



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on Sudan and South Sudan

*3159th FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council meeting
Luxembourg, 23 April 2012*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The EU is deeply concerned about the escalating conflict between Sudan and South Sudan.
2. The EU calls on the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to stop immediately attacks on each other's territory, whether directly or through proxies, cease hostilities, withdraw all security personnel from Abyei and avoid further provocative actions, including inflammatory rhetoric. It urges both sides to establish the joint border verification and monitoring mechanism without further delay.
3. In this context and following international condemnation of the seizure and occupation of Heglig by the South Sudanese armed forces the EU welcomes the recent statement by the Government of South Sudan that it is withdrawing its forces from Heglig. It calls on South Sudan not to mount any further such attacks and urges the Government of Sudan not to attack SPLA forces as they withdraw.
4. The EU condemns continued aerial bombardments and reported ground incursions into South Sudan by the Sudan Armed Forces.
5. The use of force will not resolve any of the outstanding issues between the two countries. The EU urges both to return to the existing negotiating process under the auspices of the AU High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) and renew their efforts in good faith to reach agreement through peaceful dialogue.
6. The Government of Sudan and the SPLM North must engage in an inclusive political process to resolve the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.

P R E S S

7. The EU calls on the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan, as an immediate first step, to honour their Memorandum of Understanding on Non-Aggression and Cooperation signed in Addis Ababa on 10 February 2012. This is essential to allow the peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues.
 8. The EU strongly supports efforts by the African Union and the AUHIP, in cooperation with the United Nations and other international partners, to ensure that both Governments urgently take the steps outlined above."
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