



Joint Press Release

By the Delegation of the European Commission and
Treasury of the Republic of South Africa



26 September 2005

.../for immediate release

EU & SA evaluate European Commission Support

A wide range of stakeholders including both South African beneficiaries as well as European partners are currently discussing the results of the internal evaluation of the European Commission's support to South Africa. With reference to the findings of an independent multi-national evaluation team, the parties reviewed the relevance of the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development (EPRD) in South Africa, as well as the effectiveness and efficiency of its implementation. The Programme is made up of EC grants in the region of R1 billion annually for its period of implementation from 2003 – 2006.

The EPRD is the largest programme of its kind in South Africa and has as its overall objective poverty alleviation and the integration of South Africa into the global economy through sustainable development in a number of critical areas. These include Social Services, Private Sector Development, Consolidation of Democracy, and Regional Cooperation.

Based on the Evaluators report, stakeholders discussed achievements and shortcomings of the EPRD. Lessons learnt are particularly important in the light of a new strategy for EU-SA co-operation to be developed for the period 2007-2013, a strategy that will be common to the European Commission as well as a number of EU Member States.

With a view to improving harmonisation of delivery of assistance by foreign partners the review also focuses on sector policy dialogue and budgetary support for clearly defined South African policy areas, including both institutional support as well as capacity building.

The European Commission considers that its confidence in the ability of the South African authorities and non-governmental agencies to manage the many programmes and resources financed under the EPRD has been well justified.

For more information contact : Shaheed Rajie at 012-315-5969
Frank Oberholzer at 012-452-5200