



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.



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Headline News

[Globalisation: where does EU trade policy go from here? - Speech by Com P Mandelson \(04/05/2006\)](#)

In this speech at the Globalisation Seminar, to political and business leaders, in Wolfsberg, Switzerland, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson set out his priorities for EU trade policy following the conclusion of the Doha Round. Mandelson argued that Europe's trade policy lies "at the intersection of two challenges – Europe's external and internal responses to globalisation." He set out an agenda for the remainder of 2006 and beyond "that focuses on hard, economic priorities and adapts our thinking to the realities and challenges of globalisation". He called on the European Commission to show "leadership to push for change, even if it is painful".



[EC welcomes imminent Darfur peace deal - announces €100 mil for initial recovery package \(04/05/2006\)](#)

The European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, praised today the efforts of negotiating parties in Abuja as the Darfur peace talks are reaching conclusion, and announced a €100 million package covering humanitarian and immediate recovery needs for the region. "This agreement will be a real progress on the way towards a peaceful and prosperous Sudan and I wish to congratulate the African Union negotiators and the parties for their determination in achieving the agreement which should be signed soon. It will then be our joint challenge to rapidly bring the concrete peace dividends and consolidate peace on the ground", said Mr. Michel.

See also: [Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union concerning the Darfur talks \(04/05/2006\)](#)

Other News

[The EU and the fight against climate change – Speech by Com S Dimas \(04/05/2006\)](#)

In a speech at the *Seminar on Climate Change*, organised by the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas, said: "As Hurricane Katrina reminded us so brutally, climate change threatens the prosperity and even the very stability of our societies ... It is one of the gravest challenges in front of us. The rapid rise in global temperatures is already changing the face of our planet by melting mountain glaciers, pushing sea levels higher and expanding deserts. And nowhere is warming faster than the Arctic. The Arctic sea ice is shrinking and thinning continuously even in winter ... I would like to focus today on the European Union's single most important measure for reducing greenhouse gas emissions - our ground-breaking Emissions Trading Scheme.



[Sunscreens: Commission moves to improve labelling \(04/05/2006\)](#)

Summer, beach, sun ... millions of Europeans will soon hit the sun spots for their annual summer holidays and will be faced with the question what sunscreen product to choose in order to be adequately protected. But there are weaknesses in the way sunscreen products are currently labelled. One important aspect relates to the two different types of hazardous UV-radiation. UVB radiation is the cause for "sun-burn". UVA radiation causes premature skin ageing, interferences with the human immune system, and is an important contributor to the skin-cancer risk. However, the so-called 'sun protection factor (SPF)' only protects against sunburn (UVB radiation). Against this background, the European Commission has launched an initiative to improve the labelling system.

See also: [Sunscreen products: What matters? \(04/05/2006\)](#)

[Europe's films more successful than ever at Cannes Film Festival 2006 \(04/05/2006\)](#)

When the Cannes International Film Festival 2006 opens on 17 May, this will mark a particularly successful year for Europe's film industry. Seventeen European films, which all received funding under the EU's MEDIA programme, have made it into the final selection. The future of the MEDIA programme, the development of business models for Film Online services and the competitiveness of European films abroad will be on the agenda when the EU's Ministers for Culture and Audiovisual meet with Commissioner Reding in Cannes on 23 May for their annual talks about EU audiovisual politics.

Greater transparency in EU affairs will strengthen legitimacy (03/05/2006)

"The public has a right to know" – this is the key message of the Green Paper on a European Transparency Initiative adopted today by the European Commission. The open public consultations which start today launch a debate on lobbying, on the introduction of legal obligations for Member States to publish the information about the beneficiaries of funds under shared management, as well as on the Commission's consultation practices. President Barroso said: "We'll discuss the future of Europe in June. But there is one conclusion we can already draw: we need greater transparency and stronger accountability towards the public if we are to maintain the legitimacy of European decision-making."

Breakthrough innovations honoured: European Inventor of the Year awards (03/05/2006)

Medical breakthroughs in fighting Hepatitis B, novel anti-viral properties, the DNA chip and methods for intercepting illness causing proteins are among the final winners of the European Inventor of the Year awards. Another winner is the Giant-Magnetoresistance Effect (GMR) which increases the data volume of hard drives. Finally Federico Faggin has been honoured with the Lifetime Achievement for the invention of the microchip.

See also: [The winners of the European Inventor of the Year 2006 awards \(03/05/2006\)](#)

[Intellectual Property Rights \(IPR\) at the heart of the Commission's job and growth initiative \(03/05/2006\)](#)

[European Patent Office/Commission cooperation in the fields of IPR \(03/05/2006\)](#)

A Global Community of Freedom, Security & Prosperity – Speech by Pres JM Barroso (29/04/2006)

In his address to the German Marshall Fund organised forum entitled *Transatlantic Challenges in a Global Era*, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso observed that: "... there are almost no challenges facing the EU and the US that are not in fact global in their origins or in their effects. With global challenges come global responsibilities. The EU and the US, with their shared values and common interests, make natural partners to take the lead. ... Greater EU-US dialogue on international challenges offers obvious benefits. It means that our development assistance can be directed to where it is most effective rather than risking duplication or gaps in coverage ..."

Commission on track to mobilize €100 mil to combat Bird Flu around the world (28/04/2006)

The European Commission is well on track to fully mobilize €100 million pledged at the Beijing conference to combat Avian Influenza around the world, ahead of the target date. Funds pledged will help poorer countries tackle Bird flu in the animal population, and increase preparedness for a possible human pandemic. The Commission aimed to deploy the whole amount pledged before the Senior Officials Meeting that will bring together donors and beneficiary countries in Vienna on 6/7 June, and is set to achieve that goal well within the deadline.

Commission launches a consultation on the presumption of innocence (28/04/2006)

The presumption of innocence is a fundamental right. It is laid down in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. But do we all have the same understanding of the meaning of the principle of "the presumption of innocence"? With the aim of understanding more clearly the interpretation of this principle in the Member States and any rights stemming from it, the Commission is launching a Green Paper as part of a consultation exercise on this topic.

EC welcomes changes to EU law to allow export of patented medicine to countries in need (28/04/2006)

The European Commission welcomes the adoption by the European Council of a regulation allowing companies to produce copies of patented medicines under license for export to "countries in need" without sufficient capacity to produce them. The regulation implements within the EU the necessary conditions to meet a WTO Agreement of December 2005, under which national authorities can grant compulsory licences for such production if certain conditions are fulfilled. The compulsory licensing regulation represents a crucial measure for some of the poorest countries in the world, which will gain improved access to affordable medicines that are safe and effective.

See also: [Compulsory licensing of patents re the manufacture of pharmaceutical products for \(28/04/2006\)](#)

Future Events

- **10-12/05/2006 - 14th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development , New York**

Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas will announce the launch of the EU Energy Facility, which will make available €20 million to projects improving access to energy, in particular renewable energy, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Photo File



Louis Michel, Member of the EC in charge of Development and Humanitarian Aid, receives Andriamparany Radavidson, Malagasy Minister of Economy, Finance and Budget (27/04/2006)

Franco Frattini, Vice-President of the EC in charge of Justice, Freedom and Security, receives Charles Konan Banny, Ivorian Prime Minister (02/05/2006)



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