



**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.*



## 26 – 01 September 2005

### Headline News

#### **Solidarity as a foundation for European integration – Speech by President JM Barroso (30/08/2005)**

Addressing the “Solidarnosc to Freedom” Conference in Poland, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso said: “Solidarity ties us Europeans together. It forms part of our shared identity and fosters the will to act for our common good, and a fairer and safer world. ... Solidarity is also part of the social values embedded in the European project – values which have typically been upheld by trade unions. There is no real freedom without solidarity, as Solidarność famously proclaimed. The two are inseparable in the history of the EU.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/467&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **European Union Solidarity Fund (26/08/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/287&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Financing Development: Commission report shows options for airline ticket contribution (01/09/2005)**

A European Commission staff working paper published today contains an analysis of how a solidarity contribution on airline tickets might be used by EU Member States as a source of development aid in order to help achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The paper must be seen in the context of the decisions to double development aid and to deliver better and faster, taken at the June European Council.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1082&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### Other News

#### **Commission adopts major package of measures in the field of immigration and asylum (01/09/2005)**

The measures adopted today comprise the proposal for a Directive on common standards on return and three Communications, on Integration, on Regional Protection Programmes and on Migration and Development. This is an important step towards the realisation of the objectives announced in the Hague Action Plan adopted by the Council in June and the achievement of a balanced approach in the migration and asylum field.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1079&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Integration of third-country nationals (01/09/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/290&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **The Media and Globalisation – Speech by Commissioner V Reding (31/08/2005)**

In her address to the European Forum, Com Reding (Information Society and Media) noted: “Media and globalisation are closely linked. First of all, the media are one of the means by which we all experience globalisation – ... There is a second natural link between globalisation and the media: Globalisation is speeding up the fundamental technological change that we are seeing in the media world, and it allows new ideas and technological innovation to spread around the globe. ...

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/469&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Ethiopian Elections (29/08/2005)**

The European Union notes the balanced and impartial preliminary statement of 25 August issued by the EU Observation Mission's Chief Observer. While we await the EUOM final report due next month before commenting on the overall electoral process, we note the Chief Observer's preliminary comment that the picture was mixed, with some positive aspects up to 15 May, and some negative aspects thereafter.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PRES/05/216&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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Put your questions directly to Commissioner Louis Michel (Development and Humanitarian Aid) before he attends the United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in mid-September. You will have the opportunity to take part in a live two-hour internet chat with the Commissioner on a number of issues: What is the EU doing about development and humanitarian aid? What do you think of it? Are we doing enough? How can you, and the EU, help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals? The internet chat takes place on 12 September between 18.00 and 20.00 CET, or your questions in advance [todev-webchatmichel@cec.eu.int](mailto:todev-webchatmichel@cec.eu.int)