

# 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2014 EUROPE DAY EUROPE IN THE WORLD



Pakistan

## Priorities

Since the adoption in 2012 by the EU and Pakistan of the 5-Year Engagement Plan, political and security relations are increasingly prioritized. The Engagement Plan is intended to strengthen EU-Pakistan relations by intensifying dialogues across priority areas including: political cooperation; security; governance, human rights; migration; trade and energy.

Trade is an essential element in EU-Pakistan relations. From January 2014 Pakistan has been granted preferential access to EU's market under GSP+ - a trade scheme, which offers trade incentives to vulnerable developing countries to implement core international conventions on human and labour rights, sustainable development and good governance.

The EU and its Member States provide development assistance to Pakistan in a wide range of areas such as education, rural development, good governance, including the rule of law and the strengthening of democratic institutions, as well as disaster management and rehabilitation, with the aim of ensuring stability and promoting economic growth.

## Top 3 Facts

- **The EU and Pakistan** upgraded political relations with agreement on an ambitious Engagement Plan in 2012 and the start of a regular ministerial-level Strategic Dialogue.

- **The EU is Pakistan's largest trading partner. Overall EU-Pakistan** bilateral trade amounted to € 8.2 billion in 2012. The EU's main imports from Pakistan are textiles and textile products, hides and skins and vegetables.

- EU development assistance to Pakistan under the new **multiannual financial framework for 2014-2020** is expected to increase.

Together with Member States, the annual EU contribution for development and humanitarian assistance since 2010 has been on average about **€ 600 million per year**.

## Did you know?

**Pakistan was formed in 1947** following the partition of British India. Pakistan is a federation of four provinces (Baluchistan, Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), the Islamabad capital territory and the federally administered tribal areas (FATAs). Until 1971, Pakistan also included the territory of what is now Bangladesh.

Pakistan has the world's sixth largest population, estimated at approximately **190 million**.

**Pakistan formally became the world's first "Islamic Republic" in 1956.**

While Urdu is the national language and English the official language, as many as 70 languages, indigenous to the country, are spoken in different parts of Pakistan.

Following lengthy periods of military rule during its history, Pakistan is now a democracy.

**The May 2013** elections resulted in the first ever transition from one democratically elected government to another and marked the strengthening of democracy in the country.

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## Main links:

Pakistan on EEAS Internet:

[http://eeas.europa.eu/pakistan/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/pakistan/index_en.htm)

EU Delegation of Pakistan:

[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/pakistan/index_en.htm)

Trade relations:

<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/pakistan/>

Development and cooperation:

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/asia/country-cooperation/pakistan/pakistan\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/asia/country-cooperation/pakistan/pakistan_en.htm)

Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection:

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/aid/asia/pakistan\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/aid/asia/pakistan_en.htm)

Website of the Government:

<http://www.pakistan.gov.pk/gop/index.php?q=aHR0cDovLzE5Mi4xNjguNzAuMTM2L2dvcC8%3D>