



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 - 19 August 2007

Headline News

[Peru earthquake: Commission increases emergency aid to €2 million](#)

In a fast-track 'primary emergency' decision, the European Commission allocated €2 million to people affected by the recent earthquake in Peru. The Commission's funds will be used to cover urgent needs, including food, emergency shelter, medical assistance, hygiene kits, water and sanitation, basic household tools, as well as the establishment of emergency telecommunications facilities and psycho-social counselling. The assistance will be channelled through the Commission's Humanitarian Aid department, ECHO, under the responsibility of Commissioner Louis Michel. Peru is one of the countries in which the European Commission funds disaster preparedness programmes, called DIPECHO (Disaster Preparedness ECHO). The aim is to improve the capacity of communities at risk from natural disasters, so that they can better prepare for and protect themselves against such catastrophes.

[European Commission launches a new website on the latest developments of EU institutional reform](#)

This website offers information on the latest developments of the European Union institutional reform. Following the rejection of the European Constitution by France and the Netherlands in 2005 and a two year period of reflection, EU leaders agreed, on the 23rd of June 2007, on a detailed mandate for a new Intergovernmental Conference. The task of this Intergovernmental Conference will be to draw up a Reform Treaty by the end of 2007.

Other News

[Ambassador launches EU Film Weeks 2007 on National Women's Day in Durban](#)

Ambassador Lodewijk Briët, Head of the European Commission Delegation to South Africa, this year launched the EU's film festival on 9 August at a glittering consular function in Umhlanga. At the event, co-ordinated jointly by the EC Delegation, Durban's EU Consular Corps, and Cinema Nouveau, Amb Briët paid tribute to National Women's Day and noted that the film industry had some way to go in pursuit of gender equality. Following the launch, Amb and Mrs Briët visited a number of part EU-funded KwaZulu Natal based projects that have a strong women's empowerment bias.



[International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples – 9 August 2007](#)

European Commissioner for External Relations and Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, stated on behalf of the European Commission, the EU's "unwavering commitment to support indigenous peoples all over the world." The Commissioner said the day was an important celebration of the enormous diversity and cultural wealth of indigenous peoples in all parts of the world and hoped that the remaining obstacles to the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples would soon be removed.

Further information: [Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

[Health-EU, the Public Health portal of the EU, to launch an e-newsletter](#)

From September 2007, the EU's Health Portal will be producing an online newsletter. Complementing the wealth of information on the portal itself, the newsletter will give you a selection of the latest news and activities in the field of public health. The Health-EU Portal, under the auspices of the Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General, is the official public health portal of the European Union, covering a wide range of information and data on health-related issues and activities at both European and international level. The main objective of this thematic Portal is to provide European citizens with easy access to comprehensive information on Public Health initiatives and programmes at EU level.

[Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Sierra Leone elections](#)

The EU welcomed the peaceful holding of Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Sierra Leone on 11 August 2007 and noted that these elections were an important step towards the consolidation of peace and democracy in a region that until recently has suffered from violent conflict. The EU congratulated the people of Sierra Leone for an orderly election and declared it would continue to follow closely the post-election period in the country. It expressed the hope that Sierra Leone would conclude this electoral process in peace and in respect of democratic principles.

[Eurobarometer survey on risks to children using the internet](#)

A European Commission survey of children from 9-10 and 12-14 years old across all 27 EU Member States, plus Norway and Iceland, has shown that the use of internet and mobile phones has become almost self-evident for Europe's young generation. "This is the first time children all across Europe have been asked directly how they use online technologies, how much they browse for fun and for schoolwork, and how they deal with risks," says Viviane Reding, European Commissioner for Information Society and Media. The survey showed that online gaming, surfing and communication are considered as the top activities, while texting, and talking with parents and friends come out top for young mobile users. The results showed that children are globally well aware of potential online risks, such as security, viruses, access to unwanted content, identity theft and potential dangerous contact with strangers. Some children nevertheless admitted that they have engaged in risky behaviour, and some acknowledged that they have been victims of bullying and had contacts with strangers. The results will help the European Commission to further refine how the EU's Safer Internet programme can best contribute to internet and mobile phone child safety throughout Europe.

Further information: [What is Safer Internet?](#)

[Findings from the Eurobarometer on Children's use of online technologies](#)

[The European Migration Network](#)

The European Commission tabled a proposal aimed at establishing a European Migration Network (EMN) in order to meet the Hague Programme's request for a more 'effective provision of up-to-date information and data on all relevant migratory developments', and to contribute to more informed policy and decision-making in the ongoing development of a common European immigration and asylum policy. "The EMN," the Vice-President of the Commission, Franco Frattini, declared "will be a precious tool to improve our knowledge about migratory phenomena in the EU ". The Network's objective will be 'to meet the information needs of European Community institutions, Member States' authorities and institutions, and the general public on migration and asylum, by providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum, with a view to supporting policy- and decision-making in the European Union in these areas". The Network will be composed of National Contact Points, one designated by each Member State, and of the European Commission.



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[Joint Research Centre Annual Report 2006](#)

The Joint Research Centre is engaged in scientific and technical support to the European Commission and other EU institutions. Main areas of expertise include information and web technologies, digital image interpretation and several branches of engineering. The Annual Report is intended to give the reader an overview of the various activities of the JRC and the most important results achieved during the year.

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