister and Ambassador Mignot exchanged views on major international developments, including the situation in Ukraine and its implications for food security and global commodity markets. They discussed developments in the Middle East, reaffirming support for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. While underscoring the importance of multilateralism and closer Africa-Europe cooperation in addressing shared and global challenges, the Honourable Minister and Ambassador Mignot emphasized the value of sustained engagement through international institutions for the advancement of peace, security, development and a more equitable international system.

Ambassador Mignot highlighted people-to-people and cultural engagements as important components of the broader Nigeria-EU partnership, noting ongoing EU-supported cultural and youth-oriented initiatives across Nigeria aimed at enhancing entrepreneurship, creativity and opportunities for young people. He highlighted initiatives supporting young entrepreneurs in Nigeria’s North-West, the Lagos Biennial for Contemporary Arts, the Abuja Festival for Literature and Ideas, and an illustrated-books project for children across Nigeria’s 36 States as some areas the EU is promoting people-to-people and cultural engagements in Nigeria.

Ambassador Odumegwu-Ojukwu welcomed EU's continued engagement with Nigeria and stressed the importance of translating existing partnerships into practical programmes and measurable outcomes that support Nigeria's development priorities. She underscored the value of sustained dialogue on security, migration, economic development, democratic governance and other areas of mutual interest.

The Honourable Minister and the EU Ambassador agreed on the importance of maintaining regular consultations, bolstering high-level exchanges and strengthening existing mechanisms for the enhancement of cooperation in areas of shared interest and for the consolidation of Nigeria-EU relations. Both sides stressed the importance of timely communication and follow-up through established diplomatic channels, for effective implementation of agreed outcomes.

The engagement reflected the very broad nature of Nigeria-EU relations and the mutual objective of strengthening existing partnerships for the advancement of shared aspirations.

Signed:

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Friday, 18 September 2026