



# 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.*

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## 10 – 16 September 2007



### Headline News



#### **Mandelson urges final push in EPA talks**

Shortly after a Delegation briefing to local editors on myths that have arisen within the public discourse regarding Economic Partnership Agreements ([29 August 2007](#)), Com Peter Mandelson (Trade) took the opportunity to urge ACP governments to join a final burst of negotiations to successfully complete EPA negotiations by the end of 2007. Speaking to the European Parliament's International Trade Committee, Mandelson warned that there would be no legal basis for the extension of existing preferential trade terms between the EU and the 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries if the two sides do not sign EPAs before 1 January 2008. In the absence of such agreements, Mandelson said, the EU and the ACP would have no legal alternative but to switch to the Generalised System of Preferences, which would mean less generous tariff preferences for many ACP countries. [Mandelson's remarks to the INTA Committee on EPAs](#)



#### **EC/UN Partnership on Gender Equality for Development and Peace**

The European Commission, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITC/ILCO) have joined together to support stronger action and advocacy on gender equality to influence the aid effectiveness agenda. The programme "EC/UN Partnership on Gender Equality for Development and Peace" will support the integration of gender equality as a key driver of development in the international assistance agenda. The 3-year programme (2007-2009) will also promote the involvement of women in conflict prevention and peace-building and will cover 12 countries: Cameroon, DRC, Ghana, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Honduras, Nicaragua, Suriname, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. See the inter-active website at [www.gendermatters.eu](http://www.gendermatters.eu)

#### **European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership: funded trial for HIV/AIDS infected children**

On 13 August 2007, the US Federal Drug Administration (FDA) gave tentative approval for a fixed-dose combination (FDC) anti-HIV drug specifically formulated for paediatric use. EDCTP, the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, funded the pharmacokinetic study leading to this major breakthrough in the treatment of children infected by HIV/AIDS. As a result of this tentative approval, this FDC antiretroviral drug will also be included in the World Health Organisation (WHO) Prequalification Programme and will become available for distribution under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and Clinton Foundation programmes. Under the trade names of Triomune Baby and Junior, the drug has already been approved and is in use in Zambia.

### Other News

#### **EU and ACP Ministers discuss changes to EU sugar import regime**

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, EU Development Commissioner Louis Michel and EU Agriculture Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel met with ministers from key sugar producing countries in the African, Caribbean and Pacific region to discuss upcoming changes in the EU's sugar import regime. The meeting with ministers from Fiji, Mauritius and Guyana took place in parallel to the EU's ongoing negotiations of the Economic Partnership Agreements with the ACP countries. The EU has offered to eliminate all duties and quotas on the import of sugar into the EU, replacing the current system which provides preferential terms for sugar imported to the EU from some, but not all, ACP countries.

[Why the EU has proposed to end the EU-ACP Sugar Protocol](#)

#### **Montreal Protocol: one of the most successful environmental agreements celebrates its 20th anniversary**

From 16-21 September representatives from the 191 countries party to the Montreal Protocol will celebrate 20 years of success in protecting the ozone layer. Taking place in Montreal the celebrations will mark the important achievements made by the Protocol such as the phasing out of about 95% of the ozone-depleting substances under the agreement. The EU and its Member States continue to play a leading role in the success of the Protocol. Despite these achievements the ozone layer is not expected to recover until some time between 2060 and 2075, perhaps even later. The timely recovery of the ozone layer remains heavily dependent on agreed commitments being met and new challenges being tackled.

### [Launch of the consultation on the Budget Review 2008/9](#)

The European Commission has launched a broad consultation on the future of EU budget priorities. "This is day one of a no-taboos debate about spending priorities. Which also means a no-taboos debate about policy. How can the EU focus spending on the right areas to deliver a Europe of results over the coming decades? How should Europe respond to and shape globalisation to boost growth and jobs? How do we build a low-carbon economy, with secure and competitive energy supplies? This is our chance to start with a blank sheet of paper. To look at what the EU will need to spend in the years to come and where that money will come from", European Commission President José Manuel Barroso said.

For further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/budget/reform/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/reform/index_en.htm)

### [European Central Bank \(ECB\) calls for greater transparency by banks](#)

ECB President Jean-Claude Trichet told the European Parliament's Economics Committee that greater transparency regarding sophisticated financial instruments and better risk-management by banks and financial institutions were among the ways to restore confidence in the money markets. Similar messages came earlier in the day from the Internal Market and Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioners, Charlie McCreevy and Joaquín Almunia. Setting out the ECB's response to money market turmoil sparked by the crisis in the US sub-prime mortgage market, Mr Trichet said the ECB had repeatedly warned that markets were showing an "under-appreciation of risks in general." He said "the degree of complexity of some products designed for the purposes of repackaging and selling debt instruments has become overwhelming."



### [The future of the Single Market – speech by Charlie McCreevy, Commissioner for Internal Market and Services](#)

The single market, one of the main pillars and "raisons d'être" of the EU, is home to 500 million citizens and over 20 million businesses. It stands for the "free movement" of goods, services, people and capital, and is now the world's largest marketplace and the largest exporter of goods and services. McCreevy said the issue currently facing the EU is how to remain competitive - and how to best deliver new jobs and growth over the long term. These issues are being addressed in the Single Market Review, which is aimed at delivering long term policies and tangible benefits for Europe's citizens. The Review will analyse what has worked well, what has not, where there is more to do and will set out new initiatives for the single market and the EU's approach to internal market policy.

### [European Commission calls for better use of European research funding](#)

The Commission released a policy paper offering guidance on ways to best utilise various sources of research funding. The range of funding programmes include the cohesion policy instruments, in particular the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund, which enable investment in research and innovation on the basis of National Strategic Reference Frameworks; 7<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme (FP7) and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme.

[Communication on "Competitive European Regions through Research and Innovation: a contribution to more growth and more and better jobs"; European Commission is world's largest public investor in nanotechnology](#)

### [Second EU Emergency and Crisis Coordination Arrangements Exercise](#)

A second joint exercise to test the EU's Emergency and Crisis Coordination Arrangements was conducted successfully in Brussels. The main aim of the exercise was to test the arrangements to respond quickly and efficiently to a crisis at EU level and the capacity of the Council and the Commission to support jointly Member States' crisis response efforts. The results confirmed that the arrangements were appropriate. The exercise was based on a totally fictitious scenario and assumed a simultaneous terrorist attack in certain EU Member States perpetrated with a single bio-agent. It focused on managing the consequences of such an attack at EU level. The theme of a biological attack was chosen because one of the priorities of the Portuguese Presidency is to reinforce national and European actions to prevent and contain biological terrorist attacks.

### [2007 Sakharov Prize](#)

Since 1988 the European Parliament has awarded the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to exceptional individuals or organisations fighting injustice and oppression throughout the globe, from South Africa to Belarus, from Cuba to Bangladesh. The nominees are: Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew I; Chinese dissidents Zeng Jinyan and Hu Jia; Afghani womens' rights defender Joya Malalai; Sudanese lawyer Salih Mahmoud Osman; Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya. A shortlist of three finalists will be released on 24 September and the heads of the political groups will announce the winner on October 25. [Sakharov prize 2007 - nominees](#)

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