



## European Union

Delegation of the European Commission to the Kingdom of Cambodia

### News release

Phnom Penh, 8 November 2004

For Immediate Release

#### **European Union provides 500,000 Euro to support Cambodia's efforts to improve exports**

In Phnom Penh today, the Senior Minister, Minister of Commerce of the Royal Government of Cambodia, HE Cham Prasidh signed the agreement that will enable the European Commission to provide assistance to the Royal Government of Cambodia in the area of standards, quality and conformity assessment. Ambassador Klauspeter Schmallenbach, Head of the European Commission Delegation to the Kingdom of Cambodia initialled the document, which has already been signed by Erich W. Muller, Director for Asia of the EuropAid Cooperation Office.

The € 500.000 project will develop the capacity of Cambodia in this field by providing technical assistance and advice on International and European best practices in the fields of standards, testing, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment principles and practices. These are essential elements in the development of Cambodia's export infrastructure. In particular, this project aims at:

- a) raising the ability of Cambodia to operate the WTO SPS and TBT inquiry points;
- b) guaranteeing compliance of Cambodian products with the EU regulations in the field of Food Safety for exported products;
- c) increasing Cambodia's capacity to implement the first Regional and Harmonised ASEAN Directive for the Cosmetic products.

The project will involve the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health.

At the signing ceremony, Ambassador Schmallenbach declared: "Now that Cambodia is a Member of WTO, Cambodia's products will need to become more competitive to find its place in the international market. This project will enable the Royal Government of Cambodia to support the diversification and the development of the economy, which is a prerequisite to reducing poverty and improving the living standards of the Cambodian population".

Since the signing of the Paris Peace Accords in October 1991 the amount of aid granted to Cambodia by the European Commission - the executive arm of the EU - has been in excess of 300 million Euro. This aid is supplemented by 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.

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For more information on EU-Cambodia relations see the website  
of the Delegation of the European Commission at [www.delkhm.cec.eu.int](http://www.delkhm.cec.eu.int)  
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