

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

AND

**THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER OF ST. JOHN
OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA**

The Commission of the European Communities, hereinafter referred to as European Commission, represented by its President, and the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, also known as Sovereign Military Order of Malta, hereinafter referred to as Order of Malta, represented by its Grand Master and Grand Chancellor;

Emphasizing the importance of their adherence to fundamental values and their common approach with partner countries based on the promotion of respect of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, human rights, pluralism, solidarity, justice and good governance;

Emphasizing the need to strengthen civil society institutions and private organizations to provide social support systems and services to citizens as well as to enable effective citizenship and societal development;

Emphasizing also their joint commitment to the integrity and dignity of the beneficiaries of development programs, the freedom of choice and cultural diversity of such beneficiaries;

Recognizing the importance of addressing significant poverty by connecting local development activities to wider employment and income opportunities, systems and services, thus connecting the poor to growth and growth to the poor;

Considering that the Order of Malta promotes assistance to the poor and the sick, the needy and the refugees, without distinction of creed, race or religion, through medical and social services, and that it fulfills its humanitarian missions by carrying out hospitaller works, including social and health assistance, as well as aiding victims of natural disasters and armed conflicts;

Considering that the Order of Malta is active in major natural disasters as well as in major crisis zones and wishes to extend its action to the local economic development;

Considering the official relations existing between the European Commission and the Order of Malta and the desire to strengthen them;

Seeking to foster close cooperation between them in matters of common interest and desirous of further enhancing and strengthening such cooperation;

HAVE DECIDED AS FOLLOWS :

Section 1

Cooperation

1. The European Commission and the Order of Malta will cooperate in matters of common interest, especially in the following areas:
 - I. assistance in emergency and post-crisis situations, including rehabilitation and development;
 - II. medical and social assistance to persons involved in migration;
 - III. support to local economic and social development;
 - IV. protection of victims of trafficking and other vulnerable groups;
 - V. dissemination of international human rights;
 - VI. inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue;
 - VII. sponsorship of seminars and workshops on topics of common interest.
2. For purposes of such cooperation, each side designates a focal point responsible for responding to queries and periodically reviewing cooperation between the two sides.
3. In the framework of the support to local economic and social development, cooperation may be established between the Commission Delegations in the considered countries and the Order of Malta. The aim of this cooperation is to

improve the coherence between the actions of the two sides and the effectiveness of their support.

4. Financial cooperation within the Order of Malta's operational activities in the area covered by the Memorandum of Understanding can be established in accordance with existing agreements and procedures and where there is added value, relevant impact, common interest and adequate capacities.
5. Any financial obligations incurred by the sides as a result of this Memorandum of Understanding or supplementary Memoranda of understanding that may be concluded will be subject to the availability of funds, and to each side's standards, rules and regulations relating to budgetary and financial matters.

Section 2

Reciprocal Consultations

1. The sides will informally consult each other on a regular basis concerning their plans of action and other matters that may be of mutual interest in order to accomplish their objectives and coordinate their respective activities.
2. A collaboration at the local level between the Commission Delegations and the Diplomatic Representations of the Order of Malta is encouraged.

Section 3

Exchange of Information and Documents

1. The sides will exchange, on a regular basis, information and documents on matters of common interest.
2. The European Commission will, on a regular basis, draw the attention of the Order of Malta to information and Commission documents which may be of particular interest to the Order or relevant to projects which receive funding from both Parties. The Order of Malta will provide the European Commission, on a regular basis, with information and documents regarding its activities, in so far as they are relevant to the activities of the Commission.

Section 4

Reciprocal invitations

Both sides may invite each other to participate at conferences or meetings held by each other, in accordance with their existing rules and when such meetings address matters of common interest.

Section 5

Amendments

Amendments to this Memorandum of Understanding may be made by mutual consent in writing.

Section 6

Entry into Force

This Memorandum of Understanding will have effect from its signature by both sides.

Done in Brussels on 17 February 2009 in two originals in English

FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

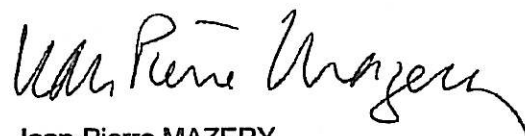


José Manuel BARROSO
President

FOR THE ORDER OF MALTA



Fra' Matthew FESTING
Grand Master



Jean-Pierre MAZERY
Grand Chancellor