



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES TO THE
KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES TO THE
EUROPEAN UNION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2025



Ambassador Geela attends the New Year reception hosted by His Majesty the King of Belgium

9 January 2025

Their Majesties King Philippe of the Belgians and Queen Mathilde hosted the annual New Year's Banquet for Diplomatic Corps at the Royal Palace of Laeken on 9 January 2025.

The reception was attended by Ambassadors accredited to Belgium as well as Permanent Representatives accredited to the European Union and senior officials from the Government of Belgium.

Ambassador Geela attends a dinner hosted by the Ambassador of Tanzania to bid farewell to two OACPS Ambassadors

10 January 2025

Ambassador of Tanzania to Belgium, Jestas Abuok Nyamanga hosted a dinner to bid farewell to the Ambassador of Mauritius to Belgium Sutiawan Gunessee and the Ambassador of Dominican Republic to Belgium Ivan Ogando Lora.

The dinner was attended by Ambassadors of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS). The Ambassadors expressed appreciation for contributions made by the departing Ambassadors to the organization throughout their tenure.



Ambassador Geela holds a bilateral meeting with the Ambassador of Bhutan

13 January 2025

Ambassador Geela had a productive meeting with Her Excellency Kutshab Tshoki Choden, Ambassador of Bhutan to Belgium.

Noting the close relations between Maldives and Bhutan, both Ambassador discussed ways to further their collaboration in Belgium to promote issues of mutual interest especially in the areas of tourism, fisheries and investment.



Ambassador Geela meets with the Honorary Consul of Maldives to Flanders

13 January 2025

The Honorary Consul of Maldives to Flanders, Mr. Gerard Huiting met with Ambassador Geela on Monday to discuss activities of the year 2025.

Ambassador Geela highlighted the new initiatives of the administration and strategizing activities to better promote tourism and investment in Belgium.



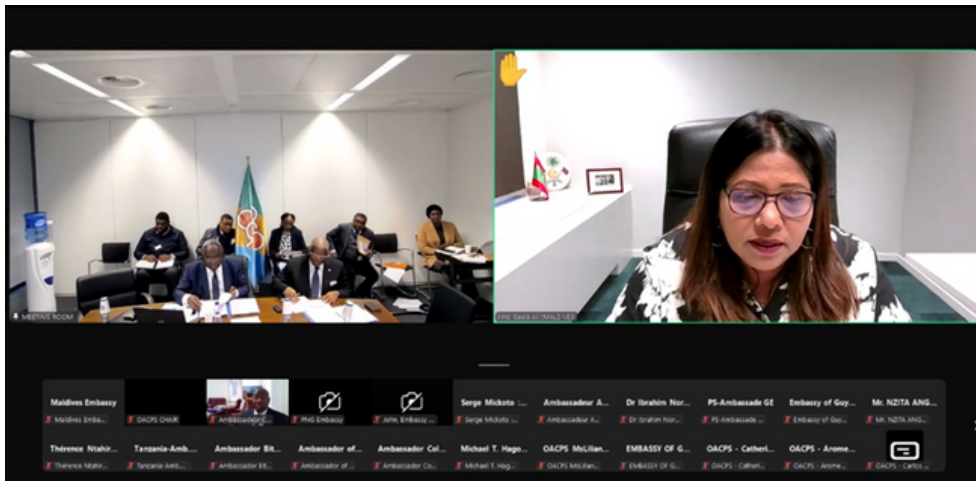
Ambassador Geela meets with the CEO of World Wise Foods

15 January 2025

Ambassador Geela had a dinner meeting with Mr. John and David Burton, CEO of World Wise Foods.

Discussions mainly focused on the fisheries policies of Maldives, strategies to promote Maldivian fisheries products and boost trade in Europe as well as avenues to enhance partnership.

World Wise Foods is a UK based food supplier that supports sustainable and environmentally friendly initiatives. The Company is also one of the biggest exporters of Maldivian fisheries products to UK and Europe.



Ambassador Geela attends a special meeting of the OACPS Committee of Ambassadors

16 January 2025

The Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) convened a special session of Committee of Ambassadors on 16 January 2025.

The main issues discussed were on the pending administrative issues as well as preparations of a virtual meeting of the OACPS Finance Ministers.



Ambassador Geela meets with the Ambassador of Madagascar to Belgium His Excellency Jean Omer Beriziky

20 January 2025

Ambassador Geela stated the importance of increasing bilateral engagements with the OACPS member states to work towards enhancing cooperation and thanked Madagascar for their support towards Maldives membership in the East African Region of the OACPS. Ambassador Beriziky reiterated the support of Madagascar towards Maldives membership and expressed interest towards increasing cooperation.

The Ambassadors also discussed the trade and tourism sectors of both countries and ways to enhance collaboration in these sectors.



Ambassador Geela meets with the Ambassador of Tanzania to Belgium and the European Union, His Excellency Jestas Abuok Nyamanga

21 January 2025

During the meeting, Ambassador Geela shared the interest of the Maldivian Government to diversify its trade relations, especially in the areas of fishing and tourism and expressed interest to enhance cooperation with Tanzania. Ambassador Nyamanga commended the success of Maldivian fisheries and tourism industries and shared Tanzania's willingness to learn from the Maldivian experience in these industries.

The Ambassadors also discussed enhancing collaboration within the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).



Ambassador Geela participates in the virtual meeting of Head of Missions and Staff hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Economic Development and Trade

23 January 2025

The meeting, held in collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Economic Development and Trade provided insights on the current economic and trade opportunities in Maldives for foreign investors.

During the meeting Ambassador Geela requested for comprehensive information on the current investment opportunities available in the Maldives with details on the various sectors and in-depth portfolios to provide more information to potential investors.



Ambassador Geela attends Belgium's campaign event to host the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) in Brussels

23 January 2025

At the event held in the Egmont Palace in Brussels, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and the North Sea, Mr. Paul Van Tigchelt gave an opening speech to the attendees.

Belgian officials also shared an Introduction to BBNJ and Belgian marine assets including the current work being done in terms of marine research and development.

Ambassador Geela hands over the Letter of Appointment of Honorary Consul of Maldives in Flanders, Mr. Gerard Huiting

24 January 2025

Ambassador Geela congratulated Mr. Huiting on his reappointment and thanked him for his contributions towards fostering relations between Maldives and Belgium.

During the meeting, Ambassador Geela and Mr. Huiting discussed possible areas for collaboration and cooperation, as well as ways to enhance the visibility of Maldivian tourism and investment opportunities in Belgium.



Mission staff participated in a dinner reception hosted by Credessur NGO

24 January 2025

At the reception, Credessur NGO launched their 'Economic Diplomacy Academy'.

The Dinner was also followed by presentations of the initiatives of the Credessur planned for the year 2025.

The reception was attended by Diplomats in Brussels, as well as members from the African Union and the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States.



Ambassador Geela attends celebrations to mark the 76th Republic Day of India

24 January 2025

The event was hosted by the Ambassador of India to Belgium and to the European Union, His Excellency Saurabh Kumar.

Ambassador Geela conveyed warm greetings to the Government and the people of India on this occasion



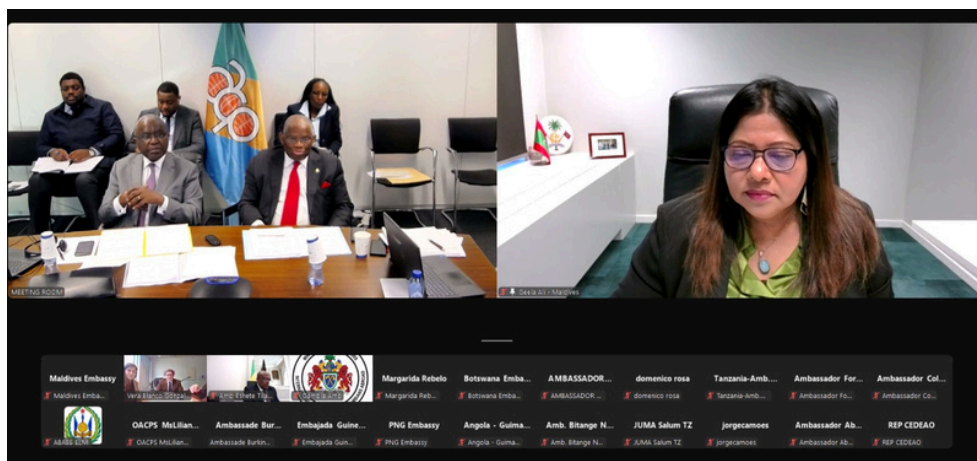
Ambassador Geela meets with Mr. Charles Whiteley, Head of South Asia Division in Asia and Pacific Department at the European External Action Service (EEAS)

27th January 2025

During the meeting, Ambassador Geela shared the government's priorities in terms of enhancing development, promotion of tourism and environmental protection.

Ambassador Geela and Mr. Whiteley reviewed the existing cooperation between Maldives and the European Union (EU) and exchanged ideas on further enhancing ties.

Mr. Mohamed Shaffau Ibrahim, First Secretary at the Mission and Ms. Galija Agiševa, Desk Officer Sri Lanka and Maldives at the EEAS also joined the meeting.



Ambassador Geela participates in the Special Meeting of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) Committee of Ambassadors

27th January 2025

During the meeting, Ambassadors of member states of the OACPS gave their opinion on the current drafts of documents pertaining to the Samoa Agreement.

The meeting also focused on the next steps towards the implementation of the Samoa Agreement and on finalizing the host country for the 11th Summit of OACPS Head of States and Governments.

Ambassador Geela meets with the Ambassador Sri Lanka to Belgium. His Excellency Chandana Weerasena

29th January 2025

During the meeting, the Ambassadors discussed on the upcoming 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Maldives and Sri Lanka and the importance of celebrating the special occasion.

Ambassador Geela and Ambassador Weerasena also discussed areas of potential collaboration including joint events to promote tourism and investment opportunities available in Maldives and Sri Lanka.



Ambassador Geela attends a New Year reception hosted by the Minister-President of Flanders

30th January 2025

The reception was held for the Diplomatic Corps in Brussels, hosted by Matthias Diependaele, the Minister-President of Flanders at the House Errera.

During his speech addressing the invitees, the Minister-President expressed Flanders' commitment to building strong international relationships beyond Europe and promoting innovation. He also shared that Flanders' has achieved record foreign investments, along with research and development.

Ambassador Geela attends a Dinner hosted by the Ambassador of Guyana His Excellency Sasenarine Singh

31 January 2025

The dinner, hosted at the residence of the Ambassador of Guyana, was also attended by the Ambassadors of Gambia, Vanuatu, and Seychelles.

During informal discussions, the Ambassadors delivered on the importance of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States on enhancing collaborative efforts both bilaterally and multilaterally.
