

Goodwill message for Commissioning of new Judicial Research
Centre (JRC) in FCT Abuja

Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria

March 11, 2010

Distinguish guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I'm pleased on behalf of the EU Delegation to be part of this ceremony for the opening of the Judicial Research Centre in the FCT. And I'm pleased to say that the European Union supported its creation through the European Development Fund.

The Judicial Research Centre is part of the Project – *Support to Law Enforcement against Economic and Financial Crimes* which was funded by a grant of about Naira 5.2 billion (€ 24.7 million) from the European Development Fund and implemented by UNODC. Through this project our objective is to contribute to strengthening the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Judiciary by providing the necessary technical and material support.

[The Judicial Research Centre is a facility that will increase the judicial operational capacity through the provision of IT equipment, research tools, data communication solutions and training in each of the 10 selected states of the project.

(*) Nigeria has now a useful tool for improving the State Judicial efficiency and we are convinced that this Judicial Research Centre will contribute to enhance its performance.] The Judiciary in the FCT will also gain a

lot by making full use of these facilities which will require proper maintenance and further investment to remain a state-for-the-art operation.

Supporting institutions like the EFCC and the Judiciary in the fight against corruption and the improvement of justice delivery is a core element of the joint Nigeria-EU country strategy for the development of the country, which was signed with the Government of Nigeria in November last year.

We would like to commend all stakeholders for such an important and timely achievement. Without the full involvement and support of the Federal Government and the FCT, the EFCC, the Judiciary and the UNODC this would not have been possible.

I would like to encourage all stakeholders to continue to support efforts to improve the Justice Sector in Nigeria.

I thank you.