



NEWSLETTER

European Commission Delegation to Pakistan

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MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

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Dear Readers

Much has happened since the publication of our first EU News in Pakistan in September 2007. President Musharraf was elected for a new term. His re-election was challenged, but before the Supreme Court could deliver its verdict a state of emergency was imposed on 3rd November; the Constitution was suspended and fundamental freedoms were curtailed.

A declaration was issued by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union. In the declaration it was stated that "While recognising that Pakistan faces threats to its peace and security, the EU believes that stability and development can only be achieved through democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law."

The state of emergency was lifted on 15th December. The European Union issued another declaration in which it emphasized the importance of holding free and fair elections, democracy and human rights.

We all know what happened on 27th December 2007, late afternoon in Liaquat Bagh park in Rawalpindi. Just a few hours before I was to meet her to discuss the EU Election Observation, Benazir Bhutto was assassinated. Yet more statements and declarations from the EU, its Member States and its Institutions, yet again emphasizing the importance of democracy and fundamental rights.

EU Election Observation Mission

The European Union will monitor the elections in Pakistan on 18th February. Already in mid-December a Core Team of 11 experts arrived in Islamabad. On 27th December they were joined by Chief Observer Michael Gahler, who is a member of the European Parliament, as well as 48 Long-Term Observers (LTOs). The EOM will also include a team of 30 Short-Term Observers (STOs) as well as local short-term observers from EU Embassies in Islamabad.

The EOM is undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the entire elections process, including the campaign, performance of the election administration, performance of the judiciary and general environment in which the elections take place. In line with standard practice, the EU EOM will assess the conduct of the elections in accordance with international standards for democratic elections.

The EU EOM is independent in its findings and conclusions. Election observation is an important component of the European Union's policy of promoting human rights, democratisation and good governance. ■

The elections were postponed till 18th February and by the time this issue of EU News is published the results of these elections should be known.

The Lisbon Treaty was signed in Lisbon on 13th December 2007. It will not apply until and unless it is ratified by each of the EU's 27 members



Why this continuous emphasis by the European Union on democracy and fundamental rights and freedoms? The European Union rose out of the ashes of WW II. We have created an area of stability, political, economic and social, comprising 27 sovereign countries. We are experiencing the longest period ever in history without any armed conflict within the European Union. Democracy and fundamental rights and freedoms are among the core values on which the European Union is founded. It is because of our adherence to them that we have been able to sustain stability.

What we want for Pakistan is stability—political but economic and social stability as well. A stable Pakistan in a stable region is good for the Pakistani people, but also for us in the European Union. The cultural diversity within the European Union is often startling. We consider it as part of our strength. Religious differences are many, but people of many different beliefs have found ways to peacefully co-exist. We still face difficulties and problems. But our democratic systems allow us to find solutions.

It is our conviction that stability can only be achieved and sustained through democracy, and through respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms. That is why we continue to emphasise the importance of these values. If it works for us, why should it not work for Pakistan as well?

Until the next issue of EU News.

Jan de Kok

Ambassador/Head of Delegation of the European Commission to Pakistan

The Treaty of Lisbon

“The new Treaty of Lisbon was born today. This is a European victory”. These were the words of the President of the Council of the European Union, José Sócrates, while announcing the agreement on 19th October among European leaders meeting in Lisbon on the new reform Treaty. For Mr Sócrates, this accord on the new Treaty will allow Europe to “overcome the impasse of many years and overcome its institutional crises, giving this an important step towards its affirmation”. “With this accord and with the new Treaty, Europe shows that the European project is developing itself”, stressed José Sócrates, also emphasizing that, from today, Europe can look ahead confidently into its future.

“The Portuguese Presidency has fulfilled its plan: to discuss and approve the Treaty on Thursday and on Friday to start discussing important matters for the future of the EU”, declared José Sócrates. The President of the Council of the EU also made a point of publicly thanking the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, for the support given to the presidency throughout the process for the conclusion of the Treaty.

During the press conference José Manuel Barroso stated that he was “extremely happy” with the accord of the 27 countries of the EU. According to Barroso, with the reform Treaty Europe will be stronger to assume its role in the world and to solve the economic problems of its citizens.

The Lisbon Treaty was signed in Lisbon on 13th December 2007. It will not apply until and unless it is ratified by each of the EU's 27 members. It is up to each country to choose the procedure for ratification, in line with its own national constitution. The target date for ratification set by Member States is 1st January 2009 before the June 2009 elections to the European Parliament. ■

Benefits brought by the Single Market

In May 2006, the European Commission initiated a review of the EU Single Market as part of a larger package aiming to address issues of real concern to European citizens. Following wide consultation, the Commission presented a Communication in November 2007 entitled “A Single Market for 21st century Europe”. It is clear that European citizens have benefited significantly from the Single Market, both directly and indirectly. These are some examples:

- 1. Increased prosperity:** over the last 15 years the Single market has increased the EU's prosperity by 2.15% of GDP. In 2006 alone this meant an overall increase of €240 million – or €518 for every EU citizen – compared a situation without the Single Market.
- 2. More jobs:** 2.75 million extra jobs have been created over the period 1992-2006 as a result of the Single Market.
- 3. Easier to travel and shop:** EU citizens can travel across most of the EU without carrying a passport and without being stopped for checks at borders. People have full consumer rights when shopping outside their country and there are no limits on what they can buy and take with them for personal use.
- 4. More opportunities to live, work and study abroad:** more than 15 million EU citizens have moved to another EU country to work or to enjoy their retirement, benefiting from the transferability of social benefits. 15 million young people have completed part of their studies in another Member State with the help of the Erasmus programme.
- 5. Wider choice of products and service:** 73% of EU citizens think the Single Market has contributed positively to the range of products on offer, while the establishment of common standards has led to safer and more environmentally friendly products, such as food, cars and medicines.
- 6. Lower prices:** the opening up of national markets and the resultant increase in competition has driven down prices of, for example, internet access, air travel and telephone calls (the latter having been reduced on average by 40% over the period 2000-2006).
- 7. Less red tape:** rather than adding to red tape, Single

Market rules often replace a large number of complex and different national laws with a single framework, reducing bureaucracy for citizens, and compliance costs for business, who pass those savings on to consumers. It has also become easier to start or buy a business: the average cost for setting up a new company in the former EU-15 has fallen from €813 in 2002 to €554 in 2007, and the time needed to register a company administratively was reduced from 24 days in 2002 to about 12 days today. But more progress is needed.

- 8. Huge potential market:** any business in the EU automatically has close to 500 million potential customers on its doorstep. This allows larger businesses to benefit from enormous economies of scale, while new markets have been opened up to small- and medium-sized businesses which previously would have been dissuaded from exporting by the cost and hassle.
- 9. Much easier to do business:** trade within the EU has risen by 30% since 1992. The absence of border bureaucracy has cut delivery times and reduced costs. Before the frontiers came down, the tax system alone required 60 million customs clearance documents annually: these are no longer needed.
- 10. Better value for taxpayers:** as a result of more open and competitive public procurement rules, governments have more money to spend on priorities such as health and education. For example, the price of railway rolling stock has dropped, with studies pointing at savings from 10% to 30%. ■

For more information on the single market see:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/index_en.htm

The European Union on the World Stage

In economic, trade and monetary terms, the European Union (EU) has become a major world power. However, some have described the EU as an economic giant but a political dwarf. This is an exaggeration. It has considerable influence within international organisations such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the specialised bodies of the United Nations (UN), and at world summits on the environment and development.

Nevertheless, it is true that the EU and its members have a long way to go, in diplomatic and political terms, before they can speak with one voice on major world issues such as peace and stability, relations with the United States, terrorism, the Middle East and the role of the UN Security Council. What is more, the cornerstone of national sovereignty, namely military defence systems, remain in the hands of national governments, whose ties are those forged within alliances such as NATO.

An Embryonic Common Defence Policy

The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), introduced by the Treaties of Maastricht (1992), Amsterdam (1997) and Nice (2001), define the EU's main tasks in the area of defence. To carry out these tasks, the EU has developed its "second pillar", the policy domain in which action is decided by intergovernmental agreement and in which the European Commission and the European Parliament play only a minor role. Decisions in this domain are taken by consensus, although individual states are allowed to abstain.

The Political and Strategic Landscape

More than half a century of Cold War has ended and the former communist countries of Eastern and Central Europe joined NATO and the EU almost simultaneously. The European continent is coming together peacefully, and European countries are working together to fight international crime, people trafficking, illegal immigration and money laundering.

The enlarged EU has established a partnership structure with its neighbours, some of whom have medium-term prospects of joining the European Union.

The United States have accepted that, for military action in which the Americans are not involved, Europe can use some of NATO's logistical capacity such as its intelligence, communications, command facilities and transport capabilities.

The terrorist violence that has scarred the world since 11th September 2001 and the bombings in Madrid in 2004 and London in 2005 has profoundly altered the strategic landscape. European countries have to work more closely together to uncover information that will help prevent terrorists and their backers from carrying out attacks. Cooperation with the United States and all countries that support democracy and human rights now goes beyond the framework of traditional defence alliances.

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Tangible Achievements for Security and Defence

Under the Amsterdam Treaty, Javier Solana was appointed the EU's first High Representative for the CFSP in 1999.

EU Member States have set a specific goal as part of the task of establishing a European security and defence policy. This is to be able to deploy a rapid reaction force with naval and air support and sustain it for one year. This rapid reaction force will not yet be a real European army. Instead, it will be made up of contingents from the existing national armed forces.

However, following the establishment of a Political and Security Committee (PSC), a European Union Military Committee (EUMC) and a European Union Military Staff (EUMS), located in Brussels under the authority of the Council, the EU already has a political and military tool for carrying out the missions that it has set for itself: humanitarian missions outside Europe, peacekeeping operations, and other crisis-management tasks.

As military technology becomes ever more sophisticated and expensive, EU governments are finding it increasingly necessary to work together on arms manufacture. Moreover, if their armed forces are to carry out joint missions, their systems must be interoperable and their equipment sufficiently standardised. The European Council in Thessaloniki decided, in 2003, to establish a European Defence Agency.

Since 2003, the EU has undertaken a series of peacekeeping and crisis management missions. The most important of these has been in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where an EU military force (EUFOR) of 7,000 troops replaced NATO peacekeeping forces in December 2004.

A Trade Policy that is Open to the World

The EU supports the rules-based system of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which provides a degree of legal certainty and transparency in the conduct of

international trade. The WTO sets conditions under which its members can defend themselves against unfair practices such as dumping (selling below cost) through which exporters compete against their rivals. It also provides a procedure for settling disputes that arise between two or more trading partners.

The EU's trade policy is closely linked to its development policy. Under its General System of Preferences (GSP), the EU has granted duty-free or cut-rate preferential access to its market for most of the imports from developing countries and economies in transition. It goes even further for the world's 49 poorest countries. All of their exports, with the sole exception of arms, enjoy duty-free entry to the EU market under a programme launched in 2001.

The EU does not, however, have specific trade agreements with its major trading partners among the developed countries, such as the United States and Japan. Their trade relations are handled through the WTO mechanisms. The United States and the EU are seeking to develop relations founded on equality and partnership. However, EU countries are not always in agreement on the type of diplomatic, political and military ties to establish with the United States.

The EU is increasing its trade with the emerging powers in other parts of the world, from China and India to Central and South America. Trade agreements with these countries also involve technical and cultural cooperation. ■

Revival of Hopes and Livelihoods

– Community Based Livelihoods Recovery Programme for Earthquake Affected Areas of AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR and NWFP

On 8th October 2005 earthquake played havoc with the production bases of the local population, destroying the wage based as well as natural resources based livelihoods in both rural and urban areas of the affected region in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) areas of Pakistan. The EC has joined hands with UNDP and started the Community Based Livelihood Recovery Programme (CBLRP) in the affected areas of Balakot and Muzaffarabad Tehsils of NWFP and AJK. The CBLRP envisages supporting immediate and mid-term livelihoods recovery of the vulnerable population in the affected area. The total cost for the three year (April 2006-April 2009) project is € 1.7 million. Implementing partners include FAO, ILO and UNIDO.

The purpose of the Community Based Livelihood Recovery Programme (CBLRP) is to restore the socio-economic fabric in the earthquake affected areas by reinstating basic socio-economic infrastructure and livelihoods. The CBLRP is financed by the European Community (EC) and the UNDP.

Achievements

Based on the identified community needs, more than 1,500 community members have been trained in different trades including masonry works or as technicians or service providers. Community workers and managers were also trained in management skills and communications. New leaders and activists were identified to join the mainstream of community members and participated in different training to get self-employment opportunities in their own villages, i.e. tailoring, paper mashie, embroidery and candle making. Government Line Departments and functionaries were also trained in project planning and management. More than 120,000 local farmers were facilitated by providing 225 metric tonne quality crop seeds and

465 metric tonne of chemical fertilisers in the project area. This activity was highly appreciated due to its strong impact on food security and bumper wheat and maize crops. The damaged environment was also rehabilitated through reforestation and establishing micro-infrastructure to facilitate the community needs.

Success Stories

The trained individuals are now bread earners for their families and the majority has either their own businesses or earn their living as paid workers. Distribution of quality seed and fertilizers among community members and training in good agriculture practices has resulted in better crop yields and, as a result, better income for the farmers.

Razia Bibi, a widow and an activist farmer, is pleased with the support given by the project to revive her agriculture providing quality seed and fertilizers. After the earthquake there would have been no hope to revive her agriculture practices if the project had not helped her. She is of the view that such timely help interventions would ease sufferings and would ultimately revive livelihood opportunities of the desperate families.

Rehabilitation of the critical micro-infrastructure is directly benefiting the affected population and easing their difficulties. Naseerullah, an activist in the CO Doong Maira, says: "The water tank constructed at a cost of Rs 300,000 is benefiting more than 350 families. The women are especially relieved for fetching water from long distances and their saved time and energy is now available for other productive activities and vocational training programmes. By implementing this scheme we feel more encouraged, united and strong in our commitment in earthquake recovery." He further said that "the good thing we learnt from this project was unity which would keep us together for long term benefits". ■

Based on the identified community needs, more than 1,500 community members have been trained in different trades



“Newcomers” in Islamabad

Since the publication of the first edition of EU NEWS, we have had the pleasure of welcoming three new Ambassadors from EU Member States to Islamabad.

Dr Krzysztof Debnicki is Poland's new Ambassador to Pakistan. Born in Warsaw he holds a Ph.D. in human sciences from the Oriental Institute of Warsaw University. Dr Debnicki pursued his academic career as a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Asia and the Central East at the same institute until 1993. In 1993, he was recruited as adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and in 1995 he was posted in New Delhi. After returning to Poland for a year in 2000, Dr Debnicki was appointed Ambassador to Mongolia, where he served from 2001 to 2005.



Anna Karin Eneström is the new Swedish Ambassador to Pakistan. A lawyer by training, Ms Eneström joined the Swedish Foreign Ministry in 1989. After being posted in Strasbourg and Nairobi, she returned to Stockholm where she later became Deputy Director at the Department for International Law and Human Rights in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Between 2003 and 2006, Ms Eneström was posted in New York, first in the Swedish Permanent Mission to the UN and later as Deputy Head of Cabinet in the Office of the President of the General Assembly. When returning to Stockholm, she held the secretariat of the Four Nations Initiative on Governance and Management of the UN.



Petros Mavroidis is the new Ambassador of Greece to Pakistan. Born in Piraeus, Mr Mavroidis pursued his studies in political science, international law and European history, at the ULB in Brussels. In 1981 he entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1987 to 1991 he was posted in Izmir, Turkey and from 1991 to 1993 in Cologne. After returning to Athens, he was posted in Brussels at the Greek Permanent Representation to the EU between 1994 and 1998. Since then, Mr Mavroidis has worked both in Athens and in Greek Embassies abroad Belgrade, Paris and New Delhi, as well as a second posting to the EU in Brussels between 2001 and 2003. ■



Working Together With Civil Society

Ownership and participation are core principles of the EU development policy, as stated in the European Consensus on Development

In recent years, the role of civil society has become multi-dimensional and challenging. A well organised civil society obliges the state to be more accountable and to ensure that the voices of poor and marginalised people are heard and that they are involved in the decision-making process on issues which affect them.

Ownership and participation are core principles of the EU development policy, as stated in the European Consensus on Development. The European Commission has a long-standing relationship with civil society organisations (CSOs) and is playing a key role in facilitating and promoting a dialogue between state and non-state actors on development priorities and strategies in partner countries. Moreover, CSOs are playing a vital role in EC external co-operation through capacity development, public awareness and development education, North-South networking, political and social dialogue and service delivery.

A substantial part of the Commission's assistance is being channelled through CSOs using different financial instruments including the thematic budget lines. To this end a new thematic programme titled "Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development" has been adopted. This is a successor to the NGO-co-financing budget line, but covers wider developmental aspects. The overarching objective is poverty reduction in the context of sustainable development, including pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs) and other internationally agreed targets. It is also aimed at complementing geographical bilateral programmes. It is an actor-oriented programme aimed at capacity-building through support to "own" initiatives by non-state actors and local authorities. While the majority of funding in this programme is earmarked for field projects, there is also room to support schemes on awareness-raising and education for development as well as helping coordination between stakeholder groups.

All non-project making non-state actors and local authorities originating from the EU and partner countries are eligible for funding under this programme which seeks to take account of the comparative added value of different stakeholders. The programme upholds EC policy of encouraging and supporting long-standing partnerships developed between European and partner country non-state actor organisations and local authorities.

The details of the specific country components are currently being defined and a call for proposals inviting eligible candidates to present a proposal for action should be advertised during the next couple of weeks. All applications will be examined and evaluated on the basis of criteria that have clearly been announced in these calls, while ensuring equal treatment. Detailed information, once available, will be placed on the delegation's website:

<http://www.delpakisb.ec.europa.eu>.

Articles and news items in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official view of the European Commission.

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