

EuropeAid

Commission approves € 145 million for governance and employment sector in South Africa

Today, the European Commission has approved € 145 million to be provided to the Government of South Africa to improve justice, provide legislative support and create employment.

The four programmes that will be financed in 2008 are consistent with the goal of the Joint Country Strategy Paper (2007-2013) on development co-operation between the European Union and South Africa to reduce poverty and inequality through employment creation, better service delivery and promoting good governance.

The EU works in South Africa in many areas, including social service delivery, governance, private sector development and capacity building. Emphasis is placed on innovative approaches, best practices, risk-taking, pilot programmes, systems development, capacity building and above all skills and knowledge transfers. Improving service delivery by means of innovative delivery mechanisms and capacity building is especially important at local level.

In 2008, four programmes will be financed for a total amount of € 145 million. The first programme focuses on employment creation through a sector policy budget support operation of € 100 million. In the area of governance two operations for a total amount of € 40 million will be financed. The first being a Sector Policy Support Programme in favour of the South African legislative institutions (central and provincial Parliaments). The second operation consists of direct support to civil society organisations as well as indirect support through the Department of Justice. The last programme, the so called Trade Development and Cooperation Agreement Facility of € 5 million completes the Annual Action Programme, addressing the need to strengthen and develop the EU-South Africa relations beyond development co-operation.

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