EU ENGAGEMENT IN SOMALIA

The EU is engaged in Somalia through a comprehensive approach based on active diplomacy and support to the political process, security support, development assistance and humanitarian aid.

The engagement of the EU Special Envoy and the Delegation team, jointly with the efforts of the EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa, should allow the EU to accompany the new political dispensation and to develop a close partnership with all the Somali stakeholders. The completion of the transitional period and the appointment of the new Somali leadership have indeed led the EU to engage in a regular dialogue with the Federal Institutions as well as with the regional authorities on a renewed partnership in respect of Somali ownership.

Under the EU Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP), the EU has also launched 3 missions to contribute to security challenges: (1) the Military Training Mission (EUTM) to support the Somali security forces, (2) the EU Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) operation “Atalanta” to fight piracy at sea, (3) the EUCAP NESTOR to develop regional maritime capacity of states in the Horn.

Moreover, the EU is Somalia’s main development partner. More than half of the EU’s total assistance focuses on development aid and more particularly on governance, education and economic development.

Through this set of instruments that constitutes a wide and comprehensive approach, the EU is the largest donor to Somalia with more than 1 billion euros over several years.

DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

1. STATE BUILDING

The EU is helping Somalia to build democratic structures and strong administrations which will support the implementation of the political transition. This includes strengthening security, supporting the Constitution process and moving peace and reconciliation forward.

The present EU investment in this field is 113 million euros.

Rule of Law and security: With the EU support, more than 6,300 police officers were trained, law faculties were established in Somaliland and Puntland, and 170 legal professionals (prosecutors, judges, ...) were trained. The EU is also providing legal aid to a large range of vulnerable people, in particular women and internally displaced persons.

Reconciliation: The EU is the biggest donor to the Somalia Constitution process (drafting support, capacity building, support to public consultation, support to the Constituent assembly) and ultimately to a constitutional referendum and general elections.

Effective governance: This is done through public financial management and civil service reform support, but also through democratization and local governance support. With the help of EU funds, Somaliland had free and fair presidential elections in 2010 and Puntland adopted a new Constitution.

Somali civil society: The EU is enhancing the Non-State Actors’ capacities to play a meaningful role in the peace building process and good governance. The EU is also actively promoting Human Rights by supporting Human Rights organizations and by promoting women’s rights. Furthermore, the EU supports capacity building of media to promote free and independent media.

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The EU supports food security, private sector-led economic development (livestock and infrastructure) and livelihoods with an envelope which presently amounts 135 million euros.

Food security and agriculture

- Building resilience to drought: Somaliland and Puntland are dry rangelands where the prevalent livelihood is pastoralism, agriculture being marginal. In order to enhance the resilience of the population to drought, the EU supports social protection with puntual injections of small cash to the most needed.
- Information on food security and nutrition: more than 3 million Somalis benefited from market information through EU-funded information systems.
- Environmental conservation programmes: the EU supports these programmes in the North and Central region of Somalia where food insecurity is related to rapid natural resource degradation mainly due to charcoal production, overgrazing and poor water management.
- Seed sector support: in the agricultural irrigated areas of the South, the EU is supporting the establishment of a seed sector, (essentially maize) that has achieved high quality performance and has generated a profitable market for farmers.
- Support to irrigation: about 50,000 farming and agro-pastoral households are benefitting from the EU support to irrigation and flood control infrastructure, and to crop development in the areas of Shabelle and Juba river valleys. EU support also helped small-scale irrigation in the dry areas of the North.

Livestock

Livestock export is one of the main economic sectors in Somalia. The EU substantially contributed to improve the health status of livestock. This led to an export record of 4.1 million animals in 2011 and boosted the number of livelihoods as the livestock sector is estimated to create 65% of all job opportunities. Moreover, the EU has always been a steadfast supporter of the Sheikh Technical Veterinary School that trains professional animal health workers.

Water and infrastructure

Water is a scarce resource in Somalia and EU-financed projects have supported both rural and urban supply systems to increase access to sustainable water sources through the development of infrastructure and institutional capacity. Ongoing water projects aim to deliver sustainable access to safe water for up to 700,000 people and access to basic sanitation for 80,000 people. The EU decided to further invest in the infrastructure sector with fresh resources emanating from a recent budget review. The focus will be mainly on energy and road rehabilitation and maintenance.

MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A new 25 million euros project will tackle food security by supporting the sustainable management of rangelands by pastoralists in Puntland. These rangelands are highly degraded by the production of charcoal. The project aims at empowering communities in the improvement of rangeland and its pastures, allowing better soil and water management.

3. EDUCATION

Despite notable improvements in recent years, educational provision, participation and completion in Somalia are among the lowest in the world. It is reported that, across Somalia, the estimated Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) for primary education stands at 38% (and only 25% for girls). The substantial 86 million euros EU envelope for Education has already boosted participation, particularly of girls, in primary and secondary education, in teacher training and in the vocational sector.

With this EU support:
- Over 41,000 children (17,000 girls) were enrolled in primary education between 2009 and 2011, while it is estimated that over 500,000 children are enrolled in primary schools across the country.
- The secondary school enrolment has gone up from 450 students in 1999 to 50,000 students in 2011 in Somaliland and Puntland, although access to secondary education remains low.
- More than 330 classrooms were recently built or rehabilitated.
- 3,735 trainees (52% women) in vocational education were enrolled, allowing for skills development and employment for marginalized Somali youth.
- 5,105 primary and secondary teachers (30% women) were trained and certified.
- An education programme will start in 2012 in the refugee camp of Dadaab (Kenya), including expansion of primary, secondary and vocational education together with university scholarships in Somalia to encourage repatriation.

HUMANITARIAN AID

The European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) allocated 433 million euros in humanitarian aid to Somalia over the period 2009-2012. The main areas of intervention have included food security, treatment of malnutrition, provision of health services, shelter and household items, water and sanitation facilities, as well as hygiene promotion. ECHO continues to channel most of its assistance to the most affected regions of South Central Somalia, where the needs are still very high, and to vulnerable pockets in Puntland and Somaliland, specifically among the internally displaced people living in urban areas. Emergency aid will also target communities hosting the displaced.

Aid in Somalia is directed through various partner organisations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, UN agencies and international non-governmental organisations.
The EU has built a comprehensive approach in addressing the Somali crisis, by tackling both root causes and symptoms of the crisis such as piracy. The EU is convinced that eradication of piracy in the Western Indian Ocean will only be achievable through stabilisation of inter alia Somalia by addressing simultaneously the development challenges and the security challenges. That is why the EU is significantly supporting the African Union peace enabling Mission to Somalia (AMISOM). And that is why the EU has launched 3 complementary missions through its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP): EUTM – EUNAVFOR EUCAP NESTOR.

AMISOM
Stabilising Somalia together with the international partners is an EU priority. With a support of more than 325 million euros disbursed over the period 2007-2012, the EU remains one of the main supporters of AMISOM. The peace enabling mission creates the necessary security conditions for peace and stability and provides protection to key infrastructures to enable the Transitional Federal Institutions to carry out their functions. The EU welcomes the recent UN Security Council resolution authorising an increase of AMISOM’s strength to 17,731 men. The High Representative of the EU, Catherine Ashton, has pledged further support for this troop increase.

EUTM
In February 2010, the EU launched the European Union Military Mission to contribute to the training of Somali security forces. The mission takes place in Uganda (HQ in Kampala and training camp in Bihanga) and is focused on developing Command and Control of the Somali NSF, with a view to transferring EU training expertise to local actors. By the end of 2012, 3000 Somali soldiers and officers will be trained.

COUNTER-PIRACY AND MARITIME SECURITY
EU NAVFOR: containing piracy
The EU launched the European Naval Force military operation “ATALANTA” in December 2008 in response to piracy off the Horn of Africa. The aim is to protect vulnerable World Food Programme and AMISOM shipping, and to deter, prevent and repress acts of piracy. Political guidance, staff and assets are provided by the EU Member States, with a common budget of 8 million euros for the year 2011. EU NAVFOR has had a 100% success rate in protection of WFP Vessels.

EUCAP NESTOR: building maritime capacities
The new EU civilian EUCAP NESTOR mission will develop the regional maritime capacity in the Horn of Africa. It will develop the civilian coastal policing capacity in Somalia and strengthen the coastguard function in Djibouti, Kenya, the Seychelles and Tanzania. It will reinforce those countries’ ability to fight piracy and face other challenges such as illegal fishing and trafficking. The EU supports other programmes such as the Regional Maritime Security Programme (MASE) that tackles piracy on land, the Critical Maritimes Routes Programme that reinforces maritime governance and the MARSIC Programme that enhances information sharing.

Cooperation to end impunity
The EU runs a wide range of programmes related to the prosecution, trial and detention of piracy suspects. The EU is assisting UNDP and UNODC in their work to establish sufficient conditions to allow fair and efficient piracy trials in Somalia. The EU has therefore signed transfer agreements with countries in the region – the Seychelles (2009), Mauritius (2011) – and is negotiating another one with Tanzania. Transfers to Kenya are possible on a case by case basis. Over 1,000 suspects are currently being prosecuted in 20 countries, including EU Member States.

EU FLIGHTS
Since 1994, the EU is operating flight services to facilitate access to Somalia for staff and cargo associated with the European Union and the EU Members States’ presence.

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Supporting Somalia’s Future

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