# EC/Cambodia agreement: cooperation agreement

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OBJECTIVE: conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the Community and Cambodia. SUBSTANCE: The agreement initialled by the Community and Cambodia on 7 November 1996 is based on respect for human rights and democratic principles. It has three objectives: . the strengthening and diversification of trade relations: reciprocal granting of most-favoured nation status for trade in goods, save as regards advantages accorded within the context of customs unions or free trade areas, trade arrangements with neighbouring countries or specific obligations under international commodity agreements. This will be supplemented by the application of the system of generalized preferences for least developed countries, of which Cambodia is one for various products. Trade cooperation shall also involve improving market access in the field of maritime transport, cooperation between the customs authorities and the exchange of information on potential outlets. With regard to industrial, commercial or intellectual property Cambodia undertakes to accede to the relevant international conventions. Economic cooperation seeks to encourage investment programmes in the public and private sectors, the transfer of technologies and contacts between enterprises and economic operators; . the stepping up of development cooperation: the aim is to assist Cambodia to improve the economic position of its population (in particular the poorest sections). At the same time steps will be taken in order to reconstruct the country (in particular the transport infrastructures). The Union will continue its mine clearance programme and in the programmes to alleviate poverty priority will be given to the creation of jobs, local development, promotion of women, the prevention of AIDS, health service capacity and the enhancement of skills. With regard to drugs, the agreement provides for assistance for the prevention of addiction and the exchange of information on drug precursors; . the strengthening of methods for the sustainable management of the environment and natural resources, in particular forests: support for the drawing up of effective legislative measures, action against logging. The agreement also includes other types of cooperation: agriculture, energy, regional cooperation, science and technology, drugs and money laundering, infrastructures, information, communication and culture. With regard to institutional aspects, the agreement establishes a joint committee composed of members of the Commission and representatives of the Member States and Cambodia which meets every two years to set the priority objectives of the agreements and to monitor its proper implementation. The agreement includes a future developments clause, but does not provide for political dialogue between the parties. DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT: initially for five years, subject to tacit renewal.