



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Luxembourg, 17 October 2006
14087/06 (Presse 292)

Council approves financing instrument to provide more than EUR 11 billion for European neighbourhood policy

The Council adopted a regulation establishing, and laying down general provisions for, a European neighbourhood and partnership instrument for the 2007-13 period, following an agreement reached with the European Parliament in first reading.

The regulation establishes a legal framework for the provision of Community assistance to support the EU's European neighbourhood policy. It is intended to support the development of an area of prosperity and good neighbourly relations involving both the European Union and the following countries and territories: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Russian Federation, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine.

A total of EUR 11.181 billion over seven years will be provided from the Community budget for implementation of the regulation, of which at least 95 per cent will be allocated to country and multi-country programmes, and up to 5 per cent will be devoted to cross-border cooperation programmes.

P R E S S

The regulation will apply as from 1 January 2007.

The European neighbourhood and partnership instrument is part of a new framework for planning and delivering assistance in order to make EU's external assistance more effective. The framework also includes:

- an instrument for pre-accession assistance to candidate countries and countries that are potential candidates for membership of the EU;
 - a development cooperation instrument;
 - an instrument for industrialised and other high-income countries and territories;
 - a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide;
 - an instrument for stability.
-