



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**

## [Statement by European Commissioner for Climate Action at the opening of the High-level Segment of COP-16](#)

"Although the European Union was ready to commit to an international, legally binding agreement already in Copenhagen – and of course still is – we know that here in Cancun we cannot get *everything* done. But it is absolutely imperative that we deliver something, something substantial. Something leading to immediate action. Something that paves the way towards the international agreement that the world needs to tackle climate change effectively. To come out of Cancun with nothing is simply not an option".

[Full text of Commissioner Hedegaard's statement](#)

## [European Commission President Barroso - closing remarks at the 3rd Africa-EU Summit press conference](#)

"This has been a very successful summit. Europe and Africa are natural partners. We are bound together by a shared history. But more important than the past is the shared future that we can build, based on common values and mutual interests. In Lisbon, in 2007, we created a new and unique partnership of solidarity and equality. This Tripoli Summit was a timely opportunity to discuss the progress we have achieved, and to set out our more tangible ambitions for the future.... Our discussions had a particular focus on "investment, economic growth and job creation" – in short: on growth and jobs. This is more important and urgent for Europe and for Africa than ever. Both our continents are dealing with the fall-out of a serious economic crisis. Securing a sustainable recovery and creating employment in both continents is a challenge on which we can achieve much by working together".

[Full text of speech](#)  
[Tripoli Declaration](#)

## [2010 European Report on Development](#)

Social protection can help reduce poverty and vulnerability and promote development and inclusive growth in sub-Saharan Africa, according to a report which was commissioned by the EU. To unleash the full potential of social protection, African countries, the EU and other donors need to place it at the heart of their development policies.

## [European Commission President Barroso – Opening speech at European Development days](#)

"It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2010 edition of the European Development Days, co-organised by the European Commission and the Belgian Presidency of the European Union. This wide variety of participants has been a constant feature of the European Development Days since their beginning and is also a demonstration of the way the European Union looks into Development: as a challenge that will only be overcome with the participation of all, in a true partnership approach. This year, European Development Days falls at a decisive moment in our policy-making. We have put the finishing touches to the European External Action Service. As it opens its doors, this is the moment to underline once again the important role development plays at the heart of Europe's external relations.

[Full text of speech](#)

## [Public consultation on external action funding after 2013](#)

The European Commission has launched a public consultation on all aspects of EU external funding. The aim is to gather ideas and opinions on the future of the instruments that the European Union has at its disposal to fulfil its worldwide responsibilities. The online consultation, which is open to all stakeholders, is preparing the ground for

the Commission legislative proposals to be presented in 2011, on the financial perspectives after 2013. Deadline is 31st January 2011.

[Participate in the survey](#)

## **Other News**

### **[World AIDS Day 2010: European Commission tops €1.3bn invested in the fight against AIDS in the world](#)**

To fight AIDS on a global scale, EU Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs recently announced a 10% increase in contributions to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), to which the EU is already the largest donor, providing 52% of resources. On the eve of the annual World Aids Day, John Dalli, Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy said: "HIV and AIDS have been causing great suffering to people and communities across the world for more than a quarter of a century. Testing is an important first step to fight the virus. Today is the time to build up momentum; and strengthen our commitment to fight this terrible disease." Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for Development, added: "Without a healthy population, it is impossible to create inclusive and sustainable growth in developing countries to reach the Millennium Development Goals. AIDS remains one of the most deadly diseases and we have to increase our efforts in preventing the spread of this virus."

### **[European Commissioner for Trade address to the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly](#)**

"Today, international trade is no longer a simple matter of import and export of goods, but a story of increasingly global supply chains; where more than half of world trade takes place between subsidiaries of multinational companies; where foreign investment is a channel to increase exports and create jobs; where countries import to export; where areas like financial, telecom and retail services play an ever bigger role in supporting all sectors of the economy; and where regional strongholds can be used as springboards for international success. Therefore, attracting investment is one of the key goals of the Economic Partnership Agreements. Investment plays a bigger and bigger role in the global economy and this was a main acknowledgement of this week's Africa-EU Summit. The tables have to turn, not just for Africa but also for the Caribbean and the Pacific".

[Full text of Commissioner De Gucht's speech](#)

### **[Commission allocates additional €20m to tackle worsening humanitarian situation in the Sahel](#)**

The European Commission amended a previous Financial Decision in order to double its financial commitment in the Sahel Region from €20m to €40m. The funding will provide humanitarian and food assistance for the most vulnerable sections of the population, bringing total financial aid for the Sahel in 2010 to €74m. Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, said: "People living in the Sahel region need our support to survive. This financial engagement shows that Europe cares. I visited the area earlier this year and witnessed the suffering of the people. Timely and significant food assistance funded by the European Commission and the good work of our partners over the past months has saved many lives this Summer. However, in view of the worrying evolution of the situation, it is crucial that we step up our response to save people who are still at risk."

### **[The European Commission and UN call for global solidarity in front of growing humanitarian needs](#)**

The European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva, and the Director of UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva, Rashid Khalikov, called for a generous response by all global actors, at the presentation of the 2011 UN Consolidated Appeal Process in a conference in Brussels. "Humanitarian needs around the world are on the rise. Alleviating the suffering of the people affected by natural disasters, violent crises and conflicts is a matter of global solidarity. The EU, as the biggest world donor of humanitarian aid will work shoulder to shoulder with UN agencies and with all our other partners to make a difference on the ground between life and death. Current economic crisis should not make us forget those who suffer the most" said Dr. Georgieva.

### **[Three new European research infrastructures on wind, solar and nuclear energy announced](#)**

Research Ministers of the EU Member States and Associated Countries, together with the European Commission, announced three new pan-European energy research infrastructures. A wind research facility is planned in Denmark, a concentrated solar power installation in Spain and a nuclear research reactor in Belgium. The overall investment is about €1.2bn. European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, said: "Developing world-class research infrastructure in Europe, by pooling resources at EU level, is an important objective of the Innovation Union. We need to bring research, technology, industry and market implementation closer together and that is the purpose of the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan."

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