Dear Readers,

The year 2009 turned out to be an eventful year. It will be remembered in the annals of European history, since it succeeded to give an added impetus to the consensus and partnership among the 27 European Union Member States. The two Member States, Czech Republic and Poland that were yet to ratify the Lisbon Treaty, signed by all 27 in the Portuguese capital on 13 December 2007, did so in the recent months, opening up a new era of cooperation within and beyond Europe. Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty starting 1st December, 2009, the European Union will have a clearer and more effective Common Foreign and Security Policy. Work is in progress to put into place the European External Action Service (EEAS), which is expected to streamline Europe’s common foreign policy. The Lisbon treaty formerly known as the ‘Reform Treaty’ marks the next stage in the development of the European Union. It may be recalled that its predecessor, the Constitutional Treaty, drafted by the Convention on the Future of Europe but rejected in two referenda in 2005, was a more far-reaching instrument, but in its place the Treaty of Lisbon nevertheless represents real progress towards a more efficient, effective and democratic European Union.

Political parties, development partners and other stakeholders in Nepal might be wondering how the new orientation of the European Union will affect EU-Nepal bilateral relations. This is a genuine question that all Nepalis might be having at the moment. The recent change in the institutional set up of the European Union has resulted in two new permanent positions: first the position of the President of the European Council and second the position of the High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy. These will induce some further positive change in EU policy towards Nepal for both the partnership and the development cooperation.

I would say without any hesitation that the recent changes in EU will bring about more clarity in how we would like to move ahead in assisting our friends living in different parts of the world. Nepal will continue to remain within the EU radar for both the bilateral relation and for the channelling of the development assistance. Now that the Delegation is upgraded into a fully-fledged one, having an accredited resident Ambassador-Head of Delegation, we can expect that European attention to Nepal will grow and that business will be handled more efficiently.

Now, to turn your attention to some of the development initiatives taken so far with the financial assistance of the European Union -- Peace building, education, trade facilitation, food security, energy and environment, support for democratisation, improving human rights and health conditions through NGOs -- are some of the ongoing prioritised areas where yearly grants to the tune of 35 million Euros (some US $ 50 million) have been allocated from the EU budget in addition to the direct assistance to Nepal from the EU Member States, in particular UK, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands and others.

The recent Copenhagen Climate Change Conference (COP-15) indicated clearly that countries like Nepal will be assisted financially in their effort to contribute to the solution of this global problem. But, already long before Copenhagen, the EU advanced “unilaterally” with related initiatives. It is hoped that some projects will be implemented in Nepal under these initiatives.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the development partners who worked with the European Union in 2009 that has just gone by, and at the same time would like to express my determination to strengthen the existing partnership for better results. While wishing all our readers a happy new year 2010, I am optimistic that all the political actors and citizens in Nepal will go an extra mile to materialise their dream of building a peaceful, democratic and prosperous ‘New Nepal’.

Alexander Spachis
Ambassador
Head of the Delegation
Dr. Alexander Spachis becomes first fully accredited Ambassador, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Nepal

Newly appointed Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation to Nepal Dr. Alexander Spachis presented his credentials to President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav at a special function organised at the presidential office on 14 December.

Dr. Spachis is the first fully accredited and resident Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to Nepal. Until now, the Kathmandu office, established in 2002, was a Delegation of the European Commission under the supervision of a non-resident Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the European Commission resident in New Delhi. As from now it is a fully- fledged Delegation of the European Union representing all E.U. institutions.

“I have been given this important responsibility at a historical juncture of both the European Union and Nepal. While the EU is preparing to move ahead with added cohesion on foreign policy and security matters, following the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty starting 1st December, 2009, Nepal too is confronted with the multiple task of taking the peace process to a logical end, drafting a new constitution and holding a fresh round of elections at par with international standards,” Dr. Spachis said.

“Given the seriousness of the tasks in hand, I take it both as an opportunity and challenge for me and the Ambassadors of the EU Member States in Kathmandu to work together with the Nepal Government, the civil society and other stakeholders and international actors to assist the Nepali people in their ongoing efforts to achieve lasting peace, stability and prosperity,” Dr. Spachis said.

Following the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty starting 1st of December 2009, the Delegation has become the Delegation of the European Union to Nepal. Before that period, it used to be the Delegation of the European Commission to Nepal.

Coinciding with the historic moment, the Delegation also bade farewell to Danielle Smadja, non-resident
Ambassador for Nepal and Ambassador, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to India, Mrs. Smadja at her farewell visit to Nepal said that she was both euphoric and nostalgic at the same time.

"I am happy that now the Nepal Delegation will be a fully-fledged one with the appointment of a new resident ambassador and at the same time I am a bit nostalgic as I will slowly be handing over all the responsibilities," Mrs. Smadja said.

She said that with the ‘increased authority’ would come ‘additional responsibility’ for all the staff at the Delegation and wished for a smooth transition of the Delegation.

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**Lisbon Treaty Comes Into Force And Heralds a new era of European cooperation**

The Treaty of Lisbon entered into force on 1st December 2009. The treaty has brought about some changes in the institutional set up of the European Union. One prominent change is that starting 1st December 2009 the European Community has been replaced by the European Union which succeeds it and takes over all its rights and obligations. This has in turn resulted in a single legal personality. The Treaty on European Union retains the same name and the Treaty establishing the European Community has become the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The treaty ratified by all the 27 European Union Member States has made provisions to have a fixed full-time president of the European Council. The President's main task is to ensure the preparation and continuity of the work of the European Council – which becomes an institution in its own right – and to facilitate consensus. He will, at his level and in that capacity, ensure the external representation of the Union on issues concerning its common foreign and security policy. The role of President of the European Council is not compatible with other national offices. The European Council has agreed to elect Mr Herman Van Rompuy to this post for a term of two and a half years, which is yet to be endorsed by the European Parliament. Rompuy is the sitting prime minister of Belgium, one of the founding members of the European Union.

Following his appointment to the post, Mr. Van Rompuy said, the Treaty of Lisbon will allow us to take decisions more speedily and more democratically. He asserted that the treaty obliges the EU Member States to play their part on the world stage. The European Council of Heads of State or Government is responsible for setting the broad guidelines as the Union moves ahead. It can only take on this

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*Staff at the Delegation of the European Union to Nepal pose for a photograph with Ms. Danielle Smadja, Ambassador, Head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Union to India, following a small farewell get together with colleagues.*

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*Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, newly elected President of the Council of the European Union*
role if the Union really is a union of 27 countries. Unity brings strength, he added.

The other change that the treaty has brought about is the creation of a permanent position for the post of a High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union. The Council has agreed to nominate Baroness Catherine Ashton for the post.

Responsibilities of the President of the European Council

- According to Article 15 (6) of the Treaty on the European Union, the President of the European Council: chairs it and drives forward its work; ensures the preparation and continuity of the work of the European Council in cooperation with the President of the Commission, and on the basis of the work of the General Affairs Council; endeavours to facilitate cohesion and consensus within the European Council; presents a report to the European Parliament after each of the meetings of the
- European Council. He also, at his level and in that capacity, ensures the external representation of the Union on issues concerning its common foreign and security policy, without prejudice to the powers of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. He may not hold a national office at the same time as being President.

Responsibilities of the High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy

Similarly, the High Representative combines three different functions: she will be at once the Council’s representative for the CFSP (Common Foreign and Security Policy), the President of the Foreign Affairs Council and a Vice-President of the Commission. She is responsible for steering foreign policy and common defence policy. She also represents the Union on the international stage in the field of the CFSP. The post is designed to enhance the consistency and unity of the EU’s external action. Ashton has been appointed by the European Council with the agreement of the President of the Commission. She will receive the consent of the European Parliament (when it votes on the Commission as a body). Her term of office (five years) coincides with the Commission’s term of office. In fulfilling her mandate, the High Representative will be assisted by the European External Action Service and will have authority over some 138 delegations of the Union in third countries and to international organisations.

Climate Change Conference
This Accord is Better than No Accord: President Barroso

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-15) that started in Copenhagen on 7 December and ended on 18 December failed to hammer out a politically binding agreement as envisaged by many nations. The EU Member States in particular have been actively voicing for cutting down of carbon emissions to safeguard the world’s environment.

The conference aimed at putting into place a new post-2012 climate treaty with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to restrict global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius compared to preindustrial levels.

The first phase of negotiations at the conference was carried out till 15th December by experts and official negotiators. Talks at the ministerial level took place from 16th to 18th December followed by negotiations of heads of governments.

The closing session of the conference was attended by 130 world leaders including all EU Heads of States or Heads of Government, US President Barack Obama, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao also attended the international climate conference together with other world leaders.
The main aim of COP15 was to concretise all key issues of the future climate treaty. This agreement as per the understanding among nation states should then be implemented and a binding treaty ratified by summer 2010. The treaty should set a long term goal for emission reductions. Industrialised nations, also the biggest emitters should agree to concrete, binding emission reductions, while developing countries should also commit to quantifiable contributions. Developed countries should also make concrete commitments for immediate financing to help worst affected countries fight and adapt to climate change. Lastly, a concrete schedule for the ratification of the new treaty should be set.

EU Contribution: On the second day of the summit between the EU heads of state and government in Brussels, the leaders reached an agreement on ‘fast start funding’. The EU’s figure came to EUR 2.4 billion per year from 2010 to 2012.

“I am particularly pleased that all 27 Member States and the Commission have contributed”, said Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt after the meeting.

‘Fast start funding’ refers to the funding that is needed to quickly get climate change adaptation measures under way in developing countries. The money is for mitigation of climate change, adaptation to climate change and capacity building. The EU wants to work for an annual global contribution of EUR 7 billion per year between 2010 and 2012. Of this, the EU leaders have agreed to contribute EUR 2.4 billion annually.

“The EU has now taken on a significant share of the total amount and has shown leadership on the issue. Now we want to encourage the rest of the world to contribute to reach EUR 7 billion. It would be good if we could get an agreement on this in Copenhagen”, said Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt.

“The decision is particularly important for the poorest countries, those that are most vulnerable”, said President of the Commission José Manuel Barroso.

The Copenhagen Accord: The final draft climate agreement tabled at the COP 15 has stated that the rich countries should reduce their green house emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2050. It says developing countries emissions should be 15-30 per cent below “business as usual,” that is judged against figures for energy used versus economic output.

The draft also reiterates a December 2010 deadline for when leaders should adopt a legally binding treaty to fight global warming.

In an apparent reference to the failure on the part of the industrialised nations to spell out their commitments categorically, Barroso said, "This accord is better than no accord. But the level of agreement is honestly not what we have been hoping for."

The COP-15 is an offshoot of the famous 1992 Rio Earth Summit and the Kyoto Summit that resulted in the Kyoto protocol on climate change which expires in 2012. The COP 15 aimed at having a new politically binding agreement before the Kyoto protocol expires, but did not succeed.
European Union joins hands with NGOs CESVI and Mountain Spirit to protect Khumbu environment

The European Union (EU) has emerged as a trusted partner when it comes to contributing to preserve biodiversity and the mountain eco-systems. The preservation of the mountain ecosystem is directly linked with the conservation of rare flora and fauna species.

The conservation efforts in turn have positive results on simplifying and sustaining the lives of the mountain people. The EU's contribution is glaringly evident at the global stage, be it in the form of lobbying and advocacy to minimise the adverse impacts of climate change on the world's environment, or through financial assistance to developing nations facing growing risks from the ever changing climatic patterns around the world.

The EU portfolio in 2008 shows that commitments for climate related interventions have increased totalling over 1.7 billion since 2002, which demonstrates the EU is the strongest international advocate of sustainable development and decision-making that takes full account of environmental and social aspects.

Talking about EU’s role in Asia, the EU has been working to tackle environmental issues in the Asian region since the 1990s, and the EU commitments are being continued as of today in its various forms.

In keeping with the same commitment, the European Union has contributed a purse of 500,000 euros for the 'Community based Land and Forest Management in Sagarmatha (Everest) National Park, one of the World Heritage Sites.

CESVI, an Italian INGO has contributed 150,000 euros for the project. CESVI is implementing the project in partnership with 'Mountain Spirit', an NGO working in the sector of environmental conservation.

"We are very concerned about the poor communities who depend on the mountain ecosystems for survival," Dr. Alexander Spachis, Ambassador, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Nepal said.

Dr. Spachis addressed the kick-off meeting of the project recently and hinted: since the evaluation of the concept notes on the Thematic Strategy Paper (TSP) on Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, including Energy (ENRTP) have been completed, more projects under ENRTP are likely to be implemented in Nepal.

He said the European Union support to CESVI to run project in the Sagarmatha Park demonstrates commitment and a sense of
responsibility of the EU towards poor and developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

Shedding light on the importance of the project, Gopal Prasad Upadhya, Director General of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), said that the participatory conservation model can alone guarantee the environment and livelihood of the local people.

He hoped that the Nepal Government would receive continued support from the European Union to step up conservation efforts in the future.

The project will be implemented for a period of 30 months in Sagarmatha National Park and Buffer Zone (SNPBZ) of Solu-Khumbu district. It is expected that 6,000 people living in the area will be directly benefited from the project along with 6,000 migrant workers and 25,000 tourists every year.

EU Food Facility: EU Technical team finds worrisome situation of food production in three western districts of Nepal

It may be recalled that the European Union (EU) announced a package of one billion Euros for the ‘Food Facility’ last year. The announcement came in the wake of rising food prices and the pressing need to make rapid responses to growing food scarcity in 50 countries including Nepal. Out of this total sum, 23.5 million Euros (2.7 billion rupees) has been earmarked for Nepal to run projects in the eastern, central, mid-western and far-western regions.

This programme is a rapid response to the soaring food prices affecting thousands of households in these food deficit districts. This project is being implemented by two UN agencies – WFP and FAO and four Non State Actors – Oxfam, Practical Action, DanChurchAid and Save the Children Norway. These agencies will cover 18 food deficit districts, 16 districts of the Far West and Western development regions and one district each in Eastern and Central development regions. The programme will reach more than 228,000 most vulnerable households of these districts. The communities will benefit in many ways. They will receive irrigation facilities, production and distribution of improved variety of seed of cereal crops, vegetables and livestock, fertilizers, seed storage facilities, food vouchers, community seed and grain bank. The programme will train approximately 50,000 farmers on sustainable farming practices. The European Union is confident that these interventions from the programme will add more food grains in benefiting rural households making them more food secure.

This European Union donation of Euro 23.5 million for addressing food insecurity in Nepal is making gradual impact through its partners both in terms of planning and action. With the project gaining momentum each day, EU Technical Assistants paid a visit to Kailali, Doti and Baitadi, the three districts in the far western part of Nepal to make an assessment of the food situation and observe the implementing UN agency World Food Programme (WFP) and its local partners and contributing District line agencies and business people/traders and community people. This EU intervention comes at a very appropriate moment.
The production of the 2008 winter crop was adversely affected by winter drought and crop losses estimated around 30-40% on irrigated land and more than 80% in non-irrigated land. The summer crop (rice, maize and millet) production was also adversely affected by a delayed monsoon followed by exceptionally heavy rains and storms at the harvest time in the far west and western regions. The farmers, however, are hopeful that they will have good harvest of the current winter crops.

The price of all food commodities have increased compared to the corresponding months in the previous years. For example, compared to last year the price of coarse rice has increased by Rs four per Kg, which is now Rs 25-27/Kg, maize by Rs 3, which is now Rs 15/Kg, black gram by Rs 30 per Kg which is now Rs 110/Kg and the price of potato has risen from Rs 18 to 40. As a result of the increase in the prices of the commodities, traders said that people were buying less pulses, rice and potatoes and depending more on maize. In some instances, people were substituting ‘pulses’ and vegetables with instant noodles.

The communities are aware that food insecurity is increasing. The reasons given for the insecurity are: (i) Reduced crop production due to changing rain pattern (ii) Lack of irrigation facilities and therefore dependency on non irrigated land (iii) Population growth (iv) People, especially youth, less interested on agriculture (v) easier migration to India for employment due to improved road access (vi) traditional agricultural practices (vii) rising food prices and (viii) improved empowerment and communication - voice and agency – improvement in people’s ability to raise issues.

Regarding crop productivity, only a few in the community think that the yields are the same as the previous years while many others say that the yield is decreasing. However, most agreed that they were unable to increase crop production because they depended on locally grown seeds and traditional farming and did not have access to irrigational facilities.

The communities said they needed to know about more scientific methods of farming. They also considered that improved access to irrigation facilities will help increase food production and thereby food security. Most of the people agreed that the increase in the population growth, coupled with land fragmentation has resulted in more households being unable to produce sufficient food to feed them throughout the year. People have been migrating to India so that additional income can be used to buy food to add to the household granary. This in turn would leave the family with one less mouth to feed.

It is against this backdrop that the EU is implementing this important programme. If the results prove satisfactory, a follow-up programme may be considered with the Government of Nepal from 2011 onwards in the context of a more intensive rural development effort.
‘The People’s Declaration’ for a ‘Disaster Risk Free Nepal’

Over a hundred participants from all levels of the society, including the communities affected by disasters, assembled and debated on issues related to disaster risk reduction in Nepal in October this year to mark the International Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The result was a unanimous adoption of the ‘People’s Declaration on DRR, Nepal.’

“Every year, we are affected by disaster. While everyone talks about big disasters like Koshi, there are also a number of smaller disasters that impact us much more. We have been shouting and pleading for support... sometimes we get it, often we are ignored,” said Achyut Parajuli Chairperson of the Disaster Management Committee of Dharan in Sunsari District.

The adopted nine point plan was delivered to President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav during a peaceful parade – People’s Rally of almost a 1000 people. During the event organised by the National Network of Disaster Affected People (NNDAC) with support of the disaster risk reduction stakeholders of Nepal, policy makers, activists and government representatives witnessed testimonies, a documentary and a photo exhibition of the Nepalese communities’ role in reducing the risks before, during and after disasters.

“For us, this event is unique. It gives us an opportunity to talk to the people who matter. We have never come this far and allowing us to take lead in this big event makes us confident that our voices will be heard from now onwards. I am listening to all speeches and discussions and this is the first time, voices of disaster affected people have been given such importance. I hope that soon, our government will have strong policy for disaster affected people and that they will stick to that policy,” added Parajuli.

The European Commission’s humanitarian aid department (ECHO) has been focusing on reducing the risks and impacts of disasters on communities for many years. Working with their implementing partners, non governmental organisations (NGOs), United Nations (UN) agencies and the Red Cross family, ECHO’s emphasis has been on building the resilience of communities impacted by the disasters. This year’s events was co-funded with the Commission’s funds.

Reducing the risks of disasters on communities requires a coordinated and combined approach of all the people involved –from the grassroots community level up to the high level government decision makers – each of us has a role to play.

The nine point People’s Declaration aims to embed the community efforts in government policy; where the most vulnerable are acknowledged and catered for; where the importance of working together is acknowledged and defined; and where the NGO’s role is seen as critical in scaling up activities to include a broader group.

“We believe that the dream of a New Nepal cannot be realized without addressing the inherent risks posed by disasters. We believe that disaster risk reduction is not an option for this country, but an essential pre-requisite that defines its development process,” the Peoples’ Declaration concluded.

CORRECTION

Please read Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission, Kedar Nath Upadhyay instead of what got inadvertently printed in the article “2nd Transregional Summer School Held In Dhulikel” published in the July-September issue of the “EU-Nepal News”. The error is regretted.
European Union Renewable Energy Project Makes Progress

Renewable Energy Project (REP) is one of the priority areas of EU cooperation, concentrating on the overarching objective of poverty alleviation in Nepal. It is estimated that approximately 1.5 million people would benefit from the project, supporting approximately 205 health posts, 266 schools, 182 other community services that includes computer literacy, community entertainment, and community telecommunication centers to receive PV systems providing electricity. In addition, at least 87 PV systems for milling, 30 water pumping, 24 solar dryers and 14 Solar Hot Water Systems (SHWS) will be financed.

In November 2009, the contracts between the beneficiary government and contractors have been signed for the procurement of solar Photovoltaic (PV) equipments worth €7 million. The installation activities of PV equipments are to start early January 2010. Following the awarding of the PV contracts, a regional workshop was conducted in Pokhara on 28.10.09, updating project status to all the stakeholders, and setting key benchmarks for future activities. The issues and role of the renewable energy sector in the development strategy of Nepal were discussed during the policy session participated in by various stakeholders, representatives from line agencies of the government, Constituent Assembly Members, journalists, NGOs, private companies etc.

Thakur Prasad Sharma, Minister for Environment was the Chief Guest of the programme. Sharma mentioned that the promotion of Renewable Energy Technologies (RETs) is the priority programme of the Ministry. He conveyed special thanks to the European Union for its funding support to the REP and significant contribution of the EU in the development process of Nepal. He expressed the optimism that EU would continue supporting Nepal.

Mangal Das Maharjan, National Project Director of the project, Naryan Chaulagain, Executive Director, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), an implementing agency of the project, Kedar Sharma, Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Raghav Bir Joshi, Member of the Constituent Assembly, Narahari Baral, Local Development Officer of Kaski district were among the participants.

Ranjan Shrestha, Programme Manager participated in the workshop on behalf of the Delegation of the European Union to Nepal.
EU "Troika" stresses need for timely initiative to address post conflict issues for the success of the peace process

The European Union (EU) has always stood as a close partner of Nepal. The partnership is unique and longstanding. The EU demonstrates an unflinching support to Nepal's peace and democratisation process. This has been widely perceived when looking at the regular visits to Nepal of the EU Troika. The last visit of the kind took place in October 2009.

A six-member EU Troika headed by Klas Molin, Head of Department for Asia and the Pacific, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden visited Nepal as a "long standing, concerned friend." The EU Troika reaffirmed its commitment to continue backing Nepal's peace process and urged the political parties to overcome their differences so that the Legislature Parliament could resume its proceedings.

Apart from encouraging progress on the drafting of a new constitution by 28 May, 2010 deadline, the Troika stressed that a functioning parliament is essential for democratic governance, and of particular urgency in the case of Nepal.

The Troika said it looked forward to the speedy discharge of disqualified minors from the cantonments as an encouraging signal and an important confidence building measure. It said that it stresses the continuing importance of the integration and rehabilitation of Maoist army personnel.

One other important observation it made was on the state of human rights. Failure to act on human rights abuses undermines respect for the rule of law which in turn undermines sustainable peace. The Troika expressed serious concerns regarding the disappearances, widespread impunity and reports related to human trafficking. In the same line, the Troika said it supports the work of human rights defenders.

In the course of the two day visit, the EU Troika met President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, the Speaker of the Constituent Assembly and the Foreign, Defence, Peace and Reconstruction Ministers.

The EU Troika was also eager to assess the real situation of the peace and development process in the hinterlands of Nepal. Some members of the EU -Troika including Jean-Christian Remond and his Deputy Rensje Teerink from the EU Headquarters accompanied by Head of the European Union Delegation to Nepal Alexander Spachis and other staff paid a visit to Nepalgunj, Surkhet, Humla, Kalikot and Bardiya.

The team had the opportunity to interact with the conflict victims in the said districts. They were also able to assess the impact of the support being given by the European Union in the sector of human rights protection and other development projects.

They shared that Nepal's peace process would only achieve the set goals with attempts from the concerned stakeholders and the government to address the issues related to the post conflict situation in the villages of Nepal.
ERASMUS MUNDUS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

This Call for Proposals aims to support projects under all three Actions of the programme:

**Action 1: Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes**

- Action 1A: Erasmus Mundus Master Courses (EMMC)
- Action 1B: Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates (EMJD)

**Action 2: Erasmus Mundus Partnerships**

- Action 2 – STRAND 1: Partnerships with countries covered by the ENPI, DCI, EDF and IPA instruments (former External Cooperation Window)
- Action 2 – STRAND 2: Partnerships with countries and territories covered by the Industrialised Countries Instrument (ICI)

**Action 3: Promotion of European higher education**

- Projects to enhance the Attractiveness of European higher education

The deadline for submission of applications under all three Actions is 30 April 2010.


**ERASMUS MUNDUS INFO DAY**

The Erasmus Mundus Info Day on 22 January provides more information on the Call. It will explain the application process and documents, and give tips and advice on how to prepare a strong proposal under all three of the Actions. The Info Day will take place in Brussels, and be broadcast live via webstreaming.

Participants at the event, and people following the sessions on line will be able to post questions. A partner search mechanism will also be available. Registration will open in mid-December.


**Erasmus Mundus Scholarships**

**Opportunities for higher education in Europe for Nepalese students**

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**Erasmus Mundus Courses**

Erasmus Mundus offers culturally enriching higher education opportunities for both European and Non-European students. For more information on the Erasmus Mundus Scholarships, please check the link: [http://ec.europa.eu/education/index_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/index_en.html)

Prospective students from any country are invited to apply to participate in an Erasmus Mundus Course, provided they have obtained a first degree awarded by a higher education institution. For more information and eligibility criteria please check following link: [http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus/faq3_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus/faq3_en.html)

Erasmus Mundus courses are high-quality study programmes offered by a consortium of at least three European higher education institutions. They last between one and two years and lead to the award of a recognised double, joint or multiple degrees. Students have to study in at least two institutions. There exist Erasmus Mundus courses in almost all academic disciplines. The course normally starts between August and November depending on the usual starting date of the academic year in the countries concerned.

Under this specific action of Erasmus Mundus students and scholars from third countries will be granted scholarship or stipend respectively. All the countries of the world – with the exception of EU Member States, EEA-EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and candidate countries for accession to the EU (Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) – are considered third countries.

Check this link for the list of available Erasmus Mundus Courses: [http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus/projects/index_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/mundus/projects/index_en.html)

**Note:**

- There are no Erasmus Mundus courses offered at undergraduate or doctorate levels
- Interested students have to register for an Erasmus Mundus Masters Course directly with the consortium offering the Course. The consortium informs interested students about specific admission conditions (e.g. study results, language skills, etc.) and about application deadlines.
- Please do not apply to the Delegation of the European Union to Nepal or the European Commission.

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Information session on the call will also be held subsequently. Please visit us at the above-mentioned website or call at the EU Delegation in Kathmandu for the updated information.

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Published by Dr. Alexander Spachis, Ambassador, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Nepal

To learn more please consult our website or contact us:

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