



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



[Statement by Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative on Mumbai attacks \(14/07/11\)](#)

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 was horrified to hear that Mumbai has again been the target of a series of deadly bomb attacks. She condemns these heinous acts and expresses her condolences to the families and friends of the victims. It is essential that the perpetrators these evil attacks are brought to justice."

[Statement by Pres Barroso on meeting the Chairman: National Transitional Council of Libya \(13/07/11\)](#)

"I just had a substantive meeting with Mahmoud Jibril, the Chairman of the Transitional National Council of Libya. We discussed developments on the ground in Libya and preparations for the post-conflict phase. I think this visit is a sign of the growing authority and credibility of the Transitional National Council on the international scene. It is also a sign of the EU's engagement in supporting the TNC as a key political interlocutor who represents the aspirations of the courageous Libyan people. A European flag has been flying in Benghazi for three weeks now, showing our support on the ground. I welcome the vision of the TNC for the future of Libya, which is based on the principles of inclusion and democratic representation".

[EU stands shoulder-to-shoulder with South Sudan \(11/07/11\)](#)

EU High Representative Catherine Ashton took part in the celebrations for the independence of South Sudan on 9 July, reiterating the intention of the EU to continue support and develop a regular dialogue with the new state.

[EU trade chief travels to China and Singapore to deepen trade ties \(13/07/11\)](#)

The EU's Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht will meet China's Commerce Minister, Chen Deming, in Beijing on 14 July to discuss the trade and investment relations between the EU and China. The talks are expected to focus on how European trade and investment with China can be increased with a view to assisting European companies gain better access to the vast Chinese market. The EU and China will also discuss how to make headway on a number of trade barriers including on raw materials. Other topics include the protection of intellectual property rights and the access to government procurement projects. The discussions are part of the "EU-China Joint Committee", which is convened annually.

[European Commission: a fisheries policy for the future \(13/07/11\)](#)

In its proposals for a major reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the European Commission has set out a radical approach to fisheries management in Europe. The plans will secure both fish stocks and fishermen's livelihood for the future while putting an end to overfishing and depletion of fish stocks.

[Extra funds for education, youth and creativity will boost jobs, says Commission \(11/07/11\)](#)

European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, Androulla Vassiliou, announced that the European Commission, as part of its strategy for boosting employment, is aiming to nearly double the number of young people, teachers and researchers who get EU grants for study and training abroad, from 400 000 recipients per year now to almost 800 000 in future. This is one of the key objectives behind the significant increase in EU investment for education, youth and creativity proposed by the Commission in its budget plan for 2014-2020.

[HR/VP Catherine Ashton travels to Washington for the Middle East Quartet Ministerial Meeting \(11/07/11\)](#)

Catherine Ashton, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, travelled to Washington for the Middle East Quartet Ministerial Meeting on 11 July. HR Ashton said ahead of the meeting: "I

took the initiative to propose a Quartet meeting in July as the best way to achieve progress. The changes in the surrounding neighbourhood, the speech of President Obama in May, the moves towards Palestinian reconciliation and the approaching UN General Assembly bring a renewed focus on the possibility of talks and a negotiated solution".

[EU statement on the announcement of a carbon price by the Australian Government \(10/07/11\)](#)

EU Commissioner for Climate Action Connie Hedegaard said: "Congratulations to Australia for its commitment to pricing carbon emissions and introduce a domestic cap-and-trade scheme from July 2015. Our experience in Europe is that our emissions trading system has led our most forward thinking industries to some very creative and innovative ways of working, that help reduce emissions and cut costs. ..."

[DG Trade: Export Helpdesk newsletter - July 2011](#)

The EU has proposed a new Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) from 2014. The European Commission plans to concentrate its import preferences on those developing countries most in need. It will limit its GSP, with which it grants specific tariff preferences to developing countries in the form of reduced or zero tariff rates or quotas, to approximately 80 countries, due to the emergence of more advanced developing countries which are now globally competitive. At the same time the Commission seeks to encourage more countries to respect core international conventions on human rights, labour standards, environment and good governance in the GSP+ scheme which grants additional trade concessions to vulnerable countries.

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