



European Union

Delegation of the European Commission
to South Africa

... this week
in review

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to provide information
on EU activities of
interest to SA readers.

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5 – 11 November 2007



Headline News

[2007 European Development Days focus on climate change](#)

European Development Days (7-9 November) opened in Lisbon, with the impact of climate change on developing countries top of the agenda. The focus of this year's forum was how to respond to the needs of already vulnerable countries hardest hit by the impacts of climate change and on the linkage between climate change, poverty and migration. European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Louis Michel was present throughout the three-day event in Lisbon. Commissioner Michel said: "Nobody does more for developing countries than Europe. We are on track with scaling up development assistance, we are making it more effective together with the Member States and we strive to ensure other EU policies like trade and environment more coherent with development goals. All this effort could go to waste if we do not act on climate change. This is the biggest single challenge which we need to tackle together with our partners in developing countries." Visit the [European Development Days](#) site.



[EU Trade Commissioner addresses European Parliament on EPAs and Doha trade talks](#)

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson addressed the Development Committee of the European Parliament on the topic of the Economic Partnership Agreements, which the EU is negotiating with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Mandelson argued that EPAs aim to put the trading relationship with ACP countries on a sustainable basis, succeeding where the previous Cotonou Agreements have not. "Although the ACP has far better access to the EU's market access than other developing countries, their share of EU and world trade is falling. That is why EPAs aim to reverse this decline and put the relationship on to a more sustainable basis - one that turns good intentions into development reality". [Read the Speech](#)

[Conflict diamonds: Kimberley Process reviews progress during 2007](#)



Benita Ferrero-Waldner, European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, addressed the annual plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process to eliminate trade in conflict diamonds. In her review, Ferrero-Waldner said monitoring capacity had been strengthened, as demonstrated by the first round of Review visits to Kimberley Process member countries and a total of about 50 on-the-ground-inspections carried out over the last few years. Scientific and technological support, in the form of satellite monitoring of diamond production in crisis areas, and a seminar bringing

together scientists from different Kimberley Process countries to research the traceability of diamonds, have led to greater effectiveness of the Kimberley Process. Visit the [EU & the Kimberley Process](#) site.

[Final communiqué of the 9th Ministerial Troika EU-Africa, in Accra, Ghana](#)

In the framework of the Africa-EU dialogue, the 9th Ministerial Meeting of the African and EU Troikas took place in Accra, Ghana, on 31 October, 2007. Topics covered included discussion and endorsement of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, peace and security, governance and human rights, regional integration and trade and various development issues, such as migration, climate change and food security.

Other News

[Portuguese-speaking African countries sign MOU with the European Commission](#)

On the occasion of the European Development Days, the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Louis Michel, and high-level representatives of the six Portuguese-speaking ACP countries signed, in the presence of the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) setting out the direction for co-operation under the 10th European Development Fund. The focus of future activities will be on democratic governance as a key determinant for poverty reduction, including, in particular, political governance, government effectiveness, economic governance and social governance.

Javier Solana expresses concern at events in Pakistan



Javier Solana, EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, expressed concern over the state of emergency which has been declared in Pakistan: "I am concerned by the declaration of a state of emergency in Pakistan. I recognize the difficulties Pakistan is currently facing in its domestic political and security situation. However, I believe that any deviation from the general democratic process cannot be a solution. Therefore, I call upon the Pakistani authorities to abide by the rule of law, notably to respect the boundaries of the constitution. Specifically, I urge the authorities in Pakistan to continue the preparations for the holding of general elections as scheduled. At the same time, I call upon all the parties involved to exercise the utmost restraint to facilitate a quick return to normalcy".

WTO Trade Facilitation Needs Assessments in developing countries

The European Commission has given €500000 to the World Trade Organisation to fund trade facilitation "needs assessments" in developing countries. In the framework of the WTO Doha Round negotiations on Trade Facilitation, this programme is offered to all WTO Members and Observers that are developing countries, least-developed countries or small, low-income, economies in transition. The WTO Secretariat is conducting a programme to provide technical assistance to WTO Members and Observers, upon request, to conduct a national self assessment of their individual trade facilitation needs and priorities. To date, requests have been received from 53 countries.

EU's new counter-terrorism co-ordinator says Islamic extremism is a threat to Europe

To fight terrorism effectively, EU Member States need to share information more widely, both with each other and with the EU institutions, the EU's new Counter-terrorism Coordinator Gilles de Kerchove told the European Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee. "Islamist extremism is the greatest threat to Europe", said Mr de Kerchove in his presentation to the committee, adding that although Al-Qaeda has been partially dismantled, "it still represents the first terrorist menace for the European Union". Asked by MEPs about how to balance fighting terrorism with protecting individual freedoms, Mr de Kerchove said "compensatory measures" are needed to ensure the fight against terrorism does not "shrink" individual liberty.

EU Annual Enlargement Report

The EU is moving towards signing an initial deal with all the Western Balkan countries by the end of 2008 which would pave the way for them to eventually join the bloc. The countries involved are Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. "I expect that in 2008 conditions will be fulfilled and thus we will be able to complete stabilisation and association agreements with all countries in the region" said Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn. This year's report reflects the widespread conviction that the bloc must maintain and deepen its own development, while pursuing its enlargement agenda. "Enlargement is the essence of the EU's soft power to gradually extend peace, democracy and prosperity in Europe" said Mr Rehn.

Enlargement of the Schengen area

As from December 2007, the European Union plans to extend the abolition of checks at internal land and sea borders (and air borders by March 2008) to nine of the new Member States of the European Union (Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia and the Czech Republic). People will be able to move freely, without checks, within an area expanded to 3.6 million km² – the "Schengen area". Foreign visitors are able to travel to all Schengen States on a single visa.

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