



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

### [Statement by Commission President Barroso and Council President Van Rompuy on Libya \(22/08/11\)](#)

'The quest for freedom by the people of Libya is coming to a historic moment. The relentless efforts of the forces of the new Libya, supported militarily by NATO and several EU Member States, and countries from the region are bringing the Gaddafi regime to its end. We urge Colonel Gaddafi to accept the will of the people, step down immediately, and avoid further bloodshed and sufferance. The way is now open for Libya for freedom and self-determination.'

See also: [Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on developments in Libya](#)  
[Statement of the President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek, on situation in Libya](#)

### [Libya: EU geared up for the humanitarian challenge \(24/08/11\)](#)

Following the dramatic events in Libya with the speedy progress of National Transition Council troops into Tripoli, the European Commission confirmed that it was fully prepared to respond to humanitarian needs stemming from the fighting and its aftermath.

### [Commissioner Georgieva pledges support for Horn of Africa \(25/08/11\)](#)

Kristalina Georgieva, the EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, delivered a message at "The International Pledging Conference on Drought and Famine situation in the Horn of Africa", convened by the African Union in Addis Abeba: "I salute the African Union for addressing this crisis. Drought cannot be avoided, but hunger can - this is why it is essential that the immediate measures are combined with long-term support for sustainable livelihoods," Commissioner Georgieva said.



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### [World Water Week 2011: Statement of Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for Development \(22/08/11\)](#)

As World Water Week (21-29 August) gets under way, Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs reaffirmed the EU's commitment to meeting the Millennium Development Goal pledge of halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015: "Today in the world, some 1.2 billion people - nearly a fifth of the world's population - still fight to have access to safe drinking water. ... EU aid is making a vital difference - since 2004, more than 32 million people have gained access to improved water supply and 9.5 million to sanitation facilities thanks to support from the European Commission."

### [Tunisia: European support of €110 million for economic recovery \(23/08/11\)](#)

The European Union approved two new financial assistance programmes for Tunisia, for a total of €110m. These two programmes are part of the additional aid being provided by the EU to Tunisia following the January 2011 revolution, aimed at supporting the political and economic transition by improving economic and social conditions and developing new sources of employment.

### [EU Globalisation Fund support for workers increases three-fold in 2010 to over €3 million \(22/08/11\)](#)

Nearly 23 700 workers dismissed due to economic crisis and major structural changes in world trade patterns were helped by the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) last year, according to a report adopted today by the European Commission - more than double the number of workers helped by the Fund in 2009. The €3.5 million paid out by the EU's Globalisation Fund to nine Member States are intended to help the national authorities as they support dismissed workers in finding new job opportunities.

### **Statement on EU action following the escalation of violent repression in Syria (19/08/11)**

"The EU condemns in the strongest terms the brutal campaign Bashar al-Assad and his regime are waging against their own people. . . The EU has repeatedly emphasised that the brutal repression must be stopped, detained protesters released, free access by international humanitarian and human rights organizations and media allowed, and a genuine and inclusive national dialogue launched." See also [Restrictive measures on Syria \(23/08/11\)](#)

### **New Commission support to improve living conditions and create jobs in Egypt (18/08/11)**

The European Commission has approved €100m for Egypt, to help improve living conditions for the poor in Cairo, create more jobs, and make sustainable energy more widely available. The support will also raise awareness, through civil society groups, of the environmental challenges facing residents, and help local people - especially women and young people – to get involved in developing their own areas. 1 million Egyptian people will benefit from the programme.

### **Commission statement on proposals to strengthen governance of euro area (16/08/11)**

After a working meeting in Brussels, European Commission President, José Manuel Barroso, and Commissioner for economic and monetary affairs, Olli Rehn, issued the following statement: "The proposals made today by President Sarkozy and Chancellor Merkel are a welcome step forward in our common efforts to strengthen the governance of the euro area. They represent an important political contribution by the leaders of the two largest euro area economies to this debate and the on-going work."

### **Statement by the EC, ECB, and IMF on the First Review Mission to Portugal (12/08/11)**

The joint European Commission, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund statement reads: "In our assessment the program is on track. We welcome the new government's commitment to the ambitious and comprehensive program agreed in May 2011 and take note of its determination to accelerate implementation in key areas."

### **2011 Dual-use Exporter Conference**

On 20 September 2011 the Commission will host the 2011 Dual-use Exporter Conference. The event will bring together representatives from the private sector, national authorities and the EU institutions in order to discuss recent EU-level developments in the dual-use export control field. The conference will deal with a broad range of dual-use export control issues. The primary focus of the event will be on the new EU General Export Authorisations (EU GEAs) and on the Dual-use Export control Green Paper adopted by the Commission on 30 June 2011.

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