



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*



20 – 26 October 2006

Headline News

[Commission proposes EU strategy for peace, security and development in Horn of Africa \(20/10/2006\)](#)

The European Commission has adopted an “EU partnership for peace, security and development in the Horn of Africa.” This strategy sets out a comprehensive approach to conflict prevention in the Horn of Africa, tackling the root causes of instability, and provides a political framework for concrete regional initiatives and for structured dialogue between partners. The Horn of Africa is one of the poorest and most conflict prone regions in the world. An uncontrolled, politically neglected, economically marginalised and environmentally damaged Horn has the potential to undermine the region and the EU broad stability and security.

[Human Security & Aid Effectiveness: EU challenges – Speech by Com B Ferrero-Waldner \(26/10/2006\)](#)

Giving a speech at the Overseas Development Institute in London, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy) said: “Some in the development and foreign policy worlds still believe there is a hard and fast distinction to be made between development and foreign policy, or foreign and domestic policy. The truth is these distinctions are losing their meaning. We are aware that improving our performance as both a donor and a political actor requires an improved level of coherence between our internal and external policies; our different policy instruments; and between the different EU institutions and member states. Not only will that make us a more effective donor, it will also better achieve our political objectives. For, as the UN’s 2005 summit recognised, development, security and human rights are inextricably interlinked and achieving progress on one means achieving progress on all. And vice versa.



Other News

[Lifelong learning’: a new education and training programme to build the Knowledge Society \(25/10/2006\)](#)

The Commission welcomes the final step in the legislation process to adopt the ‘Lifelong Learning Programme’. The European Parliament adopted the Commission’s ambitious proposals for this new action programme in the field of education and training. For the first time, a single programme will cover learning opportunities from childhood to old age. The Lifelong Learning Programme will cover the period 2007-2013, and is the successor to the current Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and eLearning programmes. It has a budget of €7 bn to support projects and activities that foster interchange, cooperation and mobility between education and training systems within the EU, so that they become a world quality reference.

[EU-China relations: Commission sets out its strategy \(24/10/2006\)](#)

The European Commission agreed on an ambitious new agenda for EU-China relations for the coming years. The new strategy seeks to respond to China’s re-emergence as a global economic and political power. The EU’s fundamental approach to China remains one of engagement and partnership. A closer strategic partnership means mutual responsibilities increase.

[Lorenzo Natali Prize for Journalists Launched \(24/10/2006\)](#)

The European Commission launched the 15th edition of the Lorenzo Natali prize for journalists writing on topics of human rights and democracy in the developing world. A total of €50000 prize money is awarded to outstanding pieces of print and online journalism in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America/Caribbean. Submissions are welcome at www.nataliprize.eu until 31 January 2007.



Consolidating 50 years of delivery. The Commission work programme for 2007 (24/10/2006)

The European Commission has today adopted its work programme for 2007. As the European Union prepares to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, the Commission has mapped out the concrete action it will take to meet its strategic objectives for 2007. For the first time, the Commission identifies a series of 21 strategic initiatives that will be the main focus of its work in 2007. In addition, the Commission sets out a further series of priority actions to be adopted over the next 12 to 18 months. The work programme takes the better regulation initiative to a new phase, by identifying simplification initiatives and withdrawals of pending legislation, and includes a list of priorities for communicating with citizens for the first time.

Europe's Next Frontiers – Speech by Com O Rehn (20/10/2006)

Presenting a lecture at the Foreign Affairs Association in Munich, Commissioner Olli Rehn (Enlargement) said: "We need a positive but practical vision for a better Europe. What, then, are the new frontiers of Europe? Let me focus on three of them. The first frontier and most urgent challenge is to rebuild confidence in the European economy. We have to improve our competitiveness and innovative capacity to enhance job creation and to raise employment rates. ... The second frontier is the political revival of Europe. Debate about how to make this revival happen should avoid false dichotomies, such as economic versus social Europe, or deepening versus widening ..."

The CAP in the European scenario – Speech by Com M Fischer Boel (20/10/2006)

Addressing the International Forum on Agriculture and Food in Cernobbio, Italy, the EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development noted: "What is going to happen to the WTO Doha Round, following its suspension in the summer?... In terms of agriculture, everyone knows that we have "defensive interests" in these negotiations; but we also have very strong offensive interests: winning greater international recognition for Geographical Indications, for example, or bringing discipline to trade-distorting domestic support in the US. The Doha Round also holds great possibilities for European Union businesses that export services or industrial goods. And it's the best means of spreading more of the gains of globalisation to those poorer countries which too often see its harsher face."

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