



**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.*



**1 – 7 July 2005**



**Breaking News**

**Statement by President Barroso on the London attacks (07/07/2005)**

Speaking today in Gleneagles, after terrorist attacks caused multiple explosions in London, President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso said: "I want to express my deepest sympathy, condolences and solidarity to the bereaved families of the innocent dead for this outrageous and unjustifiable attack. This is an attack on the people of Britain, it is an attack on democracy, and it is an attack on the fundamental freedoms which go to the heart of the European Union. Citizens across Europe share the grief which is being felt by the people of Britain, and we share the sense of vulnerability about a threat which can strike any of our Member States at any time. The European Union will offer every support and assistance available to the British authorities coping with this atrocity. We must stand resolutely together against terrorism in all its forms. At a time when world leaders are uniting to fight poverty, we can not allow the language of violence to prevail. Today's attacks reinforce the urgency of global solidarity and action. The European Union will stand together with the British people against terrorism, we will stand together for freedom and democracy. I want to say, as a matter of duty to the British people, and to the people of Europe, there must be no safe haven for terrorists and terrorism in the European Union.

**Headline News**

**G8 Summit: President Barroso launches €1 billion aid for trade pledge (06/07/2005)**

Speaking before the opening of the G8 Summit European Commission President José Manuel Barroso pledged €1 billion per year to support the trading capacity of developing countries. President Barroso is representing the EU at the G8 summit along with the UK presidency. Multilateral trade liberalisation has the potential to generate significant economic opportunities that could lift many people out of poverty. But many developing countries are ill-equipped to take advantage of new export opportunities. President Barroso, who attends the G8 summit as the "9th man at the G8 table", announced details of the aid for trade deal and set out his key demands for the G8 summit. He has just returned from visiting South Africa, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Libya where he and Kofi Annan addressed the AU Summit.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/862&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

**President Barroso proposes new Euro-Africa Pact at the African Union Summit (04/07/2005)**

European Commission President, José Manuel Barroso, and Commissioner Louis Michel (Development & Humanitarian Aid) attended the Summit of the African Union in Sirte, Lybia. The Commission delivered a strong message of support to the African integration process and to the impressive changes that the continent is undergoing in recent years. President Barroso, addressing the Summit, declared that recent changes in both Africa and Europe call for a re-assessment of the relationship between the two continents. Later this year, the EC will put forward a comprehensive and long-term strategy for Africa. See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/835&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

See also: ***From Schuman to Sirte: a tale of two unions – Speech by President JM Barroso (04/07/2005)***

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/413&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

**UK takes over the EU Presidency (01/07/2005)**



Priorities for the UK Presidency of the EU 2005

- Economic reform & social justice: economic reform; better regulation; Working Time Directive; Services Directive; Financial Services Action Plan; The Chemicals Regulation (REACH);
- Security & stability: counter terrorism; people trafficking and migration; enlargement;
- Europe's role in the world: Doha Development Agenda; Africa; climate change; peace, stability & reform in the Middle East; peace & stability in the Balkans; defence capability; reform of the EU's sugar regime.

See: <http://www.eu2005.gov.uk/>

See also: **Press conference with the Prime Minister Blair and European Commission President Barroso (01/07/05)**

<http://www.eu2005.gov.uk/servlet/ServletFront?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1107293561746&a=KArticle&aid=1119516832874>  
**Joint Statement on Co-operation during UK Presidency (01/07/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/820&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Other News**

#### **Raising Living Standards in Africa: the G8 Trade Challenge – Speech by Com Mandelson (06/07/2005)**

Addressing a Joint German Marshall Fund and Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa event, Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson called on the G8 to turn “personal conscience into real political commitment” by backing a successful Doha Round and following the European Commission in prioritising ‘aid for trade’ to help build Africa’s capacity to benefit from free trade and market access. He called on the G8 to “match the partial advances on debt relief and the additional aid pledged, with a fresh act of political will to build Africa’s opportunities and capacities to benefit from free and fair trade.”

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/418&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **European Commission welcomes US Commitment to Farm Reform (04/07/2005)**

The EC welcomed the apparent willingness shown by US President George W. Bush to overhaul US agricultural subsidies. It hopes that the President’s words, in an interview with ITV1 on the eve of the G8 summit, will be translated into genuine and far-reaching reforms which can find their way through Congress when the US Farm Bill is up for revision in 2007.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/836&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Michel and Mandelson support greater role for ACP economic and social interest groups (01/07/2005)**

At the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of ACP-EU Economic & Social Interest Groups (28-30/06/2005), Commissioners Michel (Development & Humanitarian Aid), and Mandelson (Trade), launched strong calls in favour of greater involvement of ACP economic and social interest groups in the development and trade policies of their countries.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=CES/05/81&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Making Europe’s regions attractive places to invest is key to achieving the Lisbon goals (01/07/2005)**

Speaking at the La Baule World Investment conference 2005, Commissioner Danuta Hübner (Regional Policy), stated that the renewed Lisbon strategy agreed at the Spring European Council this year had to be seen in the light of the recent discussions on the EU’s finances. Everyone agrees that it is now urgent for Europe to catch up with its competitors and achieve higher growth and employment.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/829&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **A regional policy for the 21st Century – Speech by Commissioner Danuta Hübner (30/06/2005)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/402&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Future of EU Development Policy: a sharper focus on poverty eradication (01/07/2005)**

The EC published a report on the results of the public consultation on the future of EU development policy that was launched in Jan 2005. The aim of the consultation was to start a debate on how the Union should face the challenges of development co-operation. A majority of stakeholders agreed that poverty eradication should remain the main goal of any new policy statement and that the EU should agree on a common framework for development co-operation.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/826&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Humanitarian aid: Commission provides €1 million for Togolese refugees in Benin (01/07/2005)**

Following the violence that occurred in Togo at the time of the presidential election, more than 20 000 people fled to Benin. In order to meet the humanitarian needs of the Togolese refugees, the Commission has allocated €1.05 million through its Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO). The aid package will be implemented by the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR). It covers the refugees’ current needs, with a particular focus on the provision of food aid and other basic essentials. See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/827&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Sahel food crisis: Commission earmarks €6.6 million in humanitarian aid for Niger and Mali (01/07/2005)**

The European Commission has moved to provide significant emergency funding for vulnerable populations living on the southern fringe of the Sahara Desert. The package, consisting mainly of targeted nutritional support, involves €4.6 million for Niger and €2 million for Mali. The funds will be managed by the European Commission’s humanitarian aid department (ECHO). See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/832&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Photo File:**



Louis Michel, Member of the EC in charge of Development and Humanitarian Aid, receives Youssou N'Dour, Senegalese singer and Goodwill Ambassador for the UN and the Unicef

#### **Erasmus Mundus: 2005-2006**

The European Commission has selected 803 third-country students and 133 third-country scholars from all over the world to receive Erasmus Mundus scholarships for the next academic year (2005-2006). The students will study in Europe for one or two years to obtain a European masters’ degree from one of the 35 Erasmus Mundus masters courses. They will follow their courses in at least two universities in two different countries, giving them the opportunity to familiarise themselves with European lifestyles, cultures and languages. The scholars will instead spend an average of three months in Europe working for one of the Erasmus Mundus masters courses.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/833&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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