

Brussels, 26 November 2010

European Commission supports border management in Ukraine with €66 million

This assistance package will support the Ukrainian government in developing and implementing an Integrated Border Management Strategy. It includes among other things modernisation of land and maritime border infrastructure as well as enhancing border checking and surveillance capacities. Waiting time at border control posts shall be reduced and coordination among the different existing border management services shall be deepened. Moreover, the funding is intended to significantly improve conditions in the temporary holding facilities for irregular migrants.

Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle commented: "*With today's decision we support the efforts of the Ukrainian Government to achieve an effective balance between secure borders and the facilitation of legal movements of persons and goods.*"

Over the last ten years, the border management sector has already benefited from substantial support from the EU. Mostly the support has been given through provision of specialised border control and surveillance equipment, refurbishment and construction of border crossing facilities and technical advice and training targeting institutional reform.

The €66 million assistance package has been committed from the 2010 EU Budget for the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, which is the main source of EU support for the partner neighbouring states along the Eastern border of the EU and the Mediterranean. Its implementation will be conditional to progress in a number of areas, e.g. progress in the Customs Development Strategy, development of coordinated border management and of anti-corruption actions.

Background:

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was developed in 2004, with the objective of extending the area of prosperity, stability and security to EU's neighbours, based on cooperation with its neighbours, building upon a mutual commitment to common values.

Building on the successful work already accomplished within the ENP, the Eastern Partnership offers Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine the prospects of political association and economic integration with the EU.

More information:

- On EU assistance to Ukraine:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/country-cooperation/ukraine/ukraine_en.htm

- On external relations EU-Ukraine:

http://eeas.europa.eu/ukraine/index_en.htm

- On the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP):

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

- On the Eastern Partnership:

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/eastern/index_en.htm