



European Union
Delegation of the European Commission
to South Africa

EU Perspectives

*Regular publication that seeks to provide information
on EU-related activities of interest to SA readers*



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Headline News

[Fourth edition of European Development Days](#)

European Development Days (EDD) are Europe's foremost platform for discussion and exchange on global challenges in all key areas – governance, climate change, international finance, trade, food security, water, energy, the role of the media and human and social rights. This year's EDD, in Stockholm (22-24 October), falls one month after the G-20 Leaders meeting in Pittsburgh, two weeks after the IMF-World Bank meeting in Istanbul and six weeks before the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. Against this backdrop, the 2009 edition will focus on the global response to the economic downturn and climate change, as well as on the challenges of democracy and development. Speakers this year include Fredrik Reinfeldt, Swedish Prime Minister; José-Manuel Barroso, European Commission President; IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn and leaders of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and African Development Bank.

[Statement of President Barroso and Vice President Wallström on the outcome of the Irish Referendum](#)

"My message today is very simple; Thank you Ireland: It's a great day, for Ireland and for Europe. The Irish people have spoken. They have said a resounding yes to Europe. I see the yes vote as a sign of confidence by the Irish people in the European Union, as a sign of their desire to be wholehearted members at the heart of the European Union".

[Achieving a deal on climate change: an EU view on Copenhagen Council of Foreign Relations, New York](#)

José Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission, addressed the Copenhagen Council of Foreign Relations New York on 21 September 2009. "I am delighted to be here at the Council of Foreign Relations (CFR), to discuss the vital subject of climate change with all of you. It's the right subject for the CFR because climate change is no longer the reserved province of the environmental community. It is an economic issue. It is a development issue. It is a health issue, a migration issue, an agriculture issue, a fisheries issue, an energy and transport issue. Because climate change is going to affect all these areas of our lives, and we are going to have to adapt. Indeed just recently I have announced that during the next five year term of the European Commission, we will assess how all our European policies must adapt to the realities of climate change. I also intend to create a Commissioner for Climate Action".

["Science for Africa: not a luxury, a solution!" - speech by Commissioner for Science and Research](#)

European Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, delivered a speech on the occasion of Info Day "Africa call 2010" on 18 September in Brussels. "In the developing world, where poverty and disease remain serious challenges, it will also be science, engineering and technology that will lead to sustainable wealth and wellbeing. There is no shortcut. And yet so little attention is paid to the need for highly trained scientists, engineers and doctors as a developmental priority. Not only are scientists and engineers essential for economic development, they will also help us deal with a number of challenges that we have never faced before: the sustainable use of natural resources, reversing environmental degradation, defeating pandemics and tackling climate change. These are challenges that we now understand better thanks to research; and it is research that will provide the answers".

Other News

[Karel De Gucht signs €165 million regional programme for Central Africa](#)

Karel De Gucht, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, signed a €165m Regional Strategy Paper/Regional Indicative Programme (RSP/RIP) for Central Africa. Central Africa was represented by Antoine Ntsimi,

President of the Commission of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CAEMC) and Louis Sylvain-Goma, Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The programme will help support regional and economic integration in this part of Africa. Commissioner De Gucht commented: "I am pleased to sign this programme, which puts Central Africa on our agenda. It is of crucial importance to the future of this region, which is still very vulnerable politically and economically. Regional-level economic integration, peace and security and cooperation on the integrated management of forest resources are the key components which will give the partner countries access to aid in areas where they are not necessarily getting any at national level".

[EIB declares strong support for the ACP countries at the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' meeting in Cyprus](#)

Addressing the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' meeting in Limassol, Cyprus, EIB Vice-President Plutarchos Sakellaris said: "This meeting brings together almost one-third of the world's Finance Ministers. African, Caribbean and Pacific countries represent the vast majority of the Commonwealth states. With the crisis hitting these countries later than most advanced economies, there is scope for the EIB to step up its support in the coming months." Mr Harilaos Stavrakis, Minister of Finance of Cyprus, host and Chairman of the meeting, said: "We are experiencing one of the worst ever global economic crises and we are faced with the challenge of recovery and sustainable growth. This challenge requires action not only on a national level, but also concerted and coordinated action on an international level. The EIB can support this action in a concrete way." On the fringes of the meeting, Mr Sakellaris held a number of bilateral discussions with the Finance Ministers of Barbados, Malawi, Mauritius and Zambia, aimed at strengthening cooperation.

[Volunteering: Ubuntu Winners announced](#)

The Winners of the Ubuntu International Voluntary Service Award 2009, an award for quality in youth voluntary service, were awarded prizes to increase their capacity to run quality voluntary service projects, at the official Ubuntu Awards ceremony which took place at the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg. Based on the African concept that human beings are linked to each other and depend on each other, the Ubuntu International Voluntary Service Award 2009 is run by a partnership of 10 organisations from Africa and Europe and it is supported by the European Commission under the 'Youth in Action' programme. The Ubuntu Award has been a means of stressing the role that international youth voluntary service plays in building solidarity and increasing cooperation between people and civil society organisations in the 'north' and 'south'.

The winners are as follows:

Durbanville Children 's Home – South Africa;
African information Movement (AIM.) – Ghana;
Sports and Youth – Togo;
Taita Foundation – Kenya (Special Prize for Sustainability).

[European Union deploys Election Observation Mission to Mozambique](#)

The European Commission has deployed an EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) for the next Presidential, National and Provincial Assemblies elections in the Republic of Mozambique, scheduled to take place on 28 October 2008. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, said: " I am pleased that we have been able to deploy an EU EOM to Mozambique for the third time. These general and provincial elections are crucial for the consolidation of the democratisation process in the Republic of Mozambique. . It is essential that these elections are conducted in a credible and transparent manner and in accordance with international and regional standards. I firmly believe that through the EOM, the EU can greatly contribute to enhancing confidence at all stages of the election process." Karel De Gucht, Commissioner for Development stated: " The commitment of the Government of Mozambique to good governance is one of the main pillars of our long term cooperation and partnership. As in the past, we are following these elections closely and hope that they will further reinforce the democratic process by upholding the principles of freedom, justice and inclusiveness".

[40 international film cooperation projects benefit from EU support of €5 million](#)

The European Commission announced funding of €5m for 2009 to strengthen cultural and commercial relations between Europe's film industry and film-makers of third countries. The EU funding will enable European film makers, animators and other audiovisual professionals to learn new skills, and promote the industry, by cooperating with professionals outside Europe, and vice-versa. 40 projects will benefit from EU funding. The funding takes place under MEDIA International, an initiative for EU funding of international film cooperation started in 2008. "Europe has an exciting, culturally diverse and innovative film sector which is eager to share its knowledge with audiovisual professionals from other parts of the world and at the same time to learn from them, taking into account other cultural backgrounds and experiences" said Viviane Reding, EU Media Commissioner.

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media/overview/international/projects/index_en.htm

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