



PR/21/8/05

21 August 2005  
(PRESS 09) 1350/1812 AAcD

## Press Release

**For immediate release**

### **The European Commission supports UNDP Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility Programme with 7.5 million euros**

The European Commission (EC) signed a contract today at the office of the Delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to fund the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility Programme. The EC will contribute 7.5 million euros (taka 60.06 crore) toward 9.9 million euros (taka 79,34 crore) of the total project cost.

Ambassador Esko Kentrschynskyj, Head of the EC Delegation and Mr Jorgen Lissner, UNDP Resident Representative signed the contract on behalf of the respective side.

This funding decision reflects the EC's commitment to supporting development and confidence-building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Furthermore it displays the close EC-UNDP partnership, which is based on three major ingredients for successful development assistance in Bangladesh: technical know-how, financial resources and socio-political commitment.

The CHT Peace Accord signed in 1997 marked a turning point in the history of the region. Today, there is a need to consolidate the peace process through effective development assistance and confidence-building measures. The Prime Minister's approval of the UNDP Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility Programme opened the door for development in the region. The timely support of the EU now enables development work in the CHT to proceed with an even greater sense of urgency and priority across a wide range of needs and opportunities at community and institutional levels.

-End-

For more information, please contact  
Mr. Fabrizio Senesi, Programme Officer  
Delegation of the European Commission  
Tel: 8824730 – Ext. 114

---

Tel : (880-2) 882 4730  
Fax : (880-2) 882 3118  
Bangladesh@cec.eu.int

<http://www.eudelbangladesh.org>

Post Box No : GN 6086  
e-mail : Delegation-