



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*



17 - 23 June 2011

Top News

[Statement by Pres Barroso following the confidence vote on new Greek Government \(22/06/11\)](#)

"Tonight's vote in the Greek Parliament removes an element of uncertainty from an already very difficult situation. That is good news for Greece and for the European Union as a whole. Prime Minister Papandreou and his government can now focus all their efforts on building support in parliament for the ambitious series of fiscal measures and privatisations agreed with the troika. The approval of these measures next week will not only enable a rapid disbursement of the next tranche of financial assistance for Greece; it will also mark a big step in Greece's journey back towards sustainable public finances and a return to growth".

[Towards a global green economy and better governance \(20/06/11\)](#)

The Commission adopts a Communication preparing the ground for the EU's position at the Rio+20 UN Sustainable Development Conference, which will be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. The Communication outlines objectives and specific actions on the two inter-linked themes of the Conference: enabling the transition to a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and ensuring better governance for sustainable development.



[Strong impetus to energy savings and energy efficiency \(22/06/11\)](#)

The cheapest energy is the one we do not consume. The counting down has started to achieve Europe's 20% energy efficiency target for 2020. If nothing changes in the coming years, the EU will achieve only half of the target. This threatens EU competitiveness, the fight to reduce CO2 emissions and the security of supply.

See also: [The Commission's new Energy Efficiency Directive](#)

[Presidents Barroso and Van Rompuy welcome the re-election of Ban Ki-moon \(22/06/11\)](#)

"We warmly welcome the news of the re-election of the Secretary General of the United Nations. Under his leadership the UN has played a decisive role in tackling issues of a global nature, from tackling climate change to peace and security, development and eradication of poverty. We look forward to continue the good cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations in the future".



[EU resumes full development cooperation with Niger \(20/06/11\)](#)

The Council has confirmed that the EU is fully resuming development cooperation with the Republic of Niger, following the country's successful democratic transition and return to constitutional order. "I am very satisfied with the return to democracy in Niger, through a very successful process of transition," said Catherine Ashton, High Representative for EU Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

[European Asylum Support Office now fully operational \(19/06/11\)](#)

The European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmström, participated in the inaugural ceremony of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) in Valetta, Malta. The new Office began some of its activities in November 2010. The EASO was established with the aim of enhancing practical cooperation on asylum matters, and helping Member States fulfil their European and international obligations to give protection to people in need.

For further information please contact Frank Oberholzer on 012-452-5200