



# 2013 Annual report

on the European Union's  
development and external  
assistance policies and their  
implementation in 2012

Highlights

Development  
and Cooperation

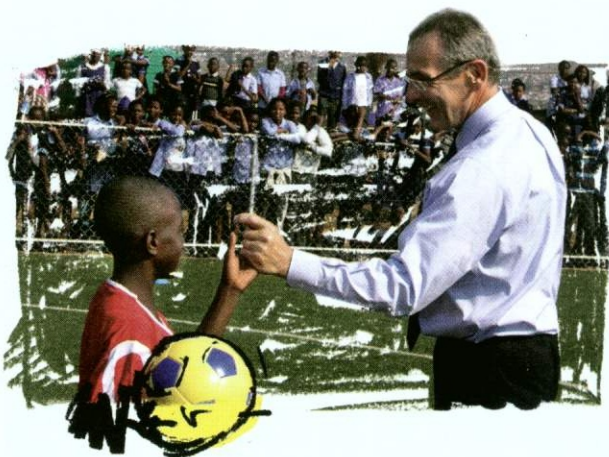
# FOREWORD

2012 was an eventful year for development. How and where we deliver our aid is as important as ever, so I am delighted that our annual report once again shows how our work is making a difference where it is needed most and delivering concrete results on the ground.

In December 2012, the European Union received the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its work on peace, democracy and human rights in Europe. This achievement also reflects our unique role, and responsibility, in global solidarity. Indeed, in 2012 the EU showed that it is able to provide a swift and decisive response in fragile and crisis situations such as the drought in the Sahel and the conflicts in Syria and in Mali. We also continued to demonstrate that we can react to a country's changing needs and situation; in Myanmar/Burma, for example, announcing significant new funding and cooperation, and in the Southern Mediterranean, ensuring that we responded to the rapidly changing needs of the region; for example by supporting democratic change, as well as trade and jobs.

2012 was also the year that saw the Agenda for Change really come into its own and our work become more effective as a result. In energy for example, one of our priorities, we organised a high level summit to support the UN's Sustainable Energy for ALL (SE4All) initiative, where the ambitious target to help developing countries to provide access to sustainable energy services for 500 million people by 2030 was set.

Preparations continued for a global post-2015 agenda, building on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals. For my part, I was delighted to be nominated as a member of the UN High Level Panel on the post-2015 development agenda, combining poverty eradication and sustainable development. The next couple of years will be crucial as we take stock of what has been achieved so far, and look at what needs to be achieved in the future. The EU will continue to be a leader on development, and ensure that our aid improves lives and helps lift people out of poverty worldwide.



**Andris Piebalgs**  
European Commissioner for Development