



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.



11- 15 June 2007

Headline News

[Commission calls for a European consensus to boost impact of humanitarian aid \(13/6\)](#)

The Commission has adopted a Communication paving the way for greater efficiency and coherence in delivering humanitarian aid. The Commission is calling for the European Union to work more closely together on a consensus that would boost its collective response to humanitarian crises. This includes advocating full respect for international humanitarian law, so that aid and aid workers can reach people in need.

[Javier Solana calls on the Government of Sudan to accept AU/UN Hybrid Operation \(12/6\)](#)

Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), welcomed the tripartite meeting between the African Union, the United Nations and the Government of Sudan in Addis Ababa to discuss the Hybrid Operation proposed by the African Union and the United Nations. Mr Solana said the meeting was a crucial step towards improving the overall situation in Darfur and resolving the crisis. In this regard, he called upon the Government of Sudan to play a constructive role and agree to the Hybrid Operation, in the interests, above all, of the civilian population.

[Kimberley Process meeting to strengthen efforts against conflict diamonds \(11/6\)](#)

The European Commission, as current Chair of the Kimberley Process – the international scheme to end trade in conflict diamonds – hosted a meeting in Brussels on 12-14 June to discuss ways to strengthen the scheme. Diamond experts, governments and representatives of industry and civil society took stock of progress in implementing reform measures agreed last year. The Kimberley Process 2007 Annual Plenary will be held in Brussels from 5 to 8 November 2007. See also: http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/kimb/intro/index.htm and www.kimberleyprocess.com

Other News

[MEPs and members of national parliaments discuss the future of Europe \(11/6\)](#)

More than 150 members of the European Parliament and EU national parliaments gathered in Brussels on Monday 11 June to discuss the future of Europe. The meeting, jointly organised by the European Parliament and the German Bundestag and co-chaired by their Presidents, will contribute to the work of the 21-22 June European Council meeting on institutional reforms. The issues to be addressed, in working parties and in plenary, will include: "the new challenges for the EU, especially climate change and energy security", "architecture and substance of a future Treaty" and "the role of national parliaments in the reform process".

[New customs rules to combat money laundering and terrorist financing \(14/6\)](#)

As from 15 June 2007, travellers entering or leaving the EU are required to make a declaration to customs authorities if they are carrying €10,000 or more in cash (or its equivalent in other currencies or easily convertible assets such as non crossed cheques). This legislation aims to introduce an EU-wide common approach to controlling cash movements into and out of the EU. "The new rules will make it more difficult for terrorists to enter or leave the Community with the cash required to finance their illegal actions while at the same time it will not put disproportionate administrative formalities on the majority of travellers and traders given that the €10,000 threshold is high enough" said Taxation and Customs Commissioner László Kovács. For further details, please see: <http://ec.europa.eu/eucashcontrols>

For access to declaration forms:

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/customs_controls/cash_controls/declaration_form/index_en.htm

Commissioner Dimas welcomes 2005 reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions (14/6)

European Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas welcomed today's news that the European Union's greenhouse gas emissions fell by 0.7% in 2005 and urged Member States to accelerate structural economic changes to ensure deeper, lasting emission cuts. "It is very encouraging that we are cutting emissions while the European economy grows strongly," Commissioner Dimas said, "but it is clear that many member states need to accelerate their efforts to limit emissions significantly if the EU is to meet its Kyoto target. With the adoption of long-term emission reduction targets by EU leaders in March, there is no reason to wait to take bold steps to achieve the necessary structural changes in how we produce and use energy.

Energy Commissioner Piebalgs opens the first European Wind Day (15/6)

Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs inaugurated the first European Wind Day by breaking a bottle of champagne to a wind generator installed on the occasion in the centre of the European quarter in Brussels. "If we want to reach the ambitious European target for Renewable Sources of Energy we need to develop state of the art technology. The wind generator installed today in Rond Point Schuman is a good example of this: it shows the citizens that wind energy is not dangerous and can produce clean energy in a safe and sustainable way", said Commissioner Piebalgs.

Green Week 2007 – speech by JM Barroso President of the European Commission (12/6)

"As we take stock of Europe's achievements in this 50th anniversary year of the Treaty of Rome, there can be no doubt that environmental protection is one of our greatest success stories. Action by the European Union and Member States has been responsible for major improvements in the field of environment protection - air and water quality, pollutants, protection of nature areas, and chemicals to name a few. And we have adopted the world's most ambitious strategy for combating climate change.....However, we still face major challenges, starting with climate change, the loss of biodiversity and our unsustainable way of life. Despite our efforts, we cannot yet say that we are firmly on the path to sustainable development. As we look ahead to the European Union's next 50 years, getting on that path must be at the top of our agenda". Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/home.html>

European Capitals of Culture 2011 (13/6)

After hearing the presentations made by the two cities applying to be designated European Capitals of Culture for 2011 on 4 June, the European selection panel^[1] has published its report, recommending that Turku (Finland) and Tallinn (Estonia) be approved. The decision will be taken by the Council for Culture, probably in the second half of 2007, under the Portuguese Presidency. Ján Figel', the Member of the European Commission for Education, Culture and Youth declared: « I am delighted that Turku and Tallinn have already started preparations to become successful European Capitals of Culture in 2011". For more detailed information and the full report of the selection panel, please consult: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/index_fr.html

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