



# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

Mbabane, 03 May 2012

## **Local EU Statement on 1st of May demonstrations in Swaziland**

*The European Union Delegation issues the following statement in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission accredited to the Kingdom of Swaziland*

The EU Delegation to the Kingdom of Swaziland expresses its concern over the interference (temporary detention of trade unionists, confiscation of banners) by the country's authorities at a demonstration of workers held on the occasion of the 1<sup>st</sup> May celebrations.

These events, coming after similar interventions by the authorities over the past months, set a disturbing trend of restricting citizens' rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

The EU Delegation calls on the Government of Swaziland to abide by its international obligations and the provisions of its Constitution which guarantees the rights of all citizens to freedom of assembly, association and expression.

The EU Delegation wishes to recall the commitment made by Swaziland under the Cotonou Agreement, the framework for Swaziland's cooperation with the European Union, to respect democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

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### **Delegation of the European Union in the Kingdom of Swaziland**

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