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COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION

Implementing and promoting the European Neighbourhood Policy

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Communication to the College from Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner

Implementing and promoting the European Neighbourhood Policy

Introduction

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) is a key EU external relations priority.

Through the ENP, the EU is seeking to promote good government and economic and social development in its own immediate vicinity. It is in the EU's interests to have a zone of increasing prosperity, stability and security on its borders, in the area in which its influence is also greatest. The ENP responds to these interests and to the wishes of the neighbours of the enlarged EU for closer relations. The ENP also supports efforts to achieve the objectives of the European Security Strategy. The ENP offers partner countries a new kind of relationship with the EU, going beyond cooperation to include closer political links and an element of economic integration. In addition to these incentives it offers a stake in the internal market, support to meet EU standards as well as assistance with reforms that will stimulate economic and social development. In turn, ENP partners accept precise commitments, which can be monitored, to strengthen the rule of law, democracy and the respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, to promote market-oriented economic reforms, to promote employment and social cohesion and to cooperate on key foreign policy objectives such as counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The ENP also helps address concerns in the EU about migration, border management, organised crime and violent radicalisation.

The ENP has established a novel, comprehensive and forward-looking framework by which to promote political and economic reform, development and modernisation. This complements and builds upon existing policies and processes and our past relations with these countries. As we approach the tenth anniversary of the Barcelona process and as certain partners to the East and the South embark on ambitious reforms, the ENP provides practical means to address priorities for the years ahead. The ENP is a young policy but one that is all the more relevant in today's political circumstances.

The ENP works on the basis of Action Plans, partnerships for reform. These are jointly agreed with partners and identify priorities for action across a broad range of areas. The Action Plan agreed with each partner is keyed to its particular needs and capacities, in line with the principles of joint ownership. The partnership is designed in such a way as to reward progress with greater incentives and benefits, which are entirely distinct from any prospect of accession. How far and how fast each partner progresses in its relationship with the EU depends on its capacity and political will to implement the agreed priorities.

Successful implementation of the ENP on the EU side depends, first and foremost, on effective action by the European Commission – which requires the full and active commitment of all Commissioners and their services. ENP is not a policy confined to the field of external relations but is a priority for the Commission as a whole.

It is therefore opportune, one year into implementation, to assess progress to date and to identify key priorities for action in the year ahead.

Main achievements to date

Since the ENP Strategy Paper in May 2004¹, setting out the medium-term orientations for the European Neighbourhood Policy, significant progress has been made:

- seven ENP Action Plans have been negotiated and formally adopted - with Israel, Jordan, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Tunisia and Ukraine. These have given more structure and direction to our relations. Five more are under preparation, with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Georgia and Lebanon;
- the implementation and monitoring of these first seven ENP Action Plans is well under way, and is kept under review through the institutions of the Partnership and Cooperation and Association Agreements. Already during 2005
 - Partners have begun implementing the agreed priorities, in line with clear timetables. For example, the Government of Moldova has made the ENP Action Plan the centrepiece of its reform strategy. Some Mediterranean countries see ENP as a means of accelerating their own reform programmes (e.g. Jordan's linkage with its own National Agenda) and achieving the enhanced status in relations with the EU they have long sought;
 - The Commission has been active across a broad front. For example, progress has been made in a number of issues of benefit to Ukraine (e.g. on Market Economy Status, visa facilitation and energy issues), in setting up a border-monitoring mission on the Moldova – Ukraine border, and in the strengthening and expansion of the scope of our political dialogue with a number of Mediterranean countries (including, for the first time, the creation of sub-committees in which to discuss on a regular basis issues such as democracy, human rights and governance). Immediate examples on the assistance side include the use of twinning and preparations to extend TAIEX to ENP partners (both tools developed during the enlargement process) and to strengthen our educational cooperation;
- As part of the reform of the external financing instruments, the Commission has proposed a new European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)². This has been positively received overall by the Council and the European Parliament. It takes a new approach to cross-border cooperation building substantively on the current neighbourhood programmes (2004-2006)³, has the capacity to support a wider range of activities than is

¹ COM (2004) 373 of 12 May 2004 'Communication from the Commission/European Neighbourhood Policy Strategy Paper', available at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/world/enp/pdf/strategy/Strategy_Paper_EN.pdf

² COM (2004) 626 of 29 September 2004, 'Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament On the Instruments for External Assistance under the Future Financial Perspective 2007-2013', and COM (2004) 628 of 29 September 2004, 'Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument'; both available at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/reform/intro/index.htm

³ Communication from the Commission: Paving the way for a new Neighbourhood Instrument (COM(2003)393)

possible under existing financial instruments (MEDA and TACIS) and integrates a wide range of core policy objectives, including for example development policy. Even before the adoption of this Regulation, EC assistance under these instruments is being targeted towards the reform priorities agreed in the ENP Action Plans, as well as strengthening cross-border cooperation through Neighbourhood Programmes;

- ENP issues have been taken into account in other relevant external-policy documents, for example in the recent Commission Communications on Development Policy and on the Africa Strategy; mutual coherence will continue to be ensured.
- Member States are increasingly addressing these same reform priorities in their own bilateral assistance programmes;
- International financial institutions (IFIs) are beginning to take the ENP Action Plans as the basis of the strategic agenda for their operations with partner countries and to ‘screen’ proposals for their fit with partners’ ENP priorities. The Commission services are coordinating closely with the IFIs on this;
- Public interest in the ENP is growing rapidly, as confirmed by the number of conferences and debates, and the increasing publicity being given to this topic;
- Commission services are contributing actively to these different initiatives, with coordination of work through the ENP Inter-Service Group and meetings of Directors-General.

Priorities and expectations

As partners have become actively engaged in negotiation and implementation of the Action Plans, their expectations and priorities have become clearer. They have formulated their own goals more precisely and are giving greater attention to the sequencing of reforms. Many of these are in areas which will prepare them to take up the EU’s offer of a “stake in the internal market” or to participate in relevant Community programmes. Among the main interests are:

- developing sound **macro-economic management**, promoting economic and social policy reform, and tackling poverty, as well as improving the business environment and its regulatory framework;
- enhanced cooperation in trade, including liberalisation of **trade** in agricultural, processed agricultural and fishery products; trade agreements for industrial products (Agreements on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance - ACAAs); liberalisation of trade in services; converging with the sanitary/phyto-sanitary acquis to improve public health and to increase agricultural exports;
- cooperate on issues of **freedom, security and justice**, including the fight against organised crime and corruption; cooperation on migration and border management, within an overall, coherent and balanced framework, to tackle illegal migration while improving conditions for legal migrants e.g. through visa facilitation and examination of possibilities for managed economic migration, and taking account also of wider regional issues (for example on the African continent);

- reform and **modernization of the judiciary**, including administrative capacity, access to justice and improving judicial procedures;
- cooperation on common **security** threats, conflict prevention and crisis management;
- cooperation in other core areas of EU activity including **transport** (especially infrastructure, aviation and maritime issues) and **energy** (facilitating the integration and harmonisation of the ENP and EU energy markets, including such issues as security of supply and interconnections), **information technology** and **research and development**, and **maritime policy** and related governance and resource management issues including fisheries;
- **environmental protection** where most partners are showing interest in water supply and sanitation, and some in EU experience on environmental impact assessment or in the activities of the European Environment Agency;
- the human and cultural dimension is high in the priorities of partners; they attach priority to strengthened **people-to-people** contacts, cross-border cooperation, and particularly education reform, university exchanges and scholarships, and health related issues.

Next Steps

2005 is the year in which delivery has begun, for both sides. The onus is in many respects on partners, but there are also significant challenges for the EU. The ENP Action Plans adopted in early 2005 contain detailed reform objectives and sequencing, agreed with relevant Commission services, for a three to five year period.

During 2005, the foundations have been laid, and the first fruits of this work are already being delivered. During 2006 and 2007, we must deliver on the remaining short-term priorities. The Commission will publish a first progress report towards the end of 2006.

The central priority for the Commission as a whole is to gear its work with ENP partners to support their reform efforts, notably in the implementation of ENP Action Plans. Given the ENP's broad scope, effective implementation will require the active participation of most services of the Commission.

Key tasks for 2006-2007 include:

- completing work on the next five ENP Action Plans (Egypt, Lebanon, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) – a process which will also depend on partners' own will and capacity, as well as on a favourable reception by the Council;
- preparing an ENP Country Report on Algeria, now that the Association Agreement is ratified;
- timely adoption of the ENPI Regulation and its implementing rules, providing inter alia for the smooth transition between the existing neighbourhood programmes (2005-2006) and the new cross-border cooperation programmes (2007-2013);
- ensuring that the financing to be made available for the ENPI, under the 2007-2013 Financial Perspectives, is adequate to support the ambitions of this policy, and that existing

and new instruments are used effectively to support it. We have to ensure that those countries ready to undertake the required reforms are given the means and incentives to implement them;

- an oral report by Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner to the **General Affairs/External Relations Council** on 12 December, outlining the main achievements in relation to the European Neighbourhood Policy during 2005 as well as priorities for 2006;
- an oral report by Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner to the **European Parliament**, in January 2006, during its plenary debate on the European Neighbourhood Policy;
- a **Communication** will be presented from the European Commission to the Council and to the European Parliament, at the end of 2006, reporting on progress in ENP implementation during the first two years, accompanied by detailed reports on progress in the implementation of each Action Plan, requiring substantive input by relevant services;
- reflection should also begin **on the longer-term perspectives for the ENP**, in particular on what could and should follow the achievement of the present ENP Action Plans.. A wide range of ENP stakeholders both in the EU and in partner countries should also be offered opportunities to contribute their views to this reflection.

Conclusion

Taking account of the above, the following policy orientations are proposed to guide the Commission's future work in this field.

In terms of visibility and **communication**:

- ENP should be given due priority in all relevant Commission information and communication activities and be included in the considerations on communication priorities as set out in the Commission's "Action Plan to improve Communicating Europe";
- Commissioners and senior officials should take every opportunity to highlight the objectives, methods and achievements of ENP in visits, meetings and other contacts with ENP partners, EU Member States and EU institutions and relevant public audiences;

In terms of **implementation**:

- new **policy proposals** should, where relevant, take ENP into account in their conception and elaboration, for example in proposals for and implementation of new programmes, proposals for new Agencies, and in relevant policy dialogues with ENP countries;
- **consistency** should be ensured between all Commission activities relevant to ENP partners with the priorities agreed in the ENP Action Plans;
- a significant effort will be required, in **opening certain EU programmes** or individual EU agencies to partner countries' participation, to identify and prioritise the issues which will vary considerably from partner to partner;

- EC technical and financial assistance will be increasingly **policy-driven** in support of priorities. This should be reflected in the implementation of Tacis and Meda assistance during 2006 and, more particularly, in the programming and identification work under the new ENPI instrument applying from 2007;
- the Governance Facility will have a major role to play in encouraging partner countries' reform efforts in this sector, drawing also on support for governance issues under the mainstream national assistance programmes and under appropriate thematic instruments.
- the full support of **Member States** should be enlisted for delivery in such areas as visa facilitation, as well as the overall issue of the financing of the ENP;
- adequate **financial resources** should be mobilised to support this priority policy, within the context of the forthcoming Financial Perspectives, both generally in terms of funding for the new ENPI instrument and, as a specific example, in putting into place a new scholarship programme for these partners;
- all relevant Directorates-General should reflect the priority nature of the ENP in their **resource and activity planning**, including through the Strategic Planning and Programming/Activity-Based Management cycle. For example, and in order to ensure effective delivery of the EU's commitments (e.g. through opening of Community programmes) and to cooperate with and monitor delivery by partner countries (e.g. through participation in relevant subcommittees), appropriate availability of **staff** within line DGs will have to be secured. Special attention should therefore be given to this policy and DGs should signal to DG BUDG and the SG how they have taken this into account.

ANNEX 1: PARTNER COUNTRY PRIORITIES

This annex provides illustrative examples of Action Plan priorities. These are priorities which the Commission considers to be crucial during the remaining months of 2005 and in 2006. Clearly, the full Action Plans as negotiated with partner countries and adopted by the Commission in December 2004, and the detailed lists of objectives and actions set out therein, remain entirely valid.

ISRAEL

Political dialogue: enhance the overall political dialogue on the basis of common values: the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, good governance and international humanitarian law. They are committed to join efforts to combat common security threats, to promote peace and stability in the Middle East, to support the work of international multilateral frameworks and strengthen co-operation in the fight against and prevention of terrorism

Trade: work towards the facilitation of Palestinian trade, achieve a high degree of liberalisation of trade in agricultural, processed agricultural and fishery products; open negotiations in services/establishment and align legislation and enhance capacity building in preparation for an Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products (ACAA).

Justice, freedom and security: reinforce cooperation on fight against money laundering and financing terrorism as well as fight against trafficking in human beings.

Sectoral issues: develop regional co-operation in the field of energy and transport, including through the implementation of relevant Israel-EU-PA agreements; start negotiations on 'horizontal' aviation agreement; cooperation and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements on the protection of the Mediterranean Sea and climate change; establish an independent regulator for electronic communications

JORDAN

Political dialogue: support reforms as spelled out in the National Agenda around seven clusters (good governance and rule of law, including reform of political parties and the election law; enhancement of independence and impartiality of judiciary; support to freedom of media; development of civil society; ensure respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms; promote equal treatment of women; promote fundamental social rights and core labour standards).

Trade and economic reform: implement commitments on liberalisation of trade in agricultural and processed agricultural products; open negotiations on services/establishment and on trade in fishery products; align legislation and enhance capacity building in preparation for an Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products (ACAA); further development of the tax system and administration; continue public finance reform –, improve business environment.

Justice, freedom and security: strengthening cooperation on fight against organised crime, terrorism and money laundering, including capacity building.

Sectoral issues: sector reform; continue Mashrek gas cooperation; strengthen environment policy and cooperation, including on climate change; work towards the development of an electronic communications regulatory framework.

MOLDOVA

Political dialogue: reform electoral legislation, taking into account all the ODIHR and CoE recommendations; strengthen independence of the judiciary and fundamental freedoms, including in particular parliamentary immunity, freedom of expression and pluralistic media and fight against corruption; active engagement in negotiations for settlement of Transnistria conflict and cooperation with border mission.

Economic reform and trade: ensure macroeconomic stability, in particular by fighting inflation and pursuing fiscal discipline and transparency in public finance; early agreement with IMF on a new lending programme; reform the system of certification of origin; improve the business climate, transparency and predictability; reduce over-regulation; reform the system of certification of origin.

Justice, freedom and security: amend legislation related to fight against crime and trafficking in persons; adopt and start implementing National Action Plan on **migration**, hold second meeting of the expert working group on legal migration, improve legislation on asylum and migration and ensure effective implementation of the legislation, participate in regional and cross-border cooperation on migration.

Customs: improve institutional framework and procedures on control of origin in order to build a solid basis for possible Autonomous Trade Preferences.

Sectoral issues: establish measures for gradual convergence towards the principles of the EU internal electricity and gas markets and cooperation for regional energy market integration; adopt and implement a Road Safety Action Plan (including dangerous goods transport and roadworthiness); cooperation in protection of the Danube and Black Sea; strengthen the capacities of the regulator for electronic communications; work towards the implementation of educational reform in line with the Bologna Process.

MOROCCO

Political dialogue: create and have a first meeting of the subcommittee on democracy, human rights and governance; pursue reforms on the democratization process, in particular the implementation of international human rights conventions. Proceed with the reform and the modernization of the justice system.

Economic and social development: ratification of ILO convention n° 87 on the freedom of association and protection of the right to organise; reform of the public sector; improve business environment.

Justice, freedom and security: Continue strengthening cooperation on JFS issues, particularly on fight against organised crime and terrorism. Intensify a comprehensive and balanced dialogue and cooperation on **migration** with the EU and with neighbouring countries; continue ongoing negotiations on the conclusion of a readmission agreement with the Community by the end of 2005.

Trade: pursue the facilitation of bilateral trade, achieve a high degree of liberalization on trade in agricultural, processed agricultural and fishery products, open negotiations for further liberalisation on services/establishment; implement work programme and prepare for negotiations on the Agreement on Conformity Assessments (ACAA).

Sectoral issues: sector reform; effective enforcement in the area of Flag State implementation in order to increase the safety of the national fleet; negotiate 'global' aviation agreement; pursue efforts to contribute to the creation of a Euro-Maghreb electricity market and later to the Euro-Maghreb gas market in view of the Euro-Maghreb Energy Treaty; strengthen environmental policy and cooperation, including on climate change; cooperation in the protection of the Mediterranean Sea; including implementation of the new fisheries partnership agreement; cooperation to promote advanced Information Society services.

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

Elections: organisation of parliamentary elections scheduled for January 2006 in line with international standards.

Rule of law: adopt a coherent strategy for judicial reform and fight against corruption

Financial accountability and sound management of public finances: strengthen internal audit, progress towards establishing a modern and efficient Supreme Audit Institution.

Trade and customs: developing and building a customs administration, including through twinning and strengthening of administrative capacity; align legislation and enhance capacity building in preparation for an ACAA.

Sectoral issues: sector reform; develop regional co-operation in the field of energy and transport, including through the implementation of relevant Israel-EU-PA agreements; strengthen administrative capacity in the field of Information Society and environment policy.

TUNISIA

Political dialogue: create and have a first meeting of the subcommittee on democracy, human rights and governance; encourage and support reforms on the democratization process, human rights and modernization and independence of judiciary.

Economic and social development: full implementation of ILO conventions n° 87 on the freedom of association and protection of the right to organise and n° 98 on the right to organise and collective bargaining; improve business environment.

Management of migration flows: intensify dialogue and develop cooperation on migration with the EU and with neighbouring countries.

Trade: pursue the facilitation of bilateral trade, achieve a high degree of liberalization on trade in agricultural, processed agricultural and fishery products, open negotiations for further liberalisation on services/establishment; implement work programme and prepare for negotiations on the Agreement on Conformity Assessments (ACAA).

Justice, freedom and security: strengthen cooperation in the fight against organised crime and terrorism. Intensify dialogue and develop cooperation on **migration** with the view to jointly manage migratory flows with the EU and with neighbouring countries.

Sectoral issues: sector reform; effective enforcement in the area of Flag State implementation in order to increase the safety of the national fleet; start negotiations on ‘horizontal’ aviation agreement; creation of a Euro-Maghreb electricity market and later Euro-Maghreb gas market in view of the Euro-Maghreb Energy Treaty ; strengthen environmental policy and cooperation, including on climate change; cooperation in the protection of the Mediterranean Sea; strengthen the capacities of the regulator for electronic communications.

UKRAINE

Political reform: free and fair parliamentary elections (March 2006); take steps to strengthen independence of judiciary; fight against corruption; active engagement in negotiations for settlement of Transnistria conflict and cooperation with border mission.

Trade and economic reform: WTO accession; align legislation and quality infrastructure in preparation for an ACAA; improve the business climate, including enforcing intellectual property rights, improving tax regulation and administration and further fight against corruption; ensuring macroeconomic stability, in particular by fighting inflation and creating the conditions for sustained economic growth.

Justice, Freedom and Security: launching of negotiations on visa facilitation with a view to their conclusion in 2006; continue ongoing negotiations on a readmission agreement with the Community; enhance fight against trafficking in human beings.

Sectoral issues: implement the EU-Ukraine Memorandum of Understanding on energy and address nuclear safety issues (e.g. joint audits of nuclear safety and transit pipeline network integrity’, modernisation programme Khmelnytsky 2 and Rivne 4 nuclear power plants, Chernobyl, establishment of a decommissioning fund and setting up of a project implementation unit); effective enforcement in the area of Flag State implementation in order to increase the safety of the national fleet; strengthen environment policy and cooperation, including on climate change; cooperation in the protection of the Danube and Black Sea; establish an independent regulator for electronic communications; work towards the implementation of educational reform in line with the Bologna Process.

ANNEX 2: COMMISSION COMMITMENTS

This annex provides an overview of Commission commitments based on the Action Plans agreed with the partner countries in 2004. It looks at the six main themes of each Action Plan (political dialogue and reform; economic and social development and reform; regulatory and trade related issues; justice and home affairs; sectors; people-to-people contacts), and highlights those particular Commission commitments which will be crucial for Action Plan implementation during 2006.

While priorities vary from country to country, reflecting the principle of differentiation, there are also a number of horizontal tasks which the Commission must carry forward in order to implement its commitments and help bring ENP partners closer to the EU. The most urgent of these are the creation of an ENP-specific scholarship scheme, the opening of certain programmes and agencies to partner countries, the provision of effective policy-driven EC technical and financial assistance, and the integration of EIB lending operations into the ENP policy themes, while working for an expansion of EIB lending across the ENP region.

POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND REFORM

- Provide support and expertise in the preparation and implementation of key reforms in the areas of democratisation (e.g. electoral laws, decentralisation, strengthening of local administrative capacity), rule of law (reform of penal and civil codes, codes of criminal procedure, strengthening the efficiency of judicial administrations, elaboration of strategies in the fight against corruption), and human and fundamental social rights (legislations protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, enforcement of international conventions, fight against racial hatred and xenophobia, human right training, enforcement of international conventions on social and labour rights).
- Provide the necessary financial incentives to those countries that are ready to enter into a more ambitious partnership and to push ahead with reforms, in particular in the area of governance.
- Provide Commission input to strengthen the dialogue and exchange of information on key CFSP issues particularly in areas such as crisis management, conflict prevention and conflict resolution. Promote co-operation and provide support in the implementation of legislation in the field of counter-terrorism and non-proliferation.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Continue to support macro-economic stabilization as well as sustainable economic and social development efforts and the implementation of poverty reduction strategies, including the establishment of social safety nets, through exchange of information as well as provision of expertise and capacity building in the areas of: public budget consolidation and reform, price liberalisation, structural reforms, private-sector development, privatisation, modernisation of financial systems, approximation to EU legislation on economic regulatory systems, implementation of poverty reduction strategies and strategic planning for sustainable development.

REGULATORY AND TRADE ISSUES

- **Industrial products:** continue active involvement through for example expert missions, legislative screening, seminars /workshops and ad hoc technical meetings to assist partner countries to align their legislation and enhance capacity building in preparation for ACAAs negotiations.
- **Services and right of establishment:** opening of negotiations with a number of Mediterranean partners.
- **Market Economy Status (MES):** issue formal proposal to grant Ukraine market economy status.
- **FTA with Ukraine:** start preparatory works to launch negotiations on Free Trade Area once Ukraine has joined the WTO.
- **Autonomous Trade Preferences with Moldova:** verify the progress made by Moldova in strengthening the system of control and certification of origins of goods, with a view to start the necessary procedures for the possible granting of Autonomous Trade Preferences.
- **Agricultural, processed agricultural and fishery products:** opening of negotiations with Mediterranean partners.
- **Customs:** provide guidance to partner countries in the area of customs legislation and administrative and operational capacity.
- **Regulatory framework:** strengthen the regulatory dialogue with all ENP partner countries in such areas as financial services, company law, Intellectual Property Rights, public procurement and establishment, with a view to ensure that partners implement reforms that are in line with and inspired by the EU acquis; enhance of work on sanitary and phytosanitary issues through for instance analytical missions (e.g. Food and Veterinary Office to Ukraine and Moldova) and technical meetings (e.g. Jordan).
- **Competition:** engage in a dialogue with partner countries as experience shows that competition discipline is highly complex, in particular as regards state aid, and that the relationship between competition issues and participation in the internal market is often misunderstood.
- **Taxation:** provide support to the partner countries in analysing their tax legislations and preparing comprehensive strategic plans for their respective State Tax Administrations.
- **Financial control:** strengthen dialogue with partners on development and implementation of modern public internal financial control and external audit strategies, as well as on the fight against fraud.
- **Statistics:** work with partner countries to ensure that they adopt statistical methods which are fully compatible with EU standards.

JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY

- Develop judicial and law enforcement cooperation, in particular with regard to combating organised crime and terrorism, including financing of terrorism and money laundering as well as trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling; promote ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments and standards.
- Further develop a comprehensive dialogue and cooperation on migration issues with a view to jointly managing migratory flows. Conclude readmission agreements with Ukraine and Morocco in the near future; launch negotiations on visa facilitation agreement with Ukraine with a view to their conclusion in 2006. Open dialogue on visa facilitation and readmission with Moldova.
- Continued support for improving border management.
- Recognizing that ENP partners are often countries of transit as well as origin, support dialogue and cooperation with countries of origin, as for instance sub-Saharan Africa or Asia/Central Asia.

SECTORAL ISSUES

- **Transport:** focus assistance on improving the efficiency as well as the security and safety of transport operations, in particular in the maritime and aviation fields (where also training measures are envisaged) and on improving the transport links between the EU and the ENP countries (through the High Level Group and the follow-up to the Baku and Marrakesh Ministerial Conferences); conclusion of horizontal and/or global aviation agreements and implementation of Galileo cooperation agreements.
- **Energy:** step up energy dialogue with partner countries, including opening of certain programmes, and invite partners to energy policy events; support for the creation of regional energy markets (Maghreb, Mashrek, Israel – Palestinian Authority); support the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Memorandum on Energy and Ukrainian efforts to improve nuclear safety.
- **Information Society:** provide support in completing the regulatory framework for electronic communications, either through the establishment of independent regulatory authorities or by strengthening their administrative capacities; encourage and assist in the adoption and implementation of comprehensive strategies for the development of the Information and Communication Technologies and the audio-visual sector.
- **Environment:** engage in dialogue and information exchange (for instance through seminars and workshops), for horizontal issues, framework legislation, integrated pollution prevention and control, integration of environment considerations into other policy areas, support international environmental obligations and the EU Water Initiative, prioritisation of investments; carry forward, in line with the agreed action plans, the preparations for the participation of partner countries in certain activities of the European Environment Agency (EEA), including identifying examples of relevant activities and practical steps required for participation.

- **Research and innovation:** Develop an ambitious Science and Technology cooperation aimed at sustainable and equitable economic development through the participation of the partner countries' research entities in the European Research Area as well as Community Research & Development Framework Programmes activities. Integrate former weapons of mass destruction scientists into the international science communities and support the civilian application of their sensitive knowledge.
- **Agriculture, Rural development and Fisheries:** identify and adopt relevant measures in the sector of rural development, and at the level of the development of quality production (local products, organic products, geographical indications, etc., within the scope of the national rules), which would encourage the diversification of activity and the creation of new remunerative and sustainable trade flows; promote responsible and sustainable fisheries activities via cooperation for the enforcement of international obligations and, where possible, the conclusion of bilateral fisheries partnership agreements .

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE

- **Education and culture:** prepare a new scholarship programme for undergraduates from partner countries; launch revised TEMPUS programme in 2006; strengthen the awareness and capacity of ENP partners to benefit from the new generation of Community programmes in the area of education and culture which will start in 2007.
- **Public health:** prepare the participation of partners in the European communicable disease networks (e.g. through information seminars) or the EU public health information "EUPHIN" system (Ukraine, Israel, Morocco); invite partners for EU health activities/meetings (e.g. Network of Competent Authorities, Health Forum in the case of Israel); preparing the participation of ENP partners in the Public health and consumer protection programme 2007-2013
- **Cross-border cooperation:** prepare for the management of the new cross-border programmes on the basis of shared management (Article 10 of ENPI regulation) and establish the necessary financial and administrative arrangements with the ENPI partners and the EU Member States, providing inter alia for the smooth transition between the existing neighbourhood programmes (2004-2006) and the new cross-border cooperation programmes (2007-2013). This may require transitional arrangements, to be applied for a temporary period and in duly justified cases, which would allow co-operation to continue on the basis of the current Neighbourhood Programmes, until such time as the managing authority has completed the preparations to manage the entirety of the joint programme concerned and the necessary Financing Agreement has been concluded. The purpose of such arrangements is to ensure the full implementation from the 2007 budget onwards of the earlier Commission decision that funds will be presented under the External Relations policy area, in a single budget chapter drawing from the cohesion and the external policy headings of the financial perspectives while respecting provisions for the distribution of ERDF funding among the EU Member States.