



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.*

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20 August – 2 September 2007

Headline News



[Commission's SA Delegation briefs local media on SADC EPA](#)

With the World Trade Organisation (WTO) waiver, granting developing countries (incl. Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland) preferential access to the European market under the Cotonou Agreement, set to expire on 31 December, there is an increased urgency for the (SADC) region to conclude a southern African Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). Such a deal will permit affected countries to retain, and significantly improve, the duty-free trade advantages currently enjoyed under the Cotonou Agreement. The Delegation has grown increasingly concerned about the [number of misconceptions](#) on EPAs that have crept into the public discourse in South Africa and corrected these during a recent editors' briefing.

See also: [SA 'not in a hurry' to sign EPA, says EU](#)

[The Future of the EU: Managing Globalisation – speech by Com B Ferrero-Waldner](#)



Addressing students at the Bucerius Summer School in Hamburg, EU Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations & European Neighbourhood Policy) noted: "The future of the EU is linked to globalisation. The EU-reforms that we just agreed will make our Union more effective and transparent. But they are also indispensable to strengthen us as a global actor. ... Managing globalisation and strengthening its rules is thus in our vital interest: Pulling up the drawbridges of a "fortress Europe" would be absurd and counterproductive: Globalisation is not a zero-sum game. We draw a massive dividend from it. A fifth of Europe's wealth depends on our openness."

See also: [European Parliament to focus on Treaty reform](#)

Other News

[EP report calls for a "High Official" to co-ordinate EU foreign policy on energy](#)

"The Energy Charter Treaty should be the cornerstone of the common European foreign policy on energy," says a report adopted by the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee on Monday. It also proposes appointing, "with the approval of the Council and the Commission, a "double-hatted" High Official of Foreign Energy Policy", who would be "responsible for co-ordinating all policies under the scope of the common European foreign policy on energy, thereby contributing to the EU's ability to protect its energy security interests in negotiating with the EU's external partners."

[Can Globalisation be a level playing field?- speech by Com P Mandelson](#)

In an address to MEDEF Summer University in Paris, France, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson noted that "globalisation is not something beyond our control, bigger than our governments. It is not something imposed on us. We can shape globalisation so that its huge positive economic benefits are shared and its negative effects are minimised. It's up to us - combining economic change with social justice - the political challenge to which I have devoted most of my adult life". Mandelson said the EU wanted to operate on a level playing field in trade matters, although he accepted that "globalisation has fundamentally changed the shape and the size of the playing field. But this means rules are more important than ever, and we do have the means to strengthen them, and enforce them".

[Upward trend in racist crimes in at least 8 EU countries](#)

Racist violence and crime "remain a serious social ill across Europe", says the 2006 report on racism and xenophobia presented by the new Fundamental Rights Agency to the European Parliament Civil Liberties Committee. The report analyses discrimination in employment, housing and education across the 27 Member States. Most EU countries have implemented the 2000 Racial Equality Directive, but the number of complaints and sanctions imposed remains low, suggesting the need to raise awareness, the report said. The report is the first to be published by the EU Agency on

Fundamental Rights, created on 1 March 2007 following the extension of the mandate of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia. **Text of the report:** http://fra.europa.eu/fra/material/pub/racism/report_racism_0807_en.pdf

[Presidency's declaration on behalf of the EU on the arrests of democracy activists in Burma/Myanmar](#)

The European Union views with concern the recent arrests by the Government of Burma/Myanmar of several leaders of the opposition, notably from the group "Generation 88", who were protesting against the sharp rise of fuel prices and the economic burdens being heaped on the Burmese people. The European Union condemns this decision to detain individuals who were exercising their basic right to peaceful demonstration.

[Greek fires: Commission reiterated its sadness and welcomed European solidarity](#)

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso expressed his sorrow at the number of lives lost in the fires and sent his condolences to the Greek authorities and to the families concerned. He thanked the Member States and other European countries that contributed fire-fighting aircraft to help extinguish the devastating fires. Com Stavros Dimas (right), whose department managed the service which co-ordinated the European assistance, said "It is a tragedy that so many lives were lost. It is also an ecological disaster of an unprecedented dimension with tens of thousands of hectares of habitats destroyed. And it will mean tremendous economic hardship for those who have lost their businesses and houses to the fires."



[Commission focuses on developing European science's human resources](#)

Activities focusing on developing European science's human resources saw a number of developments in 2006, according to a report by the European Commission. These included: more than 170 institutions signing up to the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for their recruitment; more than 1000 jobs a month on the European Researcher's Mobility Portal; a support service - ERA-MORE - answering more than 25000 questions from scientists about moving to or within the EU to carry out their research; the continued success of "European Researchers' Night" with more than 100 towns taking part in 21 countries, with 100,000 participants. "Europe needs more research" commented European Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik. "But we will never have more research without more researchers. Here at the European Commission we are working to provide services to researchers to make their lives easier, and we are trying to encourage people to consider science as a career option. I'm very pleased to see that our various initiatives are enjoying considerable success."

[Commission allocates €9.5 million in emergency aid to flood victims in India, Bangladesh and Nepal](#)

The European Commission has allocated €9.5 million in humanitarian aid to help flood victims in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. The emergency relief focuses on the distribution of food rations and the provision of drinking water, emergency shelter and healthcare, in particular to prevent outbreaks of water-borne diseases. The next step is to assist the recovery of livelihoods, damaged housing and water-sanitation facilities. The emergency funds are channelled through ECHO under the responsibility of Louis Michel, the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid.

[EU emphasises renewable energy sources](#)

Inspired by the European Commission's wide-ranging package of energy proposals issued in January 2007, the EU has set ambitious energy targets that place a new emphasis on renewable energies and that will bring renewables firmly into the economic and political mainstream. The EU intends to achieve a 20% share of renewable energies in its overall energy consumption by 2020. Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) is a clean energy that can help the EU to meet its 20% target for renewable energies and its broader energy goals.

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