



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 May 2005

Headline News

EU-US partnership: Commission proposals to strengthen economic and political relations (18/05/2005)

The Commission has adopted a Communication entitled "A stronger EU-US Partnership and a more Open Market for the 21st century". This contains a wide range of practical policy proposals for a joint EU-US strategy to boost economic integration, and to strengthen the broader framework of EU-US relations. On the economic side, the Commission proposes a particular focus to improve regulatory cooperation, promotion of knowledge and innovation, and improve border arrangements. On the political side, the Communication reviews options to raise the profile of the EU-US relationship to make it more effective. The proposals in the Communication prepare the EU-US Summit on 20th June which should establish the priority sectors and measures that need to be taken to address regulatory divergences between the EU and the US. The overall goal is to promote transatlantic trade and investment and stimulate economic growth.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/572&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Other News

EU trade policy and stability in the Middle East – Speech by Peter Mandelson (19/05/2005)

In this speech, delivered at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem on 19 May 2005, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson argues that trade can make an important contribution to stability in the Middle East, by creating the economic foundations for a durable peace. He argues that "the European Commission, with its economic powers, can contribute to a future peace. A political settlement will not endure if it does not deliver economic stability and greater well being for the peoples of Israel and the Palestinian territories - to help improve their lives and turn them from despair or extremism." He says that the European Commission would like to see the EU's PanEuroMed system of cumulation of origin extended to Israel and the Palestinian Territories to encourage and facilitate trade between the two areas and between the Middle East and the wider Mediterranean.



See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/288&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Tissue engineering: Commission consults public on how to regulate advanced therapies (19/05/2005)

A new biotechnology area has emerged: human tissue engineering, which combines various aspects of medicine, cell and molecular biology, materials science and engineering, for the purpose of regenerating, repairing or replacing diseased tissues. Current applications of this nascent field of "regenerative medicine" include treatment for skin, cartilage and bone diseases or injuries. More complex products – such as heart valves or blood vessels – are already in the pipeline. Tissue engineered products currently lie outside any legislative framework. This is why the European Commission is working on a clear regulatory framework. Before tabling a formal proposal later this year, the Commission has now invited the general public to comment on a draft regulatory framework for authorisation, supervision and post-authorisation vigilance of advanced therapies (tissue engineering, cell and gene therapy). This consultation is part of the impact assessment of the upcoming proposal.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/575&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EU proposes WTO consultations with China on two textile product categories (17/05/2005)

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson is today proposing to the Commission that it launch formal consultations with China for two of the nine categories of textile imports from China currently under investigation: T-shirts and flax yarn. In view of the seriousness of market disruption in these categories, formal consultations need to begin immediately. These consultations will involve urgent discussions between China and the EU on how best to limit growth in Chinese exports in these categories. Under WTO rules, incorporated into China's accession protocol to the WTO, China is expected to use this period of consultation to propose means to manage the surge in its exports. Only if China does not take effective action will the Commission propose temporary limits on the growth of Chinese exports in the categories concerned in 2005.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/566&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Chinese textiles imports investigation: use of the urgency procedure (17/05/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/161&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Agricultural Reform in a Global Context – Speech by Mariann Fischer Boel (13/05/2005)

Presenting the Schuman Lecture at Oslo University, Agriculture and Rural Development Commissioner, Mariann Fischer Boel, said: "If the context for the Common Agricultural Policy has been transformed inside the EU, this is no less true in the wider world. I don't need to remind you of this at a time when the Doha Development Agenda is regularly making headlines, and when individual farm sectors around the globe rub their hands or quake with fear at the opportunities and threats presented by WTO dispute panels. In general, the food markets of the world are much more open than they were 50 years ago. Against this backdrop, we see new agricultural giants emerging. Brazil is an obvious example. The country's motto speaks for itself: "Brazil to feed the world". The momentum towards further globalisation in food markets is strong. Some welcome this; others decry it; but no one denies it."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/280&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

The EU & the US: bilateral partnership for global solutions – Speech by JM Barroso (13/05/2005)

During his address to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso observed: "Due to our history, Europe and the US do enjoy deep bonds of kinship and share both culture and values. Our economic relationship has built on these solid foundations to bind us even further together. We are each other's biggest trading partner; in 2003 the overall volume of EU/US trade in goods and services totalled some \$770 billion. For all the headlines that our trade disputes grab, the reality is that they affect less than 2% of this volume. Even more amazing is our two-way direct investment stock, which is worth not far short of \$2 trillion. As many as 14 million jobs in the EU and the US depend on transatlantic commercial ties. It is therefore entirely normal that we should work together. Not because of some mystical sense of brotherhood, but for the hardheaded, practical reason that our interests - and perceived threats - very often coincide. And by acting together, we are stronger, and more likely to achieve our shared objectives."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/276&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Ahead:



After well attended screenings of European films in Pretoria and Johannesburg, the ever popular **European Union Film Festival moves to** Gateway centre (Durban) from 20-27/05/2005, and to Cavendish Square (Cape Town) from 27-05-02/06/2005.

Entrance is free. See: <http://www.eusa.org.za/PDFdownload/Film%20Festival%202005.pdf>

For further information please contact Frank Oberholzer at 012-452-5200

Photo File:



José Manuel Barroso receives Alpha Oumar Konaré, Chairman of the Commission of the African Union. Also meeting Mr Konaré were Commissioner Louis Michel, (Development and Humanitarian Aid) and Javier Solana (Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union & High Representative for the Common Foreign & Security Policy) (17/05/2005)



High Representative Javier Solana, President of the RDC National Assembly Olivier Kamitatu, President of the RDC Joseph Kabila and Commissioner Louis Michel, Kinshasa. Present at the meeting was also EU Special Representative for the African Great Lakes Region Aldo Ajello (30/04/2005)

Call For Proposals

Multi-annual funding for Cultural Initiatives



As part of its first 'call for proposals' cycle, the CWCI Fund III is seeking proposals from established annual or biannual cultural initiatives in South Africa with outreach programmes in line with the objectives, themes and sectors as indicated in its advertisement (see web site address below). Funding will be allocated for the period August 2005 – March 2008.

See: http://www.eusa.org.za/PDFdownload/CWCI_Call_June_2005.pdf & <http://www.cwci.co.za/>