



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

[Floods in Pakistan: Commission provides additional €10m in emergency aid to address humanitarian needs](#)

The European Commission adopted a €10m emergency decision to further assist the most vulnerable people in Pakistan affected by the disastrous floods. The aid decision takes immediate effect and comes as an addition to the €30m for humanitarian assistance already allocated by the Commission. Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Commission Vice-President, said: "My heartfelt condolences go to all those affected by this crisis and the EU stands ready to support Pakistan both in financial and political terms in dealing with the consequences of this terrible event." Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, said: "Pakistan's terrible floods now affect almost fourteen million people and these numbers could rise as flood waters continue to move towards the more densely populated south. One third of the country is flooded and so far more than 290,000 houses have been damaged. First assessments show that the flood victims are in dire need of clean drinking water, shelter, food, non-food items (like blankets and hygiene kits) and medical assistance. Our additional emergency funds of €10m will cover these needs through relief operations in all flood-affected areas in the country."

[Declaration by the EU HR Catherine Ashton on the International Day of the World's Indigenous People](#)

"Today, on the International Day of the World's Indigenous People (9/8), I want to send a message of support to indigenous peoples around the world on behalf of the European Union. On this day, we celebrate indigenous peoples, and pay tribute to the enormous contribution their traditions and knowledge have made to the world's cultural heritage and to the sustainable development of our planet. We are now in the middle of the second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2005 - 2015). We therefore reflect on what has been done to protect the rights of indigenous peoples, as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and guarantee them equal treatment, and how much more remains to be done. Regrettably, discrimination against, and unequal treatment of, indigenous peoples continues around the world. The International Day provides an opportunity for the EU to renew its commitment to promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples, as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. On behalf of the European Union, I pledge to strive to put an end to discrimination and unequal treatment - not only in principle, but most importantly in practice".

[EU statement on the Presidential Elections in Rwanda](#)

Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton, and EU Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs, on the Presidential Elections in Rwanda: "We congratulate Rwanda for the organisation of the Presidential Elections on 9 August 2010, in particular the calm atmosphere and the very high turnout of voters. These elections constitute a new stage in Rwanda's democratic process and development. At the same time, we note that some progress remains to be made in ensuring fundamental freedoms, and freedom of the media. The EU is still concerned about the serious incidents which marred the pre-electoral period and urges the Rwandese authorities to ensure that the investigations and judicial proceedings regarding these events are carried out in full transparency and as rapidly as possible. Further opening of the political space and strengthening the public debate throughout the country would significantly contribute to safeguarding Rwanda's achievements and will benefit all Rwandese".

Other News

[EU-US Summit to be held in November in Lisbon](#)

The President of the European Council, Herman van Rompuy, and the President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, will welcome U.S. President Barack Obama at the next European Union-United States Summit, which will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, on November 20. The EU and the US work together around the world to advance a common agenda based on shared history, culture and values. The transatlantic relationship is unique in its breadth and depth and includes a commitment to advancing the ideals of democracy and human rights, fighting terrorism, and preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The EU-US relationship is vital to global prosperity, and both sides are committed to cooperate in order to promote growth and jobs in their economies. Presidents van Rompuy and Barroso are looking forward to this opportunity to meet again with President Obama to reaffirm the transatlantic agenda and advance EU-US cooperation on issues of mutual concern.

[European Parliament: Europe must push for a healthy Africa](#)

Despite Europe's focus on the global financial crisis, European Parliament MEPs insist that aid to Africa in the field of health care is essential. "It's not a question of ideology, but of saving human lives," Belgian Socialist Veronique De Keyser said during a discussion of her report in the European Parliament Development Committee, on health care systems in Sub-Saharan Africa. The report noted that health is traditionally not a priority and less funding is given to the sector than to education. Also, funding for specific diseases, including AIDS, TB and malaria, means money is diverted away from basic healthcare. Ms De Keyser, who nursed in Africa, said that often hospitals are too far away from the people who need them and health workers often lack experience. Slovak EPP member Anna Záborská said the EU should support training programs, while Luxembourg Liberal, Charles Goerens, suggested temporary visas for African health workers would allow them to gain experience. He also underlined the problem of doctors leaving the public service to get better pay.

[European Commission requests further humanitarian funding to respond to the food crisis in the Sahel and Sudan](#)

In response to the worsening food crisis affecting the Sahel and Sudan, Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva, announced that the Commission has proposed an additional €40m in humanitarian funding to be drawn from the EU budget's Emergency Aid Reserve. €30m of this would be additional funding for the Sahel and €10m for Sudan. The additional funds will be used to boost the humanitarian aid operations carried out by European Commission humanitarian aid partners and will help provide food assistance to over 500,000 extra beneficiaries during the next critical months, until harvest time in October. Currently, over 10 million people in the Sahel region are at risk of food insecurity. Commissioner Georgieva said: "During my visit to Niger in early June I saw for myself the scale of the food crisis affecting the Sahel region and the ensuing large numbers of severely malnourished children brought for treatment to Commission funded nutrition centres. The next few months until the next harvest will be a critical time. With the additional funding that we have requested we will be able to help hundreds of thousands more people more to survive through this hungry period".

[Kenya: Commission allocates €15m to bring relief to world's biggest refugee camps](#)

The European Commission adopted a €15m aid package to provide assistance to Somali populations at Dadaab camps, the biggest refugee camps in the world, hosting more than 278,000 people. The sectors covered by this decision include health, water and sanitation, non food items, shelter and protection. In addition, €5m will be allocated from this new funding to provide immediate food and livelihood assistance to people who are struggling to cope with the increased frequency of severe drought in the arid, semi-arid and coastal regions of the country. The Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva, stated: "The Dadaab camps have currently three times more people than the number they were designed to host. In this year alone, the Somali crisis will force yet another 100 000 people to flee over the border into Kenya just to survive. Now that the Kenyan authorities have allocated additional land to decongest the camps, the Commission's new funding will be key to building this extension and to providing all the necessary infrastructure and basic services for these needy people."

[European Commission approves €135m in grants to Morocco for 2010](#)

The European Commission approved a new financial support package of €135m for Morocco. The package, in the form of grants, will support reform by the Moroccan Government in three areas: agricultural policy with the 'Plan Maroc Vert', the strategy for integrating populations living in remote areas and the literacy strategy. The grants amounting to €135m (i.e. around 1,375m Moroccan dirham) are aimed at directly improving the lives of the Moroccan population. "Our aid programme reflects the special nature of the partnership between the European Union and Morocco in the context of Advanced Status relations. It also attests to the very great importance that we attribute to the reforms implemented by the Kingdom of Morocco to strengthen social cohesion and combat poverty", said Štefan Füle, the Commissioner in charge of Enlargement and the European Neighbourhood Policy.

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