

EC gives US\$54 million to war-torn Mozambique

MAPUTO — The European Community EC is to donate 45,4 million Ecus (European Currency Units) — about US\$54,9 million — to the Mozambican government for implementation of the post-war rehabilitation programme.

According to an EC spokesman four conventions concerning this money were signed in Maputo on Monday by Trade Minister Daniel Gabriel and the EC delegate to Mozambique, Donato Chiarini.

The first of the four conventions covers emergency support for road construction, rehabilitation and water supply in districts or difficult access, where many returning

refugees, displaced people and demobilised soldiers will settle. The convention is worth 10 million Ecus.

The second convention is based on direct integration into civilian life of the returnees and demobilised soldiers. This includes supplies of domestic utensils, agricultural tools and seeds, and kits for small and medium hand-crafts enterprises. The total money involved is 11 million Ecus.

Rural health, the subject of the third convention, is worth 15,4 million Ecus. Some of the money will be used to establish water supply and sanitation facilities at the assembly points where the forces of the government and Renamo are to be garrisoned prior to demobilisation.

Of this sum, 9,2 million Ecus is to be distributed through non-governmental organisations.

The fourth convention, for nine million Ecus, is to support the electoral process. This will involve technical assistance for registration of voters, prior to Mozambique's first multi-party presidential and parliamentary elections.

The aid is part of the 75 million Ecus which the EC pledged towards implementing the programmes that flow from the peace agreement between the government and Renamo during the donor conference held in Rome in December 1992.

— Ziana AIM