



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.

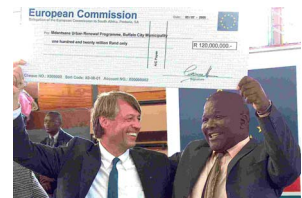


30 June – 6 July 2006

Headline News

[Commission commits R270 mil to urban renewal in Eastern Cape \(04-05/07/2006\)](#)

The European Commission and the South African Government jointly launched the EU-funded Support Programme to Urban Renewal in the Eastern Cape during celebrations in both Motherwell (Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality incorporating Port Elizabeth) and at Mdantsane (Buffalo City Municipality incorporating East London). The five-year Programme will see an estimated R130 million available to each of the above-mentioned municipalities for expenditure, at local government level, within the framework of the South African Government's Urban Renewal programme. At the launches, attended by Deputy Ministers Ntombazana Botha (Arts & Culture) and Muleki George (Defence), EU Ambassador Briët said: "...this is what the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development in South Africa is all about. In President Mbeki's words, a better life for all."



Ambassador Briët handing over a symbolic R120 million cheque to Buffalo City acting Mayor, Councillor Dikimolo

Other News

[EU funds Area Based Management Development Conference in Durban \(30/06/2006\)](#)



The Area Based Management (ABM) Development Conference took place from the 28-30/06/2006 and was funded from the EU budget support programme to the eThekweni Municipality (including the port city of Durban). The focus of the conference was on learning about and reflecting on the ABM Programme experience in eThekweni. The conference was addressed by the European Commission Delegation to South Africa's first secretary (for development), Mr Hubert Perr, who highlighted the importance and success of providing budget support to Local Government. (photo: eThekweni Mayor Obed Mlaba and Mr Hubert Perr)

[The Finnish EU Presidency: from reflection to engagement – Speech by Pres JM Barroso \(05/07/2006\)](#)

Addressing the European Parliament Plenary Session in Strasbourg, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, said: "I am delighted that after the excellent Austrian Presidency, we can now work in tandem with the Finns. In Helsinki a few days ago, Prime Minister Vanhanen and I agreed that our two teams should work as one. Let us join efforts, between the Presidency, Commission and I may also say the Parliament. Europe needs the clear harmony, the dynamic harmony which Finland brings."

[Launch of comprehensive EU strategy to promote and safeguard the rights of the child \(04/07/2006\)](#)

The European Commission adopted its Communication "Towards an EU strategy on the Rights of the Child". This is the first time the Commission has taken such a transversal and cross-cutting approach to children's rights. It concerns both internal and external policies of the Union and covers more than ten of these policies such as civil and criminal justice, employment, development cooperation, trade negotiation, education and health.

See also: [Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child \(04/07/2006\)](#)

[Declaration by the Presidency declaration on behalf of the EU on the Middle East \(03/07/2006\)](#)

The European Union is extremely concerned about the situation which has evolved over the last days between Israel and the Palestinians and calls on all parties to abstain from any actions that are in violation of international law. It calls for the immediate and unconditional release of the kidnapped Israeli soldier. The EU strongly condemns the murder of the Israeli victim of a kidnapping in the West Bank. It calls on the Palestinian leadership to bring an end to violence and terrorist activities, including the firing of rockets on Israeli territory. The EU expresses its particular concern about the detention of elected members of the Palestinian Government and legislature. Those detained should be accorded their full legal rights.

See also: [The situation in the Palestinian Territories – Speech by Com B Ferrero-Waldner \(05/07/2006\)](#)

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