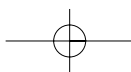
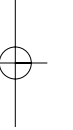
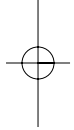
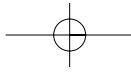


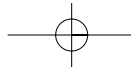
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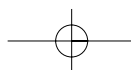
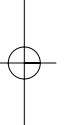
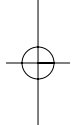


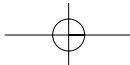
THE ENLARGING EUROPEAN UNION AT THE UNITED NATIONS: MAKING MULTILATERALISM MATTER

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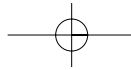
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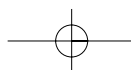
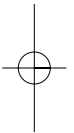
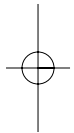
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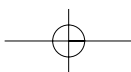
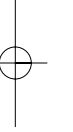
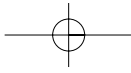
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Contents

1. The EU at the UN Overview	5
2. The EU and how it works at the UN	11
3. EUUN development cooperation	17
4. Environment and sustainable development	25
5. Keeping the peace and preventing conflict	29
6. The fight against terrorism and transnational crime	35
7. Humanitarian aid	37
8. The EU and human rights	41
9. EUUN trade and development	49
10. EUUN culture and civilisation	53





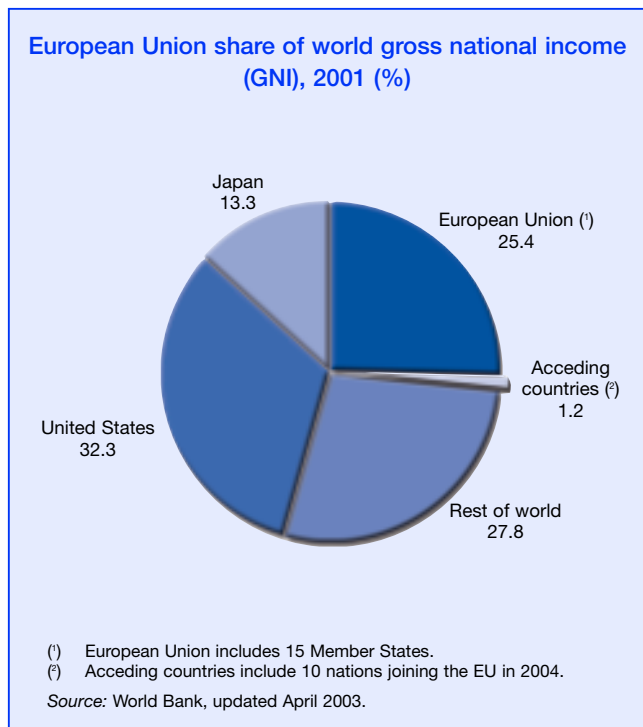
CHAPTER 1

The EU at the UN – Overview

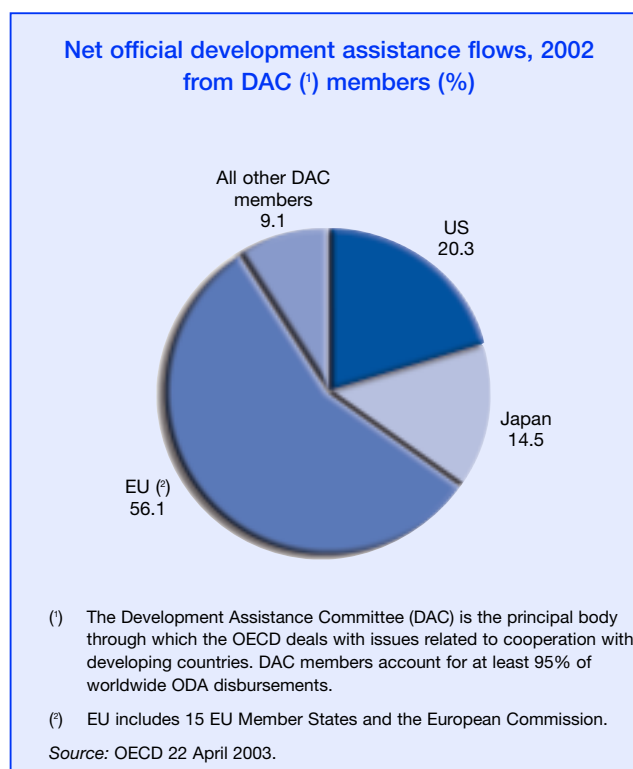
An enlarging European Union takes the world stage

The European Union (EU) is committed to ensuring a stable and peaceful Europe while building its presence on the world stage to contribute more effectively to peace and development across the globe.

Having started in the 1950s ⁽¹⁾ as a project to bind Europe together through economic integration, aiming to prevent future war, the EU ⁽²⁾ has grown into a significant world actor, the biggest trading entity in the world with a single market as well as a single currency for 12 member countries.



The EU is also the world's largest provider of overseas development assistance (ODA), totalling some USD 35.6 billion in 2002.



In the 1990s, the EU developed a common foreign and security policy (CFSP) to match its already formidable economic clout. This led to the decision at the European Council meeting in Nice in December 2000 to include in its CFSP the progressive framing of a common defence policy, including a rapid reaction force, civilian crisis management capabilities and the creation of permanent political and military crisis management organs ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ On 9 May 1950, French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman put forward the Schuman Plan to place the West German and French coal and steel industries under a single High Authority. This marked the beginning of the European Community. 9 May is celebrated every year as 'Europe day'.
⁽²⁾ The EU-15 comprises Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom until the next enlargement.
⁽³⁾ The European Community (EC), created in 1957, had already developed a wide range of activities, including in the field of external relations. The Treaty of Rome and these policies are still in force today. The Maastricht Treaty, signed in 1992, which created the European Union (EU), mainly added the common foreign and security policy and cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs to the existing activities of the European Community.

On 16 April 2003, 10 more countries, most of them from the former Communist bloc, signed Accession Treaties to join the EU on 1 May 2004 — Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. In addition, Bulgaria and Romania are expected to join in 2007, and Turkey could start membership talks soon after 2004. The countries of the western Balkans may not be far behind, either.

These future member countries have made a remarkable transition — politically, economically and administratively — guided by the EU enlargement process, with the Union serving as a goal, a model and a monitor of progress.

Hence, the EU is an expanding zone of peace, stability and prosperity in today's highly volatile world.



(¹) As of 16 April 2003.
 Source: Europa: the website of the European Union
 (http://www.europa.eu.int/abc/maps/index_en.htm).

Together, the EU-25 comprises more than one eighth of all votes in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Along with other European countries, almost one sixth of UN Member States now align themselves with EU statements at the UNGA. And EU member and candidate countries account at present for a third of the UN Security Council's (UNSC) membership.



The EU-25 luncheon, including the European Commission and Council Secretariat, on the day of the signing of the Treaty of Accession for 10 new countries to join the European Union. The guest of honour was UN Deputy Secretary General Louise Fréchet. New York, 16 April 2003.
 Photo: GANP/Dimitrios Panagos.

The main objectives of the UN are to maintain international peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations, to cooperate in solving international economic social, cultural, human rights, trade and humanitarian problems and to be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations in attaining these common aims. As a consequence of the EU's own political development and very similar objectives, it is not surprising that the EU and the UN should be deepening their relationship at this time. The UN promotes the values of democracy, solidarity, sustainability, market-based economy, cultural diversity and the rule of law, which are central to the EU. Flowing from the deep commitment to these values comes a natural support by the EU for multilateral institutions, like the UN, and for multilateral solutions to global problems.

The EU's substantial contribution to the UN's work

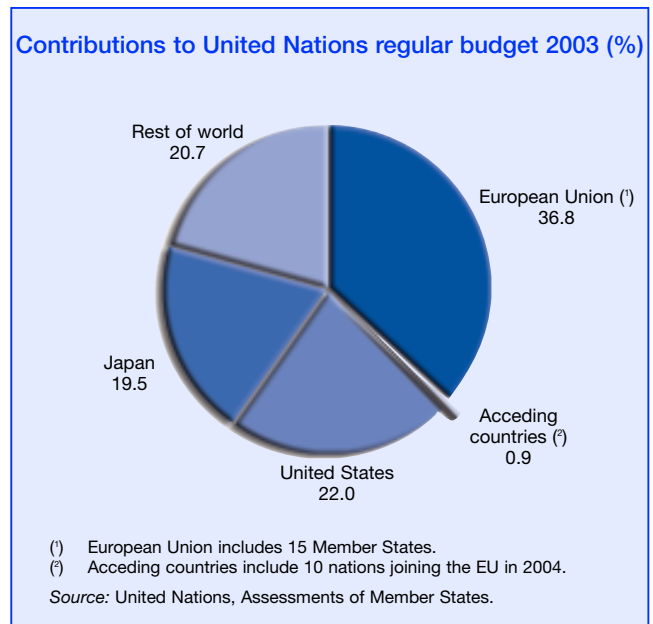
Moreover, the EU makes a major contribution to the UN's activities. It works with all UN bodies, agencies and programmes across virtually the whole range of UN activities, from development policy and peace-making to humanitarian assistance, environment, human rights and culture, throughout the world.



↑ EU Troika meets with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, 13 September 2002. UN/DPI photo by Eskinder Debebe.

Not least, EU Member States together are the largest financial contributor to the UN system. At present, the EU-25 pay 38 % of the UN's regular budget, more than two fifths of UN peacekeeping operations and around half of all UN Member States' contributions to UN funds and programmes. Despite the fact that EU Member States already contribute far more to the UN than their share of the world economy, the EU as a whole decided to keep its overall financial contribution at the same level as before in the last round of UN budget negotiations in 2000. It is proud to have maintained its generous share of UN funding as a sign of its support of the UN system.

Left to right: Commissioner Chris Patten and High Representative Javier Solana confer with Mr Goran Svilanovic, Foreign Minister for Serbia and Montenegro, the day after the assassination of Serbian Prime Minister Djindjic, 13 March 2003. Photo: Fonet, Belgrade. →



Growing cooperation in many fields

Working through the UN is an EU priority. The EU recognises its responsibility to support and strengthen the UN in order to protect the organisation's role in seeking multilateral solutions to global problems on the basis of its charter.

Drawing on well-equipped European troops from national armed forces, the EU has undertaken to create a rapid reaction force of 60 000 soldiers as part of its European security and defence policy (ESDP). Depending on circumstances, this force can be made available to provide prompt assistance for UN peacekeeping operations, like the 'Artemis' EU military operation launched in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in June 2003 in response to the UN Secretary General Annan's request (and as authorised by UNSC Resolution 1484). This EU operation reflects the contribution the ESDP can make to crisis management in cooperation with the UN.

The EU and the UN have also cooperated intensively throughout the Balkans in recent times and will continue to do so into the future, including, *inter alia*, in the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), where the EU is in charge of the reconstruction 'pillar', the current EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (based on UNSC Resolution 1396); and the ongoing EU military operation 'Concordia' in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (based on UNSC Resolution 1371) to help build peace and stabilise the political situation there.



Other notable recent examples include the following.

- The EU is fully supportive of UN efforts to **fight terrorism** through the UN Counter Terrorism Committee and various UN conventions on terrorism, particularly in response to 11 September 2001 (see Chapter 6). Relatedly, the EU is the leading donor of reconstruction and humanitarian aid in **Afghanistan**, which is firmly set in the context of the Bonn Agreement (December 2001) that was negotiated under the aegis of the UN and endorsed by UNSC Resolution 1383.
- Both the EU and the UN are involved in the **Middle East Peace Process** as members of the 'Quartet' — the EU, the Russian Federation, the United States and the UN — which has launched a 'roadmap for peace' between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.
- In spring 2001, the European Commission issued a communication on '**Building an effective partnership with the United Nations in the fields of development and humanitarian affairs**', aiming to improve the quality and impact of the EC's development policy within the UN system. This has had a positive impact, leading to the signing of a new financial and administrative framework agreement between the European Commission and the UN in May 2003. This, together with other measures aimed at creating an enabling environment, will prepare the way for strategic partnership in development and humanitarian fields with a number of UN agencies, funds and programmes.
- The EU took leading roles at the **UN Conference on Financing for Development** (Monterrey, March 2002), the **World Food Summit** (Rome, June 2002) and the **World Summit on Sustainable Development** (Johannesburg, September 2002).

The EU is also very grateful concerning the UN Secretary's efforts in trying to find a comprehensive solution to the issue of the divided island of Cyprus, which is due to join the EU in 2004.

The EU seeks to promote an integrated follow-up to all major UN conferences, aiming to make the review and appraisal processes more rational and manageable, and to maximise the political impact of any follow-up event. This approach applies to the follow-up to all major conferences and summits held since the beginning of the 1990s — Rio (environment and development), Vienna (human rights), Cairo (population), Beijing (women), Copenhagen (social development), Rome (World Food Summit), Istanbul (habitat), New York (children), Kyoto (climate change), Monterrey (financing for development) and Johannesburg (sustainable development) — as well as the Millennium Summit itself.

The EU also raises UN issues of concern during its summits with major countries in the world, as and

when necessary. A recent example of this is the joint EU-US initiative on HIV/AIDS.

Many current and future EU Member States' citizens serve the UN in senior positions. Among them are UN High Commissioner for Refugees **Ruud Lubbers**, UN Development Programme Administrator **Mark Malloch Brown**, UN Environment Programme Executive Director **Klaus Topfer**, UN Legal Counsel **Hans Corell**, Vice-Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission **Eugeniusz Wyzner**, Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and Director-General of the UN Office at Vienna **Antonio Maria Costa**, Executive Director of the UN Iraq programme **Benon Sevan**, International Fund for Agricultural Development President **Lennart Båge**, UN Under-Secretary for Peacekeeping **Jean-Marie Guéhenno** and UN Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs **Sir Kieran Prendergast**.

The European Union at the UN

The presence — and the representation — of the EU at the United Nations has many faces. As only States can be Members of the UN, the Union is represented by the State holding the presidency of the EU Council, which at present rotates every six months. At the Security Council, EU positions are also represented and defended by EU Member States who are elected or permanent members. In order to ensure continuity, the EU Council has set up a Liaison Office with the UN, as part of its Secretariat. For the same purposes, the EU Council has also set up an office in Geneva.

The European Community was granted observer status at the 29th General Assembly in 1974 by Resolution 3208. It is represented by the European Commission, which has delegations that are accredited to UN bodies in **Geneva** (including, *inter alia*, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)), **Paris** (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)), **Nairobi** (the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Habitat), **New York** (the UN Secretariat, the General Assembly and its main committees, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), etc.), **Rome** (the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)) and **Vienna** (including the United Nations Office on Drugs and

Crime (UNODC), the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)). The European Commission's original information office in New York officially became a Delegation to the United Nations in 1974.



↑ *European Commission President Romano Prodi meets UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, New York, January 2002.*
UN/DPI photo by Eskinder Debebe.

As an observer within the UN General Assembly and most UN specialised agencies, the European Community has no vote as such, but is a party to more than 50 UN multilateral agreements and conventions as the only non-State participant. It has obtained a special 'full participant' status in a number of important UN conferences, as well as for example in the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and in the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF). In 1991, the European Community was accepted as a full member of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, the first time it had been recognised as a full voting member by a UN agency. The European Community speaks and votes on behalf of all EU Member States in areas where powers have been transferred to it.

For descriptions of the EU institutions' delegations and offices accredited to UN bodies, please visit: <http://europa-eu-un.org/article.asp?id=474#t> and <http://europa-eu-un.org/article.asp?id=1020>.

Cooperation of EU institutions with the UN

The EU meets the UN Secretary General at ministerial level annually in New York as part of an agreed format

for regular EU–UN meetings. The UN Deputy Secretary General and other senior UN officials also visit EU institutions in Brussels (where 16 UN specialised agencies, funds and programmes now have offices), Luxembourg and Strasbourg regularly for policy discussions. Regular meetings of senior UN officials with the EU Council's Political Committee are foreseen. EU and UN officials liaise together more and more frequently as daily working contacts develop. Furthermore, the visibility of the EU at the UN has been enhanced by the participation of EU Heads of State or Government in major UN conferences, and by ongoing visits of Commissioners and high-ranking EU officials to cities hosting UN bodies.

The UN Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General are also developing contacts with the European Parliament (EP). The EP, in turn, has increased the number of high-level MEP visits to the UN to attend major events.

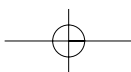
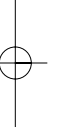
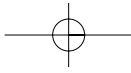
In autumn 2003, the European Commission issued a Communication for discussion and agreement by the Council and the European Parliament entitled 'The European Union and the United Nations: the choice of multilateralism', which proposes the future course of the EU–UN relationship. For this document and for all other up-to-date information, please visit regularly the EU @ UN website at <http://europa-eu-un.org>.

EU–UN relations

The European Council reaffirms the deeply rooted commitment of the European Union to make effective multilateralism a central element of its external action, with at its heart a strong UN. The European Council therefore welcomes the comprehensive Commission communication on 'The European Union and the United Nations: the Choice of Multilateralism' which comes at a dynamic junction in the EU–UN relations.

In this context, the European Council also recalls the EU–UN Joint Declaration of 24 September 2003 on cooperation in crisis management, which constitutes the basis for enhanced cooperation in this area.

The European Council welcomes the conclusions of the GAERC on 8 December on EU–UN relations and stresses the need for these conclusions, as well as the Joint Declaration on crisis management be translated into operative action.



CHAPTER 2

The EU and how it works at the UN

What is the European Union?

The 1957 Treaty of Rome laid the foundation for the European Community (EC), a milestone in the process of western European integration and the forerunner of today's EU. It looked forward to creating an ever-closer union among the peoples of Europe, setting out the basis for a common market and an eventual economic and monetary union. The European Community continues to exist today as a vehicle for many policies within the larger EU framework.

The project's success — especially as seen in its ongoing increase in membership and its growing economic importance in the world — is a unique example of integration between sovereign States, going far beyond normal intergovernmental cooperation. Unlike the UN, NATO or the OECD, this European venture was, from the outset, conceived as a supranational structure with common institutions, including a Council, a Commission, a Court of Justice, a Court of Auditors and a directly elected Parliament (representing over 450 million European citizens after enlargement). Both the European Parliament and the Council have important roles in the decision-making process, notably in the approval of legislation and adoption of the budget, which gives the Community its own resources. European Community legislation has precedence over national legislation and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice.

In 1992, building on the success of the EC, European leaders signed the Treaty of Maastricht, which established the European Union. This Treaty significantly deepened the relationship between member countries in the areas of monetary policy and justice and home affairs. It also confirmed the Union's desire to assert its identity on the international scene, in particular through the implementation of a CFSP, including the progressive framing of a common defence policy. In December 2000, the European Council meeting in Nice decided to take the CFSP further by adopting a common European security and defence policy.

The European Council, bringing together the Heads of States or Government of the EU Member States, provides the Union with the necessary impetus for its development and defines the general political guidelines.

The Union's principal decision-making body across the spectrum of its activities is the Council of the European Union. The Council is composed of one representative at ministerial level from each Member State, who is empowered to represent his government, politically accountable to the national parliament.

Every six months (*) an EU Member State takes over the presidency of the Council and its preparatory bodies. The presidency ensures follow-up of policy decisions taken by the Council. It also represents the Union in common foreign and security policy matters, and is responsible for the implementation of CFSP decisions. On this basis, it expresses the position of the Union on these matters in international organisations and at international conferences.



↑ Ambassador Marcello Spatafora at the UN Security Council, representing the EU presidency, second half of 2003.
UN/DPI photo by Evan Schneider.

(*) The EU presidency calendar: Greece (first half 2003); Italy (second half 2003); Ireland (first half 2004); Netherlands (second half 2004); Luxembourg (first half 2005); and the United Kingdom (second half 2005); thereafter subject to enlargement and the new constitution for Europe.

The presidency is assisted in its tasks by the High Representative for the EU's common foreign and security policy, and by the General Secretariat of the Council under his responsibility.

The European Commission comprises 20 Commissioners until enlargement, including at least one from each Member State ⁽⁵⁾. It takes policy decisions collectively and has exclusive powers for initiating policy proposals across the whole spectrum of Community matters. It also implements Community legislation, and negotiates bilateral treaties and international commitments on behalf of the Community. The European Commission is fully associated in the Union's CFSP. In the UN, the Commission represents the European Community.

The European Parliament (EP) has wide powers in the decision-making process with regard to Community legislation, agreements and the budget. The presidency consults it on the main aspects and basic choices of the CFSP. And the EP follows EU external policies closely, in particular through its Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights and the CFSP. It expresses itself through non-binding resolutions on important international issues, many with UN aspects.



↑ A delegation of Members of the European Parliament came to the United Nations to voice their opinions just before the start of the Iraq conflict, March 2003. Left to right: Ulla Sandbaek (EDD, Denmark); Proinsias De Rossa (PSE, Ireland); Patricia McKenna (Green/EFA, Ireland); Pernille Frahm (GUE/NGL, Denmark).
UN/DPI photo by Evan Schneider.

During 2002–03, the 'Convention on the Future of Europe' completed its work to draft a new EU constitution, which is being debated in an EU Intergovernmental Conference. Once agreement has been reached and all EU Member States ratify the new Treaty, new provisions relating to institutions and external policies are expected to take effect as from 2006.



↑ Left to right: Latvian Ambassador Gints Jegermanis, former UK Ambassador Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Cypriot Ambassador Sotirios Zackheos and Luxembourg Ambassador Hubert Wurth, some of the 25 EU Ambassadors (plus the European Commission and Council Secretariat) that now regularly attend EU coordination meetings, New York, 17 April 2003.
GANP/Dimitrios Panagos.

How the EU coordinates its work at the UN

All EU countries are members of the UN in their own right, and many have been since the UN's foundation in 1945 ⁽⁶⁾. The establishment of the EU's common foreign and security policy brought forward the need for EU Member States, the Council and the Commission to enhance the coordination of their actions in international organisations. The EU Treaty requires them to uphold common positions so that their collective weight can have more impact in the world.

Coordination now covers the six main committees of the General Assembly and its subordinate bodies, including ECOSOC and the subordinate functional commissions. More than 1 000 internal EU coordination meetings are conducted each year in both New York and Geneva to prepare and finalise EU positions.

The EU has also spoken with one voice in the follow-up of all the major conferences and summits held since the beginning of the 1990s.

As the EU's CFSP becomes a daily reality, the activities of its members on the UN Security Council (UNSC) increasingly take account of the EU dimen-

⁽⁵⁾ There will be one Commissioner for each of 25 Member States after enlargement and until the new constitution for Europe enters into force.

⁽⁶⁾ Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom: 1945; Sweden: 1946; Austria, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain: 1955; and Germany: 1973. The European Community has also been a permanent observer at the UN since 1974. Among future members, Poland: 1945; Hungary: 1955; Cyprus: 1960; Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania: 1991; Slovenia: 1992; and the Czech Republic and Slovakia: 1993.

sion on those global security issues where the EU has a political position. Article 19 of the European Union Treaty foresees that EU 'Member States which are also members of the UN Security Council will concert and keep other Member States fully informed. Member States which are permanent members of the Security Council will, in execution of their functions, ensure the defence of the positions and interests of the Union, without prejudice to their responsibilities under provisions of the UN Charter'. The Union's common viewpoint on such issues is made known publicly by joint statements delivered by the EU presidency in open meetings of the UNSC.

The role of the EU presidency is particularly important in this respect. It is responsible for day-to-day EU coordination and represents the Union in most areas of UN activity. It also represents the EU in discussions with other UN Member States, regional groups or organisations, and delivers démarches and statements on behalf of the Union.

The European Commission is actively involved at the UN, where it works with the EU presidency to represent EU views in various areas, especially development, environment and humanitarian aid. Furthermore, the European Commission has specific responsibilities to speak for the European Community in areas such as trade, fisheries and agriculture.

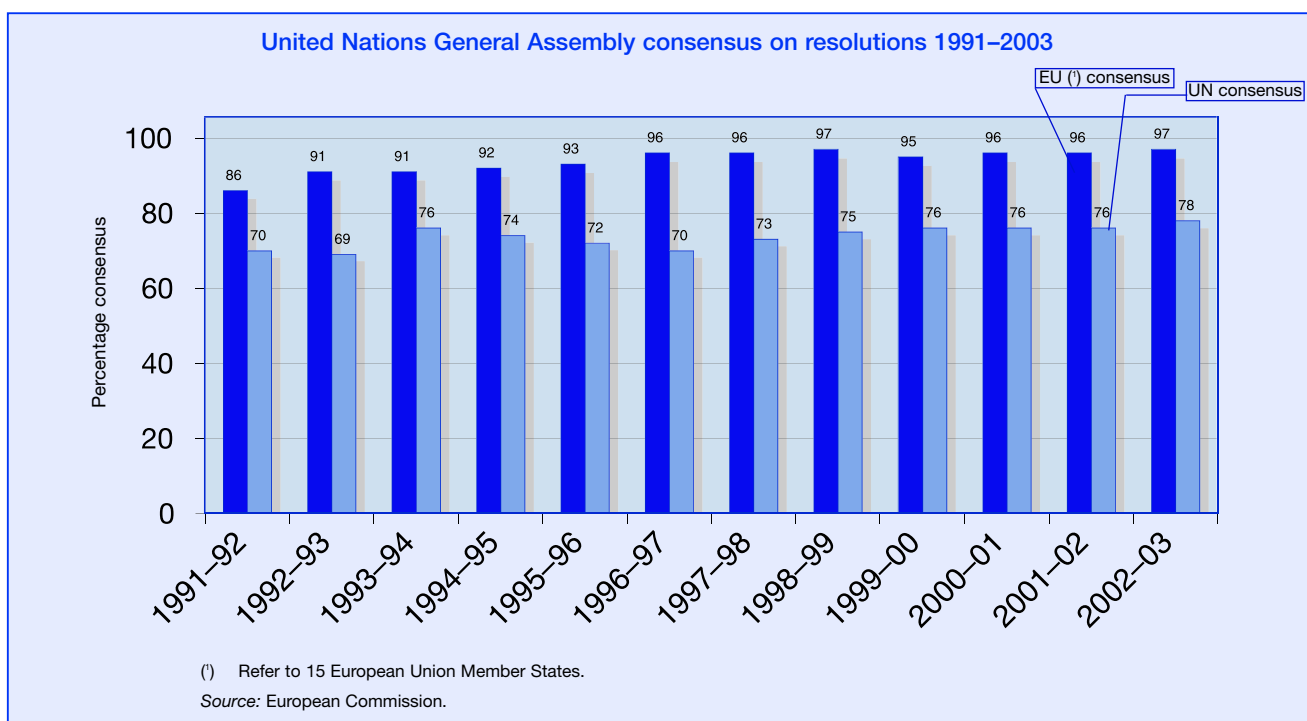
When the EU meets with non-EU countries or regional groupings or undertakes démarches, it often does so in the Troika format, a representative group composed of the presidency, the Council Secretariat, the European Commission and the incoming presidency.

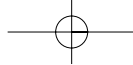


↑ EC Ambassador John B. Richardson addresses the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children on behalf of the European Community, May 2002.
UN/DPI photo by Mark Garten.

EU votes together at the UN General Assembly

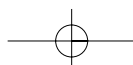
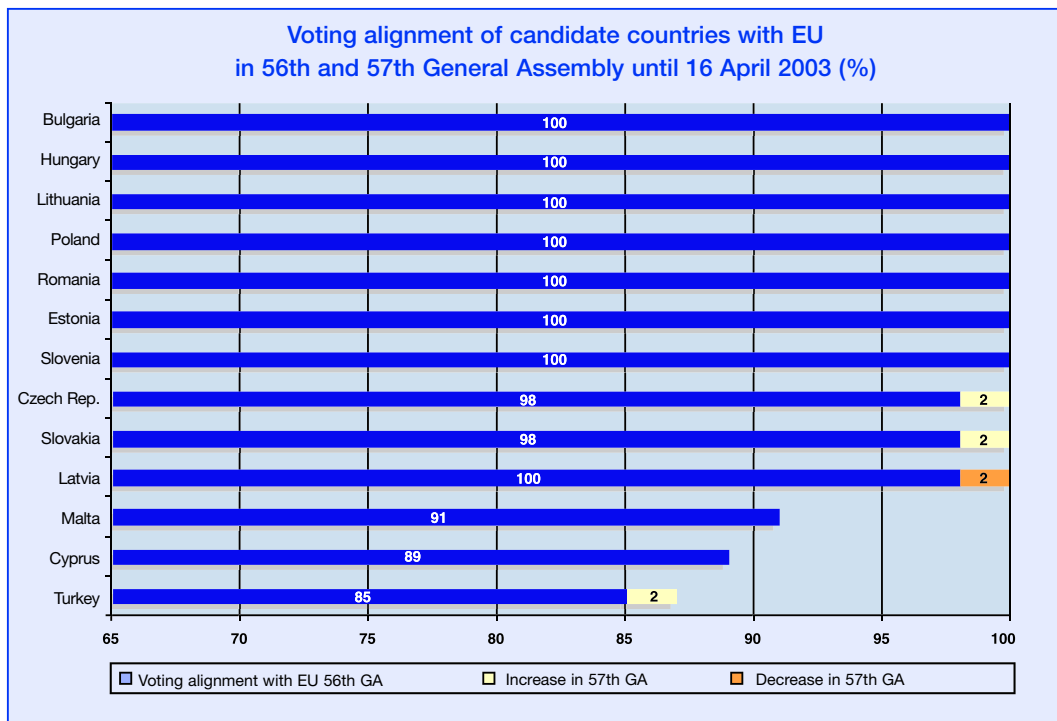
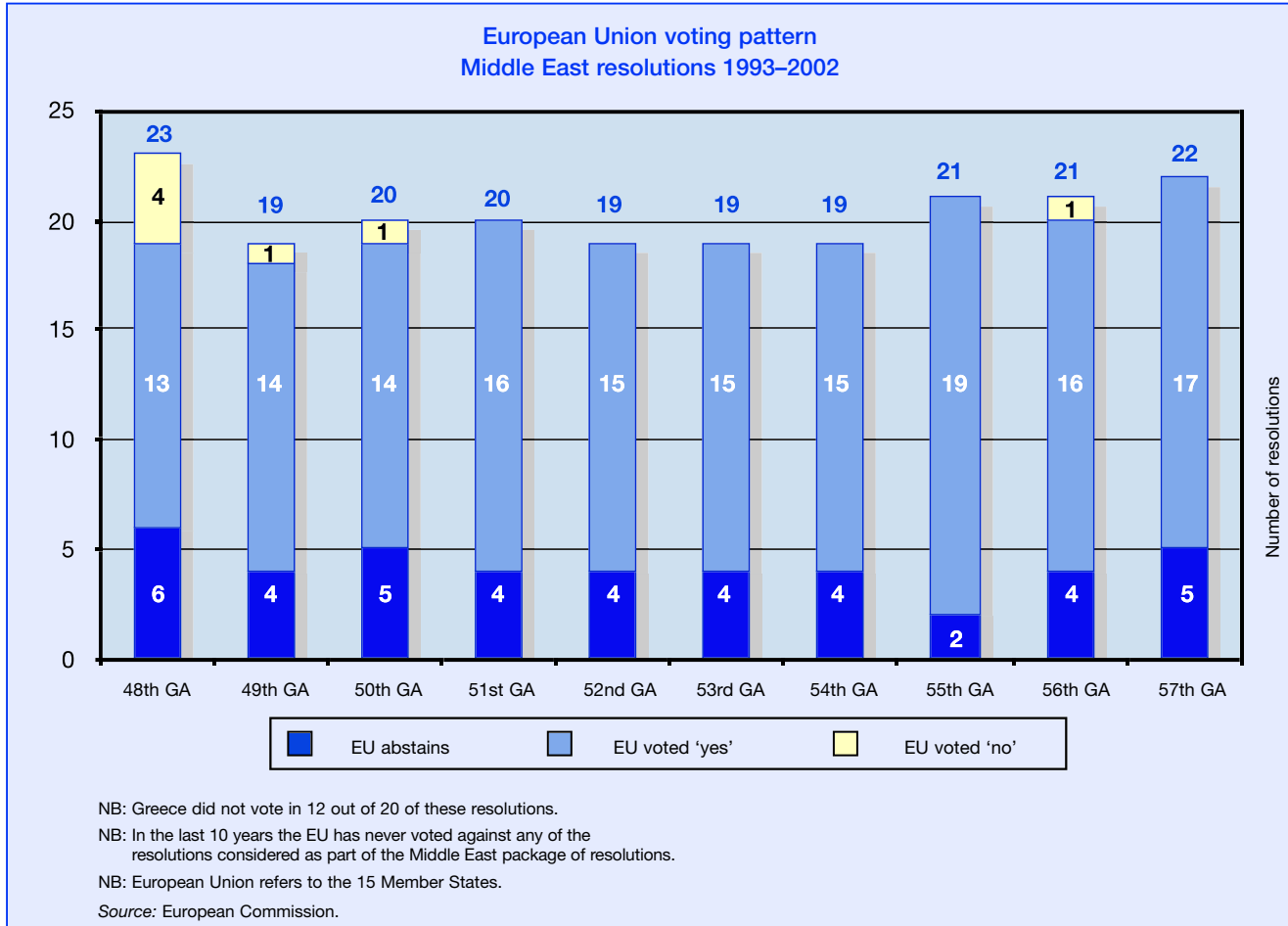
Through its CFSP, the EU speaks almost always with one voice at the UN General Assembly (UNGA). From globalisation and human rights, to development and disarmament, the EU aims for unanimity. And the results are clearly evidenced in EU cohesion, which has stood at around 95 % of all resolutions passed by the UNGA since the mid-1990s.

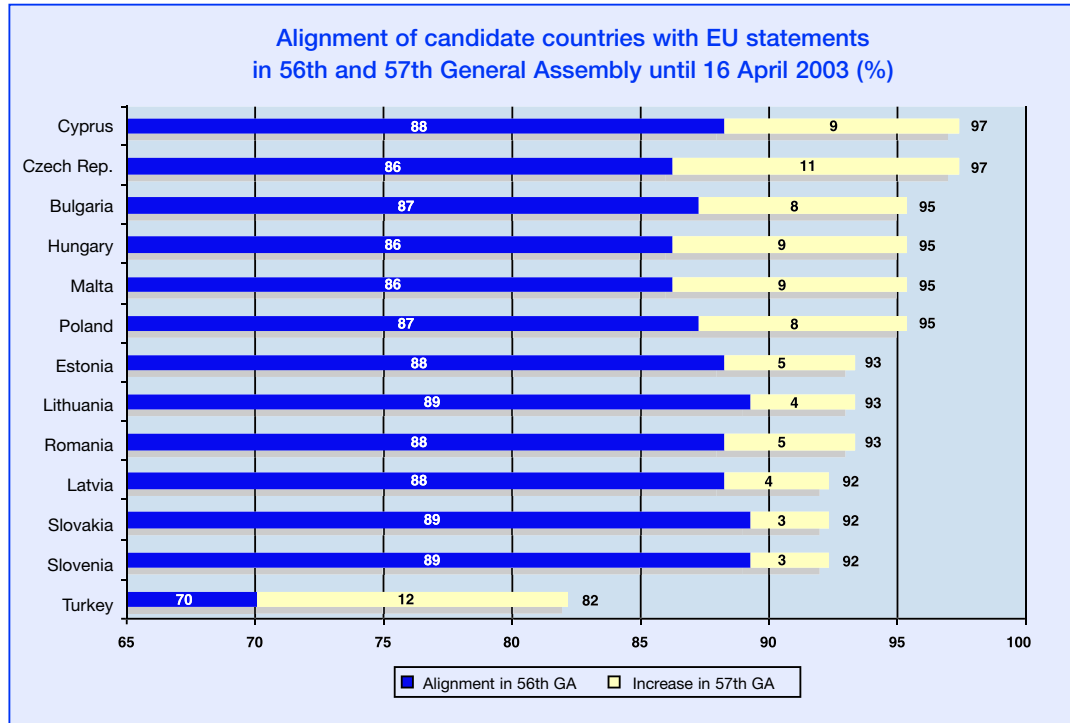
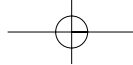




Of the 15 to 25 % of resolutions that are actually voted on at the UNGA each year, the EU votes unanimously on average four times out of five. Even on contentious issues like the Middle East, the EU has managed to achieve unanimity on virtually every occasion over the past decade.

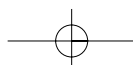
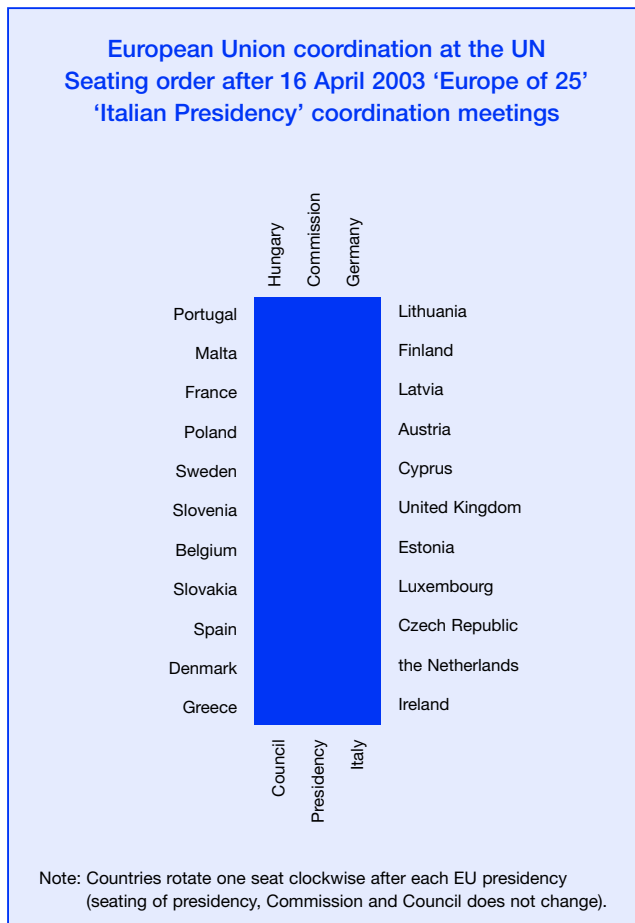
The EU's enlargement is spurring greater cohesion between current and future members as well. In the UNGA, most EU candidate countries had already achieved 100 % alignment with the EU even before signing their Accession Treaties on 16 April 2003.

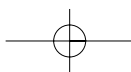
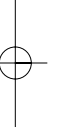
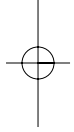
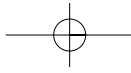




Now, both present and acceding States consistently uphold EU common positions. As a candidate country, Turkey is also making good progress in this regard. Furthermore, over the past few years, all candidate countries have associated themselves increasingly with EU statements made at the UN, along with

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway (which are not expected to join the EU for now). This larger European convergence is set to increase further among the 25 current and future Member States that are now sitting together around the same table in all EU coordination meetings at the UN.



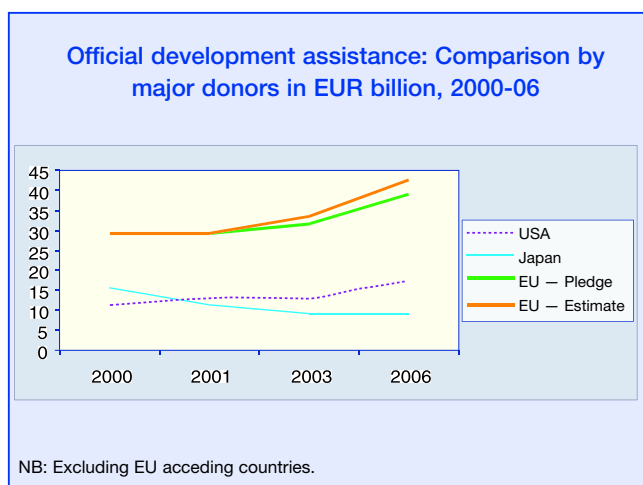


CHAPTER 3

EU-UN development cooperation

Development cooperation – A new focus on aid effectiveness and global commitments

By far the largest provider of official development assistance in the world, the European Union accounted for around half of the world's ODA total, some USD 35.6 billion in 2002 ⁽⁷⁾. Moreover, the EU pledge in Monterrey (Financing for Development (FfD)) will bring the amount of EU ODA up to EUR 39 billion by 2006.

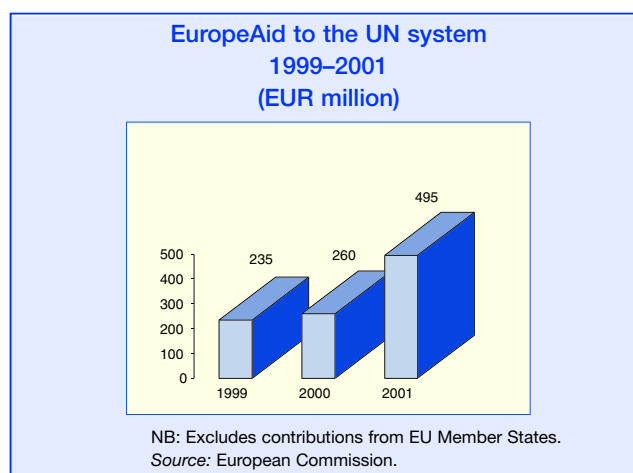


The European Community itself is also a major source of financing support for UN programmes, specialised agencies and funds. During 1999–2001, the EC contributed an average of more than EUR 350 million annually to the UN system, putting it consistently among the top three donors in its own right for the WFP and UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

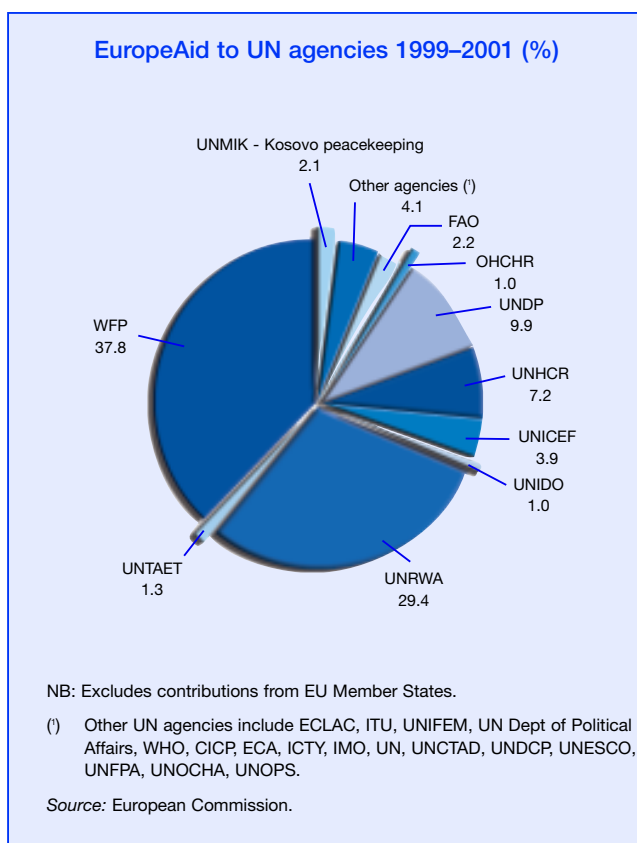
European Union ⁽⁷⁾ official development assistance, 2002

Austria	475
Belgium	1 061
Denmark	1 632
Finland	466
France	5 182
Germany	5 359
Greece	295
Ireland	397
Italy	2 313
Luxembourg	143
The Netherlands	3 377
Portugal	282
Spain	1 608
Sweden	1 754
United Kingdom	4 749
European Commission	6 502
Total	35 595

(1) Excludes 10 acceding countries.
Source: OECD, April 2003.



(7) This includes both the ODA of individual EU Member States and that of the European Community.



These three important decisions help the EU respond to the dual challenge of how to make its external aid more effective, and how to meet the internationally agreed development goals arising from the Millennium Declaration and the major international conferences of the past few years. The EU sees this new global partnership as having a fundamental impact on how development policy is understood and implemented across the world.

More specifically, concerning cooperation with the UN, the Commission is implementing the recommendations found in the Commission Communication of May 2001 on 'Building an effective partnership with the UN in the fields of development and humanitarian affairs', which looks at ways and means for improving the quality and impact of EC development policy within the UN system. The Commission is increasing its policy dialogue with UN organisations, stepping up its activities in UN policy and decision-making bodies as well as establishing strategic partnerships with a number of UN agencies, funds and programmes.

To facilitate cooperation between the Commission and the UN organisations, an updated financial and administrative framework agreement, designed to facilitate a closer partnership between the two bodies, was signed in April 2003 by UN Deputy Secretary General Louise Fréchette, and EU Commissioner for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Poul Nielson. The agreement will pave the way for a closer partnership between the EC and the UN, lowering costs for projects and programmes.

A new era of EU–UN development cooperation

The EU places high priority upon intensifying and enhancing its relations with the UN in the field of development. Progress has been achieved in the policy field and in operations over the years, but there is scope for an improved, more effective partnership. EC cooperation with the UN system is changing from ad hoc, project-based collaboration towards more systematic and programmatic cooperation. The policy dialogue is also being strengthened, recognising the added value and core capabilities that UN bodies can bring in relation to EU development policy priorities.

Three major elements continue to shape the EC's approach to development cooperation:

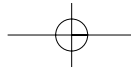
- the European development policy agreed by the European Commission and EU development ministers in the Development Council in 2000;
- the new Cotonou Agreement (which replaces the Lomé Convention) agreed between the EU Member States and 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries — the agreement entered into force on 1 April 2003, setting a new standard in the relationship between the EU and the ACP countries;
- the European Commission's far-reaching reform of the management of Community external aid.



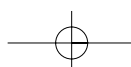
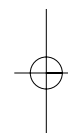
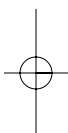
↑ Mr Poul Nielson, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, New York, April 2003.
UN/DPI photo by Eskinder Debebe.

The development policy of the European Community

Reduction of poverty is the central focus and overall objective of the EU's development policies and activities. To foster this, the EC pursues an integrated approach, addressing political, economic, social, environmental and institutional dimensions on all levels — global, regional, national and local — with partners in



UN Millennium Development Goals	
By the year 2015, all 191 United Nations Member States have pledged to meet these goals.	
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day • Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
Achieve universal primary education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling
Promote gender equality and empower women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015
Reduce child mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five
Improve maternal health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS • Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
Ensure environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources • Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water • Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020
Develop a global partnership for development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory. Include a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction — nationally and internationally • Address the least-developed countries' special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction • Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States • Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term • In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth • In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries • In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies — especially information and communications technologies



the public, private and civil sectors. The EU also considers that the gradual integration of developing countries into the world economy is one of the major components of a global strategy to achieve international development targets.

In its poverty eradication efforts, the EU emphasises the importance of reducing hunger and malnutrition, halving poverty by the year 2015 and improving the living conditions of rural populations.

Six core tasks for development assistance

EC development policy identifies six areas where it can offer comparative advantage:

- trade and development;
- regional integration and cooperation;
- macro-economic policies linked with poverty reduction strategies, in particular the strengthening of social sectors like health and education;
- reliable and sustainable transport, which plays a key role in access to basic social services and to economic progress;
- food security and sustainable rural development strategies;
- institutional capacity-building, good governance and the rule of law.

Cross-cutting issues, such as gender aspects, environmental sustainability and human rights are being fully integrated into all activities.



Training for sustainable management of tropical forests, funded by the European Union, Papua New Guinea.

Photo: European Commission.

The European Commission targets its efforts in areas where it has a proven track record, and where it can provide added value compared with other development partners, especially EU Member States. The Commission is increasing its cooperation with its Member States, other bilateral and multilateral donors

— in particular the UN system and the Bretton Woods institutions — to ensure other areas are covered as well.

As one of the largest donors, the EC will also play an increasingly active role with its development partners. The EC is making best use of existing frameworks, such as the poverty reduction strategy programme and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

Furthermore, the EU is in the process of adjusting its policies to support the results of the major international conferences. EU initiatives on water and energy were launched at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in September 2002, supporting the WSSD plan of implementation. These initiatives demonstrate the EU's commitment to translate the political agreements made in Johannesburg into concrete action.

'The EU energy initiative for poverty eradication and sustainable development' followed an agreement reached at the WSSD on the need for joint action to improve access to reliable and affordable energy services sufficient to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This initiative emphasises the development of partnerships, at policy level as well as at practical level for implementation, with recipient countries, the private sector, other donors, financing organisations and civil society.

The EU water initiative, 'Water for life', will make a positive contribution towards achieving the targets of clean water provision and access to basic sanitation.

The European Commission coordinates both initiatives and chairs the multi-stakeholder advisory group of the water initiative, involving the EU Member States, NGOs, private sector and professional associations and the European Investment Bank. It has also suggested boosting the EU water initiative by proposing the establishment of a European Union water fund, with a budget of EUR 1 billion, to help give people in the ACP countries access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.

Another priority area for action arising from the WSSD is the 'EU action plan for forest law enforcement, governance and trade', which aims to address the growing problem of illegal logging and related trade.

The landmark Cotonou Agreement

The EU and its ACP partners achieved an important milestone in their relations with the entry into force of the Cotonou Agreement on 1 April 2003. The Europe-ACP partnership has significantly developed during the past 40 years: from the association system in 1957 to the Yaoundé Conventions in 1963 and 1969, and the four Lomé Conventions (1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, plus 1995 *bis*). The renewal of the ACP-EU

The ACP States

Angola	Mauritania
Antigua and Barbuda	Mauritius
Bahamas	Micronesia
Barbados	Mozambique
Belize	Namibia
Benin	Nauru
Botswana	Niger
Burkina Faso	Nigeria
Burundi	Niue
Cameroon	Palau
Cape Verde	Papua New Guinea
Central African Republic	Rwanda
Chad	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Comores	Saint Lucia
Congo	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Cook Islands	Samoa
Côte d'Ivoire	São Tomé and Príncipe
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Senegal
Djibouti	Seychelles
Dominica	Sierra Leone
Dominican Republic	Solomon Islands
Equatorial Guinea	Somalia
Eritrea	South Africa
Ethiopia	Sudan
Fiji	Suriname
Gabon	Swaziland
Gambia (the)	Tanzania
Ghana	East Timor ⁽¹⁾
Grenada	Togo
Guinea	Tonga
Guinea-Bissau	Trinidad and Tobago
Guyana	Tuvalu
Haiti	Uganda
Jamaica	Vanuatu
Kenya	Zambia
Kiribati	Zimbabwe
Lesotho	
Liberia	
Madagascar	
Malawi	
Mali	
Marshall Islands	

http://www.europarl.eu.int/intcoop/acp/21_01/default_en.htm

⁽¹⁾ Joined ACP 13 May; ACP-EC Council has accepted East Timor's accession to Cotonou; awaiting ratification from East Timor.

Agreement has been the subject of intensive discussions since 1996. Wide-ranging public debate has made it possible to assess the expectations and changes needed to breathe new life into the partnership.

As with the EU's development policy in general, the agreement's key objective is the reduction of poverty. This is embedded in an innovative economic and trade cooperation framework, which supports regional integration and cooperation efforts between ACP countries. In this context, the EC intends to negotiate regional economic partnership agreements, which will be at the heart of regional free trade areas. This

process should help ACP countries integrate gradually into the world economy, giving prominence to strengthened regional cooperation and thus responding to the challenges of globalisation.

It also paves the way for increased foreign direct investments, which the EC intends to stimulate through a new EUR 2.2 billion business investment facility.

This new agreement will disburse funds in the order of EUR 13.5 billion (in addition to EUR 10 billion not allocated during previous agreements) for the period 2000–07. Allocation of these funds will be based on

the evaluation of each country's individual requirements as well as their policy performance. This country-by-country approach, based on the principles of selectivity and effectiveness, is another leading feature of the new relationship.

Important elements such as peace-building, conflict-prevention policies and migration have also been introduced into the new agreement.

Reform of the Commission's external service

Sous-titre
On 1 January 2001, the reorganisation and reform of the European Commission's external services came into effect. This included the establishment of a new EuropeAid Cooperation Office for the management of 80 % of the EC's external assistance — EUR 9 billion in total. External assistance projects are now managed under a single administrative structure, from start to finish. The primary aim: speeding up delivery and improving the quality of programmes and projects.

Reorganisation has also included the decentralisation and devolution of powers from the European Commission's headquarters into the field, including provision of necessary human and material resources. The goal is to ensure development policy is made and implemented on the ground.

Heavily indebted poorest countries (HIPC)

Thus far, the EC has pledged more than EUR 1.275 billion to the HIPC initiative: EUR 734 million as a donor to the HIPC Trust Fund; EUR 485 million as a creditor; and an additional EUR 60 million, again as a creditor, to alleviate remaining special loans granted to least-developed ACP HIPCs. The EC remains committed to cover, on a fair burden-sharing basis, the potential costs of the 'topping up', namely the additional debt relief that may be needed at completion point for countries having experienced external shocks, leading to a debt burden above the threshold of sustainability.

Health issues

The European Commission and the WHO widened their collaboration in December 2000 by an exchange of letters and a memorandum of understanding identifying various priority areas in a wide range of health issues. These included communicable disease control, the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), a global strategy on diet, physical activity and health, environment and health and the strategic part-

nership between the EU and the WHO in the field of development.

Coordinated efforts and international public/private partnerships against infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS are key issues for development and poverty reduction in the developing world.

In this context, the EU has developed a comprehensive programme for action on accelerated actions targeting these three diseases, and has given high priority to improved results in this area on national, regional and global levels, in the areas of development, research and trade.

Increased cooperation in the field of communicable diseases is an even greater priority since the 2003 outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). There is now effective synergy between the EU early warning and response system and the WHO global outbreak alert and response network.

The FCTC was adopted unanimously in May 2003 and is recognised as the first international treaty negotiated under the auspices of the WHO. The Commission negotiated on behalf of the EU. Commissioner Byrne's leadership and commitment to tobacco control was recognised by a special award given by the World Health Assembly.

On access to medication, the EU and the WHO have confirmed their intention to work together on improving access to medicines for poverty-related diseases. A final multilateral agreement in the WTO on the Doha Declaration on trade-related aspects of international property rights (TRIPs) and public health is needed as soon as possible and the Commission is working hard to achieve it. In this context, it is worth recalling the major contributions of the EU to the financing of the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Finally, the strategic partnership between the Commission and the WHO in the field of development and health is aimed at maximising the opportunities for the reduction of poverty and the attainment of the millennium development goals. Both organisations share the same conviction that public health policy is at the heart of a genuine development policy.

The EU's involvement in key UN development conferences

In the last few years, a number of important international meetings have taken place related to the EU and UN common concern to eradicate poverty.

The **third UN Conference on Least-Developed Countries** (LDCs) was held at the Brussels headquarters of the European Parliament in May 2001. The EU played a leading role in making this conference a suc-

cess and contributed strongly to the adoption of the programme of action on LDCs for 2001–10.

Then, at the **International Conference on Financing for Development** in Monterrey in 2002, the EU undertook the eight ‘Barcelona commitments’ as its concrete contribution to the conference. These ‘commitments’ paved the way for considerable undertakings from other major donors, expressed both at the Monterrey conference and in the ‘Monterrey consensus’, which contains a number of positive messages on partnership, increases in ODA and the untying of aid and technical assistance. The post-FfD conference period has been marked by the EU’s strong commitment to work with the UN, the Bretton Woods institutions and

Sous-titre

On the occasion of the **‘World Food Summit: Five years later’** in June 2002 in Rome, the EU reasserted its firm commitment and determination to achieve a solemn Millennium Declaration objective: to free mankind from the scourge of famine. In this context, the EU underlined the need for a comprehensive strategy hinging on trade, public aid, research and cooperation with the countries concerned. Each year, the EU handles food security programmes worth roughly EUR 2.7 billion. To maximise their impact, the EU has concentrated food security operations in the 34 most vulnerable countries over the last few years.

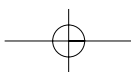
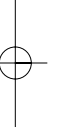
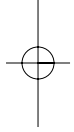
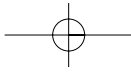
At the **WSSD in Johannesburg**, the EU reaffirmed its willingness and determination to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The WSSD succeeded in adding new momentum to the cause of sustainable development and demon-

strated, like FfD, that the EU can speak with one voice and play a leading role. The EU is determined to make sure that the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) are equally well covered. And the most important aspect of all: implementation. In March 2003, the EU reviewed its strategy for sustainable development with a focus on putting into practice the commitment undertaken in the WSSD, both internally and externally. The EU’s new initiatives on water, energy and illegal logging, as described above, demonstrate clearly its willingness to deliver.

New challenges for Community development policy

The EC’s development policy has entered a new era. The new global partnership established as a result of the Millennium Declaration and the major international conferences pose new goals and challenges for development. It is now time to focus on the implementation of the joint global commitments and pay even more attention to the effectiveness of our actions. As a major global partner in development cooperation, the EU is ready to push for improvements in the international community’s ability to achieve its development policy goals. The EU is therefore committed to the ongoing efforts to enhance aid effectiveness, and attaches great importance to the efforts of the donor community to work towards the harmonisation of donor practices. Closer cooperation between the EU and the UN family will be part of this effort.





CHAPTER 4

Environment and sustainable development

Environmental problems need better global governance

Global issues have increasingly driven European environmental policy. Some of the most pressing environmental concerns today, such as climate change, ozone depletion and biodiversity loss, are global in scope, requiring coordinated international action.

The European Union plays an active role in international environmental forums, believing that existing international bodies dealing with such issues must be reinforced and made more efficient. This entails strengthening the international institutional framework, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme, and ensuring better implementation of environmental agreements. The EU also advocates the inclusion of environmental considerations into the activities of other UN bodies and the international financial institutions.

Practising what it preaches

The EU has been instrumental in achieving many of the major environmental conventions negotiated recently (on the ozone layer, climate change, desertification, biodiversity, hazardous wastes, hazardous chemicals, etc.).

It has also played a key role by giving guidance to governments on how to develop their environmental policy. This includes an active follow-up of the Rio process and Agenda 21, and full participation in the work of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

The EU was broadly satisfied with the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (September 2002). The implementation plan and the political declaration have shaped a global partnership for sustainable development. Good governance and a better environment are part of the deal.

The implementation plan contains a set of new targets on access to basic sanitation, biodiversity, fish stocks and chemicals, which complement the Millennium Development Goals. Implementation of national sustainable development strategies is to start by 2005, and



↑ EC President Romano Prodi and Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen, representing the EU presidency at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, September 2002.
UN/DPI photo by Eskinder Debebe.

a 10-year framework for programmes on sustainable consumption and production will be developed. There was also agreement to increase the share of renewable energy in the total energy mix, and to complement this, the EU launched an initiative to work with other like-minded countries in a 'coalition for renewables' that is now being developed.

The most innovative element of Johannesburg was the announcement of more than 200 voluntary partnerships for sustainable development, involving governments, international institutions and stakeholders. These partnerships, including two important EU partnerships on water and energy, will be an important instrument to mobilise action and resources at all levels.

Just as the EU played a leading role at the summit, it will take the lead in the follow-up by focusing on implementation of the commitments made. Some existing instruments, for example the sustainable development strategy agreed in Göteborg in June 2001 and the sixth environmental action programme, provide the framework for the EU to implement the outcome of the WSSD. EU leaders addressed the follow-up to the WSSD at the spring European Council in 2003, reiterating their commitment: to the new goals and targets agreed in Johannesburg; to ensuring effective follow-up to the commitment made in Monterrey

on the realisation of the 0.7 % target for ODA; to promoting sustainable and fair trade; and to the timely elaboration at both international and EU levels of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production.

Combating climate change

Climate change has become one of the most important global environmental challenges, and the EU is at the forefront of international efforts to fight it. The EU has established targets for significant reductions in greenhouse emissions and, as a first step, it has achieved its commitment to stabilise its own CO₂ emissions by 2000 at 1990 levels. The objective, in line with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, is to stabilise the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases at a level that will not cause unnatural variations of the earth's climate.

The EU is thus strongly committed to ratification and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, the basis for further efforts by all parties in the global fight against human-induced elements of climate change. The EU believes that the Kyoto Protocol represents the right international framework to face this challenge. It also supports capacity building to assist developing countries in implementing the convention. The EU and all its Member States have shown leadership in the fight against climate change by living up to their commitments and ratifying the Kyoto Protocol in May 2002.



↑ UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, European Commissioner for the Environment Margot Wallström and Spanish Environment Minister Jaume Palau at the celebrations following the signing of the Kyoto Protocol, New York, April 2002.

Photo: Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN.

And the EU continuously calls upon other countries to complete their ratification processes as soon as possible. (For more information, please see: http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/home_en.htm. Also relevant is: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ozone/index.htm>.)

The EU also supports the Forum on Forests, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Montreal Protocol on the ozone layer. The EU worked for and obtained a successful replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which, at USD 2.92 billion, was the highest replenishment ever, with additional voluntary contributions from some EU Member States. This will provide additional support for the new mandate of the GEF with regard to persistent organic pollutants and desertification.

Protecting the seas

To tackle the complexity and diversity of marine issues and challenges, the EU has adopted a wide range of policies and approaches. The themes range from the conservation of biodiversity, management of fisheries and aquaculture and sustaining livelihoods of coastal communities, to flood protection and pollution control.

This diversity of issues is reflected in a host of international, regional and national commitments and conventions such as Agenda 21, the UNEP regional seas programme and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which the European Community is a contracting party. The EU attaches great importance to the implementation of the existing international framework of treaties and agreements.

Action contributing to development and environmental protection has been acquiring increasing importance in the European Union. The EU common fisheries policy supports international efforts to achieve sustainable fisheries, and the EU plays an active role in cooperating with developing countries through international action within the framework of the UN bodies, and in regional fisheries organisations.

Preserving biodiversity

The European Community and its Member States are contracting parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and are active participants in follow-up activities, including the Biosafety Protocol, which the EC ratified in August 2002.

Adopted in 1998, the Community's biodiversity strategy defines a framework for the actions necessary to implement fully the CBD, focusing on the integration of biodiversity concerns into the development and implementation of relevant sectoral policies. Specific biodiversity action plans for the conservation of natural resources, agriculture, fisheries and development and economic cooperation were adopted in spring 2001. The EU fully endorses the target to reduce significantly the rate of loss of biological diversity by 2010 included in the WSSD plan of implementation. In fact, the Göteborg European Council adopted the European sustainable development strategy, including

**Parties to the Kyoto Protocol: States
that have ratified, accepted,
acceded, or approved (*)**

Antigua and Barbuda	Laos
Argentina	Latvia
Armenia	Lesotho
Austria	Liberia
Azerbaijan	Lithuania
Bahamas	Luxembourg
Bangladesh	Malawi
Barbados	Malaysia
Belgium	Maldives
Benin	Mali
Bhutan	Malta
Bolivia	Mauritius
Brazil	Mexico
Bulgaria	Micronesia
Burundi	Mongolia
Cambodia	Morocco
Cameroon	Nauru
Canada	Netherlands
Chile	New Zealand
China	Nicaragua
Colombia	Niue
Cook Islands	Norway
Costa Rica	Palau
Cuba	Panama
Cyprus	Papua New Guinea
Czech Republic	Paraguay
Denmark	Peru
Djibouti	Poland
Dominican Republic	Portugal
Ecuador	Republic of Moldova
El Salvador	Romania
Equatorial Guinea	Samoa
Estonia	Senegal
European Community	Seychelles
Fiji	Slovakia
Finland	Slovenia
France	Solomon Islands
Gambia	South Africa
Georgia	South Korea
Germany	Spain
Ghana	Sri Lanka
Greece	Sweden
Grenada	Tanzania
Guatemala	Thailand
Guinea	Trinidad and Tobago
Honduras	Tunisia
Hungary	Turkmenistan
Iceland	Tuvalu
India	Uganda
Ireland	United Kingdom
Italy	Uruguay
Jamaica	Uzbekistan
Japan	Vanuatu
Jordan	Vietnam
Kiribati	
Kyrgyzstan	

(*) As of 10 June 2003.

the more ambitious target of halting biodiversity decline by 2010, as set out in the sixth environmental action programme.

In February 2002, the European Commission proposed a regulation on the transboundary movement of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). When adopted, this regulation will complete the EC legislative framework implementing the provisions of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

The social dimension

The social dimension of sustainable development has become increasingly important for the EU, which implies promoting the same integrated approach to social and economic policy both internally and beyond Europe's borders. It also means supporting quality employment and social cohesion, promoting a high level of employment and social protection and social dialogue by ensuring respect for core labour standards, supporting gender equality and the fight against discrimination and social exclusion.

Moreover, the recent creation of a World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation, and the progress made by the ILO in promoting implementation of its fundamental conventions, are important steps in that direction.

The EU attaches great importance to its relationship with the ILO, which started with the first EC–ILO agreement in 1958. This was strengthened by an exchange of letters between EU Commissioner Diamantopoulou and ILO Director-General Somavia in May 2001. The EC has also put forward proposals for an institutional strengthening of the ILO itself. Both organisations share a commitment to social and economic progress, improving living and working conditions and promoting employment.

However, there has been growing public concern that the social aspects of globalisation have been neglected. The implementation of the Commission communication on promoting core labour standards and improving social governance provides the backdrop for EU contributions to the discussions of the ILO working party on the social dimension of globalisation. It is also the context for EU participation in the World Commission established by the ILO to strengthen the dialogue between international organisations and civil society.

Respect for core labour standards is also a key premise for EU development policy. ILO standards are incorporated into EC assistance programmes. The fight against child labour is a case in point. Here, the EU is a major contributor to the ILO International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). There is also cooperation between the EU and the ILO in the field of corporate social responsibility (CSR).

The European social model provides an important dimension of EC–ILO cooperation. Employment policies, including skills and mobility, employment reports and guidelines, migration and trafficking, occupational health and safety at work, social protection and social dialogue are all examples of how the EU can provide a benchmark for policy worldwide.



↑ European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection David Byrne receives the WHO Director-General's award for his 'leadership in global tobacco control' at the headquarters of the World Health Organisation, presented to him by Derek Yach, WHO Executive Director of the non-communicable diseases and mental health cluster, June 2003.

Photo: P. Viro/WHO.

The EU has also contributed to major UN conferences on gender equality, racism, ageing, as well as to their follow-up. It also aims to ensure that issues of social governance are dealt with effectively by other UN bodies, such as ECOSOC, the Commission for Social Development, and the UNGA's Third Committee, as well as the major conferences.

NGOs: an essential partner

NGOs formed part of the European Community and many Member State delegations to the Rio Conference, Rio + 5, the WSSD and to most sessions of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. In addition, the EU has regularly supported the NGO Steering Committee of the CSD.

Environmental NGOs participate in EU expert groups and in preparatory and implementation committees, providing important input to EU policies, programmes and initiatives. EU Member States involve NGOs and other sectors of civil society as part of advisory councils on environment and sustainable development in the design of national as well as local strategies such as 'Local agenda 21' initiatives.

The 1998 action programme to promote European environmental NGOs provides a legal framework for the financial relationship between the EC and NGOs on these issues. Dialogue on the environment is assisted by the existence of the European Environmental Bureau, which brings together around 140 large and small NGOs at the European level.

CHAPTER 5

Keeping the peace and preventing conflict

EU Member States: Active peacekeepers under UN auspices

The European Union is deeply committed to the primary role of the UN in maintaining international peace and security and its core function of peacekeeping, as mandated by the Security Council ⁽⁸⁾. This commitment is confirmed by EU Member States' major contributions of troops, police officers, and observers to UN operations, which totalled 3 259 personnel, or 9.0 % of the UN total in June 2003. When the contributions of the 10 acceding countries are added, the figures rise to 4 801 and 13.2 %, respectively.

Furthermore, the EU is by far the largest troop contributor to other peace missions under the authority of the UN Security Council, even if not directly run by the UN. This is the case with two large peacekeeping operations in the Balkans: SFOR, which operates in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and KFOR in Kosovo, in connection with the UN Mission UNMIK. In these operations, troop contributions by EU Member States comprise about 60 % of the total. In Africa, more than 20 000 personnel from the EU Member States were serving under a UN mandate in April 2003.

The share of the EU-25 in the UN peacekeeping budget is around 39 % of the world total at present, making the Union by far the largest contributor. By paying their assessed contributions on time and in full, EU Member States play a decisive role in ensuring that peacekeeping activities continue to function smoothly.

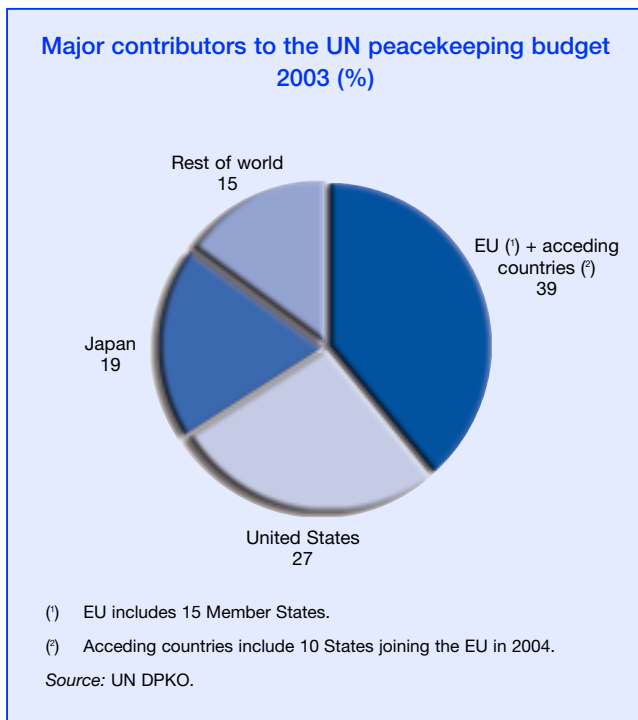
EU personnel contributions to UN peacekeeping operations (as of June 2003)

Member State	
EU-15	
Austria	436
Belgium	15
Denmark	60
Finland	250
France	306
Germany	383
Greece	29
Ireland	62
Italy	181
Luxembourg	0
Netherlands	12
Portugal	703
Spain	24
Sweden	179
United Kingdom	619
EU-15 total	3 259
Acceding country	
Cyprus	0
Czech Republic	35
Estonia	1
Hungary	136
Latvia	0
Lithuania	8
Malta	0
Poland	734
Slovakia	608
Slovenia	20
AC-10 total	1 542
EU-25 total	4 801

NB: EU includes 15 Member States.
Acceding countries include 10 States joining the EU in 2004.

Source: UN DPKO.

⁽⁸⁾ Two EU Member States — France and the United Kingdom — are permanent members, and other EU Member States frequently serve as rotating members.



↑ Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou, representing the EU presidency, in front of the UN Security Council after emergency consultations in New York concerning the crisis in Iraq, February 2003. UN/DPI photo by Eskinder Debebe.

Additional EU means available through the CFSP

The objectives of the EU's common foreign and security policy are, among other things, 'to strengthen the security of the Union in all ways' and 'to preserve peace and strengthen international security, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter'. Through the CFSP, the EU expresses its position on the international stage and acts in a consistent fashion where there is a common interest for its Member States. The Council of the European Union plays a vital role in implementing this policy, to which the European Commission is fully associated. Beyond the general representation of the EU by the rotating Member State presidency, the CFSP is also permanently represented by the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union, the High Representative for the CFSP.

As part of the CFSP, the Union is developing a European security and defence policy that embraces all issues relating to its security and to its crisis management capacity.

EU-led crisis management operations

The European Union can undertake the following types of crisis management operations:

- humanitarian and search-and-rescue operations, as well as evacuation;
- peacekeeping operations;
- combat missions and peacemaking.

Necessary decision-making procedures and structures, as well as planning tools and concepts, are now in place. The Union may thus decide to undertake military operations and/or carry out missions in the fields of policing, the rule of law, civilian administration and civil protection. Faced with a crisis, the EU now has at its disposal the whole range of tools — economic, diplomatic and military — to deal with such situations.

Military capabilities

The EU's capability to undertake military crisis-management operations implies that it can deploy credible and efficient military forces. The Helsinki European Council of December 1999 set the objective: a military capacity of 50 000 to 60 000 men, supported by corresponding air and naval resources, to be operational in 2003 at the latest, deployable in less than two months and able to remain in the field for more than a year.

Civilian capabilities

The following capabilities have been pledged by EU Member States to be brought under collective management:

- police: availability of up to 5 000 policemen, of whom 1 400 can be deployed in less than a month;
- strengthening of the rule of law: availability of around 300 public prosecutors, judges, and prison service officers to supplement the work carried out by the police forces in crisis situations;
- civilian administration, for which a pool of experts has been established;
- civil protection, with experts and intervention teams that can be mobilised at very short notice.

Collective EU efforts help the UN to keep the peace

By civilian means: The European Union Police Mission

In the first operation of its kind, the EU replaced the UN's International Police Task Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 1 January 2003, allowing the UN to redeploy its resources elsewhere. This European Union Police Mission (EUPM) aims to establish sustainable policing arrangements under the ownership of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with best European and international practices. It does this chiefly through monitoring, mentoring and inspection activities. It consists of 500 police personnel from more than 30 countries: the 15 EU Member States, nine of the 10 acceding countries and eight other countries.



↑ EU Police Mission Commissioner Sven Frederiksen and the EUSR Lord Paddy Ashdown urge police municipal leaders to work together to build confidence on a visit to Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina, January 2003.
Photo: EUPM.

By military means: Bunia

The EUPM was quickly followed by the EU-led military operation (called 'Artemis') in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, conducted under the mandate of UN Security Council Resolution 1484 (2003). The ESDP provides the framework for the temporary stabilisation force in Bunia, where more than 1 500 peacekeepers have helped stabilise a volatile and dangerous situation under difficult circumstances. The EU's High Representative for the CFSP shall act as primary point of contact with the UN, providing regular reports to the Security Council on implementation of the operation's mandate.

These EU-led crisis management operations illustrate progress towards the implementation of a common European security and defence policy, as well as the EU's will to intervene in crises and to promote stability. Thus, the Union is responding to one of the concerns most clearly expressed by its citizens: namely, Europe's ability to guarantee its own security and to assert itself as an important player on the international stage⁽⁹⁾.



↑ EU High Representative Javier Solana addresses the UN Security Council on the Artemis EU Mission in the Democratic Republic of The Congo, July 2003. Ambassador Marcello Spatafora, representing the EU presidency in New York, is seated on the left.
UN/DPI photo by Mark Garten.

'The European Union is a new player in the field of conflict management. The EU should integrate this new dimension, and build procedures and an identity for itself in this field that are specific to it, in order to be able to deal with complex crises with all the necessary tools. In this way it will become an exporter of peace and security.' **Javier Solana**, High Representative for the common foreign and security policy.

Conflict prevention at the heart of EU external relations

Conflict prevention is not a new issue on the EU's external agenda. Even before the development of the CFSP, the EU was well placed to prevent conflict through a full range of instruments, including:

- trade policy;
- development policy;
- cooperation and association agreements;

⁽⁹⁾ According to the June 2003 Eurobarometer poll, 67 % of EU citizens are in favour of a common foreign policy, and 74 % support a common defence and security policy.

- social and environmental programmes;
- humanitarian assistance (the EC Humanitarian Office — ECHO);
- cooperation mechanisms in the field of justice and home affairs.

Besides, the development of the CFSP enhanced significantly:

- diplomatic tools (declarations, visits, démarches, special envoys) and political dialogue;
- the strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

An effective and proactive use of these tools, old and new, requires better coordination and coherence among different areas of policy, as well as between the CFSP, the actions of EU Member States and those of the European Community. Urgent horizontal measures (for example, measures against the illicit trade in small arms and 'conflict' diamonds) and long-term, broader development policies are increasingly being implemented in a mutually reinforcing and coordinated fashion. And other peace-building measures, like effective protection of human rights and good governance, have a 'circular effect', helping to prevent the outbreak of conflict.

Helping the UN in conflict prevention

The European Union has been heavily involved for many years in helping the UN to prevent conflict in the world.

On the ground, this has been aided by the appointment of EU special representatives, who play a growing role in shaping the EU's presence, contributing either to conflict prevention or peace-building activities across the globe. Such special envoys are currently involved in the western Balkans (three mandates covering Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Stability Pact), the Middle East Peace Process, the African Great Lakes region and Afghanistan.

In Africa, millions of civilians have died from violent conflict in recent years. The Union will continue to support efforts in favour of the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa, in close cooperation with the UN, the African Union and other sub-regional organisations. The EU has also supported efforts to deal with the illicit trade in minerals and other resources that directly finance conflict.

In the Mediterranean, the EU's overall policy is defined by the 27-country Euro-Med Partnership, launched at the Barcelona conference in November 1995. It constitutes a good example of a comprehensive and innovative strategy to promote stability and prosperity in a complex region. The adoption of the Euro-Mediterranean Charter for Peace and Stability will provide the EU and its Mediterranean partners

with a useful tool to join forces in maintaining peace and stability in the region. The EU is also the largest donor of non-military aid to the Middle East Peace Process (an average of EUR 810 million annually in recent years), as well as to the Palestinian Authority (an average of EUR 179 million a year for the last six years).

The EU has established a stabilisation and association agreement (SAA) process to bring the countries of the region closer to European structures and, eventually, EU membership. The prospect of European integration remains a fundamental tool of conflict resolution and conflict prevention. Moreover, European countries and institutions provide the vast majority of resources pledged to the reconstruction of the region through bilateral programmes, the SAA process and through the Stability Pact for south-eastern Europe.

The EU leads Pillar 4 (economic reconstruction, recovery and development) of the UN Mission in Kosovo. The EC budget has provided around EUR 1.24 billion in reconstruction programmes, humanitarian aid and financial assistance in Kosovo from 1998 to 2001. Altogether, the Union has provided some EUR 7 billion in assistance for the western Balkans region as a whole since 1991.

Normalisation, disarmament and non-proliferation

A solid basis for peace requires the creation of a safe environment in countries emerging from conflict. Their populations deserve to enjoy the 'peace dividend' as soon as possible. The so-called DDR actions (disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration) are a vital catalyst to encourage combatants to return to normal civilian life. The EU and its Member States have financed important programmes of this type, like those in Mozambique in the framework of UNOMOZ, and projects focused on child-soldiers in Liberia. Another example: immediately after the elections held in Serbia in September 2000, the EC delivered fuel for the Serbian population in preparation for winter, attempting to normalise the situation as quickly as possible.

Disarmament and arms-control play an important role, too, and the Union actively supports UN efforts in this field. The EU is involved in several UN disarmament topics related to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, such as small arms and light weapons (SALW), the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). It also supports measures involving different international actors, ranging from the fields of nuclear safeguards to the collection and destruction of small arms.

Similarly, the EU supports the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines (APLs) and on their Destruction. Indeed, since the convention is an

important step towards achieving a total ban on APLs worldwide, it is worth recalling that the EU is the largest donor in the field of humanitarian mine action, including stockpile destruction, mine clearance and mine awareness education. The European Community contributed EUR 42 million in 2002 alone to support APL-related projects throughout the world⁽¹⁰⁾. Total EU spending (EC and EU Member States) was EUR 142.5 million in 2001.

As to non-proliferation, the EU provides active support to several initiatives aimed at preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in particular proliferation to non-State actors, such as terrorists. The EC is a member of the Australia Group, which endeavours to allow exporting or transshipping countries to minimise the risk of assisting chemical and biological weapon (CBW) proliferation. The Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy, works closely with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in these matters. The European Commission also cooperates with the IAEA on a range of technical issues — most notably nuclear safeguards — and the EU generally speaks with one voice in the IAEA's Board of Governors on political issues such as the verification of nuclear programmes in North Korea, Iran and Iraq.

The EU is also a major contributor to the G8 Global Partnership against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction launched in Kananaskis in

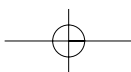
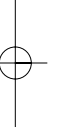
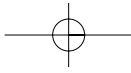
2002. Through a specific joint action under its CFSP, along with the financial contribution of the EC's Tacis programme, the EU is active in chemical weapons destruction, nuclear submarine dismantlement, fissile materials security and disposition, and the re-employment of former weapons experts. As such, it is an important actor on the Geneva security scene.

Peace and security: essential for development

The EU is by far the largest donor of world overseas development assistance and an active promoter of sustainable development. It is therefore in a strong position to ensure development policy works in the cause of peace and peace-building, addressing some of the root causes of conflicts: poverty, disease, lack of governance and the rule of law.

Conflict prevention, crisis management and peace-building are thus at the heart of the EU, which itself is a successful example of how stability and prosperity can be promoted through reconciliation and understanding. European integration has proved to be a model for regional cooperation, and hence, conflict resolution.

⁽¹⁰⁾ For a detailed description see *The EU mine action programme*, August 2003.



CHAPTER 6

The fight against terrorism and transnational crime

Combating terrorism

The crime of terrorism is one of the most serious common challenges facing the international community today. It constitutes an acute threat to internal and external security, to peaceful relations between States and to the development and functioning of democratic institutions and principles. The EU categorically condemns all acts of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, irrespective of their motivation, forms and manifestation. It firmly believes that those who perpetrate, organise and sponsor terrorist acts must be brought to justice and duly punished.

The horrific terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 made it clear that terrorism is a global challenge, and that the fight against it requires concerted global action. This fight has been and continues to be a top priority for the EU and its Member States. The Union believes, however, that the battle against this scourge must be carried out in accordance with international law, including human rights conventions and, in case of an armed conflict, established humanitarian precepts.



↑ The tragedy of 11 September delayed the opening of the 56th session of the UN General Assembly by two months. EU foreign ministers, the Commission and Council eventually met in New York in November 2001.

Photo by Michael Vitti/Vittiphot.

The EU recognises the central role of the United Nations in this respect and remains committed to support the UN in its endeavours in this field. Universal implementation of Resolution 1373 (2001) and other

Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism is a matter of continuing priority and urgency to the Union and to its Member States. In implementation of this resolution, the EU applies autonomous economic and financial sanctions to persons, groups and entities providing, directly or indirectly, funds likely to support terrorist acts.

Furthermore, the EU attaches great importance to international and regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Anti-terrorism clauses are being included in many EU agreements with third countries. And the EU actively supports and participates in the counter-terrorism activities carried out in the Council of Europe, the OSCE, and in various UN bodies, including the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. In addition, the EU provides technical assistance to third countries that lack the resources to implement fully the UNSC resolutions concerning terrorism, notably UNSC Resolution 1373. Building capacity within the police and judiciary, border security and countering terrorist financing and money laundering are examples of areas where the EU has been able to assist other countries through specific programmes. Counter-terrorism requirements are also being taken into account in the development of longer-term assistance programmes and new projects designed to meet specific short-term needs, like training and assistance with drafting legislation.

Moreover, the EU has adopted measures internally in the field of police and judicial cooperation to combat terrorism. The framework decision on combating terrorism provides Member States with a common definition of terrorist acts and terrorist groups. Likewise, the European arrest warrant provides for simplified surrender procedures between judicial authorities of Member States, based upon the principle of mutual recognition of judicial decisions.

The EU believes there are close links between terrorism and organised crime, and drug trafficking, and it is addressing these connections, placing specific emphasis on simultaneous investigation. A joint European Commission–Council civil protection mechanism has been established, aimed at protection of populations from chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear terrorist threats.

To reduce the risk posed by certain terrorist groups gaining access to weapons of mass destruction,

radioactive materials and means of delivery, the EU has taken concrete measures in the field of strengthening the relevant multilateral instruments on disarmament, arms control and proliferation; improving export controls; strengthening disarmament cooperation; and enhancing political dialogue with third States.

'It is hard to conceive how the terrorist threat can be confronted effectively except through international cooperation and disciplines. Impressive work has already been done within the EU and through the UN Counter-terrorism Committee. We should continue to help countries which find it hard to meet their counter-terrorism obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 1373. And we should continue to work for a less unequal world for example in the WTO Doha Development Agenda; by carrying forward the Monterrey decisions on development financing; and by implementing the Johannesburg decisions on sustainable development.'

EU External Affairs Commissioner Chris Patten
12 March 2003, speaking at the European Parliament.

The Union strongly believes that the 12 UN conventions and protocols on terrorism — and their implementation — play a pivotal role in the fight against terrorism. Its Member States are committed to the ratification and rapid implementation of all these conventions.

The EU also supports the early conclusion of the negotiations on the draft Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism, and the adoption of the draft International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. The risk posed by certain terrorist groups gaining access to weapons of mass destruction is clear.

For more on EU actions to combat terrorism after 11 September, please visit: <http://europa-eu-un.org/article.asp?id=1587>.

The fight against transnational crime

The EU and the UN share common goals in the fight against transnational organised crime. Dismantling frontiers between the EU Member States is bringing many benefits, but it is also making it easier for criminal organisations to be active across Europe. Simultaneously, criminals have been taking advantage of fast-moving technological advances, such as the Internet. Governments acting individually cannot adequately address these newly emerging problems.

The Treaty on European Union established an institutional framework to fight against organised crime. It provides for the development of common actions in the field of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, including approximation of rules on criminal matters in certain circumstances, while preserving Member States' responsibility for maintaining law and order and safeguarding internal security.

A strategy for combating organised crime has been defined at EU level in several instruments, namely: the 1997 and 1998 action plans to combat organised crime; the conclusions of the special European Council held in Tampere on 15 and 16 October 1999, concerning the creation of an area of freedom, security, and justice in the EU; and the EU strategy of 27 March 2000 for the beginning of the new millennium on the prevention and control of organised crime. As a result, many concrete steps have already been taken by the EU Council to fight against transnational organised crime.

In addition, the EU cooperates with the Centre on Crime Prevention and participates actively in the Committee on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In this context, the EU supports conventions concluded by the UN to combat organised crime. The European Community has signed the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and its protocols on smuggling of migrants, trafficking in human beings, and trafficking in firearms. It favours ratification of these instruments and their swift entry into force, and uses them as guidance for action within the EU and for European Community cooperation with third countries. On 19 July 2002, the EU Council adopted a framework decision on trafficking in human beings to complement the UN protocol on that subject.

Similarly, the EU and the UN are both active in combating corruption. The European Community is involved in the ongoing negotiations for a UN Convention against Corruption, and the European Commission attends meetings of the UN inter-agency coordination group on corruption.

Countering the world drug problem

In June 1998, the 20th Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted itself to countering the world drug problem (UNGASS). The political declaration adopted at this Special Session enshrined the commitment of the international community to address all aspects of the drug problem in a balanced and integrated manner. The EU is fully committed to the implementation of this political declaration and to the implementation of the action plans and other measures adopted at UNGASS. In this respect, the EU Member States continue to implement the EU action plan on drugs 2000–04 in cooperation with the European Commission, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and Europol.

A ministerial-level segment of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs held on 16 and 17 April 2003 assessed both the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered to meet the goals and targets set out in the political declaration adopted at UNGASS. The EU played an active role during this event. Furthermore, it participates actively in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) major donor group.

CHAPTER 7

Humanitarian aid

Closer relations with the UN system

The European Commission's 2001 Communication entitled 'Building an effective partnership with the UN in the field of development and humanitarian affairs', was a concrete expression of the Commission's commitment to move the European Community's relationship with the UN system in the humanitarian arena into a higher gear. And it has accomplished just that: relations between the EU and EC and the respective humanitarian actors, especially in Geneva, the main centre for UN humanitarian affairs, have been considerably strengthened.

In parallel, ECHO (the Office entrusted with the management of the European Community's humanitarian aid, under the Commission's responsibility) has been engaged in building a more effective relationship with its UN partners as well through an enhanced strategic programming dialogue (SPD).

This SPD aims at identifying common ground for collaboration and seeks to provide the financial predictability needed by UN partners. SPDs initially began with the UNHCR and the WFP. They now include UNICEF, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the WHO. The scope of SPDs has been steadily growing since their inception, and they have contributed to consolidating and further strengthening cooperation at country and policy/strategy level between ECHO and its UN partners. For example, ECHO coordinates with OCHA on UN consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance, ensuring compatibility with EC strategies and objectives.

Related to this, developments in the field of asylum at the international level — for example, the UNHCR's agenda for protection, and the EU's common asylum policy — require close consultations between the EU and the UNHCR, as prescribed by the Amsterdam Treaty. Hence, frequent meetings take place between the Commission's representatives and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr Ruud Lubbers, who also consults regularly with the EU Council.

In addition to its substantial financial support to the Red Cross Family (ICRC) — some EUR 31 million in 2002 — the EU highly values its dialogue with the

ICRC, which takes place primarily in Geneva, on the issue of international humanitarian law. In addition, there are also regular high-level meetings between representatives of the ICRC and the Council's Political and Security Committee in Brussels.

Finally, EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Poul Nielson and UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Kenzo Oshima, launched in Brussels in June 2003, the 'Guidelines on the use of military and civil defence assets in support of UN humanitarian activities in complex emergencies' (better known as the 'Oslo Guidelines II'). The text provides a blueprint for a clear relationship between military and humanitarian actors.

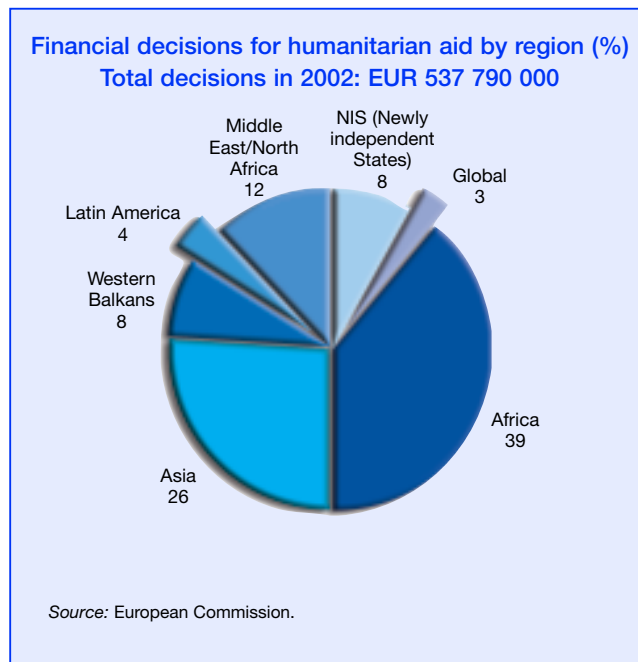
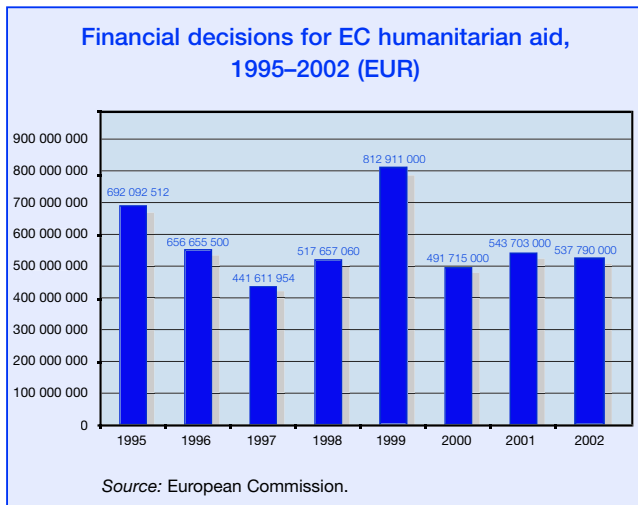
The role of the European Community's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO)

ECHO is a European Commission service under the direct responsibility of Commissioner Poul Nielson, who is also in charge of development policy. ECHO's mandate is to provide emergency assistance and relief to the victims of natural disasters or armed conflict outside the European Union. This assistance is deployed via ECHO's partners in the field — the humanitarian agencies of the United Nations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the Red Cross movement and other international organisations — and is targeted directly at those in distress, irrespective of their race, religion or political convictions. The main task is to ensure that goods and services get to crisis zones fast. Goods may include essential relief supplies, specific foodstuffs, medical equipment, medicines and fuel. Services may include medical teams, water purification teams and logistical support.



← Kabul just after the defeat of the Taliban. The European Union committed more than USD 815 million for reconstruction and humanitarian aid to Afghanistan in 2002, including USD 650 million for humanitarian aid since 11 September. Photo: ECHO.

ECHO contributes substantial amounts of financial assistance to UN bodies dealing with humanitarian crises, such as the UNHCR, the WFP and UNICEF. It was established in 1992 in response to a growing number of serious humanitarian crises in the post-cold war world. Modest at the outset, the aid managed by the Office rose rapidly to reach a level similar to the total assistance provided bilaterally by the EU Member States. Humanitarian aid has thus become an important aspect of the EU's external action. Since 1992, ECHO has funded humanitarian aid in more than 85 countries. Each year it manages a budget of around EUR 500 million. And almost one third of this budget is devoted to projects run by UN humanitarian agencies, especially the UNHCR.



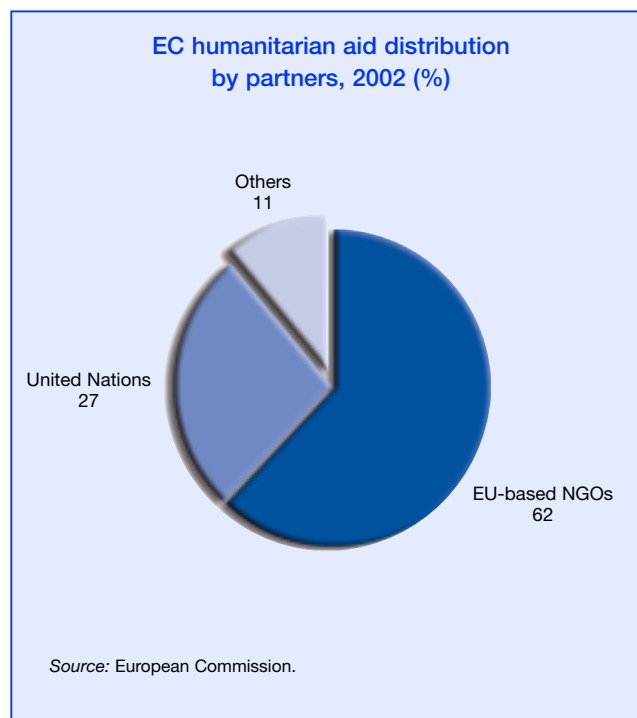
The EU as a whole (Member States plus European Community) is now the world's major source of humanitarian aid funding.

Humanitarian assistance from EU (*) in 2002

	Contribution (EUR million)
Austria	1 250
Belgium	25 020
Germany	140 730
Denmark	40 070
Spain	5 540
Finland	43 170
France	6 060
United Kingdom	74 180
Greece	3 550
Ireland	33 360
Italy	38 890
Luxembourg	1 180
Netherlands	149 180
Portugal	1 630
Sweden	104 640
European Community	537 790
Total	1 206 240

(*) Excluding 10 acceding countries.
Source: European Commission.

In addition to its core activities in funding humanitarian operations, ECHO has a number of related responsibilities: conducting feasibility studies for its operations; monitoring projects and setting up coordination arrangements; promoting disaster preparedness by training specialists; strengthening institutions; and running pilot micro-projects. ECHO also organises and supports training initiatives, and seeks to raise public awareness about humanitarian issues in Europe and elsewhere.



Meeting new needs in Iraq

ECHO has been the largest external donor of humanitarian aid to Iraq, providing EUR 157 million for relief actions over the last 12 years. ECHO's strategy is to be as flexible as possible, ensuring that its activities reflect the changing nature of the Iraq crisis. In effect, this means having a 'rolling programme' of humanitarian aid decisions adapted to needs as they emerge.

In the early 1990s, the greatest need was among the Kurdish population in the north. Prior to the 2003 war, the most vulnerable groups were in the centre and south of the country, where social services had progressively deteriorated through lack of investment and infrastructure. A key element in ECHO's programme before March 2003 was the rehabilitation of institutions, such as children's homes, residential centres for the handicapped and health facilities that had fallen into disrepair. As soon as hostilities broke out, ECHO re-directed its EUR 13 million programme for 2002–03 to more immediate needs, including tanked water, food rations and medical aid for the war-wounded. The Commission also announced a further EUR 21 million in humanitarian aid from ECHO's regular budget, and obtained an additional EUR 79 million from the emergency budget reserve, making a total of EUR 100 million to help meet the new needs generated by the war.



↑ European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Poul Nielson visits Al Yarmuk hospital in Baghdad, Iraq. ECHO is funding humanitarian assistance to the hospital through the French NGO, Première Urgence. May 2003.
Photo: Première Urgence.

Helping the vulnerable in Chechnya

Since the resumption of the conflict in autumn 1999, the people of Chechnya have suffered great hardship, with a large part of the population forced to leave their homes to escape fighting and insecurity. Many internally displaced people (IDPs) sought refuge elsewhere in Chechnya itself, while others fled to neighbouring republics, in particular Ingushetia and Dagestan. Today, this vulnerable population is heavily dependent on humanitarian aid. The Humanitarian Aid Office is

striving to help the victims of this forgotten crisis, although operating conditions remain extremely difficult. ECHO's partners only have irregular access to Chechnya and work in a highly insecure environment.

Despite these difficulties, ECHO assistance has helped to cover the priority humanitarian needs of the population affected by the conflict, both in Chechnya and in neighbouring republics. ECHO funding is used to provide food aid, medical assistance and educational and psychosocial support for IDPs and other vulnerable people. It is also used to improve water and sanitation facilities and shelter conditions. In 2002, ECHO allocated EUR 28 million for victims of the conflict in Chechnya. Since the current crisis began, ECHO has granted more than EUR 90 million, making the EU the leading donor to the region.

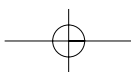
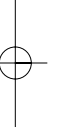
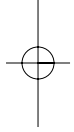
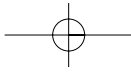
Providing humanitarian transport for the Horn of Africa

ECHO Flight is a vital partner to most humanitarian agencies operating in the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region, transporting personnel and supplies to dozens of remote locations that would otherwise be cut off from the outside world.

From its base in Nairobi and satellite hubs in Mogadishu and Hargeisa (Somalia), Manderla (Kenya) and Goma (Democratic Republic of the Congo), ECHO Flight provides free air transport capacity to aid agencies operating relief and development programmes in Somalia, north-eastern Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Personnel and cargo are flown aboard scheduled flights using a fleet of five light aircraft.

Since its launch in May 1994, the service has clocked over 50 000 missions and carried more than 200 000 aid workers and 6 000 tonnes of food and medical supplies to some of the world's most desperate populations. The service has also carried out more than 200 emergency medical or security evacuations.

ECHO Flight has provided support to relief operations during the Rwandan genocide, the refugee crises in Uganda, Ethiopia and Sudan, and the volcanic eruptions in Goma. With an annual budget of about EUR 8 million, ECHO Flight continues as a concrete expression of Europe's humanitarian commitment to the region.



CHAPTER 8

The EU and human rights

Human rights: fundamental to everything

Liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, are founding principles of the European Union and an indispensable prerequisite for the Union's legitimacy. This is already reflected in the Treaty on European Union. Human rights and democratic values factor into all areas of the EU's activities, and have become a cornerstone of its external policy.

In fact, the clauses of the UN Charter are among the guiding principles of the Union, cited in the preamble of its founding Treaty of Rome in 1957.

The EU has therefore dedicated itself since the Treaty of Rome to the global task of the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as laid down in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and its complementary **core human rights conventions** ⁽¹⁾, as well as other international and regional instruments, including the European Convention on Human Rights.

The human rights enshrined in these instruments are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, as was confirmed by the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in 1993. Respect for these values is closely linked to democracy and development.

A priority in policies

The EU took a considerable step in integrating human rights and democratic principles into its policies with the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union in November 1993. In the Treaty, one of the objectives

of the EU's common foreign and security policy is the development and consolidation of 'democracy and the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms'.

In 1993, the European Council meeting in Copenhagen formulated political criteria to be met by countries applying for EU membership. It stated that 'membership requires that the candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities'. The concepts of respect for and protection of minorities constitutes a key element in combating racism and xenophobia.

The Treaty of Amsterdam, which came into force in May 1999, marks another significant step forward in integrating human rights into the EU's legal order. A new Article 6 has been inserted into the Treaty on European Union, reaffirming that the EU 'is founded on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, principles which are common to the Member States'.

At the European Council meeting in Nice in December 2000, the EU adopted a **Charter of Fundamental Rights**, combining into a single text the civil, political, economic and social rights hitherto laid down in a variety of international, European and national sources.

Even before this solemn proclamation, human rights and democratisation constituted essential components of development policy. According to the EC Treaty: 'Community policy in this area shall contribute to the general objective of developing and consolidating democracy and the rule of law and to that of respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms'. A joint

⁽¹⁾ These include: the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Convention on the Rights of the Child; Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. For texts of these instruments, please visit: <http://www.unhcr.ch/html/intinst.htm>.

Council/Commission statement in November 2000 on the European Community's development policy reiterated that it is based on the principle of sustainable, equitable and participatory human and social development and that 'the promotion of human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance are an integral part of it'.

Since May 1995, the EC has generally included a human rights clause in its bilateral trade and cooperation agreements, as well as bilateral accords of a general nature (excluding sectoral agreements), with third countries. Such clauses afford a positive basis for promoting dialogue and support for democracy and human rights with the possibility of taking appropriate measures, including suspension of an agreement, in the event that the commitment to respect human rights is breached. Many such agreements have already been signed, including association agreements, such as the Europe and Mediterranean agreements. Another landmark example is the Cotonou Agreement between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, which came into force on 1 April 2003. It includes the most recent version of the human rights clause and introduces a specific consultation mechanism to investigate alleged violations of human rights by parties to the agreement. It also incorporates good governance as a fundamental element of the accord.

Role of non-governmental organisations is valued

In implementing its human rights policy, the European Union recognises the importance of the contributions made by international, regional and civil society and to the development of a democracy that upholds political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights.

At the behest of the European Parliament, a specific chapter in the EU budget was established in 1994 to deal with the promotion of human rights, especially through NGOs. This programme, the European initiative for democracy and human rights (EIDHR), receives around EUR 100 million in funding commitments annually. For the period 2002–04, funding under the EIDHR is focused on the following themes: democratisation, good governance and the rule of law; abolition of the death penalty; the fight against torture and impunity and for international tribunals and criminal courts; and combating racism and xenophobia and discrimination against minorities and indigenous people.

Combating discrimination

The fight against discrimination is an integral part of the EU's human rights policies, and the Union has made considerable progress over the past few years.

The EC Treaty has a general clause on combating discrimination, mainly applicable to measures concerning asylum, refugees and immigration, as well as to the field of employment, working conditions and social protection. Article 13 encourages 'appropriate action' to be taken 'to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation'.

A major milestone was the adoption of two pieces of legislation in 2000. The first prohibits discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin in the fields of employment, training, social protection, education and access to goods and services, including housing. The second piece, adopted in November 2000, prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion and belief, disability, age and sexual orientation in the field of employment.

To give such legislative changes a wider context, the EU has launched an action programme to combat discrimination and its underlying causes, and to raise awareness of the problem and measures being taken across the Union to tackle it. The aim: changing attitudes at the grassroots level.

The EU at the Third Committee and the UN Commission on Human Rights

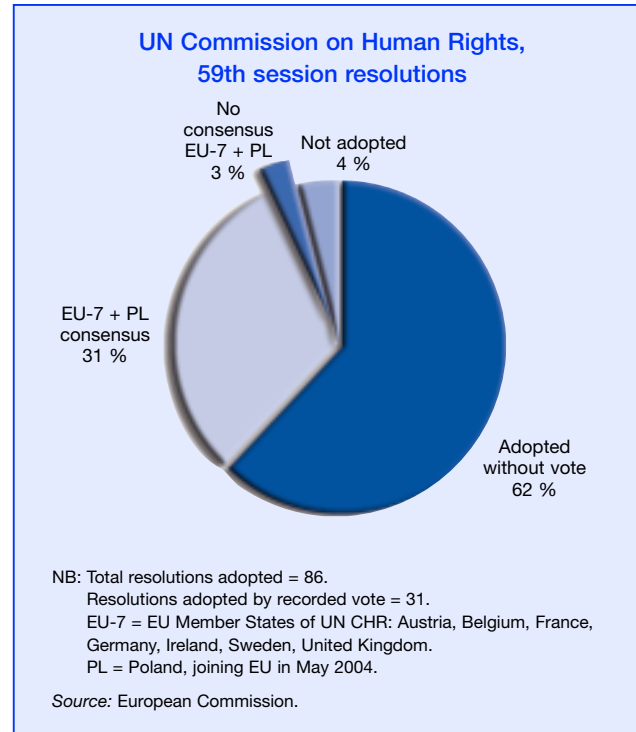
The European Union plays a very active role in the proceedings of the UN Commission on Human Rights and in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly⁽¹²⁾. It introduces resolutions and gives statements aiming to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. In supporting such resolutions, the EU underlines the importance it attaches to the work of UN special representatives and rapporteurs on human rights' issues related to countries and themes. The Union pronounces both on the human rights situation in any country that may be under discussion, and on 'thematic' questions that are in need of action in many places in the world.

During the 57th session of the Third Committee in 2002, the EU was one of the driving forces behind the adoption of the optional protocol to the Convention against Torture, establishing a system of international

⁽¹²⁾ There are six main committees: the First (Disarmament and International Security); the Second (Economic and Financial); the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural); the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonisation); the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary); and the Sixth (Legal).



↑ Members of the European Parliament visit Geneva for the 59th session of the Commission on Human Rights. Left to right: Marie-Anne Coninx, EC Delegation in Geneva; Edward McMillan-Scott (EPP-ED, United Kingdom); Carlo Trojan, Head of EC Delegation in Geneva; Bob van den Bos, Head of MEP Delegation (ELDR, Netherlands); Michael Cashman (ESP, United Kingdom); and Armin Lashet (EPP-ED, Germany), April 2003.
Photo: EC Delegation in Geneva.



and national visiting mechanisms for the inspection of places of detention and investigation.

At the 59th session of the CHR in 2003, the EU was fully acknowledged as a major player — seven EU Member States plus Poland are currently members of the CHR. The composition of the CHR (53 members in total) can be problematic, however, as a number of its members have a record of human rights violations. Hence, the EU considers that CHR membership entails special responsibilities and represents a unique opportunity to demonstrate commitment to international human rights.

During the 59th session — chaired by Libya — the EU participated actively in nearly all items and introduced a great number of initiatives, both on country situations and thematic issues. It was a difficult session, especially in light of the political situation in the Middle East, notably the crisis in Iraq. Nevertheless, the CHR adopted resolutions proposed by the EU on Burma/Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Israeli settlements, North Korea, Turkmenistan (introduced jointly with the United States), rights of the child and the death penalty, and issued chairman’s statements negotiated by the EU on Colombia and East Timor. However, EU initiatives on Chechnya, Sudan and Zimbabwe were not adopted. In addition, the EU supported a wide range of resolutions introduced by third countries and delivered statements on several human rights’ issues, including a keynote speech addressing democracy, the rule of law, good governance, the fight against torture and the death penalty, as well as the human rights situation in 24 countries across the world.

Despite the risk of politicisation of debates, the CHR remains the key forum — ‘the central architect of the UN’ (according to former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson) — in the worldwide

promotion and protection of human rights, and the EU contribution to its discussions is a fundamental component of the EU’s external action.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The EU Member States and the European Commission strongly support the work of the OHCHR, reflecting the importance the EU attaches to the signature, ratification and application of international human rights instruments by the third countries with whom it has partnerships, as well as to the follow-up of relevant recommendations by UN bodies. The European Community is the third largest donor to the OHCHR, with support for a wide range of projects including OHCHR operations in Colombia, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Supporting the International Criminal Court

The establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) dovetailed perfectly with the principles behind the EU’s external relations concerning respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. From the EU’s point of view, the ICC represents an achievement of historical dimensions, sending a signal that the world can be made a safer and more just place to live in. By removing the impunity of those who have committed or encouraged atrocities, the Court will strengthen the primacy of law and contribute to the assertion of peace in the world.

Parties to Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

Afghanistan	Latvia
Albania	Lesotho
Andorra	Liechtenstein
Antigua and Barbuda	Lithuania
Argentina	Luxembourg
Australia	Malawi
Austria	Mali
Barbados	Malta
Belgium	Marshall Islands
Belize	Mauritius
Benin	Mongolia
Bolivia	Namibia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Nauru
Botswana	Netherlands
Brazil	New Zealand
Bulgaria	Niger
Cambodia	Nigeria
Canada	Norway
Central African Republic	Panama
Colombia	Paraguay
Costa Rica	Peru
Croatia	Poland
Cyprus	Portugal
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Romania
Denmark	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Djibouti	Samoa
Dominica	San Marino
East Timor	Senegal
Ecuador	Serbia and Montenegro
Estonia	Sierra Leone
Fiji	Slovakia
Finland	Slovenia
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	South Africa
France	South Korea
Gabon	Spain
Gambia	Sweden
Germany	Switzerland
Ghana	Tajikistan
Greece	Tanzania
Honduras	Trinidad and Tobago
Hungary	Uganda
Iceland	United Kingdom
Ireland	Uruguay
Italy	Venezuela
Jordan	Zambia

The Rome Statute establishing the ICC entered into force in July 2002. By mid-2003, 89 States had ratified it, including all EU Member States. As underlined in the EU's common position of 20 June 2002, the EU is strongly committed to the good functioning of the ICC, and has encouraged support for the ICC in contacts with third countries and through the substantial funding which has been channeled to projects supporting the ICC under the EIDHR. The EU welcomes the progress towards the ICC becoming fully functional, including the election of judges and a prosecutor.

Battling the death penalty

In June 1998, the EU decided to strengthen its international activities in opposition to the death penalty and work towards its universal abolition. Europe is the first continent where abolition is about to happen. In those countries which retain the death penalty, the EU aims at the progressive restriction of its scope and full respect for strict minimum safeguards as set out in international human rights. The issue is also raised by the EU in its dialogue with third countries, the overall objective being to persuade the States concerned to abolish the death penalty.

Countries applying or not applying the death penalty (*)

Countries which have applied death penalty within past decade

Afghanistan
 Algeria
 Antigua and Barbuda
 Bahamas
 Bahrain
 Bangladesh
 Barbados
 Belarus
 Belize
 Benin
 Botswana
 Burundi
 Cameroon
 Chad
 China
 Comoros
 Congo (Kinshasa)
 Cuba
 Dominica
 Egypt
 Equatorial Guinea
 Eritrea
 Ethiopia
 Gabon
 Ghana
 Guatemala
 Guinea
 Guyana
 India
 Indonesia
 Iran
 Iraq
 Jamaica
 Japan
 Jordan
 Kazakstan
 Kenya
 Korea (North)
 Korea (South)
 Kuwait
 Kyrgyzstan
 Laos
 Lebanon
 Lesotho
 Liberia
 Libya
 Malawi
 Malaysia
 Mauritania
 Mongolia
 Morocco
 Myanmar
 Nigeria
 Oman
 Pakistan
 Philippines
 Qatar
 Rwanda
 Saint Kitts and Nevis
 Saint Lucia
 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
 Saudi Arabia
 Sierra Leone



Countries not applying death penalty

Albania
 Andorra
 Angola
 Argentina
 Armenia
 Australia
 Austria
 Azerbaijan
 Belgium
 Bhutan
 Bolivia
 Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Brazil
 Brunei
 Bulgaria
 Burkina Faso
 Cambodia
 Canada
 Cape Verde
 Central African Republic
 Chile
 Colombia
 Congo (Brazzaville)
 Cook Islands
 Costa Rica
 Côte d'Ivoire
 Croatia
 Cyprus
 Czech Republic
 Denmark
 Djibouti
 Dominican Republic
 East Timor
 Ecuador
 El Salvador
 Estonia
 Fiji
 Finland
 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
 France
 Gambia
 Georgia
 Germany
 Greece
 Grenada
 Guinea-Bissau
 Haiti
 Honduras
 Hungary
 Iceland
 Ireland
 Israel
 Italy
 Kiribati
 Latvia
 Liechtenstein
 Lithuania
 Luxembourg
 Madagascar
 Maldives
 Mali
 Malta
 Marshall Islands



Countries which have applied death penalty within past decade	Countries not applying death penalty
<p>Singapore Somalia Sudan Swaziland Syria Taiwan Tajikistan Tanzania Thailand Trinidad and Tobago Tunisia Uganda United Arab Emirates United States of America Uzbekistan Vietnam Yemen Zambia Zimbabwe</p>	<p>Mauritius Mexico Micronesia Moldova Monaco Mozambique Namibia Nauru Nepal Netherlands New Zealand Nicaragua Niger Norway Palau Panama Papua New Guinea Paraguay Peru Poland Portugal Romania Russian Federation Samoa San Marino São Tomé and Príncipe Senegal Serbia and Montenegro Seychelles Slovakia Slovenia Solomon Islands South Africa Spain Sri Lanka Suriname Sweden Switzerland Togo Tonga Turkey Turkmenistan Tuvalu Ukraine United Kingdom Uruguay Vanuatu Vatican City Venezuela</p>
<p>(¹) Based on Amnesty International information as of 10 June 2003.</p>	

The EU carries out individual démarches when it becomes aware of individual death penalty cases, which violate minimum standards, such as a properly functioning and open judicial system. The EU is especially concerned about the imposition of the death penalty on persons who are below 18 years of age when the crime was committed, or who suffer from a mental disorder.

Promoting democracy

The EU is convinced that democracy and sustainable development go hand-in-hand, and it is working with the UN to foster democratic processes in many parts of the world.

The European Union provides assistance for democratisation, including support to prepare elections, often as part of development and cooperation programmes.

Frequently, the EU deploys election observation missions to third countries with the objective of increasing public confidence in the electoral process, deterring fraud, strengthening respect for human rights, contributing to the resolution of conflicts and providing an impartial assessment.

Further the EU has formulated a coherent strategy for election observation and assistance, and elaborated a code of conduct for EU election observers.

Social rights

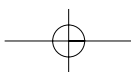
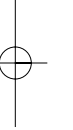
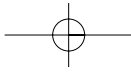
The EU attaches great importance to the promotion of gender equality and is actively encouraging it in all UN forums, and in particular in the Commission on the Status of Women, and the implementation of the Beijing platform for action. The EU believes that all forms of violence against women, such as rape, trafficking, domestic violence and traditional or customary practices which threaten the health and even lives of women and girls, must be urgently addressed.

The EU also actively contributed to the UN General Assembly Special Session for Children in 2001. All too often the situation of children and their rights suffers due to discrimination, poverty, armed conflict and the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The EU believes that the Convention on the Rights of the Child must be the basis for all future action on behalf of children.

Social development, poverty and social exclusion are urgent issues for the EU as well. The EU is engaged in the work of the Commission on Social Development and is playing an active role in the follow-up to the 1995 World Summit in Copenhagen and in promoting implementation of the commitments made there.

Marking the 20th anniversary of the First World Assembly on Ageing, the Second World Assembly on Ageing was held in Madrid in April 2002. The adopted Madrid Declaration and plan of action set out the blueprint for an international response to the opportunities and challenges of population ageing in the 21st century — both in developed and developing countries — and for the promotion of the concept of a ‘society for all ages’.





CHAPTER 9

EU–UN trade and development

The developing world must benefit fully from trade

Successful work in the GATT, and latterly in the World Trade Organisation, has brought huge benefits to international trade, spurring major economic growth throughout the world over the last 50 years.

Nevertheless, while the benefits generated by the multilateral trading system have been global, not all countries have equally benefited from them. For instance, the 49 least-developed countries (LDCs) account for less than 1 % of world trade.

Furthermore, other concerns related to international trade and ‘globalisation’ have emerged in recent years, such as employment, the environment, development and wealth distribution.

Paving the way...

Since committing itself to offering tariff-free treatment for almost all imports from LDCs in October 1997, the EU has frequently called on other developed countries in the WTO to match the EU’s openness to imports from the LDCs.

In 1998, the EU was already by far the leading destination for LDC exports, taking in 56 % (EUR 8.71 billion) of the world total.

One main objective of the Cotonou Agreement signed between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries is the smooth and gradual integration of ACP countries — 40 of them being LDCs — into the world economy. Forthcoming negotiations of WTO-compatible trading arrangements will help consolidate economic and legal reforms and will create more opportunities for local and foreign investors.

In February 2001, the EU adopted a new initiative entitled ‘Everything but arms’, to provide full market access for products originating in LDCs to EU markets, covering all goods except the arms trade, with (in most cases) immediate effect. It is hoped that other developed countries will quickly follow the lead of the European Union in this regard.

UN Secretary General **Kofi Annan** has praised the EU’s ‘Everything but arms’ initiative, saying it has proven that ‘Europe really does want a fair international trade system in which poor countries have a real chance to export their way out of poverty’⁽¹³⁾. Total imports from all beneficiary countries have increased by 8.9 % since the initiative’s entry into force (from EUR 12.9 billion to EUR 14.1 billion).

...and completing it

Integrating developing countries into the multilateral trading system is a crucial element of the new WTO round that was launched in Doha at the end of 2001, as it will increase the potential for poverty eradication and sustainable development in these countries — a top EU priority. The scope of the new round is clearly stated in its name: the Doha Development Agenda.

The comprehensive approach of the round, involving a broad range of issues in which all participants can gain (and which the EU fully supports), remains the best way to achieve that result.

To that end, it is essential that developing countries — which are the large majority of the WTO membership — participate fully, ensuring that the multilateral trading system works to the advantage of all of its members.

⁽¹³⁾ UN Secretary General Annan’s article in the *Financial Times*, 5 March 2001.

Members of the World Trade Organisation (*)

Albania	Georgia	Nicaragua
Angola	Germany	Niger
Antigua and Barbuda	Ghana	Nigeria
Argentina	Greece	Norway
Armenia	Grenada	Oman
Australia	Guatemala	Pakistan
Austria	Guinea	Panama
Bahrain	Guinea Bissau	Papua New Guinea
Bangladesh	Guyana	Paraguay
Barbados	Haiti	Peru
Belgium	Honduras	Philippines
Belize	Hong Kong, China	Poland
Benin	Hungary	Portugal
Bolivia	Iceland	Qatar
Botswana	India	Romania
Brazil	Indonesia	Rwanda
Brunei	Ireland	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Bulgaria	Israel	Saint Lucia (1 January 1995)
Burkina Faso	Italy	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Burundi	Jamaica	Senegal
Cameroon	Japan	Sierra Leone
Canada	Jordan	Singapore
Central African Republic	Kenya	Slovakia
Chad	South Korea	Slovenia
Chile	Kuwait	Solomon Islands
China	Kyrgyzstan	South Africa
Colombia	Latvia	Spain
Congo	Lesotho	Sri Lanka
Costa Rica	Liechtenstein	Suriname
Côte d'Ivoire	Lithuania	Swaziland
Croatia	Luxembourg	Sweden
Cuba	Macao	Switzerland
Cyprus	Madagascar	Chinese Taipei
Czech Republic	Malawi	Tanzania
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Malaysia	Thailand
Denmark	Maldives	Togo
Djibouti	Mali	Trinidad and Tobago
Dominica	Malta	Tunisia
Dominican Republic	Mauritania	Turkey
Ecuador	Mauritius	Uganda
Egypt	Mexico	United Arab Emirates
El Salvador	Moldova	United Kingdom
Estonia	Mongolia	United States of America
European Communities	Morocco	Uruguay
Fiji	Mozambique	Venezuela
Finland	Myanmar	Zambia
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Namibia	Zimbabwe
France	Netherlands (Kingdom and Netherlands Antilles)	
Gabon	New Zealand	
Gambia		

(*) As of 4 April 2003.



↑ European Commissioner for Trade Pascal Lamy frequently visits developing countries in his quest to make the Doha Development Round a success.
Photo: European Commission.

EU objectives for the Doha Development Agenda

Key EU aims include the following.

- Special and differential treatment for developing countries: the EU pursues an approach that increases flexibility vis-à-vis the developing countries. This will not carve out a two-tier WTO, but rather ensure that developing countries are better able to apply any new rules agreed in the round, and better able to integrate into the global economy as a result.
- Substantially improved market access and trading opportunities: the EC's proposals on industrial market access in the Doha round envisage removal of peak and high tariffs, notably in areas of export interest to developing countries, which will also stimulate trade between developing countries. In agriculture, the EU has proposed an ambitious reduction of tariffs. Moreover, it agreed a fundamental reform of its common agricultural policy in June 2003, which will largely decouple subsidies and production, making EU farm policies more market-oriented and less distortive of international trade. It also includes measures that will sustain agricultural communities in Europe and worldwide. This strengthens the EU's negotiating hand in the ongoing Doha talks. In services, the EC has made the most ambitious offer of any WTO member, including in the key area of movement of natural persons, a developing country priority.
- Promoting new WTO disciplines in the areas of competition, investment, transparency of government procurement, and trade facilitation: in drafting these new rules, which are inherently beneficial for trade and development, developing countries' constraints will be taken into account.
- Helping WTO members having genuine difficulties in implementing WTO agreements for members having genuine difficulties.
- Enhanced assistance to build human and institutional capacity and to address supply-side constraints.

Help developing countries to take advantage of the world trading system

Improved export opportunities are not in themselves sufficient. Many developing countries also need assistance to enhance their capacity to make use of the trading opportunities offered by improved market access and multilateral trade liberalisation in general. Trade-related technical assistance is a key element in building capacity in developing countries, so that they can take advantage of the opportunities available. Country development programmes must have trade and integration in the world economy built into them.



↑ Loading cocoa in Takoradi Harbour, Ghana.
Photo: Thomas Dorn/European Commission.

Developing country members of the WTO should also have the capacity to participate fully in and benefit from the ongoing negotiations. The WTO membership set up a Global Trust Fund to deliver on this objective, and the EU has demonstrated its commitment by pledging around 60 % of the total funds, a sum of EUR 19 million.

EU: Committed to trade-related technical assistance

As a result of the reorientation of the EU's development policy toward trade, substantial amounts of development assistance will be devoted to the integration of developing countries in the multilateral trading system. Already, over the period 1996 to 2000, the European Commission spent about EUR 700 million on trade-related assistance. By early 2003, the portfolio of trade-related projects funded by the Commission covered more than 200 projects for a total amount of more than EUR 1.5 billion. As regards the future, it is expected that more than EUR 2 billion will be allocated to new trade-related projects over the next five years.

A political agenda for trade and sustainable development

Two major international meetings that took place in 2002 have acknowledged the importance of trade for economic growth and sustainable development.

The International Conference on Financing for Development, which was held in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002, found international agreement on the mobilisation of resources for development. The Monterrey consensus built a partnership for development financing, which recognises external and domestic resources, private and public, as well as the importance of the domestic policy environments for development. The Monterrey consensus recognised the importance of trade for development, and in this context stressed the importance of support to remove supply-side constraints to trade and of effective, secure and predictable financing of trade-related assistance and capacity building.

In September 2002, at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, world leaders recognised the importance of trade for sustainable development by underlining the need for further efforts in support of sustainable trade, beyond those already made in Doha and Monterrey, and by stressing the need for mutually supportive trade, development and environment policies.

Cooperation in UNCTAD and the United Nations

An overall WTO objective is to contribute to sustainable development. Yet the WTO is and will remain a trade institution. Many of the concrete policy measures required to help developing countries benefit from increased trading opportunities fall within the primary responsibility of national governments or within the fields of activity of other international organisations. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has an important role to play in this

respect, as it is the focal point within the UN for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development.

Although it only has observer status, the European Community has played a major role in the UNCTAD's evolution and policymaking, from its very beginning in 1964. And EU support of and influence in UNCTAD policymaking continues to be substantial. Not only is this due to the Union's major share of world trade, but also because its member countries have been consistently successful in coordinating their policy positions.

The EU intends to play the same constructive role in the process leading to the UNCTAD XI conference, which will take place in São Paulo in June 2004.

The EC representative participates actively in the debates on trade and development at each autumn session of the UN General Assembly Second Committee.

The Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)

Based in Geneva, the UN Economic Commission for Europe is actively involved in the elaboration of conventions, norms and standards in the fields of trade, transport and the environment. This assists the process of convergence of central European and CIS countries' practices with those of the EU. Other UN regional commissions model or copy them in such fields as trade facilitation standards (UN/Edifact — UN electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport), agricultural standards, transport facilitation (international truck transportation, cross-border operations, infrastructure) and environment (air pollution, accidents, impact assessment and access to information). Recently, the UN/ECE organised the regional preparatory meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, where the European Commission played an active role in promoting the EU agenda for the Johannesburg meeting.

CHAPTER 10

EU–UN culture and civilisation

Strength in diversity

The European Union is a community of cultures largely comprising what is historically known as the ‘European civilisation’, a source of major contributions to the arts and sciences, philosophy and literature and other fields of human endeavour.

The Treaty on European Union devotes a chapter to culture, one of Europe’s richest and most varied assets. It calls on the EU to ‘contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity and at the same time bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore’.

EU countries stand united in their view that each culture of the Union is a unique expression of the people who live in it and, as such, they all deserve support and protection. The ‘European Year of Languages 2001’ was a very positive illustration of this.

Furthermore, the Union’s enlargement enriches both the diversity and the common heritage of the cultures in the European Union, thus widening the scope of its cultural policies.

The EU Treaty also mandates that the Community and Member States foster cooperation with third countries and ‘the competent international organisations’ in the sphere of culture. Along these lines, at this difficult time in international relations, the EU considers that UNESCO has a fundamental role to play in the UN system, based on its unique competence in the areas of its responsibilities, such as education and the protec-



tion of cultural heritage (particularly through the World Heritage Programme).

The EU welcomes UNESCO’s participation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, especially in the fields of education, heritage and communication, and it actively supports UNESCO in efforts to protect (and recover) the cultural heritage of Iraq.

At the UN, the EU is actively concerned with cultural issues (via UNESCO and UNICEF in particular) promoting international cooperation and concerted action. Working in these forums, the EU has contributed to the discussion and resolution of issues pertaining to language, international communication, freedom of expression, free-flow of information, the arts and other culture-related social issues. And it also does so by example: the EU recognises the importance of multilingualism within its own borders, evidenced by its 11 official languages at present (and soon-to-be 20). Three European languages are also official languages of the United Nations (English, French and Spanish).

Protecting the world’s heritage

Established in 1972 as part of the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, UNESCO’s World Heritage Mission and Programme aim to define and conserve the world’s heritage by drawing up a list of sites whose outstanding values — historical, aesthetic, archaeological, scientific, ethnological or anthropological — should be preserved for all humanity, and to ensure their protection through closer cooperation among nations.

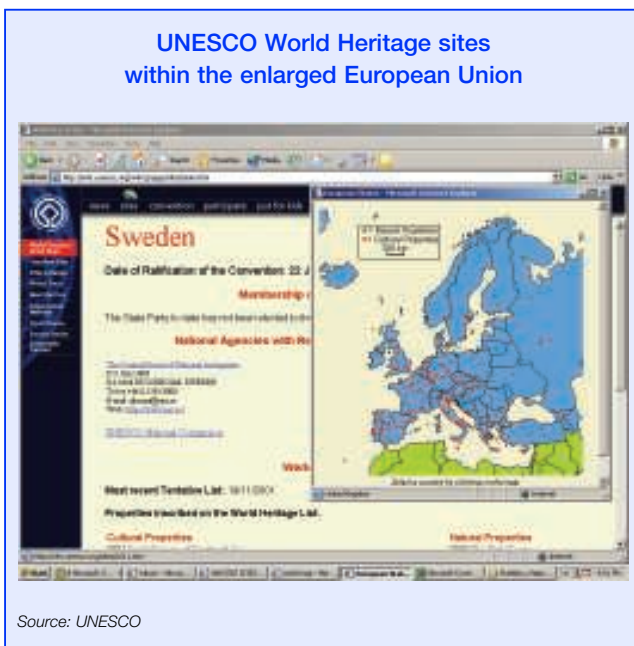
As signatories to the convention, the EU Member States have pledged to conserve such sites situated on their territories, many of which having been recognised as World Heritage-worthy by the World Heritage Committee. In fact, 269 of the 730 World Heritage sites across the globe are located in the 25 current and acceding EU countries.

← The Parthenon on the hill of the Acropolis in Athens, official symbol of UNESCO.

Photo: Greek National Tourist Organisation.



↑ UNESCO has designated many World Heritage sites in Europe, including the Upper Rhine Valley in Germany. For two millennia, it has served as one of the most important transport routes in Europe, facilitating contact between the Mediterranean region and the north.
Photo: UNESCO.



For a list of European and other World Heritage sites, please visit
<http://whc.unesco.org/nwhc/pages/doc/mainf3.htm>.

Supporting UNESCO

In November 2000, UNESCO's Executive Council fixed its main priorities in the following fields: education, water resources and normative actions related to ethics in science and technology and cultural diversity. With respect to these areas, the EU:

- supports UNESCO's leading role in the 'Education for All' (EFA) programme. It takes note of the excellent EFA monitoring report, which provides clear priorities in intensifying cooperation with other part-

ners, fully exploiting its expertise (at headquarters, but also in UNESCO's institutes) and making good use of the UN literacy decade to strengthen work towards adult literacy and access to education for the disadvantaged;

- attaches the highest importance to concerted action on water resources in the UN system — both in the framework of the International Year of Fresh Water and of the EU water initiative launched at the WSSD in Johannesburg — to preserve and highlight the fresh water resources of our planet, and to help manage them better for the benefit of all. The EU is pleased at the impact made by the world water development report, presented at Kyoto in March 2003, and welcomes UNESCO's contribution;
- favours the drafting of a declaration on genetic data which, like the declaration on the human genome, ought to bring about greater awareness of what is at stake in the sphere of bioethics. The EU would also like to see UNESCO encourage a universal normative framework on anti-doping in sport;
- welcomes the fact that UNESCO considers protection of the tangible and natural cultural heritage as a priority for cultural diversity.

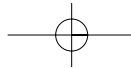
UNESCO Member States are also working on a draft convention on the intangible cultural heritage. The EU hopes that this work will be successful in providing a clear and acceptable conceptual framework, which should encourage cooperation at all levels. The same applies to the project for a convention on cultural diversity, based on the principles of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, which the general conference adopted unanimously in November 2001. A convention on this subject, as foreseen by the declaration, would be an extension of the work in hand, and would signal the willingness to move ahead and realise its commitments.

Given that the digital heritage forms part of the intangible heritage of humanity and a vehicle for the promotion of cultural diversity, the EU welcomes the work taking place on a proposed draft charter for the conservation of this heritage.

Still, normative action in UNESCO should not be limited to drafting conventions and must include the follow up to all these instruments, above all where the human rights aspects of these conventions are concerned.

Finally, the EU applauds the progress achieved in the reform process of UNESCO, particularly towards results-based budgeting and more rigorous management and budgetary control. Progress has been realised on new management procedures, a new human resources policy and decentralisation, even if much remains to be done.

Furthermore, the EU acknowledges the importance and impact the United States' return to UNESCO will have on all aspects of activity within the organisation.



Freedom of the press

Freedom of the press and the free and unhindered flow of information and opinion are fundamental prerequisites for the full development of the individual as well as for democracy. The EU has always vigorously promoted the principle of freedom of the press and the free flow of information and opinion.

Dialogue among civilisations

The EU represents a mosaic of cultures and continues to benefit from a multiplicity of cultural inputs from other continents. The EU supports actions that could contribute to greater understanding and dialogue among and within civilisations.

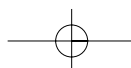
UNESCO has several levers at its disposal to achieve peace and genuine dialogue between cultures and civilisations. It contributes to the overall actions of the UN system towards the achievement of the millennium development goals. And UNESCO should continue to strengthen its cooperation with other international organisations.

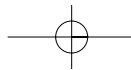
Towards the information society

The EU vision and approach to the information society is based on a comprehensive set of policies developed over the last decade. Accordingly, the EU provided a major contribution to the preparation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) that was held in December 2003 in Geneva, and will do the same for WSIS in November 2005 in Tunisia.

The WSIS' aim is 'to develop a common vision and understanding of the information society and to draw up a strategic plan of action for concerted development towards realising this vision', as called for by the UN General Assembly in January 2002.

The EU took an active part in three of the four regional conferences organised to prepare the world summit: the African conference in Bamako in June 2002, the pan-European conference in Bucharest in October 2002, and the conference of the Latin American countries in Punta Caña in January 2003. The EU also plays an active role in the preparatory committees of the summit, contributing substantively to the draft political declaration and action plan.





www.europa-eu-un.org

Aiming to increase understanding of its activities at the United Nations, the European Union launched the EU@UN website on 23 January 2002. Managed jointly by the EU presidency, the European Commission and the Council Secretariat in New York, it gives the latest news about EU-UN relations to the public, the media and the UN community.

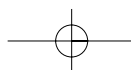
Among its features, the website contains a multilingual (English, French) and multifaceted search engine (by key words, date, subject, UN body, EU institution, world region, etc.).

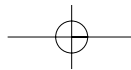
EU statements at the UN, press releases and policy documents are now available in a database format that makes it easy to locate current and past documents. It also sports an e-mail alert service for those who want to be informed about the latest news appearing on the website.

In recognition of the importance of multilingualism, the website is available in the official languages of the 15 EU Member States ⁽¹⁾. Many documents are loaded onto the search engine in English and French. EU priorities at the United Nations (e.g. UNGA 58) are posted in all 11 EU languages.

For any inquiries about the website and further information about EU-UN relations, we can be contacted at: delegation-new-york-euinfo@cec.eu.int.

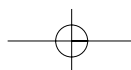
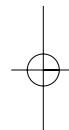
⁽¹⁾ Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.





EU and related acronyms

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific countries; parties to Cotonou Agreement
CFSP	Common foreign and security policy
EC	European Community
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
EIDHR	European initiative for democracy and human rights
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
EP	European Parliament
ESDP	European security and defence policy
EU	European Union
EU-25	Current 15 EU Member States plus the 10 acceding countries
EUPM	European Union Police Mission (in Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Europol	European Police Office
FfD	Financing for Development (Monterrey)
HICP	Heavily indebted poorest countries
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
LDCs	Least-developed countries
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
ODA	Overseas development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
SAA	Stabilisation and association agreements
SPD	Strategic programming dialogue
Tacis	Technical assistance programme to 13 east European and central Asian countries
TRIP	Trade-related intellectual property
WTO	World Trade Organisation
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg)



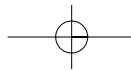
The UN system – Main bodies and acronyms

Principal organs and main subsidiary bodies

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and main committees
United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
Trusteeship Council
International Court of Justice (ICJ)
United Nations Secretariat
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

United Nations programmes and offices

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Development Fund for Women (Unifem)
United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (Instraw)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
World Food Programme (WFP)
United Nations Population Front (UNFPA)
United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)
United Nations University (UNU)
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (Unitar)
United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (Unrisd)
United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (Unicri)
United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (Unidir)
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (Unaids)
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)



United Nations specialised agencies

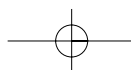
International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
World Health Organisation (WHO)
World Bank
International Monetary Fund (IMF)
International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)
Universal Postal Union (UPU)
International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

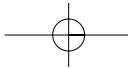
Related organisations

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
World Tourism Organisation (WTO)
Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO)
Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

Principal departments and offices of the Secretariat

Office of the Secretary General (OSG)
Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)
Office of Legal Affairs (OLA)
Department of Political Affairs (DPA)
Department for Disarmament Affairs (DDA)
Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services (DGAACS)
Department of Public Information (DPI)
Department of Management (DM)
Office of the Iraq Programme (OIP)
Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator (Unsecoord)
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
UN Office at Geneva (UNOG)
UN Office at Vienna (UNOV)
UN Office at Nairobi (UNON)





European Commission

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