



**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*



## 15 - 21 Sept 2006

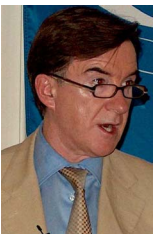
### Headline News

#### [Governance: Ownership, Incentives and Transparency – Speech by Com L Michel \(18/09/2006\)](#)

During the Ministerial meetings of the Development Committee at the Annual Meetings of the World Bank/IMF in Singapore, EU Development Commissioner, Louis Michel, noted; “Without decisive progress on governance, the Millennium Development Goals will not be achieved. The additional aid that has been promised will not deliver results. It is with great interest, therefore, that I welcome the World Bank’s new strategy on governance and the fight against corruption. We must recognise, however, that the issue is sensitive and complex. I have 3 strong convictions. First, the need to avoid going in different directions ... we now have a unique opportunity to develop a common policy basis by applying the Paris Agenda on Aid Effectiveness. (Second) ... Corruption is a symptom of the failure of the broader system of governance ... thus governance can not be limited to fight against corruption. Finally, my third conviction: I favour dialogue and positive incentives rather than sanctions and conditionality. ...”



#### [Europe competing in the world – Speech by Com P Mandelson \(18/09/2006\)](#)



In this speech, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson announces that the European Commission’s October review of EU trade policy will focus on defending Europe’s openness to imports while taking a more “activist” approach to opening markets, and securing fair treatment for EU companies abroad, chiefly in the large emerging markets of Brazil and Asia. Delivering the annual Churchill Lecture in Berlin, Mandelson argues that EU trade policy needs to become an integral part of the EU economic reform strategy ... (he) says that a central strand of October’s trade policy review would argue that the European Union should seek to build on and complement its commitment to the multilateral WTO trading system with a new generation of bilateral FTAs with key growing markets.

See: [Globalisation, Enlargement & Turkey’s place in the EU – Speech by Com P Mandelson \(15/09/2006\)](#)

### Other News

#### [The Transatlantic Relationship: A Balance Sheet – Speech by Com B Ferrero-Waldner \(20/09/2006\)](#)

Addressing the American Business Forum on Europe (ABFE) and the US Council for International Business (USCIB) in New York, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy) said: “I’d like to present you with the “balance sheet” of what we could think of as the EU-US “joint venture”. ... There’s a new spirit of constructive engagement between us, and the June Summit between President Bush and the European Union was one of the most fruitful yet. ... Our renewed commitment to transatlantic cooperation is, I hope, here to stay. ...”

#### [Commission condemns attack against the President and the Parliament in Somalia \(20/09/2006\)](#)

European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, condemns the attack against President Abdullahi Yusuf and the Transitional Federal Parliament on 18/09/2006 in Baidoa. This attack was not only an aggression against the Somali Transitional Institutions but it was aimed at disrupting the Somali peace process.

#### [CAP Reform: Commission proposes new banana regime \(20/09/2006\)](#)

The European Commission proposed a reform of the aid scheme to banana producers, which aims to bring the system into line with reforms in the other agricultural sectors, while ensuring a fair standard of living for EU banana producers and taking account of the particularities of the regions where bananas are grown. The proposal follows a thorough debate with all interested parties and an in-depth assessment of the impact of the reform. Following adoption by the Council, the Commission wants the new rules to apply from the 2007 marketing year.

See also: [Banana CMO Reform \(20/09/2006\)](#), [POSEI: The preferred Option for Bananas \(20/09/2006\)](#)  
[A sustainable EU banana sector - Press conference with Com M Fischer Boel \(20/09/2006\)](#)

### **Commission's Task Force on Migration meets for first time (20/09/2006)**

Migration is a cross-border issue that requires a comprehensive, balanced and integrated approach involving various policy areas and all the affected regions (origin, transit and destination). The European Commission is working along such an approach for a few years now and has reinforced its efforts for coherence by deciding, on 30 August 2006, to establish a Commissioners' Task Force on Migration, under the coordination of Vice President Franco Frattini.

See also: [Commission offers support to Spain, Italy and Malta for the reception of illegal immigrants \(19/09/2006\)](#)

[Commission earmarks €45 mil to support third countries in the field of migration and asylum in 2006 \(21/09/2006\)](#)

### **High Level Group on Multilingualism launched by Commissioner Figel' (20/09/2006)**

The Commission adopted a Decision to establish a High Level Group on Multilingualism. The Group, comprising eleven experts from across Europe, will meet formally for the first time on 03/10/2006. It has been set up in response to the 2005 Communication "A new framework strategy for multilingualism", that called for a high level group to advise the Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism on the "development of initiatives, as well as fresh impetus and ideas for a comprehensive approach to multilingualism in the European Union".

### **Presidency's Declaration on behalf of the EU on political prisoners in Eritrea (18/09/2006)**

On 18/09/2001 eleven prominent members of Parliament and of the People's Front for Democracy and Justice, the only political party in Eritrea, were arrested. A few days later, 10 independent journalists were also arrested. Since then, other individuals have been arrested and detained incommunicado, without charges and with their right to due process suspended. Despite repeated appeals by the international community, including the EU, and several governmental and non-governmental human rights bodies, these prisoners remain in detention, without having been charged with any offence, and without access to a free and fair trial. The EU severely deplores these serious violations of human rights ..."

### **Humanitarian aid: new €10 million decision for Sahrawi refugees in Algeria (15/09/2006)**

The Commission adopted a new decision of €10 million to provide basic assistance for the Sahrawi refugees living in camps in south-west Algeria. The funds, channelled through the Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO), under the responsibility of Commissioner Louis Michel, will cover the provision of food, water and other essential services. For more than 30 years, the refugees from Western Sahara have been living in camps near Tindouf in Algeria. They depend entirely on international aid for their survival. The Commission is the largest donor assisting the victims of this long-running crisis.

### **European Commission allocates €10.2 million to Haiti to restore public finances (15/09/2006)**

The European Commission has adopted a budgetary support programme worth €10.2 in favour of reforms in Haiti and to cover the deficit for fiscal 2005-2006. The programme has been set up on the basis of the principle of emergency budgetary support accepted at the International Conference on Haiti held in Brussels on 20-21/10/2005. This budgetary support will boost the efforts already under way and planned by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Interamerican Development Bank, Canada and Spain to implement the Government's macro-economic and financial programme.

### **EU-AU Aviation Seminar: meeting the needs of modern aviation (14/09/2006)**

An EU-AU aviation seminar for African States and Regional Economic Communities was organised jointly by the European Commission and the African Union in order to share information on the regulation and functioning of the EU internal aviation market and its relations with third countries. The seminar brought together the aviation authorities from 30 African States, Regional Economic Communities and specialised organisations in the field.

### **Commemorative address on the occasion of the Anna Lindh Award Ceremony (14/09/2006)**

Speech given by Vice-President Margot Wallström (Institutional relations and Communication Strategy), Brussels

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