



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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Headline News

[EU Trade Commissioner warns against protectionist trade policies](#)

Ahead of an important debate among European leaders on globalisation and European foreign economic policy in December, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson and Portuguese Trade Minister Manuel Pinho argued that Europe's foreign economic policy "should be ten words long. Resist protectionism at home. Open markets abroad. Defend fair trade". Writing in the International Herald Tribune, Mandelson and Pinho said that Europe should guard against protectionism in its own markets, use that openness to encourage "positive reciprocity" from others in opening their own markets and take a tough line on tackling unfair trade and counterfeiting. Pinho and Mandelson argue that the EU's Global Europe trade strategy, launched in 2006, remains the right prescription for defending Europe's interests in a globalised world. "Because globalization is changing our economies and our industries, Europe's leaders are under huge pressure to show that our openness is reciprocated by others and that others play by the rules. Europe's basic foreign economic policy should be ten words long. Resist protectionism at home. Open markets abroad. Defend fair trade. It really should be that simple".

[European Commission President Barroso addresses World Energy Conference](#)



President of the European Commission, José Manuel Durão Barroso, addressed a World Energy Conference in Rome. In a speech entitled "Our energy future in an interdependent world" President Barroso said the Heads of State and government of the 27 Member States have committed themselves to a low-carbon energy future, adopting a major energy and climate change package, which sets out tough goals and targets. President Barroso said Europe's energy future rests on five pillars: increasing energy efficiency, increasing the amount of energy used from renewable sources, increasing the amount of clean hydrocarbons consumed, strengthening the EU's carbon market and continuing efforts to forge an open and competitive internal energy market.

Other News

[WTO General Council on Aid for Trade: address by European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid](#)

In an address to the WTO General Council on Aid for Trade, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, said the Aid for Trade Initiative was an opportunity to integrate trade and development policies. Commissioner Michel said that economic development and trade were at the centre of EU development policy and cited the 2005 [European Consensus on Development](#) as an example. In preparation for the WTO General Council meeting, the EU adopted a "Joint Strategy on Aid for Trade" on 15 October, 2007. "To succeed, trade and development policy makers must not only talk to each other but, even more importantly, must work together. This first WTO Review exercise of what is happening and what is not happening in the Aid for Trade agenda in the world demonstrates how crucial this is to us all" Michel said.

[ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly discusses Economic Partnership Agreements](#)

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries need more time to negotiate a deal on the ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) says a "Kigali Declaration" adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda, on 22 November. The Declaration "urges the European Commission to acknowledge that more time is needed for ACP states to assess the implications of the agreements proposed, given that negotiations have only taken place in earnest for the past two years". Commenting on the need for a new deal, ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Co-President Glenys Kinnock said: "Attempts to frame such agreements have proven difficult, largely because the Commission negotiators have approached the talks on EPAs as if they were conventional free trade negotiations focused on market opening, rather than as tools for development. The ACP regions, on the other hand, have been concerned that the measures proposed by the Commission will not have their intended outcomes and could well jeopardise their development efforts, and hamper efforts to eradicate poverty." [Council Conclusions on Economic Partnership Agreements](#)

[European Union Council Conclusions of the 2830th General Affairs Council meeting, 19 November 2007](#)

The Council welcomed the 2007 Annual Report on the European Community's development policy and the implementation of external assistance in 2006. The Conclusions emphasised the need to keep a strong poverty eradication focus in developing countries and noted with concern a decrease in the share of aid to Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The Conclusions further suggested that the additional commitments to improving aid delivery outlined in the Paris Declaration be reported on the next annual report.

[Conference on EU-Africa strategy in Burkina Faso](#)

The Portuguese secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, João Gomes Cravinho, participated, as representative of the Portuguese presidency of the EU Council, in the conference on "Peace and Security in Western Africa - What is the role of the EU-Africa Common Strategy?", held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso). Conference participants included representatives from the Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS), from the African Union and from the European Commission. Among the issues addressed were good neighbourhood policies, the fight against the proliferation of light weapons, good governance, rule of law, migrations, job creation for young people and the fight against hunger. The conference's conclusions will represent another contribution for the next EU-Africa Summit, scheduled for the 8 and 9 December, in Lisbon.

[Kenya: EU deploys Election Observation Mission](#)

Following an invitation by the Kenyan authorities, the European Commission deployed an EU Election Observation Mission to Kenya for the general elections scheduled to take place on 27 December 2007. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, said: "Kenya is a beacon of stability in the horn of Africa. Credible elections carried out at international standards would endorse Kenya as a stability factor in the region and will allow it to continue its political transition to a sustainable democracy." EU Election Observation Missions are an important instrument for building confidence in the democratic processes of a country and are deployed according to the EU's commitment to promote democracy, human rights and the respect for the rule of law.

[Common Agricultural Policy challenges](#)

The European Commission unveiled its blueprint for streamlining and further modernising the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy. The 'Health Check' of the CAP will build on the approach which began with the 2003 reforms, improve the way the policy operates, and make it fit for the new challenges and opportunities in an EU of 27 Member States. The Health Check raises three main questions: how to make the direct aid system more effective and simpler; how to make market support instruments, originally conceived for a Community of Six, relevant in today's world; and how to confront new challenges, from climate change, to biofuels, water management and the protection of biodiversity.

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/healthcheck/index_en.htm

[EU crackdown on misleading airline ticket websites](#)

EU Consumer Commissioner Meglena Kuneva announced the results of an EU wide investigation, involving 15 EU national authorities as well as Norway, against misleading advertising and unfair practices on airline ticket selling websites. The clampdown covers Europe's leading airlines, low cost carriers as well as other websites selling airline tickets. The results of the inquiry show that over 50% of all websites showed irregularities, in particular relating to price indications, contract terms and clarity of proposed conditions. This check will be followed by an enforcement phase, when companies are contacted by authorities and asked to correct websites or clarify their position. Commissioner Kuneva warned that she is giving companies four months to respond. As well as facing possible legal action, she will not hesitate to name and shame companies who fail to take action to bring sites in line with EU law once that deadline expires.

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