



European Union
Delegation of the European Commission
in South Africa

**... this week
in review**

This publication seeks to provide information on EU activities of interest to SA readers.



09 – 15 September 2005

Headline News

Facing up to the challenge of our generation – Speech by Pres Barroso's (14/09/2005)



In his address to the UN Summit Special Plenary on Financing for Development, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso said: "Why are we here today? To voice public concern for the more than one billion people still living in extreme poverty? Or to go beyond words, and to turn this into the breakthrough summit where the whole world showed its refusal to accept death by poverty in a world of plenty? The stakes are high. Some 25,000 people are dying every day because they don't have enough to eat or clean water to drink. Ending this is the challenge of our generation. We have the resources to win this war on want. Now, this week in New York, we can show we have the will to win it as well. The European Union has taken a lead here. We already account for 55% of all official development aid spent worldwide. ..."

See: http://www.europa-eu-un.org/articles/en/article_5023_en.htm

See also: **EU-UN relations (12/09/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/312&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Millennium Development Goals: 5 years later, the need to accelerate (12/09/2005)

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/314&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



The right choices for the Doha Round – Speech by Com P Mandelson (13/09/2005)

In this speech to the National Press Club in Washington, Commissioner Peter Mandelson (Trade) sets out the political and economic case for the Doha Round. He argues that in an environment where the forces of protectionism are strengthening as a result of growing fears of trade related job losses on both sides of the Atlantic the success of the Doha Trade Round matters more than ever. The speech is a call for urgent action and a map of the critical aspects of the negotiations ahead.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/505&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Commissioners Mandelson and Fischer Boel in Washington DC for Doha talks (12/09/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1125&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Other News

The Common Agriculture Policy: History and Future – Speech by Mariann Fischer Boel (14/09/2005)

During an address at the German Marshall Fund, Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel (Agriculture and Rural Development) observed with regard to the recent CAP reforms: "First, it should be more entrepreneurial and competitive. The logic of the single farm payment is clear: farmers will make more money if they can spot market opportunities and seize hold of them. They will no longer be "subsidy slaves". That should mean a greater range of high-quality products coming to market. Second, it should be more environmentally responsible. We have made huge advances in this area over the years, but the reinforced link between subsidy and good farming practice should help us to go further. Third, farming in the European Union should be holding its head high in a global trading system better geared to the needs of developing countries.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/511&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Agricultural talks in the Doha Round – Speech by Mariann Fischer Boel (15/09/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/516&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EU's approach to agricultural policy - Speech by Mariann Fischer Boel (15/09/2005)

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/517&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EDF budget aid to ACP countries: EC's management of the public finance reform aspect (13/09/2005)

The volume of direct non-targeted budget aid has increased substantially in recent years and now accounts for around one fifth of EDF aid. It has several major advantages - chief of which are ownership and greater simplicity - but it also brings an element of risk. This risk differs from that affecting other types of aid: the objectives are more ambitious and the funds disbursed are merged with the revenue of the beneficiary countries, which then spend them in accordance with their own management systems, which are usually weak. The philosophy behind budget aid is to help beneficiary countries to reduce this risk while at the same time allowing them to manage their own development through growth and poverty reduction. Most

donors are showing an increased interest in this form of aid, fundamentally different from the traditional method of project support. See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=ECA/05/7&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Sudan: Commission allocates €15 million to victims of the Darfur conflict (09/09/2005)

The European Commission has released an additional €15 million in humanitarian aid for the victims of the protracted crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan. This amount will enable partners to continue providing victims with food and nutritional support, shelter, access to clean water and sanitation, emergency health care and protection for vulnerable civilians. The aid will be channelled through ECHO, the European Commission's humanitarian aid department, which comes under the responsibility of Commissioner Louis Michel. Commenting on the decision, Louis Michel said: "As Darfur slips out of the media spotlight it is essential to prevent it becoming another 'forgotten' crisis. The European Commission is committed to providing humanitarian aid for Darfur as long as the needs remain, and we urge other donors to do likewise ...".

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1118&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Aceh: Commission's contribution to the peace process and post-tsunami reconstruction (09/09/2005)

The Indonesian Government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) signed a peace agreement on 15/08/2005 that offers an end to nearly 30 years of fighting in the resource-rich province of Aceh. The conflict has led to over 10,000 casualties, displaced thousands more, caused severe hardship to the population of the conflict-affected areas and has been a major obstacle to humanitarian access and sustainable development in the whole province of 4.2 million people. The economic and political impact of the conflict has been felt by the country as a whole.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/310&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

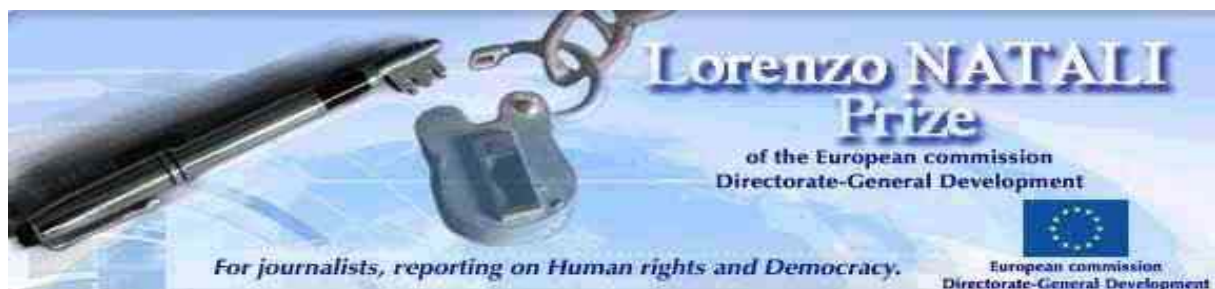
See also: **Aceh: Commission reconstruction activities post-Tsunami (09/09/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1115&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Aceh: Commission releases €4 million to support the peace process (09/09/2005)

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1116&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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