



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 February – 3 March 2005

Headline News



EU Ambassador addresses human resource development Awards Ceremony (03/03/2005)

At a Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony that recognised organisations that had achieved the *Investors in People Standard* during 2004, EU Ambassador Michael Lake observed: "The overall objective of this Project was to establish a national standard for people development within organisations. There are indications that the benefits to organisations working towards, achieving and maintaining the Investors in People Standard include increased performance, management effectiveness, employee morale and productivity. These must surely translate into improved organisational efficiency and competitiveness." The Project was supported under the R368 million EU-funded Labour Market Skills Development Programme that ended in December 2004.

Doha Round: Mandelson and Fischer Boel travel to Kenya for multilateral trade talks (01/03/2005)

European Commissioner for Trade, Peter Mandelson, and EU Commissioner for Agriculture, Mariann Fischer Boel, were in Kenya for the start of a three day meeting of Trade Ministers of WTO member countries. The 'mini-Ministerial' meeting focused on moving forward the Doha Development Round of international trade talks. Peter Mandelson said: "The Doha round stands at an important point and there is a need to balance the negotiations. We need to capitalise on the goodwill generated at the Davos informal ministerial to put the round firmly on track for Hong Kong in December. We need to make progress, especially on services and non-agricultural market access, where we need greater ambition."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/227&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Commissioner Michel visits London to give a boost to the development agenda (24/02/2005)

As part of the consultation phase of the new EU development policy, Commissioner Louis Michel (Development and Humanitarian Aid) visited London, meeting Ministers, giving evidence to the House of Commons International Development Committee and making a keynote speech to the Overseas Development Institute. Michel met International Development Secretary Hilary Benn prior to the final meeting of the UK Africa Commission. He voiced support for putting Africa at the heart of EU development policy and stood ready to participate in efforts to take forward the conclusions of the Africa Commission.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/215&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Eurobarometer: Europeans expect the EU to act as driving force for development (25/02/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/217&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Other News

A new Partnership with the Regions for Growth and Jobs – Speech by Danuta Hübner (03/03/2005)

In an address on *Cohesion and the Lisbon Agenda: The role of the Regions*, EU Commissioner Danuta Hübner (Regional Policy) noted: "While European regional policy has proved its worth over many years, we must never be complacent. Your presence here today clearly confirms your commitment to contribute to competitiveness and growth but it also shows how dear to your hearts is solidarity and cohesion. ... Regional policy needs adequate resources if it is to respond to our political, economic and social ambitions in an enlarged Union with socio-economic disparities wider than ever."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/132&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **How to face similar problems in regional areas: European experience can be used in Australia (24/02/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/214&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

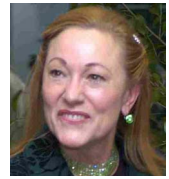


President Barroso's G8 African Personal Representative visits South Africa (02/03/2005)

Giorgio Bonacci, European Commission President's Personal Representative for Africa (APR) in the G8 participated on 28/02/2005 in a meeting of G8 APRs with several members of the NEPAD secretariat to exchange views on the upcoming G8 Africa Action Plan Progress Report that will represent the main APR's contribution to the G8 Gleanegles Summit in the Summer. Mr Bonacci's visit to South Africa also included useful and friendly bilateral meetings with Prof Wiseman Nkuhlu, chairman of the NEPAD Steering Committee, as well as with the team of both the NEPAD and Africa Peer Review Mechanism Secretariats in the framework of the developing partnership between the EC and the African Union/NEPAD.

Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner attends London Meeting on Palestinian Authority, Quartet (28/02/2005)

Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy Benita Ferrero-Waldner will attend the London Meeting on Supporting the Palestinian Authority on 1 March and the meeting the same day of the Quartet (EU, US, UN and Russia). She recently announced that the European Commission expects to make up to €250 million available in 2005 to support further steps towards the creation of a viable Palestinian state. At the conference she will stress the Commission's readiness to continue support for Palestinian reform, particularly to create a functioning judiciary, support the forthcoming elections, and continuing efforts to improve governance and financial transparency.



See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/224&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Speech on Supporting the Palestinian Authority by Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (01/03/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/126&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Louis Michel calls on new Member States to be active players in development policy (25/02/2005)

European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Louis Michel in Prague called on the new Member States to be active players and bring their added value to the development policy. During his visit to the Czech Republic, a first visit to a new EU Member State, Commissioner Michel stressed that "embracing an active co-operation policy upgrades the international profile of a country, opens new opportunities and helps to educate young generations in the respect of fundamental rights, solidarity and universalism". Meetings in Prague included exchanges of views with Deputy Prime Minister Martin Jahn, Minister of Foreign Affairs Cyril Svoboda, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in charge of Development Petr Kolář and meetings with NGOs and development experts.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/219&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

The role of artists and cultural actors – Speech by Ján Figel' (25/02/2005)



Addressing the European Commission conference on Dialogue between peoples and cultures, EU Commissioner for Education, training, culture and multi-lingualism, Ján Figel' said: "We must move from a multi-cultural society to an inter-cultural society. All this is more easily said than done. It requires a fundamental change in our perceptions, convictions and actions. We must gradually develop a multi-layered identity, accepting that we are at the same time citizens of our municipalities, our regions, our countries, and citizens of the European Union. ... Commission President Barroso ... recently put it like this: "*the economy is necessary for our lives, culture makes life worth living*". Culture and intercultural dialogue must therefore be seen as indispensable ingredients of European integration and of our relations with our neighbouring countries and the wider world."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/118&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Ahead:

- **08/03/2005 – Launch of the EU-funded Local Competitiveness Fund (LCF) under the KwaZulu-Natal Local Economic Development Fund Support Programme, Pietermaritzburg**
- **15/03/2005 – Launch of the EU-funded Conflict and Governance Fund, Pretoria**
- **17/03/2005 – Launch of the EU-funded Support Programme for Social Housing: Institutional Development and Capacity Building (Gauteng Province), Johannesburg**

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