



**Statement by Mr. Rafael DOCHAO MORENO
Chargé d’Affaires a.i., European Commission Delegation to
Cambodia on the Occasion of the Press Conference on 25
April 2008**

**Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Members of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am delighted and honoured to have the opportunity on behalf of the European Commission and as member of the ECCC's Project Board to express our view as one of the donors of the ECCC on the ongoing process of the ECCC since its establishment in early 2006.

As you may know, the European Commission has contributed € 1 million (around 1,5 million USD) to support the Cambodian part of the ECCC, to be spent on personnel costs, with a view to assist the Cambodian Government in fulfilling its international commitment to bring justice for its people. This contribution represents as well the European Commission's commitment to combating impunity for crimes of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian laws - including impunity for the heinous crimes that were committed between 1975 and 1979 in Cambodia.

The ECCC's work of the past two years has come under a close scrutiny, and, regrettably, some aspects of financial and personnel management were called into question. The European Commission has welcomed the spirit of openness and transparency in which the ECCC management team has interacted with the donor community to seek to deal effectively with such issues. The European Commission called for a Special Review to take stock of remedial actions taken by the Project Board and the ECCC and of the success of efforts to ensure a satisfactory operating and management environment that provides safeguards regarding the use of funds. The idea of the Special Review was supported by the Board itself and welcomed by other international friends of the ECCC.

The European Commission as well as other donors have been pleased to note the broadly positive conclusions of the report of the Special Review. Moreover we have to underline that the report calls for a number of additional improvements in human resource management within the ECCC. As UNDP representative mentioned, the system is not perfect, and we should start to work on those immediately.

The European Union is founded on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. This is

an important commitment for the EU, the world's largest aid donor. Based on these principles, and here in Cambodia, the European Commission wishes to confirm its readiness to provide the continued support to the ECCC in its efforts and commitment to bring the perpetrators of some of the most serious crimes in the 20th century to justice, and in parallel strengthen the legal and judicial sector in the country. The actual amount of our financial support from 2008 onwards is being worked out in our headquarters in Brussels.

The ECCC has made considerable step towards the necessary required reforms, but there is still more to be done. Therefore, it is my great pleasure to convey to you the European Commission's commitment to continue to provide both our political and financial support to the work of the ECCC.

Thank you for your attention.