



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

[Third EU-SA Summit, held in Brussels](#)

The third EU-SA summit was held in Brussels on 28 September, hosted by EU Council President Van Rompuy, and European Commission President Barroso. The summit expressed satisfaction with the positive implementation of the Joint Action Plan, welcoming, inter alia, the efficient execution of the EU's development assistance programme, the excellent relationship between SA and the European Investment Bank, good progress in establishing a broad ranging dialogue on migration, and progress towards co-operation on crime and justice and employment and social affairs. The summit reiterated a shared commitment to reaching the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and resolved to strengthen collaboration on climate change and sustainable development. A frank and open discussion was held on the EU SADC Economic Partnership Agreement, with a resolution to conclude a final EPA by the end of the year.

[EU-SA Primary Education Sector Policy Support Programme launched](#)

The EU has committed a sum of just over R1.1bn (€122.68m) to the Primary Education Sector Policy Support Programme in South Africa. Launching the Programme at the conclusion of the EU-SA Summit in Brussels, the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, Androulla Vassiliou, noted that 'the need to improve the quality of basic education in South Africa, especially for poor communities, motivated the European Union to partner the country's education authorities in their efforts to attain better learner performance in literacy and numeracy at primary school level'.

[Third South Africa - EU Science Summit, Brussels, Belgium, 27 to 29 September 2010.](#)

Science and technology has long been one of the most active areas of cooperation of the Strategic Partnership between South Africa and the European Union. The purpose of the event was threefold: highlighting and celebrating the successes of past S&T partnerships between SA and the EU; exploring the potential for, and planning of, new initiatives to enhance S&T cooperation between SA and the EU; and ensuring collaboration in research and innovation contributes to the strengthening of the overall Strategic Partnership between South Africa and the EU, especially with regard to economic and development cooperation. The event is part of the European South African Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP), a support action funded under the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7) and implemented by the SA Department of Science and Technology, to promote cooperation between SA and the EU.

[Launch of the €30m EU-SA Innovation for Poverty Alleviation Programme](#)

Ambassador Lodewijk Briët, together with SA's Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor, launched the Innovation for Poverty Alleviation Programme, a €30m sector budget support programme to the SA Department of Science and Technology. The programme focuses specifically on job creation, the development of small and medium enterprises, contribution to economic growth and the improvement of the quality of life of South African communities. The event was attended by senior government officials, traditional leaders, the Science Councils and some 800 learners from local schools in the area. As Ambassador Briët rightly noted on the day: "...[the EU's] involvement in the Science and Technology sector has come a long way – looking back I can confidently say that together we have established a firm foundation on which we must seek to build an even stronger co-operative partnership with the relevant sector role-players in South Africa."

[Full text of Ambassador Briët's speech](#)

Other News

[President Barroso attends the UN High Level Summit on MDGs](#)

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, and EU Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs, participated in the UN High Level Summit to review progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As the world's leading donor, contributing around 56% of global aid, the EU remains firmly committed to reaching the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and called on all partners to increase their efforts and focus on results. President Barroso said: "The European Commission is, and will remain, fully committed to ensure progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. I firmly believe that they are achievable with strong political commitment from all partners and the right policies and resources. Donors must live up to their promises and developing countries must take their future in their own hands. It is about solidarity, ownership and co-responsibility. We have a commitment to better the lives of billions of people and give everyone the chance to live in dignity. We must not fail those most in need. By working together we can, and we will, reach the goals by 2015."

[Energy in Africa: Commissioners Piebalgs and Oettinger launch the Renewable Energy Co-operation Programme](#)

EU Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs and EU Commissioner for Energy, Gunther Oettinger, together with the African Union, launched the Renewable Energy Co-operation Programme (RECP) at a High Level Meeting of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) in Vienna. This programme aims to bring relevant renewable energy technologies to the African market. Commissioner Piebalgs said: "Today 1.6bn people worldwide have no access to electricity, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. Africa has a vast untapped renewable energy potential, ranging from hydro, to solar, wind, geothermal and biomass which could be used to ensure millions of people access to electricity. Today's event is a stepping stone on the EU and Africa Partnership towards the "renewable revolution". It will also contribute to Africa's efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals and to secure future low-carbon growth".

[Full text of Development Commissioner's speech](#)

[Further progress in EU-Africa cooperation in Space](#)

European Commission Vice President, and Commissioner in charge of Industry and Entrepreneurship, Antonio Tajani, discussed with Commissioner Jean Pierre Ezin of the African Union Commission, how space applications can play a significant role in helping to combat many of the core challenges faced by the African continent. In this respect earth observation, which is being developed jointly under the "GMES1 and Africa initiative", plays a crucial part. This action plan is part of the EU-Africa strategic partnership and aims to ensure that earth observation data are available to respond to African user needs in areas such as climate change, water resource management and food security. In a joint statement, Vice-President Tajani and Commissioner Ezin expressed satisfaction with the on-going cooperation between the EU and Africa to ensure the most efficient use of space applications which respond to African user needs. Vice-President Tajani said "The EU and Africa are working towards the deployment of a pan-African satellite navigation services infrastructure. This would create significant benefits for Africa including reduced levels of aviation fatalities, but also important improvements in land management, mining and rail safety".

[Giving momentum to the EU's external relations](#)

EU heads of state and government will in future hold regular talks on the EU's external policy, in order to enhance its effectiveness. Meeting at the European Council on 16 September in Brussels, leaders debated EU strategies in a rapidly changing world and, more specifically, ahead of important summits with key partners. They were joined in their discussions by foreign ministers. Leaders agreed on the need for Europe to promote its interests and values more assertively and to be an effective global actor. "This is the beginning of a process. This European Council is the first in a series dedicated to foreign policy," said Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council. The aim is to bring Europe's true weight to bear internationally.

[European Council conclusions](#)

[EU High Representative/Vice-President appoints new Heads and Deputy Heads of EU Delegations](#)

Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Commission Vice-President has appointed 27 new Heads of EU Delegation and 1 Deputy Head of EU Delegation, subject to the necessary requirements. HR/VP Ashton said, following her decision: " I am extremely pleased by the calibre of those who applied for the posts. I have consistently asked member states and the EU institutions to put forward the brightest and best that Europe has to offer and I hope this will continue to be the case as we build the new European External Action Service, because EU citizens deserve to be represented by the best that Europe has to offer. I am pleased that we have made a start to address the important issues of geographical and gender balance. These appointments show an improvement in both, but there is more to do." Roeland Van De Geer has been appointed to head the Delegation in SA, subject to approval of his proposed appointment by the SA government.

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