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PRESS-RELEASE

The Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan informs that since early 2010 as a result of natural disasters, including an earthquake in Kuhistoni Badakhshon Autonomous Province and continued heavy rains and floods that hit Khatlon province of Tajikistan, a huge damage has been caused in economy, social infrastructure and population of the Country. At least 40 people have been killed, 300 injured and 33 are still missing.

According to Tajikistan Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense figures, the devastating aftermath of recent strong flooding in Tajikistan has destroyed completely or seriously damaged 4787 houses, 78 schools and kindergartens, 19 hospitals, 27 socio-cultural facilities, 424 km roads, 130 bridges, 130 km power, 64 km communication, 59 km coastal protection and 221 km irrigation lines, as well as 14 water and waste pumping stations and 15 livestock farms. More than 3098 head of livestock were lost and 38 000 hectares farm fields have been ravaged by the flow of debris.

Government of Tajikistan estimates that the mudslides and floods have caused more than US\$ 600 million-worth of damage in the national economy.

The situation is deteriorating due to inaccessibility of some affected areas for first aid and emergency teams. Rescue works face scarcity of construction materials, machinery, rolling metal, fuel, food, medicines, camps, mobile power generators and other first provisions and commodities.

Tajik authorities are making every effort to continue emergency works and rehabilitation of affected provinces in southern of Tajikistan. Taking into account the unforeseen scale of disaster and current critical humanitarian situation raised in Tajikistan, the Government of Tajikistan requests Austrian and European community to provide possible humanitarian and technical support to the population of Tajikistan.