



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.



04 – 10 November 2005



Headline News



Successful EU-funded Local Economic Development Projects announced in KZN (08/11/2005)

As part of the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development in South Africa, the European Commission supports the Local Economic Development Programme in KwaZulu Natal. With its emphasis on job creation the Gijima Programme particularly focuses on harnessing creativity at a local level through a demand led approach and the centrality of a partnership approach. Addressing partners and recipients of EU-funding under the Business Enabling and Local Competitiveness Funds, Dr Klaus Schmidt (Deputy Head of Mission of the European Commission Delegation in Pretoria) noted: "I must praise the efforts of all those involved in the Programme ... it is almost unparalleled that senior members of the private sector, local and provincial Government, the public entities and NGOs contribute so generously to a single Programme" See: http://www.eusa.org.za/PDFdownload/Speeches/Schmidt_KZN_LED_Nov_2005.pdf



Dr. Klaus Schmidt and Dr. Zakes Mkhize (Finance and Economic Development Minister, KwaZulu Natal)

Other News

EC statement on recent attacks on aid workers and tourists in Uganda and Sudan (09/11/2005)

Following the recent attacks on international aid workers and tourists in North Uganda and South of Sudan, the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, has issued the following statement on behalf of the European Commission: "I am deeply concerned by the recent spate of violent attacks on international humanitarian aid personnel and tourists in northern Uganda and southern Sudan. One British tourist was recently killed in Murchison Falls national park. Two aid workers have been killed and more than ten people in total injured in ambushes and attacks recorded over the past two weeks. It appears that the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) is developing a new and wholly unacceptable terror tactic in deliberately targeting expatriates, be they humanitarian aid workers or tourists. "

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1400&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

EC provides further €5 mil for emergency humanitarian aid to Malawi (08/11/2005)

Further to its previous pro-active approach since April the European Commission has allocated a further €5 million for emergency food aid interventions to support most vulnerable groups. This aid is being provided through DG-ECHO, the Commission's Humanitarian Aid department, which comes under the responsibility of Commissioner Louis Michel. The funds are being channelled through NGO's and UN agencies and will cover a series of interventions such as nutrition, emergency water and sanitation, the provision of emergency agricultural inputs and logistics. DG ECHO-funded interventions will specifically aimed at preventing a further deterioration of the nutritional situation of the most vulnerable groups

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1387&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

EC & UN conference to promote gender equality and eradicate poverty (07/11/2005)

The European Commission and the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) will hold a conference, from 09-11/11/2005 in Brussels, to assess the effects of development cooperation on efforts to promote gender equality and to eradicate poverty. The conference is being organised as a follow-up to three important events in 2005 that have linked commitments to gender equality with Millennium Development Goals: the 10-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action, the adoption of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2005 UN Summit. See: http://www.unifem.org/news_events/story_detail.php?StoryID=354

Bird Flu - European Commission earmarks €30 million for Asia (07/11/2005)

Concerns about avian influenza and the threat of a pandemic have to be tackled not only within the EU, but by helping countries at risk to control this disease at its source. The European Commission has earmarked up to €30 million to assist Asian partners face up to this challenge in 2006. The allocation of the money will be decided as soon as there has been an international evaluation of medium and long term needs. The forthcoming international Partners meeting on Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza in Geneva (07-09/11/2005) will provide an important opportunity to assess and identify what international financial assistance is required to support country and regional plans, particularly in Asia.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1376&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Presidency statement on behalf of the EU: Zimbabwe's rejection of humanitarian assistance (07/11/2005)

The European Union shares the UN's concerns over the grave humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe caused by the Operation Murambatsvina ("Drive out Trash") evictions. Like the UN Secretary-General, it is dismayed that the Government of Zimbabwe has not accepted the urgent humanitarian needs set out in the report of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, and has declined aid for those Zimbabweans left homeless and destitute by recent events. The European Union calls on the Government of Zimbabwe to work with the UN and the international community to get aid and shelter to those in need as a result of Operation Murambatsvina.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PESC/05/121&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Renewable Energy Policy in the European Union – Speech by Com S Dimas (07/11/2005)



Addressing the Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference, EU Commissioner Stavros Dimas (Environment) stated: "The World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 made a fundamental step by acknowledging for the first time that renewable energy is a key factor in addressing climate change, poverty and more generally economic development. Taking action on climate change is urgent. The scientific evidence is very clear: greenhouse gas emissions will peak within two decades and will then need to decline if we are to limit global warming to 2 degree C. In economic terms, we need to reconcile the challenge of climate change with rapid economic growth - to which all countries are entitled – and the resulting rise in energy demand.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/665&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Remarks to the General Affairs and External Relations Council – by Com P Mandelson (07/11/2005)

Making his remarks to General Affairs and External Relations Council on trade issues, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson observed: "I welcome the opportunity to report back to the Council after our discussion on 19 October, and to explain in the spirit of transparency we agreed where things stand and where I expect the negotiations to go in the coming days. Since we last met there have been three technical meetings on agricultural issues between the Commission and Member States. ... I welcome these meetings to ensure understanding between us...."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/663&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

EU-China talks focus on Doha, market access, intellectual property rights (04/11/2005)

Chinese Trade Minister Bo Xilai met with Commissioner for Trade Peter Mandelson and Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy Benita Ferrero-Waldner. In bilateral meetings and a formal sitting of the EC-China Economic and Trade Joint Committee, the Commission and Chinese representatives discussed all aspects of the ever-increasing relationship between China and the EU, with particular attention to economic and trade matters. Talks focused on intensive cooperation between the Commission and China in the twenty ongoing technical 'dialogues' in areas ranging from the environment and energy to education and intellectual property rights. Talks with Commissioner Mandelson focussed on the Doha Round; market access for EU businesses in China; the protection of intellectual property rights in China and China's progress towards Market Economy Status.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1374&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

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In the November 2005 issue:

- Editorial: EU's foreign policy agenda
- The PUMA PROJECT, an exemplary African story
- The debate on the sugar protocol
- NGOs and grassroots organisations – a model in the Gambia

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/publications/courier/eCourier/ecourier_5_2005_en.pdf#zoom=100