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**NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council  
to: Delegations  
Subject : European Parliament Plenary session in Strasbourg on 23 May 2012 - **Sudan and South Sudan** (debate)

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Mr Wammen, on behalf of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Ms Ashton, delivered the speech set out in the [Annex](#).

For the political groups, the following speakers took the floor:

- Mr Mitchell (EPP, IE) was concerned about the worrying situation in the region. He called for the humanitarian crisis to be addressed. The necessary support and supplies should be ensured, and security should be provided for refugees. He believed that cooperation with the African Union (AU) in terms of training, supplies and resources was necessary to try to get them to build their capacity to make this region stable.
- Ms De Keyser (S&D, BE) pointed out that the outstanding problems, such as citizenship, currency, debt and most of all the sharing of oil between the two countries, has not been resolved when the EU backed the independence of South Sudan. She was worried that China was becoming influential because of its control of the oil chain. She called for priority to be given to the humanitarian crisis in the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile areas. She also considered that the EU should maintain its balanced position and suggested that follow-up to electoral missions in such countries should be ensured.

- Mr Goerens (ALDE, LU) echoed Ms De Keyser's view on the outstanding issues. He considered that international law should provide solutions to this conflict and thought that the efforts made by the AU, EU and UN were starting to show their usefulness. He believed that addressing poverty was key to finding a solution to the conflict.
- Ms Sargentini (Greens/EFA, NL) welcomed the adoption of the Roadmap, but the move from paper to action would be lengthy and she was concerned that the conflict would be used as a pretext to avoid addressing the needs of the population, referring in particular to South Sudan's decision to stop its oil production. She said that South Sudan was not looking after its population and that the EU should ensure that it acted correctly and had markets for its oil.
- Mr Bielan (ECR, PL) focused on the issues of refugees, the lack of legal status for citizens in the border regions of South Sudan, the clearer demarcation of borders and Chinese and Belarusian arms supplies to the Sudanese army. He also thought that Ms Ashton should be more active.
- Mr Belder (EFD, NL) was concerned about the situation of civilians in the Nuba Mountains area, and of refugees. He condemned the irresponsible behaviour and incompetent leadership of President Kiir (highlighting corruption, the poverty of the South Sudanese population, and the shutting down of oil production) and called on the EU, as the biggest donor, to send a warning signal to him.
- Ms Lösing (GUE/NGL, DE) also condemned the suffering of the civilian population. She was concerned that more similar conflicts could appear in regions rich in natural resources and was in favour of maintaining the arms embargo on South Sudan.
- Mr Mülzer (NI, AT) said that even if a peaceful solution could be found, the potential for conflict still remained. He recommended that the country should use its oil wealth to secure an equitable distribution of power and resources and promote the democratization process. He added that it could serve the EU's interests and play an important role in oil supplies to Europe. He also mentioned the problem of illegal immigration into the EU, which should in his view be addressed by appropriate admission agreements.

Members were concerned about the deterioration of the situation after South Sudan had achieved its independence. They mainly raised the same issues as those already expressed by the group leaders, calling for a peaceful solution to be found to the conflict (Ms Nedelcheva (EPP, BG), Ms De Sarnez (ALDE, FR), Ms Essayah (EPP, FI), Mr Sonik (EPP, PL), Mr Paška (EFD, SK), Mr Zemke (S&D, PL)) with the EU playing an active role and providing help. In this context, Ms Nedelcheva and Mr Zemke supported cooperation with the African Union, both to bring the countries back to the negotiating table (Mr Tannock (ECR, UK) Mr Obermayr (NI, AT)), to prevent escalation in the region (Mr Preda (EPP, RO)) and to boost the importance of pan-African policies (Mr Provera (EFD, IT). Mr Gahler (EPP, DE) stressed that an African problem needed an African solution. Ms Essayah and Ms De Sarnez added that both countries should come and negotiate without preconditions. Others called for strict application of UN Resolution 2046 (Mr Rinaldi (ALDE, IT)) and the implementation of the Roadmap (Ms Gomes (S&D, PT), Ms Băsescu (EPP, RO)).

Members mentioned as well the division of oil resources (Ms Gomes, Mr Wałęsa (EPP, PL), Mr Sonik, Mr Tannock, Ms Essayah) and considered that an agreement was needed on this issue (Mr Provera, Ms De Sarnez). Mr Gahler suggested that oil buyers should submit proposals to both countries.

Members also highlighted the issue of the situation of the civilian population and refugees (Mr Wałęsa, Ms Essayah, Mr Sonik, Ms Băsescu) and saw an urgent need to address it (Mr Kelam (EPP, EE)), providing access to humanitarian aid for both north and south (Mr Gahler) and supporting the work of humanitarian bodies (Ms Gomes). Other issues mentioned were the demarcation of borders, addressing Chinese activities in the region more actively, and poverty.

In his concluding remarks, Mr Wammen welcomed the shared view on the seriousness of the situation in Sudan and South Sudan. He saw a need to address the humanitarian situation, as well as the lack of political will of both countries to resolve the outstanding issues. He assured Members that the EU would support the work of the African Union, would call on the parties to implement the Roadmap set out in UN Security Council Resolution 2046 and would remain committed to fostering peace and security in Sudan and South Sudan.

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**Annex****Speech by Mr Wammen on Sudan and South Sudan, Plenary session of the European Parliament, 23 May 2012**

Mr President, I am speaking on behalf of the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Baroness Ashton, who cannot be present today to discuss the deteriorating situation between Sudan and South Sudan.

It is indeed with deep concern that we witness increasing tensions between these two countries. We reached a critical stage last month with South Sudan's seizure and occupation of the Heglig oil fields and Sudan's ongoing aerial bombardment of South Sudanese territory.

The High Representative strongly condemned these acts by both sides and urged both parties to end hostilities immediately and return to the negotiating table. President Van Rompuy telephoned South Sudan's President Salva Kiir to call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of its forces. On 23 April, the Foreign Affairs Council welcomed South Sudan's withdrawal from Heglig under strong international pressure and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, including an end to attacks by the two countries on each other's territory whether directly or through proxies, the withdrawal of all security personnel from Abyei and the avoidance of further provocation, including inflammatory rhetoric.

On 24 April the African Union Peace and Security Council adopted a roadmap with a series of clear steps and timelines for ending hostilities and bringing the parties back to the negotiating table. Following that, on 2 May, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2046 which endorsed the African Union's roadmap. This is a major step. It reflects a high degree of consensus in the international community. It is also significant that this initiative came from the African Union (AU). Sudan and South Sudan have both accepted the roadmap and a cessation of hostilities. Now they must match their words by action. The parties must take the necessary steps to activate the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mission immediately.

In her statement on 5 May, the High Representative warmly welcomed the roadmap set out in UN Security Council Resolution 2046. The EU calls on the parties to implement it without qualification or delay. The EU welcomes South Sudan's withdrawal of its forces from the Abyei area and calls on the Government of Sudan to do so too. Both parties must also stop supporting rebels and proxy forces in each other's territory.

The parties now have three months to reach agreement on all outstanding issues. If they fail to do so, the UN, the AU and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) will present detailed proposals for a settlement. In the event of non-compliance, the Security Council has threatened to impose non-military sanctions.

The roadmap also addresses the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile State, which is linked to the current tensions between Sudan and South Sudan. The Government of Sudan must allow immediate humanitarian access to all civilians affected by the conflict.

We believe that an inclusive political settlement is needed to resolve this conflict. The EU would urge the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the north to comply with the requirement in the Security Council resolution to reach a negotiated settlement. The EU thinks that progress on inclusive governance and democratic reform is needed in both Sudan and South Sudan to allow the root causes of internal conflicts to be addressed.

The national constitutional review process in both countries is an important opportunity in this respect, provided the process is fully inclusive.

In the north, we remain seriously concerned about the detention of human rights defenders, journalists, opposition politicians and peaceful student protestors. One of the basic principles of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was the establishment of democratic governance, based on respect for diversity and basic freedoms.

In the south, the human rights situation is also of concern. We welcome the recent visit of the UN Human Rights High Commissioner Navi Pillay to South Sudan to help the Government address these challenges.

The EU remains committed to the concept of two viable states. We were pleased that President Salva Kiir, when he visited Brussels in March, informed us of his Government's wish to accede to the EU-ACP Partnership Agreement, the Cotonou Agreement. This will provide us with a framework for future development cooperation. As partners, we can establish a dialogue on the issues which are the core principles of this partnership: democracy, the rule of law, and human rights.

The EU has mobilised substantial development assistance for South Sudan in the form of 'special funds' from the European Development Fund to a total of EUR 285 million. We will support South Sudan's development agenda and nation-building efforts through support for rural development and agriculture, health and education, as well as the rule of law and democratic governance. The EU is also planning to deploy a Common Security and Defence Policy mission to increase security at Juba International Airport.

In the north, we find the Government's decision not to ratify the revised Cotonou Agreement of 2005 regrettable. Nevertheless, the EU has made development funds available to assist the most vulnerable populations in conflict-affected areas such as Darfur, eastern Sudan, Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. This is in addition to our substantial humanitarian assistance programme. We also support democratisation, human rights and grassroots inter-community dialogue.

We must not forget the conflict in Darfur, where the situation is still of great concern. Although there have been some voluntary returns, some 1.7 million internally displaced people are still living in camps, and there has been fresh displacement. The joint UN/AU peacekeeping mission, UNAMID, still faces restrictions on its freedom of movement imposed by the Government of Sudan. Humanitarian access to much of the Jebel Mara region remains blocked. We welcome the Doha document on peace in Darfur as a positive first step towards reaching a comprehensive and inclusive peace settlement, but it needs to be fully implemented. The Council of the European Union has repeatedly recalled the Government of Sudan's obligation to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1593.

The situation in Sudan and South Sudan remains one of great concern. I have made clear that the EU continues to promote all efforts to bring peace and stability to both countries. We remain committed to supporting the emergence of two viable states living in peaceful coexistence.