



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

[Sudan: call for the withdrawal of armed forces from Abyei region \(09/06/2011\)](#)

Criticising the militarisation by northern and southern Sudan of the disputed border region of Abyei, where escalating violence has led to hundreds of deaths and an exodus of the population, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) called on both sides, in a resolution passed on Thursday, to engage in an immediate constructive dialogue to find a peaceful solution on the region's status.

[E. Coli outbreak in Germany: Support for growers of vegetables \(07/06/2011\)](#)



At the extraordinary Agriculture Council in Luxembourg on 07/06/2011, ministers discussed compensation for vegetable farmers affected by the E. coli crisis and the ensuing drop in consumption. A preliminary sum of €150 million from the EU's agriculture budget was proposed by the Commission, but the final figure has yet to be agreed. (The Commission has been following the outbreak closely since it became known on 22/05/2011. Investigations have now concluded that a Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli bacteria is responsible for this outbreak. For a detailed overview, see http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/coli_outbreak_germany_en.htm)

[Innovation Union Competitiveness report 2011 \(09/06/2011\)](#)

The European Commission has just published its 2011 Innovation Union Competitiveness Report. This is the first report providing a comprehensive analysis of recent trends and long-term evolution in research and innovation performance in all 27 EU Member States and six Associated Countries. Public and private stakeholders will also get, in single compendium, valuable insights to design winning innovation strategies within Europe and for the global market.

[EU27 current account deficit €32.8 bn \(09/06/2011\)](#)

Provisional data released shows the EU27 external current account recorded a deficit of €32.8 bn in the first quarter of 2011, compared with a deficit of €27.7 bn in the first quarter of 2010 and a deficit of €18.2 bn in the fourth quarter of 2010. In the first quarter of 2011, the EU27 external balance of trade in goods was in deficit by €41.8 bn, compared with a deficit of €32.6 bn in the first quarter of 2010 and a deficit of €29.3 bn in the fourth quarter of 2010.



[HR/VP Catherine Ashton sets up Task Force for the Southern Mediterranean \(07/06/2011\)](#)

Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Commission Vice President, has established a new Task Force for the Southern Mediterranean. The Task Force brings together a wide range of expertise assist as a focal point for assistance to countries in North Africa which are going through political transformation.

[Statement on the release of Bulgarian humanitarian workers in Darfur \(06/06/2011\)](#)

Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva said: "I am relieved to learn from the Government of Bulgaria that the three Bulgarians who had been abducted in Darfur, Sudan while working for the World Food Programme, are now out of harm's way, and will soon be reunited with their families and friends. As the European Commissioner for humanitarian aid, but also as Bulgarian and a mother, I share the joy of the three humanitarian workers - Branko Chorbadjiiski, Alexander Dimitrov and Veselin Manolov, their families and all my fellow Bulgarians.

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