



**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 July 2007**

### **Headline News**

#### **Regulators – help or hindrance? – speech by Commissioner McCreevy to the ICGN, Cape Town (6/7)**

European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services, Charlie McCreevy, addressed the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Corporate Governance Network in Cape Town on 6 July, speaking on the role of regulators in the global marketplace and ways of improving regulation: "Better regulation should mean 3 things in practice: fewer, and where they do exist, better targeted rules; improved procedures before rules are adopted - open consultation, economic impact analysis, early participation of market professionals and national regulators; and last, but not least, better implementation and enforcement".

#### **African Union summit, Ghana – address by European Commission President José Manuel Barroso (3/7)**

Addressing the AU summit in Accra, Ghana, President Barroso commended the AU's debate on Africa's future governance. President Barroso said the EU was the greatest provider of aid worldwide, but stressed that the EU-Africa relationship should not be based on aid alone, but should take the form of a partnership based on "respect and opportunity". President Barroso also referred to the Joint EU-Africa Strategy as a partnership which would strengthen the EU-Africa political relationship and focus on global issues, such as climate change, energy, migration and multi-lateralism, saying that "A partnership is not just for political leaders, but for people".

#### **Europeans support the Millennium Development Goals (7/7)**

On the eve of the symbolic mid-term date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a European Commission survey has shown broad public support for the EU's priorities in development co-operation. Most Europeans (66%) consider reducing extreme poverty and hunger in developing countries as a priority. Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases is the second goal (46%). And across the EU, Sub-Saharan Africa stands out in most people's minds as being in greatest need of aid (64%). Development and Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Louis Michel said: "This is clearly an issue on which Europeans are engaged, and so is the Commission. Last year, over €100 for every EU citizen went in official development assistance".

### **Other News**

#### **European Parliament MEPs visit Sudan(3/7)**

To stem the mayhem in Darfur a hybrid force of United Nations and African Union peacekeeping troops is needed fast, MEPs on a fact-finding mission there said. "We cannot wait another year for security. The Darfur crisis calls for the rapid and effective deployment of the hybrid force, with an adequate mandate, as recently agreed by the Sudanese government", said delegation chief Josep Borrell, who chairs the EP Development Committee, and "humanitarian operations cannot go on for ever", added EP humanitarian aid rapporteur Thierry Cornillet. African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) forces already in Darfur are "incapable of providing security", local people told MEPs. Yet creating a United Nations/African Union hybrid force is likely to take time - AMIS reinforcements are not expected to arrive before well into 2008, the delegation was told.

#### **European Commission welcomes the positive review of its aid by the OECD (5/7)**

The Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) issued a review of the aid policies and programmes of the European Commission, including for the first time humanitarian aid. Commenting on the review, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel said: "This review commends the hard work done over the last years in doing more, better and faster. It recognises the quality of the Commission's work and our political leadership". The report praised the EC reforms in terms of "resource allocation, improvements in managing harmonisation with external donors, headquarters reorganisation, devolution of authority to the field, streamlining of internal procedures, reinforcement of quality control, and better use of results."

### **EU-China Economic and Financial Dialogue (4/7)**

The third EU-China Dialogue, held in Brussels, was opened by Joaquin Almunia, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs. Directors General Holmquist and Regling and Vice Finance Minister Zhu Zhigang co-chaired the dialogue. Both sides had a fruitful exchange of information on financial sector reforms. It was agreed that the fourth meeting of this Dialogue will be held next year in China. Both sides agreed that a regular exchange of information, including through ad-hoc technical meetings, should also be pursued between the annual Dialogue meetings.

#### **Text of Joint Statement**

### **EU and Brazil: Working towards a strategic partnership – speech by External Relations Commissioner (4/7)**

Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, addressed an EU-Brazil summit held in Lisbon, Portugal. "I have come here on this special occasion of the first EU-Brazil summit with a strong message: The EU is deeply committed to developing a strategic partnership with Brazil. There is a huge potential to unlock in this relationship at the multilateral, regional and bilateral level. I also believe that by activating dialogue we will support the conclusion of an EU-Mercosur Agreement". Looking at Brazil today, we see a major trading nation and emerging global political power. Brazil is a pillar of South America's stability. It has emerged as a champion of the developing world in the UN. There is a wide range of areas on which we share views and on which we can raise the level of our co-operation".

### **European Parliament holds hearing on US missile interceptors in Europe (5/7)**

Plans by the Bush Administration to station missile interceptors and radar stations in Poland and the Czech Republic as part of its "missile shield" were discussed at a public hearing in Parliament. Both countries are EU and NATO members and any decision by them will have an impact on Europe's defence. MEPs were joined by defence experts for the hearing. At the hearing - held by Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs and Subcommittee on Security and Defence - there were sharp differences about the desirability of the missile interceptors, and the actions of Poland and the Czech Republic in agreeing to the US request.

### **European Commissions adopts proposals for reform of the wine sector (4/7)**

The European Commission adopted proposals for a wide-ranging reform of the Common Market Organisation for wine. This follows more than one year's discussion with all parties on the ideas launched in the June 2006 Communication. The proposals aim to increase the competitiveness of EU producers, win back markets, balance supply and demand, simplify the rules, preserve the best traditions of EU wine production, reinforce the social fabric of rural areas and respect the environment. More money would be spent on promoting EU wine, particularly in third country markets.

### **European Social Fund launches new website (2/7)**

The European Commission has launched a new website on the European Social Fund (ESF) – the EU's main instrument for investing in people. The launch coincides with the Fund's 50th anniversary and the start of a new seven-year funding period. The new website – available in 23 languages – includes a clickable map of where the money goes and what it pays for, as well as concrete examples of how the Fund has helped people in the job market and information on how to get involved. The ESF supports employment and helps people enhance their education and skills. From 2007-2013, the Fund will spend over EUR 10 billion a year across the EU's 27 member countries. This represents around 10% of the EU's total budget. For the new programming period, the rules for the ESF have also become simpler, more coherent and more accessible.

[ec.europa.esf](http://ec.europa.esf)

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