



**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 October 2005**



**Headline News**

**EIB opens regional representation for Southern Africa (24/10/2005)**



The offices for the European Investment Bank Regional Representation for Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean in Tshwane (Pretoria) were officially inaugurated by Dr Tomaz Salomão, Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and European Investment Bank's Vice President Mr. Torsten Gersfelt. This representation office, the third to be opened by the EIB in sub-Saharan Africa, is to play a key role in the EIB's commitment to build closer ties with its customers and expand operations in the Southern African region. Vice Pres Gersfelt said: "The new Representation Offices underline the EIB's commitment for support to Africa under the Cotonou Agreement and for South Africa under the special mandate of the Bank."

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=BEI/05/98&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**European scientists develop H7N1 avian flu vaccine (27/10/2005)**

Supported by the EU Research Framework Programme, influenza experts from the UK, Italy and Norway, working with vaccine researchers from Sanofi Pasteur in France, have developed the first human candidate vaccine for the H7N1 virus. Following this research breakthrough, it is planned that this new vaccine, called 'RD-3', will go into clinical trials in Spring 2006. Most vaccine development has centred on H5N1 thus far, which is the highly pathogenic form of the avian influenza ("bird flu") dominating the news at present. However, a report from the FLUPAN research project in last week's Journal of Infectious Disease (JID) notes that also the H7 virus can spread from poultry to humans.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1354&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Avian influenza: EU bans imports of captive live birds from third countries (25/10/2005)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1351&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**Main results of the Informal Development Council in Leeds, 24-25 October (26/10/2005)**

EU Development ministers gave a warm welcome to the Commission's proposal for a EU Strategy for Africa, which could be approved in November by the GAERC Council. The ministers also agreed on the need to update the EU Development Policy Statement, although further discussions will be necessary to identify ways to improve coordination and efficiency of the European Development aid, as suggested by Commissioner Louis Michel last July.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/399&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Doha for Development – Speech by Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson (24/10/2005)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/639&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**Other News**

**How Europe can benefit from Increased Globalisation of R&D - Speech by Com J Potočník (27/10/2005)**

Addressing the Royal Technology Forum (Stockholm) Commissioner Janez Potočník (Science and Research) noted: "Let me be clear, globalisation is not an option today, but a reality. This means that Europe has to be a strong partner and player on the international scene. Many view globalisation as a threat but I'm sure that you, like me, prefer to see it as an opportunity."

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/645&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Europe needs a wake-up call - Speech by Com J Potočník (21/10/2005)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/633&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**Life Sciences and Biotechnology – A strategy for Europe (21/10/2005)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/389&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



If you published an article on the defence of **human rights or democracy in the developing world** between 01/01/2004 and 31/08/2005 you may be eligible to compete for the **Lorenzo Natali Prize** for journalists given by the European Commission.

See: <http://www.nataliprize.info/index.php>

### **Court of Justice upholds the name 'feta' as a protected designation of origin for Greece (25/10/2005)**

In 2002, the Commission registered the name 'feta' as a protected designation of origin (PDO) for a white cheese soaked in brine, originating in Greece. Thus, the name enjoys Community-wide protection as it is reserved exclusively for cheese originating in Greece. ...The European Court of Justice found that Germany and Denmark, which, supported by France and the United Kingdom, applied for annulment of the registration of 'feta' as a PDO for Greece, had not shown that this assessment by the Commission was incorrect.

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

### **Unlocking Europe's full potential: Pres JM Barroso presents the EC's 2006 work programme (25/10/2005)**

The European Commission adopted its work programme for 2006, setting out its key priorities for the next year. The Commission Legislative and Work Programme (hereafter "Work Programme") for 2006 takes full account of current economic and political trends and where Europe stands on several key strategic dossiers. Progress in these areas will have a key impact on the ability of the European Union to take a real stride towards its goals in 2006.



See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1347&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Better regulation continued: Commission wants to simplify over 1,400 legal acts (25/10/2005)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1343&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **London Tripartite Summit to discuss social partners' contribution to the future of the EU (24/10/2005)**

EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso and UK Prime Minister Tony Blair asked the European social partners (employer and trade union organisations) what economic and social reforms they advocated to adapt to globalisation and sustain Europe's social model. The meeting was the social partners' final opportunity to provide input into the Heads of Government Summit on the future of the EU's economic and social model, held at Hampton Court, UK on 27/10/2005.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1337&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Pakistan earthquake: Commission proposes €93.6 million aid package (24/10/2005)**

The European Commission is proposing that an additional amount of at least €80 million be made available to address the immediate needs of survivors of the earthquake in Pakistan on 8th October (€30 million), and to contribute to the costs of rehabilitation and reconstruction (€50 million). This is in addition to the €13.6 million emergency humanitarian aid already released, bringing the total proposed for 2005/6 to €93.6 million (\$111.7 million). The very substantial sum proposed underlines the European Commission's commitment to Pakistan and to its people.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1332&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Climate change: start of the second European Climate Change Programme (21/10/2005)**

Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas launched the second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) at a stakeholder conference in Brussels. In view of the magnitude of the climate change threat, ECCP II will focus on new cost-effective measures and technologies that will allow the EU to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in the coming years.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1330&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Developing the European Climate Change Programme – Speech by Com S Dimas (24/10/2005)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/635&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **European Union biggest donor for Iraq's elections and referendum (21/10/2005)**

The European Commission will provide €30 million for the preparation of forthcoming elections in Iraq bringing the total made available from the Community Budget for Iraq's historic votes in 2005 to €80 million. This makes the Commission the major international donor to the elections and constitutional referendum, which are the milestones of the current political transition.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1323&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Adoption of a Unesco Convention on Cultural Diversity (20/10/2005)**

The Unesco General Conference adopted the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which was negotiated jointly by the European Commission, on behalf of the Community, and the Council Presidency, on behalf of the Member States. The Convention is the first of its kind in international relations, as it enshrines a consensus that the international community has never before reached on a variety of guiding principles and concepts related to cultural diversity. This text forms the basis of a new pillar of world governance in cultural matters.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/387&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **From peace-building to state-building – Speech by Com O Rehn (20/10/2005)**

Addressing the Conference "Ten Years of Dayton and Beyond", Mr Olli Rehn (EU Commissioner for Enlargement), said: "In November 1995 the Dayton Peace Accords brought the end to a war which left 250.000 dead and over two million people homeless. The Dayton Agreement ended three years of fighting in Bosnia, thus stopping the worst war in Europe since the II World War. Today, the prospect of hostilities is remote. Over a million of refugees and displaced persons have returned to their homes. The physical infrastructure has largely been reconstructed. The elections are now run entirely by Bosnia and Herzegovina and they have been conducted fairly and peacefully. Since last year, a number of war criminals have been sent to The Hague. These are all important achievements.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/629&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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