



**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.*



## 10 – 16 February 2006

### Headline News

#### [Statement on the issue of the cartoons of prophet Muhammad by Pres JM Barroso \(15/02/2006\)](#)

Addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso noted: “The publication of cartoons in Danish and other European newspapers and the reactions to this have revealed sensitive and fundamental issues. The cartoons have aggrieved many Muslims all over the world. We must respect these sensitivities and the expression of them through peaceful protest – which is a fundamental right in any open society. I share the views expressed by Prime Minister Fogh Rasmussen, where he made clear that his government respects Islam as one of the world’s major religions and that it has no intention to insult Muslims and does not support activities in this sense. I want, personally today, to emphasise my deep respect for Islamic civilisation and the contribution it has made and continues to make to Europe...”

#### [EU-Africa: Trade and Development – Speech by Com Peter Mandelson \(10/02/2006\)](#)

Addressing a joint SAIIA/BUSA\* forum at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (South Africa) EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson noted: “Given our strong ties and your leadership in Sub Saharan Africa, we want South Africa to play an even more active role in the DDA and the EU and South Africa should be working more closely. ... We need for example to give a boost to the services negotiations, which barely moved forward in Hong Kong. South Africa and the EU both have strong services sectors, and a healthy two-way relationship in cross-border services trade. ... The EU has made an ambitious services offer in the DDA negotiations but is dismayed that South Africa has not. We have yet to see even an initial offer, or request, tabled by South Africa and I hope this will be rectified soon. \* (South African Institute of International Affairs/Business Unity SA)



See also: [International Trade in Services – EU 25 surplus in trade in services increased to €42.8 bil in 2004 \(13/02/2006\)](#)

### Other News

#### [Avian Influenza: Measures to be taken in the event of an outbreak in a Member State \(16/02/2006\)](#)

Two Commission Decisions on measures to be taken by Member States in the case of an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in wild birds and in commercial poultry on their territory have received favourable opinions by the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFCAH) today. The Decisions, which will now be adopted by the Commission [in the coming days] add to and reinforce the stringent provisions for an avian flu outbreak already set out in EU legislation. See also: [Questions and Answers: Measures in event of avian influenza in poultry in the EU \(16/02/2006\)](#)

#### [Is freedom of science limited by ethical concerns? – Speech by Com J Potočnik \(16/02/2006\)](#)



Giving a video message at the World Congress of Freedom of Scientific Research in Rome European Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, said: “It has now become generally accepted that science is rapidly advancing and that it will change our society profoundly. New products and services resulting from research and technological development may touch the integrity, dignity and privacy of persons concerned. These values have to be respected. Ethical issues are therefore integral components of the responsible use of research. And there is no way that “Freedom of Science” means doing whatever one wants without respecting guidelines or principles...”

#### [Stavros Dimas: Giving Kyoto a Future \(15/02/2006\)](#)

In a statement to mark the first anniversary of the Kyoto Protocol, EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas said: “Climate change poses a vital threat to the future stability and prosperity of our societies. The Kyoto Protocol’s first year in force has seen important progress towards addressing this major challenge. In particular, the Montreal world climate change conference in December finalised and strengthened the rulebook for implementing Kyoto and, even more importantly, backed the EU’s view that the time has come to start discussing future global action. The battle against climate change is winnable but with the Earth’s temperature continuing to warm rapidly – NASA says 2005 was the hottest year on record – farther-reaching measures will be needed after the Kyoto targets expire in 2012...” See also: [The Kyoto Protocol](#)

### **Commission provides emergency aid for Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria (14/02/2006)**

The European Commission grants €900,000 of emergency humanitarian aid to the Sahrawi refugees in the camps in the region of Tindouf (Algeria). Three of the four camps were devastated by heavy rains and floods. About 12,000 families are without a roof, and their mud-brick houses having 'melted' in the water flow. The rain has generated streams of mud which have taken houses and goods on their paths. Most of the domestic food stocks have been soiled and soaked. The market areas in the camps are severely damaged and some have practically disappeared.

### **EU and UN to launch a Humanitarian Action Plan for the Democratic Republic of Congo (13/02/2006)**

The European Union and OCHA will convene on 13/02/2006 in Brussels a ministerial conference to launch the Humanitarian Action Plan for the Democratic Republic of Congo. Despite significant political progress, the people of the DRC still face enormous hardship. Mortality rates remain stubbornly high, particularly for under-fives, while other health indicators are amongst the worst in the world. The meeting will be hosted by the Belgian Government and chaired by Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, and Jan Egeland, USG for Humanitarian Affairs and UN Emergency Relief Coordinator.

### **EU deploys Election Observation Mission to Uganda: Presidential & Parliamentary Elections (13/02/2006)**

The European Commission has deployed an EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) for the parliamentary and presidential elections, scheduled to take place on 23/02/2006, following an invitation from the Electoral Commission of Uganda. The EU EOM is led by Mr. Max van den Berg, Member of the European Parliament and Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Development.

### **Presidency declaration on behalf of the EU on the agreement between Chad and Sudan (13/02/2006)**

The European Union welcomes the agreement signed by the Presidents of Chad and of Sudan on 08/02/2006 at the Summit Conference held in Tripoli, chaired by the President of the African Union, Denis Sassou N'guesso, and the leader of Libya, Muammar Al Kaddafi. After the tensions following the attack on the town of Adre by Chadian rebels on 18/12/2005, the European Union sees this agreement as an important step towards the restoration of a climate of confidence and cooperation between the two countries.

### **Presidency's declaration on announcement of venue/date for Somali Parliamentary session (10/02/2006)**

The European Union welcomes the announcement made by the Speaker of the Somali Transitional Federal Parliament on 30 January 2006 in the presence of the President of the Somali Republic, establishing Baidoa as the venue for the extraordinary session of the Somali Parliament to be held from 26 February 2006. The EU welcomes the commitment of the President and the Speaker to the timely implementation of the Aden Declaration and reiterates its call on all members of the Transitional Federal Parliament and Government to spare no effort in actively and positively supporting the implementation of this announcement and to work together in order to ensure the necessary political and security conditions for the parliament's session to be held.

### **Managing Globalisation: case for a European foreign policy – Speech by B Ferrero-Waldner (10/02/2006)**

Addressing a Chatham House Members Meeting in London, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy) spoke about globalisation: "In some parts of the EU globalisation is blamed for all that is wrong in the world. Companies are failing. Jobs are being lost. And crime rates are soaring. The open internal borders of the EU are accused of making things worse. Why, people ask, isn't the EU doing something to stop it? In other parts of the EU globalisation is, rightly, seen as presenting us with enormous opportunities – companies trade more freely, knowledge spreads more rapidly and people and goods travel more cheaply. People draw the conclusion that globalisation abrogates the need for the EU. Both arguments are wrong. ..."

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