



European Union
Delegation of the European Commission
to South Africa

EU Perspectives

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



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Headline News

[EU-funded Centurion Aerospace Village launched in Gauteng](#)

The EU committed R40m to support sustainable job creation and skills development in SA, through funding to the Centurion Aerospace Village (CAV), an aviation supplier park aimed at supporting small and medium enterprises and black economic empowerment companies in the aviation industry. The allocation to the CAV project was made in terms of the EU's Sector-Wide Enterprise, Employment and Equity Programme (Sweep), which supports government efforts to halve unemployment and reduce poverty by 2014.

[Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Accra, Ghana, 2-4 September, 2008](#)

The Accra conference marks an important step in the effective implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, adopted in 2005. The EU plays an important role in this process. Within the framework of the Presidency of the EU Council, France intends to showcase the actions undertaken by the European donors to improve aid effectiveness. The aim of the French EU Presidency is to step up progress on improved aid complementarity between Member States and the European Commission at both a sectoral and geographical level. The French Presidency will ensure that this process is carried out in partnership with the recipient countries and in association with civil society.

[EU draft research paper "Millennium Development Goals at Midpoint: Where do we stand?"](#)

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the expression of the strong commitment to universal development and poverty eradication made by the International Community in the UN Millennium Declaration. They include halving world poverty and hunger by 2015, as well as reaching universal primary education, reducing under-5 and maternal mortality by two thirds, and halving the number of people without access to safe drinking water. At the same time, the Declaration called for a new partnership between the developed and the developing countries, determined "to create an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which is conducive to development and the elimination of poverty." This draft research paper is a contribution by European researchers to the current debate on the programme of action on the MDGs.

Other News

[Commission allocates extra €21m of humanitarian aid for Horn of Africa](#)

The European Commission has allocated a further €21 million in humanitarian aid for the Horn of Africa: Somalia (€13m), Eritrea (€4m) and Ethiopia (€4m). To date in 2008, the Commission has provided nearly €120 million in humanitarian aid, including food aid, to needy people in the Horn of Africa (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda). Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, said: "The challenges in the Horn of Africa are huge and multidimensional. On the strictly humanitarian side, the area has suffered persistent drought in recent years and more and more people are struggling to survive. Humanitarian aid is an expression of Europe's solidarity with those who are most vulnerable. We are committed to supporting those most in need in this and other crisis zones."

[EU deploys assistance to the conflict-stricken area of Georgia](#)

The EU, through its Civil Protection Mechanism, provided on-the-ground support to about 100,000 civilians in the conflict-stricken Georgian area. Following a green light given by the French Presidency, EU support was sent via Member States

and co-ordinated by the European Commission's Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC). This civil protection assistance comes in addition to the Commission humanitarian aid already provided right after the start of the conflict. Against the backdrop of the agreed Russian-Georgian ceasefire, the EU has provided assistance to Georgia to help its thousands of civilians in need of shelter, food and medicine.

[EU-China Consultations on Combating Climate Change](#)

A meeting on combating climate change, part of the bilateral consultation mechanism between the EU and China, under the EU-China Partnership on Climate Change which was launched in 2005, was held at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs in Paris. This meeting of experts was attended by the European Commission and the upcoming Czech Presidency of the EU. The discussions have also enabled a review of the progress of international negotiations, on the eve of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Climate Change in Accra from 21 to 27 August 2008 and in the run up to the Conference of Parties in Poznan, Poland, on 1 December.

[i2010: Digital Libraries Initiative](#)

The Digital Libraries Initiative is the EU's way of making its cultural and scientific heritage (books, journals, films, maps, photographs, music, etc.) accessible to all and preserving it for future generations. The initiative provides a strategy, an agenda and funding to achieve these objectives. A key goal is the creation of [Europeana](#), the European digital library, whose prototype will be launched in November 2008. The Digital Libraries Initiative was launched in 2005. It is a flagship initiative of the Commission's overall strategy to boost the digital economy, the [i2010 strategy](#). The Initiative will focus on 2 areas: [Cultural heritage](#), to make the collections of Europe's libraries, archives and museums accessible online so they can be used for work, leisure or study and [Scientific information](#), as an important driver for innovation.

[Europe's future Digital Library: explore the demo](#)

[Declaration by the EU Presidency on Mauritania](#)

"The European Union renews in the strongest terms its condemnation of the coup which took place in Mauritania on 6 August 2008. It considers the emergency measures taken by the military leaders who seized power, measures confirmed by the Order of 11 August 2008, in particular that relieving the President of the Republic of his duties, to be completely unlawful. The European Union warns the military junta of the serious risk of the country's long-term isolation in the international arena. It urges the junta to restore the institutional framework that existed before 6 August and calls on it to cooperate immediately with the international community to that end. It renews its support for the efforts made along that path by the African Union in particular. The EU stands ready to contribute to a solution for the current institutional crisis through dialogue".

[EU provides extra €40m to the Palestinian Authority](#)

The EU has provided an additional €40m to the Palestinian Authority to help meet its recurrent expenditures and ensure the continued delivery of public services. The funds will be used to help pay for salaries and pensions, social allowances to vulnerable Palestinian families and fuel for the power plant to provide electricity to the people of Gaza. Using part of the initial €440m support package, the EU and the Palestinian Authority launched a €37m public infrastructure investment programme that will bring benefits to the Palestinian people by improving the delivery of public services. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, European Commissioner for External Relations and Neighbourhood Policy, said: "This extra package is a clear indication that we are continuing and reinforcing our commitment to the Palestinian people. In Paris last year we promised to keep supporting the Palestinian institutions and economic recovery with a substantial aid package for 2008. The Commissioner added: "I hope that other donors will continue to make every effort to fulfil their pledges or even go beyond, as we do today. If not, the situation of the Palestinian Authority will continue to be precarious."

[Media and Development Forum](#)

The MEDIA & Development Forum will be held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 11, 12 and 13 September 2008. This seminar falls within the framework of the partnership between the European Commission and the Commission of the African Union, and will enable discussion to take place on the importance of the media in the context of development. It will be attended by academics, professional journalists, representatives of civil society and political decision-makers.

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