



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.*



4 – 8 June 2007

Headline News

[Darfur: action in face of unfolding crisis urged by MEPs, Nobel winners \(6/6/07\)](#)

Leading representatives of the European Parliament's political groups debated the situation in Darfur with former Nobel peace Prize winners Desmond Tutu and Jody Williams - the latter who had just returned from the troubled region of Sudan. In the debate MEPs lamented the inaction of the international community in the face of the unfolding crisis. There was consensus that the EU needed to put on a common front in its dealings with the Sudanese government.

[Doha Development Agenda : Mandelson calls for G8 engagement \(5/6/07\)](#)

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson called for G8 leaders and the leaders of the major emerging economies to use their authority to help complete the Doha Round of World Trade. Mandelson told the European Parliament's International Trade Committee (INTA) that he feared that the high political stakes were leading some negotiators "to harden their positions rather than offering compromise and flexibility". Mandelson argued that political leaders must now signal "their clear and unambiguous commitment to reaching a multilateral deal in the WTO - and making the tough compromises needed".

News

[Parliament insists new EU treaty must improve democracy and citizens' rights \(7/6/07\)](#)

The European Parliament resolved to reject any agreement on a new treaty which does not improve democracy, transparency and citizens' rights. This resolution on the EU's constitutional process was approved by the plenary on Thursday, 7 June, by 469 votes in favour to 141 against and 32 abstentions. The approved resolution is Parliament's contribution to the June European Council, to be held on 21 and 22 June, dedicated to the institutional reforms.

[European Commission and EIB launch new instrument to finance research and innovation \(6/6/07\)](#)

The European Commission & the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed a co-operation agreement establishing the new risk-sharing finance facility (RSFF) to support research & innovation in Europe. This new instrument will help to make more financing available for promoters of research & innovation projects, which often face more difficulties than traditional business sectors in accessing finance. The RSFF, part of the EU's [7th Research Framework Programme](#) & EIB's programme for Research & Innovation, will partially cover the financial risks assumed by the EIB when financing this type of activity. The contribution of €1 billion each from FP7 & the EIB will therefore unlock billions of additional financing in this area.

[UN World Environment Day \(5/6/07\)](#)

EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas issued a statement celebrating World Environment Day, which this year focuses on climate change. Commissioner Divas noted that the EU was leading the fight against climate change and taking concrete action to address the loss of bio-diversity, saying "World Environment Day should serve us as a reminder that we are sharing one world and that we need to protect it".

President Barroso calls for G8 progress on climate change and trade (4/6/07)

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso called for the G-8 summit in Germany to commit to further international action on climate change, emphasising that this commitment needed to extend to emerging economies. President Barroso also said it was time for the EU's partners to make the next move towards a successful end to the Doha trade round, responding to positive steps already taken by the EU. He welcomed the focus on development issues on the G-8 agenda and called for Europe and the world to keep their promises to Africa.

European Youth Week 3-6 June 2007 (4/6/07)

Ms Brenda King, President of the section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship (SOC) inaugurated the European Youth Week 2007 co-hosted this year by the European Economic and Social Committee. During this important event for youth policy in Europe, young people discussed pertinent issues such as the future of Europe and equal opportunities. This year's event focused on the new European Youth in Action Programme 2007-2013.

DG Enterprise and Industry launch new portal for European SMEs (4/6/07)

DG Enterprise and Industry have launched a new SME Portal giving access to information on the whole spectrum of EU policies, legislation, programmes and initiatives relevant to Europe's small and medium-sized enterprises.

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



Advanced Diploma in EU Studies 2007- 2008 – La Fondazione Collegio Europeo di Parma

The programme is designed mainly for young graduates from EU and non-EU member countries holding university degrees in legal, political and social areas. The application deadline is 3 September 2007. For information, visit <http://www.europeancollege.it>, e-mail info@colleuparma.org. Please note: the Delegation is not in a position to provide any funding or bursaries for this.