



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 May – 1 June 2006

Headline News

[European Union to commit €22 billion in aid to Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands \(01/06/2006\)](#)

The ACP-EC Council of Ministers holds its annual meeting on the 1st and 2nd of June in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea). The participants will decide on a €22 billion aid package of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) for the period 2008 to 2013. They will also discuss migration and development, trade, climate change and the recently approved EU strategies for Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands. The ACP-EC Council of Ministers is the highest joint decision making body created by the Cotonou agreement, which associates 77 countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific to the EU.

[Situation of prisoners in Guantanamo – Statement by Com B Ferrero-Waldner \(31/05/2006\)](#)

Addressing the European Parliament, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy), said: "The global fight against terrorism on an unprecedented scale has created new challenges for the protection of human rights. The European Commission constantly underlines that States must ensure full respect for human rights during the fight against terrorism. A number of Member States have voiced concern to the United States government concerning Guantanamo Bay. ... The Commission underlines that all anti-terrorist measures must be consistent with both international humanitarian law and international human rights law ..."



Other News

[Agreement on new €3.6 billion "competitiveness and innovation programme" \(01/06/2006\)](#)

The European Parliament has adopted the first "Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme" (CIP). Between 2007 and 2013, some 350,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will receive €3.6 billion in EU support to invest in all forms of innovation and growth. The new programme will support actions to help enterprises and industry to innovate.

[EU response to Indonesia earthquake \(31/05/2006\)](#)

Following the earthquake that struck Indonesia near the Javanese city of Yogyakarta on Saturday, 27/05/2006, the EU immediately mobilised to assess needs and offer help. In Brussels, the coordination machinery has been active drawing together the Austrian Presidency of the EU, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) and the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC), and the EU Situation Centre and Civil-Military Cell of the EU Military Staff.

[Avian Influenza: Results of EU surveillance in wild birds presented \(31/05/2006\)](#)

The European Commission and the Community Reference Laboratory (CRL) for Avian Influenza in Weybridge have published the results of the surveillance for avian influenza in wild birds carried out in the EU over the past ten months. The extensive epidemiological data was presented today at the FAO/OIE International Scientific Conference on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, which is taking place in Rome this week.

[European Court of Justice annuls EU/US agreement regarding data on passengers \(30/05/2006\)](#)

The Court has annulled the Council decision concerning the conclusion of an agreement between the European Community and the United States of America on the processing and transfer of personal data and the commission decision on the adequate protection of those data. Neither the Commission decision finding that the data are adequately protected by the United States nor the Council decision approving the conclusion of an agreement on their transfer to that country are founded on an appropriate legal basis.

[Commissioner Piebalgs supports research on Solar Thermal Energy \(30/05/2006\)](#)

Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs welcomed the official launch of the European Solar Thermal Technology Platform, an initiative of the European Solar Thermal Industry Federation to facilitate the development of future research and development in this sector. The platform will be an instrument for the exchange of expertise and knowledge and will ensure that new generations of products and processes are brought to the market.

See also: [Solar Energy for the Future – Speech by Com A Piebalgs \(30/05/2006\)](#)

[The EU's role in protecting Europe's security – Speech by Com B Ferrero-Waldner \(30/05/2006\)](#)

Addressing a conference entitled *Protecting Europe: Policies for enhancing security in the EU in Brussels*, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy), said: "Globalisation, prosperity and security are among our citizens' biggest worries. Many analysts paint a gloomy picture for the future, pointing to worrying long term trends on demography, proliferation of weapons (...), political radicalisation, and possible disruptions of economic and energy flows. Complex interrelated problems like poverty and social exclusion, migration, organised crime and armed violence, corruption, human rights violations and environmental degradation further complicate the situation."

[World No Tobacco Day – Survey reveals drop in smokers in EU \(30/05/2006\)](#)

The number of people smoking in the EU has dropped from 33% in 2002 to 27% by Autumn 2005, and 80% of Europeans would like to see smoking banned in public places. These are two of the main findings of the European Commission's latest Eurobarometer survey on tobacco, released to mark World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) on 31 May.

[Cholera in Angola: European Commission doubles emergency response \(29/05/2006\)](#)

The European Commission has allocated a further €1.5 million in emergency humanitarian aid to fight the increasing incidence of cholera in Angola. More than 36,000 cases have been reported since the first outbreak on 13/02/2006. Eleven of Angola's 18 provinces are now affected, including the capital Luanda. More than 1,300 people have died and, according to UNICEF, 35% of the victims are children under five. This new aid comes on top of an initial emergency grant of €1.5 million.

[Commission launches awareness raising campaign: You control climate change \(29/05/2006\)](#)

"You control climate change" is the title of an awareness raising campaign that European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas launched in Brussels. The campaign challenges individuals to make small changes to their daily routine in order to achieve significant reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. It offers a wealth of practical and easy-to-do tips while aiming to give people a sense of personal responsibility and empowerment and help them contribute to the fight against climate change. See also: [Climate change campaign "You control climate change"](#)

[Strengthening the partnership with Pacific islands \(29/05/2006\)](#)

The European Commission has adopted a proposal to deepen the EU's relations with the Pacific Islands, in particular the 15 Pacific ACP countries. This is the first formal strategy in 30 years of EU-Pacific relations, and it aims to strengthen political dialogue, provide greater focus to development cooperation and improve the effectiveness of aid delivery. The Commission's proposal reflects the growing environmental, political and economic importance of the Pacific region.

[European film voted best of Cannes 2006 \(29/05/2006\)](#)

The Cannes International Film festival culminated on 28 May with the selection of the European film, "The Wind that shakes the Barley" by Ken Loach, for the Palme d'Or. The Grand Prize went to "Flandres", by Bruno Dumont, and the "Best actress" award was awarded collectively to Penelope Cruz, Carmen Maura, Lola Duenas, Blanca Portillo, Yohana Cobo and Chus Lampreave for their roles in "Volver" by Pedro Almodóvar, who won the "Best screenplay" award. These films were developed or distributed with support from the European Union's MEDIA programme.

Photo: A meeting of leaders and representatives of the leading world religions is to be held in Brussels on 30 May.

(front row, l to r):

- Anas Shakhfeh (President of the Islamic Community in Austria)
- Reverend Jean Arnold de Clermont (Lutheran Church, President of the Conference of European Churches
- ?
- the Dalai Lama (Buddhism)
- President José Manuel Barroso (EC)
- President Wolfgang Schüssel (Austria)
- Cardinal José da Cruz Policarpo (Roman Catholic Church, Patriarch of Lisbon)
- Rabbi A Guigui (Chief Rabbi of Brussels, Permanent Representative of the Conference of European Rabbis to the European Communities)
- Bishop Wolfgang Huber (Evangelical Churches, Chairperson of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany)
- Commissioner Margot Wallström (EC)

(2nd row, l to r)

- Ayatollah Ghaemmaghami (Director of the Islamic Centre in Hamburg)
- Bishop van Luyn (Roman Catholic Church, President of Commission of the Bishops' Conference of the European Community)
- Chief Rabbi Gutman (Chief Rabbi of Strasbourg and Bas-Rhin, CER Executive Board Member, CER Permanent Rep to the Council of Europe)
- Bishop Richard Chartres (Anglican Church, Bishop of London)
- Imam Sajid (Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony)
- Bishop Hilarion (Orthodox Churches)
- Commissioner Ján Figel (EC)
- Bishop Athanasios (Orthodox Churches)

Photo File:



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