



European Union
Delegation of the European Commission
to South Africa

EU Perspectives

*Regular publication that seeks to provide information
on EU-related activities of interest to SA readers*



For more on any covered issue/s, please
'click' on the blue headings and / or text



31 August – 13 September 2009

Headline News

[Second EU-SA Summit, Kleinmond, Western Cape](#)



From left to right: Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt (EU Presidency), President Jacob Zuma, Dr Javier Solana, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union, EU Commissioner Karel De Gucht (for the European Commission on behalf of President Jose Manuel Barroso)

Against a backdrop of significantly expanded relations since the establishment of the SA-EU Strategic Partnership in mid-2007, the **2nd EU-SA Summit**, held in Kleinmond in the Western Cape, provided a high-level forum to discuss, and take forward, common positions on issues of global importance, including climate change, the financial crises as well as peace and security in Africa and beyond. Com De Gucht stated: "This is the first of our summits to be hosted in SA and it comes at a crucial time for us all: Europe, SA and the world. We are just days away from critical G20 discussions in Pittsburgh on the global financial crisis and just weeks away from vital discussions on climate change in Copenhagen. SA is a key partner in both of these discussions and this Summit provides us with a platform to begin the work needed to finding solutions that benefit every continent. This spirit of co-operation already exists in an impressive range of political, trade and economic matters, but also on issues such as science and technology, energy, migration or health."

See also: ["Progress, challenges & prospects for the EU-SA Partnership" - speech Com Karel De Gucht](#)



[European Commission and South African Government sign €100 mil Employment Creation Programme](#)

The European Commission (EC) and United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) have committed €100 million and £18 million respectively to support the South African Government's work in its three clusters - Economic, Employment and Infrastructure – and thus to help stimulate innovative ways of accelerating growth and creating job opportunities in the country.

Endorsing the Agreement from right to left are: Development & Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Karel De Gucht (EC), Economic Development Minister Ebrahim Patel (RSA), Trade & Industry Minister Rob Davies (RSA), and Mr Nicholas Amin (DFID)



[EU Troika visits Zimbabwe in bid to restore eventual aid co-operation](#)

As member of an EU Troika visit to Zimbabwe, Com Karel De Gucht stated "There is an urgent need for all parties to fulfil their obligations under the Global Political Agreement (GPA). By doing this, the EU can once again fully re-engage with Zimbabwe and help the country on its return to normality and prosperity by resuming our development cooperation in full. This is a critical time for Zimbabwe and the weight of responsibility falls squarely on the country's leaders to deliver urgent political, economic and social progress for the benefit of all the people of Zimbabwe."

See also: [EU Development Commissioner visits humanitarian projects in Zimbabwe](#)

[Climate change: Commission sets out global finance blueprint for ambitious action by developing nations](#)

The European Commission has set out a blueprint for scaling up international finance to help developing countries combat climate change. This initiative aims to maximise the chances of concluding an ambitious global climate change agreement at the December United Nations climate conference in Copenhagen. The Commission proposes that industrialised nations, and economically more advanced developing countries, should provide this public financing in line with their responsibility for emissions and ability to pay. This could mean an EU contribution of up to €15bn a year by 2020, assuming an ambitious agreement is reached in Copenhagen. President Barroso said "With less than 90 days before Copenhagen we need to make serious progress in these negotiations. That is why the Commission is putting the first meaningful proposal on the table on how we might finance the battle against climate change. The sums involved are potentially significant, both ambitious and fair. I am determined that Europe will continue to provide a lead, but developed and economically advanced developing countries must also make a contribution."

Other News

[EU and Eastern and Southern Africa \(ESA\) sign interim Economic Partnership Agreement](#)

The EU signed an interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and Madagascar. Zambia and Comoros have indicated they will sign at a later date. The EPA offers the ESA countries which signed the agreement immediate and full access to EU markets (with transition periods for rice and sugar), together with improved rules of origin. ESA countries will open their markets gradually over the next 15 years, with a number of important exceptions reflecting their development needs. Commissioner Ashton said "We now have the foundation to build a more comprehensive trade partnership that will support the ESA region's work to build diverse and sustainable economies. This agreement brings a diverse region together under a single trade arrangement with the EU, tailored to the specific needs of the region and recognising its diversity."

[EU Commissioner Potočnik in Africa to boost the Science Partnership between the AU and the EU](#)

EU Commissioner for Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, paid an official visit to Kenya and Ethiopia, where he held high-level political meetings and visited EU-supported research centres in Nairobi and in Addis-Ababa. The visit took place in the framework of the Science & Technology Partnership established between the AU and the EU in December 2007. This unique partnership between two continents aims to strengthen African research capacity in the area of science and technology, enabling Africa to produce and to use its own scientific knowledge to address its development challenges and emerge on the global scientific scene. Commissioner Potočnik said: "Science is not a luxury for Africa, but crucial to finding sustainable solutions to the many challenges Africa faces. The S&T partnership puts EU-AU cooperation on a new footing: a true partnership of equals where the EU works not so much for Africa, as with Africa. Africans decide their own research priorities and together, we will build a strong research capacity that can encourage and retain local talent and attract foreign scientists".

[Commission allocates a further €53m euro in humanitarian aid for drought response in Africa](#)

The European Commission has earmarked a further €53.475m for expanded humanitarian aid to vulnerable people in Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Chad, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and Mauritania. The funds will be channelled through the Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO), under the responsibility of Karel De Gucht, Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid. Commissioner De Gucht said: "The humanitarian consequences of climate change are felt very hard in many countries of sub-Saharan-Africa. An enormous area stretching from the Sahel to the Horn of Africa has been affected by extreme weather hazards in recent months and indeed years. Lasting severe drought with in some cases brutal flooding have had devastating effect on harvests and livestock, and increased the vulnerability of millions of people. In those regions climatic hazards exacerbate further dramatic situations caused by conflicts, poor governance and widespread poverty".

[Framework Programme 7 Call for Proposals - Call FP7-Africa-2010](#)

The Research Directorate-General has published the Call FP7-AFRICA-2010, implemented jointly by the Themes: 'Health', 'Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology' and 'Environment', which will fund projects aimed at enhancing African socio-economic development and capacity building.

For further information please contact Frank Oberholzer on 012-452-5200