



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*



25 Aug – 14 Sept 2006

Headline News

[Governance at the heart of development cooperation \(30/08/2006\)](#)

The European Commission adopted a communication that proposes enhancing the means used to support governance and calls on the Member States to harmonise their work in this area. It advocates supporting the development of democratic institutions and processes more adapted to the needs of ordinary citizens, even the most marginalised, in the political, economic, social, cultural or environmental field. Poverty reduction, sustainable development and peace can be achieved only if significant progress is made towards democratic governance. The most important features of the proposed measures to encourage developing countries to step up their reform efforts are enhanced political dialogue, a common approach and a higher level of more effective assistance. An incentive envelope of €3 bn has been set aside for this purpose for the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

Other News



[Finnish Presidency launches 2006 EU Film Festival in Pretoria \(14/09/2006\)](#)

Finland's Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Heikki Tuunanen (left), launched the 2006 European Union Film Festival in Pretoria. The film festival offers FREE entry to a selection of 14 European films, a number of which are very recent productions. The festival will run in Pretoria (15-21/09, *Cinema Nouveau Brooklyn*) before moving on to Johannesburg (22-28/09, *Cinema Nouveau Rosebank*), then to Cape Town (29/09-05/10, *Cinema Nouveau Cavendish Square*) and ends in Durban (06-12/10, *Cinema Nouveau Gateway*). A full schedule of screenings accompanies this review.

[Memorandum of Understanding signed in Algiers \(14/09/2006\)](#)

A European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) delegation headed by President Anne-Marie Sigmund travelled to Algiers on 07/09/2006 to attend a conference organised jointly by the EESC and the Union of African Economic and Social Councils (UAESC) on Governance and regional integration. A memorandum of understanding between the two organisations was signed at the end of the conference.

[EU to deploy Election Observation Mission to Mauritania \(13/09/2006\)](#)

Following an invitation from the Government of Mauritania, the European Commission has decided to deploy an EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) to Mauritania for the Legislative and Municipal elections scheduled to take place on 19 and 26 November 2006. The EU EOM will be led by French Member of the European Parliament, Marie-Anne Isler-Beguín, who will serve as Chief Election Observer.

[Does Europe really mean business? – Speech by Pres JM Barroso \(12/09/2006\)](#)

Addressing the Financial Times Debate in Brussels, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso stated: "As Europeans, the EU is the best vehicle we have to shape globalisation and become effective actors on the world stage; to maintain and project our values and our way of life. That is why we must continue to adapt our instruments and methods. In doing so, we must ensure the EU's priorities match citizens' expectations and needs. This is what I mean by a 'Europe of results'. The key is delivery. Europeans want less bureaucracy, but they also want more Europe. ..."

[Conflict Prevention: looking to the future – Speech by Com B Ferrero-Waldner \(12/09/2006\)](#)

Taking part in the Conflict Prevention Partnership dialogue, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy) said regarding the European Union and its conflict prevention potential: "The report on 'Five years after Göteborg', which Dr Beger will present to you in a moment, is a very interesting assessment of the EU's achievements and defects since 2001. I don't want to pre-empt his remarks by going into detail, let me just say that the report makes some very valid and insightful comments, which we will study carefully...."

[EU deploys Election Observation Mission to Zambia \(05/09/2006\)](#)

The European Commission is deploying an EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) for the Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Zambia scheduled for 28/09/2006. The EU EOM will be led by Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Belgium Member of the European Parliament. The EOM is a further contribution by the Commission to supporting democracy in Zambia.

[Commission grants an extra €16 mil for the elections in Congo \(04/09/2006\)](#)

In response to a request of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, announced an additional contribution of €16 million from the European Development Fund (EDF) to finance the current elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. With a total contribution of €165 million the European Commission is the biggest donor to the country's electoral process. It is also involved in Congo through programmes on health, justice, governance, reform of the security sector and the restoration of basic infrastructure.

[Upheaval in world economy: implications for Europe – Speech by Com D Hübner \(01/09/2006\)](#)

Addressing the European Forum Alpbach, Austria, Commissioner Danuta Hübner (Regional Policy), observed: "Reading the ... press one gets the impression that the growing importance of countries like China and India in the world economy is a disaster for Europe. ... I am sure it will not come as a surprise to you if I claim that the opening up of the world economy to global competition has been one of the major factors stimulating world economic growth ..."

See also: [EU Cohesion policy: a good story to tell – Speech by Com D Hübner \(20/09/2006\)](#)

[Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Togo \(31/08/2006\)](#)

The European Union welcomes the conclusion in Lomé on 20/08/2006 of a comprehensive political agreement approved and signed by all the participants in the inter-Togolese dialogue. The EU commends the perseverance and efforts of all participants in reaching this consensus.

[Commission reaffirms its 2006 work programme priorities \(30/08/2006\)](#)

The European Commission has adopted its mid-term review of the Commission work programme for 2006. This communication sets out key achievements that the Barroso Commission has delivered on during the first eight months of 2006, and reaffirms the political priorities that will be achieved during the second half of the year. In undertaking its mid-term review, the Commission has shown the flexibility required to react to changing political developments by making a series of amendments to the list of initiatives it will present over the coming months. The Commission has also reaffirmed its commitment to the better regulation agenda with a series of new initiatives to enhance delivery of this approach.

[Commission and Organisation internationale de la Francophonie \(OIF\) sign memorandum \(28/08/2006\)](#)

EU Commissioner Louis Michel (development & humanitarian aid), on behalf of the Commission, and the Secretary General of the OIF, Abdou Diouf, have signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at stepping up consultation, co-operation and co-ordination. This partnership is a concrete example of the Commission's wish to join forces with other development players in order to help the partner countries to face such major challenges as the fight against poverty, the promotion of democracy and human rights, cultural and linguistic diversity, education and training, as well as economic and social development.



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In the August 2006 issue:

- DRC: New elections, fresh hopes
- The EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure: engine for eco growth, regional integration, poverty reduction
- Summit meets new diplomatic challenge

See: http://ec.europa.eu/comm/development/body/publications/courier/eCourier/ecourier_14_2006_en.pdf#zoom=100