



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

## GENERAL AFFAIRS

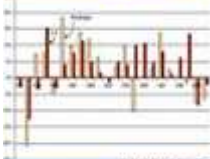
Sectoral Committee  
Weekly Update  
**25.06.10**

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COM (2010) 319 - COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT Financial information on the European Development Funds

In this document the Commission presents estimates of commitments, payments and contributions to the European Development Fund (EDF) for the period 2010 to 2011.

The EDF is the main instrument for providing Community aid for development cooperation in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the Overseas countries and territories (OCT). It does not come under the Community's general budget, and is funded by the Member States. The Member States contribute funds directly to the European Investment Bank (EIB) for the instruments which it manages under the 9th and 10th EDFs; whilst contributions for other instruments, including contributions for the old instruments managed by the EIB go to the Commission.

The Commission and the EIB have updated their commitment and payment forecasts of the EDFs for 2010 and 2011 for each of the ACP countries and the OCTs. The payment forecasts have been compiled with great care with the aim of helping the Member States to assess as accurately as possible the amounts they need to earmark in their national budgets while ensuring that sufficient financial resources are available for the EDF to avoid liquidity problems.

The new forecasts for the 2010 contributions confirm the Commission's needs at EUR 3 500 million and the EIB's at EUR 240 million. It should be noted that these amounts are the same as those decided by the Council in November 2009. Contributions for 2011 are forecast at EUR 3 690 million for the Commission and EUR 210 million for the EIB.

The ceiling for the amount of contributions for 2011 is the result of a compromise proposal between the Member States and the Commission and the EIB. It should be stressed that these figures are just a preliminary forecast and must be treated with caution. The Commission and the EIB will make more reliable forecasts after the summer. They will be presented in a communication in October.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0319:FIN:EN:PDF>



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## Enlargement

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, met with Prime Minister Hashim Thaci on 18 June in Brussels, when they discussed the latest developments in Kosovo and in particular the EU perspective for Kosovo within the framework of the whole Western Balkans region. Ashton expressed appreciation for the Prime Minister's commitment to tackling the issues of fight against organised crime and corruption and underlined the need for Kosovo to continue to intensify its efforts in tackling all these.

## The EU's institutions seal an agreement regarding the European diplomatic service

The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Spanish Presidency sealed an agreement regarding the organisation and operation of the European External Action Service (EEAS). The agreement signed last Monday will now be analysed separately in the coming days by each of the parties thereto, so that Council will be able to approve the formal decision to implement the service, anticipated for this autumn, as soon as possible.

Those present undertook to secure the support of their respective institutions with the aim of formally adopting as soon as possible the Council's decision which will establish the organisation and operation of the EEAS.

Those present also agreed that they will now have to work constructively to deal with unresolved issues, in particular the financial regulation and regulation regarding personnel and other parties serving the EU's institutions.