



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*



2 – 8 February 2007



Headline News



EC Delegation announces funding of €980 mil for South Africa (07/02/2007)

In a meeting with editors in Cape Town, Ambassador Lodewijk Briët announced the approval of a R9 bn European Union funding programme for South Africa. The funds, earmarked for the 2007-2013 period, would focus primarily on employment creation and capacity development for service delivery. Implementation of the funding programme would give expression to the EU-SA Strategic Partnership proposed by the European Commission in 2006 and that would see the two partners, South Africa and Europe, deepen their engagement. This funding is in addition to the European Investment Bank's R8,5bn loan package to South Africa for the same period, announced in January this year.

See also: [EU gives €980m to help SA build skills, Business Day \(08/02/2007\)](#)
[SA gets R9bn to catch up, Business Report \(07/02/2007\)](#)



Towards a global agreement on tackling climate change – Speech by Com S Dimas (02/02/2007)

Addressing the Paris Conference on the Environment, EU Environmental Commissioner Stavros Dimas, noted: "Our climate is changing. The changes we are observing now are only a prelude of what science tells us to expect as temperatures increase further. The EU's objective is to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Beyond this threshold, the risk of irreversible large-scale events increases dramatically. The window of opportunity for meeting this objective is however closing fast, we cannot afford to delay action. Today, the IPCC has confirmed that without action temperature rises are likely to take us well beyond this threshold this century. ..."

See also: [Climate change: New report from the world's leading scientists underlines the need for urgent global action](#)

Other News

EU to deploy Election Observation Mission to Mauritania Presidential Elections (08/07/2007)

Following an invitation from the Government of Mauritania, the European Commission has decided to deploy an EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) to Mauritania for the Presidential elections scheduled to take place on 11 March 2007. The EU EOM will be led by French Member of the European Parliament, Marie-Anne Isler-Béguin. These elections follow the recent municipal and legislative elections, also observed by the EU, and will complete the electoral cycle launched by the Mauritanian authorities 6 months ago with the successful constitutional referendum.

EIB provides €10 mil long-term finance for SMEs (08/02/2007)

The European Investment Bank signed, in Kigali, two Global Loan Agreements, one for €7mil with Banque Rwandaise de Développement (BRD) and one for €3 mil with Banque Commerciale du Rwanda (BCR). The two credit lines aim at increasing the flow of long-term funds for SME development in Rwanda. Building on existing relationships with banks in Rwanda, long term funding will be made available to, primarily, small and medium sized companies. The facility will enable BRD and BCR to provide long-term loans and structure leasing operations in euros and in Rwandan Francs (RWF).



Energy for a Changing World – Speech by A Piebalgs (07/02/2007)

Speaking on the topic of Europe's Energy Challenges, Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs said: "The world today is facing a massive energy and environmental challenge, a challenge that is particularly acute for Europe. According to the IEA, on a business-as-usual scenario, world energy demand is set to increase by more than 50% by 2030. It is becoming increasingly clear that without real and effective action we will simply end up consuming more, polluting more and emitting more CO2."

See also: [New European Energy Policy – Speech by Com N Kroes \(05/02/2007\)](#)

[Legislative framework to ensure EU meets target for cutting CO2 emissions from cars \(07/02/2007\)](#)

The European Commission proposes a comprehensive new strategy to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from new cars and vans sold in the EU. The new strategy, together with a revision of EU fuel quality standards proposed last week, further underline the Commission's determination to ensure the EU meets its greenhouse gas emission targets under the Kyoto Protocol and beyond. ...To encourage the car industry to compete on the basis of fuel efficiency instead of size and power, the Commission is also inviting manufacturers to sign an EU code of good practice on car marketing and advertising. See also:

[Questions and answers on the EU strategy to reduce CO2 emissions from cars \(07/02/2007\)](#)

[New Commission strategy for long term viability of European car industry \(07/02/2007\)](#)



[Seeing the wood for the trees: Purpose of the Lisbon Strategy – Speech by Pres JM Barroso \(06/02/2007\)](#)

At the 3rd Joint Parliament Meeting on Lisbon, the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Durão Barroso, posed the following questions: "What does the renewed Lisbon Strategy really mean? What are we trying to do? What does it mean to the countries that you know best, to your work as legislators and to your constituents? What we are attempting is not some one-off package to give growth and employment figures a bit of a boost. No. What we are attempting is the whole scale modernisation of our continent. A root and branch reform at all levels of governance and in all policy areas. Not just to help Europe survive the era of globalisation, but to thrive in it, and shape it according to our own values. ..."

[Mobile operators agree on how to safeguard children using mobile phones \(06/02/2007\)](#)

Leading European mobile operators signed an agreement on how to protect minors using mobile phones. This agreement, brokered by the European Commission, responds to the findings of the Commission's public consultation on child safety and mobile phones. In the agreement, mobile operators undertake to develop self-regulatory codes by February 2008.

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