



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*



23 September - 6 October 2011

## Top News

### [President of the European Commission European renewal – State of the Union Address 2011 \(28/09/11\)](#)

'Let me start with Greece. Greece is, and will remain, a member of the euro area. Greece must implement its commitments in full and on time. In turn, the other euro area members have pledged to support Greece and each other. As stated at the euro area Summit on 21 July: "We are determined to continue to provide support to countries under programmes until they have regained market access, provided they successfully implement those programmes'.

[Key messages of President Barroso from his live interview with YouTube/Euronews interview \(06/10/11\)](#)

### [Budgets Committee votes on EU Budget 2012 \(05/10/11\)](#)

After two days of negotiations and voting, the Budgets Committee finalised its position on the EU budget for 2012. Key changes proposed include increased spending on Palestine, maritime surveillance in the Mediterranean, managing refugee flows, EU2020 growth strategy-related programmes such as Life Long Learning, funding for vegetable producers and development aid for Asia and South America. Proposed savings include €26m on Common Foreign and Security Policy.

### [EU economic governance package - a milestone reached \(04/10/11\)](#)

In a major step to foster economic stability, restore confidence and prevent future crises in the euro area and the EU, the Council adopted a package of six new legislative acts. The package constitutes the single, most important overhaul of European economic governance since the launch of the European Monetary Union (EMU) over ten years ago.

[Statement by EU Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs Olli Rehn on the approval of economic governance reform by the European Parliament](#)

### [Speech by Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for Development 'Food security: an urgent priority of EU development policy', European Parliament Public Hearing on Food Security Brussels, 4 October 2011](#)

---

### [Financial Transaction Tax: Making the financial sector pay its fair share \(28/09/11\)](#)

The Commission has presented a proposal for a financial transaction tax in the 27 EU Member States. The tax would be levied on all transactions on financial instruments between financial institutions when at least one party to the transaction is located in the EU. This could approximately raise €57 billion every year. The Commission has proposed that the tax should come into effect from 1st January 2014.

### [Statement by the High Representative after the first session of the EU/Tunisia Task Force \(28/09/11\)](#)

"I am delighted to be here today for this first meeting of the EU/Tunisia Task Force... We are committed to offering as much political and logistical support as we can. Concrete next steps include a dedicated support team in Tunis and Brussels to facilitate coordination".

[EU/Tunisia Task Force agrees concrete assistance for Tunisia's transition](#)

### [Parliament supports Palestine's "legitimate" bid for statehood \(29/09/11\)](#)

A European Parliament resolution called Palestine's bid for statehood "legitimate" and said that a solution should be found within a year. MEPs believe, however, that Palestinian statehood should result from negotiations, during the current UN General Assembly session.

### **EU response to the Arab Spring: new package of support for North Africa and Middle East (27/09/11)**

The European Commission has adopted four new decisions for its Neighbourhood. The programmes will include support for areas like democracy, growth, job creation, microfinance and higher education. "The EU was the first to offer a serious response to the Arab Spring. This new set of decisions is the result of the new and ambitious European Neighbourhood Policy launched in May and it confirms that the EU has made it one of its main priorities to support 'deep' and sustainable democracy, but also economic recovery, in North Africa and the Middle East," said Catherine Ashton, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission.

### **The EU stands by the Libyan people (23/09/11)**

In his address delivered at the United Nations' General Assembly on 22 September, Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, declared: "Now there is a "responsibility to assist" the new Libya with the political transition, the reconciliation and the reconstruction of a united country. The Transitional National Council, today in the Libya seat, is ready for that task. Europe was, is, and will remain on the side of the Libyans."

### **Commissioner Georgieva in New York: Humanitarian aid to Horn of Africa a key UN concern (23/09/11)**

The European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva, addressed an important Ministerial summit on the Horn of Africa in the margins of the UN General Assembly. Ahead of the event the Commissioner said: The drought in the Horn of Africa is one of the most tragic humanitarian crises for decades. Despite the efforts of the international community millions of people are still suffering. We must continue to highlight the acute needs of people across the entire area'.

### **European Parliament MEPs call for global green economy targets (29/09/11)**

The UN's Rio de Janeiro summit on sustainable development ("Rio+20") should set "accountable targets", including global goals on renewable energy and energy efficiency, according to a resolution approved by Parliament. Warning of the pressures of climate change, MEPs say that biodiversity and natural resources – such as water, soil and forests - must be properly valued and accounted for. Parliament supports the European Commission's call for a 'Green Economy Roadmap' and stressed that sustainable growth needs new measures and 'accountable targets'.

### **25% emission reduction needed by 2020, says the EESC (23/09/11)**

The EU should reconsider a 25% emission reduction target by 2020 in order to achieve the agreed goal of an 80%-95% drop by 2050, said the European Economic and Social Committee in an opinion on the European Commission's roadmap for moving to a competitive low-carbon economy in 2050, adopted yesterday at the plenary session.

### **Finance Institutions Launch Corporate Governance Framework to Support Emerging Markets (23/09/11)**

The leaders of 30 development finance institutions, including European Investment Bank President Philippe Maystadt, have adopted the Corporate Governance Development Framework, a common set of guidelines to support sustainable economic development in emerging markets.

### **Joint statement on the death of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Wangari Maathai (26/09/11)**

'It is with sadness that we have heard of the passing away of Kenya's Nobel Peace laureate, Professor Wangari Maathai. We wish to offer our sincere condolences to her family and friends. Professor Maathai's death is a great loss to the environmentalist movement but also to pro-democracy and women's rights movements across Africa and beyond. As the first African woman to be awarded a Nobel Peace Prize, she will be remembered for her bold action on environmental sustainability, women's empowerment and democratic rights.'

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