



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 Pres Barroso ahead of meeting of the Heads of State/Government of Euro area \(20/07/11\)](#)

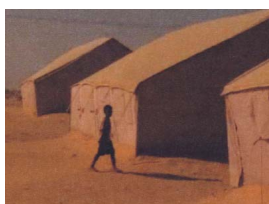
"Tomorrow the Heads of State and Government of the Euro area will meet in Brussels to address the present challenges in the Euro area. Nobody should be under any illusion: the situation is very serious. It requires a response. Otherwise the negative consequences will be felt in all corners of Europe and beyond."

### [European Commission publishes the 2011 Report on development and external assistance \(15/07/11\)](#)

The report confirms the Commission as one of the largest providers of development aid in the world, with commitments and disbursements exceeding €1bn respectively. Priorities for 2010 were to continue ensuring progress of the Millennium Development Goals and to help developing countries tackle the impact of the economic downturn and food price instability. See: [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/multimedia/publications/documents/annual-reports/annual-report-2011\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/multimedia/publications/documents/annual-reports/annual-report-2011_en.pdf)

### [MEPs assess humanitarian situation in South Sudan \(20/07/11\)](#)

A delegation from the European Parliament visited South Sudan from 19-21/07/11 and welcomed the new Republic of South Sudan as the 193th member of the United Nations. The members also welcomed the allocation by the EU of €200 mil to support the implementation of the Government of South Sudan's forthcoming "2011-13 Development Plan" for projects related to education, health, agriculture, food security and democratic governance.



### [EP delegation visits Tunisia to assess migration situation \(20/07/11\)](#)

A delegation of six MEPs visited Tunisia to assess the problems caused by the exodus of immigrants from Tunisia to the EU. The situation has been exacerbated by the influx of asylum seekers to Tunisia fleeing the war in Libya and the delegation visited refugee camps (left) close to the border. Maltese EPP member Simon Busuttil, who led the delegation, said: "Europe must address the challenges posed by this situation, particularly the treatment of refugees, humanitarian aid, and the impact of the migratory flow on Europe."

### [Ivory Coast: EU launches five programmes for economic recovery and national reconciliation \(20/07/11\)](#)

The European Union has adopted five programmes for €125m in Ivory Coast. These programmes are intended to support the areas of vocational training, health, transportation, public finance management and the strengthening of civil society organisations.

### [Commission adopts a 'European Agenda for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals' \(20/07/11\)](#)

The European Commission has adopted a 'European Agenda for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals' to enhance the economic, social and cultural benefits of migration in Europe. The Agenda puts the emphasis on migrants' full participation in all aspects of collective life and highlights the key role of local authorities. See also: [Frequently asked questions](#)

### [€7bn boost for research and innovation will create jobs and growth \(19/07/11\)](#)

Research, Innovation and Science Commissioner, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, announced nearly €7bn to kick-start innovation through research. The EC's biggest ever such funding package, under the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7), is expected to create around 174 000 jobs in the short-term and nearly 450 000 jobs and nearly €80bn in GDP growth over 15 years. EU research funding is at the top of the political agenda and has now been placed at the centre of a coherent innovation strategy, the Innovation Union, which Europe needs, if it is to compete with large, dynamic countries like the US and China.



### **[Resumption of aid for Niger: Commission releases €25 million \(19/07/11\)](#)**

The European Commission has released €25m in budgetary support for Niger, the first such payment since the investiture of the new president, Mahamadou Issoufou, in April 2011 and since the EU resumed in full its cooperation with Niger on 20 June. With these funds the government will be able to step up its fight against poverty, in particular by concentrating on the social sectors (education and health).

### **[Commission to provide €244m for 183 new environment projects \(19/07/11\)](#)**

The European Commission has approved funding for 183 new projects under the LIFE+ programme, the EU's environment fund. The projects involve all EU Member States and cover actions in the fields of nature conservation, climate change, clean technology, environmental policy and information and communication on environmental issues. Overall, they represent a total investment of some €530m, of which the EU will provide €244m. Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik said: *"The LIFE+ programme maintains its financial support for high quality, innovative projects with a high level of added value for the EU. These new projects will not only make a significant contribution to nature conservation and to improving the environment, including the fight against climate change, they will help raise awareness across Europe of the key environmental challenges facing us."* See: [List of all new projects funded under LIFE+](#)

### **[EU sets out roadmap for the resumption of development cooperation with Guinea-Bissau \(18/07/11\)](#)**

The EU Council concluded consultations held under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement with the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and set out a roadmap to gradually resume development cooperation with the country. Catherine Ashton, High Representative for EU Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said: *"Since the opening of consultations, the EU has continued all its activities in support to the people and will do so in the future. Today's decision opens the way for our gradual reengagement in other operations, in line with concrete progress made by our Bissau-Guinean partners on their commitment"*.

### **[Syrian and Libyan opposition leaders ask for EU help \(15/07/11\)](#)**

European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee MEPs said the EU should step up support for Syrian protesters, and condemned Iran for assisting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, at a meeting with Syrian opposition leader and human rights lawyer Haitham al-Maleh. A delegation of Libya's National Transitional Council (NTC) headed by its diplomatic chief Mahmoud Jibril also met with top EU officials and MEPs. Libyan opposition head Mahmoud Jibril urged the EU to "liberate frozen assets to aid the Libyan population".

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