EU support to the African Union Mission in Darfur - AMIS

The European Union and its Member States have supported the efforts by the African Union (AU) to stabilise the situation in Darfur/Sudan with a wide range of measures since January 2004. This support has included financial, personnel and political support to the Abuja peace talks process and the Ceasefire Commission as well as assistance with planning and equipment and technical and financial support to the African Union's mission in Sudan / Darfur (AMIS).

The EU provided a consolidated package of civilian and military measures to support AMIS from July 2005 to December 2007, in response to a request from the AU. This EU supporting action continued until the end of December 2007 when the African Union mission's mandate ended and AMIS handed over to the joint AU/UN peacekeeping operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1769 (2007).

Under the mandate for this EU action (see the Council Joint Action) the EU and its Member States provided effective and rapid assistance to AMIS and supported the AU's political, military and police efforts aimed at addressing the crisis in Darfur. During its two-and-a-half-year term, the EU action made available equipment and assets, provided planning and technical assistance and deployed military observers. It trained African troops, helped with tactical and strategic transportation and provided police assistance and training.

The EU deployed several dozen military and civilian personnel to AMIS during the two-and-a-half-year mandate. This personnel comprised, on average, 30 police officers, 15 military experts and two military observers. In addition, military staff, a police officer and a political advisor were made available to support the EU Special Representative for Sudan in Addis Ababa (see below) in his contacts and cooperation with the AU.

EU High Representative Javier Solana visits Darfur, October 2005

The EU AMIS police assistance team assisted the AU at its Headquarters in Addis Ababa, at the AMIS Headquarters in Khartoum, at the AMIS forward Headquarters in El Fasher and at several AMIS sector sites. Its purpose was to support the AMIS Civilian Police (CIVPOL) chain of command, the training of CIVPOL personnel and the development of a police unit within the AU Secretariat.

During the same period, EU Member States provided coordinated strategic airlifts for well over 2,000 AU personnel.

The EU committed a total of over EUR 300 million from the African Peace Facility in support of AMIS from June 2004 to December 2007. This funded personnel costs including salaries, allowances, insurance, travel, food rations and medical costs.

In addition, EU Member States made substantial bilateral contributions, financial as well as in kind - including expertise, equipment, food rations and airlifts - taking the overall EU contribution to AMIS to some EUR 500 million for the period 2004-2007.

The EU has had a Special Representative (EUSR) for Sudan since July 2005. As part of his mandate, the EUSR (Torben Brylle since May 2007) coordinated the EU's contributions to AMIS, with the assistance of a team of EU military and police advisers in Addis Ababa.

The African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) was deployed in May 2004 to monitor the humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement of 2004 and subsequent agreements, to assist in confidence-building and to contribute to a secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian aid and the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, thereby contributing to overall security in Darfur. The mission was expanded and given an enhanced mandate, becoming AMIS II, in October 2004. AMIS II was further expanded in April 2005.

(Photos: Council of the EU)