



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

Press Release

European Commission provides € 1,200,000 for natural disaster preparedness in Cambodia

The European Commission has allocated around €1.2 million (about \$1.5 million) to 4 projects in Cambodia that address measures to reduce the impact of droughts and floods in the most exposed communities across the country. The projects will benefit around 120,000 people. The funds will be channelled through the European Commission's humanitarian aid department (ECHO) under the direct responsibility of European Commissioner Mr Louis Michel.

The allocation for Cambodia is part of the €7 million overall budget of the 5th Disaster Preparedness ECHO (DIPECHO) Action Plan for South-East Asia, which targets approximately 1.5 million beneficiaries in the most vulnerable communities in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam. The Action Plan aims to improve the capacities of communities with the highest risk levels for natural disasters and the lowest coping capacities, to better prepare for and protect themselves against natural disasters.

Through DIPECHO the European Commission has funded 16 disaster risk reduction projects in Cambodia since 1998 and 5 on a regional level benefiting tens of thousands of people and strengthening the capacity of local authorities and organisations such as the Cambodian Red Cross, and disaster management committees at the national, provincial and district level. The projects are carried out by humanitarian organisations in conjunction with the local authorities and communities.

The strategy of this 5th DIPECHO Action Plan for South-East Asia was defined in close co-operation with implementing non governmental and International Organisations, local authorities and other stakeholders, within the framework of National Consultative Meetings.

For more information, please contact Mr Seth VAN DOORN at the Delegation of the European Commission in Phnom Penh: email seth.van-doom@ec.europa.eu tel. 023-216996.

About the European Commission: *The European Commission is the executive arm of the European Union. Since the signing of the Paris Peace Accords in October 1991, the Commission has granted more than 478 million Euro in aid to Cambodia. This aid is additional to that granted bilaterally by individual EU Member States, and covers a broad range of sectors, such as humanitarian assistance, health, education, rural development, human resource development, the environment, mine clearance, democratisation and human rights.*

The fundamental objective of EU development co-operation policy *is to foster sustainable development designed to eradicate poverty in developing countries and to integrate them into the world economy. This can only be achieved by pursuing policies that promote the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights.*