



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.

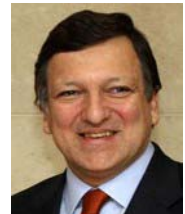


22 – 28 April 2005

Headline News

President proposes framework to “lock-in” culture of fundamental rights in EU legislation (27/04/2005)

The European Commission has adopted a new mechanism to ensure that all Commission legislative proposals are systematically and rigorously checked for compatibility with the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The new mechanism is based on a process of systematic screening of legislation from the earliest preparatory work through to inter-service consultation. The other key instruments consist of: impact assessments on the effect of legislation on individual rights; and an examination of the legal reasoning for legislation - with an assessment of its effects on fundamental human rights. The new Commissioners Group on Fundamental Rights, Anti-discrimination and Equal Opportunities will ensure that the results of these examinations are taken into account throughout the legislative process.



See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/494&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Com Michel assures Pres Kagame of EU support for process of reconciliation in Rwanda (27/04/2005)

The European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, has assured the Rwandan President, Paul Kagame, of the EC's support for any steps taken to reinsert the ex-FAR / Interahamwe militia operating in the eastern DRC. Mr Michel reiterated the Commission's support for "the reconstruction of Rwanda on non-ethnic lines thanks to a process of reconciliation that delivers justice to the victims of genocide and a stable and pluralist democracy where fundamental rights are upheld.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/496&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Other News

EU-SADC EPA Negotiations Senior Officials Meeting in Gaborone (28/04/2005)

Representatives from the European Commission (EC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries met on 28th April 2005. The SADC delegation was led by Mrs. B. Molosiwa, Permanent Secretary at the Botswana Ministry of Trade and Industry and the EC Delegation by Mr. K-F. Falkenberg, Director at the European Commission's Directorate General for Trade. The meeting took place in the framework of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations. The discussions focused on Regional Integration issues, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS). See: http://www.eusa.org.za/PDFdownload/FranksPDF/PressRelease_EU_SADC_EPA_April_2005.pdf

Avian Influenza: Commission proposes updated measures aimed at preventing epidemics (28/04/2005)

The European Commission adopted a proposal for a Directive establishing updated EU-level measures on the control of avian influenza. Controlling past avian influenza outbreaks has proven very costly and created animal welfare issues related to the mass slaughter of animals. Added to this, there is growing concern about the potential human health implications if a strain of avian influenza would mutate into a virus that is transmissible between humans. The updated measures proposed are based on lessons learned from recent epidemics and new scientific knowledge.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/501&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Questions and Answers on Avian Influenza (28/04/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/142&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



Photographers: Karin Gardes

Commissioner Louis Michel and Minister Trevor Manuel, Chairman of the Development Committee (Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries), Washington DC

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/commission_barroso/michel/speeches/DCS2005-0023-EC_en.pdf#zoom=100

EC strengthens support to confront HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis outside the EU (27/04/2005)

The European Commission has adopted a Programme for Action to strengthen Europe's support to confront HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis outside the EU's borders. It proposes a menu of concrete actions to address the dramatic situation, with over 6 million affected people dying every year. The initiative follows the promise made by Commissioner Louis Michel (Development and Humanitarian Aid) to do better, do more and deliver more quickly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Commissioner Michel stressed: "HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB are the main killer-diseases in many countries of sub-Saharan Africa and Asia and are also a major obstacle for development."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/493&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

More aid on the way for Tsunami victims (27/04/2005)

In January 2005 Commission President Barroso assured €473 million for 2005 and 2006 to help countries affected by the Tsunami. In order to deliver on this commitment the Commission has proposed €98 million in an amending budget and €180 million in the proposed budget for 2006. The €278 million is meant to help the reconstruction of Asian Tsunami affected regions. After adoption of the proposed budget amendments Dalia Grybauskaitė, Commissioner for Financial Programming and Budget, declared: "This shows that the Commission lives up to its earlier promises to the regions hit by the terrible disaster".

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/490&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



Mergers: Commission approves acquisition of WMC Resources by BHP Billiton (26/04/2005)

The EC has cleared, under the EU Merger Regulation, the public bid by the Australian international resources company BHP Billiton (BHP) for all the shares in the Australian company WMC Resources (WMC), a company active in the nickel, copper-uranium and fertiliser sectors.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/486&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Mergers: Sasol and Total abort petroleum-based wax joint venture and withdraw notification (25/04/2005)

The European Commission has acknowledged the withdrawal by Sasol Wax International AG (of Germany) and Total S.A (of France) of their notification of a proposed joint venture in the field of petroleum-based waxes. The proposed joint venture was notified to the Commission on 17/02/2005 for clearance under the EU Merger Regulation.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/478&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Commission provides further €1.5 million to help tackle Marburg outbreak in Angola (25/04/2005)

The European Commission has approved a second emergency decision in response to the Marburg epidemic in northern Angola. The outbreak of this rare viral haemorrhagic fever has by now become the worst ever recorded of the disease. It is also the first time that cases have been diagnosed in an urban environment. There is unfortunately no specific treatment for Marburg, but supportive hospital therapy and barrier nursing techniques to prevent direct contact with the patient must be provided. See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/475&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Progress on the EU Water Initiative – Speech by Stavros Dimas (21/04/2005)

Speaking in New-York, EU Environmental Commissioner Stavros Dimas said: "We all know that water is central to sustainable development: solving water problems means progress across all pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. It is crucial to achieve all the Millennium Development Goals. No strategy for the reduction of poverty can ignore people's vital requirements for water and sanitation. ..."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/252&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Conclusion of the 61st session of the Commission on Human Rights (14-22/03/2005)

The countries of the European Union are determined to play a major role within the Commission on Human Rights (CHR); they submitted and co-sponsored - either as a Union or nationally - around fifty of the 103 resolutions and decisions adopted.

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

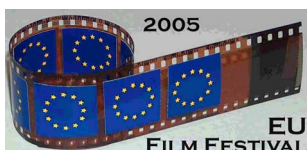
Ahead:

- **25-29/04/2005 - The 5th International Conference on Isotopes (ICI), Brussels**

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/139&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

-  **28/04/2005 – Visit of Javier Solana, Secretary-General & High Representative for the Common Foreign & Security Policy of the EU, to South Africa.**

See: http://www.eusa.org.za/PDFdownload/FranksPDF/PressRelease_Solana_visit_April_2005.pdf



Cinema Nouveau and the Embassies/High Commissions of the Member States of the European Union in Pretoria are proud to present the **2005 European Union Film Festival**. The film festival starts at Brooklyn Mall from 6-13 May and will continue at Rosebank Mall (Johannesburg), Cavendish Square in Cape Town and at Gateway centre in Durban. **Entrance is free.** See: <http://www.eusa.org.za/PDFdownload/Film%20Festival%202005.pdf>

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