



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



## **Council conclusions on Sudan and South Sudan**

*3142th FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council meeting  
Brussels, 23 January 2012*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. "The EU reaffirms its commitment to support both Sudan and South Sudan in their objective of achieving peace and development and will continue to pursue a comprehensive approach to both Sudans as agreed by the Council in June 2011. It recognises the courageous efforts made by both parties leading up to and including the secession of South Sudan in July 2011. The EU remains convinced that the stability and prosperity of Sudan and South Sudan are intertwined and looks to both Presidents to show the same degree of leadership in this critical period.
2. The EU is deeply concerned at increasing tensions between and within Sudan and South Sudan, most recently the conflicts in Jonglei, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States, and the lack of progress in resolving key outstanding issues in the post-secession negotiations. It urges both Governments to show restraint and to avoid any unilateral action detrimental to the negotiations.
3. The EU urges the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to reach a negotiated settlement on all outstanding Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and post-secession issues under the auspices of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) and to show the necessary flexibility to overcome their differences. It also calls for the full, unconditional and immediate withdrawal of forces from the Abyei Area by Sudan and South Sudan as agreed on 20 June 2011 and for full cooperation with the UN including the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). In addition the EU underlines the importance of implementing all previous commitments on border issues.
4. The EU is gravely concerned about the ongoing violence in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States. It calls for an immediate cessation of fighting and the resumption of political talks based on the principles of the Framework Agreement signed by the Government of Sudan and the SPLM/North in Addis Ababa on 28 June 2011. The EU recalls the responsibility of the Government of Sudan to protect all civilians in its territory and recalls the importance of accountability for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

# **P R E S S**

5. The EU urges the Government of Sudan to allow safe and unhindered access for international humanitarian actors to all civilians and reiterates its readiness to provide humanitarian assistance to all those in need.
6. The EU welcomes the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) as a significant step forward towards achieving peace in Darfur and recent steps to take forward its implementation. If fully implemented in a timely manner the DDPD could significantly improve the lives of Darfuris. The EU is ready to increase its support for early recovery activity and sustainable livelihoods where security conditions permit and a conducive operating environment is available for international organisations. A lasting and comprehensive peace settlement will only be achieved with the participation of all movements and Darfuri stakeholders. The EU urges non-signatory movements to join the process and calls on the Government of Sudan to keep the door open for peace. The EU reiterates its support for the UN - African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID).
7. The EU stresses the importance of accountability for serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Darfur and recalls the obligation of the Government of Sudan and all UN member states and regional organisations to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court pursuant to UNSC Resolution 1593.
8. The EU remains committed to the development of its relations with Sudan. It welcomes the commitment of the Government of Sudan to hold an inclusive national constitutional review process which should involve comprehensive dialogue with all political forces and sectors of Sudanese society, including those in the peripheral areas. The ongoing conflicts in Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur remain obstacles to moving forward with the full range of support that the EU would like to provide to Sudan. Tangible political progress would allow the EU to move forward on issues such as debt relief and further assistance to economic diversification.
9. The EU also urges the Government of Sudan to lift restrictions on freedom of expression, including the confiscation and closure of newspapers and detention of journalists and political opponents without charge. It welcomes the setting up of the National Human Rights Commission and notes the recent appointment of its members. It is essential that the Commission operates in an independent manner, in full compliance with the "Paris Principles".
10. The EU is alarmed at the serious inter-communal clashes in South Sudan, particularly in Jonglei State, which have caused large-scale death and displacement and recalls the responsibility of the Government of South Sudan to protect all civilians in its territory. The EU urges the Government of South Sudan, with the assistance of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), to intensify its efforts to address the root causes of inter-communal conflicts, to promote reconciliation, to advance Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) and address the issue of small arms and light weapons.
11. The EU is concerned about the human rights situation in South Sudan including reports of human rights violations perpetrated by South Sudan's security forces. It welcomes the Government of South Sudan's willingness to work with the UN Human Rights Council to address these issues and encourages it to do so without delay.

12. Since independence, South Sudan has made some progress in its efforts to build the foundations of a functioning state but many complex challenges remain which must be addressed in a timely and comprehensive manner by the Government of South Sudan. The EU reiterates its commitment to work with the Government of South Sudan and international partners, in particular UNMISS, to assist their efforts in consolidating democracy, respect for human rights and rule of law, good governance, fighting corruption, building a conducive environment for foreign investment and ensuring transparency and accountability. In this context, it welcomes the concrete measures announced recently by President Kiir to combat corruption and looks forward to their timely and effective implementation. The EU also attaches importance to a fully inclusive national constitutional review process.

13. The Council welcomes the joint programming in Juba of EU and its Member States development assistance through the EU Single Country Strategy for South Sudan 2011-2013 which is expected to provide almost €700 million for that period. The EU is also moving forward with preparations for a possible CSDP mission to strengthen security at Juba International Airport and in this context the Council today approved a Crisis Management Concept for a possible mission. The EU reconfirms its commitment to continue cooperation with South Sudan on trade matters with a view to granting duty free, quota free access under the "Everything But Arms" arrangement as soon as the conditions are met."

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