



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



17 – 23 September 2007



Headline News

[Commission proposes a global alliance to help developing countries affected by climate change](#)

The European Commission is proposing to build a new alliance on climate change between the EU and poor developing countries that are most affected and that have the least capacity to deal with climate change. Through this Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA), the EU and these countries will work jointly to integrate climate change into poverty reduction strategies. Measures will include better preparedness for natural disasters which are expected to become more frequent and intense through global warming. The Commission has earmarked €50 million to the GCCA over the period 2008-10. The first occasion to discuss the Alliance with developing country partners will be the European Development Days to be held in Lisbon from 7-9 November and focusing on climate change and development.

[Doha deal could boost economic confidence – speech by Trade Commissioner Mandelson](#)

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said that the successful conclusion of the Doha Round of world trade talks would top up economic confidence and lock in the current level of the openness in the global economy as a guard against future recession and protectionism. Speaking at the Council of Foreign Relations in New York, Mandelson argued that Doha negotiations had made more progress than many thought and that "we nearly have a deal on the key issues". He argued that - especially given the current turbulence in global markets - both the EU and the US have the strongest possible interest in working for a deal that locks in the current openness of global trade and strengthens the global economic governance system. [Text of the speech](#)

[€11 million in humanitarian aid for African flood victims](#)



The Commission has drawn up a package of humanitarian aid to help victims of the floods in Africa. The funds have been earmarked to support urgent relief operations, emergency measures against the spread of disease and livelihood recovery in the worst hit areas. Flooding, brought on by torrential rains, has led to the isolation of many villages across the continent and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. Commissioner Louis Michel (Development and Humanitarian Aid), emphasised the need "to get help quickly to the communities affected by this unfolding disaster." The funds, managed by the Commission's Humanitarian Aid department under the responsibility of Com Michel, are channelled through partner relief organisations: UN agencies, the Red Cross/Crescent movement and humanitarian NGOs.

[EU adopts report on Policy Coherence for Development](#)

The European Commission adopted the EU's first Report on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD). The Report highlights the interactions and complementarities between development policy and twelve other internal and external EU policies that have an impact on developing countries. PCD plays a central role in reinforcing the EU's contribution to developing countries' progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The overall conclusion is that coherence between EU policies and the Development objectives has improved, but more can be achieved. [Report](#)

Other News

[Conference on migration policy](#)

European Commissioner responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security, Franco Frattini said that the recent high-level conference on Legal Migration, held in Lisbon, sent out a strong and clear signal that the EU can count on an emerging consensus that, to ensure future economic growth, it needs a better managed migration policy which also encompasses channels for more legal migration. Migrants are a crucial part of the EU's competitiveness strategy and their full potential can only be realised if they are given the opportunity to integrate into the host society and economy. Integration of legally resident immigrants is therefore a key part of the EU's comprehensive immigration policy. Frattini said migration policy is a key part of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy, which will be adopted at the next EU-Africa Summit to be held in Lisbon in December.

[European Parliament MEPs welcomes Microsoft antitrust ruling](#)

The landmark anti-trust decision against US software giant Microsoft was welcomed as a good deal for consumers by several MEPs. The EU's Court of First Instance upheld a 2004 ruling in the long running case brought by the European Commission. The crux of the ruling was that Microsoft had unfairly used its 90% share of the software industry. One MEP told us the decision strengthened "the right and freedom of consumers to choose the best and most innovative products". The Court's decision means the Seattle-based company will have to pay a fine of €497 million on top of the €280 million they have already been fined for not respecting the 2004 decision.

[Presidency's declaration on behalf of the EU on the Presidential elections in Sierra Leone](#)

"The European Union welcomes the peaceful, orderly and transparent electoral process which has followed the Presidential Run-Off elections of 8 September, leading to the announcement of the final election results on 17 September. The EU congratulates His Excellency Ernest Bai Koroma upon his election as President of Sierra Leone and expresses its sincere wishes for future close cooperation and strengthened political dialogue between the new Government and the EU."

[Presidency's declaration on behalf of the EU on political prisoners in Eritrea](#)

"The European Union remains extremely concerned with the situation of political prisoners in Eritrea and would like to reiterate the main lines of the Declaration issued on 18 September 2006. ... On 18 September 2001 a group of eleven prominent members of Parliament and of the People's Front for Democracy and Justice, the only political party in Eritrea, was arrested. 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. "

[National Progress Report reveals impressive achievements in eGovernment](#)

A "National Progress Report on eGovernment in the EU27+", presented at the Ministerial eGovernment Conference on 19 September in Lisbon, reviewed progress made on implementing eGovernment Services since the launch of the European Commission's i2010 initiative for Growth and Jobs (2005), the Manchester Ministerial Declaration (2005) and the i2010 eGovernment Action Plan agreed by Council in June 2006. The achievements of Member States were further confirmed by an independent survey "[The user challenge: Benchmarking the supply of online public services](#)". Most Member States policies and implementation actions are now in place and aligned with the goals of the Action Plan. Services are becoming more effective nationally and more interoperable at European level; delivering higher quality, saving billions of euros through efficiency gains, and increasing transparency and accountability of administrations.

[How business can support healthcare? – speech by Commissioner Louis Michel](#)

Speaking in Brussels at the recent Africa Unbound Conference that dealt with *Development, Health and Investment Strategies 2010-2020*, EU Development and Humanitarian Aid Commissioner, Louis Michel noted: "Without the joint efforts of national governments, civil society and private sector, there would be no progress in halting the world's three deadliest communicable diseases ... We have extensively worked, and will continue to do so, with civil society from both the North and the South and with the private sector which are key partners to address health challenges." He concluded his intervention by cautioning "I would like to urge new donors to keep ... in mind ...: Africa is not only a place for new markets or new investments. This is also a place for renewed or new responsibility. ..."

[Romanian students win 'EU Mini-chefs' drawing contest](#)

Students of Radauti School no. 3 in Romania, in the town of Radauti about 500 km north of the capital city of Bucharest, have won the European prize in the EU-Mini Chefs drawing contest. Out of the winning drawing, the Commission has already produced a poster that will be used in the promotion campaign of the European Day for Healthy Food and Cooking, celebrated on November 8. "[EU Mini-Chefs](#)" is a website for children, which aims to contribute to the fight against child obesity by encouraging healthy eating and cooking. It is a joint initiative of the European Commission and Euro-Toques – the European Chefs' Association.

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

