



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.



28 January – 3 February 2005

Headline News

Statement of President Barroso on the Iraqi elections (01/02/2005)

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso welcomes Sunday's elections as an important step towards democracy and stability in Iraq. "Despite great difficulties, it was a great day for democracy and liberty. The people of Iraq sent a strong signal of commitment to the democratic values that we in Europe so treasure and defend. I would like to congratulate the Iraqi people on the holding of their first pluralist national and governorate elections, and applaud all those who cast their votes in significant numbers in most parts of the country. "

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/119&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

See also: **European Commission proposes additional €200 million for Iraq on eve of elections (28/01/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/106&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>



Launch of €10 million EU-funded Civil Society Advocacy Programme, CSAP (31/01/2005)

Funded by the by the European Union over a period of three years, the Civil Society Advocacy Programme (CSAP), a joint initiative of the Commission for Gender Equality, the Office of the Public Protector and the South African Human Rights Commission, is valued at €10 million. In motivating EU-support, Ambassador Michael Lake said: "Civil society participation is critical to enforce rights, laws and policies at local, provincial and national levels. It is equally important to develop new, or to change existing laws and policies that are discriminatory or inadequate. And lastly, it is vital to educate the public about their rights and to provide them with information for redress should the need arise."

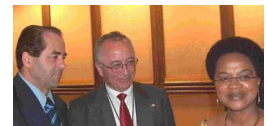
See: <http://www.csap.co.za/downloads/Press%20release%20%2031-1-05.pdf>

Other News



EU Parliamentary Delegation visits South Africa (03/02/2005)

During a recent visit to South Africa, Mr Antonio Di Pietro (MEP), Chairman of the European Parliamentary Delegation for Relations with South Africa, proposed to Speaker of Parliament, Ms Baleka Mbete, and newly appointed Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr Mninwa Mahlangu, the establishment of an EU-SA Inter-Parliamentary Committee. The delegation also took the opportunity to meet with Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, Deputy Justice & Constitutional Affairs Minister Johnnie de Lange, as well as the Public Protector and the chairpersons of the Human Rights and Gender Commissions.



Member of the European Parliament, Mr A Di Pietro, Amb M Lake, and SA Speaker of Parliament, Ms B Mbete.

Can governments respond to global terror with a collective policy? – Speech by F Frattini (03/01/2005)

In an address to the New Defence Agenda Conference in Brussels, EC Vice-President Franco Frattini (Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security) said: "The question to be tackled allows me to touch on the two approaches towards fighting terrorism: on the one hand a military approach that includes also post-intervention scenarios, and therefore peace-keeping capabilities, in conflict regions as well as the criminal justice approach which views the fight within a law enforcement framework. These two approaches are not at all in contradiction. Nor are they the only ones."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/69&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

See also: **Towards an EU Strategy for Collective Security – Speech by Günter Verheugen (03/01/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/71&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>



EU Presidency presents EU Literary Award in Johannesburg (02/02/2005)

After its announcement at the Grahamstown Arts Festival in 2004, and after receiving over 100 submissions, the EU Literary Award for a first novel by a South African writer, was presented by Netherlands' Ambassador, Frans Engering, to Ishtiyag Shukri for his work, THE SILENT MINARET. The award carried a R25000 cash prize, an invitation to the Winternachten Festival in the Netherlands as well as the undertaking by Jacana Media to publish the novel (its launch is expected during the Writer Festival in Durban, April 2005). The award was launched by the Embassies/High Commissions of the EU in South Africa to encourage new South African writing and to help promote South African literature in Europe.

See: <http://www.dutchembassy.co.za/cgi-bin/news.pl?lang=EN&itm=5>



Joint EU-SA launch of €10 million Legislatures Support Programme, LSP (02/02/2005)

The LSP builds on the success of its predecessor, the EU-funded Parliamentary Support Programme, but widens its focus to empower legislatures at both national and at provincial levels until the end of 2006. The roughly R80 million EU-funded initiative aims to assist these organs to fulfil their democratic functions and constitutional obligations in a citizen orientated manner. Prior to the launch, EU Ambassador Michael Lake said: "Our support for the Legislature Support Programme underscores the EU's ongoing commitment, through the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development, to support the South African authorities in their undertaking to create a better life for all."

See: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200502030285.html>

Commission proposes strategy to deal with mercury pollution including a ban on exports (31/01/2005)

The European Commission proposed a comprehensive strategy against mercury pollution. High doses of mercury and its compounds can be fatal, but even relatively low amounts can seriously harm the nervous system. ... The strategy proposes a series of actions to cut EU and global emissions and use of mercury, including phasing out EU mercury exports by 2011.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/114&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Questions & Answers on the Mercury Strategy (31/01/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/30&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Mercosur-EU Business Forum calls for the re-launch of the EU-Mercosur negotiations (31/01/2005)

The negotiations for the creation of the largest free trade area in the world, covering almost 700 million people, should be re-launched, stated the Mercosur-EU Business Forum in a joint declaration today. The conclusion of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement would establish the first ever region-to-region free trade area.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/111&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **The EU-Mercosur Agreement – Speech by Günter Verheugen (31/01/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/55&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Reinforcing EU Disaster and Crisis Response – Speech by José Manuel Barroso (31/01/2005)

In an address relating to the recent Tsunami disaster, Commission President José Manuel Barroso said: "Our institutions, governments and peoples responded quickly and generously. Nevertheless, we should learn from what we did in responding to this terrible disaster to make more effective our response to the next catastrophe. In particular, we should consider how to strengthen our response by working together further through the Union.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/57&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Asian Tsunami: European Commission earmarks further €80 million in humanitarian aid (31/01/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/116&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

European Commission strongly condemns the recent violence in Darfur (28/01/2005)

Louis Michel, Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, expressed his deepest concerns about the reported bombing of the village of Rahad Kabolong in North Darfur State on 26/01/2005, in which some 100 civilians, among them many women and children, were reportedly killed. "This is precisely the kind of ruthless attack that the Vice-President Ali Osman Al-Taha promised to do all in his power to stop", the Commissioner said on learning of the allegations. "I now look to the Sudanese Government to co-operate with the African Union to confirm exactly what happened and to name and punish those responsible for an act which goes against all peace efforts", he added.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/115&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

A New Transatlantic Agenda for Development – Speech by Louis Michel (28/01/2005)

In an address to the European Institute in Washington, EU Development Commissioner, Louis Michel, observed: "Today we have not only a great challenge in front of us. We have a great opportunity to meet that challenge. Let us see 2005 as the "Year of Development". In July, the G8 will meet in the United Kingdom, and Africa is top of the agenda.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/54&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Ahead:

- **11/02/2005 – Civil society hearing: The EU's future development policy, Brussels**
For more details, please contact: [Vasco de Oliveira](mailto:Vasco.de.Oliveira@ec.europa.eu) or [Christian Weger](mailto:Christian.Weger@ec.europa.eu) at the EESC Press Office
- **12-20/02/2005 - Earth & Space Week 2005, Brussels**
See: http://europa.eu.int/comm/space/esw/index_en.htm

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6TH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME BRIEFINGS

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will present three information sessions on the opportunities for SA researchers to participate in the EU's 6th Framework Programme (FP6), to be held in KwaZulu-Natal (10/02/2005), the Eastern Cape (11/02/2005) and Western Cape (15/02/2005). The FP6 introduction will be presented by an official of the DST, whilst specialist thematic priority and INCO presentations will be delivered by SA's FP6 National Contact Points for "Biotechnology and Genomics for Health", Prof Iqbal Parker, and for "Food Safety and Quality", Dr Geoff Meese.

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