

The EU supports the safety and security sector in Saint Kitts and Nevis

The European Commission has approved a EUR 5.6 million (EC\$19 million) Safety and Security Support Programme in favour of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

"This intervention should allow the EU to contribute to the safety and security conditions in Saint Kitts and Nevis in order to ensure a stable environment for sustainable growth and investment which is good for both the citizens and visitors in the country", said Ambassador Valeriano Diaz, Head of the EU Delegation in Barbados.

The aim of the programme is to provide support for the establishment of a policy unit within the ministry of National Security, the review of the staffing policies and procedures and the development of a comprehensive training curriculum in the ministry, as well as the construction of a training centre. The EU intervention will also support the construction of new prison facilities for remand prisoners, psychiatric prisoners and repeat offenders in need of rehabilitation. A number of police stations and coast guard facilities will also be renovated, whilst the fleet of the Ministry of National Security will be upgraded.

The economic transformation of Saint Kitts and Nevis has over the last years been accompanied by the deterioration of the security situation, exacerbated by its specific vulnerability as small island development state. For example, the murder rate, one of the highest in the world, increased almost twofold over the past three years. This situation affects almost all sectors in society, ranging from tourism, economic development and education to national security and justice.

In response to the problem, and in collaboration with the relevant ministries in Saint Kitts and Nevis, the European Commission has prepared today's adopted joint EU-Saint Kitts and Nevis Safety and Security Support Programme. Its overall objective is to support the enhancement and modernisation of safety and security sector in the country. Special attention will be given to the government's organisational and planning capacity to prevent, detect and solve crimes. Specific actions are foreseen to ensure the availability of adequate infrastructural resources and equipment. Simultaneously this project aims at strengthening the role of the ministry of national security to increasingly participate in -and where relevant lead-inter-ministerial, community and regional collaborations and partnerships.

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