



# EU-DJIBOUTI RELATIONS



The European Union is a primary international partner of Djibouti, providing support through grant aid to improve access to water, sanitation, resilience and food security.

Promoting peace and security in the region is also central to European involvement, as Djibouti is the EU's logistics base for its anti-piracy operation, Operation Atalanta.

## POLITICAL RELATIONS



The European Union and the Republic of Djibouti are working together to stabilise the Horn of Africa, particularly through AMISOM and Operation Atalanta. The EU and Djibouti both support IGAD, encouraging it to become more effective in such areas as peace, security and regional integration.

As part of the political dialogue provided for under Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement and also through various direct form of bilateral/multilateral engagement, the **EU and its Member States promote democracy, the rule of law and respect for civil liberties in Djibouti.**

## ECONOMIC RELATIONS




Djibouti is also taking part in negotiations between the EU and East and Southern Africa to create an economic partnership. Djibouti is not a signatory to the European Union's economic partnership agreements (EPA), but discussions are scheduled to take place with eligible countries.

The Djibouti government has announced that it wishes to reform its public sector institutions to make them more efficient in terms of economic and financial management. In particular, this means modernising the rules of governance for companies and public sector institutions by encouraging management autonomy with a view to enhancing their executive bodies' transparency, efficiency and responsibility.

With regard to the PEPER project, '**Producing Safe Drinking Water with Renewable Energy**', the financing agreement covers sector-specific reforms in the areas of water and electricity. These reforms target the technical and financial viability of companies and public sector institutions (Djibouti National Water and Sanitation Agency – ONEAD and Djibouti Electricity Authority – EDD). After a slow beginning, the construction of the desalination plant is currently on-going in good pace and from the end of 2020 the city of Djibouti will benefit of 22.500 cubic meter of drinkable water each day. Discussion has started with EIB in order to finance a second phase which could double the production of water by using the same infrastructure.

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

With regard to the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), the National Indicative Programme (NIP) is in line with the long-term objectives outlined in 'Djibouti Vision 2035' and the national programme for food security. Given the considerable strain on natural resources facing Djibouti, the EU has chosen to invest €110 million in two focal sectors: **(i) water, sanitation and (ii) food security, and the non- focal sector**: Governance, Support to Civil Society, Migration, Gender, private sector and vocational training ), in order to address the country's structural challenges. This also means that development benefits the most disadvantaged populations.



Djibouti benefits also from the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. The first project amounts to €10 million, and aims at supporting technical and logistics jobs in the transport sector with a particular focus on Djibouti port. Two other projects (**15 + 8; total EUR 23 M**) are supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugees Response Framework (CRRF) by the Republic of Djibouti: the President committed officially at the 2016 United Nations World Assembly to translate this concept into reality, awarding for the refugees the same access as the Djiboutian citizens to the social services and facilities.

The EU is also committed to promoting stability and peace in Djibouti and the region, in particular with regard to maritime security. There are several large-scale initiatives to support the country's efforts to fight piracy. The most well-known is Operation Atalanta, which joins the forces of several EU countries.