



**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.*



## 21 – 27 April 2006

### Headline News

#### [EU Police Mission in Kinshasa, DRC - EUPOL Kinshasa \(25/04/2006\)](#)

The Council has adopted - by written procedure - a Joint Action amending and extending Joint Action 2004/847/CFSP on the European Union Police Mission in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo) regarding the Integrated Police Unit (EUPOL "KINSHASA"). Under the new Joint Action, the police mission EUPOL Kinshasa will be reinforced temporarily for a duration of up to five months covering the electoral period.

See also: [EU military operation in support of the MONUC during the election process in DR Congo \(27/04/2006\)](#)

#### [Ambition & Realism: Europe's Approach to the Doha Round – Speech by Com P Mandelson \(21/04/2006\)](#)



In this speech delivered in Helsinki EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson set out his views on the way ahead in the Doha Development Round and called for an effort from all sides to achieve agreement. He emphasised the need for a balance of ambition and realism, and a redoubling of efforts to complete the Round this year. "My starting point, as always, is that for Doha to succeed we need balanced ambition in all areas of the negotiation and a proportionate contribution from all players in the talks. We need a Round that unlocks the door to development across the full range of economic activity – agriculture, goods and services".

### Other News

#### [Aid suspension to Palestinian Authority government – Speech by Com B Ferrero-Waldner \(26/04/2006\)](#)

Addressing the European Parliament Plenary in Brussels, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy), said: "The election victory of Hamas in January presented the EU with an entirely new situation. We supported the Palestinian elections and respect their outcome. But the heart of the matter is the emergence of a Palestinian Authority whose government is led by members of an organisation included in the EU terrorist list and that continues, to this day, to attempt to justify suicide bombings in Israel. ... I am the first to regret that the new government has so far refused to renounce violence, recognise the right of Israel to exist or accept existing agreements."

#### [EIB takes USD 4.2 million participation in Mauritanian Bank \(26/04/2006\)](#)

The European Investment Bank is taking a 25% equity participation in Banque Internationale d'Investissement (BII) in Mauritania. EIB will provide capital alongside Ballouhey S.A., a French commodity trading company that has assumed a prominent position in the country.

#### [Presidency declaration on behalf of the EU on the press incident in Burundi \(25/04/2006\)](#)

On 17/04/2006, the journalists attending a press conference given by Mr Basabose were detained for several hours by the Burundi national police and intelligence services. The European Union notes with disquiet this attempt on 17/04/2006 by members of the police and the national intelligence agency to intimidate the Burundi press. The EU welcomes the firm and rapid response of the Burundi Government, which deplored the incident and stated that it in no way represented its policy in this area. The EU values the climate of freedom enjoyed by the press in Burundi and regards it as one of the positive points in the country's political development.

#### [Is Europe in need of a vision? – Speech by Com L Michel \(25/04/2006\)](#)

Opening the recent EUR-IFRI's Tuesday Debate in Brussels, the Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, observed: "We are all aware that Europe is going through a crisis of political legitimacy. The French and Dutch referenda on the Constitutional Treaty are only the symptoms. In June, the European Council will have to review the situation following the period of reflection ushered in last year in the wake of the referenda. That period is almost up, and we are still all waiting for the reflection. The Austrian Presidency has therefore invited the Commission to present its ideas for the debate by the Heads of State and Government. ..."



### **Com Michel to promote greater coordination between donors at World Bank & IMF meetings (21/04/2006)**

The Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, will meet with Finance and Development Ministers from around the world at the Development Committee of the World Bank and IMF on 23/04/2006. He will stress the importance of donors working together in order to realise the aid promises made in 2005. This year's Spring meetings will focus on good governance, debt relief and clean energy.

See also: [Collaboration between the European Commission and the World Bank \(21/04/2006\)](#)

### **Commission allocates €1.5 mil for emergency response to cholera outbreaks in Angola (21/04/2006)**

The European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, has proposed €1.5 million to support an emergency response to cholera outbreaks in various provinces of Angola, which have caused more than 550 deaths in the last two months. Extremely heavy rains over much of southern Africa since January, compounded by poverty, lack of basic sanitation facilities and low hygiene standards have resulted in outbreaks of cholera in suburban areas of several cities.

### **Commission actions since the Chernobyl Disaster (21/04/2006)**

The 26/04/2006 will mark the 20th anniversary of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl. Since then, the European Commission has allocated over €470 million to Chernobyl-related projects. This assistance has supported safety improvements at Chernobyl, and provided help to people whose lives are still affected by the accident. The Commission has supported projects which address the social, health and environmental consequences of the disaster. Over and above the aid provided specifically to cope with the aftermath of Chernobyl, the Commission has also made a major contribution to the improvement of nuclear safety across the countries of the former Soviet Union.

### **Outcomes of Council Meetings – April 2006**

[2722nd Council Meeting - General Affairs \(10/04/2006\)](#)

[2723rd Council Meeting - External Relations \(10-11/04/2006\)](#)

[2724th Council Meeting - Agriculture and Fisheries \(25/04/2006\)](#)

[2725th Council Meeting- Justice and Home Affairs \(27-28/04/2006\)](#)

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