



## GAZA FLOODS: UN DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY

[www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-30243898](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-30243898)

The United Nations declared that Gaza Strip in emergency after the heavy rain happened and led to severe flooding. Hundreds of people have been evacuated and many schools are closed in Gaza because the floods. More than 400,000 Palestinians has relocated since the conflict with Israel which ended in August. In October, international donor pledged \$5.4bn for rebuilding Gaza.

The heavy rain begins in Wednesday and hit Gaza, as thousands people of Gaza still live in communal shelters or the ruins of their own homes after the conflict. In Shejaiya, a neighbourhood in Gaza, many of buildings are damaged because of the Israel air strikes and the people of the neighbourhood face a cold winter without electricity or water.

Robert Turner, UN Director of Operations for its Palestinian Agency UNRWA in Gaza, states that UN are very concerned with the season in Gaza and on the back of unprecedented damage and destruction caused by the recent conflict. Robert Turner also said that UN also concerned with the family whose seeking shelter and preparing for the winter months, and childrens unable going to school because of the impact of the floods.

In August ceasefire has agreed between Israel and Palestine, and Egypt would re-open the border between Egypt and Palestine. In the last Gaza conflict, which ended in 26 August has killed 2,100 Palestinians, most of them are civilians and with 67 Israeli soldiers and six civilians in Israel.

## **Juncker Reveals Giant EU Investment Plan**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30205776>

26 November –Jean-Claude Juncker, President of European Commission has revealed the details of the new investment plan to kick-start Europe’s economy from a new €21 billion fund that could be raised to €315 billion. This new fund would provide loans for infrastructure projects in which Mr. Juncker hopes that the rest of money will come from private sectors. However, critics and sceptism toward this new fund project was immediately addressed by The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) whose General Secretary, Bernadette Segol, suggested the European Commission was “relying on a financial on a financial miracle like the loaves and fishes”. That statement was referred to the core of this investment plan, only €16 billion of the original money would come from European Union budget. Doubtfully it can increase private investment in Europe.

Bernadette Segol argued that she did not believe that €315 billion could be raised from €21 bil-

lion, because it was almost certainly unrealistic. On the other hand, The Commission believes it would create up to 1.3 million new jobs with investment in several sectors. Mr. Juncker stated and described his plan as the greatest effort in recent European Union history to trigger additional investment without changing the rules. Moreover, The Commission and the European Investment Bank would establish the fund’s €21 billion reserve until it reach €63billion and enable the EIB to fund loans worth €63 billion.

Mr. Juncker stated that he had a vision of the projects that would start between 2015 and 2017 of schoolchildren walking into a brand new classroom equipped with computers, households and companies becoming more energy efficient. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, gave positive reaction regarding the package in principle. However, her government will support this package, if it is clear where the projects were in the future.

## **EU-ASEAN Aviation Summit Proposes “Open Skies” Agreement**

<http://www.rttnews.com/2268301/eu-asean-aviation-summit-proposes-open-skies-agreement.aspx>

The European Commission and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have proposed to take their aviation cooperation to a new level by negotiating a comprehensive air transport agreement between the EU and ASEAN. The “open skies” agreement was proposed in a joint declaration adopted on Wednesday in Singapore at the end of a successful two-day EU-ASEAN Aviation Summit.

The Summit brought together 300 political and business leaders including a number of Transport Ministers from the two regions. The Summit discussed the rich opportunities in the two aviation markets and the benefits which both the EU and ASEAN stand to achieve from greater market access and integration in air services and the aviation industry, cooperation to enhance the efficiency of air traffic management and harmonization of safety and security standards, amongst others.

In particular, the Summit noted these and more potential benefits that the peoples and compa-

nies of both regions could enjoy from a comprehensive air transport agreement between the two regional blocs. In order to be in a position to negotiate an agreement with ASEAN, the Commission will need a negotiating mandate from the EU Council of Transport Ministers. At the EU-ASEAN Aviation Summit, Siim Kallas, EU Transport Commissioner, announced that he will propose to the European Commission to seek authorization from the Council of the European Union at the earliest possible to start negotiations on an EU-ASEAN comprehensive air transport agreement. This announcement was welcomed by the ASEAN Transport Ministers.

Air traffic between the EU and ASEAN has been growing steadily in recent years and has nearly doubled over the last 15 years to reach more than 10 million passengers in 2012. With a combined population of 1.1 billion, the EU-ASEAN air transport market is of increasing strategic importance to both sides with an expected average growth rate of 5 percent per year over the next 20 years.

Half of the world's traffic growth over the next 20 years will be to, from, or within the Asia-Pacific region, which will become

the world leader in air traffic by 2030 with a market share of 38 percent, it has been estimated.