



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*



22 – 28 September 2006

Headline News

[The European Union: A global power? – Speech by Com B Ferrero-Waldner \(25/09/2006\)](#)

Having covered the EU's involvement in key international issues of the day at a lecture hosted by the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation and Texas A&M University EU Center of Excellence, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy), concluded: "Our 2004 "big bang" enlargement was a tremendous step towards bringing the historic division of Europe to an end. It has also been our most successful foreign policy achievement in spreading democracy, peace and prosperity beyond our borders. ... I hope I have convinced you that Europe is very much alive and well! And that rather than sinking into obscurity we are rising to the challenges we face and equipping ourselves for the 21st century world order. The Europe of 2006 is a dynamic, prosperous place of disappearing borders, more mobility and still greater diversity."



[Presidency declaration on behalf of the EU on suppression of demonstrations in Zimbabwe \(22/09/2006\)](#)

On 13/09/2006 the Zimbabwe Council of Trade Unions (ZCTU) organised a demonstration to express concerns about the situation workers face in Zimbabwe. The Government of Zimbabwe responded by arresting the President and the Secretary General of the ZCTU. In addition, the government undertook countrywide arrests of individuals who had planned to participate in these demonstrations. Considerable violence leading to serious injuries was used in many cases, including while the individuals were under arrest.

Other News

[European Commission and Commission of the African Union to meet in Addis Ababa \(28/09/2006\)](#)



The European Commission and the Commission of the African Union will meet for a joint working session at the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 02/10/2006. The European Commission will thus hold its first ever meeting on another continent, travelling to Ethiopia with no less than 10 Commissioners including President José Manuel Barroso.

[Commission proposes increased protection for vulnerable deep-sea fish stocks \(28/09/2006\)](#)

The European Commission adopted a proposal on Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for deep-sea fish stocks such as sharks, black scabbardfish, tusk and forkbeards for 2007-2008. These species, which grow slowly and reproduce late, are particularly vulnerable to over-fishing. According to scientists, these stocks are being fished unsustainably. Due to the high risk of collapse of the deep sea ecosystems, the EC proposes significant reductions in TACs for the most threatened stocks. See also: [Deep-sea species – proposed TACs and quotas for 2007 - Questions and answers \(28/09/2006\)](#)

Recent Publications



[European Consensus on Development](#)



[European Union Strategy for Africa](#)



[Acting together: a common commitment to the global environment](#)

[Smart cars: Public-private drive to promote accident-avoidance technologies \(28/09/2006\)](#)

A major new drive for improving awareness of intelligent vehicle systems and their road safety benefits was announced today. This new platform to promote awareness brings together stakeholders from the public sector, automotive suppliers and users. "We have for a long time emphasised the importance of user awareness in the take-up of the new car safety technologies," said Viviane Reding, Member of the European Commission, responsible for Information Society and Media. "Now we have concrete evidence that users' knowledge of new technologies needs improving. This is why I welcome the launch today of this new platform for promoting user awareness."

[Commission confirms Bulgaria's and Romania's EU accession on 01/01/2007 \(26/10/2006\)](#)

Today the Commission adopted its final monitoring report on the preparedness of Bulgaria and Romania for EU membership. Based on the solid progress achieved, the Commission considers that both countries will be in a position to take on the rights and obligations of EU membership on 1 January 2007. To address the limited number of areas where further work will be necessary, the Commission proposes a package of rigorous accompanying measures.

See also: [Presentation of Bulgaria & Romania accession report – Speech by Pres JM Barroso \(26/09/2006\)](#)

[Key findings of the monitoring report on Bulgaria's preparedness for EU accession \(26/09/2006\)](#)

[Key findings of the monitoring report on Romania's preparedness for EU accession \(26/09/2006\)](#)

[Accompanying measures in the context of Bulgaria's and Romania's accession \(26/09/2006\)](#)

[40,000 Palestinian families to benefit from EU social allowances at the start of Ramadan \(25/10/2006\)](#)

The Commission, through the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM), has started the payment of social allowances to 40,000 of the neediest Palestinian families. This comes on top of allowances already paid to health workers, those who have suffered a sudden drop in income and pensioners. Families have been identified from those normally supported through the social welfare scheme of the Palestinian Authority and will receive €270 each. No regular payments have been made to the families in the scheme since February 2006 due to ongoing financial crisis. The Middle East Quartet (EU, US, UN and Russia) last week supported an extension of the TIM for a three month period and an expansion of its scope.

[Monetary and Economic Integration: the EU Experience – Speech by Com J Almunia \(22/09/2006\)](#)



Addressing his audience at the Singapore Management University, European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs, Joaquín Almunia, noted: "Europe adopted a monetary union when it was recognised that the full benefits of free movement of goods, services, people and capital would not be realised without eliminating the exchange-rate uncertainty and transaction costs of different currencies. A fully-fledged economic and monetary union like EMU requires a high degree of policy co-ordination in macro and microeconomic policies. ... Moreover, single policies or strong forms of co-ordination are needed for trade and common market policies."

[Reinforcing economic cooperation with Mediterranean partner countries \(22/09/2006\)](#)

The 6th Conference of Industry Ministers of the EU and Mediterranean partner countries took place in Rhodes and focused on the theme "EU and Mediterranean Enterprises facing the challenges of globalisation". Industry Ministers explored how to take advantage of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) to foster economic integration and tackle globalisation. They agreed on deepening economic co-operation in particular in four areas: economic integration and market access, competitiveness and SMEs, innovation and investment.

See also: [The Challenge of Textiles in Globalisation – Speech by Vice-Pres G Verheugen \(22/09/2006\)](#)

[EESC Biennial Conference on Living Europe \(18-19/09/2006\)](#)

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) brought together a galaxy of thinkers, writers, politicians and administrators to consider the question of 'living Europe: a challenge for civil society'. The Biennial Conference was addressed by Jacques Delors, former President of the European Commission. He addressed the question of the balance between society and the individual in a century of public opinion and the 'Macdonaldisation of the media'. He asked the rhetorical question as to how to 'make society'. He proposed three themes; learning to live with others; making communities and a sense of belonging a reality, and recognising the full potential of all individuals. He greeted the EESC's ongoing work as a wake-up call for civil society.

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