



EUROPEAN UNION

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION LIAISON OFFICE
TO KOSOVO

PRESS RELEASE

The European Commission commits an additional €60 million to advance the European perspective of Kosovo¹

On 19 December 2008 the European Commission adopted the second part of the annual programme IPA 2008² for Kosovo. The objective of the €60 million programme reflects the key priorities of the European Partnership and the priorities of Kosovo's Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. Financing primarily aims at addressing important infrastructure needs in Kosovo.

€25 million of this programme are geared towards upgrading the infrastructure in the Rule of Law sector, including the renovation and construction of central, municipal, district and Supreme Court buildings and prosecutorial offices, as well as the building of new premises for the Kosovo Judicial Council and Judicial Institute. A further €25 million is allocated to municipal infrastructure projects, to be carried out in close cooperation with International Financing Institutions. €10 million of the programme will be contributed towards multi-donors Trust Funds established to catalyse donor funding, including the 'Kosovo Sustainable Employment Development Trust Fund', which will help to design and implement fiscally sustainable social employment and education policies.

The 2008 Annual Programme has been prepared in close cooperation with the authorities and beneficiaries in Kosovo. The financing agreement of the first part of this programme (€122.7 million) was signed in October this year. With this second part of the 2008 annual programme, the total contribution of financial assistance to Kosovo in 2008 will amount to €184.7 million, including €2 million allocated to the TEMPUS and nuclear safety multi-beneficiary programmes.

The 2008 programme for Kosovo is the first deliverable of the €508 million pledge made by the European Commission at the Donors' Conference for Kosovo in July 2008. The European Union is committed to work towards tangible progress in Kosovo's EU perspective.

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¹ United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of 10 June 1999.

² The adoption of the IPA 2008 Annual Programme does not prejudice the position of each individual European Union Member State on the Status of Kosovo.