

EC Assistance: From 2003 to 2008 the COM support amounted to €33 million (DCI and ECHO funds). Assistance has been principally channeled through the IRFFI – the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq, administered by the UN and the World Bank. EC is now the largest contributor to IRFFI. Since 2008 no funds have been channelled through IRFFI. In March 2009 Iraqi Government (Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation) signed the **first-ever Financing Agreement with the EC** which provides the legal basis for 2008 technical assistance to the Iraqi institutions. Allocation for Iraq in 2008 was €104.1 mio (including humanitarian assistance) focusing on **capacity building to Iraqi institutions** and ministries, **basic services** and support to **IDPs** and **refugees** in Jordan and Syria (two thirds of the 2008 allocation - €73.5m to the latest). EC has played a crucial role in supporting **Iraqi political process** (€3.8m since 2004, mostly implemented through the UN), **rule of law** (€14 mio) and elections (in 2005 and to prepare the upcoming elections - €20m). In January 2009 EC deployed two electoral experts to Baghdad to monitor the provincial elections process and is considering the same for the elections in three Kurdish provinces.

Table 1: EC overall support to Iraq (figures in € million)

	AIDCO	RELEX	Total	ECHO	Total
2003	34.0	8.0	42.0	100.0	142.0
2004	162.5	14.0	176.5	-	176.5
2005	200.0	-	200.0	-	200.0
2006	200.0	-	200.0	-	200.0
2007	89.7	3.0	92.7	17.8	110.5
Total	686.2	25.0	711.2	117.8	829.0
2008	72.6*	1.5	74.1	30.0	104.1
Total	758.8	26.5	785.3	147.8	933.1

Table 2: EC Assistance to refugees/IDPs (figures in € million)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Reconstruction	-	-	1.4	10.7	38.68	43.5*	94.28
Humanitarian	100	-	-	-	17.80	30.0	147.8
Total	100	-	1.4	10.7	56.48	73.5	242.08

EUJUST LEX: is a civilian crisis management operation under the auspices of the European Security and Defense Policy. Established in 2005 and extended until the end of 2009 EUJUST LEX provides training (courses organized by Member States) to senior

Iraqi officials from the criminal justice system. As from the mid 2009 some pilot in-country activities are foreseen.

The EC 2007 Rule of Law project: just getting underway (€14m) is complementary to EUJUST LEX. The programme has three pillars: Support to Judicial Institutions (Ministry of Justice, Judicial Training Institute and of the Higher Judicial Council, establishing pilot courts in Basra and Erbil), Support to the Human Rights National Protection System (Programme for the Protection of Detainees and Torture Victims), and Support to Non-Governmental Institutions (establishing Legal Aid Centres).

Iraq after 2008 – a shift in the EC assistance strategy: The proposed EC action in Iraq over the next five years would begin with a two year programme for 2009/2010, based on institution building in the fields of governance, rule of law and basic services (health, education) with cross-cutting issues like human rights, gender balance and child protection taken into account. This would be followed by a three-year Strategy Paper / multiannual programme (2011-2013) with a similar approach. Since Iraq does not lack financial resources, EC assistance will be based on the best European experience in capacity and institution building. All these components, together with the Iraqi eagerness to actively participate in and co-finance European projects, should help Iraq strive towards sustainable development goals. The programmes would target the institutional strengthening of the Iraqi administration in order to better mobilize and effectively use its own vast resources to improve the welfare of the Iraqi people and rebuild its infrastructure. Regarding the refugees and IDPs the EC focus in 2009/2010 will be on helping Iraq create a favourable environment to enable return. The needs of the displaced will be also integrated in actions covering all sectors. For the period of 2009-2010 European Commission's **budget to development cooperation** with Iraq amounts to **€65.8 million.**