



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 January 2005

Headline News

'Release Europe's enormous untapped potential' says President Barroso (26/01/2005)

Speaking to the European Parliament in Brussels, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso set out his vision for the strategic objectives for the European Union until 2010. The aim is to deliver Prosperity, Solidarity and Security for all Europeans. For the first time, the European Commission proposes a joint programme of strategic objectives in partnership with the European Parliament and Council. The Commission believes it is important that the European institutions share the ownership of their priorities and work together to achieve the Union's key objectives from the outset. The Commission also adopted a work programme for 2005 which includes a first series of concrete initiatives to turn the Strategic Objectives into action. See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/96&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Presentation of the five year strategy and 2005 legislative and work programme (26/01/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/43&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

WTO Director-General selection process 2005: Statement by Candidate Pascal Lamy (26/01/2005)



In his statement to the WTO General Council, the former EU Trade Commissioner focused on the role of trade in serving growth and development, the role of the WTO in pursuing this new agenda, and the role of the Director General and of the Secretariat in serving the WTO.

See: http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/dg_e/stat_lamy_e.htm & http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/dg_e/bio_lamy_e.htm

Commission consults stakeholders on the future of EU development policy (25/01/2005)

The European Commission is seeking views from a wide range of stakeholders on the most important issues that should inform the revision of the current European Community development policy. A new policy proposal will be made in the first half of 2005, aimed at providing a vision for long term reflection and positioning of the Union in the international development debate, as well as a framework to guide the implementation of EU development assistance. The Commission is therefore launching an internet consultation in order to reach the widest possible range of development partners. The consultation will run until 2 March 2005 with results to be published by April 2005.



See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/91&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Other News

Revised EU requests in services negotiations under the WTOs Doha Development Agenda (25/01/2005)

The presentation of revised requests for improved market access by the EU gives an important boost to the DDA by providing focused and targeted information to assist the EU's WTO partners in the preparation of their revised offers for May. Those requests will be discussed bilaterally in Geneva during February. By taking this step, the EU confirms its ambitions for the Round: seeking to reduce restrictions and expand market access opportunities for European services providers and, at the same time, through increased competition bring lower prices and more choice to consumers and business in third country markets. Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said: "... All WTO members have an important stake in these negotiations, particularly developing countries. The revised EU requests make clear the scope of EU ambition for a successful round. Our trading partners should be equally ambitious."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/92&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

European Investment Bank to open three regional offices in Africa in early 2005

Three regional EIB representative offices will be opened shortly by the European Investment Bank in sub-Saharan Africa to support its development financing on the continent, especially within the framework of the Investment Facility set up under the Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the ACP - African, Caribbean and Pacific - states. The three offices will be in Dakar, Senegal, for Western Africa; Nairobi, Kenya, for East and Central Africa; and in Pretoria, South Africa, for the Southern Africa region and Indian Ocean. EIB regional offices will be at the service of the business community in Africa. Potential investors will have a point of contact/advice on European Investment Bank financing in Africa.

See: <http://www.eib.org/news/press/press.asp?Press=2887®ion=-1§or=-1&eligibility=-1&years=-1&months=-1&categories=-1&country=-1>

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EC and Sudanese authorities sign the Country Strategy Paper to resume co-operation (25/01/2005)

Following the signature of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of the Sudan and the SPLM/A in Nairobi on 09/01/2005, the European Commission and the Government of the Sudan have finalised the Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for their cooperation. This document includes the National Indicative Programme.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/94&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

The Commission outlines its support to ACP Sugar Protocol countries (24/01/2005)

Meeting with ministers of ACP sugar exporting countries, the Commission presented its "action plan", aimed at mitigating potential impacts of the EU sugar reform and at accompanying the adjustment process in ACP countries signatories of the Sugar Protocol. Several ACP economies are significantly dependent on sugar exports to the EU and may experience, following the EU sugar reform, a certain disruption of their sugar sector, with consequences on their socio-economic development. The Commission proposes a partnership to support them in meeting this challenge, by means of a set of trade and development measures.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/85&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

See also: **Outcome of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council (24/01/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/21&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

EU Action to Halt the Loss of Biodiversity – Speech by Stavros Dimas (24/01/2005)

In an address to the International Conference on "Biodiversity, Science and Governance" in Paris, EU Commissioner for the Environment, Stavros Dimas, made the following statements: "As the European Commissioner for the Environment, I welcome the growing recognition given to ... climate change. This is the result of a clear lead from the scientific community: demonstrating the existence of the problem, identifying its causes, and proposing actions to address it. The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is at least of equal importance for the future of our planet. But - unfortunately - it has still to attract the same level of concern and action."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/31&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Africa: European Commission adopts humanitarian packages worth more than €80 million (21/01/2005)

The European Commission has adopted a series of humanitarian packages for the victims of protracted crises in Africa. Projects in Coastal West Africa, Uganda, Burundi, and Tanzania will be implemented by humanitarian agencies operating in the target regions. Louis Michel, Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid said: "It is essential that public aid for new needs resulting from the Asian Tsunami is not taken from existing crises which have fallen out of the spotlight. The forgotten crises of Africa need our continued support. ... the EC's humanitarian funding is allocated where needs are greatest." See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/82&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Ahead:

- **31/01-03/02/2005 – EU Inter-parliamentary visit to South Africa**
- **31/01/2005 – Launch of the Civil Society Advocacy Programme, Constitution Hill, Johannesburg**
- **02/02/2005 – Launch of the national Legislatures Support Programme, Parliament, Cape Town**
- **02/02/2005 – EU Literary Award, hosted by the EU Presidency, Johannesburg**

See: <http://www.dutchembassy.co.za/cgi-bin/news.pl?lang=EN&itm=5>

- **12-20/02/2005 - Earth & Space Week 2005, Brussels**

See: http://europa.eu.int/comm/space/esw/index_en.htm

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European Commission call for new Jean Monnet projects

The European Commission's Jean Monnet Action has launched a new call for proposals for **teaching and research projects in the field of European integration studies**, organised by University-level institutions.

The Jean Monnet Action provides financial support for:

- *Jean Monnet Chairs and Jean Monnet Chairs « ad personam »* (i.e. full-time teaching posts, entirely devoted to the study of European integration);
- *Jean Monnet Modules* (i.e. courses on European integration of minimum 30 teaching hours);
- *Jean Monnet European Centres of Excellence* (i.e. pluridisciplinary structures pooling scientific, human and documentary resources for European integration studies and research within one or more Universities);
- *Jean Monnet Transnational Research Groups* (i.e. joint research projects between at least three Jean Monnet Chairs, Centres of Excellence and /or national European Community/Union Studies Associations of at least three different countries);
- *European Community/Union Studies Associations* (i.e. national associations of professors and researchers specialised in European integration);
- *Conferences, seminars, publications* in the field of European integration studies;
- *Young researchers* wishing to spend research time in another country.

The formal deadline for the submission of applications is **31 March 2005**. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their application well before this deadline.

Application requirements/forms at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/ajm/call_en.html.