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The EU

A global player in security

The creation of the European Union (EU) brought a new period of peace and stability that was unprecedented in European history. By building close ties and inter-dependence, the EU made another major European war impossible.

The EU has a history and cultural ties that gives it links with every part of the world. Now, with 27 states and over 490 million people producing a quarter of the world's Gross National Product (GNP), it has no choice but to be a global player.

'Europe still faces security threats and challenges. The outbreak of conflict in the Balkans was a reminder that war has not disappeared from our continent. Over the last decade, no region of the world has been untouched by armed conflict. Most of these conflicts have been within rather than between states, and most of the victims have been civilians... Europe should be ready to share in the responsibility for global security and in building a better world.'

The European Security Strategy

Key threats

Today's world offers greater prospects than ever before but also greater threats.

The traditional concept of self-defence – up to and including the Cold War – based on the threat of invasion is outdated. Large-scale aggression against any one EU Member State is improbable.

The current security threats are more diverse, less visible and less predictable. In the era of globalisation, the first line of defence may be in another country and not on Europe's borders.

The European Security Strategy (ESS), adopted by Heads of State and government in December 2003, identified five key security threats for Europe today.

- **Terrorism**, which now operates worldwide, is increasingly well resourced and willing to use unlimited violence to cause huge casualties. Often linked to religious extremism, it sees Europe as a target and a base for its activities. Logistical bases for Al Qaeda cells have been uncovered in the UK, Italy, Germany, Spain and Belgium.
- **Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction** is potentially the greatest threat to Europe's security despite the international treaties and export controls that are in place to contain the spread of such weapons. A terrorist group acquiring these weapons may be able to inflict damage on a scale previously possible only for States and armies.
- **Regional conflict** in neighbouring countries or on the other side of the world impacts on Europe's stability. It can lead to extremism, terrorism and state failure. It provides opportunities for organised crime and creates regional insecurity which in itself can fuel the demand for weapons of mass destruction.
- **State failure** because of civil conflict but also bad governance – corruption, abuse of power, weak institutions and lack of accountability – which corrode the State from within allowing organised crime and terrorism to flourish. State failure undermines global governance and endangers regional security.
- **Organised crime** considers Europe as one of its prime targets. It involves cross-border trafficking in drugs, women, illegal migrants and weapons. These criminal gangs can have links with terrorism. They thrive in weak or failing states. Income from their illegal activities such as drugs contributes to the weakening of state structures and feeds conflict.



The EU

'The EU faces major challenges: managing globalisation to our advantage, addressing multifaceted threats to our security and stability, and strengthening the current international order based on the rule of law and multilateral institutions. All of this requires a strong EU, able to protect its interest on the international stage, and to promote stability, prosperity, democracy and human rights around the world. We are a reliable partner, the world's biggest donor and an engine for reforms. EU citizens and our international partners want the EU to play a greater role on the international stage. We must continue to make our foreign policy even more effective, coherent and visible.'

Benita Ferrero-Waldner
Commissioner for External Relations
and European Neighbourhood Policy

What does it mean for Europe?

Conflict prevention and threat prevention cannot start too early.

During the cold war, the threat to the EU's security was visible. In contrast, none of today's threats are purely military and none can be tackled by purely military means. A cocktail of solutions is required.

To meet this challenge, the European Security Strategy said that Europe has to become more active, more coherent and more capable.

- **More active** means developing a culture that fosters early, rapid, and when necessary, robust intervention using the full spectrum of the EU's crisis management and conflict prevention measures. It means the EU acts before there is a crisis with the right mixture of political, diplomatic, military, civilian, trade and development activities.
- **More capable** means transforming militaries into more flexible, mobile forces enabling them to address the new threats. Increased defence resources are necessary as well as more effective use of resources through pooling and sharing of assets.

In addition, there must be a greater capacity to bring on board civilian resources in crisis and post crisis situations and stronger diplomatic capability and improved sharing of intelligence among Member States and with partners to assess common threats.

- **More coherent** means bringing together the EU's different resources and capabilities that impact on Europe's security and on that of countries outside of the EU. These include its some € 6 billion European assistance programmes, military and civilian capabilities from Member States and other instruments.

Working with partners

The current security threats are world wide and inter-dependent. The EU cannot deal with them on its own. International cooperation is crucial. It works in partnership with international organisations such as the United Nations (UN), which has the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, and regional groupings such as the African Union.

'The quality of international society depends on the quality of the governments that are its foundation. The best protection for our security is a world of well-governed democratic states. Spreading good governance, supporting social and political reform, dealing with corruption and abuse of power, establishing the rule of law and protecting human rights are the best means of strengthening the international order. Trade and development policies can be powerful tools for promoting reform.'

Javier Solana
High Representative for the CFSP
Secretary-General of the Council

The European Security Strategy also emphasises the transatlantic relationship. It states: 'Acting together, the EU and the USA can be a formidable force for good in the world.'

Finally, it underlines the importance of closer relations with Russia and developing strategic partnerships with Japan, China, Canada and India.





Prospect of EU membership fosters peace and stability in the Western Balkans

In 2000, the EU opened up the prospect of eventual EU membership to the five Western Balkan countries of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo under UNSC Resolution 1244).

To prepare the way, the EU offered political, technical and financial support. For their part, the Western Balkan countries had to embark on the road to reform.

The European perspective and closer cooperation have played a key role in preventing new conflicts from erupting in the region and in promoting reforms. The EU's 'gravitational pull' has proved an efficient conflict prevention strategy.

Following the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the EU in 2007, the Western Balkan region is surrounded by EU countries. The region's security, stability and prosperity have a direct impact on the EU.

The EU's political and financial influence in the Western Balkans, including the prospect of eventual EU membership, its peacekeepers and its police missions in the region have combined to help maintain peace.

Balkans war spurred EU action

Some 25 million people live in the Western Balkans. They comprise a mix of cultures and nationalities with different religious affiliations – Orthodox, Catholic and Islam. Their cultural influences range from Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian to Greek and Italian.

In the 1990s, the Balkan wars that erupted in the region challenged the EU's ability to react adequately, and spurred the development of its common foreign and security policy. With war at its doorstep, Europe was forced to act.

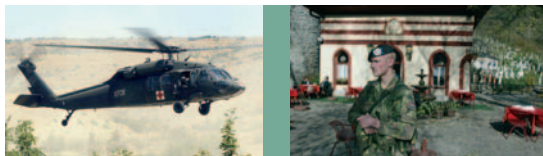
Supporting peace through cooperation

Immediately after the conflicts, the EU helped with humanitarian and emergency aid. It cleared mines and started the reconstruction of the region. In cooperation with other donors, it rebuilt the damaged houses, schools, hospitals, roads and other infrastructure.

In parallel, it fostered reconciliation and facilitated the return of refugees.

It later provided, for the first time in EU history, military and police forces to keep the peace and prevent new outbreaks of conflict.

The EU then turned its focus to reforms that will guarantee long-term stability in the region.



Prospect of EU membership conditional on reform

In 1999, the EU designed what it called the Stabilisation and Association process (SAP). It is the cornerstone of its policy towards the region, representing a roadmap to eventual EU membership.

The idea is simple. Under the SAP, the EU would provide political, practical and financial support but with conditions covering issues like democratic reform, human and minority rights, refugee return, economic reforms, regional cooperation and good-neighbourly relations. For their part, the Western Balkan countries would strive to meet these requirements.

Aware that fragile institutions, poor administrative capacity, weak rule of law and incomplete political, economic and social reforms were holding them back, the Western Balkan countries agreed to this approach.

The EU, at the Thessaloniki summit in June 2003, reiterated its commitment to the countries of the region and reinforced their European perspective.

It introduced what it called European Partnerships for each country. These identify reform priorities and guide each country on the steps it must take to progress. The EU adopted the first group of European Partnerships in 2004. Updated partnerships were adopted in early 2006. In November 2006, the Commission presented a proposal for an updated European Partnership with Montenegro, which proclaimed its independence in June 2006.

In addition to the aid package, the EU has opened its market to almost all goods from the Western Balkans without setting import duties or maximum limits. The EU is already the region's most important trading partner. The Western Balkan countries, once they sign Stabilisation and Association Agreements with the EU, will open their markets to EU goods gradually and over a longer period.

Since 1991, the EU has provided more than € 7 billion in aid to the Western Balkans in addition to Member States' bilateral contributions. For the period 2000 – 2006, the aid package totals € 4.65 billion.

The Western Balkan countries are using this money to:

- develop their institutions and introduce new laws in line with EU norms;
- reinforce their economies and create an environment that will nurture recovery and business growth;
- improve their police and legal systems' ability to tackle crime;
- develop an independent media and a robust non-governmental sector;
- facilitate the return of refugees;
- move towards respect for minority rights and combat racism and xenophobia.

Progress and challenges

The Western Balkan countries have made substantial progress. All are carrying out major reforms of their institutions and gradually transforming their economies and improving security.

But there is also a downside. Although there is no longer a risk of a major conflict throughout the region, the potential for inter-ethnic tensions remains. There are still many refugees and internally displaced people who have not returned to their homes. Prominent indicted war criminals are still at liberty, criminal networks still endanger stability, and extremism and nationalism still mar state structures. The road to reform has started but still has a long way to go. Living standards still remain low, poverty is widespread, and unemployment remains high, triggering an exodus of the young and the highly skilled from the region.



Western Balkans

Bringing EU membership closer

As each country achieves political and economic reforms, it can start talks with the EU to agree a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) which will pave the way for its eventual membership of the Union.

But before the talks can start, the EU makes a rigorous analysis to ensure that the country has sufficiently progressed in areas such as democratic and economic reform and regional cooperation.

The SAA provides for wide-ranging cooperation between the EU and the partner country and fosters the process of European integration. The Agreement establishes a framework for dialogue and promotes the gradual creation of a WTO-compatible free trade area. It regulates movement of workers, freedom of establishment, supply of services, current payments and movement of capital. It supports the progressive harmonisation of legislation and delineates enhanced cooperation methods. The EU provides technical and financial support to help the partner country implement the Agreement.

In 2001, the EU signed its first agreements with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia. The SAA with Albania was signed in June 2006. Negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro are ongoing. As Serbia does not meet its commitments on full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the SAA negotiations with this country are on hold. The EU stressed its readiness to resume negotiations as soon as full cooperation with the ICTY is achieved.

Croatia applied for EU membership in 2003 and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia followed suit and applied a year later.

The EU accepted Croatia as a candidate country for EU membership in 2004, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2005. Accession negotiations with Croatia began on 3 October 2005.

Largest EU force deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The EU launched the EUFOR ALTHEA military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in December 2004, taking over from the NATO SFOR mission there.

ALTHEA continues to be the largest EU operation. In 2006 it comprised over 6,000 troops involving 33 countries: 22 EU Member States and 11 non-members.

Its job is to oversee compliance of the 1995 Dayton peace accord that ended the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina following the breakdown of the Yugoslav state three years earlier, in 1992. Its key objectives are to provide deterrence and to contribute to a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. But it also has other crucial tasks, supporting the authorities in their fight against organised crime

ALTHEA uses NATO's assets and capabilities to carry out its mission under a permanent arrangement between the EU and the Alliance.

EUFOR ALTHEA fits into a broad EU engagement with Bosnia and Herzegovina that brings together military and civilian means and maximises synergies between security, political and economic measures. It has played an important role by guaranteeing a safe and secure environment and by providing reassurance to both the population and authorities.

Strong EU police mission in parallel

The European Union Police Mission (EUPM) was the EU's first civilian crisis management operation when it was launched in 2003 as a 500-strong mission following on from a UN mission. The EUPM is working with police forces across Bosnia and Herzegovina to upgrade the skills of officers and equip the force to fight organised crime. It aims at helping Bosnia and Herzegovina to create a modern, professional police force that represents all the country's constituent peoples and is able to independently uphold the law.

In its first three years, EUPM has registered significant achievements in developing sustainable policing arrangements under Bosnia and Herzegovina's ownership, including by contributing to the transformation of the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA)





into an operational police agency dealing with major and organised crime, to the development of other state-level institutions such as the Ministry of Security and the State Border Service (SBS), and to progress towards police reform with the Mission playing a key advisory role.

A new refocused and reinforced two-year mandate was adopted for the EUPM at the end of 2005. From 2006, the EUPM is based on three pillars: police restructuring, inspecting the local police and assisting the police in fighting organised crime.

The EUPM plays a key role in the police reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the Head of Mission being a member of the Directorate for Police Restructuring. The mission also proactively assists the local police in planning and conducting major and organised crime investigations. To this end, the EUPM supports the consolidation of the SBS and the further development of SIPA.

The EUPM also cooperates closely with EUFOR ALTHEA under the coordination of the EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and with other actors on the ground in the fight against organised crime and other aspects of the rule of law.

The EUPM headquarters are in Sarajevo. The new EUPM mission has around 170 police officers coming from most of the EU Member States and from nine non-EU countries, and over 200 support staff from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

EU launched first military mission followed by an EU policing mission

In March 2003, the EU launched the Concordia mission in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, its first-ever military operation. It did this at the request of the government and with the backing of the UN Security Council.

The mission took over from NATO which had been there since the signing of the Ohrid Framework Agreement in 2001, which ended hostilities between ethnic Albanian armed groups and the country's security forces.

Twenty-seven countries – 13 EU Member States and 14 non-members – contributed some 350 lightly armed military personnel to the mission.

The progress made in the stabilisation of the country led to the end of Concordia in December 2003. An EU-led policing mission known as Proxima followed on.

High Representative Javier Solana explained at the time, 'As the main threat to stability is no longer armed conflict but criminality, the emphasis of our support must be police and not military.'

The 175-strong EU police force monitored, mentored and advised the country's police to help fight organised crime and promote European policing standards from December 2003 until December 2005.

After the end of Proxima, the EU remains highly committed to the reform of the police in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. An EU Police Advisory Team supported the development of an efficient and professional police service for a further six months. A CARDS-funded twinning project has been launched in November 2005 to help the Ministry of Interior to implement the reform.

EU preparing for enhanced role in Kosovo

Pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1244, a process to determine the future status of Kosovo was launched at the beginning of November 2005 with the appointment of the UN Status Envoy, Martti Ahtisaari. The UN will remain fully engaged in Kosovo until the end of Resolution 1244.

The joint reports on the future EU role and contribution in Kosovo, presented by the EU High Representative and the European Commissioner for Enlargement in December 2005 and July 2006, highlight that following the status settlement, the EU will play a leading role in Kosovo, particularly in areas such as the rule of law and police as well as in certain economic areas.

In this context, the EU is envisaging a possible EU crisis management operation in the field of rule of law and possible other areas in Kosovo under the European security and Defence Policy. An EU planning team (EUPT Kosovo) was established from this perspective in April 2006.

In September 2006, the Council also established an EU team to work together with the international community and the Kosovo institutions, and in close coordination with UNMIK, in preparation for a future international civilian mission in Kosovo.



Strengthening democracy, the rule of law and human rights

The years of war, low incomes and erosion of public institutions have opened the way for crime and corruption. Organised crime networks in the Western Balkans have become well established, highly violent and increasingly international.

These countries are often used as a staging post for drug and human traffickers, money launderers and smugglers (e.g. of cigarettes and firearms).

Corruption in the region is also widespread. Low pay as well as inadequate financial control and anti-fraud systems increase the susceptibility of public administrations to both petty and substantive corruption in all five countries.

In addition, there is the problem of illegal migration. The main problem is the way local criminal groups use these countries as a transit route for smuggling immigrants into the EU from other areas like the Middle East and Asia.

An estimated 100,000 illegal immigrants per year come to the EU from the Balkans but only some 15 % originate from the region itself.

Although there are variations between the Western Balkan countries, none are immune to these problems.

With EU support, these countries are working to improve their judicial systems and border controls, and become more effective in fighting crime and corruption.

They have introduced new enforcement laws and have used EU aid to train judges and prosecutors in areas such as organised crime and money laundering as well as in ethics and human rights. They are improving their civil and criminal procedures to deal faster and more efficiently with cases, and have computerised their courts and rebuilt their prisons.

The EU is also equipping the Interpol bureaus in the region to give real-time access to databases of photographs or fingerprints of wanted persons, or details of stolen property such as vehicles or works of art.

Two examples in focus

An EU-funded project has focused on developing the policing of Croatia's extensive frontier, which totals over 2,000 km. It resulted in a new law on border protection adopted by the Croatian parliament in October 2003. The project secured extra EU funds to rebuild premises in the Police Training Academy for customs officials (60 rooms for trainees). It also drew up a priority list of equipment that staff at all border crossing points need in order to do their job properly. It redefined border police roles to make the force more effective and a recruitment drive has started. In the meantime, it trained existing and new staff in effective border controls. Internal auditing teams are now in place checking how each customs house around the country is operating.

As part of a long-term strategy to develop Public Internal Financial Control (PIFC), the EU is working with the Albanian Ministry of Finance to lay the foundation for a more robust internal audit system. They produced a manual of audit procedures and adopted new 'internal audit' legislation. They renovated and refurbished the Ministry of Finance building that houses the internal audit unit. With IT equipment in place to carry out effective financial controls, they trained auditors to use the technology and understand the new standards.

Western Balkans

Western Balkans



Promoting regional cooperation – a question of common sense

Regional cooperation in the Balkans is the only option to consolidate political stability, promote reconciliation and speed up economic growth. Instability in one country could have a domino effect in the others. The region's economies are small and still fragile, making many investors shy away.

The Western Balkans face similar challenges: post-war reconciliation, refugee return, inter-ethnic tensions, ingrained organised crime, corruption and economic underdevelopment. Working together, they can better address these and other challenges, such as energy shortages, pollution and inadequate transport infrastructures.

The EU is a strong advocate of regional cooperation and has made it an important part of its Stabilisation and Association process with these countries. It believes closer regional links can help heal the wounds of the Balkan wars of the 1990s and support economic development by providing a bigger economic space for potential investors and local businesses. Regional cooperation is a necessary complement, not a substitute to the region's integration into the EU.

The EU has allocated over € 220 million for 2000–2006 for regional programmes. Over half of this money is for cross-border cooperation and developing infrastructures across the region. The other priorities are fighting organised crime and corruption, public administration reform and boosting economic growth.

Some of the results

In December 2006 a free trade area covering South East Europe was established by the signing of an extended and amended Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). This single regional trade agreement builds on the network of 32 bilateral free trade agreements between the countries of the region which had been

concluded since 2001. The new agreement will boost trade and attract investment. For the candidate and potential candidate countries of the Western Balkans, CEFTA is a stepping stone towards the closer economic cooperation, which is an inevitable part of membership of the European Union.

In October 2005 the EU and countries of South East Europe – including the Western Balkans – signed a treaty creating a regional Energy Community between them. The treaty entered into force in May 2006.

The EU has funded a € 2.45 million study (known as REBIS-Transport) in close cooperation with local administrations to look at transport networks across the region. The study identified bottlenecks, including border crossings, and produced costings for upgrading the network to EU standards. Senior officials from across the region meet regularly within a steering committee aiming at developing the regional core network. And with EU support, they set up a joint technical office – the South East Europe Transport Observatory – to support cooperation between the ministries involved.

The EU-funded Customs and Fiscal Administration Offices (CAFAO) across the region are helping improve the national customs controls of the five Western Balkan countries. Through their work, national customs authorities have been better able to fight the trafficking of illegal goods across and between these countries, and ensure that legal traffic pays legitimate duties. EU experts work alongside customs officers on the ground and managers in national administrations. Task forces are being set up to develop intelligence, mobile anti-smuggling and investigation components. Confidence in fighting large-scale tax and customs fraud and corruption is growing as prosecution cases are better prepared. Staff management and career development policies are raising efficiency and reducing the risk of fraud and corruption that weakens customs services. For the longer term, the five countries will introduce new customs laws in line with EU standards, and computerised systems to allow modern processing of customs clearance.



Promoting peace, security and governance in Africa

Africa is changing. For many years, Africa has been perceived as a sea of undifferentiated poverty and conflict; today's Africa disproves this distorted image. Development, security, governance and human rights are the driving forces behind this change. As the ongoing struggle and the tremendous challenges that remain underline, there is no security without development; development will not happen without security; and a society cannot enjoy or sustain either in the longer term without respect for human rights and the rule of law.

The African Union (AU) itself is in many ways the most eloquent testimony of that progress. African leaders at their summit meeting in Durban in 2002 agreed to set up the AU. They gave this new organisation a mandate in conflict prevention and the promotion of good governance. It can intervene in the internal affairs of its member countries in cases of genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity. The specific task of resolving conflicts throughout Africa was attributed to the Peace and Security Council, which comprises 15 elected member countries representing Africa's regions. In addition, the AU decided to set up a 'Panel of the Wise', a Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and an African Standby Force (ASF).

The AU's political credibility depends much on its capacity to thrash out African solutions when confronted with problems on their continent. It is still a young institution with limited resources to deal with the numerous crises taking place and working under great operational pressure. But to achieve its mandate, the AU still needs international assistance to tip the balance from war to peace. The EU is providing such support through the African Peace Facility (APF), combined with the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) military and civilian crisis management instruments and substantial bilateral contributions from EU Member States.

The European Union's Strategy for Africa

In response to the changing Africa, the EU ushered in a new era in EU-African relations in December 2005 as it adopted a bold long-term strategy for Africa, rounding off a year in which the international community and, in particular the EU, had put Africa high on the political agenda.

The strategy is a framework for action for the EU, the European Commission, and the Member States to strengthen the EU/Africa partnership and support

Africa



Africa's efforts to attain the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is a strategic partnership for security and development between the EU and Africa for the coming decade, promoting political stability, economic growth and poverty reduction.

The strategy focuses on key requirements for sustainable development such as peace and security, good governance, trade, interconnectivity, social cohesion and environmental sustainability. It also reaffirms the commitment to increase EU aid to Africa and to improve aid effectiveness. Peace and stability are essential for Africa's development, and they are also in Europe's interest: challenges in fields like respect for human rights, migration, environmental protection, energy supply and the fight against terrorism can only be effectively tackled in a stable and peaceful environment.

The EU is developing a new quality of partnership with Africa under the Strategy, showing that it is serious about strong political cooperation based on equality, African ownership and mutual accountability. The EU does not aim to replace the African countries' own efforts but rather to build on these efforts and to enhance their own capacities and promote good governance.

Work began in early 2006 to put in place various concrete projects proposed under the Strategy. These include:

- the Euro-African Partnership for Infrastructure and Networks, promoting continental and regional interconnection to boost regional trade, integration, stability and development;
- the EU Governance Initiative, providing assistance for the implementation of governance reforms proposed by the Africa Peer Review Mechanism, a unique tool for peer review and learning in good democratic governance by and for Africans;
- the Euro-African Business Forum, bringing together entrepreneurs and public and private investors from Europe and Africa;
- the Nyerere programme, for the exchange of students and the promotion of poles of excellence across the continent;
- the European Union concept for strengthening African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts;
- an enhanced political dialogue which should lead, among other outcomes, to a joint EU/Africa Strategy.

The African Peace Facility

The € 250 million African Peace Facility (APF) is one of the EU's newest and most innovative instruments for external action. It was created in response to a request to the EU from the July 2003 AU Summit in Maputo to set up an instrument in support of African leadership in the area of peace and security. The APF, established in mid-2004, was designed to support the emerging new structures collectively known as the African 'continental peace and security architecture', and to allow African regional and sub-regional organisations to take responsibility for, and effectively carry out, peace support operations (PSOs).

The APF, built on the three core principles of African ownership, solidarity and partnership between Africa and Europe, was endowed with € 250 million from the development resources of the 9th European Development Fund (EDF) in order to support peace and security as central preconditions for sustainable development in Africa. Of this € 250 million, € 200 million was earmarked for PSOs, € 35 million for capacity-building purposes and the remaining € 15 million for audits, evaluations and contingencies.

The APF has rapidly become the financial foundation of Africa's peace and security architecture. It has been used to fund the efforts of the Force Multinationale en Centrafrique (FOMUC) of the Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique centrale (CEMAC) in the Central African Republic and the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) as well as to provide capacity-building support for the AU. The bulk of the funds used for PSOs has been absorbed by the AMIS operation, with a total amount of € 212 million.

The EU support has not only contributed to the improvement of the overall security situation in Sudan's Darfur region, but has also served to strengthen the AU's leadership role on the continent. In the future the EU will continue funding APF with an amount of € 300 million under the 10th EDF for an initial three-year period (2008–2010).



Africa

Security

Progress is being made towards political stability and democracy. Compared with a decade ago, the number of violent conflicts has dropped dramatically. Africans are taking ownership of the peace and security agenda.

Largely thanks to the AU and the regional economic communities, Africa today is doing better to manage and resolve conflicts and, most importantly, to prevent new ones from breaking out. The AU Peace and

Security Council has proved itself a decisive driving force. The AU is strengthening its capacity for peace keeping and peace building, and has been developing strong partnerships with the UN and the EU as well as with sub-regional organisations.

The AU has successfully concluded the mandate of the first African Peacekeeping Mission in Burundi. It has overcome enormous obstacles to deploy 7,000 soldiers and police in Darfur, intervening in one of the worst conflicts in recent history.

Darfur – EU support to AMIS

The ongoing crisis in Darfur – which the UN has described as the world's worst humanitarian crisis – has claimed an estimated 200-400,000 lives and displaced close to 2 million people since February 2003 when it erupted. The AU-led mission in the area (AMIS) is struggling to monitor the often-broken ceasefire between the Government of Sudan, which uses Arab Janjaweed militias, and the rebel forces. Massacres and rapes continue in the region despite international condemnation.

The EU provides wide-ranging support to the AU in its efforts to stabilise the situation in Darfur. The EU supported AMIS from the start, with the African Peace Facility providing € 212 million to the mission up to 2006. EU member governments also contributed cash and support on a bilateral basis, bringing the total EU contribution to nearly € 300 million.

In April 2005, the AU agreed to increase the number of peacekeepers to 7,600 (of whom 1,600 are civilian police officers and 700 military observers). The EU stepped up its support accordingly. It provided equipment, planning and technical assistance for the military component of 'AMIS II', as well as additional military observers, training and transport. On the police side, the EU also supported training and the development of a police unit within the secretariat of the AU. Almost 100 personnel from the EU and its Member States have been deployed to Sudan in support of the military component of AMIS and a further 50 in support of the civilian police component.

In the same period, EU Member States have provided co-ordinated strategic airlifts for well over 2,000 AU personnel.

The mandate of the AMIS mission was due to expire at the end of September 2006, and the EU made clear that it was ready to support the AU and the United Nations in the possible transition to a UN operation in Darfur.

In the knowledge that there can be no military solution to the Darfur conflict, the EU provides strong political and diplomatic backing for the peace talks that take place in Abuja, Nigeria, under the aegis of the AU.

The EU has helped finance diplomatic efforts to bring all sides back to the negotiating table to resume talks for a political reconciliation.

The EU appointed, in July 2005, a Special Representative for Sudan, Pekka Haavisto of Finland, replaced in 2007 by Torben Brylle of Denmark, to bolster efforts to achieve a political settlement of the Darfur conflict in coordination with the AU, as well as to ensure the maximum effectiveness of the EU's contribution to AMIS and support implementation of the CPA. The Special Representative also helps the EU to keep a close watch on any other potential regional instability in Sudan that would need preventive action from the Sudan Government or the international community.

The EU co-hosted conferences on Darfur in March and July 2006 in Brussels in cooperation with the AU and the UN.

In total, the EU and the Member States have contributed over € 600 million towards alleviating and resolving the Darfur conflict.

Nigeria and Cameroon demonstrated exceptional leadership when they reached agreement on ways to implement a settlement of the four-decade-long dispute over the Bakassi peninsula.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is holding the first free and fair elections in its history as an independent nation. Burundi and Liberia recently went to the polls, after years of devastating conflict.

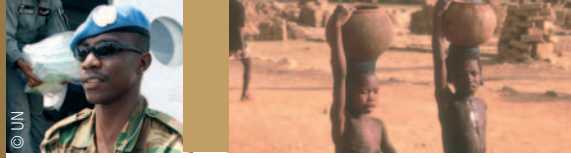
In 2005 and 2006 a number of presidential and/or legislative elections took place, as did important

referendums. Tanzania and Benin joined Mozambique in the still limited, but growing, number of countries enjoying a peaceful passage of presidential powers. In Uganda, voters approved the re-establishment of the multi-party system.

However, the conflicts in Darfur, Côte d'Ivoire, Somalia and northern Uganda continue to outrun the joint efforts for a solution. It is all the more important to remain engaged in supporting delicate political transition phases and peace negotiations in these countries.

EU support to the transition in the Democratic Republic of Congo

- The EU has been actively involved in the search for a lasting solution of conflicts in the African Great Lakes region. On several occasions, High Representative Javier Solana and Commissioner Louis Michel played an important role in moving the transition process forward, passing crucial junctures and mobilising international support. The EU Special Representative for the Great Lakes region, Aldo Ajello, has been in regular contact with all key stakeholders, on the ground since 1996, in close cooperation with the European Commission delegation in the DRC. The EU is also a member of the international committee (CIAT) supporting the transition.
- The European Community's cooperation with the DRC was resumed in 2002 under the Cotonou Agreement. The Commission's indicative programme 2003-2007 aims to fight poverty and provide institution building and macro-economic support. Since 2002, these priorities have been funded with some € 750 million. Looking towards the next indicative programme for the period 2008-2013, the Commission will aim to build on the election process with support for governance and security sector reform, including judicial reform.
- The EU is preparing a number of projects that will help deliver a post-election democracy dividend for the citizens of the DRC, including key infrastructure projects and a large linking relief and development project in the East of the DRC. A similar exercise of defining 'quick impact projects' is currently under way as regards the bilateral cooperation of EU Member States with the DRC.
- The European Community support for the election process in the DRC stands at € 149 million, making it the largest Community contribution ever to an election process. Together with € 100 million of bilateral support provided by Member States, this amounts to € 250 million (US\$ 320 million), or nearly 80% of the overall costs for the elections.
- In addition to technical expertise in the delegation in Kinshasa, the EU is deploying a large Election Observation Mission (EOM). On the election days, about 300 EU observers will have been deployed across the country.
- In June 2003 the EU sent 2,000 peace-keeping troops to Ituri in the north-east of the DRC. Operation ARTEMIS was the first military deployment outside Europe and without NATO assistance. The EU was responding to an appeal by the UN Secretary General to take over the UN's peacekeeping operation in Bunia, Ituri, for three months until September 2003, when a larger UN force would be in place.
- In April 2006, the Council decided on an EU military operation in support of MONUC during the election process, in response to a UN request. Code-named EUFOR RD Congo, the military operation has been deployed in accordance with the mandate set out in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1671 (2006) (see EUFOR RD Congo box).
- In parallel to the UN's request of supporting MONUC during the upcoming elections, the EU has decided to temporarily reinforce EUPOL Kinshasa by an extra 38 personnel. The aim is to support the coordination of the Congolese crowd control units in the city of Kinshasa.
- The EU mission for DRC security reform (EUSEC RD CONGO), launched in June 2005, provides advice and assistance to the Congolese Defence authorities while ensuring the promotion of policies that are compatible with human rights and humanitarian law, democratic standards, principles of good public management, transparency and observance of the rule of law. The mission's experts are assigned to key posts within the Congolese administration.



Africa

EUFOR RD Congo – contributing to a stable environment for the elections

The military operation EUFOR RD Congo, which was conducted in close coordination with the DRS authorities and MONUC, the UN's mission in the DRC, was welcomed unanimously by a decision of the Congolese transitional government. Its deployment had been authorised by a UN Security Council Resolution.

EUFOR RD Congo included around 2,300 personnel deployed in the area of operation:

- an advance element of military personnel deployed in Kinshasa. Based mostly in Camp N'Dolo, as well as at N'Djili airport, it numbered about 1,100 troops and included air assets;
- a battalion-sized 'on-call' force available over the horizon, quickly deployable if necessary. This force, ready to be deployed upon decision by the EU, was based in Gabon and numbered about 1,200 personnel.

The operation was tailored to provide a timely and robust response in support of MONUC's efforts to stabilise the situation.

The EU Operations Headquarters (OHQ) was established in Potsdam, Germany. Lieutenant-General Karlheinz Viereck (Germany) was the Operation Commander. Major-General Christian Damay (France) was the Force Commander in Kinshasa. A total of 20 EU Member States, as well as Turkey, participated in the operation. Several of them participate through the

actual provision of troops on the ground in the area of operation (notably France, Germany – the two largest troop contributors – Spain, Poland, Belgium, Sweden, Italy, Portugal, the Netherlands and Finland, as well as Turkey).

Operation EUFOR RD Congo was of limited duration in the second half of 2006, covering especially the electoral period. The mission was completed in November 2006.

In parallel with the operation, additional EU support is provided in the field of police. The EU's police mission EUPOL Kinshasa, established in April 2005, has been reinforced temporarily for a duration of up to five months covering the electoral period to enhance stability in Kinshasa by improving coordination between the PNC (Police nationale congolaise) specialised units in charge of maintaining or restoring public order in the capital.



Governance

Without decisive progress on governance, the MDGs will not be achieved. The political will for reform in political, economic, social, cultural and environmental governance is more and more present in Africa. Both African governments and civil society are aware that public institutions that are efficient and accountable to citizens are crucial to consolidate democratic governance and sustainable development processes. Important changes are under way and tangible progress has been made:

- the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a genuinely African initiative in the area of governance. It is a participatory self assessment process for encouraging reforms at country level, mutual learning and strengthening ownership. Ghana and Rwanda are the farthest along in the process and reviews are underway in other countries such as Kenya, Mauritius and the South African Republic*;
- more than half of the 20 countries participating in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) are in sub-Saharan Africa;

* Civil society engagement is increasing and is rather well developed in Ghana, Benin, Lesotho, Mali, Rwanda, Uganda and Senegal.

Africa

- under the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, launched in 2003 to prevent raw diamond production from fuelling conflicts, 19 country reports had been produced by the end of 2005;
- the upholding of civil rights and liberties has improved in several countries which were very fragile at the beginning of the decade. Algeria, Nigeria and South Africa can be mentioned among others;
- the election of the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, also speaks eloquently about advances in the rights of women. So, does the fact that, in sub-Saharan countries, the share of women in single or lower houses of parliament is higher than in the developing countries of southern or western Asia;
- there is progress in building a more effective bureaucracy and public financial management. Countries such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Tanzania and Uganda are some of the good examples in this regard;
- several countries have adopted freedom of information laws. South Africa enacted a comprehensive law in 2001, and many countries in southern and central Africa are following suit.



EU initiatives in support of governance – the Governance Initiative for ACP countries and Africa

Promoting democratic governance and supporting partner countries' efforts is an integral part of cooperation strategies. Respect for ownership, dialogue between partners and focus on incentives for result-oriented reforms are the main principles of our common approach in the broader context of poverty reduction and sustainable development objectives.

The Governance Initiative is a concrete and innovative way of implementing this policy in the context of the partnership with the ACP countries and Africa.

The Governance Initiative is first of all a new incentive mechanism that will give ACP partner countries access to additional funding, according to their commitments to achieve concrete results in their democratic governance reform programmes. A figure of € 2.7 billion from the 10th European Development Fund will be reserved for such incentives.

Secondly, through the Governance Initiative, the EU will also provide political and financial support for the African Peer Review Mechanism, with due regard for the African countries' ownership of the process. The EU is ready to continue support to the process and the reforms it generates at the national level.



Africa

Economic Development

The economic perspectives for much of Africa continue to be more favourable than they have been for many years. The OECD forecasts that the African economy will continue growing by 5-6% in 2007. While oil-exporting countries are expected to continue to outperform oil-importers, these have proved remarkably robust despite the rising oil prices. Thus, despite continued serious economic problems in some cases, more than 25 African countries are projected to have real GDP growth rates of 4% or higher in 2006 and 2007. As a result, in the low-income countries of sub-Saharan Africa, per capita GDP growth reached an estimated 3% for the third straight year in 2006. This is a marked improvement on the 1997-2003 sub-Saharan Africa growth average of about 1.1%.

These growth trends have been underpinned by continued global expansion and sustained gains in macro-economic stability.

Inflation, in particular, remains at historically low levels, although African countries' average rate is estimated by the IMF to rise slightly to 10.6% in 2007, mainly due to the surge in oil prices. Internal and external balances have benefited from the increase in official development aid to Africa, primarily in the form of debt relief. In the framework of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC), debt reduction packages have been approved for 24 African countries and a total of 34 sub-Saharan Africa countries qualify for support.

Nevertheless, while growth trends are favourable and progress towards the MDGs is being achieved in several cases, at the current pace most of the countries of sub-Saharan Africa will not meet the MDGs. In particular, only three countries have achieved a 50% reduction in the percentage of people suffering from hunger and only 14 more are on track for doing so by 2015.



Ending the war of ideology and guns in Colombia



Colombia has been at war for over 40 years. On one side are the left-wing guerrilla groups, principally the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN). On the other, are the right-wing paramilitaries, led by the United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC), which were originally created to counter guerrilla insurgency groups.

Both sides have used indiscriminate violence, kidnappings and killings in their attempt to control the countryside and the huge profits that they can make from illegal drug production in a country that is the world's major cocaine producer. They have depopulated entire areas to control strategic routes.

As a result of the violence, Colombia boasts one of the largest displaced populations in the world totalling thousands of people every year. It is also one of the countries with the highest level of human rights abuses – tortures, kidnappings and disappearances.

For the EU, as with all the international community, the main objective is to bring peace to the country while recognising that controlling the drugs trade is an integral part of the solution.

The EU's offer for peace

The EU has taken a three-pronged approach to promote the peace process. It uses diplomacy, aid and trade.

Although it is not directly involved in mediation, it gives political and sometimes financial support to existing peace initiatives. It has done so in the past with those led by the UN Secretary General, funded by the EU, and initiatives led by the OAS (Organization of American States), by the Mexican Government and the Group of Friends countries, and the Catholic Church.

The EU also supports Colombian government efforts to engage in peace talks with the illegal armed groups and strengthen law enforcement throughout the country. Colombia adopted in July 2005 a Justice and Peace Law providing for alternative sanctions for demobilised members of illegal armed groups that have committed serious crimes. In April 2006, the Colombian High Commissioner for Peace announced the completion of the demobilisation of one of the illegal armed groups, the AUC .

The EU Council said in October 2005 that if this law were transparently and effectively implemented it would make a positive contribution to the search for peace in Colombia. The Council also confirmed its readiness to assist the Colombian Government and civil society.



Colombia

Following up on this commitment, the EU in December 2005 released € 1.5 million under its Rapid Reaction Mechanism to help Colombia provide support for vulnerable groups and reconciliation activities. EU actions will range from awareness raising and legal advice to victims to support to the affected communities – part of a robust, longer-term programme for Peace and Development in Colombia.

The EU runs a substantial aid programme – more than € 275 million since 2001. This is the largest sum for a single country in Latin America. With EU Member States' bilateral aid added, the total portfolio of ongoing projects at the end of 2004 reached € 420 million.

The focus of this aid effort is to strengthen institutions – especially when it comes to justice – support for the peace process, provide humanitarian assistance for displaced populations and defend human rights.

The EU is Colombia's second trading partner after the US and the biggest investor in the country. It offers Colombia a favourable trade regime – most of its goods are exempt from EU customs duties – and does not demand reciprocity for its exports to Colombia through its General System of Preferences (GSP). Eighty-four per cent of Colombian exports to the EU market enter duty free.

Humanitarian aid part of EU package

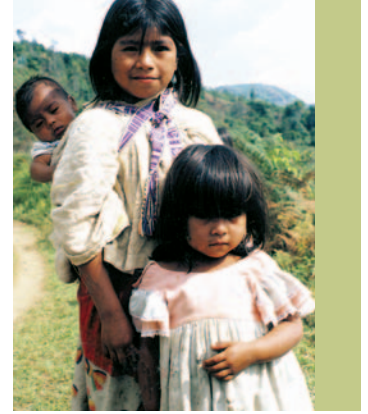
The EU has been helping victims of the conflict in Colombia since 1994 with humanitarian assistance that has totalled over € 100 million since then.

In 2006, it unveiled a Global Plan to support the displaced and those who have escaped to neighbouring countries.

The assistance released in 2006 will help a total of 169,000 people by meeting the essential needs of 63,700 newly displaced people and providing assistance specifically designed to protect 3,000 vulnerable children. Thirty-five thousand affected people will also see their living conditions improved (through, for example, adequate shelter and basic health care), and 68,000 refugees in Ecuador, Venezuela and Panama will receive emergency assistance and legal advice.

In addition, it offers help for the families of missing persons and works to curb the number of child recruits in armed groups – it is estimated that 14,000 children under 18 are now involved.

Colombia



The peace laboratory – a marriage of rural development and peace

The EU's biggest projects in Colombia are the Peace Laboratories, which aim to attack the roots of violence and poverty in conflict zones by promoting rural development, local authorities and people-run projects to improve infrastructure and social services. Local people, who are resisting the violence and want to create a life outside the drug economy, design and manage the Laboratories.

The first peace laboratory was launched in 2002 in the Magdalena Medio region, one of the worst hit areas of the conflict, with a total budget of € 42.2 million – the EU contributing € 34.8 million and the Colombian Government the rest.

A second peace laboratory programme was launched in 2003 with a similar budget, covering three other conflict-ridden Colombian regions – Norte de Santander, Oriente antioqueño and Macizo colombiano y alto Patia. A third programme in two new regions – Meta and Montes de Maria – has been launched in 2006.

Father de Roux, coordinator of the first peace laboratory, is convinced that civil society will transform the situation in Colombia. 'You do not have to wait for a peace process to start reconstruction.'

State support is absent in the rural areas which are dominated by the paramilitaries and the guerrillas. Father de Roux said there is a need for everything – education, health and a livelihood. To decide where to start, Father de Roux and his team organised meetings in each village and asked two questions: How come in such a rich, fertile area there are so many poor and how is it possible that there are so many murders and violence in a population that loves life so much?

This started a dialogue with the villagers. Following on from these meetings, core groups were set up. They comprise local officials such as the Mayor, activists and villagers in the area who are interested in the project. Together they explore how best to overcome the two challenges of poverty and violence. 'The core groups give birth to the ideas and select the projects. The job of the laboratory is to accompany them and provide the technical and economic assistance.'

Working with the peace laboratory can be risky. But this has not stopped the project. Father de Roux explained, 'I have the privilege of accompanying many extraordinary and courageous people who have a long history of fighting for democracy and independence.'

Since it started, the laboratory has seen many successes. There is now a community radio. It has constructed 150 schools and helped hundreds of families to survive through the farming of 5,000 hectares of palm oil (each farmer has 10 hectares for palm oil and land for subsistence farming), cacao production (helping 6,000 families) and exporting baby bananas to Europe. In 2005, the project bought 1,200 cows to support small ranches in the region. And it has set up many local networks bringing together, for example, young people, women, fishermen and fisherwomen.

Father de Roux said the project has won respect from the authorities but also, slowly, from the different parties. 'People can see the Laboratory is making a difference. They are proud of what they are achieving. This has given them the confidence to start challenging the perpetrators of the violence. They are talking with the guerrillas – many of whom come from the slums of the big cities and have little links with the area – to stop the spiral of violence.'



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Breaking the cycle of conflict, insecurity and poverty

The ongoing risk of devastating terrorist attacks, the continuing crisis in Iraq, the elusiveness of a lasting settlement between Arabs and Israelis, western Africa's seemingly endless struggle to escape from chronic turmoil, and the challenges of Afghanistan, amongst others, leave unhappy marks on today's world.

The international environment after the end of the Cold War offered new opportunities to promote peaceful change. The combination of increasingly free and open markets, private enterprise and technology has brought wealth and new opportunities to a majority of countries and individuals. It has helped spread democratic government and put new pressure on governments to treat their citizens fairly, to accept public scrutiny and to engage in dialogue and co-operation with their international partners.

But globalisation has its dark side too. International trade is failing to bridge the divide between those who benefit and the billions marooned in squalor and misery. Drug trafficking is today a bigger industry than iron and steel or cars. The illicit diamond trade not only finances conflict but actively fuels it.

The list of horrors is long: trafficking in people, and especially in women; environmental degradation;

transnational crime; proliferation of arms, big and small; and the spread of AIDS and other diseases. These problems threaten prosperity. They also lie at the root of much of the violent conflict that plagues the world.

Countries cannot deal with these problems on their own or through bilateral diplomacy. Tackling the dark side of globalisation demands international co-operation and multilateral action of a new kind.

Stopping abuse of natural resources

Conflicts can be fuelled by scarcity or abuse of natural resources. The EU helps to promote global security and stability by working to prevent such abuse and to break the link between illicit exploitation of natural resources and armed conflict.

The EU plays a significant role in the international Kimberley Process certification scheme that seeks to stem the flow of conflict diamonds – rough diamonds used by rebel movements, to finance wars against legitimate governments. The scheme brings together producing and trading countries to ensure trade in diamonds does not finance rebel movements as previously seen in the devastating conflicts in the 1990s in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone. The EU will chair the Process in 2007.

The EU is now pursuing its Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) to clamp down on illegal logging and illicit timber trade. These cause vast environmental damage in developing countries, impoverishing rural communities that depend on forest products for a living. The initiative promotes good governance in partner countries and licensing schemes to ensure that only legal timber enters the EU.

The EU is particularly well placed to make a difference in such areas because of its prominent role in world trade.

Conflict prevention tops EU security agenda

Since its creation, the EU has engaged in conflict prevention. It is in itself a project designed to secure peace and prosperity, and a very successful one.

The EU's international role, its interests and ambitions and the important resources it has committed to aid and cooperation, make it a natural promoter of stability beyond its own borders.

It uses all aspects of its external policy to prevent conflicts in the world, strongly advocating an early tackling of the potential structural causes of violent conflict. It does this through its development cooperation and external assistance; economic cooperation and trade policy; humanitarian aid; social and environmental policies; diplomacy, such as political dialogue and mediation as well as economic or other sanctions; and its European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

The conflict cycle

Conflict prevention lies at the heart of EU external action. The EU combines long-term reconstruction and development assistance with shorter-term civilian and military crisis management tools for dealing with conflict and with pre- and post-conflict situations. Often it is a question of helping to prevent the re-emergence of a conflict.

For each stage of a crisis, the EU can intervene with a range of measures, always working in close collaboration with the UN and relevant regional organisations.

In situations where the country seems stable but there are sources of potential conflict and in tense situations, the EU offers conflict prevention.

- It charts potential conflict zones in the world.
- It can deploy a team of experts with a mixture of backgrounds – security, development, governance – to visit a country, identify potential conflict issues and how EU cooperation activities can improve the situation.
- It uses its development aid to tackle poverty and disease and provides support to diffuse tension points.
- It incorporates conflict prevention measures in its aid for areas such as governance, oversight of the security system, justice system, transport, rural development, energy, environment, health and education.
- It uses its trade agreements to offer better access to EU markets to bolster failing economies and help developing countries to find their place in the world economy.
- It works with other international organisations to tackle issues such as trafficking in drugs, arms or human beings, trading of illicit goods, environmental degradation and managing scarce resources such as water.

- It is active in preventive diplomacy and mediation between opposing factions.

In open conflict situations or in post-conflict situations, the EU offers civilian and military crisis management and post-conflict stabilisation, as well as long term reconstruction and development.

- The EU uses its political clout to bring conflicts to an end and offers mediation.
- It uses emergency and humanitarian aid to help refugees, disarm soldiers and clear mines.
- It oversees elections, runs voter education projects and trains electoral observers.
- It enforces ceasefires and peace terms with military peace-making and peace-keeping operations and re-establishes safe environments.
- It co-finances the mediation and peace-keeping activities of the UN, regional organisations such as the African Union (AU) and non-state actors.
- It also uses its emergency aid for the immediate and the future reconstruction of the country.
- It helps civilians and rehabilitates communities by funding local-based projects and services such as water, education and health.
- It helps former soldiers to return to civilian life.
- It strengthens the legal system to uphold the rule of law and human rights.
- It improves police services and trains the security sector in human rights.
- It fosters reconciliation between opposing groups.
- It supports communities and administrations so that they can run their own affairs.



conflict, insecurity and poverty

The importance of preventing conflict and fragile or failing states is explicitly recognised in the EU's development policy. Reducing poverty is seen as an objective in its own right as well as an important factor in ensuring long-term peace and security in poorer countries. Moreover, as the European Security Strategy notes, security is the first condition for development.

EU foreign and security policy objectives are also supported by fast-growing military and civilian crisis management capabilities focusing on crisis response, peace keeping and peace making, as well strengthening or substitution missions in fields like police, strengthening the rule of law or civil administration.

Security sector reform (SSR) can be both a conflict prevention measure and a response to a situation of crisis. The EU is taking a keen interest in this area, recognising that weak security institutions and rule of law lead to greater risk of crime and violent conflict. The EU has taken a leading role in promoting supported SSR in over 70 countries, for example on justice and police reform and helping to disarm, demobilise and reintegrate former combatants. This is a prime example of an area where the EU's development policy instruments and its security policy instruments can complement each other.

The EU's financial assistance to third countries is planned on the basis of strategy papers agreed with the partner country. These increasingly integrate conflict prevention objectives, such as improving governance, fighting corruption, or reducing the prevalence of small arms and light weapons.

On the international stage, the EU supports and will actively take part in the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission established at the end of 2005. The Peacebuilding Commission aims to assist countries emerging from conflict to achieve sustainable peace.

Spotting conflict zones

The reasons for conflict vary, and predicting how it may evolve is complex. There is a clear need for better analysis of the root causes of conflict and of the early signs of an emerging conflict.

There are many factors that aggravate conflict: poverty, economic stagnation, uneven distribution of resources, weak social structures, undemocratic governance, systematic discrimination, oppression of the rights of minorities, refugee flows, ethnic antagonisms, religious and cultural intolerance, social injustice, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and small arms.

To act fast and effectively, the EU has developed an early warning and rapid reaction system to spot regions in the world where tensions are rising and identify the root causes that are feeding them. By an early identification of risk factors, the EU has a better chance of taking timely and effective action to address the underlying causes of conflict.

The European Commission's network of delegations across the world, and a number of EU monitoring centres drawing on intelligence from military and non-military sources from the Member States, feed into this analysis.

Using this data, the EU and its member governments closely monitor the most critical countries or regions in the world and give them targeted support and aid in an effort to tackle the root causes of the conflict.

Managing crisis

Even with the best will in the world, crisis situations cannot always be prevented.

EU Member States agreed in 1999 to contribute to a military force for crisis management operations. This is a voluntary scheme. Each government decides whether it wants to contribute soldiers to this force and in what numbers. The idea is to pool resources, giving the EU the possibility to undertake humanitarian, peace-keeping and peace-making operations.

Providing aid fast where its needed – the Stability Instrument and the Peacebuilding Partnership

The Stability Instrument is a € 2 billion financing facility dedicated to anticipating and responding to crises. It is managed by a specialised team within the Commission, and will strengthen and streamline its work on conflict prevention, peace building, and post-conflict reconstruction. It will also ensure that aid is delivered more quickly and effectively to help rebuild communities affected by a natural disaster.

How would this work in practice? We see four main scenarios under which the instrument would be triggered:

- reconstruction and stabilisation **after a major new political crisis or natural disaster** (an event on the scale of Iraq or the tsunami);
- seizing a **window of opportunity to prevent conflict** or resolve a long-standing conflict through mediation efforts and building confidence in a peace process;
- **prompt action** to ensure that our mainstream development programmes can continue to work in fragile states (e.g. through urgent action to strengthen the rule of law, or to prevent tensions from flaring up);
- **joint crisis management or stabilisation** initiatives building on the complementary roles of the EU's Development policy instruments and the EU's civilian and military assets.

The Stability Instrument differs from the EU's humanitarian aid, which is politically neutral and targets the individual. It has a clear aim to rebuild or establish civic structures. Without these, there can be no political, social and economic stability. As such, its operations support the EU's political priorities and seek to defuse crises, opening the way for the political process and longer-term support.

The Peacebuilding Partnership is aimed at building international capacity for crisis response, by developing a long-term relationship between the Commission, Member States' agencies specialised in crisis response, non-state actors and multilateral organisations, including the UN and World Bank. It will focus on early warning, exchange of best practices, joint needs assessment, training and rapid deployment of specialists in the areas covered by the Stability Instrument.



EU governments set as their objective to be able to deploy joint forces of up to 60,000 soldiers, supported by appropriate air and naval capacity, in less than two months, and sustain them for at least a year.

In November 2004, they also agreed to set up 13 rapid reaction force packages, known as battle groups, with around 1,500 soldiers drawn from one or more Member States for deployment in international crisis regions. These battle groups became fully operational on 1 January 2007. This allows EU governments to react quickly, for example, after receiving an urgent request by the UN. The EU aims to be able to decide to launch an operation within five days of the approval of a crisis management action and to have forces ready to implement their mission on the ground within 10 days of a decision.

The EU has already launched four military operations under the ESDP. Two were conducted in 2003 (in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in the Democratic Republic of Congo), and another two were

ongoing in 2006 – in Bosnia and Herzegovina and, again, in the DRC, in addition to an EU package of support (civilian and military) for the African Union's mission in Sudan/Darfur, AMIS.

A key priority for the EU is to bring all necessary civilian resources to bear in crisis and post-crisis situations. This is because of a growing understanding that in the case of failing states, or states emerging from violent conflict, military intervention on its own is unlikely to succeed. To prevent such countries from falling back into conflict, a quick return to civilian life is necessary. This means a rapid restoration of economic activity and the build-up of civil administration, the police and judiciary.

Since January 2003, the EU has launched civilian missions under the ESDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in Georgia, in the DRC, in the Palestinian Territories, in Aceh, Indonesia, as well as in support for Iraq. It is preparing further missions in Kosovo and Afghanistan.

EU Civilian capabilities	The main aim	The numbers
Police	The EU is capable of carrying out any police operation, from advisory, assistance and training to substituting local police forces.	EU member governments undertook to provide some 5,760 police officers of whom 1,400 can be deployed in less than 30 days
Rule of law	The EU can contribute to a properly functioning judicial and penitentiary system to back up the police. It has set up a network of training institutes in the Member States to train personnel for international peace missions. In 2003, they trained 264 people in 14 courses across the EU.	EU member governments undertook to provide 631 public prosecutors, judges and prison service officers with crisis management experience.
Civil administration	The EU can bolster civil administration.	EU member governments undertook to provide a pool of 565 experts with civil administration experience to be deployed at short notice if necessary.
Civil protection	The EU can reinforce civil protection by quickly dispatching specialist teams trained in civil protection, and setting up early warning and information exchanges.	EU member governments will create civil protection assessment teams that can be dispatched within three to seven hours. Intervention teams which can be deployed at short notice will back them up. They undertook to provide some 5,000 people for these civil protection tasks.
Monitoring	The EU can provide monitoring teams before a conflict happens, and in conflict and post-conflict situations.	EU member governments undertook to provide some 500 staff for such missions.
Support for EU Special Representatives (EUSR)	The EU can provide extra support to EU Special Representatives to back up their work.	EU member governments will provide over 360 support staff to work with EU Special Representatives with expertise on human rights, political and legal affairs, gender issues, media policy and administration.

The EU is constantly developing its capacity to conduct such operations. In June 2000, EU governments set as a target to develop civilian capabilities in four priority areas of police, rule of law, civilian administration and civil protection. In June 2004, they extended these to monitoring operations and extra support for the Offices of EU Special Representatives. EU Civilian capabilities should be fully operational by 2008.

The Stability Instrument (see box above) will contribute in an important way to the strengthening of the EU's crisis management capacity. It can be used to anticipate or respond to political crisis, violent conflict or natural disasters, and will work closely with the EU's civilian and military operations.

Supporting the stabilisation of new democracies in neighbouring countries: the case of

Georgia



Georgia was one of the first republics of the former Soviet Union to declare independence in 1991. Armed internal conflicts broke out after independence with secessionist movements in the South Ossetia and Abkhazia provinces. Hostilities ended when a cease fire was declared in 1993, but relations between Tbilisi and the two breakaway regions remain tense. The loss of trade with the former Soviet Union and the internal conflicts led to a collapse of the Georgian economy.

Widespread popular protest, the bloodless 'Rose Revolution', broke up in November 2003 following flawed presidential elections that had reconfirmed former President Eduard Shevardnadze. In January 2004 a new round of presidential elections brought Pres. Mikheil Saakashvili to power. New legislative elections were held in March 2004, supported by the EU with a € 2 million aid package.

Swept to power with over 90% of the votes, President Saakashvili started an ambitious programme of democratic and economic reforms. The new government was faced with the daunting task of tackling endemic corruption, fighting against high levels of organised crime, rebuilding non-functioning state institutions, reducing the high level of poverty and restoring territorial integrity through the reintegration of the separatist regions.

EU steps up its support to Georgia under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)

In June 2004, the EU pledged € 125 million to Georgia for the period 2004-2006 at an international donors conference that it co-chaired with the World Bank, with a resulting gradual doubling of EC financial assistance compared with the pre-Rose Revolution period.

In the same month, Georgia (and the other two Southern Caucasus countries, Armenia and Azerbaijan) were included in the in the ENP, opening up the possibility for closer economic integration with the EU and for enhanced EU support for Georgia's reform programme.

An ENP Action Plan was adopted by the EU-Georgia Cooperation Council of 14 November 2006 with the aim of further strengthening EU-Georgia bilateral relations, building on the existing 1999 Partnership and Cooperation agreement. The Action Plan is a detailed blueprint entailing specific objectives and timelines for bringing Georgia closer to the EU legislation and regulatory system. Several of these objectives are related to the consolidation of Georgia's democratic institutions, full enforcement of the rule of law, the fight against organised crime and terrorism, improved border management and conflicts resolution, thus contributing to Georgia's stability and security.



Georgia

An EU Rule of Law mission supports crucial reform of the judiciary in Georgia

Full respect for the Rule of Law is the cornerstone of any functioning democracy. One of the most urgent priorities for post-revolutionary Georgia is in-depth reform of its judicial system. At the request of President Saakashvili, the EU launched in 2004, under the ESDP, a € 2 million pioneering EUJUST THEMIS Rule of Law mission to Georgia, with a core team of 10 international experts seconded by EU Member States as well as local staff. This mission was concluded in July 2005. It allowed establishing a comprehensive strategy for the reform of the criminal justice code, covering the whole criminal justice system (courts, prosecution office and the penitentiary). The strategy has been formally endorsed by the Georgian President. The EU is continuing its assistance in this crucial domain with a € 7,9 million follow-up Tacis programme launched in 2006 for the implementation of certain elements of the reform the strategy, namely the reforms of the Penitentiary and Probation system, strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Justice, establishment of a legal aid system, setting up a Civil registry and the third phase of reform of Prosecutor General Office.

Another important step underpinning the EU's renewed interest for Georgia and the Southern Caucasus countries was the appointment in July 2003 of an EU Special Representative for the Southern Caucasus. The new EUSR, Swedish Ambassador Peter Semneby, was appointed in February 2006, with a mandate calling for a more pro-active EU role in the peaceful resolution of the regional conflicts in the S. Caucasus. He heads a Border Support Team in Georgia providing support and advice to the Georgian authorities on border issues.

EU support for the peaceful resolution of Georgia's internal conflicts

The EU is the largest donor in Georgia's zones of conflict. The EU actively supports various economic rehabilitation and confidence – building activities in Abkhazia and South Ossetia as an important measure to build greater trust between the conflict-affected populations. These projects aim at improving living conditions and creating conditions for the return of internally displaced persons, as well as facilitating progress in a constructive dialogue between the two sides.

Ongoing and planned programmes in Abkhazia that are financed by the EC include humanitarian assistance, economic rehabilitation, confidence building projects with local and international NGOs, and democracy and human rights projects with local NGOs. Within this framework, the EC is financing a € 3.6 Mio comprehensive rehabilitation programme in Abkhazia in order to improve public health services, electricity, local rural development of both ethnic Georgian and Abkhazian communities. UNOMIG and UNDP will be major partners in the programme implementation. In South Ossetia, EU assistance has financed since 1998 a € 7.5 Mio programme for the rehabilitation of civil infrastructure (gas, waste management facilities, schools, water supply) damaged during the armed hostilities. The third phase of this programme will end in 2006. Three 'Joint Actions' under the Common Foreign and Security Policy have provided EU support (through grants to the OSCE) for the functioning of the Joint Control Commission, a quadripartite body for monitoring the implementation of the cease fire which includes Georgia, Russia as well as the South and North Ossetian sides.



The Middle East

a region in crisis



The EU is an active player in efforts to bring an end to conflict in the Middle East. It is the major donor and trading partner, it plays a key role in the Quartet along with the US, Russia and the UN, and it is closely involved on the ground via its teams of specialised personnel.

Israel and the Palestinian Territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have paid a high price for political turmoil and violence over the years, which have left many thousands killed and yet greater numbers injured, while severely curtailing economic opportunities. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has resulted in a weak Palestinian economy with more than 40% unemployment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. By the end of 2006, 67% of the Palestinian population were thought to be living below the poverty line, with peaks of 80% in the Gaza Strip.

Lebanon also paid a high price for violence in summer 2006 as fighting between Israeli forces and Hezbollah led to a humanitarian crisis and damaged much of the country's economy and environment. Again, the EU played a prominent part in international efforts to restore calm and begin the painstaking process of reconstruction, deploying political, diplomatic, security and humanitarian resources.

Meeting in September 2006, EU Foreign Ministers underlined that lasting peace and security in the region could only be ensured by a comprehensive settlement with a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at its core. They underlined the importance of reinvigorating the peace process.

They also called for full and speedy implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 regarding the Lebanon crisis, including the withdrawal of Israeli troops in parallel with the deployment of a reinforced UN contingent and the Lebanese Armed Forces.

EU promotes a two-state solution for Israel and the Palestinian Territories

Since as far back as 1980, the EU has recognised that all states in the region, including Israel, have the right to exist in security and that there has to be justice for all people implying the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. In this respect, the EU has referred to relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, in particular number 242, which calls for a just settlement of the refugee problem.

The EU supports a two-state solution as the only hope for an end to the Middle East conflict, with a democratic, viable, peaceful and sovereign Palestinian State as the best guarantee for Israel's security and for its acceptance as a partner in the region.



The Middle East

EU leaders have repeatedly called for a negotiated solution, urging an end to the occupation and the creation of a Palestinian state on the basis of the 1967 borders (if necessary with adjustments agreed by both parties), with a fair solution for the status of Jerusalem, and a just, viable, realistic and agreed solution to the problem of the Palestinian refugees.

The ideas promoted in EU declarations were incorporated in the 2002 Quartet 'Road Map' for peace. Its stated objective is the end of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by the creation of two states living side-by-side within secure and recognised borders enjoying normal relations with their neighbours.

The road map provides for a comprehensive Middle East agreement that should also include settlements between Israel and Lebanon, and Israel and Syria.

The EU continues to provide political and economic support for the peace process. It meets regularly with its Quartet partners to evaluate progress and, on a day-to-day basis it works through its Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process as well as its Delegation to the State of Israel and the European Commission's Technical Assistance Office, which works with the Palestinian side.

Throughout, the EU has worked closely with the United Nations and other international donors, since it is a firm supporter of multilateral solutions to conflicts around the world.

The international community's strategy

The EU believes peace will only be achieved via a negotiation between the Israelis and the Palestinians which results in an independent, democratic, and viable Palestinian state living alongside Israel and its other neighbours in peace and security.

In order to achieve this, the road map foresees that the Palestinian leadership would have to recognise Israel's right to exist in peace and security; declare an unequivocal end to violence and terrorism; undertake visible efforts to arrest, disrupt and restrain individuals and groups behind terrorist attacks; dismantle terrorist capabilities and infrastructures including confiscating illegal weapons; and strengthen its ability to maintain law and order in the Territories.

The road map foresees that Israel would have to affirm its commitment to the two state vision of an independent, viable, sovereign Palestinian state living in peace and security alongside it; call for an end to violence against Palestinians; refrain from actions undermining trust including attacks on civilians; stop all punitive measures such as confiscating and/or demolishing Palestinian homes and property, and destroying Palestinian institutions and infrastructure; and normalise Palestinian life, including via withdrawal from occupied Palestinian areas. In addition, Israel would have to dismantle settlement outposts erected since March 2001 and freeze all settlement activity.

The EU opposes measures which would prejudice the outcome of permanent status negotiations. In the context of the ongoing construction of the separation barrier, while recognising Israel's right to protect its citizens from terrorist attacks, the EU has asked Israel to stop building this series of walls, trenches, and fences – inside the occupied Palestinian Territories. It has endorsed the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice according to which the construction of a wall inside occupied Palestinian territory is contrary to international law.

Israel states that the construction of the separation barrier is a temporary measure, but its extent, nature, cost and location suggest to Palestinians that the project has more permanent implications, which could prejudice future negotiations and make the two-state solution physically impossible to implement.

In some places, the barrier is located as much as six kilometres inside the West Bank. When completed, it could cut off thousands of Palestinians on the western, side from their land, workplaces and essential social services. Palestinians east of the barrier will lose access to land and water resources.

In the context of efforts to find a fair solution to the complex issue of Jerusalem, taking into account the political and religious concerns of all parties, the EU has expressed concern at the near-completion of the separation barrier around East Jerusalem, far from the Green Line. This will cut off the city from its Palestinian satellite cities of Bethlehem and Ramallah, and the rest of the West Bank beyond, and have serious economic, social and humanitarian consequences for the Palestinians.



Supporting elections

The EU deployed the largest Election Observation Mission for both the January 2005 presidential election and the January 2006 Legislative Council election in the West Bank and Gaza. More than 200 observers took part on each occasion.

Since 2003, the EU has led the support effort for Palestinian elections injecting some € 18.5 million. The bulk has gone to the Palestinian Commission responsible for organising the elections including voter registration, polling, counting the votes and voter information.

The EU election mission concluded that the January 2006 electoral process was open, fairly contested and efficiently administered.

The Mission stated the elections were 'notable for the participation of candidates linked to extremist or radical groups that have advocated violence as a means to solving the problems in the Middle East' and hoped that 'this participation is an indication of the movement of such groups towards engaging in a truly democratic process, which would be in fundamental contradiction with violent activity.'

EU biggest donor to peace process

Since 2000, the EC has provided over € 1.83 billion in grants to Palestinians to improve living conditions and promote reforms. This makes it the biggest donor to the peace process and Palestinian preparations for statehood. EU Member States have provided additional funds through their national programmes.

Part of this money is for humanitarian support to help almost four million Palestinian refugees living in the region, as well as the poorest Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is the main provider of basic services such as education and health to Palestinian refugees in the region. EU assistance to UNRWA in 2005-6 totalled over € 160 million.

Conditional aid drives reform

In the period 1994-2006, the EU was the major supporter of the Palestinian Authority, set up after the Oslo accords. The aim of this assistance was to build an Authority which is able to govern a future sovereign Palestinian state and to negotiate a settlement with Israel.

During this period, the EU worked with the Palestinian Authority to achieve financial and judicial reform as part of its long-term objective to create an independent, democratic Palestinian State.

The European Union has been the leading donor in strengthening financial control and transparency. It achieved progress in reforming Palestinian public finances through conditions attached to the + € 500 million provided in budgetary support (2000 – 2006) and through specialist technical assistance programmes worth over € 5 million.

From the outset, the EU set conditions for direct aid. It asked the Palestinian Authority to set up a single treasury account to receive all donor payments, making it easy to trace financial transfers. The Ministry of Finance agreed to take sole responsibility for the Palestinian Authority's payroll. Salaries could no longer be paid in cash; a centralised payment system was established and audits, both external and internal, were strengthened. The International Monetary Fund monitored the accounts and subsequently praised the system of checks and controls which the Palestinian Authority had introduced, commenting that it had achieved 'a level of fiscal responsibility, control, and transparency which rivals the most fiscally advanced countries in the region.'

The EU also pushed for judicial reforms to ensure that courts were independent from politicians, offering support for training judges and prosecutors as well as resources to refurbish certain courts. This was necessary for security but also to lay the foundations for economic growth. Businesses need to know that if there is a problem they can turn to the courts for an effective remedy.

The EU's financial package for 2005 totalled more than € 500 million. The main focus was on reforming and strengthening Palestinian institutions including



Strengthening law and order

In addition to its economic support, humanitarian aid and political involvement, the EU is present in the Palestinian Territories through two missions under the European Security and Defence Policy.

As part of the EU's efforts to strengthen the rule of law and improve customs operations in the Palestinian territories, the EU responded rapidly to the Israeli and Palestinian request that it launch a **border assistance mission at the Rafah crossing point** on the border between Gaza and Egypt (EUBAM Rafah). This mission was established on the basis of the 'Agreement on Movement and Access' reached between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) on 15 November 2005. It aims to provide a third-party presence at the Rafah Crossing Point (RCP) in order to contribute to the regular opening of the RCP. To this end, EUBAM Rafah monitors, verifies and evaluates the performance of the Palestinian Authority's border control, security and customs officials working at the Terminal and acts to ensure that the PA complies with all applicable rules and regulations.

Via European Community institution-building efforts, it contributes to Palestinian capacity building in all aspects of border control and customs operation.

EUBAM Rafah also contributes to the liaison between the Palestinian, Israeli and Egyptian authorities. Some 70 personnel, largely seconded from EU Member States, monitor activities and provide on-the-job training, complemented by Community assistance.

In January 2006, the EU also launched an **EU Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories** (EUPOL COPPS) to help the PA establish sustainable and effective civil policing arrangements by assisting with the implementation of the Palestinian Civil Police Development Plan. The mission was set up to advise and mentor senior members of the Palestinian Civil Police and criminal justice system and to co-ordinate EU/international assistance to the Palestinian Civil Police. The mission was set up to run for at least three years but since its operations have been restricted by the political situation, EUPOL COPPS has been monitoring security sector reform issues, maintaining working level contacts with security agencies and preparing for active engagement when the situation will allow. The mission acts in close co-operation with the European Community's institution building programmes as well as other international efforts in the security sector and judicial reform.

the judiciary, fighting corruption, supporting the democratic process via elections, and addressing the emergency and humanitarian needs of the Palestinian population. The EU carefully monitored the aid to ensure there were no abuses.

European Commission develops temporary aid mechanism

The swearing-in of a Hamas-led Government in March 2006 placed the peace process in an entirely new context. The election victory of Hamas – an organisation listed by the EU as a terrorist organisation – led international donors, including the EU, to temporarily suspend direct assistance to the Palestinian Government pending a review of assistance against the new Government's commitment to the three principles of non-violence, recognition of Israel's right to exist and acceptance of existing agreements. Israel also suspended transfers of the customs and tax revenues which it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority and which represents the bulk of its fiscal income.

Funding projects on the ground

The political conflict, the separation barrier and Israel's closure policy have all deepened the isolation and lack of interaction between Israelis and Palestinians.

Since 1995, the EU has promoted dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian civil society, and cooperation on key issues such as the environment, health, education and the media.



The Lebanon crisis – EU at the forefront of international efforts

The EU was actively engaged in efforts to respond to the conflict in Lebanon, and its repercussions, in the summer of 2006.

It acted quickly to address evacuation needs and the worsening humanitarian crisis as hundreds of thousands of people were displaced, deploying a range of EU and national resources. The EU made high-level démarches to obtain the opening of humanitarian corridors for the delivery of aid to victims. There was a coordinated effort in Beirut, Cyprus, national capitals and Brussels from the outset of the crisis.

In order to continue its support for the Palestinians, while adapting to the new political reality, the European Commission, at the request of EU leaders and the Middle East Quartet, developed a special **Temporary International Mechanism (TIM)** to channel aid to the Palestinians. In July 2006, the Commission started to pay social allowances to those most in need.

The allowances were made to those who had suffered a significant loss of income due to the Palestinian financial crisis, to pensioners and other social hardship cases. Other actions included delivery of fuel to hospitals and water pumps to protect public health, plus social allowance payments to Palestinian doctors and nurses, to enable them to continue to work. Allowances have now been paid to approximately 150,000 recipients. Taking into account a typical dependency ratio of 1:6, this means that the EU has provided direct relief to nearly 1 million vulnerable Palestinians.

By September 1st, 2006, the Commission had allocated € 105 million to the TIM, bringing the total made available from the Community Budget to the Palestinian people in 2006 to € 330 million. EU Member States contributed around € 80 million to the TIM.

EU Foreign Ministers meeting in September 2006 welcomed the TIM's achievements and agreed it should be extended for a further three months. In view of the protracted political crisis, the Commission decided to extend the TIM by a further three months into 2007. This was endorsed by the European Council in December 2006.

After an international donor conference in Stockholm – convened by the Swedish Government in response to the call in UN Security Council Resolution 1701 for immediate steps to extend financial and humanitarian assistance to the Lebanese people – EU humanitarian aid (pledged or effectively granted by Member States and the European Community) was approximately € 330 million, of which € 107 million was provided by the European Community.

The EU also stood ready to help prepare the 'needs assessment' for reconstruction under the leadership of the Government of Lebanon and in close cooperation with other international partners, such as the World Bank, by providing expertise and technical support.

On the diplomatic front, the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, has been actively engaged in efforts to address the crisis, as he and other EU officials made a number of visits to the region. In July, EU Foreign Ministers called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and held two extraordinary sessions in August to discuss the crisis, while the Finnish EU Presidency maintained close contact with the different parties involved.

The Presidency actively coordinated the consular situation so that cooperation between EU Member States' capitals and on the ground was optimal from the very outset.

The EU triggered the 'Community Civil Protection Mechanism' to help Cyprus to address the difficult logistical situation resulting from the large influx of evacuees. EU action also addressed the evacuation of EU citizens from Lebanon and their subsequent repatriation (mainly from Cyprus) as well as the evacuation of third country nationals.

EU Member States and institutions also set out their stall to improve the security situation in southern Lebanon. EU Member States were at the forefront when countries announced commitments to boost the number of troops involved in a reinforced UN presence under the UNIFIL operation (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon). By the end of 2006, approximately 75% of the current UNIFIL peacekeepers were European.

Ministers agreed to impose an arms embargo in Lebanon in accordance with Resolution 1701 which foresaw a ban on the supply of arms to entities or individuals in Lebanon, unless authorised by the Government of Lebanon or by UNIFIL.



Building Business Bridges

This successful business management programme prepares Israeli and Palestinian students to work in partnership. The Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development (CJAED) and the Palestinian Media and Development Institute (PMDI) designed it, and the EU co-financed it. By 2005, over 150 students had graduated.

The MBA accredited degree is taught at the Haifa University, Graduate School of Business. The curriculum includes a strong Middle East component. Through guest lectures, panel discussions and cross-cultural management training, the students explore key business but also political, social and cultural issues important for the region.

There are study visits to local companies but also to companies in Europe and the United States. In their final project, Palestinian and Israeli students work in mixed teams with local and international companies assessing the feasibility of new businesses in the region.

Gil Nezer from Gadera and Fadi Abdellatif from East Jerusalem, both former students, said for most of the students the programme provided a first opportunity for establishing a long-term relationship with 'people from the other side'. But with opportunity 'comes responsibility. We are from different backgrounds. We belong to rival nations'.

The fundamental question is 'how do we create a common goal? How do we construct a group? Each and every one of us is part of a nation, and most identify with it. The conflicts exist, and we are confronted with them continually. How do we deal with our feelings when a suicide bomber explodes in a restaurant in Haifa? How do we deal with the fact that some of us are under curfew and cannot join our meetings, including this one? But most of all, how do we deal with the everyday reality of belonging to rival societies? Only if we learn to understand and accept each other as nationals, can we perform as a group. Only then can we create a bridge to be followed by others.'

'All for Peace FM'

Thanks to EU funds, Israelis and Palestinians started a joint radio station, 'All for Peace FM' which promotes peace, tolerance and understanding. The station broadcasts in Hebrew, Arabic and English on 107.2 FM, mixing news, music and opinion.

The programmes try to break down stereotypes held by both sides and to discuss issues of common interest such as health, environment, culture, transport and the economy.

The promoters maintain that a central aspect of the conflict is the distance between the two people. 'Common sense dictates that the more we know each other the less we will hate, be angry at and fear each other.'

Hope is in short supply in the Middle East. 'The loss of hope is also the greatest threat to both peoples. Both populations have undergone periods almost impossible to bear in recent years, and many people have ceased believing that the situation can change.'

'All for Peace FM' invites listeners to become part of the group that can believe in change. 'We try to give alternative ideas for ending the conflict, provide hope to our listeners and prepare them for the morning after the conflict.'

'After all, genuine peace will be achieved and based on a strong bond between both peoples and not their leaders – and this bond must be established and strengthened already today.'

The 'All for Peace' radio station reaches approximately 15,000 Israelis and Palestinians on a daily basis. They specially try to reach Israelis and Palestinians youth to young adults, and pro-peace initiatives and organisations, as well as civil society groups. In addition they also try to provide non-threatening programme that encourage namely non-traditional listeners to participate and to expose themselves to different views and perspectives of the conflict. The radio increases its impact by means of their website available in three languages: Arabic, Hebrew and English.

www.allforpeace.org



Promoting peace through regional cooperation

Closely involved in the search for a lasting solution, the EU is the biggest donor to the Palestinians, providing around € 500 million in 2005, and over € 650 million in 2006. It is the biggest trading partner and a major economic, scientific and research partner of Israel – the EU accounts for one third of Israeli exports and over 40% of Israeli imports. It is also a major political and economic partner of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt.

The EU is making use of trade, political dialogue and cooperation on issues such as justice, liberty and security to stabilise the region and to promote understanding between the different countries. In 1995, in Barcelona, it launched a special partnership with Mediterranean countries. Often referred to as '**The Barcelona Process**', this has three aims: to create a common area of peace and stability through political dialogue; to forge closer economic and financial ties (eventually a free-trade zone); and to improve social and cultural links.

A series of bilateral **Association Agreements** set out how the EU and its Mediterranean partners, working together, plan to achieve these aims. The agreements, shaped by the needs of each country, cover trade, political dialogue, respect for human rights and democracy as well as economic, cultural and social cooperation, including the thorny issue of migration. Once agreed, they have to be ratified by EU Member States' national parliaments in order to come into force.

The Association Agreements often require reforms: the EU offers technical and financial support to help its partner countries to implement the necessary changes and deal with the social and economic consequences.

Israel was one of first countries to sign such an agreement with the EU, while the Palestinian Authority has an interim agreement focusing on the social and economic development of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Unfortunately, because of the political climate in 2006, it has been difficult to implement this. Today, the Barcelona process remains the only multilateral forum outside the UN where all parties affected by the Middle East conflict, including Israel and the Palestinians, sit together and are recognised as equal partners.

Progress has also been made to increase multilateral cooperation, through the adoption of cumulative rules of origin and efforts to free up services and agricultural trade.

European Neighbourhood Policy works for peace

The EU has developed a 'Neighbourhood Policy' for countries which lie immediately beyond its borders.

The policy targets more intensive political dialogue, greater access to EU programmes and policies (including the EU's internal market) and reinforced cooperation on justice, freedom and security issues. The aim is to deepen cooperation with these countries based on shared values including the rule of law, good governance, respect for human rights and the promotion of good neighbourly relations.

Israel and the Palestinian Authority were among the first to agree Action Plans under this policy. In addition to trade, the plans raise various issues, including the peace process but also non-proliferation; the fight against terrorism; promoting good governance; respect for human rights and international humanitarian law; combating incitement; and encouraging regional cooperation on the environment, water, energy and transport.

The European Commission has sponsored specific Israeli – Palestinian cooperation on trade issues, transport and energy.

The EU also has a Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan with Lebanon through which it can help the country to pursue its reforms.

The way ahead

The EU is determined to do its utmost to foster peace in the Middle East and will continue to provide necessary assistance to meet the basic needs of the Palestinian population. Through dialogue and co-operation, as well as its participation in the Quartet, the EU is contributing to the broader goal of a peaceful, developing region, increasingly integrated with the EU.



Iraq

The EU and Iraq, building a plan for engagement

The EU has taken an active part in the international community's efforts to support the reconstruction of Iraq and the country's political transition following the 2003 war.

The country made progress politically in 2005 as elections in January that year – the first democratic elections for half a century – established a transitional government and a first transitional national assembly. The Iraqi people approved a new Constitution in a referendum in October 2005. And fresh elections were held in December 2005 for a fully-fledged government due to be in office for four years.

However, acute insecurity in the country continues. Suicide bombings, kidnappings and killings are a daily event hampering the recovery, as are sabotages of electricity lines and oil and water pipelines. Many international organisations, including NGOs, have withdrawn their international staff from the country, while others have needed to provide robust security arrangements for their staff.

Iraq has the second largest proven oil reserves in the world. It has an abundant supply of arable land and water resources, a skilled labour force and many small businesses from which to expand its private sector. But its immediate economic prospects are heavily dependent on the security situation.

EU offers support

Since the end of hostilities in Iraq, the EU made clear that it wanted to play a full role in the country's reconstruction. It also signalled that the success of this effort depended on improved security, the UN playing a strong role and the adoption of a realistic schedule for handing over political responsibility to the Iraqi people.

The first donors' conference focusing on Iraqi reconstruction was held in October 2003 in Madrid. At the conference, the EU encouraged the UN and the World Bank to set up an independent multi-donor International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq to channel international community aid to the country. The EU and its Member States also pledged over € 1.25 billion for Iraqi reconstruction.

Iraq



Helping to build democracy

The European Union has been a key supporter of the political process in Iraq. Working hand in hand with the UN and the International Electoral Commission for Iraq (IECI), it provided financial support and technical experts to support the practical preparation of the January 2005 elections, the October 2005 constitutional referendum and the December 2005 elections.

It has also provided substantial support to the IECI in several key aspects of the preparatory process, including outreach efforts and the training of domestic electoral observers.

Laying the foundations for a wider relationship

The EU went on to launch, in 2004, a medium-term strategy for building its engagement with Iraq. This communication outlined concrete steps of engagement accompanying the political transition in the country. Once the first constitutionally elected government was in place in June 2006, the EU had a fresh look at its relations with Iraq and proposed a renewed engagement focused on five priority areas. These were support to democracy, system of rule of law and a culture of human rights, improved delivery of basic services, support mechanisms paving the way for economic recovery and development of a transparent administration.

The EU promised to boost ties with Iraq by negotiating a new Trade and Cooperation Agreement with Baghdad once a new government had been formed after the December 2005 elections. EU Member States gave the European Commission a mandate to negotiate the accord in March 2006 and negotiations were opened in November 2006.

Establishing contractual relations with Iraq in this way would mark a major step in the country's return to the international fold. The agreement should not just promote bilateral trade but strengthen cooperation in various fields, act as an anchor for Iraqi reforms and socio-economic development, and help foster regional stability.

In order to facilitate contacts with the Iraqi authorities, the European Commission opened a Delegation in Iraq in 2005 and appointed its first Head of Delegation/Ambassador in July 2006.

'The Iraqis are seeking a significant partnership with the EU, and we intend to meet their expectations.'

Benita Ferrero-Waldner
Commissioner for External Relations
and European Neighbourhood Policy

Boosting the economy

The EU wants to work with the Iraqi authorities to help the country diversify its oil-driven economy and build bilateral relations in the key areas of energy, trade and investment.

The European Union has already granted Iraq preferential access to EU markets and is supporting its bid to join the World Trade Organisation, to assist Iraq's transition process and its re-integration into the world trading system.



Iraq

Strong on aid

Although the EU had no political or contractual relations with Iraq under Saddam Hussein's 24-year regime, it provided humanitarian aid during the sanctions. From 1992 onwards, it was the largest single donor of humanitarian assistance to Iraq after the UN. To date the European Commission has provided more than € 720 million.

The assistance has been focused on three areas: restoring key public services such as education, health, water and sanitation; supporting the political process and democratisation; and strengthening Iraq's institutions and administrations. The EU channels the bulk of its aid through the UN and World Bank Trust Funds monitored by a donors' committee.

EU rule of law mission for Iraq

The EU launched, in July 2005, a rule of law mission for Iraq named EUJUST LEX to strengthen the country's justice system.

More than 800 judges, investigating magistrates, senior police and penitentiary officers in senior management have already participated in integrated training courses conducted in Member States based on a common curriculum. Throughout, the mission is working in consultation with the Iraqi authorities.

The mission was given an initial one-year mandate, which has been extended for another 18 months. The budget for the mission amounts to € 21.2 million to date.

The Iraq compact

The EU has welcomed the progress made in developing the International Compact with Iraq since the launch of the Compact process in July 2006. The Compact aims to bring together the international community to support Iraq in achieving its National Vision of building a 'secure, unified, federal and democratic nation, founded on the principles of freedom and equality, and providing peace and prosperity for its people'. The EU has expressed its readiness to participate actively in the Compact process and underlined the importance it attaches to Iraqi ownership and inclusiveness of this process, and to the broad involvement of the international community, including the active participation of Iraq's neighbours and partners in the region.

Blocking the road to Terrorism



Europe has experienced different types of terrorism in its history. But in the last decade the nature of the threat has changed. The most recent wave of terrorism has been global in scope and ruthless in the level of violence used against civilians. No country is immune from terrorism or can take the risk of being complacent.

This violence was tragically brought home to Europe with the 11th of March 2004 Madrid train bombings. Over 190 people died and almost 2,000 were injured. It was one of the most devastating terrorist attacks in an EU country. It was followed in July 2005 by deadly terror attacks in London.

The EU created the post of Counter-terrorism coordinator, held until March 2007 by Gijs de Vries, after the Madrid bombings.

'Terrorism is frightening in its unpredictability, unsettling by its seemingly random nature – its capacity to strike apparently anywhere, anytime, anyone.'

But he also underlines the EU's commitment to combat terrorism while respecting human rights. 'The EU is trying hard to find the right balance between human rights and security. We want to be safe, but we do not want to jeopardise our values and principles. We are, after all, engaged in a struggle over values.'

Feeding terrorism

Although political grievance can be a more immediate motivator for terrorists, poverty can contribute to radicalisation as young men – and increasingly women – lose hope in their future and trust in their governments for solutions. Terrorist organisations aim to exploit these grievances and give religious justification for their actions.

Terrorism flourishes in regional conflict and in states that do not have the capacity or the means to maintain law and order. There, terrorists can hide from arrest and train their recruits.

The EU is working in Europe and internationally to prevent people turning to terrorism by tackling the factors which can lead to radicalisation and recruitment.



Terrorism

EU priority results in swift action

The fight against terrorism is a priority in all EU Member States. It is a difficult fight as there is no single, tightly controlled terrorist network. Since 9/11 and other attacks, the EU has developed a range of policies to strengthen the EU's ability to counter it. The measures look to build both internal and international protection recognising the two are inextricably linked.

The EU's starting point in the fight against terror is its December 2003 Security Strategy. This identified terrorism as a growing strategic threat to the whole of Europe. It stated that Europe was both a target and a base for terrorism, and that concerted European action was indispensable.

The EU has, in December 2005, adopted a specific strategy on counter-terrorism – with the objective to 'prevent, protect, pursue, respond' – and on combating radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism. The counter-terrorism strategy is the EU's strategic commitment to combat terrorism globally and make Europe safer while respecting human rights.

The EU pursues international cooperation in the fight against terror in political dialogue with third countries and in supporting the work of regional or international bodies, especially the UN. The EU looks to promote overall security beyond its borders by helping countries to strengthen institutions and governance, for example in training magistrates, police, border guards and customs officials, or in improving document security at borders.

- **Building internal protection** – Member States have strengthened their intelligence and police information sharing and introduced a European arrest warrant. They have established a common list of terrorist organisations and individuals. They have built up civil protection and set up a rapid alert system for nuclear and other attacks. They have also agreed to mutually assist each other if there is a terrorist attack against one of them. They are controlling their external borders better, exchanging data on visa applications, improving custom controls and security at ports and airports. They are working to strengthen the protection of critical economic infrastructure such as energy, communications and transport. To hamper the financing of terrorism, they have agreed on new EU legislation on money laundering, closer cooperation on suspicious transactions and

control of cash transfers. They have set up Eurojust, to coordinate the work of magistrates and prosecutors, Europol, to collect and analyse terrorist-related information, and an intelligence analysis capability to assess all aspects of the terrorism threat.

- **Building international protection** – The first line of defence are the countries of origin of the terrorists themselves. Each country needs to build up its institutional capacity – the police, the courts, intelligence operations, customs and border controls and the financial institutions – to fight terrorism. It must also be willing to act. In cooperation with the UN and like-minded countries, the EU, on top of contributions from its Member States, is providing counter-terrorism-related assistance worth around € 400 million in ongoing programmes for some 80 countries around the world. This helps them draft and implement counter-terrorism laws and policies. It is including counter-terrorism clauses in all agreements with third countries and using development assistance to erode the support base for terrorist organisations through a focus on poverty reduction, human rights, good government and participatory democracy. It is planning to set up a network of national counter-terrorist experts to assist third countries. It has also strengthened cooperation with major partners like Russia and the US.

Technology has made it possible for a small number of people to inflict great damage without the support of a state.

The WMD strategy adopted in December 2003 in the framework of the European Security Strategy underlined that non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control can make an essential contribution in the global fight against terrorism by reducing the risk of non-state actors gaining access to WMD, radioactive materials and means of delivery.

As External Relations Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner recently pointed out there are no quick fixes. 'Winning the long-term battle is possible and the EU has the right policies and instruments to do it. Our policy is right: consolidate universal norms; help third countries build their own capacities; and win the hearts and minds of people to stop the next generation of terrorists emerging. Public expectations on the European Union to respond effectively are huge. And we must not disappoint them.'



Afghanistan

a new start



Afghanistan is one of the world's poorest countries ravaged by 23 years of war and conflict and four years of severe droughts. It is also the world's largest producer of heroin.

When the Soviet-backed government in Kabul fell in 1992, the various Mujahiddin religious, tribal and linguistic factions engaged in a devastating civil war. The Taliban began their rise to power in 1994 and had taken control of most of the country by 1998. They were renowned for their human rights abuses and their exclusion of women from public life.

In 2001, US-led military action overthrew the Taliban regime because of its open-door policy for al-Qaeda that facilitated the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

The Bonn conference at the end of 2001 laid the foundations for new Afghan political institutions and started the long road towards building a new Afghanistan.

Hamid Karzai became Afghanistan's first democratically elected President in December 2004, while the inauguration of a new National Assembly after the September 2005 parliamentary and provincial elections – the first such poll for over 30 years – marked the formal conclusion of the Bonn political transition.

But the international community will have to stay engaged in the 'post-Bonn' and Afghanistan itself will have to make further efforts to face remaining challenges with international support.

A major international conference in London on 31 January/1 February 2006 launched the Afghanistan Compact, the successor to the Bonn agreement, providing a framework for the international community's engagement for the following five years. The Compact includes benchmarks and mutual obligations to ensure coherence of effort between the Afghan Government and the international community.

The EU underlined its continued commitment to Afghanistan as the two sides signed in a joint political declaration in November 2005. Setting out a new long-term partnership between the EU and Afghanistan, the declaration establishes shared priorities and commitments for the next phase in Afghanistan's transition. It looks to promote the country's political and economic development and deepen EU-Afghan ties.

The declaration addresses political and economic governance, security sector and justice reform, counter-narcotics, development, human rights, civil society and refugee return as well as education and culture.



The EU's presence

The EU provided humanitarian aid throughout the Taliban years and has been present in the country since 1988. Aid to the most needy continues today.

When the Taliban fell, the EU worked with other donors to rebuild the country. It meant starting from scratch: putting in place government ministries, paying the salaries of teachers and the police, building schools and hospitals, repairing sanitation, water supply systems, roads and other infrastructure.

At the 2002 Tokyo donors' conference, the EU pledged substantial reconstruction support, including € 1 billion over five years from the EU budget – a pledge that the EU was on track to fulfil in 2006. Two years later, it updated this pledge, and committed \$ 2.2 billion for the period 2004-2006.

The EU has a Special Representative in Afghanistan, Francesc Vendrell, to work in liaison with the UN and help implement the EU's policy in the country.

In addition, 23 out of the 27 EU Member States are contributing to the UN-mandated and NATO-commanded International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) which assists the Afghan authorities in maintaining security in Kabul and elsewhere. Several Member States also provide troops for the US-led coalition in Afghanistan and are involved in training the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police. In 2006 such security efforts have been moving into the less secure south of the country.

Violence threatens reconstruction

Security remains a key challenge facing Afghanistan today. Unexploded bombs and mines from the Soviet occupation and civil war have not disappeared. Insurgency, factional fighting and criminality remain a problem in many parts of the country.

Actions to disarm and demobilise regional warlords and militia have had some successes, with Afghan Militia Forces registered with the Ministry of Defence now disarmed.

But further efforts are needed in particular to control criminal gangs and irregular militias. The drugs trade, which provides a lucrative income for the local warlords and militia, could fuel continued conflict hampering reconstruction efforts in some areas.

Giving a voice

'Good Morning Afghanistan' is a daily, breakfast-time, radio news programme produced and presented by young Afghan journalists. It began broadcasting in 2002 over Afghan state radio (RTA) with EU funding. It goes out in Pashtu and Dari, the main languages spoken in Afghanistan, and reaches up to 80% of the population.

Sharifa Zormaty, one of the radio broadcasters trained to produce and edit the programme, said that when they started, only military and foreign radios were working. 'Everywhere there was no news about loved ones who had fled the bombing. There was no information about combat zones to avoid.'

By the end of 2005, the Commission had provided support for national distribution of print media, training of journalists at dozens of local and regional radio stations to report on elections.

The European Commission has also taken the first steps towards the transformation of the state broadcaster, Radio and Television Afghanistan (RTA), into a public service broadcaster. An EC-funded consortium made up of the BBC World Service Trust, Deutsche Welle, and Canal France International is laying the foundations for reform by helping develop a charter for RTA, as well as a board of governors, appropriate editorial guidelines, and a possible registry of assets.

The EU sets its priorities

To identify the priority areas for funding, the EU launched a series of expert missions. It also did a lot of talking with Afghan officials, local and international NGOs and other donors. Few countries start again from zero. In the face of this huge need, the choice of where to begin was difficult.

In coordination with other donors and the Afghan authorities, the EU decided to concentrate on four key sectors – health, rural recovery, infrastructure and public administration reform. Other areas of activity have included de-mining, civil society and human rights. All its programmes incorporate gender issues, the environment, the rights of refugees and returnees, and drug issues. The EU also wants to help Afghanistan improve policing and the rule of law.

Nearly half of EU aid goes to strengthen the government. It is helping to reform the public sector, build-up key government institutions, pay salaries to key workers such as teachers and nurses, and deliver essential services.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan

The European Union distributed aid in Afghanistan supporting:

- since 2002, salaries and training of 220,000 public sector workers including doctors, nurses, teachers and 60,000 police officers;
- by the end of 2005, delivery of basic health services in 10 provinces, covering over 20% of the population of the country;
- establishment of 1,660 drinking-water supply schemes;
- vaccination of over 1.3 million animals and local production of more than 6.3 million vaccinations for livestock;
- Promotion of rural livelihoods through work schemes in 30 provinces;
- land-mine clearance in 2006 alone of 29,000 hectares;
- the most vulnerable populations via centres in Kabul for 9,000 street children and national initiatives to curb family violence.

The EU also channels a lot of money into rural development. Over 80% of Afghans depend on agriculture for their livelihood. In 2003-2005, the European Union allocated € 131 million to develop the rural economy and promote alternative livelihoods for the communities who depend on illicit poppy cultivation. Other actions include horticulture production, irrigation and livestock development in provinces in the north and east of the country.

In the health sector, EU aid is providing basic health-care and funding rural clinics to help reduce the rate of infant and maternal mortality, one of the highest in the world.

It is also making an important contribution to the regeneration of the national economy by helping to repair the road networks and other infrastructures.

The elections, the first step to democracy

The EU supported Afghanistan's political transition by helping the country to stage historic elections.

It supplied the largest international observation mission for the September 2005 elections, stationing more than 150 observers around the country on election day and visiting over 1,000 polling stations.

The EU was also the biggest donor to the parliamentary poll. The Community contributed € 17.5 million, as well as € 4.1 million for the observation mission, with EU Member States' bilateral contributions topping € 40 million. Including contributions from Member States, the EU gave some € 80 million for the October 2004 Presidential elections.



In addition, through its € 3 million contribution to the SEAL (Support to the Establishment of the Afghan Legislature) project, the EU helped establish the necessary legal environment for the first-ever session of the new Afghan legislature and provided training to Afghan parliamentarians and administrative and technical staff.

The EU observers said that, although there were shortcomings, the election was an accomplishment in difficult circumstances, and an important step in putting in place a representative government and helping to bring peace to the country.

Fighting the Drug trade

Since the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan has re-emerged as the largest producer of opium poppy in the world representing over 80% of global production. This activity may now account for as much as 60% of its non-drug GDP and involves an estimated 356,000 families.

The trade is worth \$ 2.8 billion a year. Most of this money goes to the warlords who encourage production in their area and to local and regional traffickers. By feeding corruption and violence, such a huge amount of drug money can destabilise the whole country and undermine reconstruction efforts.

Laboratories within Afghanistan now process an increasing proportion of the harvest into morphine or heroin. The remaining processing is done outside the country, along the drug route.

Some 90% of the heroin on Europe's streets is thought to come from poppies grown in Afghanistan. Balkan criminal networks distribute most of it.

The EU, alongside other donors and the Afghan Government, are trying to develop the rural economy to ensure that farmers who have turned to opium production have access to licit alternative livelihoods.

Pre-1979, the country was exporting fresh and dried fruit to its neighbours. The EU is now repairing roads and other infrastructures in the rural areas to reconnect Afghans to their traditional export routes. It is also helping with irrigation and supporting horticultural farmers and those with livestock.

But this is a long-term strategy which must be complemented by stronger law enforcement – capacity to arrest traffickers and traders, the laws to prosecute, the police to enforce them, well trained judges, functioning courts and secure prisons.



Afghanistan

Tougher controls underway

One of the legacies of Afghanistan's prolonged conflict is that police, security forces and other institutions including the criminal justice sector need to be developed to cope with the scale of the problem. Following his election, President Karzai has renewed his government's commitment to deal vigorously with the drug trade. Institutions and capacity are being strengthened with international support.

The Afghan Government launched at the London conference an updated National Drug Control Strategy, which includes moves to build up central and provincial institutions and boost governance. It sets out counter-narcotics priorities including targetting traffickers and trade, strengthening and diversifying legal livelihoods, developing effective counter-narcotic institutions, and reducing demand.

The UK leads international support for the drug control effort in Afghanistan. It has helped the government to shape its anti-drug strategy and is training a counter narcotics police force. It has set up mobile detection units to pick up the mobile laboratories and a central eradication planning cell gathering information where poppies are grown. The EU also gives money to this effort through LOTFA (Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan), set up to pay police salaries and provide training.

European Union assistance has helped the Afghan Government to improve its law enforcement capacity as part of the overall counter-narcotics effort. In 2003-2005 it provided € 98 million to support the police in delivering

effective law enforcement across Afghanistan, and reinforcement of border controls along the Afghan/Iranian border.

The EU has also channelled € 15 million into the Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund managed by the UN Development Programme.

The cost of drug routes

Drug trafficking has an unlimited capacity to corrupt political institutions. It can bribe or get rid of officials, police officers, prison guards but also politicians, ministers, judges, bankers, jurors and, in some cases, even voters.

It affects not only the drug-producing countries but also every country that the drug traffickers use to reach their markets. It operates through transnational networks that use all available means to move their goods – physical violence, bribery, corruption but also technology and the facility generated by the increasing free movement of goods and people.

Drug trafficking creates an informal economy along the routes that it uses. It spreads an economic model that facilitates all types of trafficking – human beings, cars, industrial waste, cigarettes and so on.

Violent conflict is a constant threat along the two main drug routes to Europe: the cocaine road from Latin America and the heroin road from Afghanistan. Drug use has also risen along these routes having an impact on public health and often increasing HIV/AIDS.

EU Mission to train Afghan police

The EU is fielding a police mission to support the Afghan National Police from June 2007.

The mission – EUPOL Afghanistan – aims at contributing to the establishment of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements under Afghan ownership and in accordance with international standards. The mission will monitor, mentor, advise and train at the level of the Afghan Ministry of Interior, regions and provinces.

It consists of some 160 police, law enforcement and justice experts deployed at the central (Kabul), regional and provincial levels.

EUPOL Afghanistan is part of the overall EU commitment to Afghanistan and of a coordinated EU approach. It will tie in with Community programmes, notably in the field of justice reform.

Resolving conflict and unlocking economic development in Moldova



Moldova, an ex-Soviet state located between Romania and Ukraine, is one of the poorest countries in Europe. The country's development and stability are hampered by the 'frozen conflict' between Moldova proper and the breakaway Transnistria region in the east of the country. Since the accession of Romania to the EU this conflict is right on the EU's borders.

Transnistria declared independence as the Soviet Union collapsed, leading to a brief civil war in 1992. The self-proclaimed Transnistrian authorities are internationally unrecognised and the dispute is yet to be resolved. The conflict has a significant economic and trade dimension, because much of Moldova's industry is located in the Transnistria region.

The EU supports Moldova's territorial integrity and is helping to resolve the conflict in a variety of ways. It has stepped up its engagement with Moldova and its presence on the ground in the last year. In March 2005, the EU appointed the first EU Special Representative for Moldova, who works under the operational direction of High Representative Javier Solana. The EU contributes to conflict resolution through aid, diplomacy and expert advice on border and customs issues. And it looks to promote Moldova's development and political and economic ties with the EU through European Neighbourhood Policy. The Transnistria conflict is in many ways a special conflict that needs special answers.

Boosting Neighbourhood ties with Moldova

Moldova's relations with the EU are in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the policy framework by which the EU seeks to deepen its political and economic relationships with its eastern and southern neighbours. The 1998 EU-Moldova Partnership and Cooperation Agreement provides for trade liberalisation, legislative harmonisation, political dialogue and cooperation on a range of other issues. Building on this, an ENP Action Plan was jointly agreed and adopted in February 2005. This document, which contains a range of agreed medium-term reform priorities and the steps by which these will be achieved, is a valuable new tool by which Moldova and the EU can further deepen their political and economic relations.

To further strengthen the EU presence in Moldova and to support Moldova in the implementation of the ENP Action Plan, the Commission opened a Delegation in Chisinau in October 2005.

One of the key priorities in the ENP Action Plan is support for efforts to achieve a lasting resolution of the Transnistria problem. Promoting reforms in Moldova, such as improving the business climate, also helps to make Moldova more attractive to Transnistria.



Supporting border management – the Border Assistance Mission

The European Commission, with the key contribution of EU Member States that seconded customs and border guards officials to participate in the mission, launched, in December 2005, a Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine following a request from the Presidents of the two countries. Some 70 border police and customs officials from 16 EU Member States advise and train the countries' border and customs services.

The purpose of the Mission is to improve border management, strengthen cross-border cooperation and help prevent trafficking in people, smuggling of goods, proliferation of weapons and customs fraud across the Moldova-Ukraine border, including the Transnistria segment.

It is hoped that the mission could also contribute to fostering a resolution of the Transnistria conflict. Illegal smuggling is believed to help sustain the unrecognised Transnistrian authorities. And the mission has already detected major illegal economic activities surrounding Transnistria. Sound border management should also bring economic benefits for Moldova and Ukraine by increasing transparency, preventing corruption and helping to ensure that the Government in Chisinau, as well as the Government of Ukraine, receives all duties owed to them.

Headquartered in Odessa, Ukraine, with seven field offices (two became operational in July 2006), the budget of the mission is € 20 million for two years. A number of mobile teams can make unannounced visits to any location on

the Moldovan-Ukrainian border, or to other police stations, customs posts or revenue accounting offices.

The Head of the EU Border Assistance Mission also serves as senior political advisor to the EUSR for Moldova.

'The EU looks forward to working with the Governments of Moldova and Ukraine – at all levels – to achieve our shared aims and values on this border, and to bring sustainable stability to the region', declared EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana at the mission's launch.

In March 2006, the EU welcomed the fact that Moldova and Ukraine had started to implement a joint customs declaration by the Prime Ministers of the two countries, whereby Ukraine only recognises Moldovan customs stamps and Moldova facilitates the registration of Transnistrian firms in Chisinau. The implementation of this declaration can play a key role in establishing an orderly border regime, as well as building common interests between Chisinau and the Transnistrian companies, which can benefit from all trade benefits given to Moldovan companies. However, the implementation of the agreement has been complicated by the decision of the Transnistrian authorities to block trade on their borders, and to try to prevent the registration of Transnistrian economic agents in Chisinau.

In response to the blockade, Mr Solana called on the self-proclaimed Transnistrian authorities not to block this registration or impede trade flows and said that the EU stood ready, notably through the Border Assistance Mission, to help solve practical difficulties that might arise in implementation of the new regime.

Stepping up political contacts

The EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Moldova, Ambassador Adriaan Jacobovits de Szeged, was appointed by the Council on 23 March 2005. He was replaced in 2007 by Kálmán Miszei. Who is supported by a team of experts, located in Brussels, Chisinau, Kyiv and Odessa, and who also ensure liaison with the EU Border Assistance Mission. Among other things, the EUSR's mandate includes contributing to the peaceful solution of the Transnistria conflict, contributing to the strengthening of democracy, rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all citizens of the Republic of Moldova, promoting close relations between Moldova and the EU and contributing to stability and cooperation in the region.

The EU showed that it wanted to deepen relations with Moldova as the European Commission opened a new delegation office in early October 2005 in Moldova's capital Chisinau.

Getting involved in peace talks

In October 2005, the EU took on a concrete diplomatic role in the Transnistria settlement process as it joined the existing multi-party negotiations as an observer, along with the United States. The new 5+2 talks bring together representatives of Moldova and Transnistria and mediators from Russia, Ukraine and the OSCE, as well as observers from the EU and the United States.

Supplying financial assistance

The EU's policy objectives in Moldova are underpinned by significant financial support. The EU gives assistance of some € 35 million every year to Moldova, and this is expected to further increase from 2007. This provides, for example, for policy advice, economic assistance, strengthening the capacity of institutions, the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, poverty reduction and food security.



Indonesia

a long-term EU commitment to partnership and peace



Indonesia has undergone remarkable change in recent years, making an impressive transition from autocratic to democratic government and achieving progress in many areas, notably the respect for human rights and the fight against corruption, and economic development. In parallel, the EU-Indonesia relationship has developed and deepened.

The EU recognises Indonesia as a major partner, and the country is indeed one of the EU's most important economic and trade partners in South-East Asia. The EU fully supports the territorial integrity of Indonesia.

More broadly, the EU has supported domestic reform in Indonesia by committing itself to long-term constructive partnership with the country and its government, and by using the comprehensive range of instruments at its disposal to promote development and security. The EU continues to assist Indonesia with inclusive policy dialogues and cooperation in many areas, as well as financially and by developing ever-stronger political ties.

Indonesia, the largest country in South-East Asia, held free and fair parliamentary elections in 1999, and again in 2004. It also staged its first ever direct presidential elections in 2004, hailed as the first peaceful transition of power in Indonesia's history.

The EU sent an Election Observation Mission for the 2004 elections and provided significant financial backing for their organisation, as well as support for voter education and information through cooperation with non-governmental organisations.

'We realised that a swift deployment of a sizeable mission was crucial – and we delivered as promised. Our monitoring mission was on the ground the very moment the Helsinki peace agreement was signed.'

Javier Solana
High Representative for the CFSP
Secretary-General of the Council



Indonesia

Stepping up cooperation

Building on the existing regular political dialogue, EU-Indonesia relations reached a historic high in early 2006 with the launch of negotiations on a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. The agreement provides a new policy framework and an agenda for wide-ranging cooperation.

EU-Indonesia cooperation has been upgraded to reflect the quality of the relationship. Up to the mid-1990s, EU support centred on traditional development projects. Today, EU-Indonesia cooperation embraces areas like education, the management of natural resources, including countering illegal logging and timber trade, governance, fiscal reform, trade-related technical assistance as well as cross-border crime.

Since 2002, Indonesia was a victim of severe terrorist atrocities. Cooperating in combating such crimes is high on both sides' agenda, and Indonesia is the EU's main partner on this score in South-East Asia.

Following up on its efforts to deal with the consequences of the December 2004 tsunami, the EU is also backing Indonesian efforts to tackle regional conflicts through its presence on the ground in the province of Aceh.

Rebuilding after the tsunami

Indonesia was the country hardest hit by the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004. The EU responded rapidly to the disaster, and was on the ground the day the tsunami hit, with the European Commission delivering € 45 million in humanitarian assistance. The EU funded and coordinated emergency relief actions such as health services, tracing and reunification of separated families, the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation, an epidemic early warning system and telecommunications.

Humanitarian assistance also provided for the restart of fishing and farming activities. The EU (European Commission and Member States) put € 200 million towards the short-term humanitarian tsunami response in Indonesia in 2004/2005. The EU provided much-needed assistance in Indonesia's Aceh province – where the effect of the tsunami was particularly devastating – and made a substantial contribution to support the resolution of the decades-long conflict in the region.

The EU is by far the biggest donor to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for long-term reconstruction in Indonesia, accounting for 85% of the total fund of some € 440 million. The Fund, co-chaired by the Government of Indonesia, the Commission and the World Bank, promotes reconstruction and sustainable development in affected areas in Aceh and North Sumatra.

Projects address land ownership, community infrastructure and housing. Work on restoring land titles has rehabilitated the land administration system in Aceh and Nias Island. Technical assistance provides Aceh's reconstruction agency with the necessary expertise for the reconstruction process and for coordinating international and national assistance. Other projects include the rehabilitation of forest and environment, rural roads and disaster response logistics.

The European Commission's Delegation in Jakarta also runs a 'Europe House' in Aceh to facilitate donor co-ordination for rehabilitation and reconstruction, and enhance policy dialogue with local communities and authorities.

The EU at work – giving people a home

Indonesia was the country hardest hit by the December 2004 tsunami. In Aceh, the earthquake and flooding left 180,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands of people suffering and homeless. Together with the Government and the World Bank, the European Commission leads a trust fund for reconstruction. The Commission is the biggest single donor to the fund, with a € 210 million commitment out of a total € 440 million. A € 120 million 'Housing and Settlement Project', launched in September 2005, rebuilds and repairs houses in rural villages and urban neighbourhoods. About 25,000 houses are built or repaired over two years. The scheme also provides grants for community infrastructure.





Promoting lasting peace in Aceh

Indonesia's Aceh province had been plagued for three decades by violence and unrest until the Indonesian Government and the then rebel Free Aceh Movement (GAM) reached a peace agreement in August 2005. The devastation of the tsunami was an undoubted catalyst.

The EU was instrumental in the peace process, providing financial and political backing to the efforts of former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari to broker a deal.

The agreement, signed in Helsinki on 15 August 2005, saw the sides seek a peaceful, comprehensive and sustainable solution to the conflict. The GAM leadership renounced its claim for independence and agreed to surrender its weapons and demobilise its military troops in exchange for wide-ranging political autonomy, including the right to establish local political parties, while the Government substantially withdrew security forces. Both parties recognised that monitoring the truthful implementation of the peace deal would be of utmost importance.

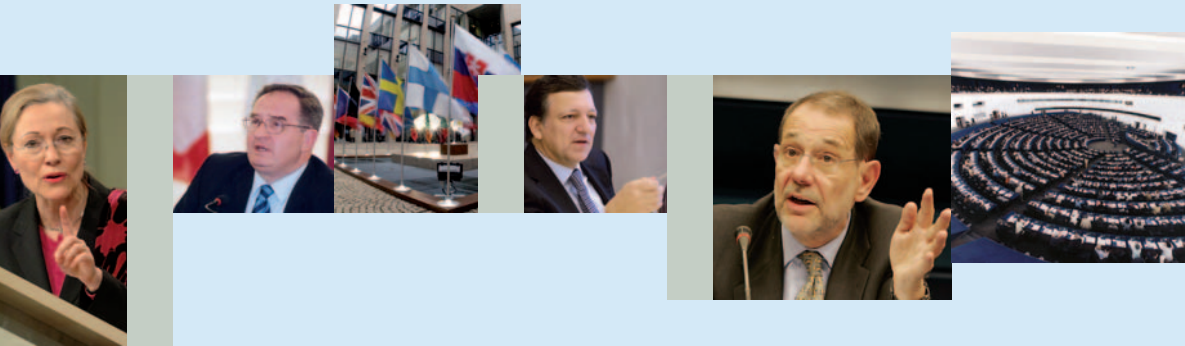
Based on an invitation by the Government of Indonesia and with the support of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) leadership, the EU proved its commitment to help the peace process. On the very day of the signing of the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding, the EU promptly deployed a monitoring presence on the ground. The civilian, 230-strong Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) successfully and pro-actively followed the implementation of the peace agreement, thus building trust and confidence between the parties. Five countries from ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) – Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand – joined the EU-led scheme, with contributions from Norway and Switzerland.

This was a landmark for the EU. No other mission has been deployed more quickly. The AMM was breaking new ground for future European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) missions with its unique mix of EU tools, drawing on both civilian and military expertise. It has significant positive implications for the EU's relations with South-East Asia.

Beyond monitoring, political, administrative and economic problems need to be addressed to sustain the peace process. Therefore, the European Commission continues its commitment, through re-integration programmes for former combatants, technical assistance and capacity-building in local governance and police training. The Government of Indonesia invited the Commission also helped stage local elections in 2006. This included an EU Election Observation Mission together with the European Parliament. The free and fair elections in the province were proving the sincerity of all stakeholders to build a new future for Aceh within the Indonesian Republic. Aceh became a symbol for the EU's ability to work for peace, and a practical example of the broad range of instruments needed in crisis management – something the EU is increasingly capable to provide.

'We have offered Indonesia a set of comprehensive measures in support of the Aceh peace process. We are happy that the full use of our toolbox contributes to a lasting peace in Aceh, and that we help Indonesia to increase security and the welfare of the population, and to protect human rights.'

Benita Ferrero-Waldner
Commissioner for External Relations
and European Neighbourhood Policy



The actors

The Council of the European Union (EU) that comprises Member State governments.

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>

The Secretary-General of the Council of the EU and the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), Javier Solana, who assists the Council and acts on its behalf.

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/solana>

The European Commission which contributes to the formulation of the EU's external relations policy and manages the EU's humanitarian and development assistance and its trade relations with third countries. It has 120 Delegations and Offices around the World.

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/

The European Commissioner, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, who is responsible for external relations and the European Neighbourhood Policy in the Commission.

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/ferrero-waldner/

The European Parliament, which has directly elected members drawn from the main political parties in the 27 EU Member States.

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/>

The President of the European Parliament's Committee for Foreign Relations, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, who is responsible for coordinating the Parliament's external relations policy and organises its election observation missions.

http://www.europarl.eu.int/committees/afet_home.htm

A

AU (see African Union)

Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) – The European Union, together with contributing countries from ASEAN, as well as Norway and Switzerland, has deployed a monitoring mission in Aceh (Indonesia). This mission was designed to monitor the implementation of various aspects of the peace agreement set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) on 15 August 2005. The AMM became operational on 15 September 2005, the date on which the decommissioning of GAM armaments and the relocation of non-organic military and policy forces began. It was concluded on 15 December 2006 following local elections in Aceh.

www.consilium.europa.eu/amm

African Peace Facility – The EU-funded African Peace Facility, worth 250 million, provides the AU and sub-regional organisations with the resources necessary to mount an effective response to the ravages caused by conflict.

<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/r12529.htm>

African Union (AU) – This is an international organisation promoting cooperation among the independent nations of Africa.

www.africa-union.org

AMIS (The African Union's peacekeeping mission in Sudan/Darfur) – The AMIS mission in the Darfur is the first peace-keeping operation carried out by the African Union (AU), and it is also a test case for the AU–EU partnership. One of the main goals of AMIS is to restore security in order to put an end to violence and atrocities against civilians as well as to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid, which remains vital for 3 million people. The EU supports AMIS through funding via the African Peace Facility and a civilian–military supporting action.

Artemis – Artemis was the first autonomous military operation of the EU, conducted in 2003 in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It was aimed, *inter alia*, at contributing to the stabilisation of the security conditions and the improvement of the humanitarian situation in Bunia in the eastern region of Ituri.

www.consilium.europa.eu/artemis

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) –

The Association was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok by the five original Member Countries, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam joined on 8 January 1984, Vietnam on 28 July 1995, Laos and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999.

<http://www.aseansec.org/64.htm>

B

Barcelona Process, The – The Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in Barcelona on 27–28 November 1995, marked the starting point of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Process), a wide framework of political, economic and social relations between the Member States of the European Union and Partners of the Southern Mediterranean.

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/euromed/

C

Cotonou Agreement, 2003 – This trade, aid and political agreement signed in Cotonou, Benin in June 2000 between the 77 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States and the EU entered into force on 1 April 2003. The partnership sets goals for the next 20 years centred on the reduction of poverty, the prevention of violent conflicts, and improved governance.

http://ec.europa.eu/development/Geographical/CotonouIntro_en.cfm

Council of the European Union, The – The Council is the EU's main decision-making body. It consists of a representative of each Member State at ministerial level. Depending on the issue on the agenda, each country will be represented by the minister responsible for that subject (foreign affairs, finance, social affairs, transport, agriculture, etc.). The presidency of the Council is held for six months by each Member State on a rotational basis. The Council defines and implements the EU's common foreign and security policy, based on guidelines set by the European Council.

www.consilium.europa.eu

E

Election Observation Mission (EOM) in Afghanistan

The EOM was set up to monitor the parliamentary elections in Afghanistan in September 2005. Working under the leadership of Ms Emma Bonino, Member of the European Parliament and its Committee on Foreign Affairs, the EOM is a further contribution by the European Commission to promote peace and democratisation in Afghanistan. Because of its democratisation and human rights policy, the European Union organise effectively several EOMs throughout the world.

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/human_rights/eu_election_ass_observ/index.htm

ENP (see European Neighbourhood Policy)

EOM (see Election Observation Mission)

ESDP (see European Security and Defence Policy)

EU (see European Union, The)

EUBAM (EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine)

– The mission was established by the EU on 2 June 2005. The aim is to create a system of border and customs controls and border surveillance, which meets European standards, as well as the legitimate needs of the citizens of each country.

www.eubam.org

EUBAM Rafah – The EUBAM Rafah mission under the European Security and Defence Policy was launched in November 2005 to monitor the operations of the Rafah border crossing point following the 'Agreement on Movement and Access' concluded between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

www.consilium.europa.eu/eubam-rafah

EUFOR ALTHEA – The EU has been conducting the military operation EUFOR ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) since 2 December 2004. The 6,500-strong operation, which followed on from the NATO-led SFOR, is the EU's largest military operation to date.

www.euforbih.org

EUFOR RD Congo – The EU conducted the military operation EUFOR RD Congo in support of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) during the election process. Deployed on the eve of the first round of elections in July 2006, it was successfully concluded on 30 November 2006.

www.consilium.europa.eu/eufor-drcongo

EUJUST LEX – Following an invitation from the Iraqi Transitional Government, the EU Council launched the EUJUST LEX integrated rule-of-law mission for Iraq on 21 February 2005. The mission consists of integrated training in the fields of management and criminal investigation, to be given to a representative group of senior officials and executive staff from the judiciary, the police and the penitentiary services. The operational phase started on 1 July 2005, and after an initial duration of 12 months was extended until the end of December 2007.

www.consilium.europa.eu/eujust-lex

EU-Moldova Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

– This agreement was signed on 28 November 1994 by the European Union and the Republic of Moldova. It aims to reinforce the relations between the EU and Moldova, as well as support the reforms in the political and economic domains in Moldova.

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/moldova/intro/index.htm

EUPM – The European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was the first mission under the European Security and Defence Policy when it was launched on 1 January 2003, following on from the UN's International Police Task Force. It seeks to establish sustainable policing arrangements under BiH ownership in accordance with best European and international practice. After an initial three-year period, a new stage of EUPM started in January 2006. The mission currently comprises some 200 international staff.

www.eupm.org

EUPOL-COPPS (EU Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories)

– The European Council established the Mission, code-named EUPOL-COPPS, in November 2005 under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). It has a long-term reform focus and provides enhanced support to the Palestinian Authority in establishing sustainable and effective policing arrangements.

www.consilium.europa.eu/eupol-copps

EUPOL Kinshasa – This is a police mission launched by the EU in 2005 in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It monitors, mentors and advises the Integrated Police Unit (IPU, see below).

www.consilium.europa.eu/eupol-kinshasa

European Commission, The – The European Commission is an institution independent of national governments. Its job is to represent and uphold the interests of the EU as a whole. It drafts proposals for new European laws, which it presents to the European Parliament and the Council. It is also the EU's executive arm – in other words, it is responsible for implementing the decisions of Parliament and the Council. That means managing the day-to-day business of the European Union: implementing its policies, running its programmes and spending its funds. Like the Parliament and Council, the European Commission was set up in the 1950s under the EU's founding treaties. http://europa.eu/institutions/inst/comm/index_en.htm

European Commission Technical Assistance Office for the West Bank and Gaza Strip (ECTAO) – The EC Technical Assistance Office to the West Bank and Gaza Strip manages the donor assistance programme to the Palestinians and plays its role in the diplomatic community associated with the West Bank and Gaza Strip along with Member States represented locally and the EUSR. <http://www.delwbg.ec.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

European Community, The (EC) – This is the present name for what was originally called the 'European Economic Community' (EEC), after the word 'Economic' had been removed from its name by the Maastricht Treaty. The six founding members founded three organisations in the 50s: the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC); the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom); and the European Economic Community (EEC). These three communities – collectively known as the 'European Communities' – formed the basis of what is today the European Union. The EEC soon became by far the most important of the three and was eventually renamed simply 'the European Community' (EC).

European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) – The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was developed in the context of the EU's 2004 enlargement, with the objective of avoiding the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and our neighbours and instead strengthening stability, security and well-being for all concerned. http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

European Parliament, The (EP) – The European Parliament (EP) represents the EU's citizens and has been directly elected by them since 1979. Its origins go back to the 1950s and the founding treaties. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) do not sit in national blocks, but in Europe-wide political groups. In January

2007, Hans-Gert Pöttering was elected President of the European Parliament for a period of two and a half years. http://europa.eu/institutions/inst/parliament/index_en.htm

European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) – Since 1999 the European Union has been developing the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) in order to strengthen the EU's ability to resolve crises. The ESDP is an element of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), which was established in 1992 in the Maastricht Treaty. Civilian and military crisis management operations have been conducted under the ESDP since 2003. www.consilium.europa.eu/esdp

European Union, The (EU) – The European Union was established under that name in 1992 by the Treaty on European Union (the Maastricht Treaty). However, its historical roots lie in the Second World War. The idea was born because Europeans were determined to prevent such killing and destruction ever happening again. In the early years, the cooperation was between six countries and mainly about trade and the economy. Now the EU embraces 27 democratic Member States from the Europe, and a total of over 490 million people. It deals with a wide range of issues of direct importance for our everyday life, from health and economic policy to foreign affairs and defence. http://europa.eu/abc/panorama/index_en.htm

EUSEC RD Congo – This is an EU advisory and assistance mission for security reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo, launched in June 2005. www.consilium.europa.eu/eusec-drcongo

I

IECI (see International Electoral Commission for Iraq)

IGAD (see Inter-Governmental Authority on Development Secretariat for Peace in Sudan)

IMF (see International Monetary Fund)

Integrated Police Unit (IPU) BiH – The IPU, with an authorised troop strength of 534, is a component of the EU's force in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the framework of operation EUFOR ALTHEA. www.euforbih.org/sheets/fs050225a.htm

Integrated Police Unit (IPU) DRC – The IPU (Unité de Police intégrée) is a 1,000 strong inter-mixed unit of the National Congolese Police (PNC). It is responsible

for the protection of the institutions and actors of the transition in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It has benefited from a programme of training and supply of equipment led by the EU and is supported by the EUPOL Kinshasa mission.

www.consilium.europa.eu/eupol-kinshasa

Intergovernmental Authority on Development Secretariat for Peace in Sudan (IGAD) – This is a regional grouping of seven East African countries: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. It was created in 1986 by the Heads of State and Government of member states as the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) following the recurrent and severe droughts and other natural disasters that caused widespread famine, ecological degradation and economic hardship in the region between 1974 and 1984. IGAD has its headquarters in Djibouti, the Republic of Djibouti.

www.igad.org/about/index.htm

International Electoral Commission for Iraq (IECI)

The IECI was set up to manage and supervise elections in Iraq. It was responsible for the preparation and organisation of elections and was authorised to take all necessary measures in order to guarantee the integrity and freedom of the elections. The Commission was formed in line with UN Security Council Resolutions 1483 and 1511, which stressed the rights of the Iraqi people to choose, in full freedom, their political future.

www.ieciraq.org/English/Frameset_english.htm

International Monetary Fund (IMF) – The IMF is an organisation of 184 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty.

www.imf.org

International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) –

The ISAF is a UN-mandated operation that functions under the auspices of NATO with Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum in charge of the overall operations. Its primary role is to support and assist the Government of Afghanistan in providing and maintaining a secure environment in order to facilitate the rebuilding of Afghanistan, the establishment of democratic structures and deepen the influence of the central government.

www.afnorth.nato.int/ISAF/

IPU (see Integrated Police Unit)

ISAF (see International Security Assistance Force)

K

Kimberley Process – The Kimberley Process is a joint government, international diamond industry and civil society initiative. Its primary aim is to stem the flow of conflict diamonds – rough diamonds that are used by rebel movements to finance wars against legitimate governments. The trade in these illicit stones has contributed to devastating conflicts in countries such as Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone. The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is an innovative, voluntary system that imposes extensive requirements on participants to certify that shipments of rough diamonds are free from conflict diamonds. The Kimberley Process has 45 participants, including the European Community.

www.kimberleyprocess.com

L

Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOFTA)

The purpose of the UNDP-administered LOTFA initiative is to finance priority police activities in Afghanistan. Under these arrangements, the Ministry of the Interior is responsible for supporting the formation of a new police force, and UNDP is entrusted with the fund management of LOTFA to address the priority activities of paying police salaries, procuring non-lethal equipment, rehabilitating police facilities, training for police and institutional development.

www.undp.org

M

MDRP (see Multicountry Demobilisation and Reintegration Program)

MDTF (see Multidonor Trust Funds)

Middle East Roadmap – The achievement of lasting peace in the Middle East is a central aim of the EU. The main objective of the road map is to find a two-state solution leading to a final and comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo, The UN (MONUC) – The UN Mission was created in 1999 following the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreements for the Democratic Republic of Congo. Currently the largest UN mission with 16,500 personnel, MONUC is placed under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. The EU intervened twice in support of MONUC, through operations Artemis in 2003 and EUFOR RD Congo in 2006.
www.monuc.org
http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/mepp/index.htm

MONUC (see Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo)

Multicountry Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP) – This is a multi-agency effort that supports the demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa. The largest programme of its kind in the world, MDRP currently targets an estimated 450,000 ex-combatants in seven countries: Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda.
http://mdrp.org/about_us.htm

Multidonor Trust Funds (MDTFs) – Such funds have been established in a number of post-conflict situations to mobilise resources and coordinate reconstruction efforts. For example, the Multi-Donor Fund for Aceh and Nias is a partnership of the international community, the Indonesian Government and civil society to support the recovery following the earthquakes and tsunami. It contributes to the recovery process by providing grants for quality investments that are based on good practice, stakeholder participation and coordination with others. In doing so, the Multi-Donor Fund seeks to reduce poverty, rebuild capacity, support good governance and enhance sustainable development.
www.mdtfans.org

N

NATO (see North Atlantic Treaty Organisation)

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) – This is an alliance of 26 countries from North America and Europe committed to fulfilling the goals of the North Atlantic Treaty signed on 4 April 1949.
<http://www.nato.int>

O

OAS (see Organization of American States)

OSCE (see Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe)

Organisation of American States (OAS) – Brings together the countries of the Western Hemisphere to strengthen cooperation and advance common interests. It is the region's premier forum for multilateral dialogue and concerted action.
www.oas.org/main/english/

Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) – With 55 participating states from Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and North America it is the largest regional security organisation in the world. It conducts a wide range of activities related to all three dimensions of security – the human, the politico-military and the economic-environmental.
www.osce.org

P

PMDI (see Palestinian Media and Development Institute)

Palestinian Media and Development Institute (PMDI) – This was established in 1994 as an NGO dedicated to the development and advancement of the Palestinian private sector. The PMDI's mission is to build the professional capabilities of the private sector through training and development and to promote business relationships among local and international stakeholders.
<http://www.pmdip.org/main.html>

Partnership and Cooperation Agreement – Various agreements with Europe and other countries to ensure their development. (See the EU-Moldova Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.)

Peace Laboratory, Colombia – This innovative programme aims to encourage the broad participation of citizens in the search for peace. It focuses on reinforcing local institutions, supporting civilian actors engaged in promoting peace and fostering economic and social development. The programme represents the first important step of the European Community within the framework of the EU Support Programme to the Peace Process in Colombia. The peace laboratory is the EU's biggest project in Colombia and is promoting

rural development in one of the worst-hit areas of the conflict, the Magdalena Medio Region. Local people, who are resisting the violence and want to create a life outside the drug economy, design and manage it. Launched in 2002, it became fully operational a year later, with activities on the ground in 13 of the 29 municipalities of the region.

http://ec.europa.eu/world/peace/geographical_themes/columbia/peace_laboratory/index_en.htm

Peace and Security Council, The – This is the body responsible for implementing and enforcing decisions taken by the African Union. It is designed in the same way as the United Nations Security Council. The 15 Member States are elected by the Assembly of the African Union.

Q

Quartet, The – The so-called Quartet comprises the US, EU, Russia and the UN. They work together to try to find solutions to the ongoing conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians.

R

RRM (Rapid Reaction Mechanism) – The Rapid Reaction Mechanism is designed to allow the Community to respond urgently to the needs of countries threatened with or undergoing severe political instability or suffering from the effects of a technological or natural disaster. Its purpose is to support measures aimed at safeguarding or re-establishing the conditions under which the partner countries of the EC can pursue their long term development goals.

S

Security Sector Reform (SSR) – This is a reform process applied in countries whose development is hampered by structural weaknesses in their security and justice sectors and often exacerbated by a lack of democratic oversight. SSR encompasses a broad variety of assistance programmes, such as: the development of norms of 'good practice' in the security sector; the control, collection and destruction of small arms; enhancing civilian control over the military; and community-based policing and justice reform.

www.isis-europe.org

T

Taliban, The – The Taliban is a Sunni strictly puritanical, Islamist movement that ruled most of Afghanistan from 1996 until 2001, and is currently engaged in a protracted guerilla war against NATO forces within Afghanistan.

U

UN Development Programme, The (UNDP) – This is the UN's global development network, an organisation advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. It is 'on the ground' in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and its wide range of partners.

www.undp.org/about/

UNDP (see UN Development Programme)

UNICEF (see United Nations Children's Fund)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) – This UN organisation advocates the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and help them reach their full potential; ensures the protection of the most disadvantaged children, for example, victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation and those with disabilities; and aims, through its country programmes, to promote the equal rights of women and girls and to support their full participation in the political, social and economic development of their communities.

www.unicef.org

United Nations Peace Building Commission – The Peace Building Commission advises and proposes integrated strategies for post-conflict recovery, focusing attention on reconstruction, institution-building and sustainable development, in countries emerging from conflict. The Commission brings together the UN's broad capacities and experience in conflict prevention, mediation, peace keeping, respect for human rights, the rule of law, humanitarian assistance, reconstruction, and long-term development.

www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/

Glossary

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

This is a subsidiary organ of the UN. The Advisory Commission meets annually to review agency activities. Its membership consists of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States (US). The EC, the League of Arab States and the Palestine Liberation Organization attend as observers.

www.un.org/unrwa/organization/index.html

United Nations Security Council – Its primary responsibility is to maintain international peace and security. It functions continuously, and a representative of each of its members must be present at all times at United Nations Headquarters. It consists of 15 members of the UN. China, France, Russia, the UK and the US are permanent members. Ten other UN members are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms as non-permanent members.

<http://www.un.org>

UNRWA (see United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East)

World Bank Trust Funds – The World Bank Group maintains multi-donor trust funds to support development priorities. The eligibility criteria and procedures for accessing these funds vary greatly.

www.worldbank.org

World Trade Organisation (WTO) – This organisation is the only global international organisation dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business.

www.wto.org

W

World Bank – The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. It is made up of two development institutions owned by 184 member countries, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA). Each institution plays a different, but supportive, role in reducing global poverty and improving living standards. The IBRD focuses on middle income and creditworthy poor countries, while the IDA focuses on the poorest countries in the world. Together they provide low-interest loans, interest-free credit and grants to developing countries for education, health, infrastructure, communications and many other purposes.

www.worldbank.org

European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)

civilian, police and military operations since 2003
EU operations and staff numbers

EUPOL PROXIMA
(former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
2004-2005 (completed)

EUPM
(Bosnia and Herzegovina)
210 international
208 national

EUFOR ALTHEA
(Bosnia and Herzegovina)
6,500 personnel
(2,500 after transition)

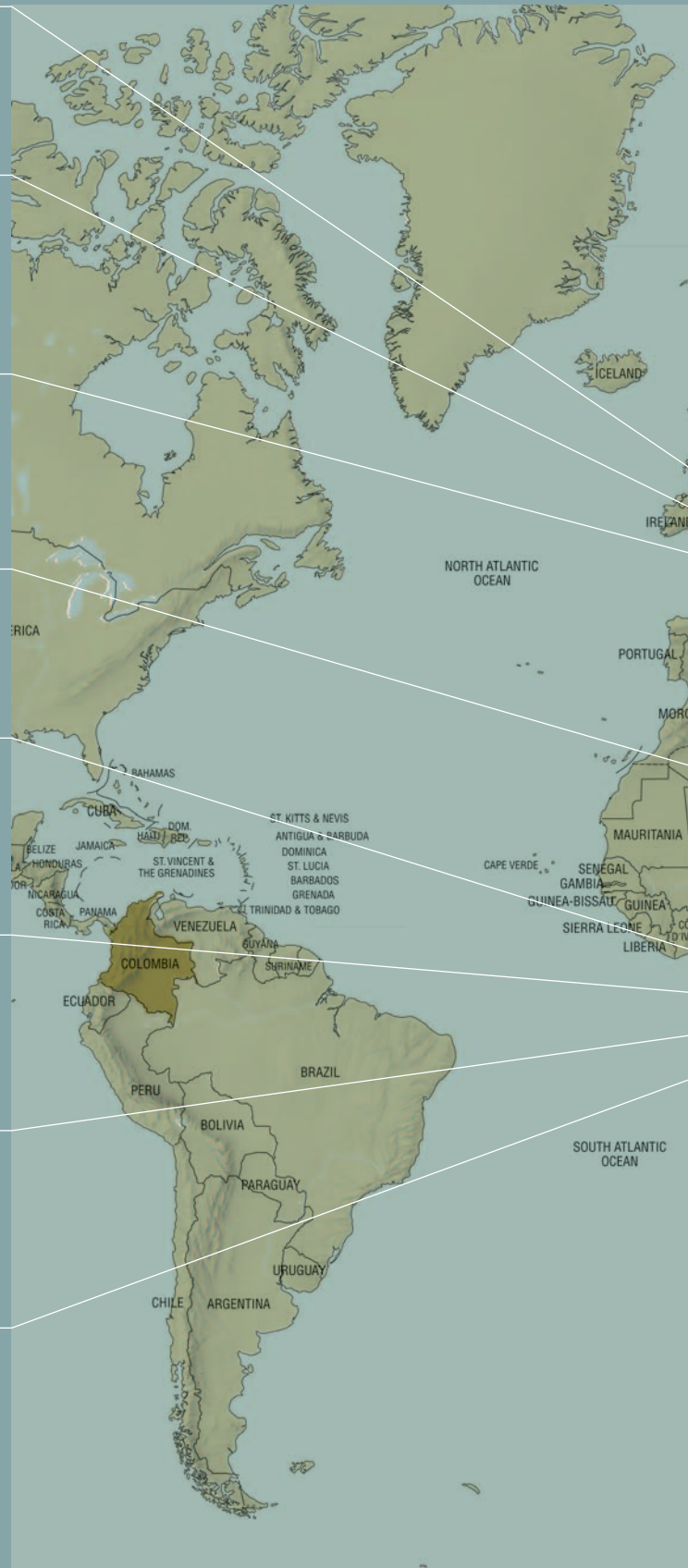
AMIS II Assistance
(Sudan/Darfur)
60 international

EUSEC DR Congo
9 international
+ EUSEC-FIN
28 personnel

EUPOL Kinshasa
(DR Congo)
27 international / 8 national
+ temporary reinforcement 38 staff

ARTEMIS
(DR Congo)
1,800 personnel
June-September 2003 (completed)

EUFOR Congo
(DR Congo)
July-November 2006
2,300 personnel
(completed)





EUPAT
(FYROM)
(completed)

CONCORDIA
(FYROM)
400 personnel
March-December 2003 (completed)

EUPAT for future ESDP
police/justice mission in Kosovo
envisaged mission of around
1,800 international personnel
(24 international, planning team)

EUJUST THEMIS
(Georgia)
2004-2005 (completed)

EUJUST-LEX
(Iraq/Brussels)
20 international

AMM Monitoring Mission
(Aceh/Indonesia)
90 international
84 national (completed)

EUBAM Rafah
(Palestinian Territories)
60 international
5 national

EUPOL COPPS
(Palestinian Territories)
14 international
3 national

EUPOL Afghanistan
160 international personnel
launch June 2007

Conflict prevention and crisis response under the Rapid Reaction Mechanism and Africa Peace Facility

Kosovo
Preparations for a future status settlement

Iraq
Post-conflict recovery

Senegal/Mauritania
Addressing illegal migration

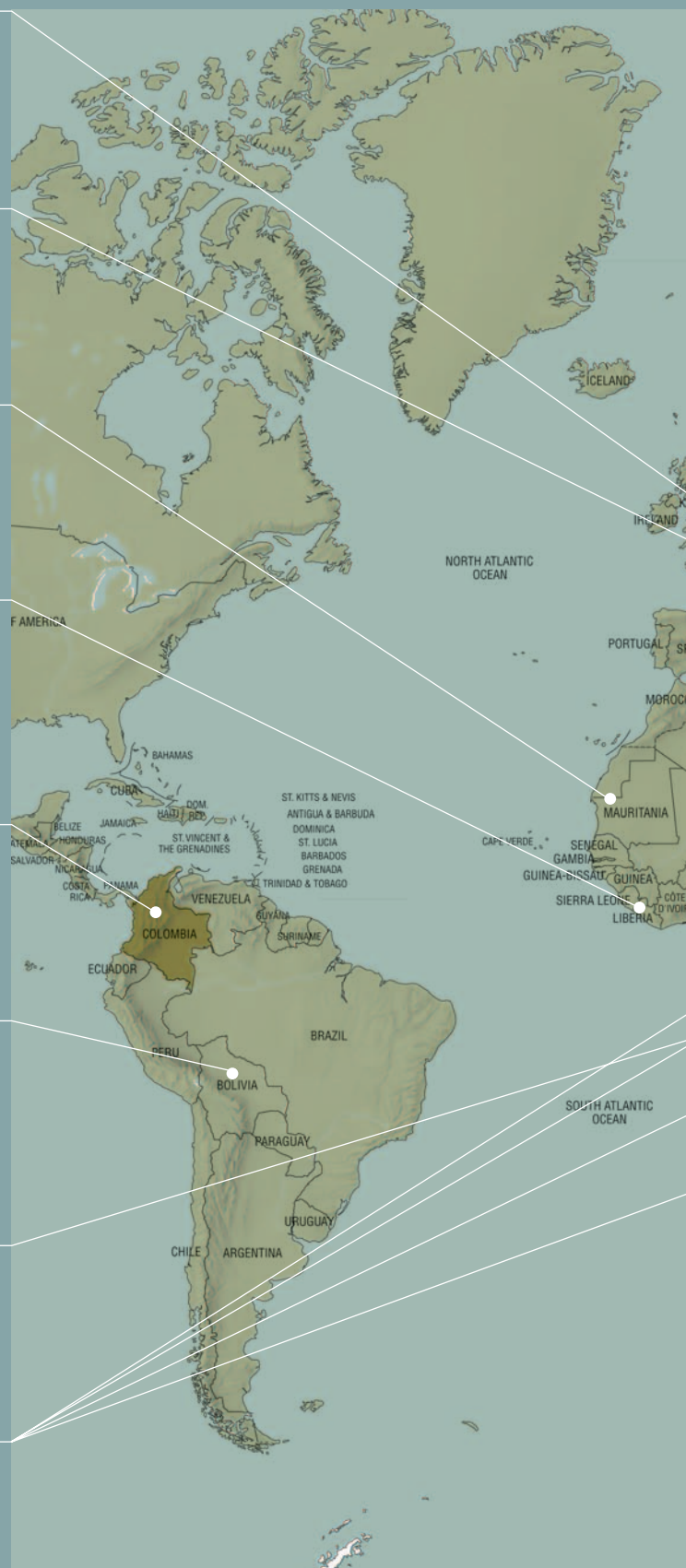
Liberia
Support to ECOWAS peacekeeping force
Police training

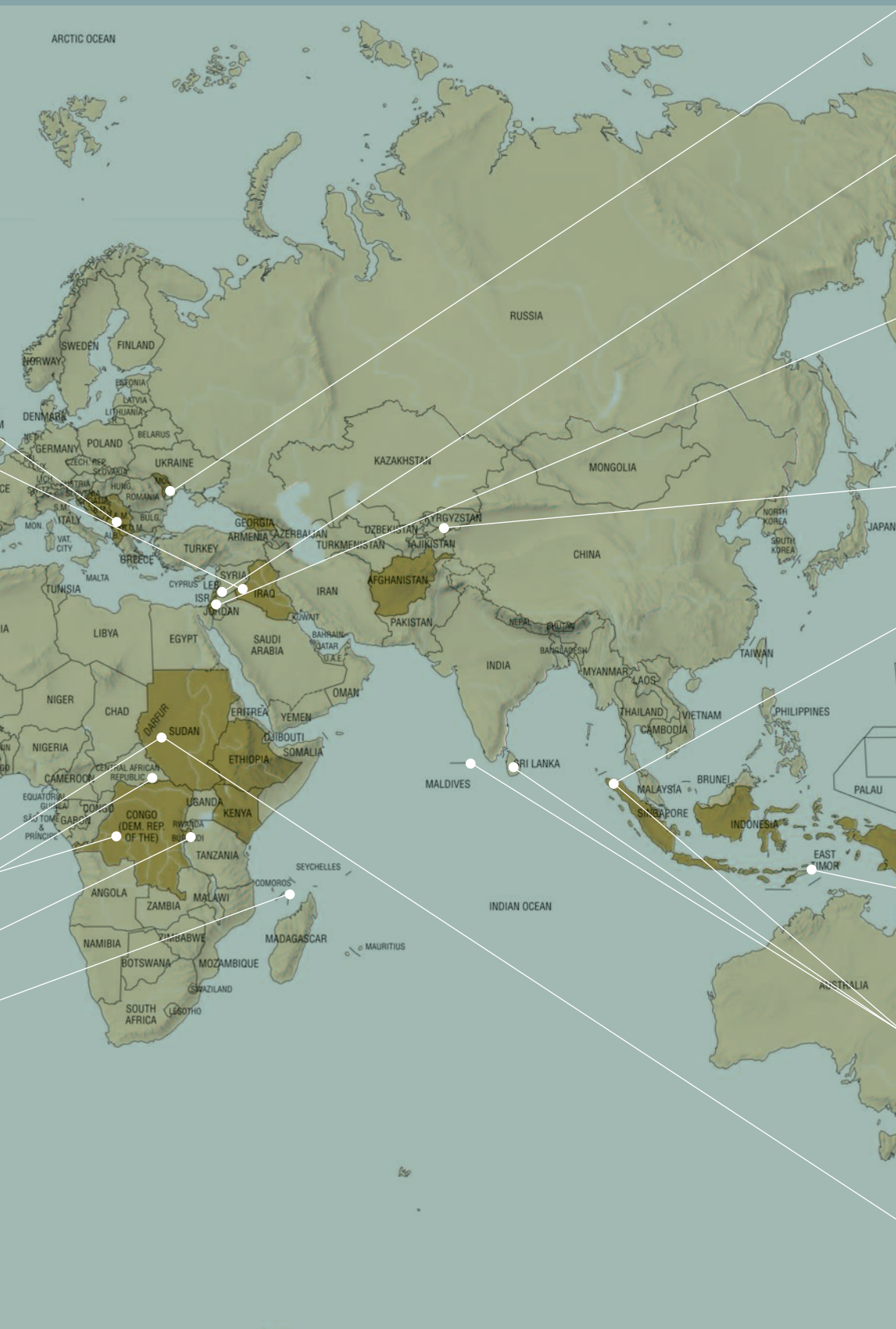
Colombia
Implementing peace and justice law

Bolivia
Consensus building
and constitutional reform

Democratic Republic of Congo
Police Reform

Africa Peace Facility
Darfur, Central African Republic,
Comoros, Burundi





Moldova
Border Assistance Mission

Lebanon
Evacuation, reconstruction planning, security system reform

Gaza
Supporting Quartet Special Envoy on Gaza disengagement

Kyrgyzstan
Parliamentary strengthening

Aceh/Indonesia
Conflict resolution and stabilisation
Peace negotiation, demobilisation and reintegration of combatants, civil society strengthening

East Timor
Post-conflict stabilisation

Sri Lanka
Maldives
Aceh
Post-tsunami recovery

Support to the Darfur
Peace mediation

Council of the European Union
European Commission

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