



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*



26 August - 1 September 2011

## Top News

### [EU reaffirms its support to peace and security in Africa with €300m \(31/08/11\)](#)

The European Commission has decided to replenish the African Peace Facility (APF) with €300 million to support African peace and security actions both at regional and continental levels. The funding will be available to the African Union and African Regional Organisations for the period 2011-2013 in order to support relevant, targeted, continental and regional initiatives in the area of conflict prevention, management and resolution, and peace building.

### [Statement by the EU High Representative on the worsening situation in Syria \(30/08/11\)](#)

The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement: "*The High Representative expresses her continued deep concern about the violence perpetrated by the Syrian regime against peaceful demonstrators, human rights activists, and the Syrian people at large. She renews her unequivocal condemnation of the brutal repression.*"

### [The Commission establishes humanitarian presence in Tripoli \(29/08/11\)](#)

The European Commission has deployed to Tripoli a multi-sectoral team of humanitarian experts and has opened a humanitarian office in the Libyan capital. The experts from the Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department are ensuring that the assistance given by the European Union in health, medicines, food and drinking water is delivered expeditiously, and that new needs are identified and addressed immediately.

### [Q/A: The European Commission's humanitarian assistance in Libya \(01/09/11\)](#)

[Statement by HR Catherine Ashton on the lifting of the EU's asset freeze on several Libyan entities](#) (01/09/11)

### [Statement by the European Commission on Belgium \(01/09/11\)](#)

'The reports in the media on the Commission's position on the state of the Belgian government and the economic situation are unfounded. Contrary to what is claimed, there is no change in the Commission's position. The European Commission, as we have repeated on many occasions, has full confidence that the current caretaker government will take the necessary decisions in the current context. The Commission also has confidence in the democratic process in Belgium.'

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### [Economic sentiment down further in both the EU and the euro area \(30/08/11\)](#)

In August, the Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI) declined by 5.0 points to 97.3 in the EU and by 4.7 points to 98.3 in the euro area. This decline resulted from a broad-based deterioration in sentiment across the sectors, with losses in confidence being particularly marked in services, retail trade and among consumers. Only the construction sector in the euro area recorded an improvement.

### [Message of congratulations from President Barroso to the new Prime Minister of Japan \(30/08/11\)](#)

"*Let me express my warmest congratulations on your appointment as the new Prime Minister of Japan. I wish you every success in completing the recovery and reconstruction efforts following the earthquake and tsunami which struck East Japan last March. I reaffirm my conviction that Japan will emerge even stronger than before and the European Union stands ready to assist you in these efforts.*"

**President of the European Council, condemns the bomb blasts in Abuja, Nigeria (26/08/11)**

Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, today sent a letter of sympathy to Ban-Ki Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations: *"Dear Secretary-General, I was deeply saddened by the loss of life in the brutal attack on a United Nations building in Abuja today. I extend my heartfelt sympathies to the families and friends of the victims, and to you and your UN colleagues. The European Union strongly condemns this senseless act of violence towards the UN and its personnel."*

**High Representative Catherine Ashton concludes her visit in Israel (29/08/11)**

Catherine Ashton, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, on a visit to Israel, met with, among others, President Shimon Peres, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Defence Minister Ehud Barak. HR Ashton came to Israel after a visit to occupied Palestinian authority and will end her travel to the Middle East with the visit to Jordan.

**Remarks by HR Catherine Ashton after meeting Foreign Minister of Jordan (29/08/11)**

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