



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL POLICIES OF THE UNION
DIRECTORATE B
- POLICY DEPARTMENT -

NOTE

ON THE SITUATION IN SENEGAL

Abstract:

An influential country in West Africa, Senegal stands out because of the smooth functioning of its democratic institutions, demonstrated by the change in presidency in 2000, and the fact that it has a more prosperous economy than its neighbours. Senegal also has a strong foreign policy, in particular through its involvement in NEPAD. In spite of these merits, there is still a great deal of poverty in Senegal and, in the light of current trends, it will find it difficult to achieve by 2015 the MDGs concerning education. The aid programmed under the 10th EDF totals €230.5 million.

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Any opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament.

Sources:

- European Commission, draft Cooperation Strategy Paper and National Indicative Programme for the period 2008-2013
- Agence France Presse
- *Le Monde* newspaper
- Global Insight
- The Economist Intelligence Unit
- UNDP
- Website of the Government of Senegal

BASIC STATISTICS

Land area: 196 722 sq km

Population: 11.7 million inhabitants

Main towns: Dakar, Saint-Louis

Ethnic groups: Wolof 42.0%, Peuls (Fulakunda) 13.8%, Serer 10.7%, Tukulor 7.9%, Mandinka 5.3%, Peuls (Fulbe Jeeri) 4.2%, Mankanya 3.4%

Religions: Muslim (95%), Christian (4%), Animist (approx. 1%)

Climate:

- **rainy season**, from June to October, with more rain in the south than the north;

- **dry season**, from November to May, with temperatures ranging between 22°C and 30°C and significant variations between the coast and the interior.

Weather in Dakar (on the sea): In Dakar the average maximum daytime temperature is around 24°C from January to March and between 25°C and 27°C in April, May and December. From June to October temperatures reach around 30°C.

Languages: French, Wolof, other local languages

UNDP Human Development Index: 157th place in 2005 ('low human development')

PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS

National Assembly

At present the parliament has only one chamber. Mr Pape Diop of the Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS) is the President of the National Assembly. Members are elected by direct universal suffrage for a five-year term. This term cannot be cut short unless the National Assembly is dissolved. The National Assembly currently has 120 members. According to an organic law of 21 November 2006, the number of members will increase to 150 during the next parliamentary term. A law of 11 December 2006 stipulates that 90 members will be elected via a first-past-the-post system in the *départements* and 60 will be elected from a national list via proportional representation. In each *département*, a maximum of 5 members and a minimum of 1 member will be elected. The number of members to be elected in each *département* is determined by decree in accordance with the size of the population of each *département* (law of 7 February 1992).

The date of the next parliamentary elections has been set for 3 June 2007, after having been postponed twice in succession. In December 2006 the members' term of office was extended following the decision by the President of the Republic to hold the presidential and parliamentary elections together on 25 February 2007. The money saved by doing this was to be used to rehouse the victims of the floods that hit the capital in summer 2005. On 12 January 2007, after the Council of State repealed a presidential decree on the distribution of members throughout the territory, a second postponement of the parliamentary elections was announced.

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External Translation

Opponents accused President Abdoulaye Wade, in particular, of not having complied with the demographic criterion for the member quotas. The authorities were required to draw up a new distribution list, taking into account the time periods provided for in the electoral legislation.

Distribution of seats: During the previous parliamentary elections of 29 April 2001, the Sopi Coalition, consisting primarily of the PDS along with the LD/MPT, the MSU and the CDP-Garab Gi, won 89 seats, the AFP won 11, the PS won 10, the URD won 3, the AJ/PADS won 2, and the PLS, the PPC, the Jëf-Jël Alliance, the RND and the PIT all won 1 seat.

Legislative role: Legislation is adopted by the National Assembly. Legislative initiative is the responsibility of the President of the Republic (draft laws) and the members of parliament (proposed legislation). Draft or proposed laws are submitted to the National Assembly. After they are adopted by the National Assembly, they are forwarded to the President for promulgation.

Parliamentary control: members can put written or oral questions to the members of the government, who are obliged to respond. Written questions are forwarded to the President of the National Assembly, who forwards them to the President of the Republic. If a member of the government does not respond to a written question within 15 days, the written question becomes an oral question and is included on the agenda of a session by the Conference of Presidents. The National Assembly can establish committees of inquiry. It can also force the government to resign by passing a vote of no confidence.

Senate

When Abdoulaye Wade came to power in 2000, the parliament had two houses. On 7 January 2001, in order to streamline the workings of the State, the Senate was abolished through a constitutional referendum. However, in order to compensate for the deficit in representation – seen as a threat to solidarity, national cohesion and social consensus – of local authorities, the Senegalese abroad (previously assured by the Senate) and the economic and social forces (previously represented in the Economic and Social Council, which is abolished now too), a High Council of the Republic was set up to represent those interests. However, this is merely an advisory body.

In March 2007 the Council of Ministers adopted a draft law to restore the Senate.

Council of the Republic for Economic and Social Affairs

The members of the Council of the Republic for Economic and Social Affairs (CRAES) were appointed by a decree of 9 August 2004. Fifty advisers were appointed by local representatives, 25 are from the socio-professional sector and 25 were appointed by the President of the Republic.

At the request of the public authorities – President of the Republic, government or National Assembly – or on its own initiative, the Council of the Republic provides opinions and studies on any economic, financial, social, cultural, administrative, scientific or technical matter relating to its areas of responsibility. These opinions and studies are distributed to the general public and

published in the Official Journal. The Council of the Republic may also be consulted on draft laws and proposed legislation and on draft decrees on economic or social matters, with the exception of financial legislation.

It is obliged to give its opinion on draft programme laws concerning economic and social issues and those concerning the plan.

During the first quarter of each year the Council of the Republic adopts an opinion on the social, cultural, administrative, economic and financial situation of the country.

FROM INDEPENDENCE TO THE WADE ERA

To a lesser or greater degree, from the 7th to the 17th century Senegal was under the influence of the empires (Ghana, Mali and Songhai) that were formed in 'Western Sudan'. It was ruled by several kingdoms and underwent a very old process of Islamisation (dating back to the 10th century). The French colonisation began in the 17th century. In 1958 Senegal became an autonomous republic within the French Community. Dakar replaced Saint-Louis, the old capital of French West Africa (AOF), as the capital. Independence came in 1960, with Leopold Sedar Senghor, the 'Poet-President'. He retired voluntarily on 31 December 1980 and was succeeded by his Prime Minister, Abdou Diouf, who was confirmed as President in 1983 and re-elected in 1988 and 1993.

In March 2000 Abdoulaye Wade of the Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS, liberal) won the second round of the presidential election against Abdou Diouf. The vote, which led to the first change in power after 40 years of socialism, was welcomed as a model for democratic transition in Africa.

In January 2001 a new constitution, adopted by referendum, extended the prerogatives of the Prime Minister and reduced the presidential term from seven to five years. During the early parliamentary elections of April 2001, the Sopi Coalition ('Change' in Wolof), established around the PDS, won an absolute majority of 89 of the 120 seats. In 2005 the government adopted a draft law to increase the number of members to 140. At the end of 2005 the National Assembly adopted a law extending the members' term until 2007.

ABDOULAYE WADE'S GOVERNMENT IN ACTION

In March 2000 Abdoulaye Wade of the Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS, liberal) won the second round of the presidential election against Abdou Diouf. The vote, which was the first change in power after 40 years of socialism, was welcomed as a 'model for democratic transition' in Africa. He appointed Moustapha Niasse of the Alliance of Progressive Forces (AFP) as Prime Minister.

Violence soon returned to the Casamance region (south), which since 1982 has been in the grip of a separatist rebellion led by the Movement of Democratic Forces of the Casamance (MFDC). In March 2001 Mr Niasse was dismissed and replaced by Mrs Madior Boye, the first female to hold the post. The coalition that enabled Wade to gain power collapsed, which led to early

elections that resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Sopi Coalition ('Change'), formed around Mr Wade's party.

On 26 September 2002 the ferry *Le Joola* that linked Dakar and Casamance sank off the coast of Gambia as a result of a storm, overloading and an accumulation of faults at all levels: 1 863 people died and only 64 survived.

At an economic level, Mr Wade has great ambitions. His supporters see him as a 'builder' President, while his detractors describe him as a 'megalomaniac' with autocratic tendencies. Mr Wade has embarked upon a policy of major works and has initiated a programme for the construction of roads and even a motorway. The economy has grown significantly, although growth slowed in 2006 to only 3%, compared with 6% the year before. Poverty is still widespread: 26.3% of the population live on less than a dollar a day.

As far as foreign policy is concerned, one of Mr Wade's main achievements is his participation in NEPAD (New Partnership for African Development), the successor to the Omega Plan. The NEPAD Strategic Framework Document is the result of a mandate given to the five initiating heads of state (Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa) to develop an integrated socio-economic development framework for Africa, focusing notably on infrastructure development. NEPAD is the counterpart and spokesperson of the African countries for the G8. Four of the NEPAD initiating heads of state were invited to the 2002 meeting in Kananaskis (Canada): South Africa, Algeria, Nigeria and Senegal, as well as the United Nations Secretary-General. Although NEPAD has succeeded in helping to focus international attention on Africa, it is not without its critics. The NEPAD initiative was launched outside the existing national and continental institutional frameworks. Although in certain countries (Senegal, South Africa and Nigeria) there were national debates with the parliaments, trade unions and private sector, some people note that at a continental level, NEPAD was not subject to in-depth debate. It is seen as an 'intergovernmental machine' that favours the dominant countries in the continent and that functions independently from the existing institutions and civil society. NEPAD has a Parliamentarians' Forum, which is based in Benin. However, the European Parliament gives priority to relations with the Pan-African Parliament, for which it has set up a delegation.

Abdoulaye Wade's foreign policy is also characterised by a rapprochement with the United States and what observers perceive to be a pro-Western policy. Mr Wade was invited to the European Parliament by President Pat Cox. At a formal sitting on 21 October 2003 in Strasbourg, he gave a somewhat unusual speech for this type of visit: he spoke relatively briefly and without reading from his notes, and he impressed the audience with his eloquence. He spoke about his economic successes, in particular having increased corn production from 100 000 to 500 000 tonnes. He also called for a liberal economic approach focusing on the mobilisation of private capital. He made a plea for an end to subsidies for the cotton industry in the European Union.

President Wade was re-elected at the first count on 25 February with 55.9% of the vote (results proclaimed by the Constitutional Council). The parliamentary elections will take place on 3 June 2007.

THE CASAMANCE CONFLICT

The Casamance region, which has been in the grip of a rebellion since the 1980s, is geographically isolated by the fact that Gambia (an English-speaking ex-colony) is situated within Senegal, thus exacerbating the region's isolation.

Casamance is abundant in resources. It brings in revenue for the state, thanks to groundnuts, but more particularly fisheries and tourism. It also benefits from a better climate than the north of the country, which makes it possible to grow tropical fruit. However, 'green Casamance' is also threatened by the over-exploitation of natural resources.

On 30 December 2004 the Senegalese Government and the Movement of Democratic Forces of the Casamance (MFDC) signed a peace agreement designed to put an end to a separatist rebellion that has resulted in hundreds of deaths since 1982. Negotiations provided for in the agreement were postponed at the end of 2005 and beginning of 2006. The symbolic leader of Casamance separatism, Father Augustin Diamacoune Senghor, passed away on 14 January 2007.

POLITICAL PARTIES REPRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PDS Senegalese Democratic Party

Leader: Abdoulaye Wade (aged 82)

Mr Wade was re-elected President of the Republic at the first count with 55.9% of the vote on 25 February 2007. The PDS is also the party of the President of the National Assembly and Mayor of Dakar, Mr Pape Diop.

The PDS is a member of the Liberal International.

<http://www.pds.sn/>

AFP Alliance of Progressive Forces

Leader: Moustapha Niassé (aged 67)

Mr Niassé is a former Prime Minister. He obtained 5.93% of the vote in the presidential election (compared with 16.77% in 2000).

<http://www.afp-senegal.org/>

PS Socialist Party

Leader: Ousmane Tanor Dieng (aged 60)

Mr Ousmane Tanor Dieng obtained 13.56% of the vote in the presidential election. Another socialist candidate (ex-communist), Mr Abdoulaye Bathily, won 2.21% of the vote. Robert Sagna, a PS dissident, came fifth.

The PS is a member of the Socialist International and was the party in power from 1960 to 2000.

<http://www.partisocialiste.sn>

URD Union for Democratic Renewal

Leader: Djibo Leity Ka (aged 59)

The URD supported Mr Wade in the presidential election and is touted by some observers as his possible successor.

AJ/PADS And-Jëf /African Party for Democracy and Socialism

Leader: Landing Savané (aged 61)

Mr Savané, classed as left-wing, was a minister in Mr Wade's Government but also ran against him in the presidential election. He won 2.07% of the vote and resigned following the 25 February election.

PLS Senegalese Liberal Party

Leader: Ousmane Ngom (aged 52)

Mr Ngom was Minister of the Interior under Wade and responsible for organising the elections.

PPC Party for Progress and Citizenship

Mr Mbaye Jacques Diop is the founder of the Party for Progress and Citizenship (PPC), created on 30 May 2000, but in April 2002 he merged it with the PDS (Senegalese Democratic Party). He has been a member of the PDS Steering Committee since May 2004.

APJ/JJ Alliance for Progress and Justice/Jëf-Jël

Leader: Talla Sylla (aged 41)

A candidate in the presidential election, Mr Sylla obtained 0.53% of the vote.

RND National Democratic Rally

Leader: Madior Diouf

The RND supported Mr Niassé in the presidential election.

PIT Independence and Labour Party

Leader: Amath Dansokho

Mr Dansokho supported Moustapha Niassé in the presidential election.

ECONOMIC SITUATION

The main macroeconomic indicators show that the Senegalese economy is generally healthy: low inflation rate; sustainable budget deficit; public debt below 50% of GDP and due to decrease further as a result of Senegal having reached the completion point of the HIPC Initiative and its eligibility for the reduction in multilateral debt; foreign reserves representing almost five months' imports of goods and services; no arrears in payment of internal and external debt; relatively high rate of fiscal pressure in comparison to the countries in the region; public wage bill a moderate proportion of total public spending.

Within the WAEMU, Senegal is the country that best meets the convergence criteria adopted by the organisation. The only area of major concern is the current account deficit.

The institutional and regulatory framework for public finance administration is considered to be satisfactory and in line with the principles of the separation of powers. The legal and implementing mechanism is complete. Between 2001 and 2003 Senegal transposed all of the WAEMU directives in this area, a 'new' public contracts code should soon be adopted, and an IT system for expenditure management has been put in place.

The efforts already undertaken must continue in order to preserve what has already been achieved, consolidate the system and expand the reforms (transparency, control, rendering of

accounts, etc.). To that end, a national action plan for the reform of public finances (based on CFAA/CPAR diagnostics) was adopted in July 2003.

A Joint Harmonisation and Monitoring Committee, which brings together the Senegalese authorities and the main donors concerned, monitors the implementation of this plan. An external evaluation of the reform plan, carried out in May/June 2006, had generally positive conclusions, highlighting in particular the appropriation of the reforms by the Senegalese authorities, the satisfactory progress of the actions taking into account the complexity of certain measures and hazards of certain funding, and the pertinence of the operating mechanism and monitoring indicators.

In the area of transport, one of Senegal's assets is the port of Dakar, which stands at the crossroads of numerous maritime routes. However, the state of the infrastructures for land transport to neighbouring countries and around the built-up areas of Dakar makes it impossible to make full use of this asset. The government's Urban Mobility Improvement Programme seeks to remedy this situation. The country has a road network of 14 500 km but the roads are often in an unsatisfactory state. It has a single railway for commercial use that runs between Dakar and Bamako, management of which was subcontracted in 2003. It also has three international airports.

Finally, Senegal has efficient telecommunications infrastructures with, in particular, underwater fibre-optic links connecting Africa, Europe, America and Asia. In addition, the IP (Internet Protocol) network and ADSL technology are being developed. This has enabled a teleservices sector to develop extremely quickly.

The Senegalese economy is characterised by a dual structure consisting of the primary sector, which is the largest source of jobs, and the private and public tertiary sector, which is the largest contributor to GDP. Economic growth, which was very poor in the years prior to the devaluation of the CFA franc in 1993, has since speeded up. The GDP growth rate of 4.7% during the period 2001-2005 is, however, still not enough to reduce poverty rapidly.

Furthermore, 2006 saw a marked deterioration in the national macroeconomic framework, due undoubtedly to the external oil shock but also to the drastic decrease in the activities of *Industries Chimiques du Sénégal* (ICS) and the significant recurrent power cuts affecting both the formal and informal sectors.

This economic hitch (subject to *ad hoc* recovery measures being implemented for 2007 following the elections at the end of February) is reflected in the two-point fall in the GDP growth rate, an increase in the balance of payments deficit (12% of GDP compared with 8% in 2005) and an escalation of the budget deficit, donations included, which rose from 2.5% of GDP in 2005 to 5.5% in 2006. This same unfavourable economic climate, linked, too, to the pre-election period, is also causing an accumulation of payment arrears (approx. 1% of GDP), which is nevertheless controllable in 2007.

Public investment, which is growing by more than 15% per year, has been over the past five years, and continues to be, the key driving force behind the growth, as opposed to domestic or foreign private, productive investment, which remains insubstantial. The government has introduced measures to encourage investment.

Fisheries products, phosphate and its by-products, and groundnut products account for the majority of exported products. However, exports to other African countries are increasing, which is a sign of progress in the regional integration of the economies. Between 2000 and 2004 the proportion of Senegalese exports to other African countries rose by more than 10%, from 28.2% to 39.2% of all exports, while the proportion of exports to Europe fell from 47.5% to 29.9% of the total.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Senegal belongs to the group of Least Developed Countries. According to the UNDP Human Development Index, it was placed 157th out of 177 countries in 2003. With a per capita GDP of US\$ 634, the population's life expectancy at birth was 55.7 years in 2003, which was higher than the average for sub-Saharan Africa (46.1 years). The literacy rate for Senegalese adults of 39.9% (29.2% for women and 51.1% for men) is below that of groups of similar countries (sub-Saharan Africa: 60.5%). This also applies to the combined gross enrolment ratio (from primary to higher), which is 40% (sub-Saharan Africa: 50%). On the basis of a poverty threshold corresponding to the consumption of 2 400 calories per equivalent adult per day, 53.9% of homes were living in poverty in 2001.

Health: In the light of current trends, only one of the four MDGs in the health sector could be achieved by 2015. Target 7 of MDG 6, 'to have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS', may be achieved as a result of the policies implemented over the last 20 years. The number of people suffering from HIV/AIDS in the general population is one of the lowest in sub-Saharan Africa (<1%). However, voluntary testing is rare; the number of people affected exceeded 80 000 in 2004, while only 2 500 sufferers were treated under the *Initiative Sénégalaise d'Accès aux Antirétroviraux* (ISSARV – Senegalese Initiative for Access to Antiretrovirals).

Achieving MDG 1, in particular the indicator relating to the 'proportion of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption', would appear unfeasible. Between 1995 and 2002 the percentage of the population suffering from malnutrition fell only slightly, from 25% to 24%, and remains well below the MDG target for 2015, i.e. a maximum of 11.5% of the population.

Similarly, Target 8 of MDG 6, 'to have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases', will certainly not be met. Malaria, which is the most widespread disease and becoming increasingly common, is responsible for 40% of notified deaths.

MDG 4, 'to reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate', would require a 4% annual reduction of this rate. In addition, the infant and child mortality rate, although lower than in the rest of sub-Saharan Africa, only fell from 131% in 1992 to 121% in 2005. The same goes for MDG 5, 'to improve maternal health', with a slight decrease in maternal mortality from 510 per 100 000 live births in 1986 to 434 in 2005; the 2015 target is 127.

Education: Looking at current trends, Senegal will find it difficult to meet the two MDGs concerning education by 2015.

MDG 2, ‘to achieve universal primary education’, and its Target 3, ‘to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling’, will require a substantial improvement in particular in the dropout rate or repetition rate as well as consolidation of the admission rates for introductory classes. There has been a significant increase in the gross enrolment ratio (GER) over the past five years in primary schools (from 68% in 2000 to 83% in 2005) and middle schools (from 23% to 32% between 2000 and 2005).

However, due to the sector’s inefficiency, the capacity of the education system to take pupils right through to the end of primary school remains poor: the completion rate hovers at less than 50% with a rising dropout rate and high repetition rates. In addition, the quality of teaching is unsatisfactory: learning periods far below international standards, inadequate teaching materials and poorly trained teachers.

In order to achieve MDG 3, ‘to promote gender equality and empower women’, Target 4 seeks to ‘eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015’. Real progress has been made in the area of primary education. As far as middle schools are concerned, gender disparity was the same in 2005 as it was in 2002, at 10%, with a gender parity index (GPI) of 0.73. As regards secondary schools, no progress has been made since 2000, with a constant GER gap of 6 points and a GPI of 0.57 in 2005. In higher education, women accounted for one third of students in 2003.

The Ten-Year Education and Training Programme (PDEF 2000-2010) is aimed at achieving high-quality universal education by 2010, with the focus on basic education. The funding for education reflects the genuine priority given to this sector by the authorities: the ratio of public spending on education to GDP rose from 3.6% in 2003 to 4.6% in 2005 and 2006.

The area of vocational training has many weaknesses and is poorly regulated, and informal training (in the form of apprenticeships without theoretical training) is the rule for most jobs. The various professions do not have a sufficient structure to be able to provide adequate vocational training. Consequently, the sectors that require skilled labour find it difficult to recruit staff with adequate vocational training.

Sanitation and drinking water: Between 1990 and 2002 access to sanitation increased significantly (from 35% of the total population to 52%), although there was a less obvious improvement in access to drinking water (from 66% to 72% of the population). Even though a number of actions are being carried out under the Long-Term Sectoral Water Plan (PELT), reinforced by the Millennium Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme (PEPAM), further efforts are required, especially in rural areas, in order to achieve by 2015 the 100% rate of access to drinking water and 78% rate for sanitation laid down in the MDGs.

The institutional framework for the sector is still largely structured on the basis of the 1995 reform:

- the distribution of drinking water is delegated to a public farming body (SDE);
- the production and distribution of drinking water is subcontracted to the SONES (national company);

- urban sanitation is the responsibility of the National Sanitation Office (ONAS), which has the status of an Industrial and Commercial Public Establishment.

Employment and unemployment: A survey carried out by the DPS in 2002 in Dakar revealed that unemployment in the strict sense of the word totalled 11.7% of the working population (9.9% for men and 14.1% for women). However, underemployment, which is a better reflection of the reality of the labour market, is much higher and affects perhaps almost three quarters of Dakar's working population. This precarious job situation in urban areas as well as in rural areas is one of the main contributing factors to the phenomenon of illegal emigration, which has reached unprecedented levels since the beginning of 2006 (see below).

Social protection is one of the priority areas of the PRSP II. The goal is to broaden significantly the scope of the mechanism, which today only covers 8% of the total population, primarily civil servants.

EMIGRATION TO EUROPE

Senegal is a country with a long tradition of emigration, both within Africa and to Europe. The official figures for 2005 indicate that 650 000 Senegalese live outside the country, including almost 200 000 in Europe¹. Transferred funds from emigrants are an extremely important for the economy: they are estimated to account for at least 6% to 7% of GDP and far exceed public spending on development. Funds from emigrants make a significant contribution to local consumption and the social security of their families back in Senegal. Their contribution to the country's productive investment is limited, however.

Since the beginning of 2006, and coinciding with more effective controls of land-based migration routes, an unprecedented wave of illegal emigrants has descended upon the Canary Islands (Spain) from Senegal, using traditional pirogues for the sea crossing. Between January and September 2006 more than 27 000 illegal emigrants arrived in the Canary Islands, a very large percentage of them Senegalese.

This migratory flow continues to pose enormous problems both for the countries of origin, especially from a humanitarian perspective (numerous deaths at sea), and for the host countries. Large-scale repatriations from the Canary Islands began in 2006 but they raise the question of how to reintegrate those who are sent home into Senegal's economic and social life.

A growing number of potential illegal emigrants from other countries on the African continent and even other continents choose Senegal as a stop-off on their way to Europe. Increasingly, organised human trafficking rings support these types of migratory movements.

In the light of these recent developments, the issue of illegal emigration and the management of migratory flows is very high on the agenda of relations between Senegal and the European Union. In this respect, over and above bilateral relations, exchanges on the subject were stepped

¹ The unofficial figures are much higher, however, and estimate that there are more than 2 million Senegalese living abroad.

up in May 2006 during a European Commission/Spain joint mission aimed at establishing dialogue under Article 13 of the Cotonou Agreement.

Spain and Senegal reached agreement in October 2005 on the principle of regulated legal immigration to meet the needs of the Spanish labour market. Around 4 000 Senegalese recruited in Spain by several Spanish companies are thus due to emigrate legally to Spain. On 19 January a group of 73 Senegalese left Dakar on board a special plane chartered by the Spanish Government.

EU-SENEGAL RELATIONS

Information taken from the Cooperation Strategy Document (European Commission)

The European Community's aid to Senegal, highly fragmented under the 7th EDF, has since the 8th EDF focused on support for poverty eradication. This was reflected in the National Indicative Programme for the period 1996-2001 in the identification of three priority areas: restructuring of public services in the health and road transport sectors; revival of agricultural production and exports; and economic promotion at local level. The redirection of the Community strategy towards support for the eradication of poverty was further confirmed under the 9th EDF following the adoption of the PRSP by the Senegalese Government.

The overall objective of the cooperation strategy for the period 2002-2007, covered by the 9th EDF, was 'to support the efforts made by the Government of Senegal to reduce poverty in a sustainable manner through steady and fairly distributed growth (including equal opportunities), good governance (with the involvement of non-State actors), regional integration, and gradual integration into the global economy'. Three priority areas were identified:

- good political, economic and social governance;
- road transport;
- sanitation.

In addition, the European Community agreed to provide the Senegalese Government with general financial support to assist with the implementation of the PRSP and to meet the external and internal financing needs associated with that strategy. Finally, assistance outside the main priority areas was envisaged for trade, culture and regional programmes, as well as actions concerning the mining sector, funded from Sysmin resources.

The initial allocation under the 9th EDF of €277.8 million was increased through the addition of the balance of the previous EDFs to €302.8 million, with €203 million allocated to envelope A (programmable aid) and €99.8 million (including Sysmin) allocated to envelope B. Following the mid-term and final reviews, concluded in 2005 and 2007 respectively, the allocation to envelope A of the NIP was increased to €273.9 million, to which was added payments totalling some €20 million from projects completed under the previous EDFs. After the final review the amount allocated to envelope B rose to €13.6 million.

In the specific area of fisheries, a protocol between Senegal and the European Economic Community, concluded in 1980 and regularly renewed by implementing protocols since then, established the fishing opportunities for EU vessels in Senegalese territorial waters in return for financial support from the European Commission. As the last implementing protocol was to expire on 30 June 2006, negotiations were launched between the two parties with a view to concluding a new type of agreement, known as a Fisheries Partnership Agreement. However, as the negotiations have not reached a conclusion, Senegal has since 30 June 2006 been without an implementing protocol for the agreement, which is nevertheless still in force.

The programmable envelope under the 10th EDF (envelope A) totals €230.5 million and may be increased by means of an incentive tranche, allocated in accordance with the conclusions of the analysis of the governance profile and the Senegalese Government's commitments in the area of governance.

The two priority areas of Community support under the 10th EDF are regional and commercial integration and the sanitation sector. As overall assistance for implementation of the PRSP II, general budget support is also provided for and will account for at least 45% of the initial envelope.

Area of intervention	Indicative allocation (in million €)	Implementing arrangements
Sector 1: Regional and commercial integration	60 – 80	Project aid and sectoral budget support
Sector 2: Sanitation	35 – 50	Project aid and sectoral budget support
Budget support for implementation of the poverty reduction strategy	100 – 120	40 – 50%
Outside priority areas	15 – 20	FCT + project aid
Total	230.5	100.0%

Outside the priority areas, the migration problem, governance, cultural actions and other areas may benefit from Community support. Environmental and gender issues are dealt with horizontally under the present strategy and will be taken into consideration in the identification and implementation of specific actions.

HUMAN RIGHTS:

Senegal has traditionally been quite advanced in terms of the protection of human rights.

In his Strasbourg speech President Wade referred to the fact that he himself had been imprisoned in the past. He spoke about the reforms relating to the protection of religious minorities, women's rights (including genital mutilation) and the right to demonstrate. Senegal

abolished the death penalty on 10 December 2004 at the instigation of President Wade¹. As far as the International Criminal Court is concerned, Senegal has ratified the Rome Statute and has refused to sign a bilateral agreement with the United States.

Nevertheless, there has also been some criticism of the regime, which is described as 'autocratic'. In 2005 Idrissa Seck, a former Prime Minister, was accused of embezzlement and jailed for 'endangering national defence and state security'. His lawyers denounce what they call a 'political process'. He was released on 7 February 2006 after being held on remand for seven months. In the spring of the same year some 15 civil society organisations denounced the 'harassment' of opponents and journalists through legal proceedings.

¹ In a letter dated 8 February 2005, following a Bureau decision taken during discussions on human rights issues, the Co-Presidents of the JPA congratulated Mr Diop, President of the National Assembly, on this move.