



European Union

Delegation to 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

[Message of President Barroso ahead of the start of the FIFA World Cup on 11 June 2010](#)

President Barroso conveyed the following message during his visit to Addis Ababa on 8 June on the occasion of the European Commission's meeting with the Commission of the African Union: "The hearts of millions of people around the world will start beating faster on 11 June when the Football World Cup begins in South Africa. I am particularly pleased that it is for the first time that an African nation hosts the World Cup. Like every supporter, I will be cheering on my team and hoping that we have one of the most entertaining tournaments with free flowing football and fair play. But beyond my passion for the sport, I am convinced that football is more than a sport: it is a universal language, a language that helps people from different cultures and backgrounds to unite. What I sincerely hope is that a sense of pride and confidence will embrace the country and the continent. SA is a stunning country, rich in tradition, culture and vibrancy. Football is above all about hope. It is the perfect platform for South Africa's future which it should grasp with both hands. I wish South Africa and the African continent success, and for all those that watch enjoyment, excitement and above all fun."

[Open letter from Commissioner Andris Piebalgs to the people of Africa on the occasion of the World Cup](#)

[Commissioner Piebalgs attends Africa-France Summit](#)

Andris Piebalgs, the European Commissioner for Development, took part in the fifteenth Africa-France Summit in Nice, participating in debates on Africa's role in global governance, peace and security and also climate and development policy. Commissioner Piebalgs said: "The Africa-France Summit is a valuable opportunity to discuss with our African partners our common challenges and define common solutions, in the framework of the broader Africa-EU Strategic Partnership. I will remind that the Commission strongly calls for a bigger role and representation of Africa on the global scene. In addition, we have to ensure a better integration of the private sector whose contribution is crucial." Commissioner Piebalgs also held bilateral meetings with some African Heads of States, and the Chairman of the African Union, in the framework of the preparation of the upcoming EU-Africa Summit in November 2010.

[Signature of the revised EU-ACP Cotonou Partnership Agreement](#)

The official ceremony of a signature of the second revised Cotonou Agreement took place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in the presence of EU Development Commissioner, Andris Piebalgs, and representatives of the 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Changes to the agreement highlight an emphasis on climate change, and regional integration to combat problems affecting neighbouring countries. Other goals include coordinated efforts to maintain food security, and prioritisation of fragile states.

[EU Council conclusions on the Millennium Development Goals for the UN High-Level Plenary meeting in New York](#)

"The Council welcomes the Commission Communication "A Twelve-point EU action plan in support of the Millennium Development Goals", which has provided essential guidance for this EU position. The EU is firmly committed to support the achievement of the MDGs globally by 2015. This is still possible, if all partners in the international community demonstrate strong political commitment, implement necessary policy changes and take concrete action. There has been good progress on MDGs but progress has been uneven and considerable work remains to be done prioritising MDGs most off-track, notably in the regions and countries most lagging behind, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)".

Other News

[Joint Statement by Commissioners Malmström and Georgieva on World Refugee Day, 20 June 2010](#)

"World Refugee Day is an occasion to turn our thoughts to the millions of people around the world who have no choice but to leave their homes because of persecution and conflict. It is also the occasion to remind ourselves that offering asylum to those who need it is an obligation, deriving from Europe's long tradition of humanitarianism and its international commitment to protecting the weak and vulnerable.... We hope that we can all support World Refugee Day in different ways: whether it is by participating in one of the many activities organised in our countries; or by simply remembering that many in Europe faced similar journeys in the not too distant past. Protecting those fleeing persecution has contributed to make Europe what it is today".

[Economic Partnership Agreement \(EPA\) with East African Community \(EAC\)](#)

EU Commissioner for Trade, Karl De Gucht, met the EAC Trade Ministers in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) to discuss the way ahead in EPA negotiations. The Commission and EAC representatives appreciated progress made, especially with regard to sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, and customs and trade facilitation. Both parties are to accelerate and intensify negotiations, with a view to concluding a full and comprehensive EPA agreement for mid-November 2010.

[Commission provides €46 million to the World Food Programme to address urgent humanitarian needs in Sudan](#)

The European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva, and the Executive director of the World Food Program (WFP) Josette Sheeran, presented this year's largest funding agreement between the European Commission and the World Food Programme (WFP). The €46m agreement announced will be used to provide immediate food assistance for people in Darfur and Southern Sudan. Commissioner Georgieva, who participated in a meeting of the executive board of the WFP, said after the official announcement: "Humanitarian needs have increased dramatically in Sudan, so additional funding is vital. I am deeply concerned about the situation of civilians affected by the recent fighting in some areas of South Darfur, particularly Jebel Marra, and parts of West Darfur. Several thousands of people have been displaced and urgently need our assistance and, worryingly, humanitarian agencies have no access to them."

[European Investment Bank and European Commission to explore EU climate finance initiative](#)

European Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard and European Investment Bank (EIB) President Philippe Maystadt agreed to explore a joint climate finance initiative for developing countries, as part of the EU commitment made at the UN climate conference in Copenhagen last December. Commissioner Hedegaard said: "The EU has set one of the most ambitious emission reduction targets in the world. Financial institutions such as the EIB, together with the private sector, will play a key role in helping the EU deliver on its emission commitments, as well as on mobilising the financial flows needed for mitigation and adaptation to climate change in developing countries." EIB Vice President Simon Brooks, who is responsible for environmental protection issues, said: "We think an EU climate action finance platform would give visibility to the commitments made by the EU in Copenhagen last year."

[Europe launches major joint research effort to ensure food security in the face of climate change](#)

Twelve top scientists met in Paris to prepare a European-level work programme to co-ordinate nationally funded research aimed at securing a safe and sustainable food supply. This was the first meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board for the EU Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change. The initiative, which involves twenty European countries overall and is jointly led by France and the UK, will bring together researchers, improve the effectiveness of national funding totalling over a billion euro annually, share existing research results and coordinate future work to avoid duplication and maximise value for money. European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn said: "Food security is a stark matter of life and death and without it there is no other kind of security. Quite rightly, billions of euro are being invested by public and private sector in tackling this huge challenge. But no one Member State can succeed on its own. We can only get full value for public research funds by working together. This Joint Programming Initiative will help replace fragmentation and duplication with coherence and coordination and will therefore be a major contribution to the Europe 2020 Strategy."

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