



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council Conclusions on Pakistan

*2858th GENERAL AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 10 March 2008*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council takes note that the parliamentary and provincial elections which took place in Pakistan on 18 February 2008 were competitive, despite significant problems with the election framework and environment. The elections were an important step in the democratic development of Pakistan.

The EU remains committed to supporting Pakistan in building a prosperous and stable society based on the principles of democracy, the rule of law and human rights. The EU will support Pakistan in strengthening democratic institutions, promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as combating extremism. The EU continues to support development and economic growth in Pakistan. The EU will continue to explore ways to enhance its trade with Pakistan and trade within the South Asia region.

While underlining the importance the EU attaches to its relationship with Pakistan, and Pakistan's contribution to regional peace and security, the Council looks forward to continued engagement with Pakistan on a shared agenda based on the 2004 Cooperation Agreement and the 2007 EU-Pakistan Joint Declaration. The EU will review its policy towards Pakistan."

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