



**European Union**  
Delegation of the European Commission  
to South Africa

# EU Perspectives

*Regular publication that seeks to provide information  
on EU-related activities of interest to SA readers*



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## **Headline News**

### **[EU SADC Double Troika Ministerial Meeting Communiqué](#)**

The EU-SADC Double Troika Ministerial Meeting was held in Brussels, Belgium on 11 November 2008. The meeting was attended by Ministers and representatives of the SADC Double Troika, and the EU Troika. The EU and SADC reaffirmed the importance of regional economic integration as a factor for development and poverty alleviation and a key element of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership. The Parties emphasised the aid effectiveness principle enshrined in the Paris and Windhoek Declarations of anchoring development cooperation on the strategies of the countries and regions concerned. The Parties further welcomed the entry into force of the 10th EDF, which provides increased financial resources for the period 2008-2013, and the Development Cooperation Instrument 2007-2013, covering the financial cooperation under the EU-SA Trade and Development Cooperation Agreement (TDCA).

### **[European Commissioner Louis Michel reaffirms commitment to people of Zimbabwe](#)**

Development Commissioner Louis Michel underlined Europe's commitment to helping the people of Zimbabwe during talks with Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) leader Morgan Tsvangirai at this year's European Development Days in Strasbourg, France. During a series of meetings, Commissioner Michel underlined that the EU stands ready, once the agreement of 15th September 2008 is actually implemented and permits the restoration of the rule of law and respect for human rights, to adopt a package of measures to assist in the consolidation of democracy and in the country's economic and social rehabilitation. Commissioner Michel stated: "I am delighted that Morgan Tsvangirai chose to begin his visit to Europe by participating during two days at this year's European Development Days. International development assistance will be key to assisting Zimbabwe on its future recovery. The humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe is multifaceted and so our response needs to be the same providing not only humanitarian assistance but also essential assistance for health and education projects for example to help the vulnerable populations."

### **[Council Conclusions on trilateral dialogue and co-operation between the EU, China and Africa](#)**

"The EU Council thanks the Commission for the communication and supports its proposal to establish trilateral dialogue and co-operation between the European Union, Africa and China, with the aim of promoting peace and security and contributing to efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa. Africa is a strategic partner of the EU within the framework of the Action Plan adopted at the 2007 Lisbon Africa/EU Summit. China is also playing an increasing role in Africa and offers new prospects for the economic development of the African continent".

## **Other News**

### **[European Development Days 2008 - a "resounding success"](#)**



European Development Days 2008 proved to be a "resounding success" as it drew in excess of 5,000 participants from Europe and its development Partners from around the globe. The event, held this year in Strasbourg, provided the opportunity to discuss, at the highest level, essential aspects of development policy, in particular the implementation of the Paris Declaration and of the Millennium Development Goals. South African panellists included Lerumo Morule (National Department of Provincial and Local Government) and Tumi Makgabo (independent broadcaster / producer). Sharing the stage

stage with Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, at the closing ceremony, MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai made use of the opportunity to describe the situation in Zimbabwe as "heartbreaking" but noted that the Zimbabwe people remained firm. "They say no deal is better than a bad deal," he said.  
Closing Comments: [http://www.eudevdays.eu/Files/media/PressRelease/Closing\\_Final2.pdf](http://www.eudevdays.eu/Files/media/PressRelease/Closing_Final2.pdf)

### **South African Journalists are winners of this year's Lorenzo Natali Prize**

At the awards ceremony held during the European Development Days in Strasbourg, 17 laureates from around the world were awarded Natali Prizes, having been selected from among more than 1500 nominees from over 150 countries. Two South Africans were amongst them to claim their prize for the investigative report entitled *Front door abortions*. Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, noted: "A free and responsible press that strictly adheres to strong deontological principles is an indispensable element for democracy and the rule of law. To defend democracy and human rights, is to work for Development, to reinforce good governance, and to improve to improve standards of living in the poorest countries".



Julie Laurenz and Nicolene Troll

Script: [http://www.nataliprize2008.eu/pdf/2008/articles\\_EN/Afrique/2ndPrize\\_Africa\\_Front\\_door\\_Abortions\\_EN.pdf](http://www.nataliprize2008.eu/pdf/2008/articles_EN/Afrique/2ndPrize_Africa_Front_door_Abortions_EN.pdf)

### **Governments must conclude the Doha Round, says EU Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton**

EU Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton and OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría, said the world's developed nations had to do all they could to resist the threat of a return to protectionist policies affecting trade and investment, as these would merely worsen the current gloomy economic outlook. In a joint statement Comm Ashton and Gurría said concluding the Doha Round would be a major contribution and governments should commit to urgent efforts to immediately finalise the Doha negotiations. Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton said: "Trade and investment create the dynamism that enables communities around the world to share their skills, experience and opportunities. Rather than resorting to protectionism, we need to manage globalization better." OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría added: "As recession looms, governments must resist pressures to reduce aid or restrict trade and cross-border investment."

### **European Union deploys Election Observation Mission to Ghana**

The European Commission will deploy an EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) for the Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Ghana scheduled to take place on 7 December 2008. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, said: "Ghana has been a positive example of democracy in Africa over the past 16 years. The upcoming elections in Ghana provide an opportunity to consolidate and further strengthen democracy in Ghana. I am confident that the EU EOM's comprehensive assessment will help the electoral authorities in further improving the conduct of elections". Louis Michel, Commissioner for Development, said: "Ghana has achieved impressive progress in terms of democratization, good governance and respect for human rights and can serve as a model for other countries in the West African region and in Africa. I believe the Ghanaian people will make their choice in a peaceful and calm manner and that 2008 elections will confirm Ghana's political maturity. The EU EOM complements our cooperation strategy with Ghana that focuses, inter alia, on supporting good governance."

### **Commission presents energy security, solidarity and efficiency proposals**

The European Commission has proposed a wide-ranging energy package which gives a new boost to energy security in Europe. The Commission put forward a new strategy to build up energy solidarity among Member States and a new policy on energy networks to stimulate investment in more efficient, low-carbon energy networks. The Commission proposed a new EU Energy Security and Solidarity Action Plan which sets out five areas where more action is needed to secure sustainable energy supplies. The Commission also looked at the challenges that Europe will face between 2020 and 2050.

### **Now Online: "Europeana", Europe's Digital Library**

Europeana, Europe's multimedia online library has opened to the public. At [www.europeana.eu](http://www.europeana.eu), Internet users around the world can now access more than two million books, maps, recordings, photographs, archival documents, paintings and films from national libraries and cultural institutions of the EU's 27 Member States. Europeana opens up new ways of exploring Europe's heritage: anyone interested in literature, art, science, politics, history, architecture, music or cinema will have free and fast access to Europe's greatest collections and masterpieces in a single virtual library through a web portal available in all EU languages. But this is just the beginning. In 2010, Europeana will give access to millions of items representing Europe's rich cultural diversity and will have interactive zones such as communities for special interests. Between 2009 and 2011, some €2 million per year of EU funding will be dedicated to this.

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