



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.



13 – 19 January 2006

Headline News

[Avian influenza: expectations surpassed as pledges reach US \\$1.9 billion in Beijing \(18/01/2006\)](#)

The international community has pledged a total amount of \$1.9 billion dollars to fight avian influenza and prepare for a possible human influenza pandemic, EU Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner Markos Kyprianou announced in his concluding speech at the International Ministerial Pledging Conference on Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza in Beijing, China. ... Commissioner Kyprianou pledged €80 million in aid grants from the EC's External Relations budget and the European Development Fund and committed €20 million from EU's 6th Research Framework Programme.

See also: [Pledging Speech – By Com Markos Kyprianou \(18/01/2006\)](#)

[Opening Speech – By Com M Kyprianou \(18/01/2006\)](#)

[Total pledge by International Community for Avian Influenza – Speech by Com M Kyprianou \(18/01/2006\)](#)

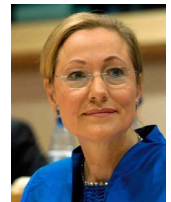
[Water Facility: EC to fund €230 mil in the ACP for safe drinking water for 10 mil people \(19/01/2006\)](#)

The 1st Call for Proposals of the Water Facility for an amount of €230 million will help over 10 million people to get access to safe drinking water by 2010, while at the same time around 5 million people will benefit from improved access to basic sanitation facilities. Up to 97 projects have been selected for this first call, which will be followed by a second one in March. The interest in the Water Facility's first Call for Proposals has been overwhelming. Nearly 800 preliminary proposals (for a total of €5 billion, requesting €2,7 billion from the Facility) were received following the call in Nov 2004.

Other News

[Middle East Peace Process – Speech by Com B Ferrero-Waldner \(19/01/2006\)](#)

Addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations & European Neighbourhood policy) said: "I had three objectives for my trip: (1) lend support to democracy building in the run-up to the Palestinian legislative elections; (2) underline the importance of EU financial support; (3) raise the visibility of a number of EU projects, notably in Gaza. This is a critical moment for the Middle East. In both Israel and the Palestinian territories, there have been tremendous changes in the political landscape. ... I made it clear to both Israelis and Palestinians that the Commission will continue to offer our support to all those who seek peace by peaceful means. ..."



[The programme of the Austrian Presidency of the EU – Remarks by Pres JM Barroso \(18/01/2006\)](#)

While addressing the Plenary Session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Commission President José Manuel Barroso said: "We therefore welcome the Austrian Presidency's willingness to inject new dynamism into the discussion of some pending proposals that are key to the success of the Lisbon strategy, including the Services Directive. ..."

[Climate Change: Montréal and beyond – Speech by Com S Dimas \(16/01/2006\)](#)

Taking part in a European parliamentary debate, Commissioner Stavros Dimas (Environment) noted: "Thank you for the opportunity to discuss with you the outcome of the Montreal Climate Change Conference ... I was very pleased with the presence of 10 Members of the European Parliament It underlines the importance that both of our institutions attach to addressing the challenge of climate change and the role of the multilateral process in doing so. ... The outcome of Montreal Conference is a significant step forward for the multilateral climate negotiations..."

[Com L Michel to visit Liberia for the investiture of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf \(13/01/2006\)](#)

Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, will attend the investiture of Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first woman to be elected to presidential office on the African continent. Mr Michel and the Liberian government will then sign the Country Strategy Document and the Indicative Programme approved by the Commission in November 2005.

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