



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 September – 6 October 2005

Headline News

Declaration on the opening of accession negotiations with Turkey by Pres JM Barroso (03/10/2005)

Today is a milestone in the relationship between the EU and Turkey. A stable, modern and democratic Turkey is an objective we should support actively in the EU and in Turkey. This is why we are starting negotiations. Of course the road towards Turkey's accession will be long and difficult. Accession, as for every country, is neither guaranteed nor automatic. The negotiations must be fair and rigorous. On behalf of the EU I can guarantee this will be the case. Turkey must be treated in the same way as all other candidates. And it must strictly respect the requirements for democracy, human rights and rule of law if it is to join the club. Europe must learn more about Turkey. And Turkey must win the hearts and minds of European citizens. They are the ones who at the end of the day will decide about Turkey's membership. Turkey must be given a fair chance to demonstrate that it is capable of meeting all conditions for accession. I hope it will; an open dynamic Turkey is in the interest of a EU capable of assuming fully its responsibilities in the world. <http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/turkey/index.htm>

Plan D – Speech by Vice-Pres M Wallström (03/20/2005)

In her opening remarks to the Constitutional Affairs Committee, EC Vice-President Margot Wallström said: "Our view on the substance of the Constitution has not changed. We agree on the steps forward that the Constitution would bring in terms of democracy, fundamental rights, transparency and efficiency; we agree that attempts should not be made to anticipate the Constitution or 'cherry-pick' the institutional parts; we agree that the idea of continuing with the Treaty of Nice or a Treaty of Nice bis is not a long-term solution; we agree that a European dialogue – what we call Plan-D for democracy, dialogue and debate must be the priority; we agree that the debates need to be structured and must have a clear feedback process...."



See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/573&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Remarks to the European Parliament by Com B Ferrero-Waldner (05/10/2005)

Addressing the joint meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committees of the European Parliament and of National Parliaments, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy) said: "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 EU action to meet global challenges like terrorism, poverty, AIDS and other pandemics, and the environment. Yet there is little awareness of what we are already doing in terms of peacekeeping, development assistance, and diplomacy. It is important that we communicate this better, particularly at this time when some are questioning the utility and purpose of the EU. And you, their elected representatives, are particularly well placed to do so. ..."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/575&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Other News

Fraud and aid funds – Speech by Vice-Pres S Kallas (06/10/2005)

In his opening address to the Fraud and Aid Conference, European Commission Vice President Siim Kallas (responsible for Administrative Affairs, Audit and Anti-Fraud) noted: "Over the years, the EU has developed a broad spectrum of external relations tools including for example common trade policy, cooperation under bilateral and multilateral agreements, and development cooperation. My main message here today is the importance of cooperation and coordination and learning from experience to improve our toolbox."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/579&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



If you published an article on the defence of **human rights or democracy in the developing world** between 01/01/2004 and 31/08/2005 you may be eligible to compete for the **Lorenzo Natali Prize** for journalists given by the European Commission.

See: <http://www.nataliprize.info/index.php>

European Commission proposes comprehensive EU strategy for support to Palestinians (05/10/2005)

The Commission has adopted a Communication to the Council and the European Parliament "EU-Palestinian cooperation beyond disengagement - towards a two-state solution". The aim is to put in place a comprehensive, medium-term strategy for the EU's support to the Palestinians. The strategy focuses on the actions required to create a Palestinian state viable both politically and economically. This is an immediate response to the new opportunities presented following Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, and to the needs assessment currently being carried out by the Quartet Special Envoy, James Wolfensohn.

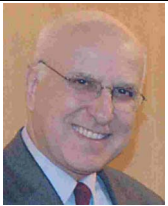
See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1224&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EC steps up personal data safeguards in the fight against terrorism/organised crime (04/10/2005)

Faced with organised crime and terrorism which are increasingly operating across borders, the European Commission has presented new proposals to reinforce the protection of personal data and allow for a more effective exchange of information between national law enforcement agencies.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1220&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

The Commission's initiatives for shaping future policy – Speech by Com S Dimas (03/10/2005)



Addressing a climate change conference at the National Library in Vienna, Commissioner Stavros Dimas (Environment) said: "Climate change is one of the key market realities that will determine this framework. The need to move to a low-carbon economy will set new rules for energy activities by shifting the cost structure of all energy sources. At political level, it is therefore essential to be very clear and transparent on our climate change policy, giving clear signals to the market on our overall objectives and the carbon limits that our economies will have to respect. This will give European companies important economic benefits. Nothing will be a better vehicle for competitiveness than an EU energy policy preparing our companies to the carbon constraints of the future.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/567&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Commission deplores tragic events in Ceuta and Melilla (30/09/2005)

The Commission deeply regrets the tragic events in Ceuta and Melilla which led to the untimely death of several persons. It is necessary to intensify cooperation on tackling illegal migration with Morocco and the main countries of origin in Africa, as part of a broader partnership on migration-related issues.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1212&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Readmission Agreements (05/10/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/351&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

WTO condemns US subsidies to exporters; recipients of illegal support include Boeing (30/09/2005)

The WTO panel decision regarding U.S. federal tax subsidies for exporters was circulated to WTO Members. The Panel has found in favour of the EU in all respects. It concludes that despite some changes to its legislation the US has yet to abide by previous WTO rulings and the recommendations of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body regarding the FSC/ETI dispute. The Panel also makes clear that the tax subsidies which have been carried forward by using transitional periods and so-called 'grandfathering' violate WTO rules.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1211&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

The EU's response to the challenge of ageing – Speech by Com V Špidla (30/09/2005)

Addressing the 2005 EURAG Congress in Ljubljana, Commissioner Vladimír Špidla (Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities) noted: "Ageing is one of Europe's biggest and most complex challenges. It is already transforming our society, the economy and the relationships between different generations. In the past 40 years, life expectancy in the EU has increased by 8-10 years. ...Over the next 20 years, the number of younger Europeans will fall by 20%. One in three of us will be over 60 years old, and one in ten of us will be over 80! Will the European social model be able to maintain strong growth, generate tax revenues and sustain social protection systems against this dramatic backdrop? ..."



See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/565&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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	<h2 style="text-align: center;">EU-Russia Relations</h2>	
<p>Overall, the EU's main interests are to foster political and economic stability in Russia; to contribute to the strengthening of the rule of law through the development of efficient institutions as well as effective legislative, executive and judicial systems; to support measures for a better investment climate in Russia and enhance legislative harmonisation with the EU, and to co-operate in combating "soft" security threats in the fields of justice and home affairs, environment and nuclear safety.</p>		
<p>16th EU-Russia Summit, London 4 October 2005 (04/10/05) http://www.eu2005.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1112704221230&a=KArticle&aid=1128332266406&date=2005-10-04</p>		
<p>For more on EU-Russia relations see the website of the Delegation in Moscow http://www.delrus.cec.eu.int/en/index.htm And the European Commission's website at http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/russia/intro/index.htm</p>		