

PARTNERSHIP AND COMMITMENT

# The European Union & the United Nations



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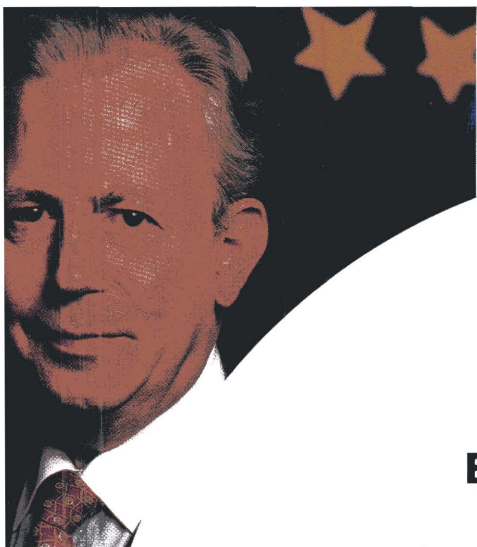
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# The European Union & the United Nations

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## Foreword by Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission

When the United Nations was formed 50 years ago, out of the chaos and suffering of total war, it represented a new approach to international relations. It enshrined the hopes of many millions of people who knew that there must be a better way of resolving disputes between nations: by negotiation and - in the longer term - by dealing with the underlying causes of conflict. We in Europe felt this with a special intensity.

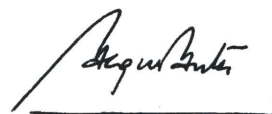
Those who established the European Community were driven by a

similar vision, so it is natural that we should have a close partnership with the UN. The European Union and its Member States provide a large proportion of its funding; we are active participants in all the activities of the UN family of organisations, and we see a strong UN as absolutely vital for dealing with the many global problems which confront us.

Now is a time to take stock, to acknowledge what the United Nations has achieved, and to look to the future. The European Union is

founded on the principles of the UN Charter, human rights and democratic freedom. As it develops its role in international affairs, so the EU will strive to make the UN increasingly effective in expressing these principles, able to react quickly to international crisis and providing the framework for a global approach to the threats of war, famine and disease, and the deterioration of the world's environment.

It is the support of its members which will determine the long-term effectiveness of the United Nations and its institutions. As we commemorate this fiftieth anniversary, we in the European Union are fully committed to the UN's future development.



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GAMMA

## Partnership and commitment

On October 22 1995, the United Nations celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter. Over the last half century, the UN's ideals, principles and actions have had a profound impact on the lives of hundreds of millions of people throughout the world, not least in Europe. The UN is involved in the far-reaching process of change taking place in the Continent.

The European Union is deeply committed to the values and ideals of the UN: peace,

democracy, respect for human rights, economic and social progress, development, and protection of the environment. The Union's commitment takes many forms: the 15 member countries of the Union together provide 34 per cent of UN regular funding and 37 per cent of the peace-keeping budget; they are leading contributors of troops for peace-keeping operations and the biggest donors of multilateral development aid and humanitarian aid.

The Union and its institutions have been committed to the UN since the beginning. As early as 1951, the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community sought to

give practical expression in Europe to the vision and objectives of the United Nations. Subsequent Treaties, including the 1992 Treaty on European Union, have echoed the theme. The European Union plays a major part in virtually all the United Nations' multifarious activities. As an institution, the Union has a system of policy-making which gives it a capacity for action; it can deliver on its promises.

This makes it a special partner for the UN, supportive, constructive and dependable. This brochure examines some of the areas where the European Union and the United Nations work most closely together.

# The European Union

## Common institutions to work together

The European Union comprises 15 democratic countries which have decided to work together through common institutions for the mutual benefit of their peoples.

The Union has evolved as new countries have joined and as successive treaties have extended its areas of activity. The names have changed, but the core purposes have remained:

- to maintain and strengthen peace and liberty in Europe;
- to promote economic and social progress among the peoples of Europe;
- to assert Europe's identity and influence in the world.

### CLOSER INTEGRATION

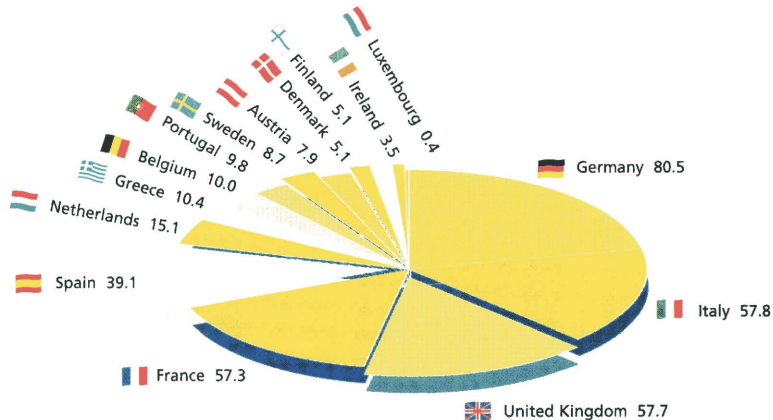
The Treaty founding the European Union, known as the Maastricht Treaty, was the latest step in the evolution process of European integration, taking effect in November 1993. It embraces the European Community (name given by the Maastricht Treaty to the

European Economic Community established in 1957), the European Atomic Energy Community (1957) and the European Coal and Steel Community (1951). Maastricht introduced new forms of working together towards a common foreign and security policy (CFSP), and cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs. The Union has a single institutional framework for ensuring the consistency of its activities.

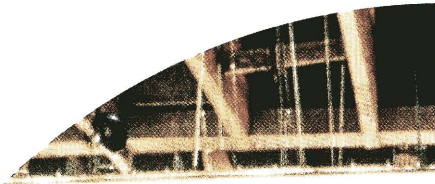
More changes are in prospect. An inter-governmental conference is to be held in 1996 to examine what further institutional revision is needed, also in view of the future enlargement of the European Union (EU).

**The EU is an actor on the international scene and the CFSP potentially encompasses most areas of UN activity. The European Community is an integral part of the EU, covering those areas whose competences have been transferred from individual Member States to common institutions.**

Only the EC has a legal identity. Decisions taken by its institutions are binding in law and subject to judicial control by the European Court of Justice. The Community can sign international agreements on trade and development and can ensure their implementation by the member countries of the Union.



# The European Union



C.C.E.

'The world and Europe may no longer split into two blocks, but the world is still split between the hungry and the well-fed, between possessors and the poor, victors and vanquished, persecutors and persecuted. And the end of these divisions is not in sight. For this reason we need more, not less cooperation in Europe and in the world, and we must organize collaboration in a reliable and long-lasting way. We need a functioning world organization based on our common basic values. The UN deserves our support for these indispensable services : communication and mediation between nations, the organization of humanitarian help, peacemaking and peacekeeping. The European Parliament is determined to make its contribution.'

*Klaus Hänsch, President of the European Parliament*





## More than an inter-governmental organisation

The European Community is thus more than an inter-governmental organisation or regional grouping; it is a body whose Member States have willingly transferred power to a system of common decision-making.

- The legislature consists of the Council of Ministers, representing governments, and the directly-elected European Parliament. The Council negotiates on Commission proposals and adopts legislation which may be binding on the Member States and on individuals. The Parliament has powers of co-decision in many policy areas and has joint budget authority with the Council.
- The European Commission has executive functions. It has the exclusive powers for initiating policy proposals in European Community matters and negotiating on behalf of the Community in international economic forums such as the World Trade Organisation as well as on fisheries and agriculture.
- The European Court in Luxembourg ensures the correct application of Community law.

## COMMON POLICIES

The Community has created a single European market with free movement throughout the Union for goods, services, capital and people, and has built up common policies in a range of areas, many with wide global implications, such as agriculture, the environment, nuclear safety and development.

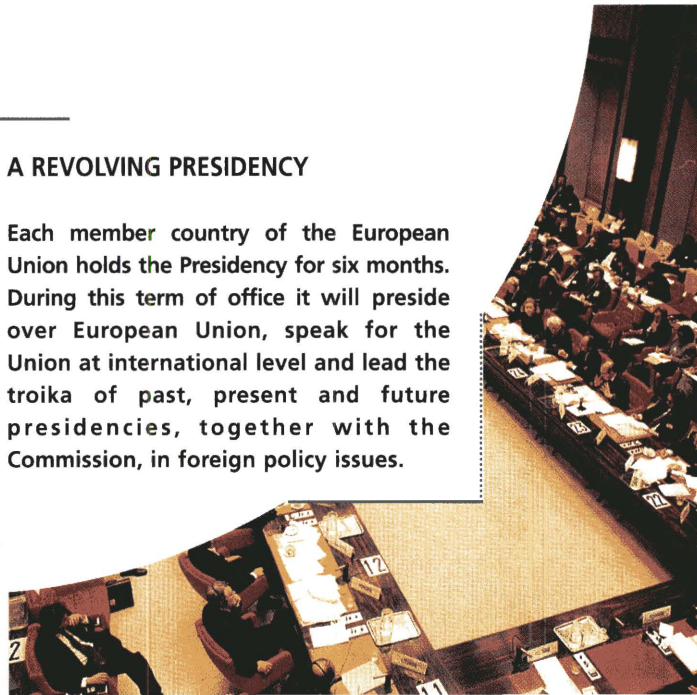
It negotiates on many international questions, has extensive development programmes with many countries and has concluded agreements on trade and development with more than 130 countries worldwide, in Asia, Latin America, the Mediterranean and the Middle East. It is a partner for a wide range of United Nations activities.

**The Community is now moving towards economic and monetary union.**

## A REVOLVING PRESIDENCY

Each member country of the European Union holds the Presidency for six months. During this term of office it will preside over European Union, speak for the Union at international level and lead the troika of past, present and future presidencies, together with the Commission, in foreign policy issues.

C.C.E.

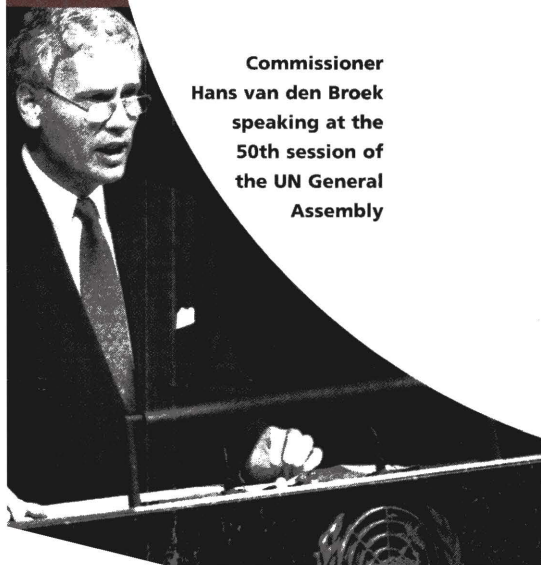


## **Coordinating positions on UN issues**

### **MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR**

The European Union is a major contributor to the United Nations' budget. The combined contributions of the 15 Member States amount to 34 per cent of the basic UN budget and about 37 per cent of the budget for peace-keeping. As for multilateral aid and humanitarian assistance, the European Community and its Member States are the biggest source of funding.

**Commissioner Hans van den Broek speaking at the 50th session of the UN General Assembly**



UN PHOTO / M. GRANT

The European Community is represented in most United Nations bodies. A 1974 General Assembly resolution gave it observer status, so the Community can make its views known, but cannot vote. The same rule applies within the Economic and Social Council of the UN and in other UN organs and subsidiary bodies except the Security Council.

The observer status has not been extended to the European Union, which has no legal personality, but the member states usually try to coordinate their positions on UN issues, both in the General Assembly and in other UN organs and the European Union is increasingly active in UN bodies on the basis of common positions. This should become the normal pattern as common foreign and

security policy evolves. The European Commission is an active contributor in the EU coordination process.

European presence in the UN is expressed in a multitude of ways. The Community, because of its competence in the fields concerned, has been granted full participation status in many UN conferences, for example the 1992 Earth Summit at Rio, the 1994 Cairo Conference on Population and Development, the 1995 Social Summit in Copenhagen and World Conference on Women in Beijing. Such conferences have become a major feature in the global agenda; the EC can play a full part in their deliberations. It may well become a contracting party in conventions where these fall into EC areas of responsibility.

## Many forms of cooperation

To give some examples of the variety of EU involvement, the Community is a signatory of the Law of the Sea Convention and member of the International Seabed Authority. It was a negotiator and is a contracting party in international commodity agreements. It is a full participant in the Commission for Sustainable Development, and a contracting party in a number of environmental conventions.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation is one UN body where the Community does have full membership, reflecting the EC's responsibilities in the agricultural and fisheries sector.

As a major contributor, the European Community has also signed cooperation agreements with a number of UN bodies such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme,

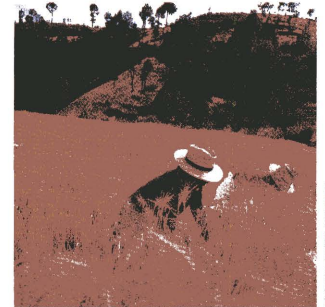
ensuring that EC resources can be channelled to the areas of greatest need. Where the EC is represented in a UN forum, the European Commission will be the Community spokesman on areas of EC responsibility («competence») such as trade, agriculture and fisheries. In other areas, the EU common position is normally expressed by the country holding the Council presidency.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

An agreement on financial accountability was reached in December 1994 between the Community and the United Nations which will allow EC accounting bodies to audit the spending of European funds by the UN and its agencies.



**The European Union contributed almost \$ 250 million to WFP in the last couple of years**



**The Food and Agriculture Organisation is one UN body where the Community does have full membership, reflecting the EC's responsibilities in the agricultural sector**

# Europe: the UN partnership

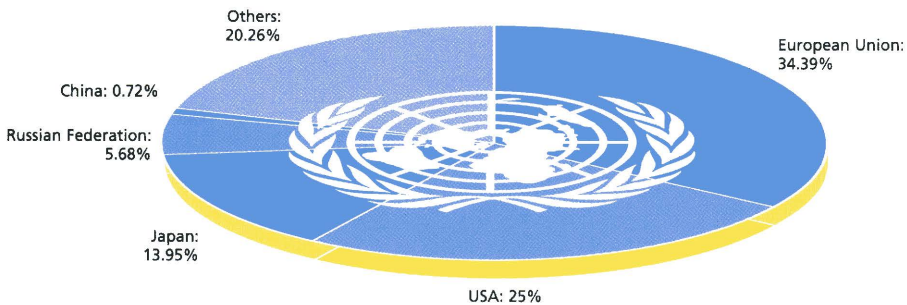
## «THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the European Economic Community,

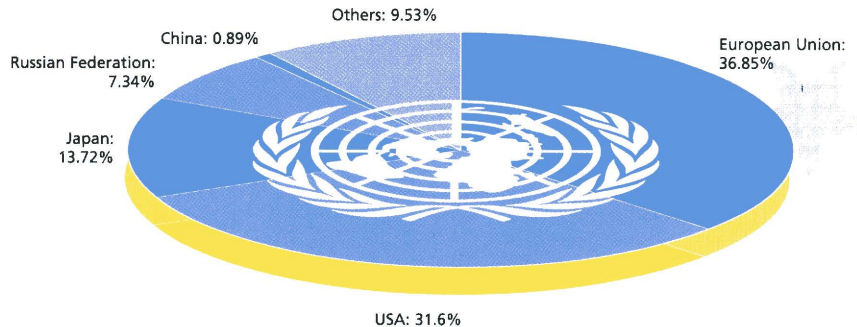
Requests the Secretary-General to invite the European Economic Community to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer.»

*(UN Resolution 3208 (XXIX) of October 11, 1974)*

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS REGULAR BUDGET (1995)



## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING BUDGET (1995)



### Note:

The share-out among contributors is constant, though the budget may vary.

## A common vision

The clauses of the UN Charter are among the guiding principles of the European Union, cited in the preamble to the Treaty of Rome which established the EEC in 1957.

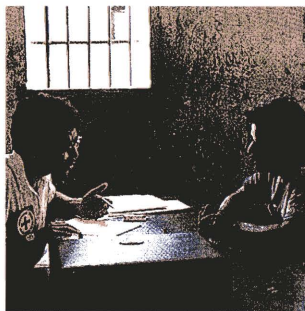
## Human rights

Human rights and democratic values have assumed increasing importance in all areas of the Union's activities and have become a cornerstone of its external policy. These principles have been enshrined in the Treaty on European Union. One of the main objectives of the Common Foreign and Security Policy is:

«to develop and consolidate democracy and the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms»

*(Article J 1 (2) of the Maastricht Treaty)*

When European Union leaders met in Cannes on June 26, 1995, exactly 50 years after the UN Charter had been signed in San Francisco, they reaffirmed the Union's allegiance to the Charter's purposes and principles.



CICR

**Human rights are a constant concern for the European Union**

«The European Council reiterates the commitment of the Community and its Member States to support and promote, in regional and international bodies, that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without which peace and lasting security cannot be established»

*(Declaration of Luxembourg, European Council, June 28-29, 1991)*



ERIC GHARD / GAMBIA

**Recognition of the links between democracy, development and respect for human rights is a major element in EC cooperation agreements with non-member countries**

# THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

the equal and the foundation determined to promote the largest freedom

pled in and of the United Nations and its Member States in cooperation with the United Nations for and observance of human rights

Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes the freedom, alone or in community with others and in public or in private, to manifest or to adopt a religion or belief in accordance with the dictates of his conscience and subject to the limitations prescribed by law.

Article 3. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade, including the trade in women, are prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6. Everyone has the right to recognition as a person before the law.

Article 7. All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal treatment before the law.

Article 8. Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national authorities for the violations of his fundamental rights and freedoms recognized by the constitution or laws of the State.

Article 9. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10. Everyone has the right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal in the determination of his rights and obligations.

Article 11. 1. Everyone has the right to a fair trial. 2. No one shall be convicted of an offence until he has been proved guilty according to the law.

Article 12. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13. 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State. 2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14. 1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. 2. No one shall be subjected to persecution.

Article 15. 1. Everyone has the right to nationality. 2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16. 1. Everyone has the right to marry and to found a family, which is the basis of the society. 2. No restrictions shall be placed on the right to marry other than the freely expressed consent of the intending spouses.

Article 17. 1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others. 2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes the freedom to hold opinions without restriction and to receive and impart information and ideas without any interference by public authorities, regardless of frontiers.

Article 19. 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes the freedom to hold opinions without restriction and to receive and impart information and ideas without any interference by public authorities, regardless of frontiers. 2. No restrictions shall be placed on the exercise of this right and on access to information sources, other than those which are justified by law.

Article 20. 1. Everyone has the right to peaceful assembly and to associate with others in the form of unions, associations or societies for the promotion and defence of their interests. 2. No restrictions shall be placed on the exercise of this right, other than those which are justified by law.

Article 21. 1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. 2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country. 3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and honest elections. 4. The rights and duties of citizens shall be based on universal suffrage and shall be exercised by equal and direct suffrage and by secret ballot or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22. Everyone has the right to social security, which shall be based on the efforts of the individual, the family, the community and the State.

Article 23. 1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. 2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work. 3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration.

Article 24. Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25. 1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and social services, and the right to education. 2. The realization of this right shall be based on the efforts of the individual and the State, in accordance with the organization and resources of each State.

Article 26. 1. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and technical schools. 2. Technical and vocational education shall be made generally accessible and higher education shall be open to all on the basis of merit. 3. The free education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. 4. Parents have a primary duty to their children to provide them with education.

Article 27. 1. Everyone has the right to the recognition of the moral and intellectual property rights of which he is the author. 2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests which are attached to his scientific, literary or artistic works.

Article 28. Everyone is entitled to such social, economic and cultural conditions as will enable him to fully develop his personality and to exercise his rights and freedoms without hindrance.

Article 29. 1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible. 2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor of his family, home or possessions. 3. Everyone has the duty to pay taxes.

Article 30. Nothing shall be invoked against the State or against any individual, to the end of exercising the rights and freedoms proclaimed in this Declaration.

GAMBIA

## In support of democracy

THE EUROPEAN UNION HAS UNDERLINED ITS COMMITMENT IN A NUMBER OF WAYS

- at the 1993 UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, the Union formally endorsed the Vienna Declaration on respect for human rights and undertook to put its recommendations into practice;
- the Union supported the creation of the post of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to improve the UN's ability to handle human rights crises;
- EU human rights monitors have been provided at the request of the UN High Commissioner in ex-Yugoslavia and Rwanda; similar action has recently been undertaken for Burundi;
- the European Community may refuse to maintain contractual trade relations or aid with countries which abuse human rights, or suspend cooperation - although humanitarian aid is never withheld when deemed necessary;
- recognition of the links between democracy, development and respect for human rights is a major element in EC cooperation with non-member countries;
- the Community requires human rights clauses to be inserted into general trade and cooperation agreements; these are considered essential elements which could trigger suspension of the agreement if not respected;
- the principles of the UN Charter are normally cited in the preamble to Community agreements with non-member countries;
- the EC has supported specific human rights projects and has provided financial help so representatives from non-governmental organisations can attend UN conferences on human rights and human development issues;

The European Union presidency stressed at the 49th session of the UN General Assembly in November 1994 the EU's determination to push for new resources for human rights activities commensurate with steadily growing tasks, and reflecting the fact «that the protection and promotion of human rights is a priority of the United Nations».

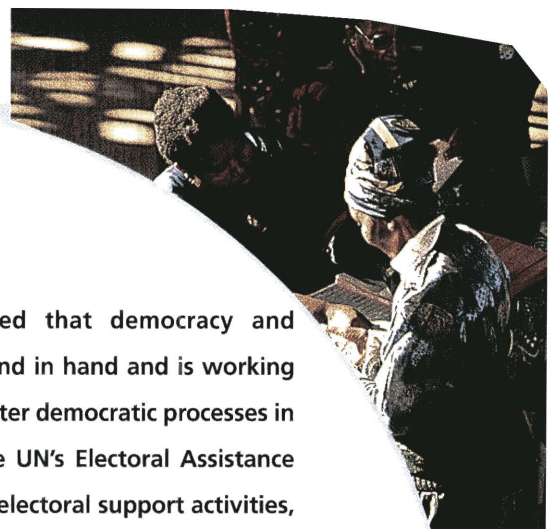
The 1994 European Community budget includes a special budget line for European Initiatives in Support of Democracy and the Protection of Human Rights. The individual programmes are:

|   |               |                  |
|---|---------------|------------------|
| <b>PHARE (Eastern Europe): democracy programme</b>            | <b>\$12m</b>  | <b>(10MECU)</b>  |
| <b>Ex-Yugoslavia: democracy and pacification</b>              | <b>\$5m</b>   | <b>(4MECU)</b>   |
| <b>TACIS (CIS countries): democracy programme</b>             | <b>\$12m</b>  | <b>(10MECU)</b>  |
| <b>Developing countries: human rights and democracy</b>       | <b>\$16m</b>  | <b>(14MECU)</b>  |
| <b>Latin America: democracy programme</b>                     | <b>\$15m</b>  | <b>(13MECU)</b>  |
| <b>Non Governmental Organisations: human rights programme</b> | <b>\$6m</b>   | <b>(5MECU)</b>   |
| <b>Turkey: human rights</b>                                   | <b>\$0.6m</b> | <b>(0.5MECU)</b> |
| <b>Rehabilitation centres for torture victims</b>             | <b>\$2.4m</b> | <b>(2MECU)</b>   |

MECU = millions of ECU  
\$m = million US dollars

## Launching democracy

The Community is convinced that democracy and economic development go hand in hand and is working with the United Nations to foster democratic processes in many parts of the world. The UN's Electoral Assistance Unit in New York coordinates electoral support activities, delegating operations in the field to UN and other agencies. The European Union has made a major contribution, for instance in Russia, South Africa and the Occupied Territories. The European Commission provides technical assistance in drafting new democratic constitutions and helps to prepare elections, often as part of its development aid programmes, while both the Commission and European Parliament, with the Member States, have supplied monitoring teams to encourage fair elections and inspire confidence among sometimes suspicious electors.



NOEL QUIDU / GAMMA

### ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

Between 1992 and 1994, the European Union provided electoral assistance to at least 41 countries, often as result of joint actions under the Common Foreign and Security Policy and in cooperation with United Nations agencies. The budget was about \$84 million (70 MECU). The countries concerned included Russia and Hungary, eight South American states, three in South East Asia and 28 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.



J.B. RUSSEL / GAMMA

**The Union has supplied monitoring teams to support fair elections**

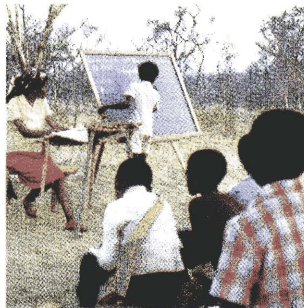
# A common vision

## South Africa

As part of the international effort coordinated by the United Nations, the European Union set up a European Elections Unit for the 1994 general election which transformed South Africa into a multiracial democracy.

This Joint Action, which had been agreed under the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy, involved the deployment of about 400 EU-designated staff over five months and expenditure of more than \$24 million (20 MECU) from European Community funds. It included training and material aid, observation of the voting process and verification of the results.

The operation helped to minimize civil conflict during the electoral campaign, assisted with the administration of the election, reinforced the credibility of the democratic process and provided extra stability at this critical phase of South Africa's history.



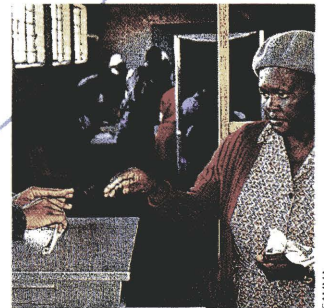
F. & R. GIRARD / GAMMA

**Education is a key factor  
in fair elections**

## Mozambique

Multi-party elections were held in Mozambique in 1994 following the efforts of the international community - and particularly the UN - to help implement the 1992 Rome peace accord. The EU supported the electoral process, with special programmes for demobilised soldiers and refugees, giving assistance estimated at \$94 million (79 MECU).

The Union met about 80 per cent of the cost of the elections, supporting voter education and registration, supply of voting materials and electoral observation. It worked closely with the United Nations throughout, contributing to UN trust funds to support the political process and integrating a team of 200 European election observers into the UN election observation mission.



GAMMA

**Transforming a nation  
through the ballot box**





**'When political rationale fails to defuse a crisis and conflicts break out, humanitarian aid remains the most tangible way through which solidarity and concern can be expressed for the victims of disaster'**

*Emma Bonino,  
Commissioner in charge of humanitarian aid*

MOEL OUBOU /  
GAMMA

**Humanitarian  
aid**



### The refugee crises

Two years ago there were an estimated 19 million refugees worldwide; today the figure is put at 30 million. Some of this vast number of displaced men, women and children have suffered from natural disaster; most are the victims of ethnic or political conflict, whether in ex-Yugoslavia, in eastern Europe and the Caucasus, in Rwanda and Burundi or elsewhere in Africa, in the Caribbean, the Middle East and central Asia.

The first priority in defence of human rights is the provision of humanitarian relief for those whose lives are devastated by man-made and natural disaster. The European Union has developed a proactive policy to bring emergency help to the victims of famine, flood, war and migration, working closely with a wide range of United Nations agencies.

In order to cope with these multiplying crises, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has mounted emergency aid operations in tandem with traditional refugee aid and protection programmes. The European Community set up its Humanitarian Office (ECHO) in

1992 to ensure rapid response to emergencies and has become the single biggest contributor and operational partner in UNHCR's work. In 1994, it provided more than \$893 million (750 MECU) of emergency aid, food supplies and other assistance to refugees

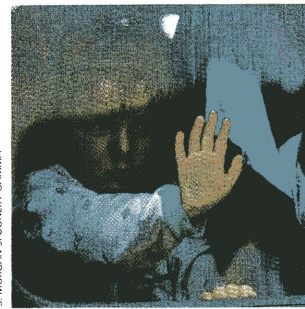
and displaced people in over 60 countries.

The long-term aim must be to anticipate and deal with the causes of conflict, but in the words of Emma Bonino, European Commission member responsible for the EC's humanitarian aid programmes:

«when political rationale fails to defuse a crisis and conflicts break out, humanitarian aid remains the most tangible way through which solidarity and concern can be expressed for the victims of disaster».



MICHEL HONDRIN / GAMMA



S. MORGAN SPOONER / GAMMA

**Most humanitarian aid was directed to the spiralling number of refugees and displaced**

## European Community support to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The scale of EC assistance has steadily increased as the disasters of the Balkans and East Africa have swelled the numbers of refugees. In 1991, \$28 million (23 MECU) were provided to UNHCR; as the Yugoslav crisis worsened the High Commissioner was made lead agency for overall guidance of the regional international humanitarian relief effort and the EC contribution went up to \$101 million (78 MECU) in 1992 and \$103 million (88 MECU) in

1993. An estimated 4.2 million people were helped over the two years.

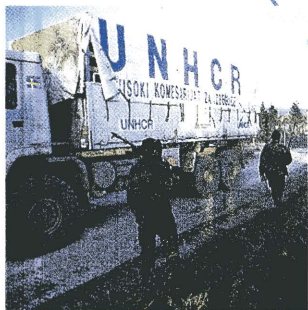
In 1994, Burundi and Rwanda were afflicted by civil war and genocide; some five million new refugees had to be cared for. The EC contribution to UNHCR in that year was \$196 million (165 MECU). The Community's contributions were an essential element of the UNHCR ability to tackle problems on such a scale. It acknowledged the EC role in a declaration in

January 1994 and has asked the Commission to be represented on its executive committee - an unusual step given the EC's observer status in the organisation.

On December 13, 1993, the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) agreed a Framework Partnership Contract (FPC) with the UNHCR. This was signed by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Mrs Sadako Ogata and European Commissioner Manuel Marin. It put

relations between the two bodies on a new footing.

More than 150 similar contracts have been signed with other operational partners such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and non-governmental organisations, with the aim of clarifying relations between the partners and speeding up procedures.



### RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES

A sum of about \$20 million (17 MECU) was approved by the European Community in 1994 for UN High Commissioner for Refugees operations in Asian countries, especially Afghanistan and Vietnam.

## Feeding the hungry

The World Food Programme (WFP) is one of the European Community's major Framework Partners. It is traditionally a development agency, devoted to long-term action for improvement of food supply, but now finds itself increasingly dealing with violent and acute humanitarian crises.

Faced with mounting emergencies and limited resources, WFP has come to rely heavily on Community contributions, which have grown steadily through the '90s as the need for emergency food supplies has increased. At the start of the decade it amounted to just under \$3.7 million (3 MECU); by 1993 it had reached \$83 million (71 MECU); in 1994 it was estimated at \$166 million (140 MECU).

The Community can act rapidly and flexibly, providing cash to help meet the specific needs of WFP in caring for refugee and homeless groups. These needs can vary enormously and often require a special effort in procuring suitable supplies: homeless and hungry refugees in a Balkan winter have quite different requirements from others displaced in an East African civil war.

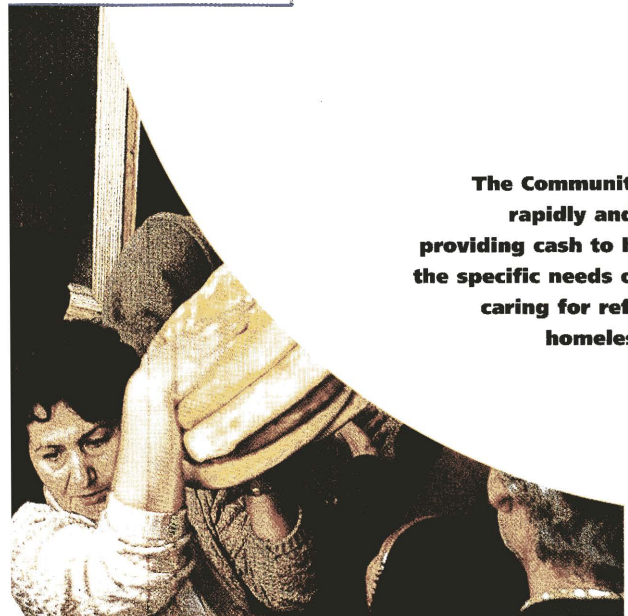
Because of its scale of involvement, the Community, unlike other international bodies, has acquired a special status in the WFP. It is an active observer at meetings of the governing body, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, and in the project sub-committees, and encourages development of longer term food programmes in crisis areas.

The relationship continues to develop as the WFP gains further experience in dealing with emergencies, and systems are being set up to match the strict budget requirements of the European Community.

**The Community can act rapidly and flexibly, providing cash to help meet the specific needs of WFP in caring for refugee and homeless groups**



G. VARELA / PHOTO NEWS



SOMOVSKY / ZUMA / GAMMA

## European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO)

The Community's emergency aid programme is coordinated by the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO), which was set up by the European Commission in 1992. It has brought a new dimension to humanitarian aid because it can act quickly, making advance payments where necessary. Its mandate covers the following areas:

- general humanitarian aid, usually for those affected by long-running civil wars;
- emergency humanitarian aid, and funding of crisis management for victims of natural catastrophe or war;
- aid for refugees or displaced people in the country or region of exile, and to help them resettle when they return home;
- financing disaster prevention through an action programme concentrating on three themes: human resources development and preparedness, strengthening of preparedness management structures and support for community-based low-cost disaster preparedness technologies.



CARL  
CORDONIER

In 1994 ECHO worked with UN agencies to help the victims of conflict or natural disaster throughout the world. As well as ex-Yugoslavia and Rwanda this included 30 African countries, many of the Commonwealth of Independent States and countries in Asia and Latin America.

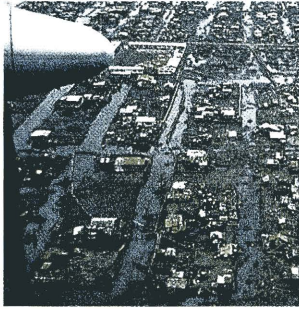
## PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

Some natural disasters can be anticipated and the results mitigated, so ECHO gives a high priority to natural disaster preparedness. Often working with UN agencies, as well as qualified NGOs, the European Commission has developed an action programme, undertaking many projects in disaster-prone areas of the world, such as improving disaster prevention and management in Peru, establishing a flood early warning system and a flood insurance fund in northern Bangladesh, supporting a peace education programme in Burundi and building hazard-resistant features into Central American schools.

ECHO has also given material support to the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) and participated actively in the world conference on this subject in Yokohama in 1994.



CARL CORDONIER



CRED

**Prevention is crucial not only because it can save thousands of lives, but also because it considerably reduces physical damage and setbacks to the development of a country**

## UN DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (UNDHA) PROJECT ON THE USE OF MILITARY AND CIVIL DEFENCE ASSETS (MCDA) IN DISASTER RELIEF

ECHO has cooperated closely with UNDHA in the development of this important project which was launched following a major international conference in Brussels in December 1992. In particular ECHO has participated in the steering group which has developed the MCDA guidelines and procedures (the so-called «Oslo Guidelines» approved at the international conference held in Oslo in January 1994).

The Humanitarian Office has also provided funding for the development of an operational MCDA register, for the training of MCDA personnel in practical exercises, and for the testing of MCDA procedures in the field of air transport. The aim of all these activities, which are coordinated by DHA Geneva, is to enable military assets to be integrated smoothly and according to predetermined procedures in international relief operations under civilian leadership.



NOEL QUIDU / GAMMA

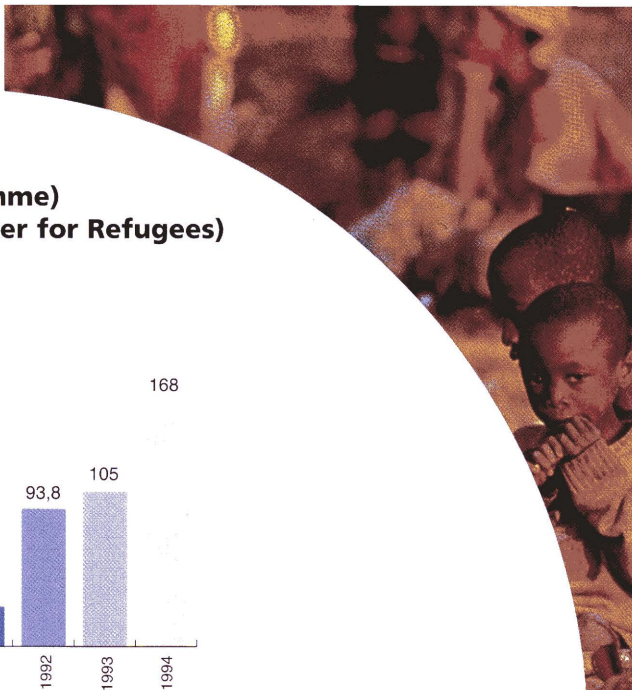
**Military vehicles  
provide food supplies  
in ex-Yugoslavia**



IBF

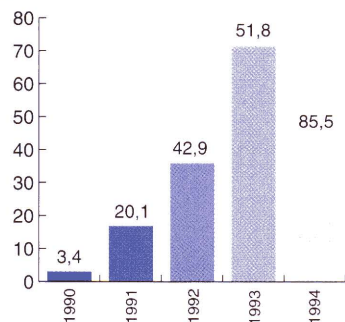
**Use of military assets  
for civil purposes was  
essential in some  
particular crises**

# Humanitarian aid

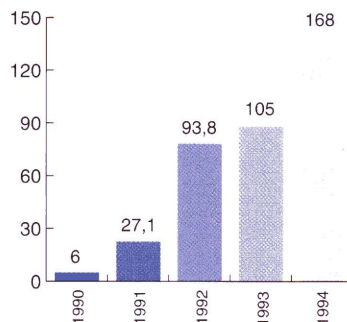


## EC contributions to WFP (World Food Programme) and UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) (in million USD)

### WFP

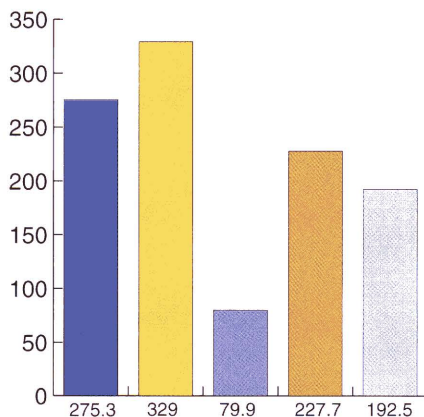


### UNHCR



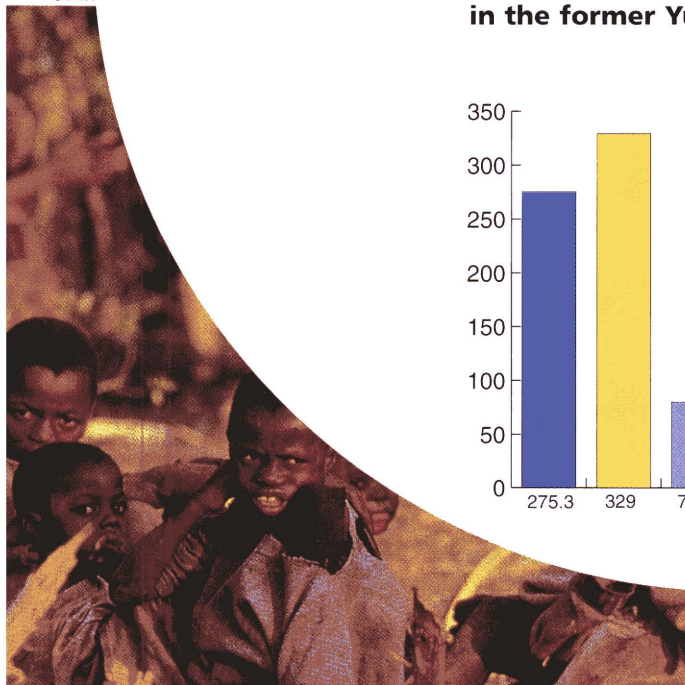
NOEL QUIDU / GAMMA

## Contributions to UNHCR for humanitarian assistance in the former Yugoslavia from 1991 to 1994 (in million USD)



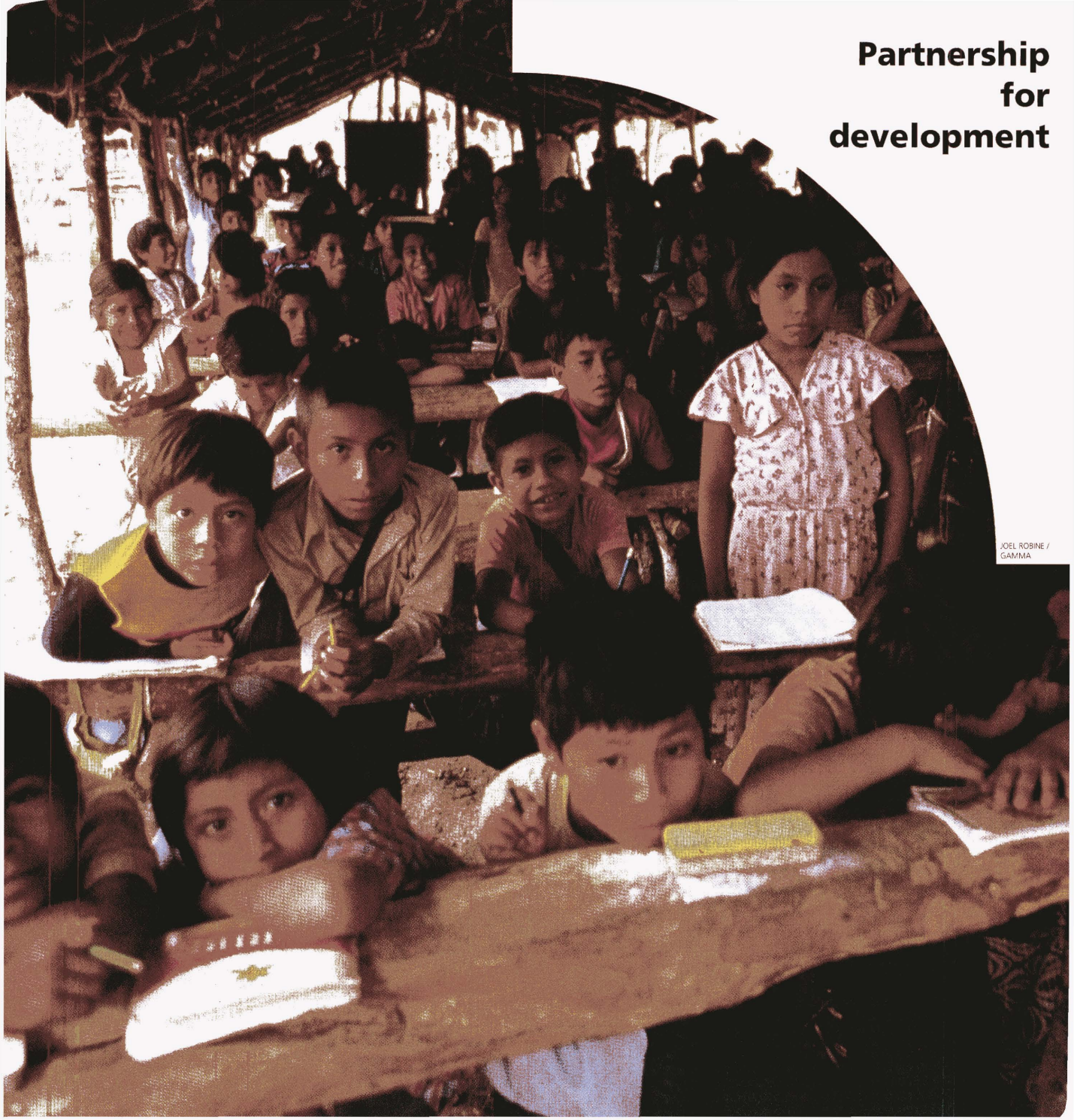
TOTAL : 1.1 billion USD

- EC Member States
- European Commission
- Japan
- USA
- Others





# Partnership for development



JOEL ROBINE /  
GAMMA

## Trade and development

Economic and social progress in the developing countries of the South has always been a major priority of the European Community. The EC devotes substantial resources to its development programmes in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, in the Middle East, Central and South America and in parts of Asia. It is also conscious of its responsibilities as the major trading partner for many developing countries. It consistently supports the extensive work of the United Nations in this field in addition to its own development programmes.

The European Community is an active participant in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), although formally it only has observer status. It has played a major role in the evolution and implementation of UNCTAD policies and is a substantial contributor. Its participation is crucial, in view of the share of world trade generated by the EC.

The European Economic Community was active in the opening phases of

UNCTAD's life. When the Delhi Conference of 1968 introduced the generalised system of preferences (GSP), it was the EEC plus Norway which first implemented it, providing general tariff concessions, often at zero or very low import duties, on European imports of a wide range of goods produced by developing countries.

### SPECIAL BENEFITS

Since then the volume of imports under the

GSP has gone from strength to strength. **About half the world's trade subject to preferences is now done by the Community,** amounting to nearly \$40,000 million. The least developed countries are offered particular benefits. The Community has already introduced major new changes in its preferences regime to provide more benefit for the most needy developing countries, in anticipation of major changes at the next UNCTAD conference, which takes place in

1996. In 1995, it was invited to join the Special Committee on Preferences as a non-voting member.

**The Community's influence in UNCTAD policy-making has been substantial.** Although it has no formal voting rights, its member countries have been consistently successful in coordinating their policy positions, whether on issues falling under Member State responsibility or those governed by Community competence.

# Partnership for development

Boosting trade by opening up markets in the industrialised world is the core of UN trade and development policy, and a series of programmes has been introduced by UNCTAD to facilitate this process. The Automated System for Customs Data has now been introduced in more than 100 countries, to facilitate the gathering of information on trade flows. The Community

has provided funding for installation of this system in about 20 countries.

## **The Trade Efficiency Network is another UNCTAD initiative with strong EC support.**

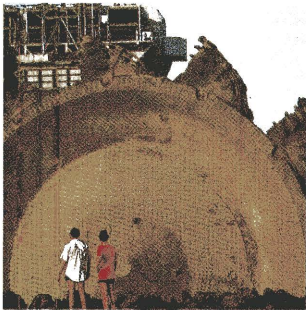
This involves the establishment of world trade points in developing countries, where computer terminal facilities, linked to the Internet, provide businesses with access

to data bases, advice and information on all aspects of trade, including banking, customs, transit questions and statistical data.

## LONG-TERM AIM

The EC is financing the creation of these trade points in a number of countries and is planning to increase its financial support.

The long-term aim is to set up an association of world trade points. EC help has also been given for the Train for Trade initiative and installation of an advanced cargo information system to help businesses organise their shipments.



CHIP HRIES / GAMMA

**Boosting the economies of poorer countries by opening up markets in the industrialised world is the core of UN trade and development policy**

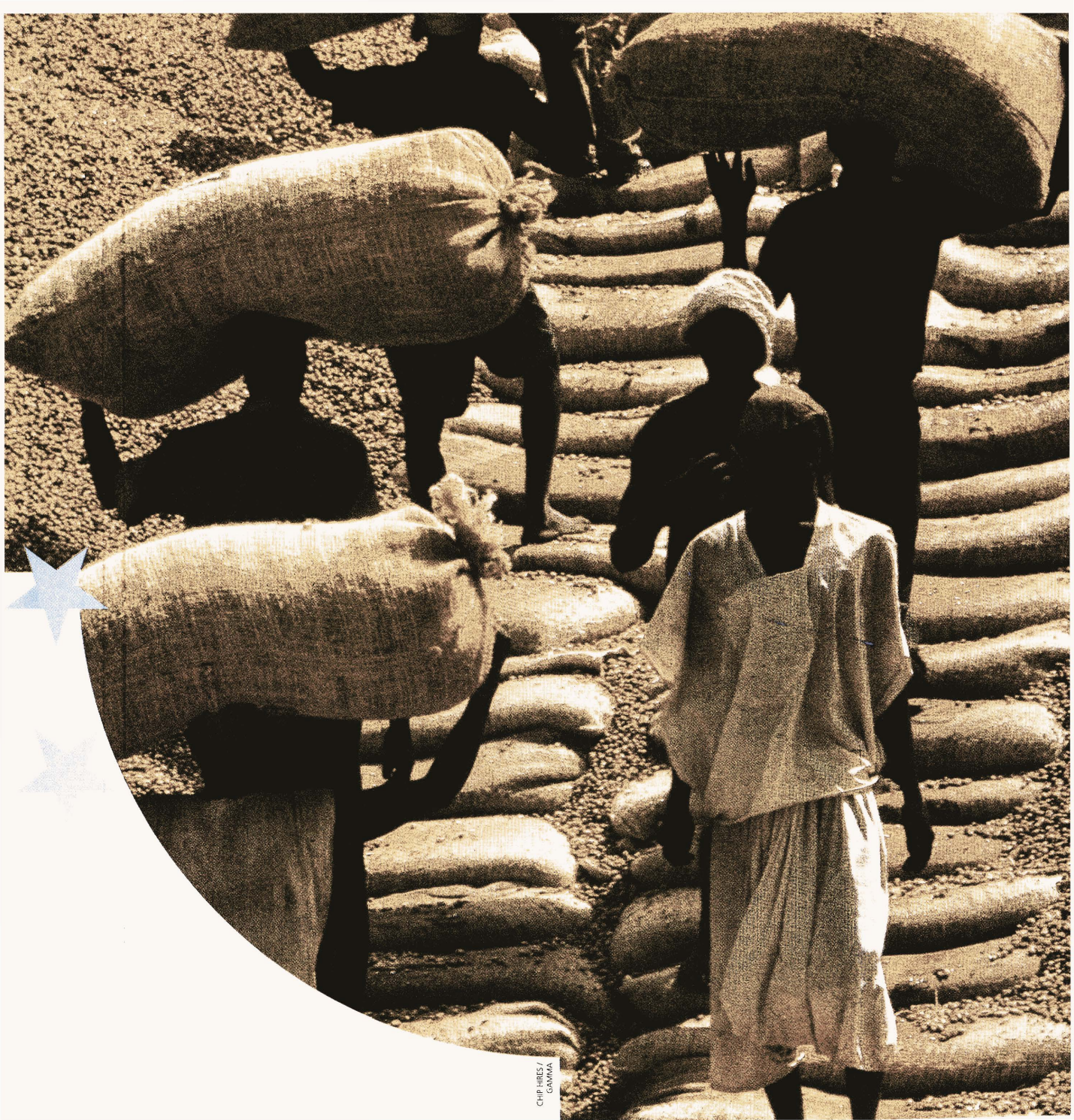


C.C.E.

**Facilitating the gathering of information on trade flows will provide essential data for export expansion**

## COMMODITY AGREEMENTS

UNCTAD has played a central role in the negotiation and implementation of commodity agreements (ICAs) under the Integrated Programme for Commodities; cocoa, jute and jute products, rubber, olive oil, sugar, tin, tropical timber and wheat have all been covered. The European Community has been an active participant in these agreements, as in the wheat and coffee agreements, and has been granted full negotiating and other participation rights.



## Food security through food aid

and underdevelopment, and both the United Nations and the European Union have mobilised resources in an effort to tackle the problem. Provision of food supplies is playing a central role.

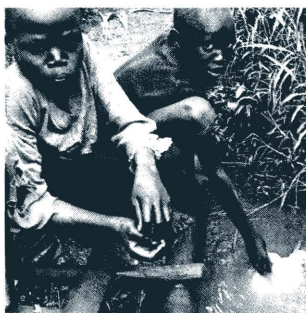
Food aid is often seen as a necessary short-term tool for dealing with acute emergencies such as war or natural disaster. This provision is a vital one, but food aid also has a longer-term role to play in develop-

Hunger afflicts many millions of people throughout the developing world. It is both the cause and the consequence of poverty

ment. In November 1994, the EU Council of Development Ministers recognised that food aid should be a fundamental component of food security policy within the Community's development policy.

The essential aim is for the victims of food crises to become active participants in their own development. Donated food supplies may be sold in the market with the proceeds devoted to projects for improving local food output, or passed on as wages for people working on new food production schemes. Food aid and food security thus become more closely integrated with other aid instruments.

**The essential aim is for the victims of food crises to become active participants in their own development**



PH. PERRIER - DE VISU

## Community food aid for global needs

The Community is pursuing this integrated policy in cooperation with United Nations organisations such as the World Food Programme as well as in its bilateral programmes.

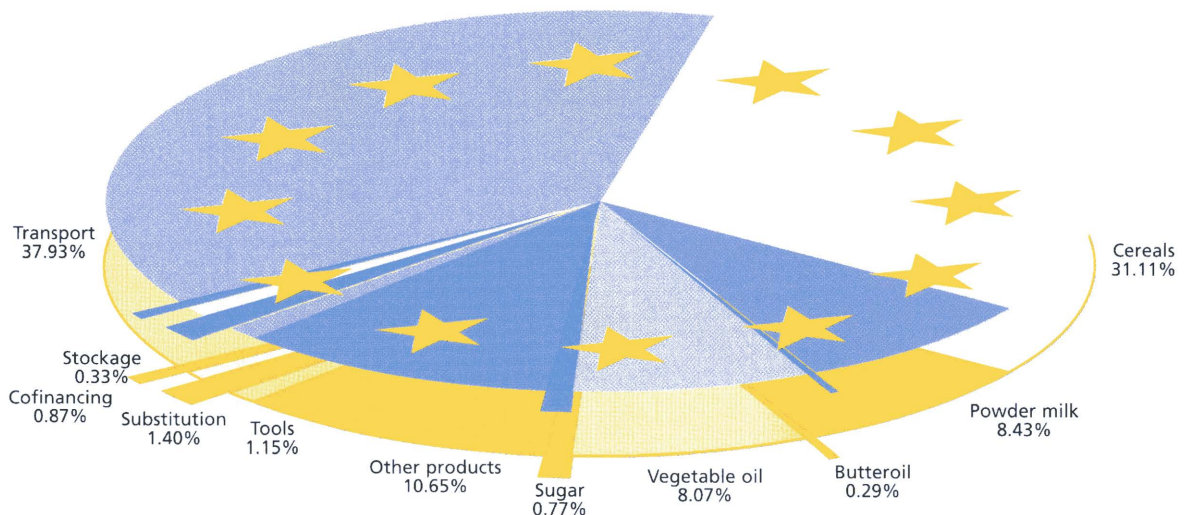
Since the 1986 Food Aid Convention, the European Community and its Member States have been responsible for providing at least 1,670,000 tonnes of cereals in food aid each year, amounting to one fifth of total global commitments. Just over half comes from the EC as a whole, the balance from member countries.

The EU programme has its own operating budget, so it is not dependent on agricultural policy or the level of European food stocks. The quantity of products to be

supplied is fixed annually. In 1994 an estimated \$700 million (589 MECU) was committed, of which about two-thirds was for multilateral aid, channelled through UN bodies such as the World Food Programme, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (see p.35) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Cereals are the mainstay of Community food aid. Not including direct aid from its member countries, in 1994 the EU provided 1,451,480 tonnes of wheat, rice, maize, sorghum and other grains, of which 350,000 tonnes went to World Food Programme projects, 12,750 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and 7,900 tonnes to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Vegetable oil and high protein foods were also donated, and increasing supplies of seeds and tools, so that peasants could work the land and produce a harvest.

### HOW COMMUNITY FOOD AID IS SPENT





## Anticipating the risks of food crises

An early warning system known as Geofile, developed by the FAO, is designed to anticipate the risk of food crisis in combination with the WFP's Food Aid Information System. In 1994 these programmes were fully financed by the European Community. Geofile makes use of satellite imaging, food security at regional and local level, estimates of harvests and reserves, rainfall levels and market prices.



ARTEMIS  
FAO-RSC

NUMBER OF RAINFALL DAYS

MAR 1994 DEK 1

# Partnership for development

## THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

Since 1991, the European Community has been a full member of the Food and Agriculture Organisation, with the consolidated voting rights of its 15 Member States.

FAO is the only United Nations body which has given the EC this status, recognising that decisions in farming and fisheries have been ceded to the Community by the EU member countries and are an EC responsibility.

Negotiations are now under way for full EC membership of the Codex Alimentarius, the UN food standards body which falls under the aegis of the FAO and World Health Organisation.

Not all FAO business is within full EC competence and as a condition of its status, the Community must always indicate whether it is the Commission or the member countries which is competent to deal with an issue. The Commission will be spokesman on matters of pure EC concern and members' votes will be transferred to the Community; on other questions the 15 Member States will agree a common position among themselves and the acting President will speak for them. If the 15 cannot agree, then they may cast their votes as individual UN members.







## Population and development

In 1992, following the Rio Environment and Development Conference, the European Community introduced a programme to support family planning services in developing countries, with an increasing volume of aid going to population projects.

This programme was given a boost following the 1994 Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. Between 1991 and 1993 spending was about \$25 million (20 MECU) annually; in 1994 the Community budget allocated \$48 million (40 MECU). The EC has now gone further. As a full participant in the Cairo session it presented plans to increase EC aid to population policies to about \$370 million (300 MECU) annually by the year 2000, stressing the need for integrated action to stabilise population growth.

## Health

Working relations between the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the European Community were defined in a 1982 memorandum covering the world health development programme, medical research, public health and the establishment of health criteria and standards of health and safety at work. The aim was to ensure better coordination and cooperation and avoid overlap. The Treaty of European Union gave a mandate to the

Community to consolidate its relationship with the UN organisation.

### THE COMMUNITY USES WHO SKILLS

The two organisations seek to work together. The Community has observer status in WHO. It sends representatives to the WHO regional committee in Copenhagen and delegates to the biannual World Health

Assembly in Geneva. WHO acts as sub-contractor for the Community, helping with work relating to AIDS, cancer, tobacco addiction and alcohol. When the Ebola virus struck in Zaire in 1995, it was the World Health Organisation which the Community invited to provide the expertise needed to identify and deal with it. In 1992-93 the Community's Humanitarian Office provided \$11 million (9.5 MECU) for WHO to use in emergencies.

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«The Community and the Member States shall foster cooperation with third countries and the competent international organisations in the sphere of public health»

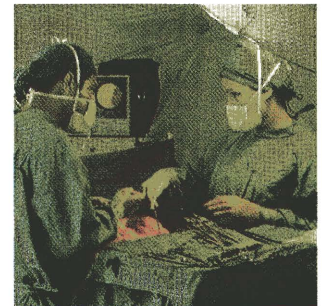
*(Article 129 of the Treaty on European Union)*

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JEAN-MICHEL TURPIN / GAMMA

**WHO often works as a sub-contractor for the Community**



CHRISTIAN / GAMMA

**The EU has provided special aid for emergency health needs**

## Palestinian refugees: joint action

The European Community and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) have long worked together to help Palestinian refugees. Since 1971, a series of eight Conventions has been signed between the EC and UNRWA, on the EC contribution to the Agency's budget for helping nearly three million refugees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Funding has gone to education, health and relief, social services, infrastructure investment and food aid. Around \$850 million (707 MECU) has been allocated from the Community budget to help meet the cost of these programmes in addition to bilateral contributions from EU member countries.

These are the EC contributions under the most recent three-year Convention (1993-1995):

### Health and education

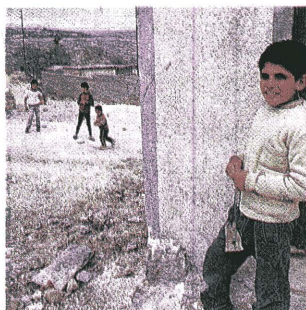
|      |                  |
|------|------------------|
| 1993 | \$34m (29.2MECU) |
| 1994 | \$36m (30.3MECU) |
| 1995 | \$39m (31.4MECU) |

### Food aid

|      |                   |
|------|-------------------|
| 1993 | \$26m (22.42MECU) |
| 1994 | \$16m (13.59MECU) |
| 1995 | \$11m (8.50MECU)  |

Funding is also being provided as part of the Middle East Peace Implementation Plan for rebuilding the water and sewage network in eight camps in the Lebanon (\$6m or 5 MECU from the EC budget), building and equipping of UNRWA schools in the West Bank and Gaza (\$12m or 10 MECU) and construction and equipping of a 232-bed hospital in Gaza (\$25m or 20.5 MECU).

A new three-year Convention is now under negotiation.



CLIPPIREX / GAMMA

**Development programmes will contribute to the search for peace in the Middle East**

TORDALFSP / GAMMA

GAMMA

# *A global framework*

## **World trade**

For all nations and groups there are areas of mutual competition in economic affairs and areas where they share a common interest. The United Nations can provide the institutions, the procedures and the legal framework to reconcile these competing interests on a global or regional scale and maximise the common interests. The European Union is an enthusiastic supporter and defender of this UN role.

World trade is a compelling example. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has long provided the policy framework for international trade negotiations, and the Community has always been a key player in its deliberations.

**Conclusion of the Uruguay Round in 1994 was a quantum leap forward in the opening up of world trade, leading to the establishment of the World Trade Organisation at the beginning of 1995.**

The European Commission acts as spokesman and negotiator for the Community on these trade matters. There are other UN bodies which have been established to deal with particular problems or regions, including:

- **the Economic Commission for Europe**
- **the Law of the Sea Conference**
- **the International Maritime Organisation**
- **the World Intellectual Property Organisation**

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

The European Community has observer status in the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), but has full delegation status in three expert committees:

- **Harmonisation of Laws for the Protection of Marks**
- **Protocol to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works**
- **Settlement of Intellectual Property Disputes between States**

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

The European Community makes a significant contribution to the work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), which was set up in 1947 to stimulate the economic reconstruction of Europe, raise the level of European economic activity and maintain and strengthen the economic relations of the European countries among themselves and with other countries.

The ECE was one of five regional commissions established by the UN. Until 1989 it provided a forum for dialogue on economic cooperation between western Europe and the Soviet bloc. Since then its membership has expanded to 55 countries. It consists not just of the European members of the UN, but the United States, Canada, Israel and former Asian republics of the ex-Soviet Union.

The European Community has formal observer status in the ECE, and since 1990 working contacts have become closer. The European Commission plays an important role in several areas of its work. In the environment field, the EC has ratified or signed four pollution control conventions, which lay down standards for pollution control in a transboundary context, and provides some funding for their operation.

The EC contributes extensively to ECE work in transport, trade facilitation, motor vehicle construction standards and the chemical and steel industries. The setting of standards is an important area of work with direct practical or legal impact on activity in the European region. The Commission is also active in ECE work on the EDIFACT standards for transmission of electronic data messages.

### **IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL TRANSIT**

The European Commission is working to improve international transit to and from the Balkan states which are most affected by the United Nations sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro. So-called «fast lanes» are being established at customs posts to reduce bottlenecks in international transit traffic at the external borders of the countries concerned.

The International Road Union (IRU) has been associated with the project, providing technical support in implementing the TIR Convention which facilitates international trade in the area.



C.C.E.



## Law of the Sea

Given their maritime vocation and worldwide trading, mining and fisheries interests, the European Union and its member countries have a special concern for all aspects of maritime law. The European Community took part in the 10-year conference which negotiated the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and signed the Convention itself in 1984, two years after the lengthy negotiations had concluded.

The UN Convention, which is designed to establish an international legal framework for the two-thirds or more of the globe which is covered by the

seas, finally came into force on November 16 1994. The EC will ratify the Convention once a majority of EU Member States has done so.

**The Convention is an ambitious effort to deal with all questions on the use of the oceans, including sovereign rights. It covers the maximum extension of the «territorial sea», establishing an exclusive economic zone and a special regime for the continental shelf, defines the rights of states in those zones, the exploitation of economic resources, navigation, protection of the marine environment**

### **and dispute settlement.**

Differences over seabed mining took many years to settle. The industrialised countries refused to ratify because of a bureaucratic and costly regime for the exploitation of deep seabed resources like manganese nodules. An «implementation agreement» was eventually concluded in the summer of 1994. This confirmed the seabed as the «common heritage of mankind», but adapted it to market economy principles, so making the Convention universally acceptable. The EC participated in the

negotiation of this agreement and has applied it provisionally as from November 16, 1994. Some of the sectors which the Convention covers are the responsibility of individual EC Member States, while others come under EC competence, but the Community, represented by the European Commission, is a member of the International Seabed Authority.

The International Seabed Authority held its first sessions at Kingston in Jamaica in November 1994 and February/March 1995. The Authority now has 141 members.

## CONSERVATION OF FISH STOCKS

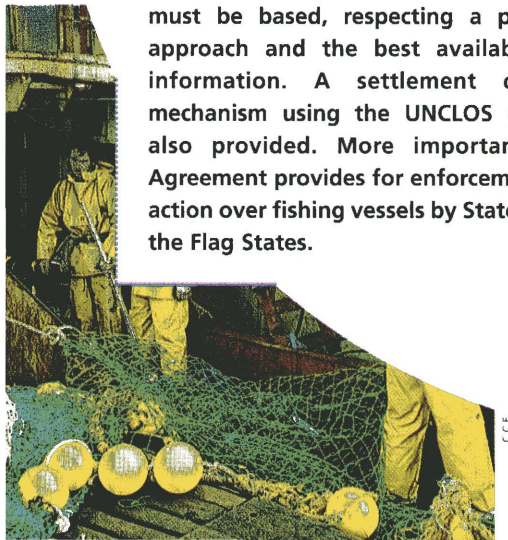
The European Community played a crucial role in the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Because of the exclusive EC competence in this field, the European Commission took responsibility for the negotiations.

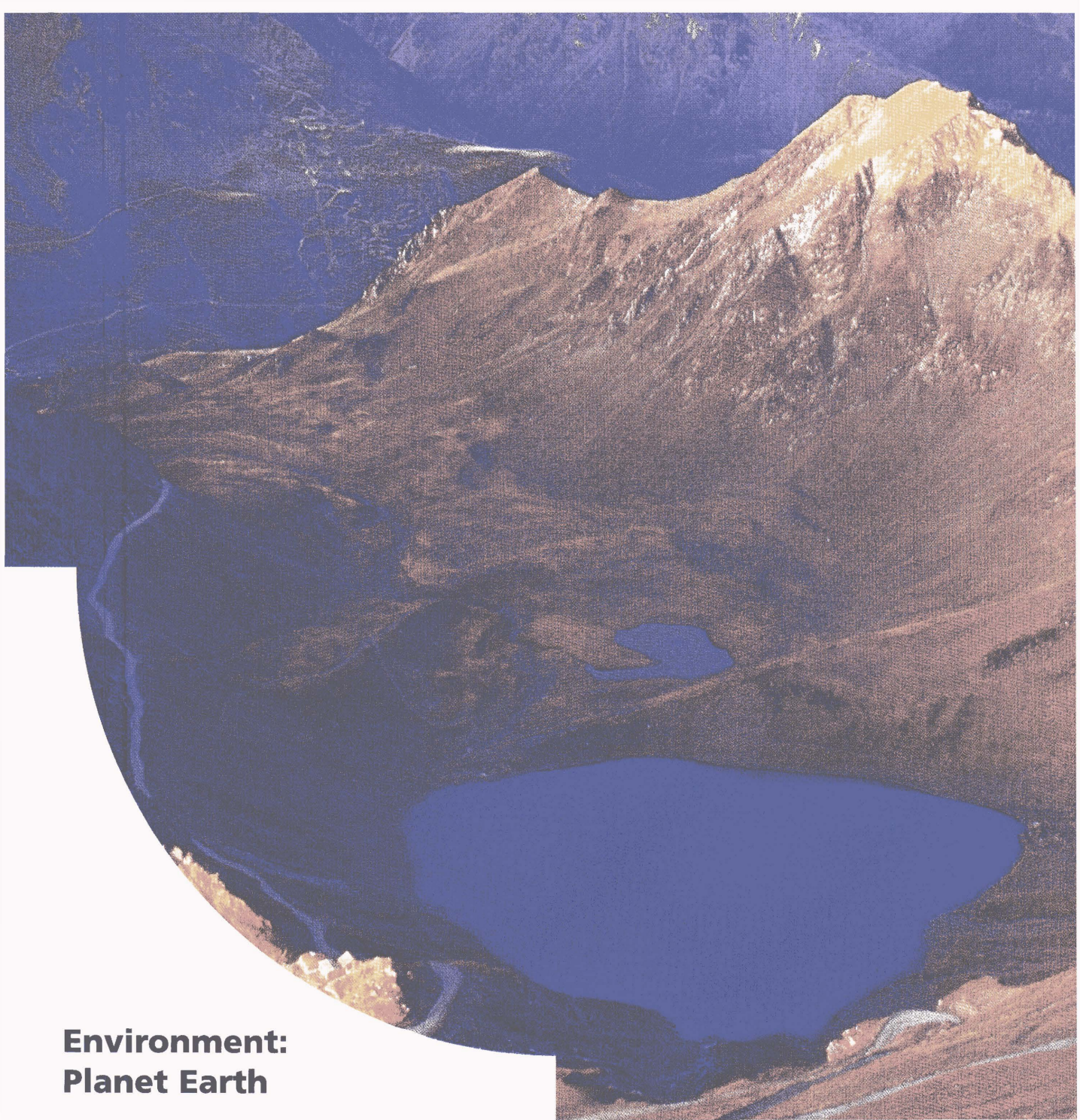
The Conference was convened following an UNCED decision to promote the conservation of migratory fish stocks and those fish moving between coastal waters and the high seas. It held its last session in August 1995. As a result, on August 4, 1995 the Conference adopted an Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of UNCLOS relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

Regulation is needed where these stocks are over-fished and the Agreement sets out principles on which conservation and management must be based, respecting a precautionary approach and the best available scientific information. A settlement of disputes mechanism using the UNCLOS procedure is also provided. More important still, the Agreement provides for enforcement allowing action over fishing vessels by States other than the Flag States.

## INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION

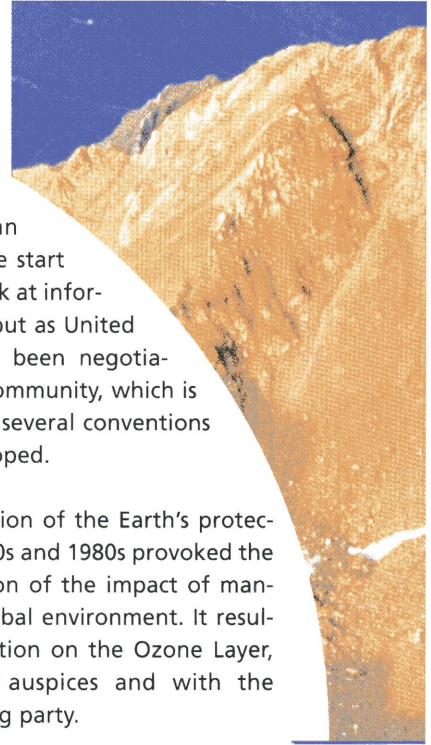
The Community is an observer in the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), set up by the United Nations to develop global policies on the safety of ships, standardisation of navigation and other equipment, pollution prevention and control, qualifications of seamen and the working conditions for ships' crews. The IMO programme provides a global framework for many of the Community's own initiatives in the shipping sector and the EC participates as a contracting party in all IMO conventions, so ensuring consistency between these conventions and internal market rules.





**Environment:  
Planet Earth**





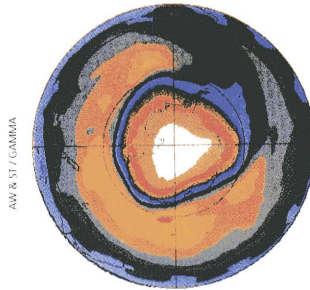
## Towards global solutions

Environment policies throughout the world have changed fundamentally over the last 10 years. What were once seen as local or regional problems are now recognised as global ones, with implications for the future of mankind and the nature of Planet Earth. The first efforts of governments concentrated on cleaning up pollution, whereas the emphasis now is on sustainable development and global solutions to global problems, dealing with the causes rather than the results of environmental degradation.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a key player in this new approach to environment policy, and the European Union has become deeply involved in its activities.

The European Community was admitted as an observer to UNEP from the start and given the right to speak at informal ministerial meetings, but as United Nations conventions have been negotiated, so the status of the Community, which is a full contracting party to several conventions in its own right, has developed.

Evidence of the deterioration of the Earth's protective ozone layer in the 1970s and 1980s provoked the first widespread recognition of the impact of man-made pollution on the global environment. It resulted in the Vienna Convention on the Ozone Layer, negotiated under UNEP auspices and with the Community as a contracting party.



**Damage to the ozone layer threatens the natural environment**

# Environment: Planet Earth

## COMMUNITY LAW LIMITS USE OF CFCS

EC input was particularly crucial in the second stage, when the Montreal Protocol set limits to the use of chlorofluorocarbons and other ozone-depleting substances, and implemented these limits through Community law. They have since been tightened several times, so the chemicals concerned will be virtually banned in Europe by the end of the century. Difficult discussions are beginning in Vienna during 1995 to extend

the restrictions to hydrochlorofluorocarbons.

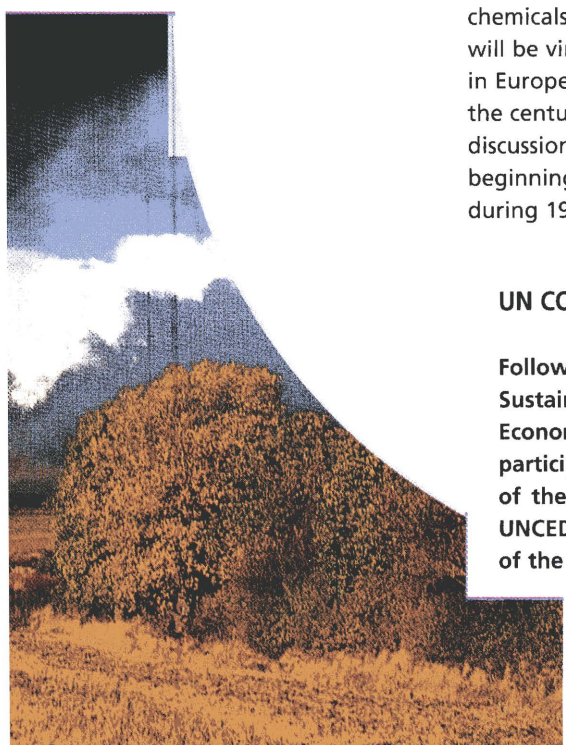
The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, marked a major turning point in international efforts to tackle the causes of degradation in the global environment and to promote sustainable development.

**The Community took a leading role at Rio, often acting as a bridge between the positions of the North and South.** It was a full participant, formally adopting the Rio Declaration on

Environment and Development, Agenda 21, and the Statement of Forest Principles, and signing the Climate Change Convention and the Biodiversity Convention. The Agenda 21 coincides with much of the EC's own 5th Environmental Action Programme, which was drawn up in parallel. The Union's own commitment to the same aims is reflected in its development cooperation budget, which in 1994 allocated an estimated \$970 million (815MECU) for priority environment projects.

## UN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Follow-up to the Rio Conference is entrusted to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), a functional commission of the UN's Economic and Social Council in which the European Community is a full participant. The CSD is to finalise its first full review of the implementation of the Rio conclusions in time for the UN General Assembly session on UNCED in 1997 and the Community has prepared reports for each session of the CSD.



## Climate change

The Community signed the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Rio in 1992. The Convention's task was to tackle the emission of greenhouse gases believed to be responsible for global warming, and **EC ratification in 1993 committed Member States to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 1990 levels by the end of the century.**

A first conference of the parties was held in

Berlin in the spring of 1995 in an effort to set global targets for emission reductions beyond 2000, especially of CO<sub>2</sub>.

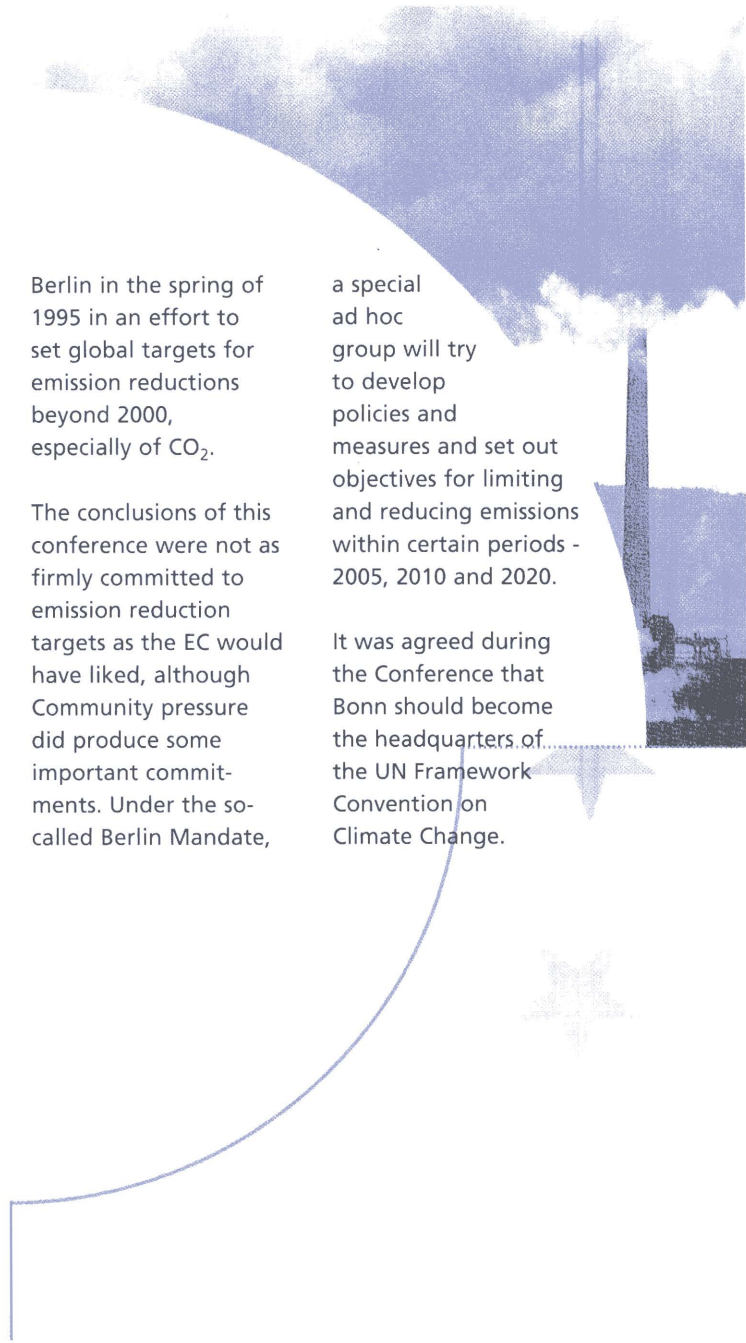
The conclusions of this conference were not as firmly committed to emission reduction targets as the EC would have liked, although Community pressure did produce some important commitments. Under the so-called Berlin Mandate,

a special ad hoc group will try to develop policies and measures and set out objectives for limiting and reducing emissions within certain periods - 2005, 2010 and 2020.

It was agreed during the Conference that Bonn should become the headquarters of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.



**Member States committed to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**



## Biodiversity

The European Community signed the Biodiversity Convention in 1992 and ratified it in 1993. It firmly supports a policy of ensuring the maximum diversity of biological species throughout the world and uses its assistance programmes in developing countries to **support traditional breeding and harvesting methods and invest in sustainable tropical forest management.**

It also contributes to revision of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

## Forests

The 1992 Rio Conference agreed a Statement of Forest Principles on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest. The Community endorsed the Statement, but would have preferred

a legally binding instrument.

**The Community will work actively in the recently established Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF), with a view to promoting sustainable development and slowing down the current rates of forest loss.**

The Panel will report to the CSD (Commission for Sustainable Development) in 1997 on many aspects of sustainable management and on the need for a global convention.

JL. BOHIN /  
PHOTO NEWS



GEORGES MERILTON / GAMMA

**Forests are vital to our long-term future**



CHIP VINAI / GAMMA

**Action is needed to ensure sustainable forest management**

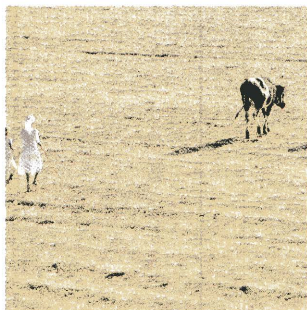
## Desertification

The Community strongly supported the call from African countries in Rio for a Convention on Combating Desertification. This was negotiated in record time and the European Community was one of the original signatories together with 80 countries when

the text was agreed in Paris in October 1994. Desertification is defined in the text as «land degradation in arid areas» and its causes and remedies tend to vary in different areas. The Convention provides a «code of good conduct» for governments and emphasises the need for

a suitable policy framework, effective participation by all stake-holders and a flexible and decentralised approach. Specific guidelines for action are contained in the Convention's four regional annexes, for Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Northern Mediterranean.

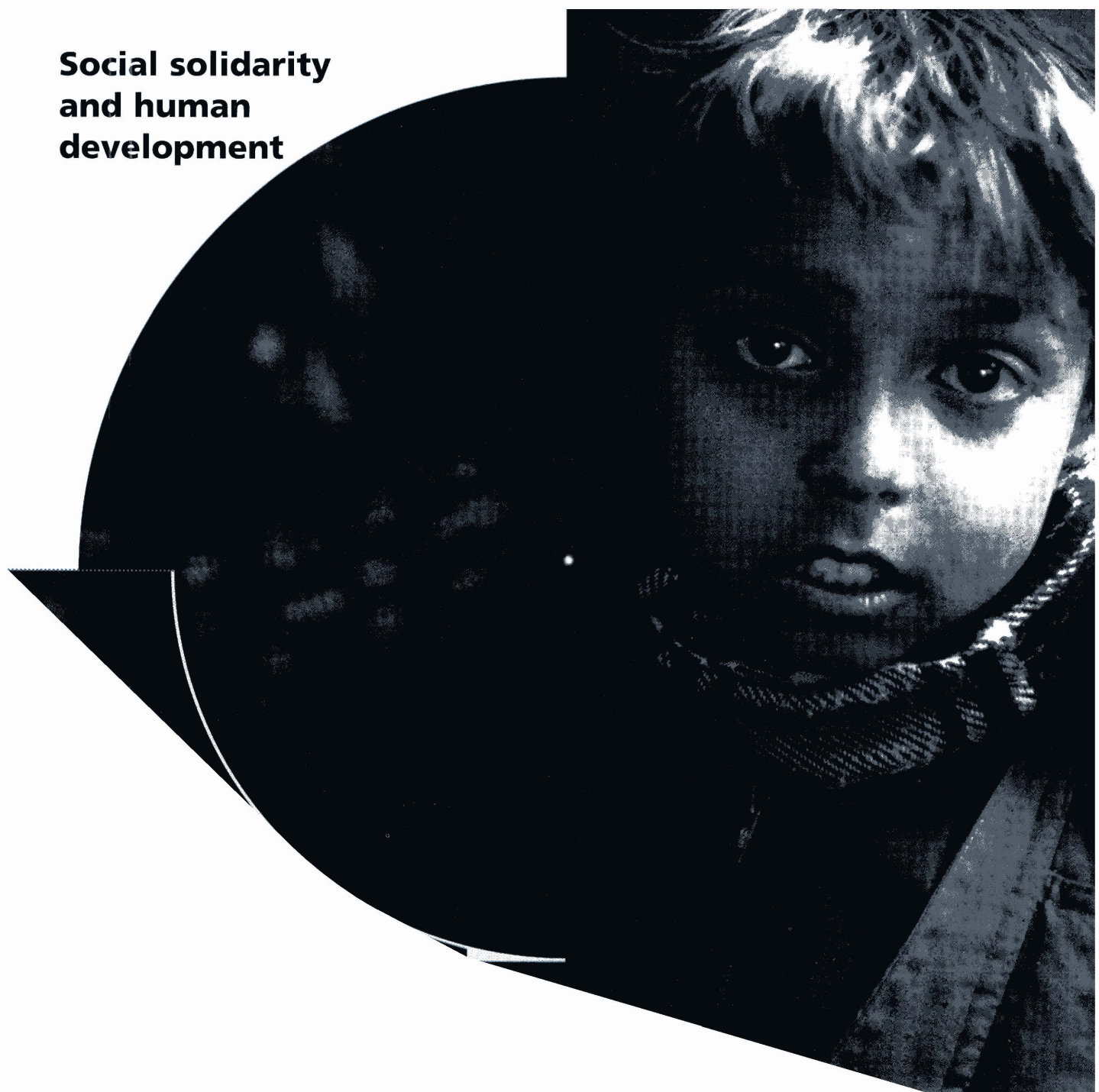
**Combating desertification has traditionally been a major feature of EC development cooperation programmes with African countries, and the Community is already involved in actions to tackle the problem in its own southern Member States.**



MC CORTALI / PHOTO NEWS

**Desertification is a problem confronting many countries**

**Social solidarity  
and human  
development**



## Common action for social progress

The United Nations has convened a series of human development conferences since 1992.

**The European Community has been a major contributor to all of them**, as well as supporting participation by non-governmental organisations. The UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio set a new global agenda for environment policy; the 1993 UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna underlined the need for greater vigilance and positive action; the 1994 Cairo Conference on Population and Development linked the importance of population policy with economic and social development.

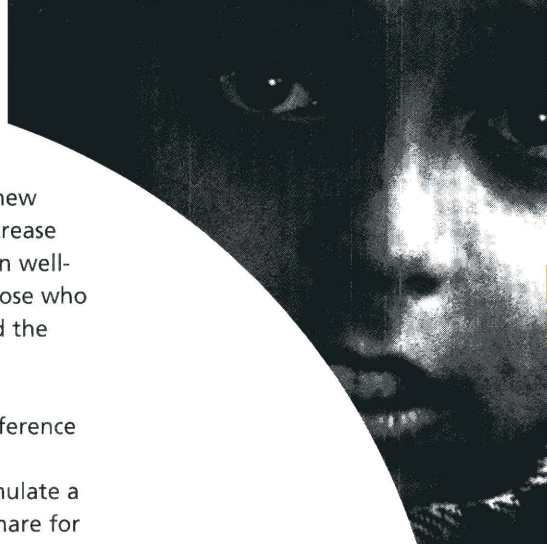
### HANDLING ISSUES TOGETHER

These conferences had a common theme: that the problems of human development are shared by all. They may vary in scale or character, and different parts of the world may have different perspectives and contributions to make, but there is general acceptance that states will handle these issues better if they handle them together.

The two 1995 conferences follow the same theme. The World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen was designed to raise awareness of social imbalances, as economies become

globalised and new technologies increase the gap between well-off and poor, those who are working and the unemployed.

The Beijing Conference on Women was intended to stimulate a full and equal share for women in all areas of decision-making, social and economic activity, as well as addressing development themes, peace and human rights. The European Community allocated more than \$2.5 million (2 MECU) to fund the participation of non-governmental organisations in the conference.



## **Social development: the Copenhagen Summit**

The European Community was a full participant in the Copenhagen Summit on Social Development and played a key role in the meeting. **The European Commission and the 15 Member States worked closely together to present common EU positions. This strengthened the Union's ability to put forward draft proposals which often formed the basis of the final Summit texts.**

The three main issues of the Summit were the eradication of poverty, promotion of productive employment and social integration, and although the conclusions of the meeting were not binding, they did include a series of «Commitments» to which the Community subscribed.

European Commissioner for Social Affairs Pdraig Flynn called for certain commitments to be translated into specific legal obligations through International Labour Organisation conventions.

### **THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE ILO**


One of the EC's objectives at the Copenhagen Summit was to encourage countries to ratify ILO conventions, «particularly those on the freedom of association and collective bargaining, and on child labour and enforced labour, and ensuring compliance with them».

The work of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is important to the European Union, because it provides a forum where governments and the social partners can come together on a global basis to negotiate and agree on labour and employment standards.

The first exchange of letters between the ILO and a Community body was in 1952, when the new-born European Coal and Steel Community and the ILO agreed to exchange information and cooperate on various projects.

The Community has observer status in the ILO. The European Commission is invited on a regular basis to attend the annual International Labour Conference, as well as the three annual sessions of the ILO governing body and any meetings of technical committees which may be of EC interest. ILO representatives are also invited to attend meetings of EU tripartite advisory committees dealing with labour and social policy matters.





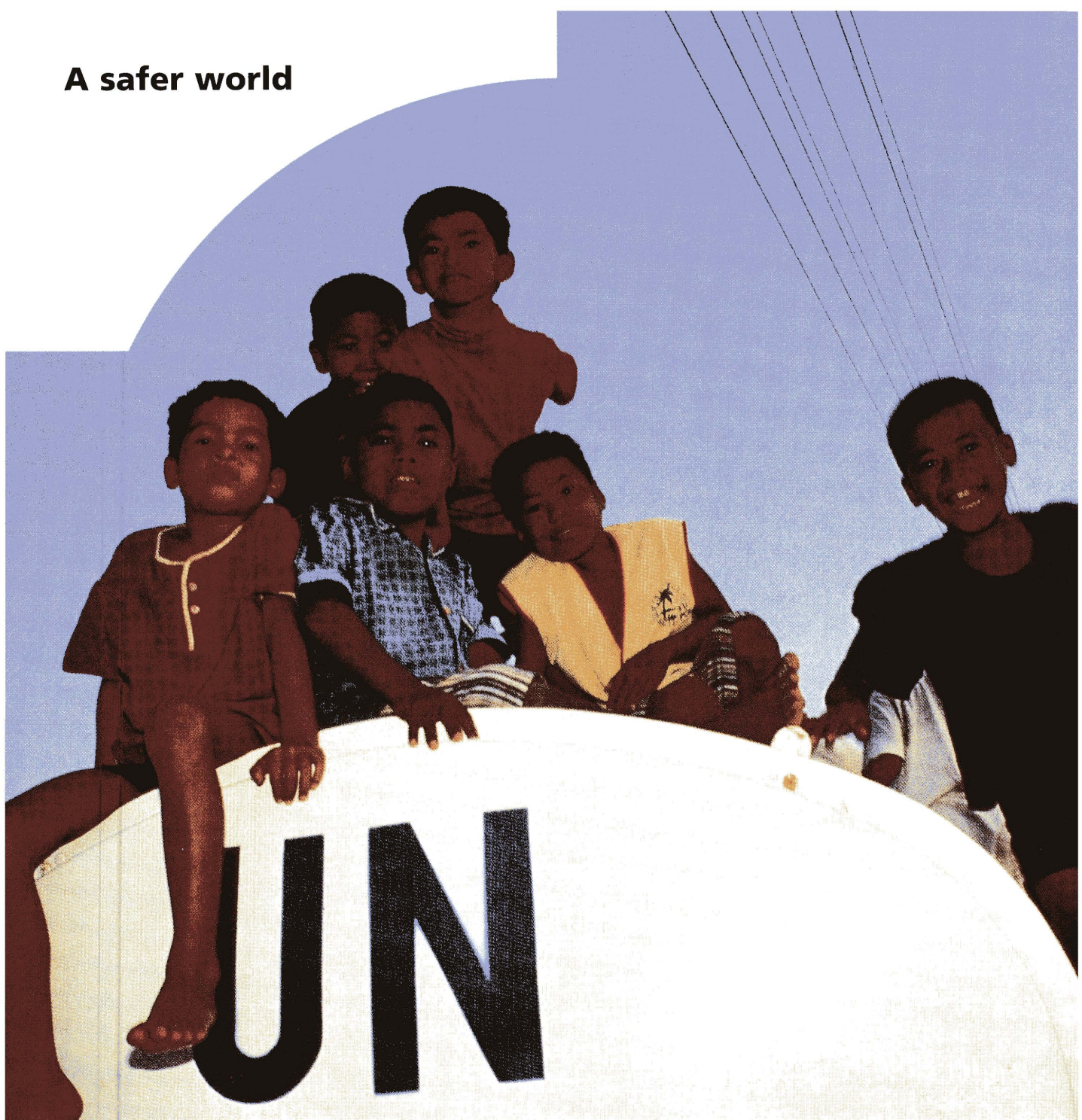
'The question of social development has become a global issue. Because of our interdependence, we cannot go on relying on national policies alone, however decisive the role they play, to achieve our social priorities'.

*(European Commission  
President Jacques Santer at  
the Copenhagen summit)*


## The Beijing Conference on Women

The European Community's interest in the Beijing Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, organised by the United Nations in September 1995, stems from its own commitment to equality in working conditions and pay, as laid down in its founding Treaty and subsequent European case law. The Community obtained a full participant status in the Conference.

**A safer world**



## Striving to make the world a safer place



**Tragic situations** such as in Somalia and ex-Yugoslavia, where the international community has striven to maintain or restore peace against bitter odds, and has sometimes faced failure, should not be allowed to obscure the work of the United Nations over the last 50 years in trying to make the world a safer place.

**The end of the cold war** gave the United Nations a clearer sense of purpose. The new world order meant the end of bipolar world politics, coinciding with development of the European Union's own political vocation, and the EU has played a major role in maintaining international peace and security over the last five years or so.

**The European Union's contribution to preventive diplomacy** in close cooperation with the United Nations takes many forms and has extended to many parts of the world. Its provision of humanitarian assistance and support for free elections has helped to stabilise regions in transition as far apart as Cambodia, South Africa and the Middle East.

### THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY SHALL BE:

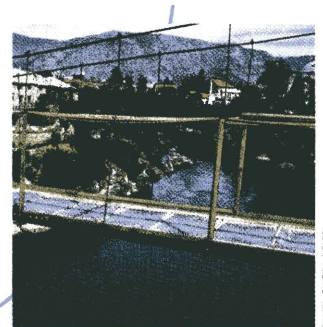
- to safeguard the common values, fundamental interests and independence of the Union;
- to strengthen the security of the Union and its Member States in all ways;
- to preserve peace and strengthen international security, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter as well as the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the objectives of the Paris Charter;
- to promote international cooperation;
- to develop and consolidate democracy and the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

*(Treaty on European Union)*

## **Common foreign and security policy of the European Union**

The European Union's common foreign and security policy is taking on increasing importance throughout the European continent. This has been expressed in many ways:

- the European Stability Pact, which underlines good neighbourliness and sensitive handling of frontier and minority problems;
- ex-Yugoslavia, where the Union has made intense efforts in conjunction with the UN to bring about a negotiated peace, including peace conferences, the EU administration of the city of Mostar, and in the near future, its reconstruction and rehabilitation;
- implementation and monitoring of sanctions imposed by the Security Council on Serbia and Montenegro and those areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina under the control of Bosnian Serb forces, and support to neighbouring countries affected by the sanctions;
- participation in the Middle East peace process, including support for creating the Palestinian policy force;
- mediation in the dispute between Greece and the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia; and between Italy and Slovenia;
- appointment of an EU observer for United Nations talks on Cyprus;
- support for the process of reform and transition for the economies and societies of Eastern European countries.

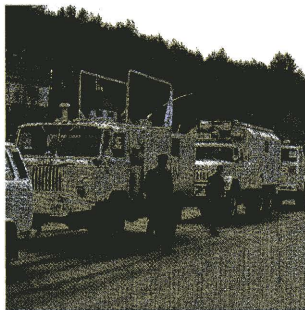


**Intense efforts are  
being made to preserve  
Mostar amid the conflicts  
of ex-Yugoslavia**

## POLICING SANCTIONS

The European Commission has a pivotal role as operational coordinator of the EU/OSCE Sanctions Assistance Missions (SAMs) which were deployed in all the neighbouring countries following imposition of sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro in 1992. This work involves close contacts with the NATO/WEU naval force in the Adriatic and with the WEU customs/police force on the Danube.

The SAMs' Communications Centre (SAMCOMM), which is run from the European Commission, coordinates investigations on suspected violations of sanctions and compiles monthly reports as a basis for UN Security Council deliberations. The Centre works closely with the secretariat of the UN Sanctions Committee to ensure that humanitarian aid and legitimate trade can pass without being hindered by sanctions, and has seconded two liaison officers to the Committee secretariat. The European Commission also hosts the EU/OSCE Sanctions Coordinator's office, which works closely together with SAMCOMM.



**The Commission provides support in policing of sanctions**



## Disarmament

Disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are high priorities for the European Union's common foreign and security policy (CFSP). Several initiatives have been taken by the Union in the UN Disarmament Working Group, including pressing for a UN Register of Conventional Arms Sales, and EC legislation has been introduced to control trade in dual-use products which can be used for both civil and military purposes.

## Non-proliferation

One of the first Joint Actions agreed by the European Union under the CFSP in July 1994 was to negotiate an indefinite extension of the UN-sponsored Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The objective was achieved; the Treaty was renewed in the first half of 1995 for an unlimited period.

**The unified stance of the 15 EU member countries provided a strong push to the final outcome, with the European Commission working closely in support of the EU Presidency.**

Following the success of the Union's Joint Action on the NPT, consideration is now being given to other aspects of disarmament in conjunction with UN bodies: implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention; revision and strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention; a comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty; strengthening of the International Nuclear Safeguards System; and revision of the Land-mines Protocol in the Inhumane Weapons Convention.

**UN special  
commission conducts  
inspection of  
chemical weapons**



GAMMA



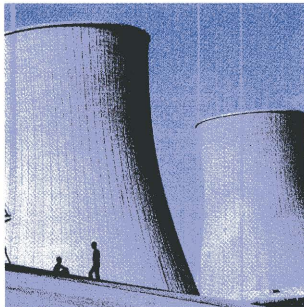
GAMMA

## The Euratom role

The Euratom Treaty, which set up the European Atomic Energy Community, one of the component parts of the European Union, lays down a legal framework for the development of the Community's activities in the civil uses of nuclear energy. It provides specific Community competence for applying the nuclear safeguards rules of the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Within the 15 member countries of the EU it is the task of European Commission inspectors, working under Euratom rules, to apply rigorous controls on the movement of all fissile material. This work is carried out in close collaboration with the IAEA.

Euratom collaboration with the Agency dates back to the mid-'70s. It is based on the Framework Agreement for Cooperation, which was signed in 1976, and the New Partnership Approach of 1992, which led to full recognition of Euratom as a regional safeguards system under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, while reducing the level of IAEA inspection effort.



ARTHUR / PHOTO NEWS

**Ensuring the safe  
use of nuclear power**

## International conventions

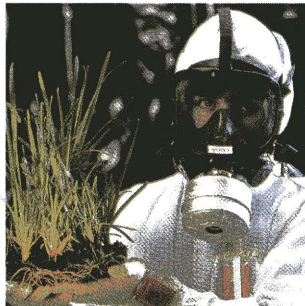
The Community has an interest in several international conventions on nuclear safety which have been established under the auspices of the IAEA. It is a contracting party to the convention on the physical protection of nuclear material (1980) and is expected to become a party to the 1986 conventions on early notification of nuclear accidents and mutual assistance. The Commission has also proposed that the EC should approve a convention on safety of land-based nuclear power stations.

## Nuclear safety

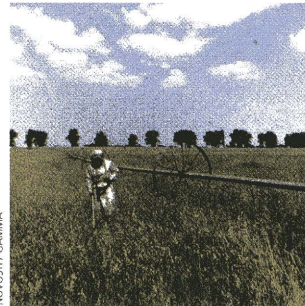
**The Community's Common Research Centre** is also actively involved with the IAEA safeguards and nuclear safety work. Ongoing cooperation with the Agency is among the objectives of the 1994-98 nuclear fission safety programme and the research programmes of the two organisations are largely complementary, with reciprocal participation in each other's programmes.

**A joint conference is planned in 1996 to mark the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident**, where progress will be reviewed on efforts to mitigate the effects of the disaster and try to prevent a similar event in the future.

**Both the IAEA and the EC** are concerned about illegal trafficking of nuclear materials. They are cooperating at the technical level in exchanging expertise in detection technology, as well as passing on information to each other on specific smuggling cases.



PATRICK LANDMANN / GAMMA



NOVOSTI / GAMMA

**Action is being taken to avert the risk of another Chernobyl**



**A savage  
harvest:  
anti-personnel  
mines**





## **Joint Action on anti-personnel mines**

In May 1995 the European Union agreed a Joint Action on anti-personnel mines, which are a terrible scourge in areas of conflict and a major obstacle to any return to normality. According to latest estimates, there are about 110 million land mines spread in 64 countries around the world; between two and five million more are being «sown» every year. The United Nations estimates that each month these mines kill more than 800 people, most of them civilians, and maim many thousands more. UN Secretary General Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali convened a meeting in Geneva in July 1995 to stimulate action.

**There are two aspects to the problem: cutting off the supply of mines to areas of conflict, and mine clearance. The Joint Action seeks to tackle both:**

- **The Joint Action** imposes a moratorium on the export of certain categories of anti-personnel mine;
- **The Joint Action** calls for revision of the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons;
- **The Joint Action** commits funds to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance.

The EU and Member States together have already contributed \$9 million to the \$20 million Trust Fund - by far the largest contribution - and the Community is already active in mine clearance. It has spent some \$30 million on clearance projects, usually as part of its wider development, rehabilitation and humanitarian programmes, working very closely with the appropriate UN agencies.



**Children are the  
innocent victims of  
anti-personnel mines,  
of which 110 million  
are still concealed**

## Mine-clearance operations

In Afghanistan, for example, where an effective clearance programme is run under the auspices of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan, the European Community is

the largest single financial donor. It is one of the largest contributors to mine-clearance operations in Cambodia and has recently carried out a country study there as a preliminary to a major mine-clearance initiative over the next two years. It is also active in Laos, Angola, Eritrea, Mozambique, Somalia and Zimbabwe.



GAMMA

**Demining operations are long-term and high risk programmes**

### MINE DETECTION

The sheer number of sown mines in a country like Afghanistan will take generations to clear unless detection can be speeded up. The European Commission Joint Research Centre at Ispra in Italy is working on various projects which could help to detect anti-personnel mines more efficiently and safely.

Ispra's Institute for Remote Sensing Applications has been conducting research on detection of buried objects by ground-penetrating radars and more advanced imaging systems, and has carried out work on airborne sensors. It may become the focus for further work in close association with the United Nations.

## **The war against drugs and organised crime**

Police cooperation for the purposes of preventing and combating unlawful drug-trafficking and other serious forms of international crime are matters of common interest to the Member States. The framework for this cooperation is established by the Treaty on European Union in the fields of justice and home affairs.

The Community is a contracting party to the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Drug Trafficking, and is actively involved in the fight against traffic in narcotics and precursors - the chemical substances used in synthetic drugs manufacture. **The European Commission works closely with the UN's International Narcotics Control Board.**

The EC's trade and development policies also play a role in the fight against trade in narcotics: certain Latin American countries are offered generalised preferences in recognition of their action against drugs. About \$3.1 million (2.6 MECU) was provided from the Community budget in 1994 for a range of UN initiatives against narcotics cultivation in Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, in Asia and the Mediterranean. A major scheme for alternative development in the Bekaa Valley in the Lebanon was mounted by the UN Drugs Control Programme with EU support of \$1.6 million (1.4 MECU).



NOVOVITCH / GAMMA

**The EC plays its part in the war on narcotics**



FRANCIS APESTEGUY / GAMMA

**Cooperation between police forces is increasingly important**

## STATUS OF PARTICIPATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO THE MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS DEPOSITED WITH THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

| CONVENTION  | DATE     | ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CONVENTION                             | EC SIGNATURE | DATE OF SD/R/AD/AC/AP/ NOT/CONF/ Not. Prov. Ap./ FOR THE EC (1) | ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR THE EC          |
|---|----------|--|--------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets ( <b>TIR Convention</b> ). Geneva, 14 November 1975   | 14/11/75 | 20/03/78   | 30/12/76     | AP 20/12/82   | 20/06/83                             |
| Convention on <b>Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution</b> . Geneva, 13 November 1979  | 13/11/79 | 16/03/83   | 14/11/79     | AP 15/7/82  | 16/03/83                             |
| Agreement establishing the <b>Common Fund for Commodities</b> . Geneva, 27 June 1980  | 27/06/80 | 19/06/89   | 21/10/81     | AP 6/7/90   | 6/07/90                              |
| International Convention on the <b>Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods</b> . Geneva, 21 October 1982  | 21/10/82 | 15/10/85   | 1/02/84      | R 12/06/87  | 12/09/87                             |
| United Nations Convention on the <b>Law of the Sea</b> . Montego Bay, Jamaica, 10 December 1982   | 10/12/82 | 16/11/94   | 7/12/1984    |   |                                      |
| International Tropical <b>Timber</b> Agreement, 1983. Geneva, 18 November 1983  | 18/11/83 | provisional 1/04/85  | 29/06/84     | Not.Prov.Ap. 29/3/85  | provisional 1/4/85                   |
| <b>Protocol</b> to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range <b>Transboundary Air Pollution</b> on Long-Term Financing of the <b>Co-operative Programme for Monitoring and evaluation of the Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)</b> . Geneva, 28 September 1984 | 28/09/84 | 28/01/88   | 28/09/84     | AP 17/7/86  | 28/01/88                             |
| Vienna Convention for the <b>Protection of the Ozone Layer</b> . Vienna, 22 March 1985  | 22/03/85 | 22/09/88   | 22/03/85     | AP 17/10/88   | 15/01/89                             |
| Terms of Reference of the International <b>Nickel</b> Study Group. 2 May 1986   | 2/05/86  | 23/05/90   |              | AC 14/10/91   |                                      |
| International Agreement on <b>Olive Oil</b> and Table Olives, 1986. Geneva, 1 July 1986   | 1/07/86  | provisional 1/1/87<br>final 1/12/88<br>extended by 93 Protocol |              | SD 12/12/86   | provisional 1/01/87<br>final 1/12/88 |
| International Natural <b>Rubber</b> Agreement, 1987. Geneva, 20 March 1987  | 20/03/87 | provisional 29/12/88<br>final 3/4/89                           | 18/12/87     | Not. Prov. Ap. 22/12/88<br>AP 30/10/92                          | provisional 29/12/88<br>final        |
| <b>Montreal Protocol</b> on Substances that Deplete the <b>Ozone Layer</b> . Montreal, 16 September 1987  | 16/09/87 | 1/01/89  | 16/09/87     | AP 16/12/88   | 16/03/89                             |
| <b>Protocol</b> to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution concerning the <b>Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes</b> . Sofia, 31 October 1988   | 31/10/88 | 14/02/91   |              | AD 17/12/93   | 17/03/94                             |
| United Nations Convention against <b>Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances</b> . Vienna, 20 December 1988   | 20/12/88 | 11/11/90   | 8/06/89      | CF 31/12/90   | 31/03/91                             |
| Terms of Reference of the International <b>Cooper</b> Study Group. 24 February 1989   | 24/02/89 | 23/01/92   |              | AC 6/1/91   | 23/01/92                             |
| <b>Basle Convention</b> on the Control of <b>Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes</b> and their Disposal. Basle, 22 March 1989   | 22/03/89 | 5/05/92  | 22/03/89     | AP 7/02/94  | 8/05/94                              |
| Terms of Reference of the International <b>Tin</b> Study Group. 7 April 1989,   | 7/04/89  | not yet in force   |              | AC 6/1/91   | not yet in force                     |
| International Agreement on <b>Jute</b> and Jute Products, 1989. Geneva, 3 November 1989   | 3/11/89  | provisional 12/4/91  | 20/12/90     | Not.Prov. Ap. 22/3/91<br>AP 30/10/92                            | provisional 12/4/91                  |

| TITLE, PLACE AND DATE OF THE CONVENTION   | DATE     | ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CONVENTION   | EC SIGNATURE | DATE OF SD/R/AD/AC/AP/ NOT/CONF/ Not. Prov. Ap./ FOR THE EC (1) | ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR THE EC          |
|---|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Amendment to the Montreal Protocol</b> on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. London, 29 June 1990  | 29/06/90 | 10/08/92                             |              | AP 20/12/91   | 10/08/92                             |
| Convention on <b>Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context</b> . Espoo (Finland), 25 February 1991   | 25/02/91 | not yet in force                     | 26/02/91     |   |                                      |
| <b>Protocol</b> to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution concerning the <b>Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds</b> or their Transboundary Fluxes. Geneva, 18 November 1991 | 18/11/91 | not yet in force                     | 2/04/92      |   |                                      |
| Agreement on the Conservation of Small <b>Cetaceans</b> of the <b>Baltic and North Seas</b> . New York, 17 March 1992   | 17/03/92 | 29/03/94                             | 7/10/92      |   |                                      |
| Convention on the <b>Protection</b> and Use of <b>Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes</b> . Helsinki, 17 March 1992  | 17/03/92 | not yet in force                     | 18/03/92     |   |                                      |
| Convention on the <b>Transboundary Effect on Industrial Accidents</b> . Helsinki, 17 March 1992   | 17/03/92 | not yet in force                     | 18/03/92     |   |                                      |
| International <b>Sugar</b> Agreement, 1992. Geneva, 20 March 1992.  | 20/03/92 | provisional 20/01/93                 | 20/11/92     | AP 20/11/92   | 20/01/93                             |
| United Nations Framework Convention on <b>Climate Change</b> . New York, 9 May 1992   | 9/05/92  | 21/03/94                             | 13/06/92     | AP 21/12/93   | 21/03/94                             |
| Convention on <b>Biological Diversity</b> . Rio de Janeiro, 5 June 1992   | 5/06/92  | 29/12/93                             | 13/06/92     | AP 21/12/93   | 21/03/94                             |
| <b>Protocol</b> of 1993 extending the International Agreement on <b>olive oil</b> and table olives, 1986, with amendments. Geneva, 10 March 1993  | 10/03/93 | provisional 26/1/94<br>final 25/3/94 | 21/12/93     | AP 21/12/93   | provisional 26/1/94<br>final 25/3/94 |
| International Agreement on <b>olive oil</b> and table olives, 1986, as amended and extended, 1993. Geneva, 10 March 1993  | 10/03/93 | provisional 26/1/94<br>final 25/3/94 |              | AP 21/12/93   | provisional 26/1/94<br>final 25/3/94 |
| International <b>Cocoa</b> Agreement, 1993. Geneva, 16 July 1993  | 16/07/93 | provisional 22/2/94                  | 16/02/94     | Not. Prov. Ap.  | provisional 22/2/94                  |
| Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers used in International Transport ( <b>Container Pool Convention</b> ). Geneva, 21 January 1994  | 21/01/94 | not yet in force                     |              | SD 12/04/95   |                                      |
| International <b>Coffee</b> Agreement 1994. London, 30 March 1994   | 30/03/94 | provisional 1/10/94                  | 19/09/94     | AP 19/9/94  | provisional 1/10/94                  |
| Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions. ( <b>Sulphur Protocol</b> ). Oslo, 13 June 1994  | 13/06/94 | not yet in force                     | 13/06/94     |   |                                      |
| Convention to combat <b>desertification</b> in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in <b>Africa</b> . Paris, 17 June 1994   | 17/06/94 | not yet in force                     | 14/10/94     |   |                                      |
| Agreement relating to the <b>implementation of part XI</b> of the United Nations Convention on the <b>Law of the Sea</b> of 10 December 1982. New York, 28 July 1994  | 28/07/94 | provisional 16/11/94                 | 29/07/94     | Not. Prov. Ap.<br>16/11/94                                      | provisional<br>16/11/94              |
| <b>International Grains Agreement</b> , 1995. <b>Grains Trade Convention</b> , 1995. London, 7 December 1994  | 7/12/94  | 1/7/95                               | 30/06/95     | Not. Prov. Ap.<br>30/6/95                                       | provisional 1/7/95                   |
| <b>International Grains Agreement</b> , 1995. <b>Food Aid Convention</b> , 1995. London, 7 December 1994  | 7/12/94  | 1/7/95                               | 30/06/95     | Not. Prov. Ap.<br>30/6/95                                       | provisional<br>1/7/95                |

SD = Definitive signature, R = Ratification, AD = Accession, AC = Acceptance, AP = Approval, NOT = Notification, CONF = Formal Confirmation, NOT AP PROV = Notification of Provisional Application



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