



European Union

Delegation to the Republic of South Africa
Head of Delegation

EU Perspectives

*Regular publication that seeks to provide information
on EU-related activities of interest to SA readers*



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Headline News

Statement of President Barroso at the start of the G20 Summit in Seoul

"The G20 brings together the most important global economies. To have all of us meeting and discussing on a regular basis is in itself an important achievement. The G20 must tackle imbalances decisively. All major economies must do their part to achieve rebalancing. And in doing so, they should consider the consequences of their action or inaction on other countries. We need to develop and use effective tools to detect, assess and reduce excessive imbalances...On development, we are very glad that development figures on the G20 agenda for the first time. In fact we have welcomed and supported this idea of the Korean presidency. It complements our development approach with a new paradigm linking development with growth, trade and investment. The emerging economies have shown how countries that for long were not considered as boosters for growth have now become major drivers. So I believe indeed the G20 should look beyond its confines and see what it can do for the wider world".

[Full text of statement](#)

European Development Days to take place on 6 and 7 December in Brussels

On 6 and 7 December, the European Commission will organise the 5th edition of the European Development Days (EDD) in Brussels. President José Manuel Barroso will deliver a keynote speech at the opening of this forum, which brings together current and former Heads of State and Government from Europe, Africa and rest of the world; high-level representatives of governments, international organisations as well as development practitioners, NGOs, media and civil society. Organised a few days after the Africa-EU Summit in Tripoli, in parallel to the UN Climate Change Conference in Cancún, the European Development Days provide a timely and focused interface for stakeholders and governments to address global challenges in an open and often informal atmosphere. European Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs said "This year's edition of the European Development Days takes place at a crucial time when development policy is evolving in response to the EU's new institutional set-up and the current global context".

To attend the European Development Days, please register at <http://register.eudevdays.eu/>

Council conclusions on the Annual Report 2010 on the EU's Development and External Assistance Policies in 2009

"The Council welcomes the Annual Report 2010 on the EU's Development and External Assistance Policies and their Implementation in 2009, as well as the Commission's efforts to continuously improve the quality of the report. In view of the extraordinary economic context of 2009, the Council particularly welcomes the focus of the 2010 edition on the measures taken to alleviate the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on developing countries..... Taking into consideration that 2010 is a review year of 10 years of progress in the implementation of the MDGs, the Council invites the Commission to focus the next Report on the Millennium Development Goals and the EU's actions in support of their achievement".

High Representative Catherine Ashton completes the EAS top management team

Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, announced the appointment of two Deputy Secretary Generals for the External Action Service (EAS), completing her top management team. HR Ashton appointed Helga Schmid as the Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs and Maciej Popowski as the Deputy Secretary General for Inter-institutional Affairs. "I am very pleased that Helga and Maciej have agreed to take these two key positions. Their experience and expertise will help us to build the External Action Service that Europe can be proud of" said Catherine Ashton.

Other News

[Africa-Europe: 80 countries, two continents in partnership for a better future](#)

Ahead of the Africa-EU Summit taking place from 29-30 November in Libya, the Commission presented its proposals for a consolidation of Africa-EU relations. Building on the existing Joint Africa-EU Strategy launched in 2007, the Commission details common challenges where progress has been made and which still have to be jointly addressed, such as poverty eradication, peace and security, democracy and human rights, global governance and climate change. While the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will remain at the heart of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy, the Commission recognises that there is a need to support Africa in strengthening its political and economic governance to allow better mobilization of the continent's own assets in a sustainable way. High Representative and Vice President of the Commission, Catherine Ashton said: "Strengthening and deepening EU-Africa relations is a key priority during my mandate. Africa is not just a beneficiary of the EU, but it is an important partner on a number of major regional and international issues of common interest such as regional security, where we work together in the fight against piracy and cooperate in bringing peace and stability to the region, and global governance such as climate change."

[European Commission launches public consultation on the future of EU Development policy](#)

The European Commission launched a public consultation on the future of EU Development policy. Faced with the triple challenge of economic, food and environmental crises, but also the generally encouraging economic performance of developing countries, the Commission wishes to collect views on how the EU can best support developing countries to speed up their progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and beyond. The Commission proposes four main areas for debate, focusing on the impact of EU aid, the facilitation of more inclusive growth, the promotion of sustainable development, and durable results in agriculture and food security. "EU's aid must help provide a decent living for all, and give people a chance to build their future. EU citizens are still committed to support the poorest countries, and they expect concrete results. I want to address these expectations by making sure that the EU's assistance has a high and lasting impact on the ground", said EU Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs.

[Commission presents its energy strategy towards 2020](#)

The Commission presented its new strategy for a competitive, sustainable and secure energy. The Commission Communication "Energy 2020" identifies five top priorities for the next ten years and sets the actions to be taken in order to tackle the challenges of saving energy, achieving a market with competitive prizes and securing supplies, boosting technological leadership, and effectively negotiating with the EU's international partners. Energy Commissioner, Günther Oettinger, said: "The energy challenge is one of the greatest tests for us all. Putting our energy system onto a new, more sustainable and secure path may take time but ambitious decisions need to be taken now. To have an efficient, competitive and low-carbon economy, we have to europeanise our energy policy and focus on a few but pressing priorities."

[Joint statement on the outcome of the COP10 Conference on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan](#)

EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik welcomed the historic agreement reached in Nagoya, Japan, on an ambitious global strategy to combat biodiversity loss. Following two weeks of long and hard negotiations, governments agreed on a package of measures to protect endangered plants, animals and ecosystems. In a joint statement Commissioner Potočnik and EU President of the Environment Council, Joke Schauvliege, said the issue of biodiversity loss was too important and too urgent to be allowed to slip down the world agenda and the European Union would not allow that to happen. They said the challenge now was to effectively implement the measures decided on in Nagoya.

[EU sets out assertive trade policy agenda for next five years](#)

The European Commission set out its blueprint for an EU trade policy to help revitalise Europe's economy. In its discussion paper "Trade, Growth and World Affairs", the Commission analyses how trade is an engine for economic growth and job creation and proposes a strategy to reduce trade barriers, to open global markets and to get a fair deal for European businesses. "Trade is working for Europe's economic recovery by ensuring growth and jobs", said EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht. "A renewed trade strategy will open markets and connect Europe to the main sources and regions of global growth. My aim is to ensure that European business gets a fair deal and that our rights are respected so that all of us can enjoy the benefits of trade."

[European Commission adopts strategic priorities for 2011](#)

2010 has shown the readiness and ability of the EU institutions to meet adversity with resilience, decisiveness and solidarity, to tackle the unprecedented challenges of the financial and economic crisis. The task now at hand is to ensure that recovery is sustained. The European Commission has adopted its work programme for 2011, which translates these objectives into concrete actions. European Commission President, José Manuel Barroso, said of the new work programme: "The EU has proved equal to the challenges facing it, but we are not yet out of the woods. The work programme adopted today will ensure that recovery is sustained into the new year and beyond. I note a great degree of convergence on the overall priorities for Europe. I hope that this will translate into early political results to the benefit of citizens."

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