



Portuguese Delegation of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) in the European Parliament

## Press Release

### Ana Gomes visits Ethiopia

**16 February 2019** - Ana Gomes starts today, in her capacity of Member of the European Parliament, a three-day visit to Ethiopia, the second most populated country in Africa and where the African Union has its headquarters.

The visit follows an invitation from a non-partisan committee, headed by Eskinder Nega, journalist and human rights activist, arrested several times during the government of the former Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, the first of which right after the 2005 Ethiopia's national elections. In these elections, Ana Gomes was the European Union's Chief Observer of the Electoral Observation Mission in the country.

The programme of the visit includes meetings with the new political and governmental authorities, with the president of the Ethiopian Electoral Commission, Birtukan Mideksa, with representatives of the opposition, with several civil society organisations, including journalists and activists, with the EU Delegation in Ethiopia and with the Embassy of Portugal. Eskinder Nega and Birtukan Mideksa are both two former political prisoners whose liberation and release Ana Gomes worked tirelessly for throughout the last years.

This visit will allow to take stock of the current political environment in Ethiopia, a country whose political situation has seen a very positive development since Abiy Ahmed took the role of prime minister and started to put in place important economic and political reforms in the economic and political, in particular the end of the war with Eritrea and the release of all political prisoners.

Justice, national reconciliation, freedom of the media and of non-governmental organizations as well as the establishment a roadmap for democratic elections are some of the topics that Ana Gomes will address with her interlocutors.

**For additional comments and informations, please contacts:**

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Delegação Portuguesa do Grupo dos **Socialistas & Democratas**  
no Parlamento Europeu

### **Background**

MEP Ana Gomes was elected for the first time to the European Parliament in 2004 and was re-elected in 2009 and 2014. She has been a member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) in the European Parliament since 2004. MEP Ana Gomes is currently one of the Vice-Presidents of the Special Committee on Financial Crimes and Tax Evasion and Tax Evasion (TAX3); a full member of the Parliamentary Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE); of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE); as well as the Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (DMED) and the Delegation for relations with the United States (D-US). During this term, Ana Gomes was the S&D Coordinator for the Special Committee on Terrorism (TERR), whose works came to end in December 2018, once the report with [its findings and recommendations was adopted in plenary](#).

MEP Ana Gomes is also a substitute member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and its Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI); as well as the Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries and the Arab Maghreb Union (DMAG); the Delegation for relations with Iraq (D-IQ) and the Delegation to the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly (DEPA).