



**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*



## 6 – 12 October 2006

### Headline News

#### [North Korea – Speech by Com B Ferrero-Waldner \(11/10/2006\)](#)

Delivering her statement during European Parliament Plenary, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy) was emphatic: “The nuclear test which North Korea claims to have conducted at Gilju in Hamgyong province on the morning of 09/10/2006 is an extremely serious matter, which I unreservedly condemn. Not only does it threaten regional stability in north-east Asia: it also constitutes the latest in a series of challenges by Pyongyang to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. Following the announcement of its intention to carry out such a test last Tuesday [3 October], North Korea has proceeded in defiance of the near-unanimous advice and wishes of the international community. ...”



#### [Commission proposes €100 million global risk capital fund for developing countries \(06/10/2006\)](#)

The European Commission has proposed creating a global risk capital fund to mobilise private investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in developing countries and economies in transition. The Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund (GEEREF) will accelerate the transfer, development and deployment of environmentally sound technologies and thereby help to bring secure energy supplies to people in poorer regions of the world. These projects will also combat climate change and air pollution.

### Other News

#### [President Barroso to attend 7th EU-India Summit in Helsinki on 13 October 2006 \(12/10/2006\)](#)

The Summit, hosted by the Finnish Prime Minister, Mr. Matti Vanhanen, on behalf of the Finnish Presidency, will ... cover EU-India relations including implementation of the Joint Action Plan adopted at the last Summit (2005) and it will endorse the recommendations of the EU-India High Level Trade Group on ways to further enhance bilateral trade and investment. Issues of global concern scheduled for discussion include effective multilateralism, climate change and energy, counter terrorism, and non-proliferation. Regional issues will also be discussed, including Iran, Burma/Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.

#### [EIB lends €10 mil to DFCU, Uganda \(11/10/2006\)](#)

The European Investment Bank (EIB) signed a €10 mil credit line agreement with DFCU Ltd. of Uganda, for the financing of leasing transactions in Ugandan Shillings. The first tranche covering leases for about 50 small enterprises has now been released. Launched in 1964 as a Ugandan development finance institution, DFCU Ltd. has since transformed itself successfully into a commercial provider of term finance, focussing in particular on smaller and medium sized enterprises, many of which are in up-country locations.

#### [7th EU - Africa Ministerial Troika Meeting \(10/10/2006\)](#)

In the framework of the EU-Africa dialogue, the seventh Ministerial Meeting of the EU and African Troikas met in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. The meeting of Ministers was co-chaired by H.E. Erkki Tuomioja Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland and current President of the Council of the European Union (EU) and H.E. Rodolphe Adada, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Congo and current chairperson of the AU Executive Council.

#### [Presidency declaration on behalf of the EU on the World Day against Death Penalty \(10/10/2006\)](#)

On the occasion of the fourth World Day against the Death Penalty, the European Union reiterates its longstanding position against the death penalty. No one should be subject to capital punishment. In particular the EU expresses its compassion with individuals who have wrongly been sentenced to death and with their relatives and other indirect victims of death penalty. The EU considers the death penalty as a cruel and inhuman punishment and a violation to the right to life. Any miscarriage of justice would be irreversible. See also: [International Day against Death penalty \(10/10/2006\)](#)

**[Unlocking Europe's growth potential – Speech by Pres JM Barroso \(10/10/2006\)](#)**

Addressing the Economist Business Roundtable in Brussels, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, said: "We all know the context we're in and the challenges we face. Globalisation is accelerating. Competition is intensifying. Technological change is affecting the way business works. At the same time, the world must cope with new strategic challenges: peace and security, energy supply, migration flows, demographic change - just to name a few. Europe has the tools and resources to shape globalisation. It is the first trade power. "

See also: [Kick-starting the EU economy – Speech by Vice Pres G Verheugen \(10/10/2006\)](#)

[European Economy: on a firm recovery path – Speech by Com J Almunia \(10/10/2006\)](#)

**[Bilateral Agreements in EU trade policy – Speech by Com P Mandelson \(09/10/2006\)](#)**

In this speech at the London School of Economics EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson makes the case for the EU pursuing targeted bilateral trade agreements as part of a wider EU strategy centred on the WTO and the multilateral trading system. Mandelson argues that the key policy choice is not between bilateral agreements and the multilateral system, but between ambitious bilateral agreements that drive forward global liberalisation and bilateral deals that avoid sensitive issues or "open some borders only to close others".

**[Presidency declaration on behalf of the EU on elections in Zambia \(06/10/2006\)](#)**

The European Union welcomes the holding of the democratic tripartite elections in Zambia on 28/09/2006, and the strong commitment of the people of Zambia to democratic development demonstrated by the high turnout of voters. The European Union congratulates the President, Mr Levy Mwanawasa on his victory and his second mandate as the President of the Republic of Zambia, and congratulates the Members of Parliament, and local Councillors elected. The EU calls upon all candidates and political parties to respect the outcome of the democratic process.

**[Presidency declaration on behalf of the EU on freedom of the press in Iran \(05/10/2006\)](#)**

The European Union expresses its grave concern about the worsening situation with regard to the freedom of the press in Iran. On 11/09/2006, the Supervisory Board of the Press announced the closure of four newspapers, including the leading reformist daily, the Shargh. This announcement is especially alarming given the already limited freedom of the press in Iran. In addition, the EU finds the continued harassment of journalists, such as threats of prosecution, extremely worrying.

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