



**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 September – 5 October 2006

### Headline News

#### **President Barroso announces extra €40 million in humanitarian aid during mission to Darfur (02/10/2006)**

The European Commission has allocated a further €40 million for life-saving humanitarian assistance to the victims of the Darfur crisis in Sudan. The funding includes €26 million in support of the efforts of the World Food Programme to meet growing nutritional needs in the crisis zone. Other activities being financed include protection and the UN humanitarian air services (UNHAS) which provide vital links to otherwise inaccessible areas. This new humanitarian aid builds on previous Commission decisions for the region.



Pres Barroso and Com Louis Michel at the distribution center of the World Food Programme in El Fasher, Darfur, Sudan (01/10/2006)



Pres Barroso lending a hand with the relief action

### Other News

#### **European Commission and African Union held joint meeting in Addis Ababa (02/10/2006)**



The European Commission met with the Commission of the African Union (AU) for a joint working session last 2 October in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was their third meeting together in the last three years, but the first outside the European continent. The growing institutional, financial and political partnership saw several commissioners travel to Ethiopia, including President José Manuel Barroso. The two parties signed a wide-ranging support programme worth €55 mil for the AU's operational and institutional development, to be implemented as from 01/01/2007. They also agreed to establish a permanent exchange of officials between the two Commissions to support regional governance.

#### **Aviation Security: New Regulation (05/10/2006)**

The European Commission adopted a regulation today restricting the liquids that passengers can carry past screening points and then onto aircraft. This comes as a reaction to another threat to civil aviation security stemming from home made liquid explosives. Furthermore, the new rules require passengers to remove coats and jackets at security checkpoints and for laptops and large electrical items to be removed from bags. Also, the Regulation will in 6 months limit the size of cabin baggage allowed to a maximum of 56 cm x 45 cm x 25 cm, with possibilities for some exemptions

See also: [Aviation security: EU acts against liquid explosives Questions and answers \(05/10/2006\)](#)

#### **Commission provides a further €5 million in humanitarian aid to vulnerable people in DRC (04/10/2006)**

The European Commission has allocated €5 million to assist the most vulnerable people affected by the recent conflict between the army and irregular militias in Katanga in the south east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The humanitarian consequences of the conflict have been grave. 300,000 people have been affected. The Commission is already funding relief operations in Katanga and throughout the DRC for €45 million this year. In February, the Commission, together with the United Nations, launched an overall Humanitarian Aid Action Plan for the DRC bringing together all the key actors involved in helping to alleviate the suffering of the Congolese people.

#### **Europe's Next Frontiers – Speech by Com O Rehn (04/10/2006)**

Giving a lecture at Bilkent University in Ankara, Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn observed: "In the EU voices have been raised requesting a pause to enlargement. ... It is in this context that (...) President Barroso clarified recently that a new institutional settlement should have been born by the time the next member is going to join the Union. ... While we prepare internally for a new institutional settlement, the gradual and carefully managed accession process moves on with Turkey and Croatia, and other Western Balkan countries. While we are cautious about any new commitments, we stick to our existing commitments to these countries."

### **[New strategy puts EU trade policy at service of competitiveness and economic reform \(04/10/2006\)](#)**

The European Commission has adopted a new strategy to integrate trade policy into the EU's competitiveness and economic reform agenda. The policy review (Global Europe: competing in the world) sets out a strategy for opening new markets abroad for EU companies to trade and ensuring that European companies are able to compete fairly in those markets. It also commits Europe to ensuring that its own markets remain open, arguing that in a global market, with global supply chains, Europe needs to import to export. It cannot argue for openness from others while sheltering behind barriers of our own.

### **[Three European companies guilty in African aid fraud case \(04/10/2006\)](#)**

Investigations of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) have contributed to court decisions against three European companies in a fraud case affecting a major development project in southern Africa. The companies – one incorporated in France, one in Italy and one in Germany – were found guilty in proceedings before the judiciary in Lesotho and were fined a total of €4.4 million. The court decisions mark the closure of the follow-up to the OLAF investigations into the Lesotho Highlands Water Project that had been co-funded by the EU and other international donors.

### **[Commission & UN strengthen administrative cooperation to better face common challenges \(03/10/2006\)](#)**

Vice-President Siim Kallas, Commissioner in charge of administrative affairs, audit and anti-fraud, and Mr Mark Malloch-Brown, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, have today exchanged letters to formalise the ongoing administrative cooperation between the UN Secretariat and the European Commission on a range of issues in the administrative field. Both organisations face similar challenges, such as recruiting and managing a diverse multinational staff, and of planning, controlling and auditing programmes in an organisational structure with complex governance systems.

### **[Simplification of the CAP: meeting the challenge – Speech by Com M Fischer Boel \(03/10/2006\)](#)**

Addressing the conference, A Simple CAP for Europe, EU Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel (Agriculture and Rural Development) asked: "So what is simplification about? In the Commission's current work, we distinguish between two types: technical simplification and political simplification. Technical simplification is about the detailed implementation of policy, and sometimes about form. Political simplification is about changing underlying policies in ways which make them simpler. ..."

See also: [A simple CAP for Europe: a challenge for all – Speech by Vice Pres G Verheugen \(03/10/2006\)](#)

### **[Commission presents results of Eurobarometer on HIV/AIDS \(02/10/2006\)](#)**

The Eurobarometer survey on HIV/AIDS looked into public awareness and citizens' behaviour in the context of the AIDS epidemic. Although the level of awareness regarding HIV/AIDS is generally high, citizens from the Member States which joined the EU in 2004 tend to provide less correct answers.

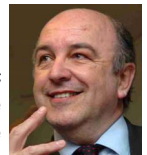
See also: [Questions and answers on the Eurobarometer on HIV/AIDS \(02/10/2006\)](#)

### **[Presidency's declaration on behalf of the EU on release of the opposition leader in Maldives \(02/10/2006\)](#)**

The European Union welcomes the release from house arrest on 21/09/2006 of the leader of the Maldivian Democratic Party, Mohamed Nasheed, who was arrested in August 2005 during a peaceful protest and subsequently charged with sedition and terrorism. The EU notes that the charges remain in force but looks forward to them being dropped in the near future.

### **[Euro Area Enlargement: Opportunities & Challenges - Speech by Com J Almunia \(02/10/2006\)](#)**

Addressing a conference on Lithuania and the euro, EU Monetary Affairs Commissioner, Joaquín Almunia, stated: "Euro area enlargement is an ongoing process, opening a new chapter in European economic and monetary integration. The potential benefits are great but challenges need to be tackled head on. Economic policies in the run-up to euro adoption will be shaped by the need to maintain macroeconomic stability while assuring sustained strong growth in a catching-up context. Euro area entry should only take place when the conditions are right, based on an objective and impartial assessment under the provisions of the Treaty."



### **[Commission calls for effective action against destructive deep sea fishing practices \(29/09/2006\)](#)**

4-5/10/2006 will see the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York discuss what action might be taken to prohibit destructive fishing practices on the high seas. The European Commission, on behalf of the European Union, will propose a coherent package of international measures which can deliver real protection for sensitive deep sea ecosystems and related vulnerable fish stocks. The actions sought include an immediate freeze on the expansion of deep sea fishing in regulated areas with bottom gears, ...

See also: [Commission Working Document - Destructive Fishing Practices in the high seas \(29/09/2006\)](#)

### **[Commission provides further €4 mil in aid for displaced people in Northern Uganda \(29/09/2006\)](#)**

The European Commission has allocated €4 million to improve the humanitarian situation for more than one million internally displaced people (IDPs) living in camps in Northern Uganda. They have been displaced as a result of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army insurgency. A recent cessation of hostilities means that a number of camp-based IDPs wish to go back home. The Commission's humanitarian aid focuses on those who can safely return. At the same time, it aims to improve living conditions in the camps for those with few opportunities for return in the near future. In January, the Commission provided €15 million in humanitarian aid for vulnerable people in northern and central parts of the country.

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