

HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

28th Report of Session 2010–12

**The EU: Sudan and
South Sudan—
follow-up report**

Ordered to be printed 20 March 2012 and published 22 March 2012

Published by the Authority of the House of Lords

London : The Stationery Office Limited
£price

HL Paper 280

The European Union Committee

The Committee considers EU documents in advance of decisions being taken on them in Brussels, in order to influence the Government's position and to hold them to account.

The Government are required to deposit EU documents in Parliament, and to produce within two weeks an Explanatory Memorandum setting out the implications for the UK. The Committee examines these documents, and 'holds under scrutiny' any about which it has concerns, entering into correspondence with the relevant Minister until satisfied. Letters must be answered within two weeks. Under the 'scrutiny reserve resolution', the Government may not agree in the EU Council of Ministers to any proposal still held under scrutiny; reasons must be given for any breach.

The Committee also conducts inquiries and makes reports. The Government are required to respond in writing to a report's recommendations within two months of publication. If the report is for debate, then there is a debate in the House of Lords, which a Minister attends and responds to.

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/lords/>

Select Committee Staff

The current staff of the Sub-Committee are Kathryn Colvin (Committee Clerk) and Bina Sudra (Committee Assistant).

Contacts for the European Union Committee

Contact details for individual Sub-Committees are given on the website.

General correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the European Union Committee, Committee Office, House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW

General enquiries 020 7219 5791. The Committee's email address is euclords@parliament.uk

The EU: Sudan and South Sudan— follow-up report

1. Following our June 2011 report, “The EU and Sudan: on the Brink of Change”¹ and a subsequent evidence session with FCO Minister Henry Bellingham MP on 8 March 2012 on the situation in Sudan and South Sudan,² we make the following report.
2. We are deeply concerned at the current situation in Sudan and especially South Sudan following that country’s recent independence.
3. The Committee is particularly alarmed that South Sudan has cut off the flow of its own oil to, and through, Sudan, which is at present the only outlet for South Sudan’s oil, and that this has resulted in a 98% reduction in the income of South Sudan’s government.³ Additionally, we are concerned that the pipeline, having been shut, could take up to a year to re-open.⁴
4. We consider that in these circumstances any economic or social development in South Sudan will become profoundly difficult, if not impossible, with rapid and serious adverse effects on its economy and people. Sudan will also be seriously affected.
5. In our earlier report we emphasised the vital importance of bringing to a resolution the many issues left outstanding after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between Sudan and South Sudan.⁵ We note with considerable disappointment that so many crucial issues, including citizenship, border demarcation, and the distribution of oil revenues, remain unresolved.
6. Taking these matters into consideration, as well as cross-border military incidents, we judge that the risk of a broader conflict between the two nations is substantial. Such a conflict would be devastating to the peoples of South Sudan and Sudan, including Darfur, and extremely serious for the wider region.
7. **We call on the European Union urgently to work with the African Union and the United Nations and to use their utmost influence to persuade both Sudan and South Sudan to pull back from their present policies and to seek a mutually advantageous resolution of the outstanding issues, based on the spirit of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.**
8. **In particular, we call on the United Kingdom Government and the EU to urge China, which has a strong political and commercial relationship, and great influence, with both nations, to stretch out beyond its normal role in global affairs and to work actively with others to seek a reconciliation between Sudan and South Sudan.**
9. **We make this report to the House for debate.**

¹ EU Select Committee, 18th Report (2010–12) (HL Paper 160)

² A transcript of the evidence session can be found at www.parliament.uk/hleuc

³ Question 6 of the transcript referenced under Footnote 2

⁴ Questions 10, 11, 21 and 32 of the transcript

⁵ Paragraph 76 of the report.

APPENDIX: FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE (EU SUB-COMMITTEE C)

The Members of the Sub-Committee are:-

Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury
 Lord Inge
 Lord Jay of Ewelme
 Lord Jones
 Lord Jopling
 Lord Lamont of Lerwick
 Lord Radice
 Lord Selkirk of Douglas
 Lord Sewel
 Lord Teverson (Chairman)
 Lord Trimble
 Lord Williams of Elvel

Declaration of Members' Interests

Lord Inge
Member Council IISS
Advisor to Aegis

Lord Jay of Ewelme
Chairman, Merlin, medical aid NGO which works in Darfur and South Sudan

Lord Jopling
Lady Jopling, Patron of Hope and Homes for children which operates in Sudan

Lord Lamont of Lerwick
Category 1: Directorships
Chairman, Small Companies Dividend Trust
Chairman, Jupiter Adria plc
Director, Balli Group plc (steel and commodity trading house)
Director, Compagnie Internationale de Participations Bancaires at Financieres (Investment Company) (partly paid through Fintrade)
Director, Jupiter Second Split Trust plc
Director, Phorm Inc (personalisation technologies)
Director, Stanhope Gate Developments
Category 2: Remunerated employment
Adviser, North American Foreclosure and Distressed Opportunities Fund LLP
Consultant, Consensus Business Group (formerly Rotch Property)
Member, Advisory Board, MerchantBridge & Co (investment company)
Member, Advisory Board, Hermitage Global Fund
Member, Advisory Board, Pasco Risk Management Limited
Category 10: Non-financial interests (a)
Chairman, British-Iranian Chamber of Commerce
Category 10: Non-financial interests (c)
Member, Advisory Board, Iran Heritage Foundation

Lord Radice
Member of Board of Policy Network

Lord Selkirk of Douglas
Patron of Hope and Homes for children which operates in Sudan