



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

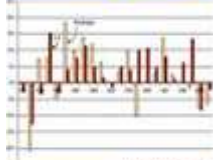
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Weekly Update  
**07.05.10**

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As part of the European Neighbourhood Policy, the EU wants to promote reform, modernisation and transition in the European Union's neighbourhood. One of the measures of doing this is the gradual opening-up of certain Union programmes and agencies to the participation of European Neighbourhood Policy partner countries. This policy aspect is outlined in the Commission Communication "on the general approach to enable European Neighbourhood Policy partner countries to participate in Community agencies and Community programmes". The Council endorsed this approach on 5 March 2007.

In March 2008, it was decided to start negotiations with Moldova. Negotiations with Moldova have since been completed to the satisfaction of the Commission and have led to the conclusion of a Protocol containing a Framework Agreement on the general principles for the participation of the Republic of Moldova in Union programmes. The Protocol contains standard stipulations that are intended to be applied to all European Neighbourhood Policy partner countries with which such protocols are to be concluded. The Commission is therefore submitting a proposal for a Council Decision on the signature and provisional application of the Protocol and also a different proposal for the conclusion of this Protocol.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0192:FIN:EN:PDF>  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0194:FIN:EN:PDF>



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**COM (2010) 195 - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION of [...] concerning the allocation of the funds decommitted from projects under the 9th and previous European Development Funds (EDF) for the purpose of addressing the needs of the most vulnerable population in Sudan**

The Government of Sudan has decided not to ratify the revised Cotonou Agreement. This is due to Article 11(6) where the Parties to the Agreement consent to "seek to take steps towards ratifying and implementing the Rome Statute and related instruments". In March 2009, the International Criminal Court had issued an arrest warrant against the Sudanese President over a number of war crimes and crimes against humanity. As a consequence of its non-ratification, Sudan cannot access funds which otherwise would have been made available under the 10th EDF National Indicative Programme with an allocation of EUR 297 million.

The European Union agrees that the current political situation in Sudan, as well as the dramatic humanitarian crisis both in Darfur and in South Sudan, requires a strong engagement of the EU, including through the provision of vital assistance to the Sudanese population. With elections in April 2010 and a referendum on secession for the South in January 2011, the European Union must act in every way it can as a force in favor of peace and stability for Sudan, including the South of Sudan and Darfur, and of democratic transformation across the whole country. Member States thus requested that the European Commission finds innovative solutions to channel funds to the population of Sudan.

After discussions with the Member States at the ACP Working Party in January and February 2010, the Commission is therefore proposing this Decision to allocate an amount of EUR 150 million from the funds decommitted from projects under the 9th EDF and previous EDFs for the purpose of addressing the needs of the most vulnerable population in Sudan.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0195:FIN:EN:PDF>



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## **Croatia closes free movement of goods chapter**

Croatia was able to close provisionally the 18th chapter in its EU membership negotiations at the accession conference held in Brussels on 19 April. The chapter on the free movement of goods, which was opened in July 2008, includes all the legislation aimed at removing barriers to trade in goods in the EU's internal market.

The decision means that there remain 17 legislative chapters for which accession negotiations are still to be concluded. A candidate country can only proceed to the signing of an accession treaty once all negotiating chapters have been definitively closed.

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/press\\_corner/newsletter/100430\\_en.htm#a2](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/press_corner/newsletter/100430_en.htm#a2)