



# European Union

Delegation of the European Commission  
to South Africa

... this week  
in review

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

For more on any covered issue/s, please  
'click' on the blue headlines and / or text



## 1 – 14 October 2007



### Headline News

#### EU-SA Relations in Spotlight



The second SA-EU Ministerial Troika meeting took place in Pretoria on 10 October 2007. Heading the South African delegation, Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma was joined by her Portuguese counterpart, Minister Luís Amado for the EU Presidency, and EU Development and Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Louis Michel. Also in attendance also were Mr Matjaž Sinkovec, State Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister of Slovenia (to hold the upcoming EU Presidency), and Mr Koen Vervaeke of the European Union's Council Secretariat. The Ministerial Troika meeting covered a wide range of issues and took place in the context of the EU-SA Strategic Partnership (see: [SA-EU Strategic Partnership Joint Communiqué](#)). The event also allowed for the signing of the €980 million EU-SA Multi-annual Indicative Programme as well as the signing of the EU Enlargement protocol, thereby including the EU's newest members, Bulgaria and Romania into EU-SA bilateral relations.



Following the meeting Com Louis Michel remarked: "... in our interactions, we felt that the nature was different ... more frank, more open. And we have tackled many global challenges which we have to both deal with. This is very important." (see: [Notes following the SA-EU Ministerial Troika Meeting](#)). Ministers agreed that the next Ministerial Troika will take place under the Slovenian Presidency in the first half of 2008 and expressed the wish to hold an SA-EU Summit as soon as possible.



Signing of the EU Enlargement Protocol: EU Com Louis Michel shaking hands with Min Mandisi Mphahlela (Trade & Industry) while Foreign Minister Luís Amado (EU Presidency) looks on.

In the margins of the Troika meeting Com Michel had the opportunity to meet bilaterally with President Thabo Mbeki (left), Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and Finance Minister Trevor Manuel.

#### [Mandelson calls on India, Brazil and South Africa to back the Geneva texts as basis for Doha negotiation](#)

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson called on all sides in the Doha negotiations to agree to use the texts currently circulating at the WTO in Geneva as a basis for the remaining negotiations. Noting that the US, APEC and the EU had accepted the parameters laid out in the texts, he urged Brazil, India and South Africa to use their summit on October 17 to send the same message.

### Other News

#### [European Parliament calls for stronger parliamentary involvement in EU Strategy for Africa](#)

The EU Strategy for Africa needs a stronger parliamentary dimension, says an own-initiative report, adopted by the EP Development Committee. The report sets out priorities for the EU-Africa Strategy to be adopted at the second EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon in December. The committee report was unanimously adopted

#### [Review of Trade Related Assistance for Africa](#)

The European Commission participated in a two day World Trade Organisation review of Trade Related Assistance for the African region. The review brought together governments, donors, international agencies, and the private sector, to share experiences, identify key priorities for strengthening capacity and emphasise the importance of comprehensive trade strategy at both national and regional level. The European Commission, which is the single largest donor world-wide of Trade Related

Assistance is fully committed to supporting regional integration processes in Africa and to increasing substantially its aid for trade in the region. In the case of the sub-Saharan region, the European Commission is also committed to support the aid for trade needs arising from the Economic Partnership Agreement.

### **Declaration by the EU Presidency on the attack against AU Mission in Sudan**

The European Union expressed its strong condemnation of the attack on the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) camp in Haskanita in Darfur and the killing and abduction of AMIS soldiers. The declaration reiterated that it considers any attack against AMIS as a deliberate violation of existing ceasefire agreements and UN Security Council Resolutions and called on the Ceasefire Commission to fully investigate the attack and to hold those responsible to account. "This unprecedented attack on AU peacekeepers underlines the need for all parties in the Darfur peace process to commit themselves to an immediate cessation of hostilities, and join the efforts led by the AU and the UN to find a peaceful solution to the conflict".

### **Newer EU Member States debate how to spend their €500m of aid**

The European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme and non-governmental organisations have joined efforts to raise public awareness in the new and emerging European donor countries by organising parliamentary debates on development co-operation in each of the new Member States. Their debates will be organised around 17 October - International Poverty Eradication Day. In total, the 12 new EU members contributed to global development assistance with approximately €500 million in 2006 and are committed to increase their official development assistance to 0.17 % of their gross national income by 2010, which combined should exceed €1 billion.

### **European Parliament MEPs addressed on climate change**

With the Kyoto limits on greenhouse gases due to expire in 2012, the debate on what should replace them was discussed by Parliament's Climate Change Committee. A panel of experts from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, as well as representatives from the US, China and Japan, set out their views on how to deal with the problem. The UN experts told MEPs that to avert catastrophic climate change, temperature increases must not rise by more than 2 degrees. The debate was ahead of a UN meeting in Bali in December on a post-Kyoto future. A central theme stressed by the main UN speakers was the need to see climate change as a current rather than a future problem.

### **EU united against capital punishment**

In the context of a recent International Conference in Lisbon, the Commission, jointly with the EU Presidency and the Council of Europe, reaffirmed its unreserved opposition to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances. President Barroso said: "The EU is unreservedly opposed to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances and has consistently called for the worldwide abolition of this punishment. Death penalty is against human dignity. We want to give visibility to the efforts of the many Non-Governmental Organisations and individuals who strive, day after day, towards the abolition of the death penalty." In June, the EU tabled a resolution at the UN General Assembly proposing a world-wide moratorium on executions.

### **European Commission presents proposal for *Communicating Europe in Partnership***

Building on its own earlier initiatives, the Commission proposes, among other things, an agreement on communication priorities with other EU institutions and voluntary management partnerships with Member States. Introducing the plan, Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy, said: "The person in the street does not know or care about the differences between EU institutions. They want results and they want to be informed about them. For too long we have blamed one another for the EU's communication failures. It's time to end the blame game. It's time to work together".

***For further information please contact Frank Oberholzer on 012-452-5200***

