



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **European Commission provides 750,000 euro strategic support to the local elections in Aceh**

The European Commission (EC) launched today (20/4) a project in support of the local elections in Aceh.

With an EC grant funding of 750,000 euro, the “*EC support to Aceh Local Elections (ALES)*” project will provide strategic technical assistance to the Aceh Independent Elections Commission (KIP) with the aim of ensuring sustainable institutional capacity to conduct recurring free and fair elections.

Support will also be provided for the training of election poll workers, voter information and education as well as the establishment of a Media Centre. The project will be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Ministry of Home Affairs.

This project is part of an overall package of EC support to underpin the Peace Process and secure the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which was signed between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) in Helsinki on 15 August 2005. To this end, a total of 25 million euro has been committed by the EC to help sustain economic recovery, rule of law and democracy in Aceh in response to the MoU.

The EC will continue to work with the Aceh Local Government to ensure assistance responds to local needs and priorities.

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*EC official exchange rate for April 2006: 1 euro = Rp 11049.7*

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