

Consultative Group Meeting for Yemen
London, 16 November 2006
Statement by the European Commission

The European Commission commends the Government of Yemen and the World Bank for organising the London Consultative Group meeting. We are grateful to the UK Government for hosting the event, and to the GCC for sponsoring it.

This meeting provides an excellent opportunity to discuss the way ahead with the Government of Yemen and with the community of multilateral and bilateral donors. The Commission welcomes in particular the renewed political and financial commitment by the GCC towards Yemen, which is a powerful signal of the GCC's interest in regional stability and security.

We commend the Government of Yemen for the ambitious reform agenda it has presented. We see that it contains precise targets for a large number of areas, ranging from justice, human rights, freedom of the press, the fight against corruption, democratisation, economic reforms, public finance and civil service reforms. We would like to stress the need for implementation of this reform agenda. Only a continuous will to undertake the necessary reforms will lead to the expected results.

The European Union — the Member States and the Commission — is ready to accompany Yemen on the way of reforms, through our regular political dialogue and continued assistance both from Member States and the Commission. The EU Elections Observation Mission that was deployed to Yemen recently has to be seen in this context. In addition, the Commission's assistance over the coming years (2007-2010) will focus on the management of population growth, private sector development, human rights and good governance issues.

The underlying programming document, the National Indicative Programme for Yemen, is endowed with an indicative amount of €60 million, i.e. an annual average of €15 million. This will be complemented by assistance under specific thematic programmes, such as food security, human rights, non-state actors, and de-mining. The amounts under these thematic programmes are still under discussion.

The Commission's support is in line with Government of Yemen's Development Plan for Poverty Reduction and the efforts to promote good governance. It has to be seen in the wider context of the EU's efforts to promote peace, stability and prosperity in the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

The Commission will closely monitor Yemen's progress on the reform agenda, the efficient use of the resources, and the evolution of absorptive capacity. A mid-term review of the Commission's financial assistance in 2009 will mirror progress being made.