

**7 March 2007**

### **EC welcomes ratification of EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement**

The European Commission has welcomed the news of the ratification of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA) by the Kingdom of Morocco. The agreement will enter into force immediately and will run for a period of four years.

The EU/Morocco FPA is a mixed agreement which covers six categories of fisheries, providing fishing opportunities on pelagic species and small pelagic and demersal species, for vessels ranging in scale from artisanal to industrial. In return, the annual EU financial contribution will be €36,100,000, of which over a third (€13,500,000) is earmarked for support to the Moroccan national fisheries policy. In addition to the financial contribution from the EU, a payment of approximately €3,400,000 is expected from European ship owners in the form of licence fees. A joint committee will be established, notably to agree a multi-annual sectoral programme for fisheries and to monitor its implementation. A meeting of the joint committee will be held on Thursday 8 March, in Rabat.

This agreement is an important part of the EU bilateral fisheries agreements. It will strengthen the relations in the fisheries sector between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco. The last fisheries Agreement with Morocco expired in 1999.

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**8 March, 2007**

### **Algeria Country Strategy Paper and NIP published**

Two new documents have been published concerning the further development of relations between the EU and Algeria within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

These are the Country Strategy Paper for Algeria, establishing a strategic framework for cooperation under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) over the period 2007-2013, and the National Indicative Programme (NIP), which is the Commission's operational response for the period 2007-2010.

The NIP, with an indicative amount of €220 million, sets out the objectives, expected results and conditions to be met in the priority areas of cooperation.