



EU-UN co-operation to promote and protect all human rights for all Brussels, 14 October 2009

The implementation of the programme of activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) depends on funding from the United Nations' regular budget and steady flow of voluntary contributions from UN Member States and other donors to meet its funding needs. Although the Office's share of the regular budget has grown in recent years, the amount the UN human rights office receives still covers little more than one third of its overall resource requirements. In this regard, the regular and high level support provided by the Member States of the European Union (EU) and by the European Commission (EC) is crucial and much valued.

Cooperation in general

Funding from EU Member States

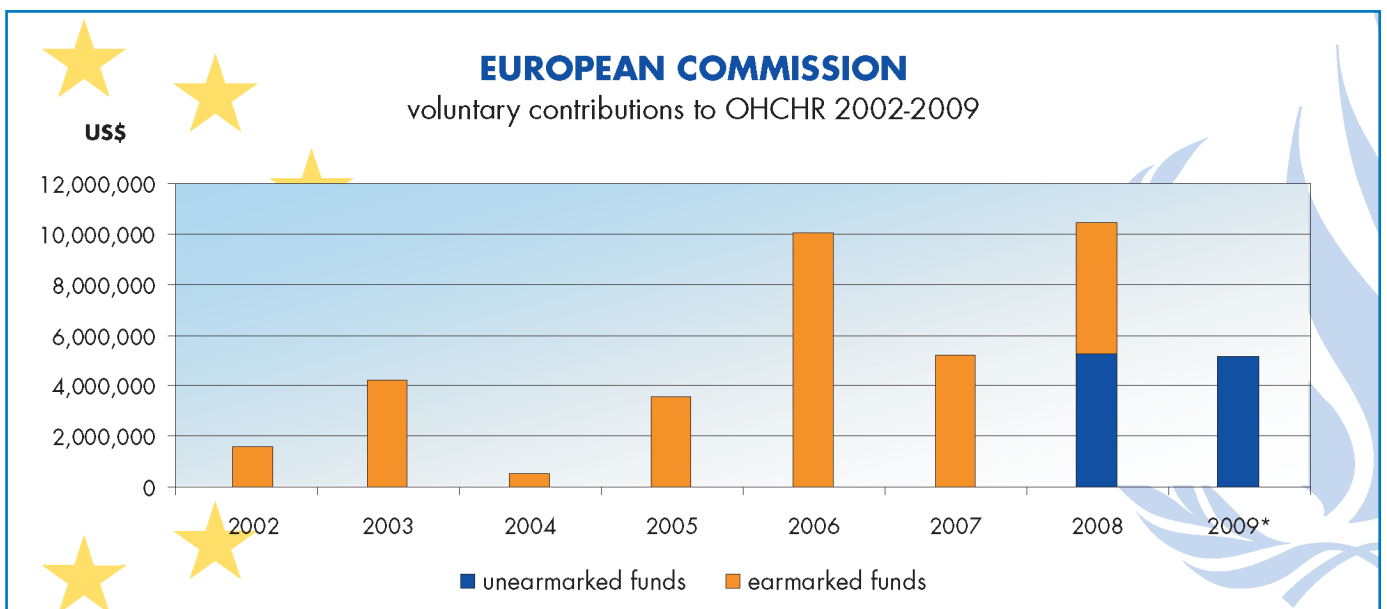
The EU has long been the main source of funding for the United Nations human rights programme. Taken together,

voluntary contributions from the EC and EU Member States made up almost two-thirds of all contributions to OHCHR in 2008 (\$75 million out of a total of \$120 million).

Funding from the European Commission

Two phases in OHCHR's cooperation with the EC

1. Cooperation with the EC was initiated in 2001. From 2002 to end 2006, EC funding of approximately 4-5 million euros a year was provided through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. This support was provided for specific thematic projects, such as UN special procedures and treaty bodies, follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, transitional justice, national human rights institutions, indigenous populations and gender. Contributions from the EC were also specifically allocated to field activities, including in Burundi, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Mexico, Nepal, Togo and Uganda.



	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009*
unearmarked funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,247,813	5,150,215
earmarked funds	1,578,915	4,231,817	540,436	3,536,921	10,045,840	5,178,137	5,214,256	
total voluntary contributions in US\$	1,578,915	4,231,817	540,436	3,536,921	10,045,840	5,178,137	10,462,070	5,150,215
% of total contributions to OHCHR	3.8%	9.2%	1.0%	5.2%	11.8%	5.4%	8.7%	5.7%
rank by donor contribution	8/62	3/54	16/65	8/63	2/63	9/72	4/93	6/64

* As at 18 September.

Source: Integrated Management Information System (IMIS).

2. Since 2007, through agreements renewed annually, the EC has contributed an amount of 4 million euros a year, entirely free of earmarking. This support is particularly welcome as it allows greater flexibility in the management of funds and increased efficiency in implementing activities. This new arrangement clearly reflects strengthened cooperation and partnership between the EC and the UN human rights office, based on common human rights priorities and strategies, as well as increased mutual trust thanks to better understanding of the procedures of both institutions.

Building on successful implementation of such innovative cooperation and in line with requirements regarding the visibility of EC funding, the funding arrangements agreed between OHCHR and the EC include a "Visibility Strategy" designed to raise the awareness among Europeans (citizens, opinion-formers and media) of human rights in general, the work of OHCHR in particular and the support provided to both by the EC.

Events designed to strengthen cooperation between the EU and the UN to promote and protect all human rights for all

7-8 October 2008: Conference on Human Rights Defenders. The discussion focused on UN and regional mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders; their involvement in EU-third countries dialogues; and a human rights defenders-based approach to development

14 October 2009: Seminar on the Fight against all Forms of Discrimination, focusing on three topics: racial discrimination; discrimination against women and discrimination on the basis of disability. The aim of the seminar is to explore manifestations of discrimination and its impact on the lives of individuals; analyze challenges and obstacles; and provide examples of good practices and legislations across the regions

Examples of past cooperation

Treaty bodies

Between 2003 and 2009, the UN human rights office developed two projects co-funded by the EC aimed at implementing at the national level the recommendations made by the UN treaty bodies charged with monitoring compliance with international human rights conventions. Results included: (i) implementation action plans were developed at a national and regional level at workshops arranged in follow-up to Geneva-based training sessions and involving representatives from civil society organizations, national human rights institutions and the media; (ii) national networks of individuals and organizations involved in implementing treaty body recommendations were created in several countries; and (iii) a DVD containing documentation and training materials on the treaty body system was produced for training purposes—6,000 copies were distributed in total.

Film project

In 2008, the EC co-financed the production of 22 short films in the context of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a contribution of 1.2 million euros. The project, titled "Stories on Human Rights by Filmmakers, Artists and Writers" included a long-feature film and a book. A communication strategy was developed in relation to the project and designed to raise the awareness of the project among both targeted and general audiences. Attracting wide media coverage, the films were shown at a stream of public events in the build up to and aftermath of the 60th anniversary celebrations, such as international meetings, and film festivals, as well as through civil society networks, and has continued to be broadly distributed in 2009. In addition, the film was distributed to all EC Delegations in the world and 45 among them organized a special event to celebrate the anniversary. The long-term impact of this project is expected to extend far beyond the term of the agreement with the EC. Sustainability is particularly facilitated by the highly accessible output produced, in terms of universality of the messages conveyed, visual nature of this communication medium, and user-friendliness.