

EU

**The EU supports the joint donor statement.**

**We also recall our statement to the JAG in 2014, to confirm that progress is being made as the European Commission seeks to align its support to ITC with the new approach of clustering projects in thematic areas.**

**It is clear that this will complement the move to a more strategic approach as outlined in the evaluation.**

**At the same time, and while we recognise the administrative burdens of short-term topical projects, we would recommend not to entirely move away from the possibility to deliver such activities.**

**The responsiveness and client-focussed approach of the ITC is something which we greatly value in our collaboration and there will always be emerging issues that require your particular expertise, focussed as it is on working with the private sector and especially SMEs.**

**We look forward to further collaboration with the ITC on our existing activities and as we identify future priorities for cooperation.**