



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.

For more on any covered issue/s, please
'click' on the blue headlines and / or text



15 – 21 October 2007



Headline News

[EU leaders approve Treaty of Lisbon](#)

"The new Treaty of Lisbon was born today. This is a European victory". These were the words of the president of the Council of the European Union, Portugal's José Sócrates, while announcing the agreement among EU leaders on the new reform Treaty. José Sócrates said that the reform Treaty will be formally signed on 13 December, in Lisbon. European Commission President, José Manuel Barroso, stated that he was "extremely happy" with the accord. "It is true that during the German presidency great steps were taken, but it was with the determination and the competence of the Portuguese Presidency that we have reached this historic accord", he said. European Parliament President Hans-Gert Pötering welcomed the agreement on a new Treaty as "a great success for the European Parliament, a victory for the EU and for all its citizens."

[Draft text of the new Reform Treaty](#)



Lisbon European Council, 18-19/10/07

[EU Council agrees EU strategy on aid for trade](#)

The Council agreed on a strategy on "aid for trade" aimed at enabling all developing countries, particularly the least developed ones, to better integrate into the world trade system and to use trade more effectively and in a sustainable way in the eradication of poverty. The strategy will enable the EU to make a substantial input to the upcoming WTO global review on aid for trade in Geneva on 20 and 21 November 2007. The Council's decision comes at a crucial moment in negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of states and regions. The Council agreed that the share of the aid for trade funds to be reserved to support the ACPs should be in the range of 50%: potentially, this could mean an annual increase in the range of EUR 300-400 million.

Other News

[Javier Solana condemns the terrorist attack in Pakistan](#)

Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), strongly condemned the terrorist attack carried out against Mrs Benazir Bhutto's convoy on her return to Pakistan: "I am shocked at the terrorist attack against Mrs Benazir Bhutto's convoy on her return to Pakistan and I condemn in the strongest possible terms this despicable act that killed dozens of people and left hundreds injured. I convey my most sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to the families of the victims and to the Pakistani authorities."

[European Commission signs Country Strategy Papers with 13 Pacific States](#)

The Commission signed Country Strategy Papers with 13 Pacific States in the margins of the 38th Pacific Island Forum in Tonga. The Pacific States are the first to sign the country strategy papers in the framework of the 10th European Development Fund - allocating them €267 million for the period 2008-2013. Three priorities have been set: good governance, sustainable management of natural resources and growth. The 13 Pacific States in question are: Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

[EU Anti-Trafficking Day - "Trafficking in Human Beings: Time for action!"](#)

The launch of the annual EU Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October 2007 is another important step in the European Commission's long-standing commitment to prevent and fight trafficking in human beings. The Anti-Trafficking Day follows the conference on the gender aspect of human trafficking organised by the Portuguese Presidency, on 8-9 October 2007. The title of the event, "Trafficking in Human Beings: Time for Action", highlights the clear need for the implementation of practical measures to prevent and combat trafficking and to protect victims of trafficking at national, European and international level.

[The European Commission marks International Poverty Eradication Day](#)

The EC will mark International Poverty Eradication Day with co-sponsored parliamentary debates on the Millennium Development Goals and a new survey on citizens' attitudes to development aid in the newer Member States. The Commission is committed to poverty eradication as one of the main development challenges of the MDGs. The series of parliamentary debates aims to raise public awareness on the importance of the MDGs and development policy in general. Discussions by national parliamentarians, MEPs, NGOs and the UNDP will focus on their contribution to building global partnerships for development. The debates will take place in the capitals of the 12 newer Member States from 15th to 22nd October 2007, starting in the Czech Republic.

[European Commission congratulates European winners of Nobel science prizes](#)

Four European scientists have been awarded the Nobel prizes for Medicine, Physics and Chemistry. Sir Martin Evans, of Cardiff University, shared the Nobel Prize for Medicine with two scientists based in America for their work on mouse genetics. Albert Fert of Université Paris-Sud and CNRS and Peter Grünberg of Forschungszentrum Jülich shared the Nobel Prize for Physics for their discovery of the effect underlying data retrieval from hard disks. Gerhard Ertl of the Fritz-Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society in Berlin has been honoured with the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his study of chemical processes on solid surfaces. "We have to go back many years to find the last time that the majority of Nobel laureates in the science prizes were Europeans" said European Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik.

[EUtube reaches one million hits](#)

EUtube, the European Commission's channel on YouTube, has received over one million hits on its homepage and almost 7 million video views since its launch less than 3 months ago. There are now 69 video clips on the channel, on a wide-range of topics - from the EU's first post-war historical steps to today's need to combat climate change. The most watched video, with an astonishing 4.2 million views, is the clip promoting the EU's MEDIA programme: LOVE ('Film lovers will love this'). Other successful clips include a public health clip 'AIDS: Remember me' and a clip which illustrated EU efforts to combat the forest fires in Greece this Summer. The latter received over 180.000 views in three weeks. French and German language clips have been added to the channel since its launch at the end of June 2007. www.youtube.com/eutube



[July/August 2007](#)

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

