



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 November – 1 December 2005

Headline News

[EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson meets G90 leaders in Brussels \(30/11/2005\)](#)

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson met with representatives of the G90 group of developing countries at their Ministerial Summit in Brussels. G90 Ministers discussed the group's position in the Doha Development Agenda trade negotiations ahead of December's Hong Kong Ministerial Meeting. Addressing G90 Ministers Commissioner Mandelson urged them to act decisively to ensure that the interests of all developing countries are strongly defended in Hong Kong. Commissioner Mandelson reiterated the EU's proposal for agreement of a package of development measures at Hong Kong. See also: [Doha and development - Remarks to G90 Ministerial by Com P Mandelson \(30/11/2005\)](#)
[Remarks to the European Parliament Plenary Mini-Session – Doha and Development \(30/11/2005\)](#)
[Doha and Development: some academic perspectives \(30/11/2005\)](#)

[EU's development policy: A common vision to eradicate poverty – Speech by Com L Michel \(28/11/2005\)](#)

Commencing an address in London, Commissioner Louis Michel (Development and Humanitarian aid) said: "... For the first time in 50 years, the Council and the 25 Member States have agreed on a common vision for actions, not just multilaterally, but also bilaterally. At last, we have a common set of values, principles, objectives and means to truly combat poverty. This new Declaration is bang up-to-date. It reflects the important changes of the last five years. ... This European Consensus makes the eradication of poverty the central aim of the European Union. It underlines the need for better coordination between the Member States and the Community to ensure that collectively we support the reform strategies of our ACP partners. And we emphasise the need for greater coherence between the policies of the European Union.

[World AIDS Day 2005: EU action to combat a resurging epidemic \(25/12/2005\)](#)

Young people across the European Union and neighbouring countries are among the main victims of a resurgence of the deadly HIV/AIDS epidemic. In the run-up to World AIDS Day on 1 December, freshly released data from the EU-funded "Euro-HIV" network indicates that the number of people newly diagnosed with HIV is increasing steadily. The European Commission is continuing to invest in research projects focussing on new drugs as well as microbicides and vaccines to prevent the spread of the virus. With a contribution of 2 billion EUR, the European Union is the main donor of the UN's Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and Malaria

Other News

[Security sector reform in the D. R. Congo - Chain of payments \(01/12/2005\)](#)

The Council adopted - by written procedure - a Joint Action amending Joint Action 2005/355/CFSP on the European Union mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with regard to setting up a technical assistance project on improving the chain of payments of the Ministry of Defence in the DRC. The chain of payments project follows a request from the Congolese Government for technical and logistical support for the modernisation of the system for managing the staff and finances of the armed forces of the DRC. This project will be set up within the "EUSEC RD Congo" Mission.

[Opening of consultations with the ACP side on the Islamic Republic of Mauritania \(30/11/ 2005\)](#)

The European Union attributes the utmost importance to political dialogue with its ACP partners and to the provisions of Article 9 of the ACP-EC Cotonou Agreement. Our relations are underpinned by respect for democratic institutions, human rights and the rule of law as essential elements of the Partnership Agreement and good governance as a fundamental element of it. The EU considers that the coup d'état that occurred in Mauritania on 03/08/2005 is a violation of the essential elements contained in Article 9 of the Cotonou Agreement. It has engaged in a political dialogue with the transitional Government of Mauritania which has led to the opening of consultations under Article 96 of the Agreement in order to carry out an in-depth analysis of the situation with the Mauritanian authorities on the basis of their public commitment to transition towards a democratic State.

[Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Abuja Talks \(30/11/2005\)](#)

The European Union (EU) welcomes the resumption on 29/11/2005 in Abuja, Nigeria, of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur. The EU calls on all parties to negotiate flexibly, constructively and with a clear sense of urgency, in order to meet the United Nations Security Council's deadline of 31/12/2005 for a peace settlement. The EU expresses its continued strong support for the Abuja peace process and for the African Union-led mediation team. The EU welcomes the presence, for the first time, of the SPLM representatives in the next round of talks.

[Economic Partnership Agreements: EU and Central Africa agree next phase of negotiations \(29/11/2005\)](#)

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson met with Central African Ministers on the 25/11/2005 in Brussels to agree on the next phase of the Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations between the two regions. Ministers agreed to launch the next phase of negotiations in January 2006, and endorsed a detailed calendar. Work will therefore begin shortly on drafting the text and legal provisions of the EPA, in areas such as trade in goods, competition policy, public procurement, intellectual property rights, services, investment and trade and environment. Commissioner Michel also participated in the meeting, underscoring the Commission's commitment to helping Central Africa both manage economic change and grasp the opportunities the EPA will provide.

[New fisheries partnership agreement and protocol between the EU and the Comoros signed \(29/11/2005\)](#)

On 29/11/2005, Joe Borg, European Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, on behalf of the European Union and Mr Mohamed Abdoulhamid, Minister of Rural Development, Fisheries and Environment of the Islamic Republic of the Comoros Islands, signed the new EU/Comoros fisheries protocol which will be in place until 31/12/2010. This new protocol heralds a new era in co-operation by establishing both a clear commitment to fisheries policy cooperation between the two Parties, and the mechanisms to turn that commitment into a reality.

[Preparing for pandemic influenza and other health threats: Commission adopts EU plans \(29/11/2005\)](#)

Two plans to help prepare the EU and its Member States to deal with major cross-border health emergencies (such as SARS and bioterrorism) and a possible influenza pandemic have been adopted by the European Commission. The first is a Communication to strengthen Europe's preparedness to respond in a coordinated way to generic public health emergencies, such as the SARS outbreak and the anthrax attacks in the United States. The second Communication on pandemic influenza preparedness applies the approach set out in the generic Communication and updates the Commission's existing plan of March 2004. See also: [Preparing for influenza and major health threats \(29/11/2005\)](#)

[Internal and external dimension of fighting terrorism – Speech by Vice-Pres F Frattini \(28/11/2005\)](#)

During the 4th congress on European defence, Vice-President Franco Frattini (Justice, Freedom and Security) noted: "If we look back ten years ago, the fight against terrorism in Europe was mainly an issue of national concern. Examples of terrorist attacks could be found in a number of EU Member States such as Spain [ETA], here in Germany, or in my home country Italy, but EU cooperation against terrorism was not then particularly developed. This has changed dramatically since the devastating attacks of September 11, 2001. ... Terrorism has also changed citizens' expectations as to what should be priority issues at European Union level. ... Terrorism requires a global response. Let me first give you an overview of our internal efforts and then look at the international dimension of our counter-terrorism-policy."

[Accession negotiations with Turkey: fulfilling the criteria – Speech by Com O Rehn \(28/11/2005\)](#)

Addressing the European Economic and Social Committee, Commissioner Olli Rehn (Enlargement) observed: "The decision of 03/10/2005 to begin accession negotiations with Turkey opens a new chapter in the historic process of peacefully unifying the European continent. As a result of its combined strategic, economic and population potential, Turkey can make a major contribution to regional and international stability. Europe needs a stable, democratic and prosperous Turkey which adopts and implements our values, our rule of law, our policies, our standards. It is in our own strategic interest. Let me say a couple of words on the process itself. ... The accession negotiations are about determining how and when Turkey will adopt the EU acquis; the process is not on whether Turkey will adopt it. Each and every country, large or small, must meet the criteria to the letter. There are no shortcuts to Europe, only the regular route.

See also: [Strengthened dialogue/cooperation between EU/Turkey civil society essential for negotiations \(30/11/2005\)](#)

[Louis Michel visits Palestinian territories to assess humanitarian emergency \(25/11/2005\)](#)

Louis Michel, EU Commissioner for development and humanitarian aid, will visit the Palestinian territories to assess the humanitarian situation, first hand. He will meet leading politicians and the Commission's humanitarian partners. During his three-day visit Mr Michel will visit projects funded by ECHO, the European Commission's humanitarian aid department, and take stock of the situation with the various partners on the ground. With the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territories continuing to give serious cause for concern, the Commission is putting the final touches to an €8.3 million humanitarian aid grant for the Palestinians. Louis Michel will visit refugee camps and meet victims of the conflict.

See also: [International day of solidarity with the Palestinian people \(29/11/2005\)](#)

[Food security: Louis Michel signs EUR 14 million agreement with UNRWA \(30/11/2005\)](#)

[Com L Michel comments during visit to Khan Yunis refugee camp and Rafah Border Crossing \(30/11/2005\)](#)

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