



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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**EU-Pakistan
Joint Declaration
Berlin, 08 February 2007**

The EU and Pakistan welcome their ministerial meeting today as representing a positive new step in strengthening their relations. Both the EU and Pakistan face enormous challenges in the coming years, and fully recognise the importance of working together.

The relationship between the EU and Pakistan is based upon a commitment to democracy, peace and stability, development, the enhancement of trade links, and a respect for human rights. These are principles enshrined in the 2004 Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan¹. Both sides gladly look forward now to moving ahead with the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement, in the belief that it may help to promote socio-economic development and prosperity in Pakistan.

¹ The Cooperation Agreement is published in the Official Journal of the EU, L 378 of 23 December 2004.

P R E S S

As a first, practical step, both sides look forward to holding the first EC-Pakistan Joint Commission under the 2004 Cooperation Agreement. This should take place in Islamabad as soon as possible in 2007. This will be the opportunity to strengthen the cooperation dialogue between the two sides, including in the field of trade.

Beyond this, the EU and Pakistan express their resolution to develop relations in areas not covered by their 2004 Cooperation Agreement. In particular, the two sides undertake to develop a broad, formalised political dialogue, aimed at improving mutual understanding through regular contacts, exchanges and consultations. This shall particularly take the following forms:

- Regular ministerial level dialogue to discuss strategic and other issues.
- In between the ministerial meetings, senior officials from both sides (Political and Regional Directors, as appropriate) will meet to ensure follow-up.
- Expert level meetings in a variety of policy areas, including:
 - interfaith dialogue;
 - counter-terrorism;
 - counter-narcotics;
 - non-proliferation;
 - human rights and good governance.

- Encouraging development of contacts at parliamentary level.

The EU and Pakistan have agreed to exchange experience in the fields of political and economic governance, as well as human rights and the rule of law. Furthermore, both sides have agreed to cooperate in the promotion of regional peace, stability and security. To this end, the EU and Pakistan reaffirm their commitment to the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with international law, bilateral agreements and the principles of the UN Charter. Both sides are also committed to the elimination of poverty in Pakistan, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals.
