

## Battery research and development gambia

At the United Nations (UN) 5th Conference for Least Developed Countries (LDC5), the Republic of The Gambia, the European Union (EU) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced the signature of a EUR24.08 million EU Global Gateway grant to be used alongside an EUR8 million EIB loan to support the implementation of a renewable energy on and off-grid generation, transmission and distribution programme across the Gambia.

This new grant agreement brings the overall financial backing to the project from the European Investment Bank and the European Union to more than EUR100 million.

The Statement of Signature, relating to this grant agreement, is being signed today by Jutta Urpilainen, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships, Seedy Keita, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs of the Republic of the Gambia, and Thomas ?stros, EIB Vice-President..

European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen said: "Affordable, reliable and sustainable access to electricity for all is a Global Gateway priority. It increases strategic autonomy, and without electricity communities cannot benefit from new technologies in full. I am delighted to sign this EUR24 million grant agreement for solar panels to power up schools and health centres in the Gambia. This flagship green energy project is a fantastic win-win for climate action and human development, for empowering young people and for creating more economic opportunities across the country."

"Investment in Gambia's energy infrastructure is essential to improve economic opportunities as well as better daily lives. The EIB welcomes in particular the additional Team Europe grant support in cooperation with Gambian, international and European partners. Together, this scheme will enable the Gambia to be the first country in Africa to provide renewable energy electrification for all public school and health facilities." said EIB Vice-President Thomas ?stros. He added: "It is a flagship and impactful project supported by EIB Global, our new branch dedicated to development and international partnerships outside the EU. We are strongly committed to support climate action in Africa and around the world."

The project will transform electricity access in rural communities across the country and ensure that education and health services benefit from reliable and clean power. More than 1,000 schools and 100 health centres in rural parts of the Gambia that currently have limited electricity access are expected benefit from reliable energy supply through new connections to the national energy network and provision of off-grid solar and battery systems.

Once operational, the Gambia Renewable Energy project will increase energy supply in the Gambia by one fifth. In addition to increasing access to electricity in rural communities, it supports the construction of a new



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photovoltaic plant at Jambur near Banjul, and reinforcement of power transmission and distribution infrastructure.

Over the last decade the European Investment Bank has provided EUR5.3 billion for energy investment across Africa.

The European Union is an economic and political union of 27 European countries. It is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. It acts globally to promote sustainable development of societies, environment and economies, so that everyone can benefit.

## About the European Investment Bank (EIB)

EIB Global is the EIB Group's specialised arm dedicated to increasing the impact of international partnerships and development finance. EIB Global is designed to foster strong, focused partnership within Team Europe, alongside fellow development finance institutions, and civil society. EIB Global brings the Group closer to local people, companies and institutions through our offices across the world.

Through EIB Global, the bank is strengthening its presence in Africa. Over the last decade the EIB has provided more than EUR28 billion for innovative technologies, green energy, water, education, agriculture, telecom, health and business investment in 40 countries across the continent. Since the start of the pandemic alone, the EIB has provided more than EUR8.5 billion for new private and public investment across Africa.

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