

## The EU supports Road Sector in Mozambique

**Today, the European Commission has approved a financing decision of € 22.5 million (approximately Meticais 922 500 000) in favour of Mozambique, to support actions related to the Road Sector for the period 2010-2013.**

*"Road Infrastructure in Mozambique has a special role both in alleviating poverty, by facilitating the access of the poor rural population to public services, markets and job opportunities, and in promoting economic development by supporting trade and regional integration with the neighboring SADC and COMESA countries",* said Glauco Calzuola, Head of the Delegation to Mozambique.

The Road Sector Budget Support 2010-2013 aims at supporting, in line with the Integrated Road Sector Programme (PRISE), the establishment of an appropriate, well managed, cost-effective and sustainable road network in Mozambique. The programme will contribute to the expected results of PRISE for the road sector: completion of the priority work in primary network, increase road access and having sustainable maintenance and asset preservation mechanisms in place by 2013.

In addition, a Capacity Building and Technical Assistance are foreseen. The latter is designed to support the Road Sector Agencies (ANE and Road Fund) in the multiple challenges that the completion of the Road network of Mozambique currently requires. This will be mainly achieved by organizing local training of Road Sector officials in support of decentralisation and strengthening the management capacity of local SME (s) road sector.

Mozambique has one of the least developed Transport Infrastructure in the Southern African region. The Road Sector is considered the country backbone in term of physical unification, of socio-economic development, in term of regional attractiveness for the country's sea-ports and more recently for the tourism development.

Over the last decade, Mozambique has emerged as a stable country and a sound growing economy. However more than 50% of the population still lives in extreme poverty and access to job, health and education services remains limited especially in rural areas. The EU (European Commission and Member States) is one of the major players among donors, accounting for approximately 70% of development assistance to the country. Under the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund, the European Commission has programmed EUR 622 million of aid for the period 2008-2013, to which EUR 12.11 million and EUR 11.67 million were added in response to the soaring prices and the resulting macroeconomic and social effects and to provide financing for short-term fluctuations in export earnings respectively.

**For more information please contact:**

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