



**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.*



## 14 – 20 October 2005

### Headline News

#### **Doha Round negotiations and the Commission mandate – Speech by Com P Mandelson (18/10/2005)**

Commencing his briefing to the General Affairs Council in Luxembourg, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said: "The Doha negotiations recently entered a new phase ... with two months to go before the Hong Kong Ministerial meeting in December. At this meeting WTO members must register decisive progress if the Round is to succeed in 2006. If Hong Kong fails, we will be looking at a scaled down Round, with all the loss of economic and business opportunities this will involve. ..."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/618&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Doha Development Agenda negotiations in Agriculture – Speech by Com M Fischer Boel (18/10/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/619&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Avian influenza: Commission proposal for reinforced measures agreed with Member States (14/10/2005)**

The Member States have endorsed unanimously the reinforced measures proposed by the European Commission to reduce the risk of introducing avian influenza into EU poultry farms. The measures focus on strengthening biosecurity measures on farms and introducing early detection systems in high risk areas such as wetlands or farms along migratory flyways.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1284&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Avian influenza in Romania and Turkey: Commission takes further action (13/10/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1277&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### Other News

#### **Modernising Europe to meet the challenges of globalisation and ageing (20/10/2005)**

Europe must reform and modernise its policies to preserve its values. Modernisation is essential to continue keep Europe's historically high levels of prosperity, social cohesion, environmental protection and quality of life. The European Commission's Report 'European Values in a Globalised World' states that unless we are able to change, the forces of global competition, the impact of new technologies and our ageing population will call our economic success and the financial viability of our social systems (pensions, welfare, health) into question.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1322&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Visit to Ceuta and Melilla, 7-11/10/2005 – Mission Report (19/10/2005)**

A technical mission of the Commission services, accompanied by a representative of the European border agency, visited Ceuta and Melilla and had talks with Spanish and Moroccan authorities resulting directly from recent tragic events.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/380&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **European Commission President Barroso meets US President Bush (18/10/2005)**

Commission President José Manuel Barroso met US President George W Bush on 18/10/2005 at the White House, the first such bilateral meeting in the White House for many years. The two leaders discussed issues including the WTO Doha Round, the deepening of transatlantic economic integration and the promotion of democracy in the world. President Barroso was accompanied by the Commissioner for External Relations and Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner. See: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/10/20051018.html>

See also: **The EU and the US: a declaration of interdependence – Speech by Pres JM Barroso (18/10/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/622&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



If you published an article on the defence of **human rights or democracy in the developing world** between 01/01/2004 and 31/08/2005 you may be eligible to compete for the **Lorenzo Natali Prize** for journalists given by the European Commission.

See: <http://www.nataliprize.info/index.php>

### **Commission organises first Forum on Fossil Fuels in Berlin on 19-20 October 2005 (18/10/2005)**

At the initiative of the European Commission, and in response to the rising oil price, the Forum on Fossil Fuels this week for the first time gathered together Commission and Member States' representative, stakeholders and energy experts. This first session allowed an initial exchange of views and analyses on the prospects of the security of supply of fossil fuels, the objective having been to turn the Forum into an annual structured dialogue with oil, gas and solid fuels industries.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1301&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Sustainable Energy Forum, Amsterdam, 13-14 October 2005**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1273&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**Developing and Diversifying Energy Systems – Speech by Com A Piebalgs (14/10/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/607&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Commission pushes the EU's fight against trafficking in human beings (18/10/2005)**

The European Commission presented its communication "Fighting trafficking in human beings – an integrated approach and proposals for an action plan". This communication shows ways to consolidate and improve the European Union's anti trafficking policy. It will help addressing human trafficking by action not only in the area of justice and home affairs but also by taking appropriate initiatives in other policy fields, notably in the EU's external relations and development policy.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1298&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Fighting human trafficking - an integrated approach and proposals for an action plan (19/10/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/381&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Presidency's statement on behalf of the EU on freedom of expression in the DRC (17/10/2005)**

The European Union is concerned about freedom of expression in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Between January and August 2005 Journalistes En Danger (JED) reported 37 cases of imprisonment of journalists, compared with 23 similar arrests in the whole of 2004.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PRES/05/269&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Ferrero-Waldner welcomes Iraqi referendum as important step towards democracy/stability (15/10/2005)**



"Despite the difficult security situation, it has been a great day for democracy in Iraq. I pay tribute to all those Iraqis who cast their votes. By voting Iraqis have confirmed their commitment to democratic change. Risking their personal safety to exercise their democratic rights required immense courage. I condemn all violent acts, and regret the loss of life and the casualties that occurred. These criminal acts have not succeeded in quenching the Iraqi people's determination to take their political future in their hands. ... The Commission remains committed to supporting the Iraqis in their efforts to build a stable and prosperous country with democratic and accountable institutions".

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1287&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Commission boosts humanitarian funding for South Asia earthquake victims by €10 million (14/10/2005)**

Following on from its initial allocation of €3.6 million, the European Commission has earmarked a further €10 million for the victims of the South Asia earthquake. The funds will cover the most urgent needs including food, drinking water, shelter and medical aid. The support is being channelled through the Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) which comes under the responsibility of Louis Michel, the Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1291&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Presidency's statement on behalf of the EU concerning the elections in Liberia (14/10/2005)**

The European Union is pleased to note that the elections in Liberia on 11/10/2005 have been considered by international observers, in particular the EU Election Observation Mission in its preliminary assessment, to have so far been peaceful and generally well administered. The elections mark an important step forward in returning Liberia to a normally functioning state.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PRES/05/266&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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	 <h2 style="text-align: center;">RESEARCH</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">For all the latest EU funded research visit the DG Research site at : <a href="http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/index_en.cfm">http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/index_en.cfm</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">See also the Research Round-up: <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/commission_barroso/potocnik/research/researchia_en.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/commission_barroso/potocnik/research/researchia_en.htm</a></p>
<p>Joe Borg, Member of the EC in charge of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, receives Rosebud Kurwijila, Member of the Commission of the African Union (AU), in charge of Rural Economy and Agriculture.</p>	 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Eurostat</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">For all the latest EU statistical information please visit the Eurostat site at: <a href="http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/portal/page?_pageid=1090.30070682.1090_33076576&amp;_dad=portal&amp;_schema=PORTAL">http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/portal/page?_pageid=1090.30070682.1090_33076576&amp;_dad=portal&amp;_schema=PORTAL</a></p>