South Africa-EU Summit
(Pretoria 18 July 2013)

The sixth South Africa-EU Summit will be held in Pretoria, South Africa, on Thursday 18 July 2013. The EU will be represented by Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, and by José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission. The Republic of South Africa will be represented by President Jacob Zuma. Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs and Commissioner for Trade Karel De Gucht will also be attending the Summit. This year, it takes place on Nelson Mandela’s International Day and will be the occasion for Presidents Van Rompuy and Barroso to pay tribute, together with President Zuma, to one of the greatest moral and political leaders of our time.

This South Africa-EU Summit will provide an opportunity to strengthen the strategic relation between the EU and South Africa and to discuss a number of key issues, in particular the South Africa-EU strategic partnership, key peace and security topics in Africa and beyond, but also global governance, climate change, trade, development issues, and the relations between Africa and Europe as a whole, as set down in the joint Africa-EU strategy.

A strong spirit of co-operation exists between the EU and South Africa and is reflected by an impressive range of joint political, trade and economic activities and dialogues on issues such as education, science and technology, energy, migration and health.
The President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, said ahead of the meeting: "In a fast-evolving world, the EU and South Africa can make a difference by working together: I look forward to sharing and discussing with our South African partners our respective strategies to accelerate and facilitate the creation of employment and growth. The recent European Council has taken important decisions on this which I will present. We will also coordinate on important political developments in Africa and beyond, including cooperation on anti-piracy. We will also discuss how to address together global challenges such as climate change where South Africa has taken a leadership role with its climate conference at the end of 2011."

The President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso stated: "This is a particularly important Summit. With President Zuma we decided to focus our discussions on: "Job creation, economic growth investment and skills". This is a topic that attracts significant interest and attention in Europe and South Africa. Growth and jobs are at the heart of the South African National Development Plan whose implementation we are already supporting through our joint cooperation. Our partnership is far reaching and mutually beneficial and we are committed to expand it to new areas such as energy and science and technology. Our joint action makes a difference for our citizens and contributes to bring our two continents closer together".

For more information
Factsheet on EU-South Africa relations
EU-South Africa: http://eeas.europa.eu/south_africa
EU-South Africa summit on Council website
EU - South Africa Summit - EU27 surplus in international trade in goods with South Africa up to 6 billion euro in 2012 STAT/13/108