



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



### Way out of the debt crisis

The Euro Summit on 26/10 agreed a comprehensive set of measures to address the current tensions in financial markets and restore confidence. "We do not want to repeat some of the errors from the recent past," said Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, who chaired the meeting. "In taking today's decisions, we lay the foundations for our future. All members of the Euro Summit are determined to follow this path."

See also: [Euro Summit statement](#)

[The 27: common resolve to overcome the crisis](#)  
[Roadmap to a new Stability Culture in Europe](#)

### Briefing on European Council conclusions of 23 & 26 October by President JM Barroso (27/10/11)

Addressing the European Parliament, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso said: "Following a long but constructive meeting that was concluded just few hours ago, I am pleased to stand before you this morning and confirm that today, Europe is closer to resolving its economic and financial crisis and to getting back on a path to growth. The Euro Summit took solid and substantial steps that should enable Europe to turn a corner."

See also: [European Council 23 October 2011 conclusions \(23/10/11\)](#)

### Climate summit: EU should champion Kyoto Protocol, says Environment Committee (26/10/11)

The EU should show leadership at the UN climate summit in Durban and give full support to continue the Kyoto Protocol beyond 2012, says a resolution voted by the Environment Committee this morning. MEPs also say the EU's economy would benefit from aiming above the current 20% greenhouse gas reduction target.

### 'Blue Card' permits for highly qualified migrants fail to comply with EU rules in 6 Member States (27/10/11)

By not complying with EU rules, a number of Member States are making it too hard for highly skilled people to come to the EU for work. The EU Blue Card Directive puts in place common and efficient rules that allow highly skilled people from outside Europe to come and work in its labour markets where there is a need.

### Commission seeks stronger EU response to fight dangerous new synthetic drugs (25/10/11)

The European Commission has given a fresh impetus to anti-drugs policy by announcing an overhaul of the EU rules to fight illicit drugs, particularly new psychoactive substances, which imitate the effects of dangerous drugs like ecstasy or cocaine and are a growing problem. The EU identified a record 41 such substances in 2010, up from 24 the previous year.

### EU and China set to boost co-operation on education, culture, youth and research (24/10/11)

European Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou visited Beijing to finalise plans for the launch of a "people-to-people" dialogue covering education, culture, youth, research and multilingualism, with the aim of deepening understanding and mutual trust by supporting exchanges between the two strategic partners.

See also: [Statement by EUHR following talks with the Chinese leadership \(25/10/11\)](#)

### Dawn Garisch wins the 2011 Sol Plaatje European Union Poetry Award (21/10/11)

South African poet Dawn Garisch won the 2011 Sol Plaatje European Union Poetry Award for her poem "Miracle". The awards ceremony as well as the launch of the Sol Plaatje European Union Poetry Anthology took place as part of Poetry Africa Festival in Durban.

(Ms Garisch reading her winning entry)



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