



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 October – 3 November 2005

Headline News

EU tables new offer in Doha World Trade talks (28/10/2005)

The EU has tabled new proposals on agriculture and other areas of the DDA trade talks to its negotiating partners in the 'Five Interested Parties' (FIPs). The European Union recognises that agricultural negotiations have now entered a critical phase and these proposals represent a comprehensive, substantive and credible contribution. The EU proposals bridge the different proposals tabled by other WTO Members. These proposals must unlock immediate progress in other areas of the Doha negotiations, particularly, trade in industrial products and services, which are crucial to the European economy. The EU proposals are fully conditional on satisfactory movement in other areas of the negotiation. The cuts offered are within the European Commission's mandate.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1358&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **New EU offer in Doha talks - Statement to the Press by Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson (28/10/2005)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/652&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EU's new offer on Agricultural Market Access - Statement to the Press by Com M Fischer Boel (28/10/2005)

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/655&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Doha Round: EU offer in agricultural negotiations (28/10/2005)

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/400&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Economic Partnership Agreements: EU and West Africa agree next phase of negotiations (28/10/2005)

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson met with West African Ministers on the 27th October in Brussels to agree on the next phase of the Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations between the two regions. Ministers agreed to start negotiations in 2006 and endorsed a calendar setting out a precise timetable for the talks. This will mean starting work on drafting the text and legal provisions of the EPA and issues connected with market access, including the effect of an EPA on productive sectors in West Africa.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1362&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Other News

Combat Climate Change: towards a Sustainable Energy Future – Speech by Com S Dimas (01/11/2005)

Addressing the Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development, EU Commissioner Stavros Dimas (environment) noted: "The Gleneagles Declaration and Action Plan were important and timely achievements at the G8, for which the UK and PM Blair should be warmly congratulated. The Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development will allow us to take this process forward. In developing a sustainable energy future we face many challenges. To name only three: we must provide better access to energy for the poor, ensure energy security and address the serious problem of climate change. The Dialogue is an excellent opportunity to exchange views and share best practices that will enable us to advance the clean energy agenda."

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/659&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Renewable energy: Commissioner Dimas to participate at international conference in China (03/11/2005)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1365&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

The European Neighbourhood Policy – Speech by Com Benita Ferrero-Waldner (31/10/2005)

In a speech to the Conference of Foreign Affairs Committee Chairmen of EU member and candidate states, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations / European Neighbourhood policy) said: "We are well-aware of the disaffection sweeping certain EU Member States about the role and direction of the EU. It is understandable that our citizens now take our most impressive achievement, peace, for granted. We should rejoice that they can take it for granted. But that means we have to work hard to show our citizens the EU is relevant to their present-day concerns. Recent polls have shown both EU citizens and our partner countries want the EU to play a greater role on the international stage. There is strong public support for a more effective EU foreign policy, meeting global challenges like terrorism, poverty, and political instability. So I am pleased to have this opportunity discuss with you the EU's newest foreign policy tool, the European Neighbourhood Policy."

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/658&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EC disappointed with WTO arbitrators' ruling against proposed banana import tariff (27/10/2005)

The European Commission will study carefully the implications of the decision by the World Trade Organisation's arbitrators to reject the proposed new import tariff for bananas. The Commission had proposed a single tariff of 187 euros per tonne for bananas imported from countries – mainly in Latin America - enjoying Most Favoured Nation status, as well as a duty-free quota of 775,000 tonnes for ACP bananas, as from 1 January 2006. It is regrettable that the arbitrators did not use this opportunity to provide more clarity as to how this long-standing dispute could be resolved.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1359&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Working Together on Energy Efficiency – Speech by Commissioner Andris Piebalgs (02/11/2005)

Addressing the International Conference “Europe and an Energy Efficient World – Acting and learning together”, Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs said: “ Europe has many reasons to be proud of the energy policy that it has developed over recent years. Few, if any other regions, have placed demand reduction and the development of alternative and renewable energy sources at the heart of their energy policies rather than attempting to simply expand production to meet unconstrained and increasing demand. Recent experiences on world oil markets have indicated this policy choice. However, this does not mean that our approach cannot be further improved. The energy world has changed fundamentally in the last few years, with high and volatile oil prices and with gas prices following behind. Demand for energy world-wide is increasing very rapidly, and given continued prospects for growth particularly in China and India, only a serial optimist would expect this trend to reverse in the near future.”



See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/657&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

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