



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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Council extends measures concerning the Fiji Islands by another six months

Today the Council extended by six months the measures in place since 2007 for the Republic of the Fiji Islands in order to assist the country's return to democracy, respect of human rights and the rule of law ([13283/10](#)). This decision follows the continued lack of progress in implementing key commitments Fiji had agreed with the EU in 2007. These commitments regard mainly the respect of democratic principles, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The measures extended today were first put in place on 1 October 2007, in the wake of the military takeover on 5 December 2006. This takeover constituted a violation of democracy and the rule of law, both essential elements of the Cotonou Agreement, which governs relations between the EU and Fiji Islands. It is the third extension of the measures, which will now apply until 31 March 2011.

These measures aim at bringing about a transition to democracy and rule of law in the Republic of the Fiji Islands. The EU will maintain humanitarian operations and direct support to civil society and democracy building. Cooperation projects that were already initiated in 2007 are executed as planned. However, Fiji's sugar allowances for the years 2007 to 2010 have been cancelled. Moreover, as long as the commitments on human rights and the rule of law are not fulfilled, no new funds from the 10th European development fund can be allocated.

Given the deteriorating economic and social situation and in particular a significant increase in poverty, the EU is currently examining possibilities for direct support to vulnerable populations, not channelled through the Fijian government.

The EU will continue to closely monitor the situation in Fiji in the next six months.

P R E S S
