



The Central African Region comprises São Tomé and Príncipe and the six members of the Central African Economic Community (CEMAC): Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Brazzaville, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon.

CEMAC is a monetary and customs union that aims at further regional integration. All seven Central African countries also belong to the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC), which hosts four additional neighbouring states and is one of the regional building blocks, recognised by the AU.

Taken together, the seven countries cover an enormous geographical area – some 14% of the total area of sub-Saharan Africa. However, their population of 30 million people represents just 5% of the sub-continent's population. The countries differ in size, population, economic prosperity, poverty levels, and resource base – five are oil producers and two are not. Two of the countries are landlocked. The core of the region is situated in the second largest tropical forest area in the world.

Located in the middle of Central Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – huge in size and rich in natural resources with a relatively small population – is strategic to several regional interests. A former member of the Economic Community of the Countries of the Great Lakes (CEPGL) and of COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa), DRC is now an active member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). DRC is not a member of the Central African region however, it maintains a positive relationship to Central African Regional organisations such as CEMAC and CEEAC.

## Addressing regional challenges

The Central African region (excluding DRC) is economically weak: the GDP is €33.4 billion. At the same time, the economies are very open to the world market, with exports representing almost 40% of the regional GDP.

The political situation remains fragile and progress toward further democratisation is slow. Most of the countries have been slowly improving internally, however, regional stability greatly depends on unpredictable developments in the Central African Republic, the Sudan, and in particular, the Great Lakes region. For these reasons, CEEAC has recently received a mandate to implement a conflict prevention and crisis management mechanism.

The countries have a long history of co-operation, beginning in the colonial period and have embarked upon integration several decades ago. Under CEMAC's leadership, they are increasingly committed to economic integration as a key development strategy.

The common currency and macroeconomic dialogue have had positive impacts on the economic and political stability of the countries. The legal framework is fairly complete, however, a challenge remains in its implementation by Member States that lack the capacity to do so. A major impediment to intra-regional trade is the inadequacy of the transport network as well as transit rules.

The rural livelihood of the populations depends to a great extent on proper management of the natural resources, in particular, the tropical

forests. Both conservation and regulated use of these resources is essential to help alleviate poverty. For example, wood represents 40% of the regional non-oil exports.

## National programmes

All countries have finalised and signed 9<sup>th</sup> EDF National Indicative Programmes. Preparation for individual actions is underway from the total budget of €592 Mio.

About half (52%) of the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF national funding is directed towards the transport sector to complete national road networks as well as the key regional artery. Transport is a key sector of intervention in all countries but Equatorial Guinea. One fifth of the assistance (21%) will be in the form of macroeconomic support to Cameroon, Chad and Central African Republic. The bulk of activity in the non-focal sector (10%) will be directly or indirectly related to supporting governance, democratic structures, and the rule of law.

Countries will also benefit from an important envelope of non-programmable country allocations for emergency and humanitarian needs of €188 Mio.

Official co-operation with DRC was formally suspended in 1992. This excluded the country from benefiting from EDF regional funds. The Commission, in co-operation with NGOs, implemented rehabilitation programmes for about €200 Mio, however, some programming has been suspended due to conflicts in 1996-1997 and 1998. The major breakthrough in EU-DRC relations was the re-launch of co-operation on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2002 with the signing of the 8<sup>th</sup> EDF National Indicative Programme.

## Key regional programmes underway

CEMAC and the CEEAC are mandated to negotiate, implement and monitor the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF Regional Indicative Programme (RIP). The €55 Mio RIP was signed in Libreville in January 2003 and preparations for key programmes are underway.

EU assistance strives to help the region implement poverty reduction policies and to integrate into the world economy. Support to strengthening the institutional capacity of CEMAC to implement region's economic integration strategies and programmes are at the core of the co-operation. Synergies will be realised by reinforcing the region's capacity to negotiate EPAs. This initiative includes Sao Tomé and Príncipe, which joined CEMAC to form a negotiating region. Directly linked to further regional integration is the completion of the key transport network, which entails applying and enforcing existing legislation throughout the entire region.

The livelihood of the poorest segments of the populations is directly dependent on the natural resources, in particular forests. Efforts over the last 10 years of conserving the resource and enforcing its rational and efficient management will be continued also during the next five years.

Given the region's proclivity to frictions and conflict, co-operation will include support to the region's political processes with a view to conflict



prevention. Preparation for a programme of assistance and capacity building linked to the CEEAC early warning system is underway.

The nature of the EU's future co-operation with the region will depend on its capacity to increase stability and manage the integration process. If there is enough political will, a strong enough commitment from the individual countries and enough capability within the regional organisations to fully benefit from today's assistance, which is designed to increase and improve these very capacities, the region will be successful.

The assessment of this success will be carried out in the framework of the political dialogue as well as the mid-term and annual performance reviews stipulated under the Cotonou Agreement. This assessment process is due to begin in October 2003.

Future perspectives for national and regional DRC co-operation largely depend on progress in the peace process. The achievement of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue and the establishment of a transitional government leading up to free and fair elections will secure increased involvement of the EU.

## Humanitarian aid

ECHO first engaged in Central Africa in 1993, in response to the crisis that erupted in Burundi following the assassination of that country's first Hutu president. Many of the humanitarian needs in the Great Lakes region stem from the 1994 Rwandan genocide and the ensuing refugee crisis. Disease and malnutrition now kill more people than conflict, and ECHO focuses its support on basic health care, food and nutrition for vulnerable families.

Since 1997 most of ECHO's humanitarian interventions have shifted from Rwanda itself to its neighbours, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where sustained, complex conflict situations generate immense human suffering and population movement on a grand scale. Some 3.5 million people have been driven from their homes.

ECHO's largest humanitarian operation benefits the half million refugees from Burundi and DRC in western Tanzania.

## Case studies

### > Village water supply in Chad

Access to drinking quality water is a crucial issue in Chad where nearly eight out of ten inhabitants do not have access to clean water and some 33% of the villages (with a population of more than 300 people) do not have a water supply point.

Experts estimate that villages need 15,000 bore holes equipped with hand pumps. The nomadic population requires at least 4,000 large wells. A sectoral water policy has been established in co-operation with other donors.

Since the 1980s, the EU has allocated more than €30 Mio to this sector, allowing for the construction of about 2,000 water sources equipped with pumps, 45 drinking quality water distribution systems in the main villages, as well as the repair of approximately 100 water points. The area covered has expanded from around the capital, N'djamena, to include six regions in the west. A programme to provide more than 1,000 new water access points is being implemented.

At the same time, the regional solar programme has installed auto-functioning solar pumps in Chad, which have the added advantage of requiring little maintenance. A new programme co-financed with German and French development agencies will provide access to about 300 new points. A study is identifying further activities under the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF, including the construction of 3,400 new wells.

### > Rwanda – recovering and rebuilding

In 1994 Rwanda suffered a breakdown unequalled in recent history. The horror of the genocide was compounded by a systemic destruction of the infrastructure as the former regime fled when the Rwanda Patriotic Army took over the country and restored post-genocide rule.

Everything had to be re-created from zero, including establishing state institutions, training to replace a lost generation of professionals, and establishing a culture of justice and reconciliation.

The European Commission provided food and emergency aid too meet the needs of the majority of the populations, first refugees and later returnees. This was followed by support for rehabilitation. Two programmes for a total of €14 Mio have been the backbone of the rehabilitation effort.

One has only to compare photographs of Rwanda in 1994 and today to see the dramatic turn-about. It is now a tightly run, efficient country despite its continued severe poverty. The physical fabric is repaired, due to the dozens of individual contracts for building, rebuilding and reconstruction. In addition, the programme financed micro-projects, and through a social infrastructure project, laid the foundation for the current decentralisation programme, a centrepiece of the IMF's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.





The region of West Africa includes the 15 countries of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). ECOWAS brings together the eight countries<sup>(\*)</sup> of WAEMU (West African Economic and Monetary Union): Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Mauritania, which left ECOWAS on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2001 and is a member of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU).

WAEMU is an operational monetary union and is more advanced than ECOWAS in terms of creating an area for free trade, a customs union and a common market. ECOWAS is officially a free trade area, but it is not really effective. There is a considerable amount of progress to be made in setting up a customs union. This brings together countries of very differing size and weight with economies characterised by low levels of diversification.

Twelve of the ECOWAS countries are located on the Atlantic coast and have access to international shipping. Several obtain a considerable portion of their resources from fishing. Three countries – Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger – are landlocked while Cape Verde is an ocean archipelago located 600 km west of Senegal. Nigeria, with 127 million inhabitants, accounts for more than half of the area's total population, estimated to be about 237 million inhabitants. It also has considerable oil resources.

The states in the region have belonged to or set up numerous regional institutions, including the Permanent Inter State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahelian Zone, OHADA (Organisation for the Harmonisation of Business Law in Africa), PALOP (Portuguese Speaking African Countries), and the Manu River Union.

The two main organisations working towards economic integration are ECOWAS and WAEMU. ECOWAS as the co-ordinator of the NEPAD initiative and WAEMU are the building blocks of pan-African integration. Faced with the struggle against poverty, they have developed political programmes to promote growth in the region through better integration into the world economy.

Since 1999, ECOWAS has been working on an ambitious agenda based on creating a customs union, a common market and a monetary union. Under WAEMU, solid institution building has resulted in considerable progress in integration through the creation of a customs union, a common trade policy and advances towards creating a common market. The region is characterised by low economic and social development and a considerable portion of the population lives in extreme poverty. The economies have low levels of diversification and are centred on basic products – agriculture and livestock in all the countries, fishing in most of the coastal countries (particularly in Mauritania and Senegal), mining products (Mali, Mauritania and the Manu River Union countries) and oil (Nigeria).

The narrow economic base and the often-inadequate economic policies in response to external and internal shocks explain why some of the countries in the region are among the poorest in the world. The GDP per capita for the region as a whole is about €300. With the exception of Cape Verde, all are considered low-income countries; 11 have a per capita income lower, or scarcely higher, than US\$ 1 a day.



### Low growth rates exacerbated by external shocks

Since 1994, the average growth rate in West Africa has been more or less 3%. Countries in the WAEMU zone have benefited from the devaluation of the XOF Franc and as a result, maintained their competitiveness. The group as a whole, with the exception of the Ivory Coast and Senegal, are dependent on one or two primary resources for generating revenue. These countries continue to be very susceptible to external factors such as the change in market prices of primary resources and climatic fluctuations.

A trade balance deficit exists between West African countries and the EU. There has been no significant diversification in the export base since the 1990s.

The European Commission supports the region through a number of significant co-operation instruments, including the 9<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund and other funding instruments.

### National programmes

In the framework of the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF, 13 of the 16 countries have finalised a Country Strategy Paper and a broadly defined programme for implementing projects. The delay faced by Liberia, the Ivory Coast and Togo is due to their political situation. A total of €2.627 Mio has been programmed for the whole region. Aid will be targeted at road transport (31%) and macroeconomic support (32%).

Analysis shows the importance of these sectors for economic development, which contributes to the fight against poverty. Particular attention is also being given to sectors directly linked to the population's socio-economic development: water (10%), agriculture (6%), and health (3%). Improving governance and strengthening institutions represent about 10% of the total. The largest aid programme (€552 Mio) concerns Nigeria, where resources are focused on water and macro-economic support.

(\*)

Benin, Burkina Faso,  
Ivory Coast, Guinea-Bissau,  
Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo.



## Regional programmes

The overall aim of 9<sup>th</sup> EDF on a regional level is to contribute to strengthening the economic integration process and facilitating integration into the world economy. EU aid (€235 Mio) must be based on a pragmatic and flexible regional approach following the 'variable geometry' logic of integration at differentiated rates. These consolidate and extend accomplishments under both ECOWAS and WAEMU.

The main aim is to create an ECOWAS customs union through achieving an effective free trade zone, a common external tariff and a common trade policy. WAEMU will continue its process of reform aimed at transforming the regional market resulting from the customs union and the common trade policy into a true common market. Success will depend on true commitment and strong political will on the part of the states in the area to turn community decisions into concrete results.

Another fundamental issue the region must tackle, with European Commission support, is preparing to negotiate EPAs.

EU aid that complements investments made in national programmes is intended to support the development and implementation of a regional transport policy. On this level, activities directed towards harmonising and co-ordinating national policy as well as facilitating mobility within countries will be given priority, including exchanging and gathering information, eliminating non-physical barriers, and road safety.

Regional community aid also covers activities in the area of peace building, conflict prevention and security, in addition to promoting good governance and reinforcing political dialogue within the region.

The following sums have been allocated:

- Economic integration and aid for trade:  
50%, approximately €118 Mio.
- Transport:  
35%, approximately €82 Mio.
- Other (including conflict prevention):  
15%, approximately €35 Mio.

## Humanitarian aid

Most of the humanitarian support provided to West Africa over the past four years has been directed to Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia. Sierra Leone has received by far the largest contribution due to the civil war that has ravaged the country since the early nineties, reaching its peak in 1999 and 2000.

ECHO has provided emergency assistance to resident communities, the large number of internally displaced people and to other vulnerable groups, such as children affected by armed forces, amputees, as well as sexually abused children and adolescents

## Case studies

### > Support for transport in Benin

In October 1993, the Benin government adopted a transport development strategy including policy making, regulations and an investment programme. It also set up a road fund to ensure that maintenance could be financed.

In the past, €165 Mio from various EDFs have been granted to support this strategy, primarily for construction and upgrading 1,114 km of priority roads, enabling Benin to strengthen its role as a transit route to neighbouring countries. EU support has also focused on institutional aspects, especially the creation of the Road Fund. In 2001, the main activity concerned launching renovation programmes for 600 km of priority roads in the north at a cost of some €90 Mio.

The other objective is to open up the poorest regions by linking them to the priority network. In addition, aid in the transport sector addresses the problem of the marginalisation of an ever-increasing part of the urban population. As a result, improving access and traffic within areas of Cotonou and Porto Novo is underway using labour intensive methods to provide income to some of the poorest people. This project created an estimated 5,000 jobs over four years benefiting more than 30,000 people, taking into account workers' dependants.

An estimated total portion of the priority road network classified as poor was reduced from 40% in 1998 to 10% in 2000.





#### > A new, coherent approach in Burkina Faso

From 1997 to 2000 the Strategic Partnership for Africa (an informal group of donors under the leadership of the World Bank) carried out an exercise in Burkina Faso to study the issue of setting conditions for recipient countries for the release of aid (known as 'conditionality').

The study has been launched under the auspices of the Burkina Faso government. This new approach means entrusting the partner government with the leading role in the reform process, while donors limit their role to assessing results in the field of economic growth and poverty reduction. The results of the Conditionality Test have been largely used in the reform of the Bretton Woods Institution's instruments related to structural adjustment.

One of the major achievements of this reform has been, in the case of HIPC countries, the design of an overall development strategy reflected in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). For Burkina Faso, several donors (the European Commission, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland), agreed to operate their budgetary support in a complementary manner using the same disbursing mechanisms spelled out in the PRSP.

The idea is to reduce government transaction costs in dealing with different donors and to provide financial visibility in the medium term. The 2001 Budgetary Support for Poverty Reduction Programme included two elements of direct budgetary support. The first €5 Mio was linked to the macroeconomic framework, and has been disbursed according to the IMF review of its programme with Burkina Faso. The second €10 Mio has been disbursed based on performance on a number of indicators contained within the PRSP.

In this way, the final disbursement is linked to the effort invested and to the policy implementation and poverty reduction results in key areas of the PRSP. Achievements thus far are modest, but the process has been launched and the stakeholders and responsibilities are now clearly defined.

#### > Support to the health sector in Ghana

In 1995 the Ministry of Health of Ghana, unhappy with results from multiple vertical projects each with its own plans and procedures, embarked on a sectoral wide approach. Through a participatory process, a medium-term health strategy was adopted in 1996 and translated into a five-year work programme, agreed with partners and setting out policy, implementation strategies, and resources.

The European Commission joined this process in 1998 by contributing to the multi-donor fund and actively participating in the policy dialogue with government, civil society and donors. Common management arrangements, such as monitoring, were agreed.

In 2001, it became obvious that despite a budget limited to about €7 per capita and continuing severe conditions, the population's health was improving. For example, it reported the lowest infant mortality rate in West Africa and 72.2% of DPT3 (diphtheria, polio and tetanus) immunisation coverage. At this speed of change, Ghana is one of the best performers in the ACP region.

The results are very encouraging. This type of collaboration may prove to be one of the most efficient in delivering health outcomes to benefit the population.

## EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA



The regional setting for EU support to Eastern and Southern Africa has changed over the various co-operation agreements. Under the successive Lomé Conventions there were three regional programmes: Eastern Africa, Southern Africa (South African Development Community members) and the Indian Ocean. Significant changes were introduced under the Cotonou Agreement, under which regional organisations with an economic integration mandate are privileged partners for regional co-operation support

## A different geographical configuration

As a result, the geographical configuration for regional co-operation in Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (ESA region) is different for the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF. The new ESA region comprises the combined ACP membership of four regional organisations: the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the East African Community (EAC) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).

This programme covers the former regions of Eastern Africa and the Indian Ocean plus the COMESA members of Southern Africa. The regional programme for SADC is maintained. Several countries of Eastern and Southern Africa participate in two regional programmes due to overlapping organisations.

EU support to Eastern and Southern Africa under the Cotonou Agreement, both national and regional, is reflected in table below. Support to South Africa is provided in the framework of the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development (EPRD). The total amount made available under these programmes is about €5 billion. Further funding is made available under the Investment Facility managed by the European Investment Bank.

The programme for the Eastern African Region under the successive Lomé Conventions comprised 10 countries: Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Under the Cotonou Agreement the region of East Africa has been enlarged and now covers 21 countries: Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## EU support to Eastern and Southern Africa according to the Cotonou Agreement\* (€ Mio for the period 2002-2007)

\* Support to South Africa is provided under the EPRD

\*\* Under preparation

Countries	Education/ Human Resources	Transport/ other infrastructure	Mining sector	Agricult./ Natural Resources	Econ. integration	Water	Good Governance	Macro econ. Supp.	Other	Non focal sectors	Total alloc envelope A and sysmin	Envelope B	Total General A+B
Angola		90	29				21			6	146	29	175
Botswana	31		30							8	69	22	91
Burundi **				56.75			17.25	31.5		9.5	115	57	172
Comoros	16									4	20	7.3	27.3
Djibouti						13		12.8		3.2	29	5.8	34.8
DR Congo											171	34	205
Eritrea		60							20 (A)	8	88	8.8	96.8
Ethiopia		211						96	54 (B)	23	384	154	538
Kenya											170	55	225
Lesotho		17				17		43		9	86	24	110
Madagascar		135		60				60		12	267	60	327
Malawi		90	60					70		56	276	69	345
Mauritius				28						5	33	1.6	34.6
Mozambique		80		25				140		29	274	58	332
Namibia	15		25	28						5	73	18	91
Rwanda				62				50		12	124	62	186
Seychelles				3						0.9	3.9	0.8	4.7
Somalia									149 (C)		149		149
Sudan	54								54 (B)	27	135	20	155
Swaziland	20									13	33	12	45
Tanzania	44	116					30	100			290	65	355
Uganda		93.5		36.9				93.5		22.1	246	117	363
Zambia		90	9				40	90		20	249	102	351
Zimbabwe											N/A		
Total National	180	982.5	153	299.65	0	30	108.25	786.8	277	272.7	3430.9	982.3	4413.2
Regional SADC		40			40					21	101		101
Regional ESA		45		45.00	100					33	223		223
Total Regional		85		45	140					54	324		324
<b>TOTAL GENERAL</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>1067.5</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>344.65</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>108.25</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>326.7</b>	<b>3754.9</b>	<b>982.3</b>	<b>4737.2</b>



Four organisations have been mandated to implement the regional programmes:

- COMESA focuses on strengthening outward-oriented regional integration within the framework of WTO through promoting cross-border trade and investment. COMESA also has programmes in trade and transport facilitation, trade in services, free movement of persons and investment.
- EAC aims to establish a customs union, followed by a common market, a monetary union and ultimately a political federation. EAC has co-operation activities in political, economic, social and cultural fields, research and technology, defence, security and legal and judicial affairs.
- IGAD's original mandate was to combat drought and desertification and achieve food security. Today, conflict prevention, management and resolution is a priority area, as well as policy harmonisation to eliminate physical and non-physical barriers to trade. The promotion of regional economic integration is also a priority.
- The IOC comprises four ACP countries and France on behalf of its overseas department of Reunion. Its regional integration programme pays particular attention to the vulnerability of small island economies.

### **Governance issues a major concern**

The region's political situation has been improving over the last years and the majority of the countries are now multiparty democracies. However, despite these improvements, governance issues remain a major concern to foreign investors.

Human rights records show an improvement of the situation in many countries, but abuses still occur. In addition, the internal and cross-border conflicts and border disputes have had a major impact upon the economies and populations of the region. However, several conflicts in the region have ended and further political dialogue is underway to stabilise the situation.

### **Small national markets need development**

The regional economy is characterised by small national markets including landlocked countries and small islands. Economic growth will almost certainly be based on increased export earnings. These can only be obtained by diversifying the export base, reducing costs of doing business (transport, communications), increasing production in an environmentally sustainable manner, improving standards and quality, and increasing market share both in existing markets and by exporting into new markets.



### **Health sector improvements needed**

Indicators show that there is still a strong need to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the health sector. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has had a major impact throughout the region on almost all economic and social indicators and will further reduce the region's capacity to develop economically.

Availability of safe water and sanitation is also still a major problem as rates of access to potable water can be as low as about a quarter of a country's population.

### **The EU response**

The EU response involves a number of different instruments such as the NIP and RIP in the context of the Cotonou Agreement. Additional allocations, notably in the area of food security and humanitarian aid are very significant in certain conflict and disaster prone areas.

#### **National support**

The EU response in the context of the NIPs is summarised in table page 29. The bulk of the support is concentrated in the transport sector and other infrastructure projects as well as macroeconomic support. The response also addresses country-specific problems. For example Ethiopia and Sudan have earmarked significant allocations to food security. In Eritrea an important amount is foreseen for the demobilisation/reintegration of soldiers. Somalia's special situation calls for multi-sectoral programmes.

#### **Regional support**

The EU response supports the policy agendas of the regional organisations in areas such as economic integration and trade, political co-operation, transport, natural resources and agriculture. Regional economic integration enables countries to pursue economic liberalisation policies at a regional level within the WTO framework, which should help producers obtain improved market access and attract investment.

Programmes in transport and communications aim at reducing costs primarily through improved use of existing infrastructure and services. This facilitates economic integration as well as the region's integration into the world economy. Non-focal areas include programmes in conflict prevention, resolution and management, capacity building, higher education and culture. Involvement of non-state actors is considered a permanent process in development and crosscutting issues such as environment, capacity building and gender will be mainstreamed in all programmes.





## Opportunities and threats

The medium-term outlook of the region contains substantial opportunities but also a number of threats. New trade arrangements such as the Everything But Arms Initiative of the EU provide significantly improved market access for the LDCs of the region.

The recently launched negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements and the multilateral trade negotiations in the context of the Doha Development Agenda represent frameworks in which development concerns will be of utmost importance.

However, the region will only reap the benefits from these opportunities if substantial work is done. The inconsistencies built into the various regional trade accords must be resolved, economic reforms are to be locked-in, an increased and more diversified production and trade capacity is to be developed.

## Humanitarian aid

ECHO has been responding to emergency needs in Eastern Africa (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan) and Southern Africa since it was established in 1992. Sudan and Somalia both benefit from large ECHO programmes due to their long running conflicts. Large numbers of Sudanese are still dependent on emergency relief aid after almost 20 years of civil war. The long-term conflict has killed more than 2 million people and has forced the displacement of about another 4 million.

Over the past three years, ECHO has provided €31.4 Mio of humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia and €16.8 Mio to Eritrea. Most of these funds were used to help people affected by the two and a half-year border war between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

ECHO also supported those affected by the consequences of civil war in Northern Uganda as well as the 1999-2002 drought in Northern Kenya.

## Case studies

### > Sustainable agriculture and livestock rearing in Kenya

The Agriculture/Livestock Research Support Programme (ARSP), Phase II, is a €8.3 Mio five-year support programme under the Kenyan National Agricultural Research Project launched in 1998. ARSP's goal is to enhance the economic integration of rural communities, particularly in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL), with the rest of the country's economy.

The programme aims at ensuring that private and public sector ASAL field workers, as well as community based organisations, make more effective use of research recommendations to offer cattle farmers and other farmers sound and socially acceptable technologies and concepts.

EU contributions, together with other donors, consist of operational funds for research and capacity building, improved infrastructure, scientific as well as transport equipment and short- and long-term

technical advisory services. This has resulted in a more efficient agricultural research capacity, particularly in the Kenyan ASAL. Adaptive and applied research programmes focus on soil and water management, livestock and natural resource management in the mostly arid rangelands.

The programme also aims at providing sustainable solutions using a community-based and gender sensitive approach, with strong collaboration with NGOs and government field workers. Collaborative agreements with community based organisations and NGOs on promoting recommended technologies and training during their introduction enhance adaptation and adoption on a wider scale.

This has led to the establishment of three small-scale dairy units at strategic centres in the northern Kenyan range lands supplying about 50,000 people with hygienic fresh and processed cow and camel milk products. At the same time, food security and sustainable incomes (particularly for women) have increased for these ASAL communities.

With improved tillage and drainage technology about 2.4 million hectares of poorly drained heavy soils can now be used for timely agricultural production. An early planting tool was simultaneously developed to increase farmers' chances of a healthy crop in the semi-arid areas.

The programme has raised awareness among pastoral and semi-pastoral communities about the strategic importance of preserving Kenya's animal genetic resources, which are highly adapted to the harsh conditions and disease pressure, notably the approximately five million East African Shorthorn Zebu cattle.

### > Improved fisheries management at Lake Victoria

The fisheries of Lake Victoria have an annual production of 500,000 tons of fish, of which 100,000 tons are exported, to western markets. As such, it plays an important role in the economic development of the region. The second phase of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Research project (started in 1995 with €9.4 Mio) has fostered regional co-operation between Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania through the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation.

Upgrading facilities and vessels, training 150 research staff and providing 12 long-term overseas scholarships have enhanced the research capacity of the three local research institutions. The project has helped improve the sustainable management of the lake's resources. A Joint Fisheries Management Plan is under discussion.





The EU has had relations with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) since the 1980s when it was known as the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference. Today, SADC's members include 14 countries covering an area of some 9,277 million km<sup>2</sup> with a population of approximately 200 million: Angola, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

All are signatories of the Cotonou Agreement and, with the exception of South Africa, are EDF beneficiaries. South Africa has access to development co-operation funding under the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development (EPRD). SADC's agenda is for a development integration approach that recognises the political and economic diversities of the countries, including diverse production structures, trade patterns, resource endowments, development priorities, institutional affiliations and resource allocation mechanisms.

It addresses many of the production, infrastructure and efficiency barriers arising from the underdevelopment of the region. This approach also has the advantage of complementing trade liberalisation with sustainable corrective measures designed to cushion the least developed member countries against shocks arising from removing trade barriers. It further allows SADC member countries to define the scope and sectors of co-operation and to identify appropriate strategies and mechanisms to overcome impediments to integration and to address regional imbalances among members' economies.

## **Different stages of development**

SADC's members are at different stages of development ranging from highly to least developed. The aggregate GDP (2001) of the region is about €25 billion. South Africa, the largest and most dominant economy in the region, contributes approximately 75% of the total GDP. The levels and rates of growth of human development, as measured through the Human Development Index (HDI), vary and fluctuate: the average HDI for the region during the late 1990s was about 0.54 in comparison to 0.57 in the mid 1990s.

On average, the region has achieved positive GDP growth rates (4.8%) since 1996 but there was a slow-down from 1997 to 2000. However, the region has not managed to grow at a rate that is above the average of sub-Saharan Africa. Nor has economic growth enabled the region to tackle poverty reduction, especially as population growth is about 2.6%.

The poor state of social and human development is further reflected in low-income levels. Available statistics indicate about 70% of the population subsist below the international poverty line of US\$2 per day, while 40% or 76 million people live on the international poverty line of US\$1 per day.

## **Democracy, rule of law and governance**

Almost all countries are either long-term or nascent multiparty democracies. Swaziland has a universal adult franchise based on the democratic selection of parliamentary candidates centred on the monarchy and the traditional chiefs. The majority of the parliaments or national assemblies consist of one chamber although two (Botswana and Swaziland) follow the bicameral system.

The rule of law is almost universally based on three systems: the constitutional legal system in conjunction with traditional/customary or religious law. Only Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa have abolished the death penalty although a de facto moratorium exists in most other countries.

Attention is paid to governance issues and the consolidation of democracy, respect for the rule of law and human rights, as well as peace and stability. Reforms in the constitutional, political and electoral systems to make them participatory, transparent, accountable, inclusive and predictable are implemented across the region. This is reflected in the holding of periodic general elections in a number of countries. At the same time, the need for, and the extent of, the implementation of reforms vary between countries.

In addition to the bilateral relationship with many EU Member States, the countries benefit from strong development co-operation, trade and political dialogue links within the framework of the Cotonou Agreement and in the case of South Africa, the Trade and Development Co-operation Agreement (TDCA).



## The EU response

The total amount of the programmed funding available under the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF is some €2,330 billion with an additional €515 Mio (for the years 2003-2006) for South Africa under the EPRD. In addition all countries will be eligible for funding under the new Investment Facility.

South Africa has established a Free Trade Agreement with the EU. The other 13 countries benefit from non-reciprocal trade preferences under the Cotonou Agreement until 2008, which also foresees the establishment of EPAs on a regional basis. LDCs of the region benefit already now from improved market access under new trade arrangements such as the Everything But Arms Initiative of the EU.

In addition to political dialogue with individual countries as provided under the Cotonou Agreement, the region through SADC maintains a regular dialogue with the EU under the Berlin Initiative, where a wide range of matters of mutual interest are discussed.

### Beyond development co-operation

Development co-operation is only one aspect of EU-South Africa relations framed by the TDCA, which progressively implements the full free trade area and provides for economic, social and cultural co-operation in numerous areas. South Africa and Europe are also working together in the scientific field through the Science and Technology Agreement and both sides have concluded agreements for trade in wine and spirits.

### Support for regional programmes

The EU has been supporting SADC's regional integration agenda since its initial establishment as the Southern African Development Coordination Conference in 1979. The SADC Programme of Action covers co-operation in several economic and social sectors and has implemented several infrastructure and other projects. SADC has also developed protocols in a number of areas that provide the legal framework for co-operation among members.

The EDF has been a major source of support to SADC's Secretariat and Programme of Action since the early 1980s. Within the framework of the 6<sup>th</sup> (€141 Mio), 7<sup>th</sup> (€130 Mio) and 8<sup>th</sup> (€121 Mio) EDFs, SADC received a total of €392 Mio under RIPs.

Under the 9<sup>th</sup> EDF, SADC and the EU have agreed that the €101 Mio of support will focus on two sectors: regional integration and trade, as well as transport and communications, will each receive between 35%-45%, with up to 20% reserved for other programmes.

A number of crosscutting issues will be considered when designing specific projects and programmes to be implemented under RIP, including gender issues, capacity building and environment. In particular, the importance of peace and security are a necessary prerequisite to regional integration. Mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS and the involvement of non-state actors, including local government, in the preparation and implementation of projects will also be encouraged.

## Humanitarian aid

Until recently, the European Commission was only involved in humanitarian aid operations in Southern Africa in response to local disasters and on a temporary basis. One such targeted intervention was ECHO's response to the catastrophic floods in Mozambique in 2000. The notable exception to this ad hoc approach in Southern Africa is Angola. After more than 30 years of war, the need of humanitarian aid is great, despite the peace process that began in April 2002. Since 1993, ECHO has provided more than €135 Mio.

With the onset of the humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe and neighbouring countries in 2002, ECHO has substantially expanded its assistance to the region to about €50 Mio.





## Case studies

### > Addressing famine and health in Zambia

Experts agree that there is a strong correlation between serious malnutrition and increased incidence of communicable diseases. One of the lessons learned from the 1992 Southern African drought is that it is important to strengthen the delivery of health services at district level in affected areas.

The EU contributes substantially to the multi-donor District Health Basket Fund. This programme has proved to be an effective way of channelling additional support to the health system in affected areas, thereby avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort. In addition, the European Commission decided to make additional funds rapidly available to provide free medical coverage to Zambians living in the famine afflicted areas. In December 2002 an additional contribution representing 17.5% of the initial agreed amount was approved for this health fund on the following basis:

- a one-off contribution of €700,000 would be disbursed immediately upon request;
- the contribution targets only districts affected by the 2002-2003 food crisis, that is about 38 districts;
- the amount compensates District Health Boards for granting medical fees exemptions for the duration of the crisis and also covers the purchase of drugs and equipment beyond the current ceilings in force.

### > Human rights and democracy education

The EU provides support for the Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa. This degree programme educates young professionals at postgraduate level, providing academic training in standards, institutions and mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights and democracy. It offers the research skills and operational tools necessary to prepare graduates for work and emphasises a regional approach to human rights education.

Thirty students from numerous African countries will participate, spending the first six months of the year as a group at the Centre for Human Rights in Pretoria to attend advanced lectures on human rights. They are split up into four groups that are placed with the participating universities for the last six months of the year.

Participating universities include the Centre for Human Rights at Pretoria University, Makerere University in Uganda, the University of the Western Cape (South Africa), the University of Ghana, and the Catholic University of Central Africa (Cameroon). The European Commission has allocated €1.3 Mio to this project.



# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Fine thanks How are you?  
Fine thanks, but I was eage  
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## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

### THE BURDEN OF DEBT



The magnitude of the burden imposed by the service of external debt on many African countries hampers their development prospects. The solution of the debt crisis is a precondition for the fight against poverty and for sustainable development.

One of the proposed solutions to help relieve the debt burden of the poorest countries that make adjustment efforts was the launching of the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative in September 1996. Out of the 42 countries eligible for the initiative, 34 are located in sub-Saharan Africa. This initiative represents a co-ordinated effort by all donors, including in particular multilateral creditors that normally do not provide debt relief.

#### Faster, deeper and broader debt relief

At the G-7 Cologne summit in July 1999, Ministers agreed to an expanded initiative that will provide 'faster, deeper and broader debt relief,' introducing the possibility of providing debt relief immediately after having entered the initiative and establishing a closer link to poverty reduction.

HIPC proved to be successful as it will reduce the stock of external debt of the 26 countries that have so far benefited from the initiative by almost half in NPV (Net Present Value) terms. In combination with the other co-ordinated debt reduction mechanisms, their debt will be reduced by about two thirds, at levels below the overall developing country average. Annual debt service ratios will be brought down by 40-45%.

The EU has contributed more than €1.275 billion to HIPC. To fulfil its obligations as a creditor, €485 Mio has been set aside. An additional €60 Mio, again as a creditor, has been earmarked for the total relief of all special loans granted to least developed ACP countries that benefit from the HIPC initiative.

As a donor, the EU has disbursed €734 Mio to the HIPC Trust Fund, which was established in 1996 to help finance multilateral banks' debt relief. The EU's contribution is mainly earmarked to assist the African Development Bank. Of this amount €680 Mio is for ACP countries and €54 Mio for Latin American and Asian countries.

#### Challenges ahead

The current initiative still faces some important challenges, including:

- the need to ensure it is fully financed, in particular it is crucial to ensure all creditors participate to the common effort;
- the need to maintain and strengthen the link between debt relief and nationally determined poverty reduction strategies;
- the need for African countries to receive increased technical assistance and capacity building support in the area of public expenditure and debt management.

The initiative frees national budgetary resources in the context of nationally owned poverty reduction strategies. The EU strongly supports the view that tracking of HIPC-funded expenditure should be seen as an integral part of the overall assessment of poverty related public expenditures and not as a one-off exercise.

In Monterrey (Mexico, March 2002), the international donor and creditor community acknowledged the need to ensure adequate additional external financing on concessional terms. Another broadly shared need is to collectively look deeper into the issue of maintaining debt sustainability in the long term and beyond the HIPC initiative framework.

Different constituencies, including NGOs, academics, and the AU, have repeatedly called for the extension of the debt relief to a deeper level and to larger groupings of countries, including some middle-income countries.

The Commission supports the idea of looking at the different possibilities of further initiatives and plans to fund an independent study on the matter. However the following dimensions will have to be carefully assessed:

- Aid allocation and financing: allowing middle-income countries into the picture risks diverting already scarce resources from the poorest ones. The difficulties experienced in the full financing of the current initiative should be borne in mind.
- Moral hazard: a broadening of the countries eligible could encourage others not to service their debt.
- Governance/poverty reduction effects: to ensure a real impact of this kind of support, a permanent dialogue and an effective monitoring of the results of these policies have to be established and continued.

The EU is seeking to obtain a formal, strong, political commitment from all stakeholders to continue discussions on possible ways of ensuring the long-term sustainability of external debt for all African countries.



## PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION



The activities in the field of peace building, conflict prevention and resolution shall in particular include support for balancing political, economic, social and cultural opportunities among all segments of society.

### The new pan-African framework for peace and security

Both AU and NEPAD have set up significant institutional schemes and operational proposals related to peace and security. In Durban in 2002, the AU leaders decided to set up a Peace and Security Council supported by the new AU Commission, a Panel of the Wise, a continental early warning system, an African stand-by force and a special Fund.

NEPAD's peace and security programme provides a conceptual framework and a set of priority actions to be implemented at both the pan-African level (AU) and the sub-regional organisations, generally called Regional Economic Communities (REC).

### EU conflict prevention policy in Africa

EU policy in this domain has been framed in the Common Position on Conflict Prevention in Africa, which ties together all main instruments at the EU's disposal in Africa: development and economic co-operation, commercial and diplomatic relations, also including support to African Peace-Keeping capabilities.

Other EU related activities in this field include the establishment of the European Commission Rapid Reaction Mechanism (RRM) – €25 Mio in 2002 and €30 Mio in 2003. It has allowed the European Commission to provide immediate and concrete short-term assistance.

### The EU-Africa dialogue: prospects in the field of peace and security

This area has been one of consensus building between Europeans and Africans in the course of the last two years and has been described as a 'model case' for enhanced Europe-Africa co-operation. Concrete areas of dialogue have been identified among which the establishment of an inventory of institutions and the strengthening of African capacities in the area of early warning and preventive diplomacy.

The most tangible European response to the AU's new peace and security agenda as a first contribution lies with the preparation of a programme (€12 Mio/9<sup>th</sup> EDF) to support peace building and transition activities. This programme's prime objective (€10 Mio) is to fund the operational activities of the Peace and Security Council (special envoys, mediation/facilitation activities, AU elections observations), while €2 Mio is earmarked for AU capacity building in the transition period.

This programme equally entails a dimension of regular, Addis-based dialogue and co-ordination between donors and the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security to increase the effectiveness of donor assistance, streamline donor's procedures and requirements, as well as identify gaps, needs and priorities for donor support programs. This process could be equally useful for the implementation of the G8 action plan in support of African Peace operations. It would enable donors, starting with the EU, to identify and mobilise a more sizeable support package to the new AU peace and security mechanisms.

### Recent Rapid Reaction Mechanism (RRM) commitments in Africa

2002	2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A contribution to the UNMEE Trust Fund for de-mining</li> <li>• A contribution to Sudan/Nuba mountains de-mining</li> <li>• Support for ECOWAS mediation in Ivory Coast</li> <li>• Deployment of AU envoy in the Central African Republic</li> <li>• Financing of peace talks in DRC and Somalia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deployment of AU observers in Burundi in March</li> <li>• Support for the UNDP-led disarmament of combatants in Congo Brazzaville</li> </ul>





The EU-Africa dialogue on human rights, democracy and good governance has focused on three main areas:

- The fight against human trafficking.
- Support to African institutions.
- Good governance and fighting corruption, including the return of illegally acquired public money lodged in foreign banks.

### **Fight against trafficking in human beings**

A draft Plan of Action was a first step forward in addressing this issue. The Plan contains general principles as well as proposals for concrete measures in the field of prevention and awareness-raising, victim protection and assistance, legislative framework, policy development, law enforcement and co-operation and on-the-spot co-ordination.

Actions developed within the plan's framework should, as far as possible, be made known to actors from law enforcement, so as to be reflected in activities supported through the existing EU funded programmes in the area of Justice and Home Affairs.

### **Support to African institutions**

A preliminary programme for democracy, governance and human rights for the period 2002-2003 has recently been presented to the EU. This programme aims first to implement the various commitments made by AU countries in a number of legal and policy documents such as the Constitutive Act or the AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa.

The programme's second aim is to provide support to establishing and strengthening the institutions' dealing with democracy, governance and human rights. Strengthening institutions like the Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court of Justice is all the more important as they are to assume greater responsibility within the framework of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

The programme received EU support at the Ouagadougou Ministerial Conference in November 2002.

### **The fight against corruption**

The fight against corruption, investigation and return of illegally acquired public money lodged in foreign banks is part of the broader and major theme of economic governance. Since the Cairo Summit considerable efforts have been made by African states to establish a legal and policy framework (adoption by the AU of the NEPAD Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance).

The recently adopted AU Convention against Corruption and the Algiers Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism contain provisions on the financial aspects of terrorism and provide more specific legal measures. At the same time, a number of initiatives are underway at regional level to set up and develop regional anti-money laundering initiatives linked to the work of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

At multilateral level, further progress is expected through the UN, which is currently preparing the UN Convention Against Corruption, which will contain a specific provision on the recovery of illicit (State) funds.

At the Ouagadougou Ministerial Conference, African states expressed 'readiness to deal with corruption' and called on the EU 'to co-operate on the implementation of the African decisions' and 'to engage in concrete co-operation action in this field and proposed specific actions.'

In view of this new legal and policy framework, the issue of illegally acquired money, estimated to equal more than half of Africa's external debt and lodged primarily in foreign banks, represents an integral part of progress to be achieved in the field of economic governance and mutual accountability. The Bi-Regional Group should take concrete steps to develop and strengthen co-operation in this field.



To fight poverty in developing countries, the EU carries out a range of policy actions in relation to human and social development. The rationale behind this is that equitable access to basic social services is vital to reducing poverty.

Intervention is two-pronged: health, AIDS and population as well as education and training. Achieving gender equality is underlying the EU health and education policies. In social development, the European Commission works with the private sector and other stakeholders in the areas of corporate social responsibility and respect for core labour standards as defined by the International Labour Organization.

## Health, AIDS and population

Health is a key determinant of economic growth and development; illness is both a major cause and result of poverty. The European Commission's policy document, Health and Poverty Reduction in Developing Countries, provides a single policy framework to guide the EU in its activities and investments in health in developing countries while contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The EU Programme for Accelerated Action on HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis clearly spells out policies in the areas of development co-operation, trade and research. Policy on reproductive and sexual health in developing countries is firmly based on the principles agreed at the International Conference on Population and Development (1994) and five years later at Cairo+5.

### How are these policies implemented in Africa?

The EU supports health activities in Africa in several ways. First, through country and regional programmes, where financial support is channelled directly to health projects or through sector or to macroeconomic budget support. Second, specific budget lines are available including two that fund innovative initiatives on the main poverty related diseases (AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis) and in reproductive and sexual health.

In addition, the European Commission contributes to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and is an active board member.

## Education and training

The fundamental importance of education to reduce poverty is recognised by the Millennium Development Goals, which set two ambitious targets. First, the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI) aims to give all children a full primary education by 2015. Second, gender disparity should be eliminated in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and for all levels of education by 2015 at the latest.

The EU's commitment to achieving the education MDGs is demonstrated by its strong support for the FTI. Launched by the World Bank in April 2002, it aims to help an initial group of 23 countries with sound policies to achieve the education MDGs through additional financial support and improved co-ordination amongst donors. This group includes 13 African countries: Burkina Faso, DRC, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. In November 2002, donors agreed to finance the FTI proposals from a first group of seven countries, including Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mauritania and Niger. The additional funds needed to carry out the FTI proposals for these countries are estimated to be about €400 Mio between 2003 and 2005.

The EU fully supports this worldwide focus on basic education and gender equality. This is reflected in the document that defines the EU policy in the field of education and training in developing countries: a European Commission Communication on Education and Training in the Context of Poverty Reduction in Developing Countries (March 2002).





The EU's food security programme, which originally consisted in distributing food aid, is now focused on providing support of a more structural nature. The short-, medium- or long-term food security programmes aim at enabling countries to enhance food security in the context of their own poverty reduction strategies.

In designing its programmes, the EU takes into account the inadequate availability of food at the national level, the difficulties in accessing food at the household level as a result of poverty, as well as nutritional inadequacy at individual level.

In those least developed African countries with a high index of food insecurity, and where food security is identified as a priority by both the government (in their Poverty Reduction Strategies) and by the EU (in its Country Strategies), food security may be supported by a number of financing instruments. These include the EDF, ECHO (in emergency situations) and the Food Security budget line.

The Food Security budget line uses a number of different instruments, including: direct structural support for governments; project financing; support to NGOs; and food aid distribution through the World Food Programme or NGOs such as EuronAid. This variety of instruments allows for measures to tackle immediate food crises, as well as link relief, rehabilitation and long-term development programmes.

## The Food Security Programme

The Food Security Programme provides support to the following African countries: Angola, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guinea, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Madagascar. In other countries, the Commission provides indirect support for food security by supporting rural development programmes (Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia and Uganda) or water and sanitation (Djibouti, Lesotho, Nigeria and Chad).

The wide range of measures to support food security is adapted to local situations. These measures include: crisis prevention, the development and diversification of agricultural production, support for the marketing of food products, the reinforcement of local capacities, generating income projects for the most vulnerable people, and rehabilitation programmes.

## Responding to crises

Due to severe food crises, Southern and Eastern Africa were the focus of the donor community in 2002. From the first stages of the crises, the European Commission put emergency programmes in place to help the most vulnerable groups. It also provided for massive distributions of food aid: 700,000 tonnes of food aid, equivalent to €31 Mio, was distributed between April 2002 and February 2003 in Southern and Eastern Africa.

In addition to food aid, the European Commission continues to provide institutional and sectoral medium- and long- term support. Drought exacerbates the structural problems in these regions, which include poverty, a deterioration of the economic situation, AIDS epidemics, conflicts (in Eastern Africa), and the failure of government policies in certain countries.

Food aid is limited to emergency situations and is targeted at the most vulnerable. To support local economies and respect local nutritional preferences, food aid is, whenever possible bought in the beneficiary or neighbouring countries. For example, 54% of the food aid distributed in Southern and Eastern Africa in 2002 was locally purchased.

To bring more effective solutions to these crises and to ensure donor programmes complement one another, the European Commission launched a process to improve co-ordination with EU Member States.

## EU LAUNCHES WATER AND ENERGY INITIATIVES



The EU Initiatives on Energy and Water were launched in Johannesburg at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in September 2002. The European Commission proposal to commit €1 billion to a new EU Water Fund (April 2003) shows its determination to stick to the promises made at the WSSD summit.

The initiatives will help to raise awareness of the importance of water, sanitation and energy services as key aspects of poverty reduction strategies to support achieving the MDGs.

Endorsed by the 2002 EU/Africa Ministerial Conference in Ouagadougou, they will be developed within the context of beneficiary country led activities, thus ensuring they are demand-driven. The EIB, as well as stakeholders from private sector and civil society will also be closely associated in order to benefit from their perspectives, experience and resources. Because of the large sums required to meet the development goals, public/private partnerships will be an important element of the overall approach.

### The Water for Life Initiative

The WSSD can be considered a success for the water sector. An important step was taken with the adoption of the sanitation target, complementing the Millennium Development Goal on access to drinking water. The adoption of the target to develop integrated water resources management plans is also a step forward.

Through the Water for Life Initiative, the EU is reconfirming its commitment to contribute to meeting the MDGs and targets agreed at WSSD. The initiative focuses on halving, by the year 2015, the number of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, currently estimated at about one and two billion respectively.

The second thrust of the initiative is to support the development of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and water efficiency plans by 2005, promoting the general adoption of river basin-scale policy, planning and management, particularly for trans-boundary catchments

#### Country-level engagement

Engagement at country level needs to be an early objective, involving governments, private sector and civil society. Under the initiative, the EU will work with its partners to:

- reinforce political commitment to action and raise the impact of access to water and sanitation with view to poverty reduction;
- promote better water governance arrangements including stronger partnerships between public and private sectors and local stakeholders and build institutional capacity;
- improve co-ordination and co-operation moving towards sector wide approaches, establishing multi-stakeholder processes to reinforce partnerships for action, and promoting south-south collaboration and co-operation;
- develop regional and sub-regional co-operation by assisting in the application of integrated water resources management including trans-boundary waters to contribute to sustainable development and conflict prevention.

In addition to better co-ordination for improved efficiency of water-related activities, the Initiative will also develop innovative funding mechanisms to attract financial resources and partners. The process will involve:

- developing an overview on the situation in the different countries and regions with an analysis of the biggest gaps and financial needs;
- preparing a co-ordinated action programme with a long term financial strategy which gives concrete stepping stones until 2015;
- establishing a monitoring and reporting mechanism in order to measure progress in implementation and to steer further action.

The initiative was endorsed at the highest political level with the signature of a joint declaration for a new Africa/EU Strategic Partnership on Water Affairs and Sanitation. In a spirit of ownership, open co-ordination and in harmony with other efforts (such as NEPAD and the EU-Africa Dialogue), the EU partners are working with organisations such as the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW), among others.





## Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development

Lack of access to energy services is among the key factors preventing economic and social development, slowing down poverty reduction and hindering growth. Access to energy services is inadequate in many African states, and in sub-Saharan countries in particular there is great reliance on biomass as an energy source – energy insecurity is commonplace.

Providing access to adequate energy services is one of the keys to achieving development objectives including the MDGs.

The EU Energy Initiative is also an important aspect of supporting gender equality, because women are often burdened with collection of everyday goods such as fuel and water. They also frequently suffer the health effects of indoor air pollution from the use of biomass for cooking.

### Adequate, affordable, sustainable energy services

To support improved access to energy services, the EU launched the Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development at WSSD with a particular focus on Africa. The development objectives are to facilitate the achievement of the MDGs by 2015, through the provision of adequate, affordable, sustainable energy services.

The EU is committed to delivering results through this initiative in a spirit of partnership with developing countries in close co-operation with stakeholders from private sector and civil society. The Energy Initiative will deliver results using a variety of technical and institutional instruments, including rural electrification and decentralised energy systems, cleaner more efficient fossil fuel technologies and use of locally available renewable energy, especially the improved management and use of biomass.

Commitment at country level is essential. The role of energy within partner countries' poverty reduction strategies will form the basis of dialogue. Because energy cuts across most economic and social areas, dialogue will need to be open to those in the energy sector, as well as those working in other disciplines.

Through this enhanced dialogue with developing country and regional partners, it is expected that the following broad themes will emerge:

- support for institutional capacity building, and technical assistance for countries to put in place adequate energy policies;
- market development;
- facilitating public-private partnerships and co-operation with financial institutions.

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

# SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES



### A joint commitment towards sustainable fisheries

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development representatives of the peoples of Africa, Europe and other continents, reaffirmed their commitment to achieving sustainable development of the oceans and fisheries. They agreed on the necessity to:

- maintain or restore depleted fish stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield by 2015;
- encourage the application by 2010 of the ecosystem approach for the sustainable development of the oceans;
- facilitate partnership, scientific research and diffusion of technical knowledge; mobilise domestic, regional and international resources; and promote human and institutional capacity building, paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries.

### A crucial resource at risk

Fish constitute 20% of total animal protein in diets in Africa. This contribution to food security can be very high for countries such as Angola (27%), Benin (28%), Burundi (30%), Ivory Coast (37%), DRC (49%), and Equatorial Guinea (62%). However, in Africa as a whole the per capita supply of fish is declining and in some countries the average diet contained less fish protein in the 1990s than it did during the 1970s. This situation is worrying in sub-Saharan Africa where the number of undernourished people has increased in recent years.

Aquatic resources are an important source of foreign exchange, either through the export of products or the granting of fishing rights in their Economic Exclusive Zone to foreign fleets. It is considered, for example, that distant water fishing fleets could carry out almost 50% of catches in the waters under African countries' jurisdiction.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that Africa exports fish products for a value of €3.3 billion, with imports valued at €1.2 billion. This results in a trade surplus of €2.1 billion. (Europe has a fish trade deficit of €400 Mio, with €2.2 billion of exports and €2.6 billion of imports.)

Fisheries resources are crucial, however, they are at risk. The percentage of stocks exploited at or beyond the Maximum Sustainable Yield in the marine areas surrounding Africa range from 77% for the Mediterranean to 82% for the Atlantic zones and to 90% for the West Indian Ocean zone. This situation reflects an urgent need for a better management of the resource.

### A long-standing co-operation

Total funds committed to projects over the past decade reached nearly €136 Mio for fisheries development, policy and administrative management. These projects are complementary to those supported by Member States.

For example, the UK and France support projects involving communities depending on small-scale fisheries in West Africa. The UK supports the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme in West Africa, while France supports the sustainable management of the fisheries sector by the Senegalese State and professional organisations. Denmark has contributed to the improvement of fish quality in Mozambique and Spain is supporting aquaculture projects in Angola.

In inland fisheries, Finland has participated to the Tanganyika Regional Fisheries Programme. Germany has been involved in the setting up of the system of control and surveillance in Mauritania. Sweden and Portugal have supported fisheries institutional capacity building in Angola and Mozambique. The Netherlands has provided bilateral funding to Ghana with the Amansuri Conservation and Integrated Development Project.

Due to the trans-boundary nature of the main fish stocks and to the high contribution of fish to regional and international trade, the European Commission and its partners have agreed to take fisheries into account within the next Regional Strategy Papers and their related RLPs. The three West, Central and Eastern African Programmes have foreseen support for the fisheries sector in various fields, such as management of the marine resources, assistance to the formulation and implementation of regional fisheries policies, support to systems of surveillance, and control of fishing activities.

The EU has recently adopted a project for ACP countries, designed to help producers of fish products comply with sanitary standards. One of the purposes is to strengthen small-scale fisheries' capacities to take better advantage of international trade. This project also assists small-scale fisheries through credit and investment in fisheries and social infrastructure.

The EU also collaborates with the Support Unit for International Fisheries and Aquatic Research and FAO in a new programme aimed at strengthening the capacities of the ACP countries to formulate regional and national fisheries policies.







## A new orientation for the Common Fisheries Policy

The EU and its African partners are facing new challenges, such as resource scarcity due to over-exploitation, illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing practices, as well as the practical difficulties faced by the developing coastal states to ensure sustainable management of fish resources in its waters. As a result, the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is at a turning point. Radical proposals have been put forward to substantially modify its objectives and instruments, including in its international dimension.

The EU considers it essential to support the strengthening of developing coastal states' capacities to implement a sustainable fisheries policy. Appropriate measures should be taken within a new form of partnership to help the relevant authorities to manage their fisheries policy effectively, in particular in countries where the European distant waters fishing fleet is operating.

The future European bilateral and/or regional fishing relationships with third countries should result in establishing a political dialogue with the concerned countries and should be based on several principles, such as:

- respect of the ownership of the concerned country to conceive and establish its fishing policy;
- respect of the international commitments taken by the EU to promote sustainable development and in particular sustainable fishing activities;
- the involvement of public and private players with a clear division of rights and obligations;
- the coherence and complementarity with aid development activities carried out by the EU and its Member States or other donors.

Following this enhanced political dialogue, the new Fisheries Partnership Agreement should play an important role as a contributor to the overall fisheries development strategy of the coastal states.



## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT



The people of Africa, particularly the poor, need affordable access and adequate mobility. Without it, Africans will remain cut off from improvements in health, education and employment. African traders need lower transport costs if they are to compete in global markets and attract investors. African governments view transport's role in underpinning economic growth and social development as unquestionable. How the EU meets these challenges is described in its Communication on Promoting Sustainable Transport in Development Co-operation.

Transport, as one of the six priorities of the EU development policy, when linked to African aspirations for their transport networks, becomes the focal sector of development co-operation, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa. In this region almost 30 countries benefit from approximately €4 billion for transport from the current and previous EDF. Ensuring these countries reap sustainable benefits from such investments requires the EU to take a sector wide approach.

The EU's sectoral approach aims to deliver transport that meets stakeholder needs, is safe, affordable and efficient, and has minimal impact on the environment. A sectoral strategy on the main transport objectives has been developed with our partner countries in Africa. The strategy reflects the economic, financial, institutional, environmental and social realities.

Ensuring transport fully contributes to poverty reduction strategies calls for closer co-ordination by the EU on policy, strategies and plans with partner countries, Member States, World Bank, UNECA and other donors. A major forum that brings together these stakeholders is the Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Programme (SSATP).

### Urban development

Over the last decades, urban population has grown rapidly world-wide, mostly due to the spectacular increase of people living in poor-country's cities and towns. In sub-Saharan Africa urban dwellers have increased by ten times over the last 40 years and three-quarters of the newly urbanised land is less than one-generation old. Similarly, data from other developing regions points towards continuous urban growth in the foreseeable future.

To respond to these challenges, the EU promotes a strategic approach to urban development based on the principles of good governance and good management, as the main driving forces of sustainable urban development. Putting this approach into practice started with the publication of urban guidelines, planned for late 2003.

### Road transport spearheads agricultural led development in Ethiopia

Ethiopia's Road Sector Development Programme (RSDP) launched in 1997 underpins Ethiopia's path to economic growth in the agricultural sector. Costing €1 billion, RSDP takes a new approach to road financing, a radical restructuring of government road agencies and an increased involvement of the private sector. EU support to RSDP is substantial, €360 Mio to date and €211 Mio programmed.

The 2000 Review revealed great strides in boosting institutional capacity and a new culture in road management. While on the ground the road network increased by 24% and roads in good condition increased from 14% in 1995 to 25% in 1999. Road and transport users alike are reaping benefits as traffic along the main roads increased by 20%.

### Co-ordinating transport and poverty reduction strategies

SSATP believes sound policies lead to safe, reliable and cost-effective transport systems, enabling people to escape poverty and helping countries to compete internationally. Building on its successes in facilitating new approaches to financing and managing transport, SSATP is launching a new plan 2004-2007, supported by the EDF.

This will integrate the different transport modes into country poverty reduction strategies and facilitate cost-effective systems at a regional level. Ownership and linkages with NEPAD are strengthened by the expansion of programme management in country and in Regional Economic Communities.





# Acronyms

<b>ACP</b> African, Caribbean and Pacific countries	<b>EBA</b> Everything but Arms initiative	<b>ICT</b> Information Communication Technology	<b>RIP</b> Regional Indicative Programme
<b>AGOA</b> African Growth and Opportunity Act (American)	<b>EBAS</b> EU-ACP Business Assistance Scheme	<b>IDPs</b> Internally Displaced Persons	<b>RRM</b> Rapid Reaction Mechanism
<b>AMCOW</b> African Ministerial Council on Water	<b>EC</b> European Commission	<b>IGAD</b> Intergovernmental Authority on Development	<b>RSDP</b> Road Sector Development Programme
<b>AMU</b> Arab Maghreb Union	<b>ECHO</b> European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office	<b>IMF</b> International Monetary Fund	<b>SADC</b> Southern African Development Community
<b>APL</b> Antipersonnel Landmines	<b>ECOWAS</b> Economic Community of West African States	<b>IOC</b> Indian Ocean Commission	<b>SALW</b> Small Arms and Light Weapons
<b>ARSP</b> Agriculture/Livestock Research Support Programme	<b>EDF</b> European Development Fund	<b>IWRM</b> Integrated Water Resources Management	<b>RSDP</b> Road Sector Development Programme
<b>ASAL</b> Arid and Semi-Arid Lands	<b>EIB</b> European Investment Bank	<b>LDCs</b> Least Developed Countries	<b>SIAs</b> Sustainability Impact Assessments
<b>AU</b> African Union	<b>EPA</b> Economic Partnership Agreement	<b>MDGs</b> Millennium Development Goals	<b>SMAP</b> Short- and Medium-term Action Programme for the Environment (North Africa)
<b>CAR</b> Central African Republic	<b>EPRD</b> European Programme for Reconstruction and Development	<b>MEDA</b> Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Programme	<b>SMEs</b> Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
<b>CDE</b> Centre for the Development of Enterprise	<b>ESA</b> Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean region	<b>MIP</b> Multi-annual Indicative Programme	<b>SSATP</b> Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Programme
<b>CEEAC</b> Economic Community of Central African States	<b>ESIP</b> EU-SADC Investment Promotion Programme	<b>NEPAD</b> New Partnership for Africa's Development	<b>TDCA</b> Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement
<b>CEMAC</b> Central African Economic Community	<b>EU</b> European Union	<b>NGO</b> Non-governmental organisation	<b>TRCB</b> Trade-Related Capacity Building
<b>CEPGL</b> Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries	<b>EuroMesCo</b> Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission	<b>NIP</b> National Indicative Programme	<b>TRIPS</b> Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
<b>CFP</b> Common Fisheries Policy	<b>FAO</b> Food and Agriculture Organisation	<b>NPV</b> Net Present Value	<b>TRTA</b> Trade-Related Technical Assistance
<b>CFSP</b> Common Foreign and Security Policy	<b>FATF</b> Financial Action Task Force	<b>OAU</b> Organisation of African Unity	<b>UNDP</b> United Nations Development Programme
<b>COMESA</b> Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	<b>FTA</b> Free Trade Area	<b>OCTs</b> Overseas Countries and Territories	<b>UNMEE</b> United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea
<b>DAC</b> Development Assistance Committee	<b>FTI</b> Fast Track Initiative	<b>ODA</b> Official Development Assistance	<b>UON Network</b> Unmet Obstetric Needs Network
<b>DDA</b> Doha Development Agenda	<b>GDP</b> Gross Domestic Product	<b>OHADA</b> Organisation for the Harmonisation of Business Law in Africa	<b>WAEMU</b> West African Economic and Monetary Union
<b>DDR</b> Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration	<b>GSP</b> Generalised System of Preferences	<b>PALOP</b> Portuguese Speaking African Countries	<b>WSSD</b> World Summit on Sustainable Development
<b>DG</b> Directorate-General	<b>HDI</b> Human Development Index	<b>PRSP</b> Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper	<b>WTO</b> World Trade Organisation
<b>DRC</b> Democratic Republic of Congo	<b>HIPC</b> Highly Indebted Poor Countries	<b>RECs</b> Regional Economic Communities	
<b>EAC</b> East African Community	<b>ICDCS</b> Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahelian Zone	<b>RIOs</b> Regional Integration Organisations	

# Useful sites

## **African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group) – General Secretariat:**

<http://www.acpsec.org>

## **African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA):**

<http://www.agoa.gov>

## **African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW):**

<http://www.thewaterpage.com/amcow.htm>

## **African Union (AU):**

<http://www.africa-union.org>

## **Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM):**

<http://www.caricom.org>

## **Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE):**

<http://www.cde.int>

## **Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA):**

<http://www.comesa.int>

## **East African Community (EAC):**

<http://www.eachq.org>

## **EU-ACP Business Assistance Scheme (EBAS):**

<http://www.ebas.org>

## **Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission (EuroMeSCo):**

<http://www.euromesco.org>

## **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD):**

<http://www.igad.org>

## **Indian Ocean Commission (COI):**

<http://www.coi-info.org>

## **New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD):**

<http://www.nepad.org>

## **Organisation for the Harmonisation of Business Law in Africa (OHADA):**

<http://www.ohada.com>

## **Southern African Development Community (SADC):**

<http://www.sadc.int>

## **Unmet Obstetric Needs Network (UON Network):**

<http://www.uonn.org>

## **Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP):**

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/cfsp/intro/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/cfsp/intro/index.htm)

## **DG Development:**

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/index_en.htm)

## **DG Enlargement:**

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/index.htm>

## **DG Fisheries:**

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/policy\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/policy_en.htm)

## **DG RELEX:**

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/index.htm)

## **DG Trade:**

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade>

## **ECHO:**

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/index_en.htm)

## **EuropeAid Co-operation Office:**

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/index_en.htm)

## **European Commission:**

<http://europa.eu.int/comm>

## **European Investment Bank:**

<http://www.eib.org>

## **Information Society (INFSO):**

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/index_en.htm)

## **Press Room:**

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/press\\_room/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/press_room/index_en.htm)

## **Publications Office:**

[http://publications.eu.int/general/en/index\\_en.htm](http://publications.eu.int/general/en/index_en.htm)

## **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO):**

<http://www.fao.org>

## **Inter-American Development Bank (IADB):**

<http://www.iadb.org>

## **International Monetary Fund (IMF):**

<http://www.imf.org>

## **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):**

<http://www.oecd.org>

## **United Nations (UN):**

<http://www.un.org>

## **World Bank:**

<http://www.worldbank.org>

## **World Trade Organisation (WTO):**

<http://www.wto.org>

## **Development agencies in Member States**

### **AUSTRIA**

#### **Austrian Development Co-operation (ADC)**

<http://www.bmaa.gv.at>

### **BELGIUM**

#### **Directorate-General for International Co-operation (DGIC)**

<http://www.dgdc.be>

### **DENMARK**

#### **Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA)**

<http://www.um.dk/danida>

### **FINLAND**

#### **Finnish Department of International Development Co-operation (FINNIDA)**

<http://global.finland.fi>

### **FRANCE**

#### **Agence française de Développement (AFD)**

<http://www.afd.fr>

## **Haut Conseil de la Coopération internationale (HCCI)**

<http://www.hcci.gouv.fr>

### **GERMANY**

#### **Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung**

<http://www.bmz.de>

## **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)**

<http://www.gtz.de>

### **GREECE**

#### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

<http://www.mfa.gr/english/index.html>

### **IRELAND**

#### **Irish Aid – Department of Foreign Affairs**

<http://www.irlgov.ie/iveagh/irishaid>

### **ITALY**

#### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

<http://www.esteri.it>

### **LUXEMBOURG**

#### **Agence luxembourgeoise pour la Coopération au Développement (Lux-Development)**

<http://www.lux-development.lu>

### **NETHERLANDS**

#### **Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken**

<http://www.minbuza.nl>

### **PORTUGAL**

#### **Instituto da Cooperação Portuguesa (ICP)**

<http://min-nestrangeiros.pt/mne/portugal/icoop/>

### **SPAIN**

#### **Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (AECI)**

<http://www.aeci.es>

### **SWEDEN**

#### **Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA)**

<http://www.sida.se>

### **UNITED KINGDOM**

#### **Department for International Development (DFID)**

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk>



Further information may be obtained from the Delegations or Offices of the European Commission in the following countries:

**Algeria (Delegation)**

BP 381  
El-Biar, Alger  
Tel.: (213-21) 92 36 41  
Fax: (213-21) 92 36 81  
E-mail: [mailto@deldza.cec.eu.int](mailto:mailto@deldza.cec.eu.int)  
Web site: [www.deldza.cec.eu.int](http://www.deldza.cec.eu.int)

**Angola (Delegation)**

Caixa Postal 2669  
Luanda  
Tel: (244-2) 39 13 39  
Fax: (244-2) 39 25 31  
E-mail:  
[delago@uniao-europeia.netangola.com](mailto:delago@uniao-europeia.netangola.com)

**Benin (Delegation)**

01 B.P. 910  
Cotonou  
Tel: (229) 31 30 99  
Fax: (229) 31 53 28  
E-mail: [mailto@delben.cec.eu.int](mailto:mailto@delben.cec.eu.int)

**Botswana (Delegation)**

P.O. Box 1253  
Gaborone  
Tel: (267) 31 44 55  
Fax: (267) 31 36 26  
E-mail: [eudelbwa@delbwa.cec.eu.int](mailto:eudelbwa@delbwa.cec.eu.int)

**Burkina Faso (Delegation)**

B.P. 352  
Ouagadougou  
Tel: (226) 30.73.85  
Fax: (226) 30.89.66  
E-mail:  
[delegation-burkina-faso@cec.eu.int](mailto:delegation-burkina-faso@cec.eu.int)

**Burundi (Delegation)**

B.P. 103  
Bujumbura  
Tel.: (257) 22.34.26  
Fax: (257) 22.46.12  
E-mail: [hdel@delbdi.cec.eu.int](mailto:hdel@delbdi.cec.eu.int)

**Cameroon (Delegation)**

B.P. 847  
Yaoundé  
Tel.: (237) 2 21.00.28  
Fax: (237) 2 20.21.49  
E-mail: [eudelcmr@delcmr.cec.eu.int](mailto:eudelcmr@delcmr.cec.eu.int)

**Cape Verde (Regionalised Delegation)**

C.P. 122  
Praia  
Tel.: (238) 62 13 93  
Fax: (238) 62 13 91  
E-mail: [eudelcpv@mail.cvtelecom.cv](mailto:eudelcpv@mail.cvtelecom.cv)  
Web site: [www.delcpv.cec.eu.int](http://www.delcpv.cec.eu.int)  
Responsible Delegation:  
• Senegal

**Central African Republic (Delegation)**

B.P. 1298  
Bangui  
Tel.: (236) 61.30.53 3 lines  
Fax: (236) 61.65.35  
E-mail: [eudelrca@intnet.cf](mailto:eudelrca@intnet.cf)

**Chad (Delegation)**

B.P. 552  
N'Djamena  
Tel.: (235) 52 72 76  
Fax: (235) 52 71 05  
E-mail: [eudeltcd@intnet.td](mailto:eudeltcd@intnet.td)

**Comoros (Technical Office)**

B.P. 559  
Moroni  
Tel.: (871) 762 657 797 satellite  
Fax: (269) 73.24.94  
E-mail: [eudelcom@snpt.km](mailto:eudelcom@snpt.km)  
Responsible Delegation:  
• Republic of Mauritius

**Congo (Delegation)**

B.P. 2149  
Brazzaville  
Tel.: (242) 21 74 00 /01 -  
(242) 81 31 34  
Fax: (242) 21 74 02  
E-mail: [eudelcog@delcog.cec.eu.int](mailto:eudelcog@delcog.cec.eu.int)

**Democratic Republic of Congo (Delegation)**

B.P. 2699  
Gombre – Kinshasa  
Tel.: (243) 878 94 66 90/67 01  
Fax: (243) 880 64 82  
E-mail:  
[delegation-dem-rep-of-congo@cec.eu.int](mailto:delegation-dem-rep-of-congo@cec.eu.int)

**Djibouti (Regionalised Delegation)**

B.P. 2477  
Djibouti  
Tel.: (253) 35.26.15  
Fax: (253) 35.00.36  
E-mail: [eudeldj@intnet.dj](mailto:eudeldj@intnet.dj)  
Responsible Delegation:  
• Ethiopia

**Egypt (Delegation)**

37 Gamaet el Dowal el Arabeya,  
El-Fouad Office Bldg, 11th Floor,  
Mohandessin, Giza (Cairo)  
Tel.: (20-2) 749 4680  
Fax: (20-2) 749 5363  
E-mail: [delegation-egypt@cec.eu.int](mailto:delegation-egypt@cec.eu.int)  
Web site: [www.eu-delegation.org.eg](http://www.eu-delegation.org.eg)

**Eritrea (Delegation)**

P.O. Box 5710  
Asmara  
Tel.: (291-1) 12 65 66  
Fax: (291-1) 12 65 78  
E-mail: [mailto@deleri.cec.eu.int](mailto:mailto@deleri.cec.eu.int)

**Ethiopia (Regional Delegation)**

P.O. Box 5570  
Addis Ababa  
Tel.: (251-1) 61.25.11  
Fax: (251-1) 61.28.77  
E-mail: [mailto@deleth.cec.eu.int](mailto:mailto@deleth.cec.eu.int)  
Also accredited to:  
• Djibouti

**Gabon (Delegation)**

B.P. 321  
Libreville  
Tel.: (241) 73.22.50  
Fax: (241) 73.65.54  
E-mail: [eudelgab@delgab.cec.eu.int](mailto:eudelgab@delgab.cec.eu.int)  
Also accredited to:  
• São Tomé and Príncipe  
• Equatorial Guinea

**Gambia (Regionalised Delegation)**

P.O. Box 512  
Banjul  
Tel.: (220) 49.51.46  
Fax: (220) 49.78.48  
E-mail: [ec@qanet.gm](mailto:ec@qanet.gm)  
Responsible Delegation:  
• Senegal

**Ghana (Delegation)**

P.O. Box 9505  
Kotoka Int. Airport, Accra  
Tel.: (233-21) 77.42.01  
Fax: (233-21) 77.41.54  
E-mail: [mail@delcomgh.org](mailto:mail@delcomgh.org)

**Guinea (Delegation)**

B.P. 730  
Conakry  
Tel.: (224) 13 40 48 70  
Fax: (377) 98 66 35 25  
E-mail: [mailto@delce.org.gn](mailto:mailto@delce.org.gn)

**Guinea-Bissau (Delegation)**

C.P. 359  
1113 Bissau Cedex  
Tel.: (245) 25 14 69  
Fax: (245) 25 10 44  
E-mail: [ue@sol.gtelecom.gw](mailto:ue@sol.gtelecom.gw)

**Ivory Coast (Regional Delegation)**

01 B.P. 1821  
Abidjan 01  
Tel.: (225-20) 31 83 50  
Fax: (225-20) 21 40 89  
E-mail: [mailto@delciv.cec.eu.int](mailto:mailto@delciv.cec.eu.int)  
Also accredited to:  
• Liberia

**Kenya (Regional Delegation)**

P.O. Box 45119  
Nairobi  
Tel.: (254-2) 271.30.20  
Fax: (254-2) 271.64.81  
E-mail: [delegation-kenya@cec.eu.int](mailto:delegation-kenya@cec.eu.int)  
Web site: [www.delken.cec.eu.int](http://www.delken.cec.eu.int)  
Also accredited to:  
• Somalia

**Lesotho**

**(Regional Delegation)**  
P.O. Box MS 518  
Maseru 100  
Tel.: (+ 266) 22 313 726  
Fax: (+ 266) 22 310 193  
E-mail: [mailto@deliso.cec.eu.int](mailto:mailto@deliso.cec.eu.int)  
Also accredited to:  
• Swaziland

**Liberia (Technical Office)**

U.N. Drive, Mamba Point,  
Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa  
Tel.: (231) 226 273  
Fax: (231) 226.274  
E-mail: [euliberia@liberia.net](mailto:euliberia@liberia.net)  
Responsible Delegation:  
• Ivory Coast

**Madagascar (Delegation)**

B.P. 746  
Antananarivo 101  
Tel.: 261 20 22 242 16  
Fax: 261 20 22 645 62  
E-mail: [mailto@delmdg.cec.eu.int](mailto:mailto@delmdg.cec.eu.int)

**Malawi (Delegation)**

P.O. Box 30102  
Capital City, Lilongwe 3  
Tel.: (265) 1772 743 /  
(265) 1773 199  
Fax: (265) 1773 382 Outgoing  
E-mail: [eudelmwi@malawi.net](mailto:eudelmwi@malawi.net)

**Mali (Delegation)**

B.P. 115  
Bamako  
Tel.: (223) 222 11 03  
Fax: (223) 222 36 70  
E-mail: [delegation-mali@cec.eu.int](mailto:delegation-mali@cec.eu.int)

**Mauritania (Delegation)**

B.P. 213  
Nouakchott  
Tel.: (222) 525 27 24  
Fax: (222) 525 35 24  
E-mail: [delcemau@compuserve.com](mailto:delcemau@compuserve.com)

**Mauritius (Delegation)**

B.P. Box 1148  
Port-Louis  
Tel.: (230) 207 15 15  
Fax: (230) 211 66 24  
E-mail: [mailto@delmus.cec.eu.int](mailto:mailto@delmus.cec.eu.int)  
Web site: [www.delmus.cec.eu.int](http://www.delmus.cec.eu.int)  
Also accredited to:  
• Seychelles  
• Comores  
Also deals with:  
• Mayotte  
• Reunion

**Morocco (Delegation)**

B.P. 1302  
Rabat  
Tel.: (212-37) 57 98 00  
Fax: (212-37) 57 98 10  
E-mail:  
[delegation-morocco@cec.eu.int](mailto:delegation-morocco@cec.eu.int)  
Web site: [www.delmar.cec.eu.int](http://www.delmar.cec.eu.int)

**Mozambique (Delegation)**

C.P. 1306  
Maputo  
Tel.: (258-1) 49 49 49  
Fax: (258-1) 49 18 66  
E-mail: [mailto@delmoz.cec.eu.int](mailto:mailto@delmoz.cec.eu.int)  
Web site: [www.delmoz.cec.eu.int](http://www.delmoz.cec.eu.int)

**Namibia (Delegation)**

P.O.Box 24.443  
Windhoek  
Tel.: (264-61) 202 6000  
Fax: (264-61) 202 6224  
E-mail: [mailto@delnam.cec.eu.int](mailto:mailto@delnam.cec.eu.int)  
Web site: [www.delnam.cec.eu.int](http://www.delnam.cec.eu.int)

**Niger (Delegation)**

B.P. 10388  
Niamey  
Tel.: (227) 73.23.60  
Fax: (227) 73.23.22  
E-mail: [delnig@intnet.ne](mailto:delnig@intnet.ne)

**Nigeria (Delegation)**

P.M.B. 280  
Garki, Abuja  
Tel.: (234-9) 413 31 48  
Fax: (234-9) 413 31 47  
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