



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 – 17 November 2005

Headline News

The first year of the Barroso Commission and beyond – Speech by Vice Pres M Wallström (17/11/2005)

In an address to a meeting at the European Policy Centre, Margot Wallström, Vice President of the European Commission responsible for Institutional relations and Communication Strategy, observed: “Few subjects fascinate political commentators in Brussels as much as the question of the future of the European Union. Where are we heading? Do we know where we want to go? Have we got a road map?”

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/699&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Statement on recent declarations by the President of Iran by Com B Ferrero-Waldner (16/11/2005)

Addressing the European Parliament, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations, European Neighbourhood policy) followed Commission President Barroso in condemning the remarks about the State of Israel made by the Iranian Head of State, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad: “Regrettably, these kinds of hostile official remarks from Iran are not unique. (...) There is a long, ugly string of precedents, at political rallies, military parades and other events, going all the way back to the early years of the revolution. But when they are made in the current delicate climate, by the Head of State himself, in connection with a conference entitled “the World without Zionism”, it is time to draw a line and to remind the Iranian President of the responsibilities that come with being a member of the Family of nations. ...”

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/696&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Other News

European Union to head conflict diamonds initiative in 2007 (17/11/2005)

The Kimberley Process, the international initiative to eliminate the trade in conflict diamonds, has designated the European Union as its new Chair for 2007. The EU will serve as Vice-Chair in 2006, during Botswana’s chairmanship. The EU is represented in this multi-lateral scheme by the European Commission.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1438&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Discussions on challenges to security and political transition in Somalia (16/11/2006)

The European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, held talks with Prime Minister Ali Gedi of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia. This exchange focused on the recent developments in the Somali peace process in the wake of the attempted assassination of the Prime Minister on 06/11/2005. Commissioner Michel stressed that “wait and see is not an option for Somalia” and that stability in this country is a “test case for the new EU Strategy for Africa”. He reaffirmed the European Union’s unwavering support to the Transitional Federal Institutions and the reestablishment of governance in Somalia.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1431&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



EU brokers deal at Tunis World Summit (16/11/2005)

A worldwide political agreement providing for further internationalisation of Internet governance, and enhanced intergovernmental cooperation to this end, was brokered at the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis. The compromise text agreed was based largely on EU proposals presented in the discussions since June. As a first important element of the agreement, a new international Internet Governance Forum (IGF) will be created to deliberate among governments, the private sector and civil society at large in a multi-stakeholder policy dialogue related to Internet Governance. There was also a consensus in Tunis yesterday that countries should not be involved in decisions regarding another country’s Top Level Domain, thus meeting requests made, in particular, by the EU in the negotiations.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1433&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **EU pleads for freedom of speech as instrument to bridge the digital divide (15/11/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1424&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

WSIS ... Internet Governance: Frequently asked questions (15/11/2005)

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/428&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Hong Kong WTO Ministerial must deliver ambitious results for less developed countries (14/11/2005)

The European Economic and Social Committee recently held a seminar on "*The contribution of organised civil society to the work of the World Trade Organisation: in search of better governance*". This brought together around 200 representatives of organised civil society from countries of the North and South: the EU, Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific, Asia and Latin America, also from different socio-professional groups. The seminar was an opportunity to present civil society's views on the upcoming 13-18/ 12/2005 Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Conference; to discuss how to achieve a true development dimension of the Doha round; and to identify means for making the WTO more transparent and responsive to public concerns.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=CES/05/128&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

A new monitoring system to deal with natural disasters: Commission launches pilot phase (14/11/2005)

Natural and manmade catastrophes in Europe, America, Asia and Africa, coupled with increased security needs, have further reinforced the case for improved monitoring systems. The European Commission is pressing ahead with plans to introduce the first three earth observation services concerning emergency management, land and marine monitoring. After GALILEO, the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) has become the second EU flagship in space policy.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1415&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) (14/11/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/420&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

The Role of Crisis Response in External Relations – Speech by Com B Ferrero-Waldner (14/11/2005)



Press conference: Martti Ahtisaari (left) and Benita Ferrero-Waldner

Addressing a conference entitled "*From Needs to Solutions: Enhancing Civilian Crisis Response Capacity of the EU*", Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations and European Neighbourhood policy) said: "In today's world the danger of war between great powers has diminished. Instead, failing states, ethnic or religious ideologies, extreme poverty, organised crime and uncontrolled migration pose the major challenges to the international community. Conflicts in far away regions can develop into a security threat for the entire international community. And conflicts increasingly involve civilians, both as active participants in the hostilities and as direct targets. And, as we have seen with the tsunamis, hurricane Katrina, and the Kashmir earthquake, there is a growing need to respond to large-scale natural disasters.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/684&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Pres JM Barroso meets with World Bank Pres P Wolfowitz (14/11/2005)

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso met with World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz to discuss a wide range of global and regional issues as well as the overall relations of the European Commission with the World Bank. They held a brainstorming discussion involving the President of the European Investment Bank, Philip Maystadt, as well as Commissioners Almunia, Ferrero-Waldner, Mandelson, Michel and Rehn. President Barroso said: "Both the World Bank and the European Commission are leading global players in the fight to decrease poverty and increase economic opportunity for all. We have to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our aid, and stimulate greater opportunity for the poorest countries through trade. This meeting will serve to strengthen the very important relationship we have with the World Bank and I look forward to improving our co-operation even further."



Pictured from left to right: Olli Rehn, Paul Wolfowitz, José Manuel Barroso, Philippe Maystadt and Louis Michel

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1412&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the elections in Liberia (11/11/2005)

The European Union is pleased to note that the elections in Liberia on 08/11/2005 passed generally peacefully, and with a significant voter turnout. We welcome the generally good organisation of the elections by the National Elections Commission, and the support of the United Nation's Mission in Liberia peacekeeping force, including in helping to maintain a secure and peaceful environment for the vote. We commend both parties for their conduct during campaigning and on voting day itself. This Presidential election is an important achievement in Liberia's return to a normally functioning state. The European Union congratulates the people of Liberia for demonstrating a clear commitment to peace and democracy, and a desire to move on from the period of the conflict that has beset their nation.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PESC/05/127&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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