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## The EU Newsletter No. 191

27 September

*Welcome to the EU Newsletter. This Newsletter will keep you abreast of all important developments in the EU and its relations with Kazakhstan.*

- Existing Human Rights Protection Tools are not effective enough, state EU project experts
- Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the imposition of additional sanctions against the Syrian regime
- Remarks by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following the Middle East Quartet meeting in New York
- The Single Market through the eyes of the people: a snapshot of citizens' and businesses' views and concerns
- EU response to the Arab Spring: new package of support for North Africa and Middle East
- MEPs concerned at Turkey's threats towards Cyprus

### **Existing Human Rights Protection Tools are not effective enough, state EU project experts**

Today, at the OSCE Annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, the human rights activists from Kazakhstan have presented their reviews on the efficiency of the implementation of measures to ensure civil and political rights and freedoms of Kazakhstan citizens, envisaged by the 2009-2011 National Human Rights Action Plan.

The experts note that the analysis of certain sections of the National Plan has revealed inefficiency of this instrument to protect human rights in Kazakhstan. Human rights activists say that the state has to cooperate openly with NGOs to solve this problem.

[Press release](#)

### **Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the imposition of additional sanctions against the Syrian regime**

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"In view of the continuing brutal campaign by the Syrian regime against its own population, the European Union today decided to adopt additional sanctions against the Syrian regime.

I have said repeatedly that the regime's repression against the Syrian people must stop completely, that detained protestors must be released immediately and that a genuine and inclusive national dialogue must be launched in Syria without delay. So far, the Syrian regime has resisted urgent calls from the European Union as well as the international community to take such steps. Therefore additional measures are necessary.

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/124720.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/124720.pdf)

### **Remarks by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following the Middle East Quartet meeting in New York**

As you know, there has been a lot of work going on over the last weeks and months to try and achieve the objective of finding a way to get the parties back into negotiations.

You know from the perspective of the European Union and the work that I have done, that this has been my primary objective. The belief that, through negotiations, we would be able to end this conflict and move to peace and security for the people of Palestine and the people of Israel. And I remain committed to that objective.

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/124736.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/124736.pdf)

### **The Single Market through the eyes of the people: a snapshot of citizens' and businesses' views and concerns**

Brussels, 26 September 2011 - European citizens are, in general, satisfied with the possibilities that the Single Market offers in terms of a bigger choice of products (74%), more jobs (52%) and fair competition (47%). On the other hand, the Single Market is perceived as only benefiting big companies (62%), worsening working conditions (51%) and not benefiting poor and disadvantaged people (53%). 28% of those interviewed are considering working abroad in the future. These are some of the key results in the latest Eurobarometer survey on the Single Market. They also show that many Europeans are not aware of the Single Market and its benefits (35%).

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1074&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **EU response to the Arab Spring: new package of support for North Africa and Middle East**

Brussels, 27 September 2011 - The European Commission has adopted four new decisions for its Neighbourhood. The programmes will include support for areas like democracy, growth, job creation, microfinance and higher education.

*"The European Union was the first to offer a serious response to the Arab Spring. This new set of decisions is the result of the new and ambitious European Neighbourhood Policy launched in May and it confirms that the EU has made it one of its main priorities to support 'deep' and sustainable democracy, but also economic recovery, in North Africa and the Middle East,"* said Catherine Ashton, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1083&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **MEPs concerned at Turkey's threats towards Cyprus**

In Tuesday evening's debate, MEPs were united in their concern at the rising tensions between Turkey and the Republic of Cyprus in the dispute over oil and gas exploration. They condemned Turkey's threats and stressed that any threat against one Member State was a threat against the whole EU.

A number of Members pointed to the growing importance of Turkey as a player in the region and underlined the need for good neighbourly relations, stressing that Turkey, a candidate for EU membership, must accept Cyprus as a member of the EU. Many underlined that the Republic of Cyprus has the right to explore for natural resources in its own economic zone while some suggested that both communities on the island should benefit from any exploitation of oil and gas resources.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20110923IPR27390/html/MEPs-concerned-at-Turkey's-threats-towards-Cyprus>

## **RECENT SPEECHES**

**Speech by the Ambassador Norbert Josten, Head of the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan, delivered on the conference "Environment for Europe"**

[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kazakhstan/documents/press\\_corner/20110923\\_1\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kazakhstan/documents/press_corner/20110923_1_en.pdf)

**President Barroso State of the Union Address 2011**

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/11/607&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton on the imposition of additional sanctions against the Syrian regime:**

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**Statement by the spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative on latest developments in Yemen**

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/124726.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/124726.pdf)