



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*



27 October – 2 November 2006

Headline News

[Commission congratulates the Congolese people re the presidential election \(29/11/2006\)](#)

The European Commission congratulates the Congolese people on their sense of civic responsibility and the calm atmosphere in which they voted in the presidential and provincial elections. Once again, in the course of this electoral process, the Congolese people have displayed maturity, serenity and enthusiasm. Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, declared, "I am particularly glad to have placed my trust - right from the outset - in this process, in the Congolese people and in the main protagonists. With this poll, the Congo has now irreversibly entered the final stages of transition."



Other News

[10th ECOWAS-EU Ministerial Troika Meeting \(30/10/2006\)](#)

The 10th ministerial Troika meeting between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the European Union (EU) was held in Niamey (Niger) on 27/10/2006 under the Co-Chairs of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Co-operation and African Integration of Niger, current Chairperson of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers, Her Excellency Mrs. Aïchatou Mindaoudou, and His Excellency Mr. Pertti Torstila, Secretary of State, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, representing the current Presidency of the EU.

[A European strategy for energy – Speech by Pres JM Barroso \(30/10/2006\)](#)

Presenting the closing address at the Conference on European Energy Strategy in Lisbon, Portugal, Commission President José Manuel Barroso stated: "Energy (is) ... at the heart of the original idea of European integration. Now, energy is back on the European agenda. Today I want firstly to explain why, and secondly to set out what the Commission is doing to help deliver competitive, secure and sustainable energy for its citizens. ..."

See also: [A new energy policy for a new era – Speech by Com N Kroes \(30/10/2006\)](#)

[Climate change: Member States need to intensify efforts to reach Kyoto emission targets \(27/10/2006\)](#)

Latest projections indicate that the 15 States that were EU members before 2004 will only just reach their Kyoto Protocol target for cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The EU-15 are committed to reducing their collective emissions in the 2008-2012 period to 8% below the levels of the base year (1990 in most cases). ... For the 25 current Member States, the overall emission reduction by 2010 would be 10.8%.

[The European Union: An Eldorado of corruption? – Speech by Com S Kallas \(27/10/2006\)](#)

Addressing a conference on corruption at a German tertiary Institution, Commissioner Siim Kallas (Administrative Affairs, Audit and Anti-Fraud) said: "Initially, I thought of this title as somewhat provocative since I am convinced that corruption at the EU level is not a big problem. I am happy however to take the opportunity to examine why the EU may be perceived as such, why it has this reputation. When I was designated as Commissioner responsible for Administration, Audit and the fight against fraud, I discovered for myself how great was the suspicion surrounding the activities of European institutions, especially the handling of finances in Commission. I was genuinely surprised by this. ..."

[SME's: key players in European Regional Policy – Speech by Com D Hübner \(11/10/2006\)](#)

Speaking at a high-level SME stakeholder conference in Brussels, Commissioner Danuta Hübner (Regional Policy) stated: "The regulatory framework is in place, and just last week the Council adopted the Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion Policy which will underpin our approach to regional policy for the period 2007-2013. The Guidelines make clear that the involvement of SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) across all of these priorities is essential. I want to stress that regional policy offers an integrated approach to support for SMEs and to specify some of the areas where SMEs will be active. ..."

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