

# Dialogue

The EU appointed a Special Representative in 2005 whose task is to create and sustain dialogue with partner governments and with civil society.

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# Partnership projects

To improve the lives of the people of Central Asia, the EU has partnered with the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and other international bodies such as the UNDP and the OSCE. Recent projects carried out by the EU include:

- ▶ boosting primary healthcare for mothers and children;
- ▶ speeding up sector reforms to boost education and vocational training;
- ▶ supporting minorities by training teachers in multicultural education;
- ▶ promoting human rights education, training police and supporting judicial reforms, including prison reform;
- ▶ making social protection systems more effective;
- ▶ improving treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts, including those in prisons;
- ▶ advising on transport issues and border management, with the aim of improved movement of persons and goods;
- ▶ promoting better management of water resources.



# Cooperation tools

This is underpinned by the **Central Asia Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)**, which has a budget of €719 million for 2007-13. The DCI aims to:

- ▶ raise living standards in line with United Nations development goals;
- ▶ improve food security and the management of water resources;
- ▶ encourage sustainable energy and development;
- ▶ promote democracy, good governance, human rights and the rule of law;
- ▶ boost trade and regional integration;
- ▶ help prevent crises and assist with asylum and migration issues.



The EU has launched **Partnership and Cooperation Agreements** with each country in the region.

These treaties aim to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and to help partner countries adopt EU standards wherever possible. They involve:

- ▶ political dialogue;
- ▶ trade and economic relations;
- ▶ cooperation in numerous sectors.

Recognising the importance of dealing with the region as a whole, the EU adopted a new political approach in June 2007, launching its "Strategy for a New Partnership".



Central Asia shares many common interests with the EU, such as energy security and the diversification of supplies of oil, gas, uranium and renewable energy.

Stretching from the Caspian Sea to the 'Golden Crescent' of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, the region faces major challenges.

These include terrorism, international organised crime, and the trafficking of people, weapons and drugs. Addressing these problems is key to Europe's security.

Stronger relations with Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are therefore a priority for the European Union.

