



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

## MEMO

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### **Commissioner Piebalgs' visit to South Africa: examples of EU development cooperation**

The sixth EU-South Africa Summit takes place today, July 18 in Pretoria, South Africa. The EU is the most important donor by far in South Africa: the EU and Member States provide together approximately 70% of total cooperation funds, 1.3% of the South African budget, i.e. 0.3% of the GDP. EU development cooperation with South Africa has been financed from the EU budget (Development Cooperation Instrument). It has been operational since 1995, and since then yearly financial commitments have averaged €125 million.

Development cooperation between the EU and South Africa mainly takes place in two areas, namely employment creation and capacity development for service delivery and social cohesion.

Recent programmes have included major budget support operations in National Development Policy, Health, Primary education and Employment Creation.

For the years 2007-2013, the indicative amount assigned by the EU to co-operation with South Africa was **€980 million**.

During the visit, the Commissioner is expected to meet the Deputy Minister of Finance, Nhlanhla Musa Nene, Minister of Science & Technology, Derek Hanekom, Minister of Energy, Ben Martins, and Minister of Higher Education and Training, Blade Nzimande.

In addition, the Commissioner will sign, with South African partners, the South Africa-**Euratom Agreement** for cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, including in research and development, setting up the overall framework for political, technical and industrial cooperation.

With a view to strengthening the overall co-operative relationship between the EU and South Africa, the importance of concluding this Agreement is mainly based on the mutual interest of establishing a stable legal framework in order to facilitate equal, reciprocal cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including commercial exchanges [taking into account that South Africa has large uranium reserves and starts to play a growing role in the civil nuclear field].

### **Key projects on the ground – examples of the EU's work in South Africa**

#### **Primary Health Care Sector Policy Support Programme**

The Primary Health Care Sector Policy Support Programme was launched by Commissioner Piebalgs in a visit to the country in 2011, together with Aaron Motsoaledi, South African Minister of Health.

The overall objective of the Primary Health Care Sector Policy Support Programme (for which the EU provides €126 million) is to contribute to **improving the health profile of all South Africans**, in line with the government's vision of "a long and healthy life for all South Africans".

The programme's purpose is "to improve access to public health services and to increase quality of service delivery of primary health care through the district health system", in line with the National Health Strategic Plan and its key focus areas:

- Increasing life expectancy
- Decreasing maternal and child mortality
- Combating HIV and AIDS and decreasing the burden of diseases from tuberculosis
- Strengthening the effectiveness of health systems

EU support has contributed to a number of actions such as the community health outreach teams, district specialist teams, school health, primary health care facility improvement teams, and provincial internships, and is fully embedded in the government's efforts to revitalise primary health care in the context of the national health insurance overall reform.

Activities have also included an audit of all 4,210 primary health care facilities followed by facility improvement plans.

Some key results so far in the health sector include:

- Mother-to-child transmission at 4% is one of the lowest – Antiretroviral drugs, or ARVs, for pregnant mothers estimated now at 79% (compared to 64% in 2009-10)
- June 2010 roll out of ARVs started, leading to 11.4m counselled and 9.7m tested; 1.5m people on ARVs
- Immunisation coverage of children rising (89.4% in 2010-11 from 88% in 2009-10)
- Roll-out of school health programme expected to reach 2.7 million children
- Strengthening systems – audit, staffing, support teams
- Preparation for the National Health Insurance – 14 year implementation period

### **Innovation for Poverty Alleviation**

This €30 million EU-funded programme aims to pilot activities in the field of science and technology that will address the challenges of employment creation and poverty alleviation.

Key results recorded for this programme include:

- The testing and demonstration of innovation in job creation and small business development. So far, over 600 jobs and 48 small business have been created in projects ranging from demonstration, agronomy, to wireless mesh network.
- Around 200 rural facilities have been connected to the internet through the Wireless Mesh Network, over 1,600 households (close to 10,000 people) have been provided with water and 218 'digital doorways' have been installed throughout South Africa, providing access to basic computer skills in rural communities and school areas.

## **Access to Justice and Promotion of Constitutional Rights budget support programme**

This programme led to the establishment of 55 new Community Advice Offices in rural and townships areas; 382 new Equality Courts (prevention of unfair discrimination) established nationally and 10,194 new cases being diverted to Alternative Disputes Resolution (to ease the burden on the courts).

In addition, 3.5 million people were reached by constitutional rights awareness programmes; 70,514 refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants benefited from community support services, and 26 new Small Claims Courts opened.

2-3 million people in KwaZulu-Natal also benefitted through the establishment of a Land Rights Law Clinic, while 400 community monitors completed 7,786 monitoring questionnaires on Government service delivery.

## **The Risk Capital Facility programme**

The Risk Capital Facility, or RCF, is a €100 million Commission-funded programme which aims to provide high-risk equity funding to Small and Medium Enterprises owned and operated by historically-disadvantaged people *i.e.*, people disadvantaged under the previous apartheid regime.

It is co-managed by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Industrial Development Cooperation (IDC) of South Africa (a self-financing national development finance institution). The RCF represents an excellent example of successful cooperation between the EU and the government and institutions of South Africa.

The RCF helps to **create jobs**, through the provision of financial assistance and business support services. Women are particularly expected to benefit from the programme. It focuses on seven result areas, including:

- Improved access to development funding by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) ;
- Increased numbers of new jobs created for historically-disadvantaged persons, in particular women, targeting 13,000 jobs by 2012 (at least 30% of these jobs should be for women);
- Increased empowerment of historically-disadvantaged persons through shareholding and possibilities for them to hold managerial positions.

Some of the **achievements** so far:

- 120 SMEs with 12,000 jobs created and 60,000 livelihoods
- Setting up of the Small Enterprise Finance Agency with R1.4 billion over the next three years – expected to support 300 SMEs in 2012-13

## **Primary Education Sector Policy Support Programme**

This €122.68 million sector budget support programme aims to strengthen the South African government's efforts to **improve learner performance in literacy and numeracy at primary school level** by

a) expanding access to quality early childhood development opportunities,

b) enhancing curriculum implementation, and

c) attracting and training higher numbers of capable teachers for the Foundation Phase (Grades 1-3), particularly teachers who are able to teach in the African languages

Results to have been achieved so far include:

- Seven more universities are now offering Foundation Phase teacher training programmes (in addition to the 13 universities that were already offering them) Over 12,400 students have enrolled in initial teacher education programmes, specialising in the Foundation phase;
- A 91% gross enrolment ratio in Grade R (Reception year) has been achieved
- Important resources for improved implementation of the curriculum, such as the revised curriculum and assessment policy statements, workbooks for learners, and a national catalogue of approved textbooks, have been improved
- Annual large-scale assessments of learning outcomes in key subjects have been implemented: 6 million learners were assessed in 2012.

### **Youth Empowerment Programme**

The European Commission and the South African government signed the Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP) in 2009. The programme is jointly funded by the European Commission (€10 million) and the German Government (€7.5 million).

The general objective of the programme is to promote the inclusion of young people in the social and economic development of South Africa and other African countries, by helping them to improve their life skills and enable them to be better equipped to get a job as a result.

Local authorities and community groups will engage with disadvantaged young people through arts, culture and sports activities, include them in organising community life and open the way for young people to make a positive contribution to local development. The programme is built around two components:

- **Sport and Football** is a contribution to the regional Youth Development through Football (YDF) programme, which has so far been a partnership between the South African and German Government and is implemented by GIZ.
- **Arts and Culture** is implemented through a call for proposals, launched by the EU Delegation in consultation with the Department for Arts and Culture (DAC).

YDF improves youth development through local communities, where sport assistants have been trained as YDF Coaches. Sports assistants are contract workers between 18 and 25 years of age who were often previously unemployed.

Overall, through the YDF programme more than **60,000 girls and boys between 12 and 25 years have been supported** in South Africa. The Government is looking to finance the programme from 2013 onwards. Some 162 "Youth Development through Football" instructors and over 1500 youth coaches were trained, who in turn, nurtured some 120,000 youths (half of these in SA).

The Arts and Culture project has supported six NGOs ,with €3 million, involved in sports and cultural activities offering opportunities to enhance life skills, sports and cultural skills in deprived areas of the country to vulnerable young people.

The Youth Empowerment Programme achieved notable success in providing life skills training with a focus on healthy living and sport, HIV/AIDs, gender awareness, domestic violence, conflict resolution, social responsibility and leadership in historically-disadvantaged communities.

## **Erasmus Mundus Partnerships**

The overall objectives of this programme are to contribute to the provision of appropriate high-level human resources for sustainable development and growth in South Africa, and to improve political, economic and cultural links between South Africa and the EU.

Between 2009 and 2012, €23 million was committed. This has made it possible for 388 South African students and staff, **comprising 198 master and 106 doctoral students, as well as 84 academics, to study, teach or carry out research at 32 European universities in 13 countries.**

An additional €5 million will be committed in 2013, which will benefit students and academics during the 2015/16 academic year. Mobility from European students and university staff to South Africa will start in 2014 under EU funding

### **For more information:**

EU Delegation to South Africa's website:

[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/south\\_africa/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/south_africa/index_en.htm)

DG EuropeAid website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm)