

## [Press release: PM meeting with European Commission President: 27 April 2017](#)

The PM had a constructive meeting this evening with President Juncker of the European Commission.

Following the UK's letter of notification under Article 50, she reiterated the UK's commitment to achieving a deep and special partnership with the European Union.

The PM and President Juncker also discussed a range of other international issues in a useful working dinner.

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## [Speech: "The people of South Sudan are fed up of pledges and fed up of promises. They need action."](#)

Thank you Madam President. And thank you David, and Gorgui, for your briefings.

And I want to start by complementing David and the whole UNMISS team for the steps that you have taken to enhance the Mission's ability to fulfil its mandate despite the hostile circumstances in which it operates.

The situation in South Sudan is dire, but I want to recall what we, the members of this Security Council, agreed to on the 23rd of March in our Presidential Statement. We called for an immediate ceasefire by all parties; we called for steps to be taken to allow life saving assistance to get to those in need. We called for the immediate removal of obstacles to UNMISS and the deployment of the Regional Protection Force. We also gave our support to joint UN, African Union and IGAD efforts to bring the parties back to the Peace Agreement. And we said we would return to these benchmarks and reassess. So let's do that.

The lack of progress since that Presidential Statement a month ago is deafening. Fighting and violence in South Sudan has never been so widespread. Events that unfolded in Wau earlier this month are a distressing indication of the apathy that parties to the conflict have towards achieving peace by political means. UN reports detail clashes between the SPLA and the opposition which resulted in the SPLA seeking violent retribution against

civilians in a community they believed to be in support of the opposition.

It's always difficult, Madam President, to deliver aid in a highly insecure environment like South Sudan. But let's be clear, it's not only the presence of conflict that impedes the ability of humanitarian workers to address the ever worsening food situation. It's the way in which the conflict is conducted; namely, the fact that it contravenes International Humanitarian Law.

International Humanitarian Law was breached with the murder of three World Food Programme employees in Wau. And this is by no means an isolated incident. As Gorgui noted in his briefing, the murder of these WFP employees adds to the toll of eighty humanitarians who have been killed in South Sudan since December 2013. This must stop.

Also unacceptable is the news that the Government of South Sudan has detained without charge, a WFP employee. We call on the Government of South Sudan for his immediate and unconditional release and urge other member states to join that call.

The violence in Wau is also an example of the unacceptable and chronic obstructions placed upon UNMISS by the Government of South Sudan. Despite repeated attempts UNMISS was prevented from patrolling in Wau and thus unable to protect civilians. A continued lack of Government cooperation has also prevented meaningful progress on the deployment of the Regional Protection Force.

Madam President, this Council has heard time and time again of the shocking impact that this conflict is having on the world's youngest nation. One example, is the fact that at least one in every four South Sudanese has now been forced from their homes since the outbreak of conflict in December 2013. What a damning statistic.

And despite multiple statements made in this Council and efforts by the UN, African Union and IGAD to bring the parties together, we have collectively failed to bring about an end to this conflict. We are further from the IGAD Peace Agreement than ever. Yes, we have all pledged to do more. Yes, the Government of South Sudan has time and again promised peace. But the people of South Sudan are fed up of pledges and fed up of promises. They need action. So we strongly encourage the AU, IGAD, and the UN to build on their commitment to work together by developing a clear, joint, plan of action to solve the ongoing crisis in South Sudan without delay.

And in conclusion, Madam President, the question we each need to ask ourselves as we walk out of this room is how much further are we prepared to let the situation deteriorate on our watch? My answer is no further at all. And with this in mind I call on regional countries to avert the suffering in their backyards. I remind fellow Council colleagues that it's incumbent on us to use every available tool to pull South Sudan back from the abyss. Dialogue is needed. But so is pressure. An Arms Embargo would prevent further devastation and rearming when the rainy season inevitably slows the fighting. Targeted sanctions would remind those in power that a return to peace is the

right alternative to rape and killing of civilians.

We hear month after month the same lack of commitment to peace from all parties. We owe it to the people of South Sudan to end this horror and to secure a lasting peace.

Thank you Madam President.

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## **News story: Tracking the status and events of a trade mark**

As part of our ongoing work to improve our digital services, we are making changes to the current trade mark eAlerts service.

The service is renamed as 'Track a trade mark' and will replace the current trade mark eAlerts service. This is a free tracking service which notifies you via email of specific events occurring to a trade mark (for both United Kingdom (UK) and International Registration (IR) trade marks).

Track a trade mark will function the same but with improvements to the look and style of the service.

The change will take effect on 27 April 2017 and the first screen will look like:

Improved look and style of service.

We would welcome further feedback to continue to improve this service going forward. Please email any comments to [feedback@ipo.gov.uk](mailto:feedback@ipo.gov.uk).

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## **News story: 2017 Clinical Excellence Awards closed**

The 2017 National Clinical Excellence Awards round has now closed.

The 2017 National Clinical Excellence Awards round closed at 5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2017.

We received over 1,200 new and renewal applications.

The volume of applications for new awards means that the process will once again be highly competitive.

We will review and score all applications and announce results at the end of the year.

New awards will be backdated to 1 April 2017. Renewals will be renewed from 1 April 2018. Unsuccessful renewals will cease on 31 March 2018.

As in previous years, we will publish personal statements for successful applications.

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## [Press release: New charity investigation: ANO](#)

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, has opened a statutory inquiry into [ANO, registered charity number 1155123](#). The inquiry was opened on 3 April 2017.

The Leicester-based charity, also known as Aid for the Needy & Oppressed, has objects to provide relief of poverty, in particular countries affected by disasters and war, through financial support, goods and services.

In December 2016, a trustee of the charity was stopped by UK Ports Officers where cash totalling £19,300 belonging to the charity was seized. These funds are subject to a cash detention order and are at risk of loss in the event of a successful forfeiture application. The trustee submitted a Serious Incident Report (RSI) to the Commission regarding the incident in January 2017.

The Commission sought additional information from the charity's trustees regarding their decision to courier the charity's funds in cash, and exercised its powers under section 52 of the Charities Act 2011 to obtain copies of the charity's bank statements. The Commission's analysis of the information obtained to date has identified a number of regulatory concerns which warrant further investigation.

The investigation will consider:

- the administration, governance and management of the charity by the trustees;
- the financial controls and management of the charity and whether its funds have been properly expended solely for exclusively charitable purposes and can be accounted for;
- the conduct of the trustees; and
- whether or not the trustees have complied with and fulfilled their duties and responsibilities as trustees under charity law.

The Commission recently [issued an alert](#) to charities strongly advising against the use of cash couriers.

It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. [Reports of previous inquiries](#) by the Commission are available on GOV.UK.

The charity's details can be viewed on the Commission's [online charity search tool](#).

Ends

PR 34/17

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### Notes to editors

1. [The Charity Commission](#) is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work, see our [annual report](#).
2. Search for charities on our [online register](#).
3. Details of how the Commission reports on its regulatory work can be found on [GOV.UK](#).
4. Section 46 of the Charities Act 2011 gives the Commission the power to institute inquiries. The opening of an inquiry gives the Commission access to a range of investigative, protective and remedial legal powers.
5. The Commission's decision to announce the opening of a statutory inquiry is based on whether it is in the public interest to do so and with consideration of our objective to increase public trust and confidence in charities.