



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

[EC President Barroso congratulates new SA President Kgalema Motlanthe](#)

European Commission President José Manuel Durão Barroso congratulated newly elected SA President Kgalema Motlanthe. In his statement, President Barroso noted that EU SA relations have developed over time into a comprehensive partnership and that he looked forward to working with President Motlanthe during his Presidency to further consolidate the strategic partnership between the EU and South Africa.

[EC President Barroso sends message to former SA President Thabo Mbeki](#)

European Commission President José Manuel Durão Barroso thanked Thabo Mbeki for his "outstanding contribution" during the years he served as President and Deputy President of SA and commended him for presiding over a continued strengthening and development of EU SA relations.

[President Barroso's address to the Opening Session of the UN High Level Event on Millennium Development Goals](#)

"To achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the key first step is to deliver more aid, and more effective aid. To put the last few difficult weeks into some sort of MDG perspective, we have to ensure not just financial rescue, but human rescue. To that end, we in the European Union have set out our commitments in the EU Agenda for Action, adopted unanimously by EU Heads of State and Government in June. We must - and we will - follow through and deliver on the Agenda for Action. EU Member States have also confirmed their commitments to increase aid flows in line with our target, which is to reach, collectively as the European Union, 0,56 % GNP by 2010 and 0,7% GNP by 2015".

[10th Africa-EU Ministerial Troika meeting communiqué](#)

In the framework of the Africa-EU dialogue, the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the African and EU Troikas took place in Brussels, Belgium on 16 September 2008. The EU emphasised the recent reform of its Council structures tasked with the follow up of the Africa-EU dialogue and stressed the aid effectiveness of the arrangement made for the implementation of the Joint Strategy. Ministers underlined the necessity to involve key stakeholders in the implementation process, including EU Member States and African countries, African Regional Economic Communities, the Pan African and the European Parliaments, local authorities, and non-state actors from continents including civil societies, the private sector and the academic communities. Ministers also emphasised the important role played by the African chefs de file, as well as by the AU Permanent Mission to the EU and the EU Delegation to the AU in the further deepening the partnership.

[European Commission provides extra €10M in humanitarian aid to Zimbabwe](#)

The European Commission has allocated an additional €10 million in relief assistance for people affected by the enduring humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe. The aim is to tackle the suffering among the most vulnerable population groups affected by displacement, epidemics and violence, by mainly providing assistance in the areas of health, water and sanitation. The humanitarian assistance comes in addition to €15 million in food aid that the Commission has already made available in Zimbabwe this year. Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, stated: "I am deeply concerned by the continued dramatic humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. This situation must be addressed urgently. This has been recognised by Prime Minister-designate Morgan Tsvangirai as one of the top priorities the Zimbabwean authorities have to tackle in the immediate term. This is also a priority for Europe and the European Commission is doing its part to help meet these urgent humanitarian needs."

[Council Conclusions on Zimbabwe](#)

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"The Council welcomes the conclusion of a political agreement between the parties in Zimbabwe on 11 September 2008. The Council thanks President Mbeki for the mediation efforts undertaken in the context of the SADC which made it possible to reach an agreement following lengthy negotiations. The Council will study the details of the agreement and will be attentive to its implementation, which will mean immediate cessation of all forms of intimidation and violence. It stresses that that agreement must provide the Zimbabwean people with the reforms awaited: democracy and the rule of law, including respect for human rights, and the restoration of the country's economic and social situation".

Other News

[EC President Barroso speech to the High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs](#)

In an address in New York titled "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments challenges and the way forward", European Commission President Barroso outlined three main challenges facing the African continent: rising world food prices, climate change and energy. Barroso said that action was needed to support agriculture in developing countries. In this context, the Commission has proposed a new €1 billion Food Facility, promoting agricultural production by improving poor farmers' access to inputs such as fertilizers and seed. With regard to climate change, he said that it was essential for Europe and Africa to work very closely together in the coming months to develop a strong partnership based in particular on adaptation, the key question for Africa. With this in mind, the Commission had launched the Global Climate Change Alliance between the EU on the one hand, and poor and vulnerable developing countries on the other. Finally, Barroso said better energy security needed to be established for both continents and that energy issues would be addressed in the Africa-EU Energy Partnership launched in 2008.

[Commissioners Ferrero-Waldner and Michel on the elections in Rwanda](#)

Benita Ferrero-Waldner, European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, welcomed the orderly conduct of the elections in Rwanda. "These elections mark the beginning of an important electoral cycle in Rwanda and I congratulate the Rwandan electoral authorities for the correct organization of these elections and the mobilization of the Rwandan electorate". Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, said "This second national legislative election since the genocide in Rwanda has highlighted the important steps towards the consolidation of democracy in Rwanda. Significant progress has been made, and I encourage the Rwandese authorities and population to build on the positive outcome of the elections".

[European Parliament report on Member States' Official Development Assistance levels](#)

In a report adopted by the European Parliament on the follow-up to the Monterrey Conference of 2002 on Financing for Development, MEPs expressed serious concern that a number of Member States were unable to raise their level of Official Development Assistance between 2006 and 2007. The report asked Member States to raise ODA volumes to achieve their promised target of 0,56% of GNI in 2010. Otherwise the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will not be reached by 2015.

[EU Trade Commissioner says EU will continue to engage in Doha Development talks](#)

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson addressed the European Parliament's committee on trade, and told them that the EU will continue to engage firmly in the process of talks in Geneva over the Doha Development Agenda. Mandelson stressed that a definitive collapse of the Doha Round would seriously dent confidence in the WTO's system of trade rules and future market openness, and have a significant knock-on effect on the multilateral system as a whole. It would come exactly at the wrong moment and weaken prospects for other international negotiations like the important climate change negotiations. He noted that there is no 'plan B' to secure a Doha deal which the world economy still needs for many reasons.

[Read the full remarks](#)

[4-year Action Plan and European Alliance on Drugs strengthen Europe's fight against drugs use](#)

The Commission adopted "An EU Drugs Action Plan for 2009-2012" which proposes wide-ranging measures to strengthen European cooperation to curb the adverse consequences of drug use and cut drug-related crime. These measures also include a European Alliance on Drugs to reduce the harm caused by drugs in our society. Through the European Alliance on Drugs, the Commission also called on government bodies, public services and voluntary organisations to work in partnership.

[European Parliament launches its own internet TV channel](#)

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