

Aid Programme

The European Commission announced in June that it had cleared Euro 216 million in aid for Indonesia as part of a five-year co-operation programme.

The Country Strategy Paper for 2002-2006, which provides the framework for relations with Indonesia, aims to consolidate democracy by improving “good governance” and to ensure the preservation of natural resources.

The Programme deals with what the Commission sees as the most pressing problems facing Indonesia: unstable government, poor management of resources, a rising population and a subdued investment climate.

Good governance is seen to include democracy, economic liberalisation, and enhancing the rule of law and public administration, with a particular accent on provi-

sion of basic health and education services to the poor to reduce poverty.

The preservation and sustainable management of natural resources in rural areas covers illegal logging, forest fire prevention, forest inventory and monitoring. The two areas are connected through policy issues such as land rights and respecting the human rights of the poor and local communities in rural areas.

The Programme comes two years after the EU and Indonesia agreed to intensify their co-operation and dialogue. They agreed to set up a regular political dialogue, through ministerial meetings, senior official or expert level meetings, and informal consultations in the margins of international conferences and gatherings. (MJ) 