



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.



29 April – 5 May 2005



Headline News



Javier Solana meets President Thabo Mbeki, Pretoria (29/04/2005)

While paying a fleeting visit to South Africa, Javier Solana, the EU's High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), accompanied by Mr Aldo Ajello (EU Special Representative for the African Great Lakes Region) met with President Thabo Mbeki. The meeting, also attended by Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota focused on issues of mutual interest including the United Nations and the African Union, as well as on the Great Lakes region and notably the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the situation in Dafur, Sudan. Subsequently Mr Solana, and EU Commissioner Louis Michel (Development and Humanitarian Assistance), met with DRC President Joseph Kabila in Kinshasa. This joint visit was aimed at evaluating progress in the transition process of the DRC, of which the EU, alongside the UN, is the principal sponsor.



Pres Mbeki & Mr Solana

See also: **Council establishes mission to provide advice/assistance for security sector reform in DRC (02/05/2005)**

http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/misc/84768.pdf

Javier Solana and Louis Michel launch EUPOL & reiterate EU support for transition in DRC (30/04/2005)

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/517&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EC puts women's reproductive health & child rights at the heart of Development policy (04/05/2005)

The European Commission and the World Health Organisation (WHO) hosted an international conference on Women, Children and Newborn Health in Brussels. By hosting this conference, the Commission intends to enhance the EU's response to the unacceptable state of women's and children's health, particularly in Africa. The European Commissioner for Development, Louis Michel, has identified women's reproductive and sexual health care and women's and children's rights as fundamental to accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Com Michel said: "Equal status for women and recognition of women's reproductive rights are central to development. ..."

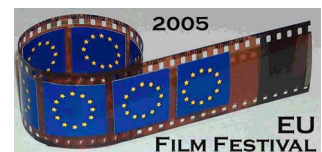
See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/542&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Other News

Launch of European Union Film Festival 2005 (05/05/2005)



At the launch event of this year's European Film Festival, Lodewijk Briët, Head of the European Commission Delegation said: "The timing of our film festival is traditionally linked to our commemoration of the founding of the European Union. It was through the vision of a great European, Robert Schuman, who made the declaration that launched our European community some 55 years ago, that a process was put in place that now, more than ever, impacts on Europe and the world. Today we are a Union of some twenty-five countries containing close to 450 million citizens. Similar to South Africa, the EU is all the richer for its multicultural and multilingual nature." See: <http://www.eusa.org.za/PDFdownload/Film%20Festival%202005.pdf>



Commissioners Mandelson and Fischer Boel take part in WTO trade talks, Paris (03/05/2005)

EU Agriculture Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel and EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson attended WTO talks as part of the Doha Development Agenda of international trade negotiations. Wednesday's Mini-Ministerial meeting took place in the margins of the OECD Trade Ministers' meeting in Paris. During their visit Commissioners Fischer Boel and Mandelson met with various negotiating groups in an attempt to make new progress in talks on agriculture, services, non-agricultural market access (NAMA) and development. Com Mandelson said: "It is time for all WTO members to move the talks forward. All parties should be ready to give according to their capacity, so that we can meet the needs of the most vulnerable."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/535&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Speaking Points on WTO Agricultural Negotiations – by Mariann Fischer Boel (03/05/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/268&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

European Commission welcomes breakthrough in WTO agriculture talks (04/05/2005)

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/545&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



EU financial perspectives must reflect goal of sustainable development (02/05/2005)

The principle of sustainable development must be reflected in the financial perspective 2007-2013. This is the main request of the European Economic and Social Committee's draft exploratory opinion, drawn up at the request of the Luxembourg Presidency. The priority areas of the sustainable development strategy must be taken into account, right down to the detailed design of the financial programmes. Impact assessment will have to play a key role, and support for unsustainable activities should be stopped. ...Priority areas such as climate change, transport, public health, natural resources, poverty, ageing populations as well as dependence on fossil fuels must be treated as priorities in budgetary policies as well. ...The draft opinion stresses that a restructuring of expenditure towards the priorities of the EU must take place irrespective of the overall level of budgetary resources finally decided upon.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=CES/05/53&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

The first anniversary of enlargement - Statement by President José Manuel Barroso (01/05/2005)

"The first anniversary of the 5th enlargement which has re-united Europe is a happy event for all Europeans. It reminds us that the EU is not a closed club and how much its power of attraction is important. The historic moment when the ten most recent Member States joined the Union not only marked the achievement of a major political objective, but above all it expressed the determination and courage of their citizens and their desire to fulfil their dream of living in a better world. It is a forceful reminder that openness towards others - and not isolationism - is what drives the EU and yields results ... With 25 members - 27 in around two years' time - the EU is strengthening its position on the international stage."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/515&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Enlargement one year on: state of play / elements d'analyse (29/04/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/145&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Tilting the global balance: Asia's new trade growth – Speech by Peter Mandelson (29/04/2005)

In this keynote speech to the WEF Asia Forum in Singapore on 29 April 2005 EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson called for Europe to renew and consolidate the scope of its relations with Asia to reflect the region's dramatic changes. He announces that the EU and ASEAN have agreed to set up a political level "vision group" to assess the feasibility of an EU-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement. He argued that Europe should welcome "the renaissance of Asia" not as a threat but an opportunity and a stimulus for European competitiveness.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/263&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **EU Trade Commissioner announces feasibility study for EU-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (29/04/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/511&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Statement by the EU Presidency on the situation in Togo (29/04/2005)

The Presidency expresses its grave concern regarding the development of the situation in Lomé, as in the rest of Togo, following the elections of 24 April. It pays tribute to the people of Togo, who have taken part in the ballot despite difficult conditions. The Presidency steadfastly condemns the current wave of violence and launches an urgent appeal to all of the parties to restore calm. In this respect, it exhorts the Security Forces to exercise their duty to maintain order with strict respect for human rights, in order to avoid any exaction against the population. The Presidency encourages the leaders of all the political forces and civil and military institutions to prove their total commitment to undertake the route of national reconciliation and to achieve a successful transition.

Ahead:

- **09/05/2005 – EU Public Holiday commemorating the founding of the EU**

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/abc/index_en.htm

Photo File:



The camera of photographer Amadeu Altafaj catches Development Commissioner Louis Michel lending a hand to push a capsized lorry to the edge of the EU-financed Goma-Masisi road, Northern Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (28/04/2005)

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