



**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.*



## 19 – 25 November 2004

### Headline News

#### **European Union and South Africa hold their 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Cooperation Council Meeting (23/11/2004)**

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual EU-SA Joint Cooperation Council took place in Brussels on 27/11/2004, attended by the South African delegation headed by Foreign Affairs Minister, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, and for the EU, Agnes van Ardenne (Netherlands' Minister for Development and Cooperation), Jean Asselborn (Foreign Minister of Luxembourg) and EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel. At its conclusion the Council called for continued and broadened SA-EU cooperation on the basis of the existing Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) and took the view that the overarching objective of cooperation between the two parties must remain the alleviation of poverty. The Council expressed the belief that SA-EU cooperation is best shaped as a strategic mix of political cooperation, trade, economic cooperation and development, whereby the complementarity between these areas of cooperation should be maintained and expanded.

### Other News

#### **Louis Michel starts mandate by visiting Sudan and Kenya (25/11/2004)**

The newly appointed European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, will begin his mandate with an official visit to Sudan and Kenya from 26-29 November. The purpose of the mission is to meet some of the key players in the Sudanese Peace Process as well as EU humanitarian partners and visit some EU funded projects in the field. In all these meetings Commissioner Michel will stress the importance that all parties fulfil their obligations under international humanitarian law as a precondition for stabilisation and for the distribution of emergency aid to displaced persons. The EU is the largest cash donor in the Darfur region having already having contributed €184 million.



See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1404&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **More democracy, more rights: we need the Constitution for Europe – by Margot Wallström (25/11/2004)**

In an address to the European Parliament's Constitutional Affairs Committee Margot Wallström, Vice-President for Institutional Relations and Communications strategy, said: "Our first common goal is to ensure that the Constitution for Europe sees the light of day. As Jo Leinen recently said "Neither the European Parliament nor the Commission can lean back and take a neutral stance on ratification". The Barroso Commission will not stand on the sidelines.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/496&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **EU seeks satisfactory responses in fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis (23/11/2004)**

After a recent UNAIDS report reiterated that HIV/AIDS remained a major obstacle to global development, the Commission proposed a new strategic framework to step up efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Today, the Council will adopt its conclusions on this Commission proposal. The emphasis is on the need for renewed efforts and sufficient funding from Europe to tackle these diseases outside the EU. The Commission and the Member States are preparing to increase resources for international aid and the Global Fund.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1395&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Peter Mandelson begins his mandate as Trade Commissioner with visit to WTO in Geneva (22/11/2004)**



The new EU Commissioner for Trade, Peter Mandelson, starts his mandate with meetings at the Headquarters of the World Trade Organisation. He met with WTO Director General Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi and deputies, chairpersons of negotiating groups and a number of ambassadors to the WTO. He also meet with agency heads for International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Mr Mandelson chose to make the WTO his first destination as Trade Commissioner in recognition of the central role of the multilateral trading system, and the importance of making rapid progress on the Doha Development Agenda. "A successful Doha Round is my top priority. I have a strong commitment to Trade and Development policies

going hand in hand I would be happy if my period as Trade Commissioner came to be remembered for that. But we have much hard work ahead."

See also: **Remarks during visit to WTO – by Peter Mandelson (23/11/2004)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/488&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **European Commission to send EU Election Observation Mission to Palestinian Elections (22/11/2004)**

The Commissioner for External Relations and the European Neighbourhood Policy Benita Ferrero-Waldner has decided to deploy an EU Election Observer Mission (EOM) to observe the Presidential Elections in the West Bank and Gaza scheduled for 09/01/2005. The decision is a concrete expression of the EU's effort to support the development of democratic institutions and stability in the Palestinian Territories. The presence of the EOM and the reporting of its observers will help to increase transparency and build confidence in the election process.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1389&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Sharm el Sheikh: The EU offers Iraq Support and Partnership (22/11/2004)**

At the Sharm el Sheikh international conference on Iraq (22-23/11/2004), the EU will reaffirm its support for Iraq's transition to a stable, democratic future, and holding out the prospect of a deepening partnership. The European Commission will be represented at the Conference by Commissioner for External Relations and the European Neighbourhood Policy Benita Ferrero-Waldner. The EU will also be represented by High Representative Javier Solana, Foreign Minister Bernard Bot of the current Dutch Presidency, and the foreign ministers of numerous Member States. The European Commission's key objectives for the Conference are to underline the importance of inclusive and participatory elections in January, and to express readiness to support Iraq and its neighbours in developing a closer cooperation between themselves, if they so wish.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1388&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **European Monetary Union: past experience and prospects – Speech by Joaquín Almunia (22/11/2004)**

In a recent speech Joaquín Almunia, European Commissioner for Financial and Monetary Affairs, said: "While five years is too short a time to arrive at a definitive assessment of EMU, it seems reasonable to expect at least a preliminary answer. I will argue today that the assessment of EMU is broadly positive, although I also want to highlight some serious challenges that lie ahead of us. In doing this, I want today to draw your attention on three main themes. I will: (i) briefly review economic developments over the past five years; and (ii) discuss the role of the euro in driving integration and reform; (iii) look at the performance of the macroeconomic policy framework ..."

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/486&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Ahead:**

- **25/11/2004 – EU-Russia Summit, The Hague**

See: [http://www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS\\_ITEM=7D6A205836224970B08237F4FAA59DF0X1X37963X57](http://www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS_ITEM=7D6A205836224970B08237F4FAA59DF0X1X37963X57)

- **29-30/11/2004 – Euro-Med Ministerial Meeting, The Hague**

See: [http://www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS\\_ITEM=B68D98850E0944D9A2CC52B8D4BDE0EDX1X39350X08](http://www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS_ITEM=B68D98850E0944D9A2CC52B8D4BDE0EDX1X39350X08)

- **08/12/2004 – EU-China Summit, The Hague**

See: [http://www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS\\_ITEM=1CB75C07101A4B01AE309AEE313115F6X1X62199X62](http://www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS_ITEM=1CB75C07101A4B01AE309AEE313115F6X1X62199X62)

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