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

EU development policy: Commission to increase aid impact (13/10/11)
The EU will re-prioritise its delivery of aid to developing countries to ensure maximum impact on poverty reduction. EU Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, presented the 'Agenda for Change' of EU Development policy and a new policy for EU budget support. These communications set out a more strategic EU approach to reducing poverty, including through a more targeted allocation of funding.

Council tightens EU sanctions on Syria (13/10/11)
Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, commented: "Today's decision is a direct consequence of the appalling and brutal campaign the Syrian regime is waging against its own people. Our measures are not aimed at the Syrian people, but aim to deprive the regime of financial revenues and the support base necessary to maintain the repression. The EU will consider further measures in the light of developments, to support the Syrian people as they seek to decide their country's future through peaceful and democratic means."

EU committed to achieving universal abolition of the death penalty (10/10/11)
'Today we mark the World and European Day against the Death Penalty. I pledge my continued personal commitment, as well as that of the European Union, to doing away with the death penalty , which has no place in the modern world,' said EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton.

Statement on the EU's progress towards meeting its Kyoto Protocol target (07/10/11)
Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action: 'Pursuing our efforts to make Europe a low-carbon society is the way forward. It will stimulate technological innovation, spur economic growth and create jobs while further reducing emissions so that we meet our 2020 climate and energy targets and long term goals".
http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/g-gas/documentation_en.htm#progress_reports

Statement by the Commission, the ECB and IMF on the Fifth Review Mission to Greece (11/10/11)
'Regarding the outlook, the recession will be deeper than was anticipated in June and a recovery is now expected only from 2013 onwards. There is no evidence yet of improvement in investor sentiment and the related increase in investments, in part because the reform momentum has not gained the critical mass necessary to begin transforming the investment climate'.

Letter of European Commission and Council Presidents on the key issues of the G20 summit (07/10/11)
European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy have sent a letter to the other members of the European Council in order to share their views on the key issues of the G20 summit in Cannes on 3-4 November 2011. They call for a 'renewed collective G20 spirit" and stress that "the fact that France holds the G20 Presidency this year gives Europe a special responsibility'.

European Commission recommends moving onto next stages towards EU enlargement (12/10/11)
Presenting the annual Enlargement Package, Commissioner Stefan Füle said: "Today's recommendations for Montenegro and Serbia show that the enlargement process is stimulating reforms on the ground and helping to create a more stable and prosperous Europe. The transformational power of the enlargement process sends a powerful message of hope at this challenging time, both for European Union Member States and for the enlargement countries."

New framework for monitoring of energy markets adopted (10/11/10)
The Council adopted a regulation on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency (34/11) following a first-reading agreement reached with the European Parliament. The central element of this framework is the establishment of a market monitoring function at European level, a task which will be carried out by the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER).

Message of congratulation to the winners of 2011 Nobel Peace Prize (10/10/11)
Message of congratulation from Presidents Barroso and Van Rompuy to the winners of 2011 Nobel Peace Prize: 'We wholeheartedly congratulate Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the two human rights activists Leymah Roberta Gbowee and Tawakkul Karman - the winners of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize. The decision of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee is recognition of the pivotal role that women play in the peaceful settlement of conflicts and democratic transformation throughout the world. This is a victory for a new democratic Africa and for a new democratic Arab world that live in peace and respect for human rights'.

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