

## Commissioner Michel welcomes coalition government for Kenya

European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, today welcomed a power-sharing agreement between Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga.

Commissioner Michel praised the two leaders for recognising that political compromise offered the only durable solution to the post-election situation stating; "This is a great day for Kenya and its people. In the last few days, Kenya found itself at a crossroads. I am delighted that Kenya's political leaders – both President Kibaki and Mr Odinga – have shown the wisdom and vision to choose the path of compromise and reconciliation. This power-sharing deal means that once again Kenya is back on a path of peace and mutual understanding. The Kenyan people have had their faith in the political process restored and can once again look forward to building together their future."

Commissioner Michel also praised the Panel of Eminent Personalities and in particular the steady determination of the former UN Secretary General Mr. Kofi Annan that were crucial in sealing this agreement between both parties. He stated; "I am delighted that the tireless efforts of Kofi Annan have paid-off. Kenya, its people and the international community are truly thankful for his remarkable efforts to ensure a solution be found to this crisis."

Commissioner Michel also acknowledged the important role of the African Union and of its chairman the President of Tanzania, Jakaya Kikwete, in ensuring the agreement was reached.

The EU has constantly and vigorously backed the facilitation efforts of Mr Kofi Annan. Commissioner Michel has twice been to Nairobi in the last weeks in support of Mr. Annan's work and met directly with Kenyan leaders to engage them in genuine dialogue.

As a key friend and partner of Kenya, the European Union has been constantly engaged since the beginning of the crisis in this search for a sustainable and consensual political solution to the crisis.