

**Goodwill message for Commissioning of new Judicial Research
Centre (JRC) in Kaduna**

**Delegation of the European Commission to Nigeria
July 30, 2009**

Distinguish guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I'm pleased on behalf of the European Commission to be part of this ceremony for the opening of the Judicial Research Centre in Kaduna. 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 of the EU. 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 Centre will contribute to enhance its performance. The Judiciary in Kaduna will also gain a lot

by making full use of these facilities which will require proper maintenance and further investment to remain a state-of-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 European Commission country strategy for the development of Nigeria, which is currently being finalised through our discussions with our partners from the National Planning Commission and other partners in development, including the European Union member states.

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

I thank you.