



European Union
Delegation to the Republic of South Africa

EU Perspectives

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



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Top News

"Civil society must play a leading role in the sustainable and inclusive development of ACP countries"

These words by European Economic and Social Committee President, Staffan Nilsson, set the tone for the 26th meeting of ACP-EU economic and social interest groups in Brussels on 05/07/11. The conference brought together participants from civil society, institutions, and socio-professional organisations from the EU and most ACP countries. The meeting takes place every three years to ensure that the views of civil society are taken into account in the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement.



European Parliament decides against new climate policy resolution (05/07/11)

A majority of MEPs, led by rapporteur Bas Eickhout (Greens/EFA, NL), voted on Tuesday against the adoption of a draft resolution on EU climate policy. An amendment had been narrowly adopted to support a conditional 30% greenhouse gas reductions target, rather than the unilateral step to 30% cuts previously recommended by Parliament. Parliament's latest adopted position on climate policy therefore remains the resolution voted in November 2010, which recommended an unconditional 30% greenhouse gas reduction target (by 2020 based on 1990 levels). See: [European Energy Efficiency Fund EEEF launched \(01/07/11\)](#)

Statement by the Eurogroup on Greece (02/07/11)

Ministers welcomed the progress made by the Greek authorities in implementing the policy understandings reached with the European Commission, in liaison with the ECB, and the IMF. In particular, Ministers noted with satisfaction the adoption of key laws on the fiscal strategy and privatisation by the Greek Parliament. Ministers therefore endorsed the Commission's Compliance Report and the signing of the updated Memorandum of Understanding.

Poland takes over EU Council Presidency (01/07/11)

The 1st of July marked the start of Poland's presidency of the Council of the European Union, taking over the reins from Hungary. The goals to be pursued over the next six months are: efforts to deepen the integration of the EU market which should lead to swifter economic growth; further enlarge the EU and strengthen cooperation with neighbours, guaranteeing greater stability in this region of the world; strengthening of Europe's energy, food and military security; facilitate discussion on a new EU budget for 2014-2020. [Presidency Programme](#)



Speech by Catherine Ashton on North Africa and the Arab world (06/07/11)

"... You will remember that I announced my intention to establish an EU office in Benghazi. The EU flag now flies above the courthouse in the newly-named Freedom Square – a symbol not just of our solidarity with its people, but of our practical commitment. The office is now up and running, experts are arriving each week – working at how to support the security needs of the people, and help build the capacity of civil society ..."

Speech by Andris Piebalgs at the House of Representatives of Somaliland (06/07/11)

Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development, addressed the House of Representatives of Somaliland: "As the largest contributor of development assistance, the European Union has been a steadfast partner in Somaliland's reconstruction and development process. Since 1995 we have been the only international donor organisation with a permanent presence here. The combined volume of our ongoing assistance to Somaliland currently amounts to approximately €62m".

[Examples of EU projects in Somaliland](#)



[New emergency funding to reach Horn of Africa refugees \(06/07/11\)](#)

More than €5 mil in aid will be sent immediately to the world's largest refugee centre by the European Commission, increasing this year's contribution to alleviating the drought crisis in the Horn of Africa to nearly €70 million. Fleeing hunger, thirst and conflict, some 61,000 Somalis have sought refuge at the Dadaab camps in Kenya since the beginning of this year, adding to the more than 300,000 people that had already found refuge there.

[High Representative Catherine Ashton meets the Sudanese Foreign Minister, Ali Karti \(05/07/11\)](#)

High Representative, Catherine Ashton, said: "The EU is committed to long-term peace and stability in the two Sudans and to continue to help the people of both North and South. The EU wants to see good neighbourly relations between Sudan and South Sudan, living together peacefully as two viable states after 9 July." Ashton urged both parties to make full use of the good offices of former President Mbeki to resolve as many outstanding issues as possible before 9 July.

[Research: Global Innovation Index ranks five EU countries in top ten \(04/07/11\)](#)

INSEAD, a leading graduate business school, with three campuses on two continents, released its Global Innovation Index 2011, ranking five EU countries and Switzerland among the top 10. The 2011 GII model includes 125 countries that represent 93.2% of the world's population and 98.0% of the world's GDP. The top 10 include Switzerland, Sweden, Singapore, Hong Kong (SAR, China), Finland, Denmark, the USA, Canada, the Netherlands, and the UK.

[Commission adopts Framework Regulation for Macro-Financial Assistance to third countries \(04/07/11\)](#)

The Commission adopted a proposal for a Framework Regulation for macro-financial assistance (MFA), a financing instrument under which exceptional financial assistance is granted to third countries close to the EU which are experiencing balance-of-payments difficulties. Olli Rehn, Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs, said: "EU's macro-financial assistance has made a valuable contribution to macroeconomic stability in candidate, potential candidate and neighbourhood countries, with positive spill-over effects on the EU economy. Therefore it is important to further strengthen the MFA operations and enhance the effectiveness of this crisis instrument".

[The European Commission will give emergency food aid to North Korea \(04/07/11\)](#)

The European Commission will provide emergency food aid to more than half a million people at risk of dying from serious malnutrition in North Korea, amid growing fears of a worsening hunger crisis. The objective of the €10m aid package is to lift around 650,000 people, mainly in the Northern and Eastern provinces of the country, out of the hunger zone during the most difficult period of the worst year for food production in recent times. "The purpose of this aid package is to save the lives of at least 650,000 people who could otherwise die from lack of food. Our experts saw severely malnourished children in hospitals and nurseries where no treatment was available," said Kristalina Georgieva, European Union Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response.

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