



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**

### **EU High Representative/ Commission Vice President Ashton visits South Africa and Mauritius**

Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Commission Vice-President, visited South Africa (October 6) and Mauritius (October 7-9) to discuss strengthening strategic dialogue, deepening regional cooperation in the fight against piracy and contributing to international efforts for stability in Somalia. HR/VP Ashton said ahead of her trip: "SA is an important strategic partner of the EU on a number of regional and international issues of common interest, such as regional security in Zimbabwe, Sudan and Somalia, as well as in the fight against piracy. SA is a key emerging partner of the EU on issues of global governance, such as climate change and trade". During her one-day visit to SA, HR/VP Ashton met key government officials, including President Zuma, Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and Defence Minister Lindiwe Sisulu.

### **Commission approves €138m for health, ODA management, and high-level human resource development in SA**

The European Commission approved €138m for four programmes in the sectors of healthcare, ODA management, and high-level human resource development. The largest of the programmes focuses on improving primary healthcare through a sector policy budget support operation of €126m. A second programme of some €6m aims to enhance efficient, effective and sustainable management of ODA, to optimise its impact on the strategic development priorities of SA. A further €3m will provide opportunities for SA students to study in Europe, in the context of Action 2 of the current Erasmus Mundus Programme. Finally, a €3m regional ACP Science and Technology Programme II aims to strengthen systems of innovation by, inter alia, increasing capacity for science and technology.

### **Erasmus Mundus Partnerships now active in SA**

The Erasmus Mundus Programme is the EU's flagship programme for world-wide cooperation in higher education. During the first EU-SA Summit held in Bordeaux, France in July 2008, then Presidents Mbeki, Sarkozy and Barosso welcomed the development of an Erasmus Mundus South Africa Window. This has now become a reality, with grant contracts having been awarded to three partnerships of European and South African higher education institutions (HEIs), after a competitive Call for Proposals process, to arrange mobility to Europe for deserving South African students and academics.

More information on the partnerships is available at:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus\\_mundus/results\\_compendia/selected\\_projects\\_action\\_2\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/results_compendia/selected_projects_action_2_en.php)

The contracts awarded to these partnerships provide for 113 masters level students, 76 doctoral students and 42 academics (South African citizens only) to spend some time at European HEIs during the next four years. Students and academics will be selected by the partnerships according to published criteria. Information on the application and selection process adopted by each of the partnerships can be obtained from:

<http://www.ema2sa.eu>

<http://www.ua.ac.be/eurosa>

<http://www.sapientmundus.eu>

## **Other News**

### **[Development dimension of the International Day for the eradication of poverty](#)**

Address of Development Commissioner, Andris Piebalgs, to the European Parliament: "The fight against poverty is the central objective of EU development policy, as stated in the Lisbon Treaty. And equally important, this is also something that European citizens are strongly supportive of. As the world's leading donor, the EU has contributed greatly to the achievement of the MDGs so far. ...Development aid must be conceived as a catalyst, not as a cure. Sustainable progress depends primarily on developing countries' capacity to generate inclusive and sustainable growth. Development can only come from within developing countries, not from outside. And so it is on this "within" that we must focus our development efforts. In the end, this is what the principle of "ownership" means. In November, I plan therefore to launch a Green Paper and a public consultation to gather views on how to improve our policies and instruments to better act on the enabling factors for sustainable and inclusive growth in partner countries, thereby tackling the root causes of poverty, bringing strong value added to our development co-operation".

**[Full text of speech](#)**

### **[EU continues efforts to achieve universal abolition of death penalty](#)**

10 October is the World and European Day against the Death Penalty. Despite a marked trend towards abolition and restriction of the use of capital punishment in most countries, numbers and manner of death penalty application worldwide remain alarming. Where capital punishment remains in force, there are serious problems with regard to the respect of international norms and standards. EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton, said: "It is encouraging that the large majority of states have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. However, there is no room for complacency - every execution is one too many. This is why I have made our work on the abolition of the death penalty a personal priority."

### **[European Commission adopts strategy to ensure respect for EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#)**

The European Commission adopted a strategy to ensure that the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, legally binding since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, is effectively implemented. The Commission will verify that all EU laws are in compliance with the Charter at each stage of the legislative process and then in their application by EU Member States. "The Charter is a reflection of our common values and constitutional heritage," said Vice-President Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship. "The Charter must be the compass for all EU policies. The European Commission, and notably its Justice Department, will be very vigilant in ensuring that the Charter is upheld in all proposals for EU legislation, in all amendments introduced by the Council and by the European Parliament, as well as by Member States when they implement EU laws. The strategy adopted by the Commission today is an important step in creating a European fundamental rights culture."

### **[Statement by Commission President Barroso as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity](#)**

European Commission President Barroso addressed a High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly, in the context of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. "This meeting is a unique and welcome opportunity to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity. It is clear that we will not be able to mitigate climate change or adapt to its impacts, or prevent desertification and land degradation, if we do not protect our ecosystems and biodiversity. And yet, despite these interlinkages, we have collectively failed to reach our 2010 biodiversity target. Instead, we continue to lose biodiversity at an unprecedented rate. The European Union has committed, as part of its 2020 biodiversity target, to step up its contribution to averting global biodiversity loss. In addition, EU Member States contributed significantly to the recent replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, for which \$1.2bn is earmarked for biodiversity".

**[Full text](#)**

### **[EU contribution to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#)**

Andris Piebalgs, the European Commissioner for Development, participated in the Third Voluntary Replenishment Pledging Conference of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) in New York. Confronting HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis remains a major challenge for many developing countries, in the effort to achieve health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. Ahead of the conference, Commissioner Piebalgs said: "Two weeks ago, during the UN MDG Summit, the world committed to turn Millennium Development "Goals" into "Realities". Today, we can turn our commitments into actions. Creating more and inclusive growth in developing countries to reach the MDGs can simply not be achieved without a healthy population. The EU will continue to support the Global Fund in fight against these deadly diseases."

### **[The European Union allocates €10 million to fight epidemic outbreaks in developing countries](#)**

The European Commission has allocated €10m from its humanitarian aid budget to reduce the impact of epidemics on vulnerable people in developing countries and to support emergency operations to address outbreaks of communicable diseases. International Co-operation and Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Georgieva said: "Epidemic outbreaks pose major risks to the world's poorest populations, because of their decreased ability to respond to shocks of all kinds. Populations already affected by natural and man-made disasters are particularly vulnerable. A timely and adequate response to epidemic outbreaks, combined with appropriate preparedness action, can help save thousands of lives." She added "For example, between 25 and 50 percent of cholera cases are fatal if untreated, but the correct treatment of the disease can reduce mortality rates to below 1-2 percent."

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