



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**General Department of
International Cooperation**

PRESS RELEASE

“Cambodia, EU mark new milestone as Commissioner visits”

His Excellency **SOK Chenda Sophea**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, hosted a working lunch and bilateral meeting with Her Excellency **Jutta Urpilainen**, European Commissioner for International Partnerships during her two-day visit to Cambodia. Her visit marked a new milestone in Cambodia’s relations with the European Union (EU) with the signing of four agreements and the launch of a EUR 1.4 billion initiative for green growth and jobs.

During the meeting on 13 March 2024, **the Deputy Prime Minister** expressed Cambodia’s profound gratitude for the EU’s invaluable assistance and contribution to the rehabilitation and development of the kingdom in all areas. He commended the significant progress in Cambodia-EU relations, based on their long-standing partnership and mutual respect over the past two decades. He also congratulated the EU for successfully hosting the ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting and the European Union Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Brussels last month.

The Deputy Prime Minister took stock of the Joint European Development Strategy 2021-2027, the EU’s Global Gateway Flagships in Cambodia and its new-Team Europe Initiatives. These contribute positively to strengthening Cambodia’s capacity to effectively execute the objectives of its Pentagonal Strategy. Under the first phase of the strategy, Cambodia aims to achieve its Sustainable Development Goals and upper-middle-income status by 2030. **The Deputy Prime Minister** also briefed the Commissioner on Cambodia’s evaluation of graduating from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, expected in 2029.



On her first visit to Cambodia, **Commissioner Urpilainen** acknowledged the country's remarkable achievements and expressed the EU's strong support to strengthen and expand bilateral ties in all areas. She also recognized Cambodia as an important and reliable partner – and was highly optimistic that the Global Gateway Flagships and Team Europe Initiatives would attract more EU investors to the kingdom. **The Commissioner** also informed **the Deputy Prime Minister** about the EU's readiness to provide necessary support for Cambodia's LDC graduation.

Both sides also exchanged views on political developments in Cambodia and other important topics such as regional and international issues of common interest and concern, notably ASEAN-EU cooperation and ASEAN integration.

Phnom Penh, 14 March 2024

