



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.



16 – 22 September 2005

Headline News

EU Trade Commissioner: Europe needs open markets at home and abroad (19/09/2005)

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson argued that Europe must strengthen its commitment to open markets and open trade at home and abroad as part of its wider economic and social reform strategy. Speaking at the 5th Market Access Symposium in the European Parliament in Brussels, Com Mandelson argued that an openness to international competition is an essential part of any convincing vision of Europe's future and the effective reform of its Social Models. Commissioner Mandelson argued: "The European economy stands or falls on our ability to keep markets open, to open new markets, and to develop new areas where Europe's inventors, investors and entrepreneurs can trade."



See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1158&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Open markets, open trade: Europe's global challenge (19/09/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/521&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

European Community Statement to UN High Level Meeting – by Com Ferrero-Waldner (16/09/2005)

Addressing the United Nations High Level Meeting in New York, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy) said: "The European Community is happy that we could contribute to this outcome together with many others. How do we now see the results? Do they meet our original aspirations? Not everything has been attained. Compromises were inevitable. But we have laid a solid foundation as we seek to re-build the UN and to make it capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century. Development, security and human rights are the three pillars of our common vision of the future. How do we measure up against that vision? ..."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/522&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Other News

Commission presents comprehensive Counter-terrorism package (21/09/2005)

1. A proposal for a directive on the retention of communications traffic data;
2. A decision allocating €7 mil for a pilot-project in the field of prevention, preparedness and response to terrorist attacks;
3. A proposal for authorising the signature of the Council of Europe's Convention on money laundering/terrorism financing;
4. A Communication on "Terrorist recruitment: addressing the factors contributing to violent radicalisation".

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1166&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Terrorist recruitment: EC's Communication addressing factors contributing to violent radicalisation**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/329&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Commission Activities in the Fight against Terrorism

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/332&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Council of Europe new Convention on laundering, search, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds from crime and on the financing of terrorism

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/331&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EC allocates €7 mil for "pilot project" in field of prevention, preparedness, response to terrorist attacks

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/330&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Directive on money laundering and terrorist financing (19/09/2005)

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PRES/05/240&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Enlargement: Turkey – Declaration by the European Community and its Member States (21/09/2005)

The declaration below by the European Community and its Member States was adopted, following the declaration made by Turkey upon signature on 29 July 2005 of the Ankara Agreement Protocol: "1. The European Community and its Member States acknowledge the signature by Turkey of the Additional Protocol to the Agreement establishing an Association between the European Community and its Member States on the one part and Turkey on the other, in accordance with the conclusions of the European Council of December 2004. They regret that Turkey felt it necessary to make a declaration regarding the Republic of Cyprus at the time of signature. ..."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PRES/05/243&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Taking stock - Press Conference at the European Commission with President JM Barroso (21/09/2005)

This is a time to take stock of the situation, given the changes in the political landscape after the hectic events of the spring. Fact number one: Globalisation is here to stay, whether we like it or not. It will happen with or without us. The issue is simple: is Europe going to be a victim of globalisation or actively involved in it? ... Fact number two: the Constitution is not going to be ratified in the near future. This is something the Commission regrets. The subject will come up for debate again when the time is right, but in the meanwhile we must not succumb to paralysis. ... From these two facts we may draw one conclusion: the best way to overcome this crisis is to convince Europeans of the relevance of Europe. Our response is that we must act, we must take practical measures and push ahead with the European agenda. This is what the European people expect of us. See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/530&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EU to sign first Joint Political Declaration with Iraq (20/09/2005)

The EU and Iraq will sign a joint political declaration on 21 September in the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York. This will be a significant milestone in the development of EU-Iraq relations and will set the framework for a comprehensive dialogue covering a wide range of political issues. The Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, hailed the new declaration, saying: "The signing of this declaration will be a major step towards closer partnership between Europe and Iraq. It will pave the way for a Co-operation Agreement between us to cover a wide range of trade and development issues".

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1161&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Guinea-Bissau (19/09/2005)

The European Union notes that the swearing-in ceremony of the elected President, General Joao Bernardo Nino Vieira, is due to take place on 01/10/2005. The European Union hopes that this ceremony will take place as scheduled in a peaceful and orderly manner. The European Union reiterates the importance of political and institutional stability in Guinea Bissau as a pre-condition for the continuing support and assistance by the international community and the development of the country's relationship with the international financial institutions. The guarantee of continuity in financial and economic policies will be essential in the perspective of Emergency Post-Conflict Assistance (EPCA) and for the realisation of a successful Round Table of Donors scheduled for November.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PRES/05/236&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the situation in Somalia

The European Union (EU) fully supports the Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and his initiative, as stated in his letter of 13/09/2005 to the Mogadishu based Ministers, to start, after consultations, holding regular Council of Ministers meetings in Mogadishu. This is a fully Somali owned initiative and the EU urges the Ministers in Mogadishu to respond positively. The EU is pleased to note that the international donor community has agreed to provide funding towards this initiative.

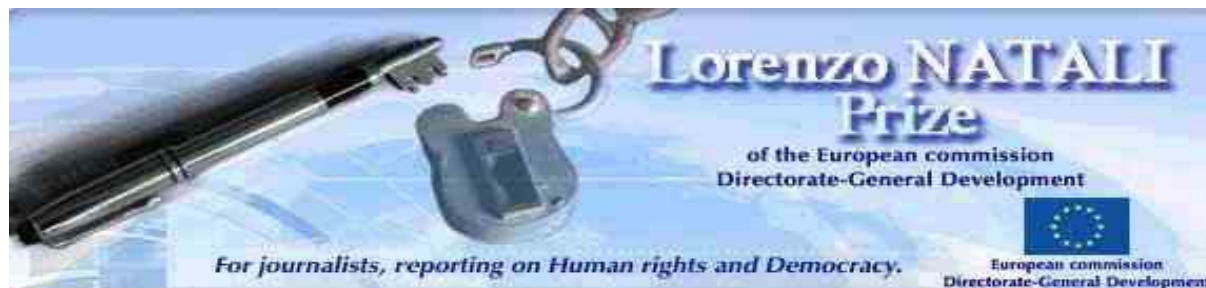
See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PRES/05/234&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Liberia: EU Election Observation Mission for Presidential and Parliamentary Elections (16/09/2005)

The European Commission has deployed an EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) for the presidential and parliamentary elections in Liberia scheduled to take place on 11/10/2005. The EOM is a further contribution by the Commission to support peace and democracy in Liberia. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, said: "The forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections are a crucial moment for Liberia and, if conducted successfully, will mark a significant step forward for the country. I have, therefore, decided to appoint the Member of the European Parliament Max van den Berg to head an Election Observation Mission to evaluate all aspects of the process and assess whether the elections are conducted in a transparent and credible manner in line with international standards for democratic elections."

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1152&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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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>