EU supports Kenya with € 146 million for economic growth and poverty reduction

The European Commission today approved € 146.65 million in assistance to Kenya as the first part of a total of more than € 400 million earmarked within the framework of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF). The assistance is to stimulate growth and generate jobs by expanding road infrastructure, implementing policy and institutional reforms and accelerating socio-economic development.

"The assistance responds to current economic and poverty challenges and encompasses financing of reconstruction, rehabilitation of infrastructure and capacity building projects. In addition the assistance will engage civil society, the private sector and the government in comprehensive policy and institutional reforms in order to generate inclusive development," says Eric van der Linden, Head of the European Union Delegation to Kenya.

Infrastructure, trade and private sector development, democratic governance, natural resources and the environment form part of the provided grants to Kenya.

The European Union's commitment to delivering more aid has seen the allocation of the 10th EDF for Kenya double in only four years: from € 176 million funded through the 9th EDF (2002-2007) to more than € 400 million for the 10th EDF (2008-2013).

Kenya's economy and society has been moving in a new direction, with general consensus on the importance of good governance, equitable development planning, transparency and accountability in addressing poverty and uplifting the welfare of its citizens. The post-2007 elections highlighted the need for accelerating political and social dialogue on all these matters, underlining the fact that the way forward shall be founded on these principles.

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