



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 June 2005



Headline News



President José Manuel Barroso to visit South Africa later this month (16/06/2005)

As part of an upcoming 3 country tour of southern Africa, José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, will visit South Africa from **24–25/06/2005**. While in the country President Barroso will meet with President Mbeki, government ministers and officials, as well as with business and civil society representatives. President Barroso will then continue his tour to Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). **For more information please contact Frank Oberholzer at 012-452-5200.**



The Future of Europe – Speech by Com Peter Mandelson (13/06/2005)

Presenting the Fabian Lecture at Canary Wharf, London, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson observed: “Europe today faces a deep crisis of direction and legitimacy. There have been many such crises before, and doubtless there will be more in the future. For make no mistake – Europe does have a future. I believe profoundly that Europe, having solved the problem of the European civil wars of the twentieth century, is a large part of the solution to many of the challenges of the twenty first – and unless we succeed in making the idea of Europe more effective, the progressive politics we all stand for will be greatly weakened.”

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/349&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Flash Eurobarometer: the “no” to the Constitution is not a “no” to Europe (15/06/2005)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/740&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Other News

European Commission Headquarters “wrapped” in White Band for Africa (15/06/2005)

The European Commission’s Headquarters in Brussels - the Berlaymont Building – was “wrapped” in a white band in support of the campaign for the “Global Call to Action against Poverty.” It was the first of a number of well-known buildings across Europe to be “wrapped”. ... The aim was to send a clear message to EU leaders at the Summit to give their full backing to ambitious development aid targets on the Summit agenda. ... Speaking in Brussels on Wednesday President Barroso said, “The European Commission is determined to keep development and Africa on Europe’s political map. This campaign, and the white band as its symbol, is a reminder to EU leaders to remember the wider world as they grapple with internal issues. 2005 is a unique year of opportunity for development. And we must take advantage of every key event in international calendar which will allow us to push this agenda forward.”

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/742&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



Trade and Development: the road ahead – Speech by Com Peter Mandelson (16/06/2005)

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson commenced his address by saying: “Today’s event – and its organisers – advocate trade and development reforms, and a better linkage between the two. This is precisely what I committed to do during my mandate as EU trade commissioner, when I set out my vision at my Hearing at the European Parliament, roughly half a year ago. The time to act is now. 2005 offers that political window of opportunity, with the G8, the UN review of the MDG and the WTO ministerial meeting in Hong Kong. Moving from vision to action is a hard task, for at least two reasons ...”

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/358&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Regional policy benefits the whole EU, not just poor regions (15/06/2005)

An ambitious EU regional policy benefits the whole EU, not only the poorest regions on which most funding is concentrated. First, a better geographical balance of economic development means better use of resources and higher growth potential in the EU as a whole. Second, up to 40% of Structural Funds invested in the poorest countries returns to other Member States through contracts and the purchase of equipment and expertise. Third, under the Commission’s proposals, 18% of the funds would still be invested in regions that are outside the very poorest, but where there is scope for strengthening competitiveness and employment, and 4% would go towards promoting cooperation between regions. See:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/210&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EU launches second phase of its on-line Export Helpdesk for developing countries (14/06/2005)



The European Commission launched the second phase of its on-line export helpdesk for developing countries. The new service provides detailed information on the specific import requirements of the EU and Member States, as well as up to date notice of internal taxes. By providing information on the EU's preferential access schemes and guiding exporters through the process of exporting to the EU, the service is designed to help producers in developing countries benefit fully from the EU market. Access the service at: (<http://export-help.cec.eu.int>)

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/725&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EU Election Observation Mission deployed for Legislative Elections in Burundi (14/06/2005)

The European Commission has deployed an EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) for the legislative elections in Burundi scheduled to take place on 04/06/2005. The elections are a milestone in Burundi's search for lasting peace and democracy. The EU EOM is led by Alain Hutchinson, Member of the European Parliament. The EOM is a further contribution by the European Commission to supporting peace and democratisation in Burundi.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/725&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Ethiopia

The EU commends the political parties and electoral authorities, for the joint declaration on the electoral process signed on 10 June. The agreement reached should ensure that the current electoral process, including the investigations aimed at resolving the differences regarding the election results, be concluded in a transparent manner and to the satisfaction of all parties. The EU welcomes, in particular, the commitment of the signatories of the declaration to make every effort to avoid violence or actions which might encourage violence, to show restraint, and to resolve differences peacefully and by legal means. The European Union firmly expects that the parties will honour the agreement and their commitments, so as to avoid a repetition of the deplorable situation which has come about in Addis Ababa in recent days, leading to the loss of human life.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PESC/05/55&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Sugar's Role in Development Policy – Speech by Com Mariann Fischer Boel (30/05/2005)

Speaking during an address to the German Marshall Fund in Brussels, Mariann Fischer Boel (European Commissioner responsible for Agriculture and Rural Development) said: "Whatever else one can say about the EU sugar sector and its relationship with developing countries, one thing is clear: change is in the air. Change can be threatening. So it may be helpful to remind ourselves of where we've come from in terms of the EU's traditional approach towards trade and development in general: this may give at least a crumb of reassurance about our likely destination. Let it never be said that the EU takes no account of the world's poor in its policies on agriculture, trade and development. The Union is still the world's biggest importer of farm products from developing countries, buying as much as the US, Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand together. That's not a bad foundation for trade-fuelled development."

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/341&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **CAP Reform and the European Model of Agriculture – speech by Com Mariann Fischer Boel (10/06/2005)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/345&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Confronting European Economic Challenges – Speech by Com Joaquín Almunia (10/06/2005)



Summing up a recent address given at Chatham House, London, the European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs said: "To summarise, my key message on economic governance today is two-fold. Firstly, an efficient system of economic coordination is essential for achieving our policy goals in relation to macroeconomic stability and structural reforms to reach higher growth rates. Secondly, the EU does have a comprehensive and elaborate system of policy coordination already. But it has not worked as efficiently as we had hoped. Therefore, the EU is taking steps to improve the economic policy coordination framework. On the one hand, the reform of the Stability and Growth Pact will help to get the macro-economic framework conditions right. On the other hand, the renewed Lisbon Strategy should help to bring greater focus to the EU's structural reform agenda and to improve delivery mechanisms at the EU and Member State level. This is the only way to make progress on the Lisbon agenda with the ultimate objective of raising potential growth in Europe.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/340&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Ahead:

- **16-17/06/2005 – European Council, Brussels**
See: <http://www.eu2005.lu/en/calendrier/2005/06/16conseur/index.html>
- **20/06/2005 – EU-US Summit, Washington**
See: <http://www.eu2005.lu/en/calendrier/2005/06/20eu-us/index.html>
- **24-25/06/2005 – President Barroso visits South Africa**

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



Brussels European Council (16/17 June 2005) Presidency Conclusions

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/85349.pdf