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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.5.2025)

The EU closely monitors developments in South Africa, including legislative proposals and acts adopted. This includes the Expropriation Act (Act number 13 of 2024), which was passed by the previous South African parliament and assented to by the President of the Republic of South Africa on 20 December 2024. It will enter into force on a date to be determined by the President of South Africa. The Act is currently the subject of court proceedings in South Africa.

The EU follows the discussions that take place in relation to this Act. The EU will continue to monitor developments and, if deemed relevant, raise the issue with South Africa within relevant bilateral fora, such as those concerning political and human rights dialogue, which exist between the EU and South Africa as part of the strategic partnership.

Under Article 8 of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe Regulation¹, the EU is required to comply with and promote the principles of respect for the rule of law in all its interventions. Through Global Gateway, the EU aims to embed democratic principles, good governance, and transparency in all investments. In each country, the EU assesses whether the necessary preconditions for investment are in place, including those related to the rule of law.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32021R0947>