



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*



22 July – 4 August 2011

Top News

[Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, condemns the bomb blasts in Oslo \(22/07/11\)](#)

"I am deeply shocked by the bomb blasts this afternoon in Oslo which have killed a number of innocent people and left many others injured. I want to convey my most sincere condolences to the families of the victims. I condemn in the strongest terms these acts of cowardice for which there is no justification. I have sent a message of condolences and solidarity from the European Union to Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg and the people of Norway."

[Statement by President JM Barroso on euro area sovereign bond markets \(03/08/11\)](#)

"Developments in the sovereign bond markets of Italy and Spain are a cause of deep concern. These developments are clearly unwarranted on the basis of economic and budgetary fundamentals in these two Member States and the steps that they are taking to reinforce those fundamentals."

See also: [Council calls for a tight 2012 EU budget \(25/07/11\)](#)

[Statement by Commissioner Rehn on Euro Area Summit \(22/07/11\)](#)



[Humanitarian Aid: new funding for famine and drought victims in the Horn of Africa \(27/07/11\)](#)

Kristalina Georgieva, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, visited Kenya and Somalia, where she announced an immediate allocation of €27.8m euro, which comes on top of the €70m euro already given to the region this year, in response to the worsening humanitarian situation in the region.

[Democratic Republic of the Congo: EU observers for presidential and parliamentary elections \(02/08/11\)](#)

The European Union is to send an election observation mission (EOM) to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the presidential and parliamentary elections to be held on 28 November 2011. The mission will be deployed six to eight weeks before the polls and will be led by Ms Mariya Nedelcheva, Member of the European Parliament. "



Statements by/on behalf of High Representative Catherine Ashton:

[Statement on the situation in Syria \(01/08/11\)](#)

[Statement on the increasing use of the death penalty in Iran \(28/07/11\)](#)

[Statement on recent killings in Afghanistan \(28/07/11\)](#)

[Statement on violent disruption of protests Malawi \(22/07/11\)](#)

[Climate Action: Reducing CO2 emissions from cars through eco-innovation \(25/07/11\)](#)

The automotive industry will have a greater incentive to invest in new technologies that reduce CO2 emissions from new cars, under legislation adopted by the European Commission. The expected savings will assist the industry to meet the European target of limiting CO2 emissions from new cars to an average of 130 grams/km by 2015.

[Africa's first microfinance fund for sustainable farmers launched \(22/07/11\)](#)

Africa's first specialist rural microfinance fund supporting fair trade and organic small business, FEFISOL, the European Solidarity Financing Fund for Africa, has been launched by the European Investment Bank (EIB), Agence Française de Développement and a broad grouping of development bodies, social investors and microfinance service providers.

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