



European Union
Delegation of the European Commission
in South Africa

**... this week
in review**

This publication seeks to provide information on EU activities of interest to SA readers.



31 December 2004 – 6 January 2005

Headline News

Tsunami disaster: European aid will be around €1.5 billion (06/01/2005)



Speaking at the "Special ASEAN Leaders' Meeting on the Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami" in Jakarta today, José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, announced an additional package of up to €450 million in humanitarian and reconstruction aid to help in the relief efforts following the Asian Tsunami disaster. This will bring the total support from the European Union (25 EU Member States + European Commission) around €1,5 billion, or US\$ 2 billion. In addition, the President announced a proposal for a €1 billion (US\$ 1.3 billion) "Indian Ocean Tsunami Lending Facility", to be managed by the European Investment Bank. President Barroso stated: "The people of Europe stand with the people of Asia in this great tragedy. We mourn for the

dead. I would also like to state our firm commitment to support you in this hour of need. We will do everything in our power to help you in your efforts to put this tragedy behind us."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/3&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Intervention at special Asian Leaders' Meeting – Speech by José Manuel Barroso (06/01/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/2&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Commission's Civil Protection Mechanism to co-ordinate technical assistance in South Asia (05/01/2005)

Member States provide valuable technical assistance to the victims of the tsunami in South Asia using the Commission's Civil Protection Mechanism. The assistance includes medical supplies, tents and blankets, food and water, as well as medical staff field hospitals and water purification units. The Commission's Civil Protection Mechanism was activated on 26 December at 8.45 CET, immediately following the first reports of the earthquake in Indonesia. At 11.30, the first European expert left for Thailand. Over the last ten days, the activities of the Mechanism have considerably facilitated the operations and rescue efforts by the Member States in South Asia. Since the initial phase of the emergency is considered to be over, the first European fire fighter teams dispatched by the Civil Protection Mechanism are now on their way home.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/4&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **EC co-ordinates EU civil protection support to catastrophe areas in South Asia (31/12/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1544&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Tidal waves in Asia – ECHO's response (04/03/2005)

ECHO responded quickly to the humanitarian disaster in Asia following the earthquake on 26 December. Staff were immediately mobilised and on the same day, ECHO allocated €3 million for the relief efforts of the International Red Cross/Crescent Federation - using the primary emergency procedure. This funding was used for vital initial aid including water purification equipment, food, blankets, kitchen sets, stoves, hygiene kits and temporary shelter. It is also covered the provision of medical personnel, equipment and supplies and the tracing of missing persons. Two further decisions, each for €10 million, were signed by Commissioner Louis Michel on 30 and 31 December, releasing funds to help victims of the tidal waves in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Maldives. Contracts with partners are being finalised.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/1&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Commission calls for a sustained effort to help people affected by the tidal waves (03/01/2005)

European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, expressed to the Sri Lankan people the firm commitment of the European Commission to help them to recover from the unprecedented devastation caused by the tidal wave. During the past two days Louis Michel has visited some of the most affected coastal areas of the island, as well as hospitals and relief camps in Galle (South). Commissioner Michel underlined that "the European Commission was the first donor to provide €3 million on the day of the disaster, another €20 million (€8 mil for Sri Lanka, €2 mil for the Maldives and €10 mil for Indonesia) by 30 December 2004. Together with the EU Member States we are committed to spending every single euro that we pledge. Up to



now, the European Commission and Member States have committed at least €240 million and this figure is likely to be increased in the coming days". Furthermore, it contributes with civil protection means, under the co-ordination of the Civil Protection Community Co-ordination Mechanism for which Commissioner Stavros Dimas is in charge. (Image: Luxemburg Minister for Humanitarian Cooperation, Jean-Louis Schiltz [far left], and Louis Michel, Member of the EC in charge of Development and Humanitarian Aid [centre] distributing food aid in Sri Lanka)

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Other News

EC invites proposals for ACP-EU Water Facility (06/01/2005)

In early 2004 the European Union launched a €500 million Water Facility for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Following the Johannesburg launch of the EU Water Initiative at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, this constitutes a concrete development to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development in ACP countries. It is in line with the specific Millennium Development Goals and WSSD targets on water supply, sanitation and water resources management. On 11 November 2004, the European Commission issued a first Call for Proposals, envisaging three types of programme or project. First, improvements in overall water management and governance, including the management of trans-boundary basins and the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Second, the planning and construction of water and sanitation systems and infrastructure that will serve the poor. And third, the promotion of civil society initiatives for integrated activities and smaller scale, community-based, operations in very poor urban and rural areas. Information on this Call for Proposals will be found at: www.europa.eu.int/waterfacility. For further information please contact Mr Charles Reeve at the EC Delegation 012-452-0000.

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