



**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.*



## 3 – 9 June 2005

### Headline News

#### **Presidency declaration on behalf of the EU concerning the recent events in Zimbabwe (08/06/2005)**

The European Union condemns the actions undertaken by the Zimbabwean Government in the framework of Operations Clean Sweep and Restore Order. The brutal actions which have led to over 20 000 arrests and to the massive and arbitrary destruction of the dwellings and means of existence of the neediest urban populations are a blatant proof of the Zimbabwean Government's lack of concern for the well-being of the civilian population, especially in urban areas. Thousands of families have been left without shelter in the heart of winter, thereby further worsening the critical humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PESC/05/51&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Mandelson urges African Trade Ministers: make Doha the “Round for Africa” (08/06/2005)**

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson participates in the African Union Trade Ministers' meeting on the WTO Doha Round of trade negotiations in Cairo, Egypt today. Commissioner Mandelson will reinforce the EU's commitment to the development goals of the Doha Round, which he will argue can be “the round for Africa”. On top of recent initiatives by the EU to shape the development aspects of the round with new commitments to flexible treatment and tariff and quota-free market access for the poorest countries, Commissioner Mandelson will urge African Trade Ministers to back new rules for trade facilitation that could dramatically increase developing countries' capacity to trade.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/695&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Statement to the Third African Union Conference of Ministers of Trade by Com Mandelson (08.06/2005)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/333&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **President Barroso to appeal, with Bono, to put the EU on track to double development aid (09/06/2005)**

European Commission President Barroso today met Bono, lead singer for U2 and a key campaigner on Africa, in the European Commission's Headquarters, in Brussels. The aim was to appeal to EU leaders at the summit in Brussels the following week, to put their full political weight behind ambitious new development aid targets which would put the EU on track to double development aid in a decade (by 2015).

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/703&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **EU Development and Africa – Press conference by President Barroso and Bono (09/06/2005)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/334&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### Other News

#### **European Commission urges compromise to resolve the Ethiopian crisis (09/06/2005)**

Commissioner responsible for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, spoke with the Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in order to convey a message to the government of Ethiopia urging tolerance and restraint on the use of force in response to recent unrest following disagreements over the electoral process. Louis Michel expressed the Commission's deep concern about recent developments in Ethiopia and in particular the violence which occurred in Addis Ababa, resulting in tragic loss of human life.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/709&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Com Michel congratulates the ACP-Group of States on their 30th Anniversary (06/06/2005)**

The ACP-Group of 79 states of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific celebrates its 30th anniversary today. Created by the Georgetown-agreement of 1975, the group has increased from the 18 founding members to its current size. In his congratulatory message Commissioner Louis Michel (Development & Humanitarian Aid), stressed the importance of the ACP group as a privileged interlocutor for the Community within the developing world: “Over the past 30 years, the ACP group of States has been a crucial partner of the Community. Let us continue to build upon this fruitful and rewarding partnership”.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/701&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Cultural diversity : a major step towards the adoption of a UNESCO Convention (06/06/2005)**

The negotiation of a draft UNESCO Convention on cultural diversity was concluded successfully in Paris on 03/06/2005. The third negotiating session adopted a revised draft Convention and recommended to the next UNESCO General Conference (Oct 2005) to adopt it. As per the mandate given by the Council in November 2004, the Commission negotiated on behalf of the European Community. The revised draft Convention legitimises cultural policies and promotes international cooperation. See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/676&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **EC outlines negotiation principles for the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis (06/06/2005)**

Preparations for the second World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis (16-18 November 2005) have entered a crucial phase. This summit should reach an international consensus on two key unresolved issues from the first phase: Internet governance and financial mechanisms for bridging the digital divide between developed and developing countries. To promote an Information Society for all, respectful of human rights and of freedom of expression and cultural and linguistic diversity, the EU wishes to preserve and strengthen the sound foundations laid during the first summit in Geneva.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/672&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Commission seeks interested parties' comments on ALROSA and De Beers commitments (03/06/2005)**

The European Commission is asking interested parties for comments by 03/07/2005 on commitments offered by ALROSA and De Beers in a case under EC Treaty rules outlawing cartels and abuse of monopoly power (Articles 81 and 82) involving the market for rough diamonds. The Commission had preliminary concerns that the volume of ALROSA rough diamonds purchased by De Beers might both enhance De Beers market power and eliminate ALROSA as an alternative source of supply. The commitments proposed by the parties purport to address these concerns by reducing the amount of diamonds purchased by De Beers from ALROSA.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/664&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **EU Election Observation Mission for the Presidential Election in Guinea Bissau (03/06/2005)**

The European Commission has deployed an EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) for the presidential election in Guinea Bissau scheduled to take place on 19/06/2005. The EU EOM is led by Johan Van Hecke, Member of the European Parliament, who is arriving today in Bissau. The EOM is a further contribution by the European Commission to supporting peace and democratisation in Guinea Bissau.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/661&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Commission allocates €12 million to victims of the Darfur conflict who have fled to Chad (03/06/2005)**

The European Commission released €12 million in humanitarian aid for the victims of the crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan, to alleviate the consequences of the population movements affecting Chad. This aid is to cover the immediate needs of the refugees, the host population and returnees. It will be channelled through the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), under the responsibility of Louis Michel, the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/660&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **The UN at the crossroads – Speech by Com Ferrero-Waldner (03/06/2005)**

In a recent address to the International Peace Academy in New York, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations & European Neighbourhood Policy), noted: "As the EU Security Strategy states, effective multilateralism, with the UN at its core, is central to our external action. In today's world, multilateral cooperation is more essential than ever. And the UN is the heart and soul of the multilateral system. ... And today's security threats – hard and soft – cannot be dealt with without it. That said, the European Union knows better than most that international organisations need re-tuning from time to time, to take account of changing realities. Such re-tuning can often be a painful and unpredictable process. ..."

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/323&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Africa is taking giant steps towards regional integration – Speech by Com Michel (03/06/2005)**

While addressing the Summit of Heads of State and Government of COMESA in Kigali, Rwanda, Commissioner Louis Michel (Development & Humanitarian Aid), said: "In recent years, Africa has given us tangible proofs that the continent is changing. It has developed powerful leadership and strong institutions, and the African Union Commission is gearing up to become the locomotive for integration within Africa. Africa has taken giant steps to further its political and economic integration. ... And I would like to seize the occasion to commend President Obasanjo and the African Union Commission's President Konaré for their leadership. Such construction, however, can not hold alone. The African house needs to be set on solid regional building blocks. There will be no continental integration without strong and ambitious sub-regional organisations. ..."

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/319&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**For further information please contact Frank Oberholzer at 012-452-5200**

#### **Declarations by the Presidency**

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the elections in the Central African Republic (10/06/2005)

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PEESC/05/52&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on events in Duékoué, Côte d'Ivoire (08/06/2005)

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PEESC/05/50&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the situation in Togo (06/06/2005)

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PEESC/05/49&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>