



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.



7 – 13 October 2005



Headline News

European Commission adopts “European Union Strategy for Africa” (12/10/2005)

The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a new EU Strategy for Africa. The Strategy suggests a framework for action for all EU Member States and the European Commission to support Africa's efforts to attain the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The adoption was followed by an extraordinary joint meeting between the European Commission and the Commission of the African Union (AU). The EU Strategy for Africa proposes a strategic partnership for security and development between the European Union and Africa for the coming decade. The strategy follows the decisions by the European Council in June to provide more and better development aid, to increase the speed of implementation and to focus aid in particular on Africa. The strategy focuses on key requirements for sustainable development such as peace/security, trade, good/effective governance, interconnectivity, social cohesion and environmental sustainability. In addition, it reaffirms the commitment to increase EU aid to Africa and to improve aid effectiveness.



(left to right) : Alpha Oumar Konaré, Chairman of the Commission of the African Union, Commissioner Louis Michel (Development / Humanitarian Aid), President José Manuel Barroso

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1260&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

See also: **Questions and Answers: The “European Union Strategy for Africa” (12/10/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/370&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

European Union Strategy for Africa – the document (12/10/2005)

<http://www.eusa.org.za/development/Policies.htm>

SAFM interview with EU Ambassador L Briët on the European Union Strategy for Africa (14/10/2005)

<http://www.eusa.org.za/press/Reviews&Releases%20sub-menu/Speeches.htm>



Humanitarian support for earthquake victims: Commission’s immediate response (10/10/2005)

This morning, the European Commission formally adopted its fast track humanitarian decision for €3 million announced yesterday to provide urgent assistance to the victims of the South Asia earthquake. €600,000 has also been earmarked from funds already available under a previous decision. The aim is to meet immediate humanitarian needs such as shelter, blankets, water, food and medical assistance.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1241&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

See also: **Messages of condolence from Pres Barroso and Com Ferrero-Waldner to Indian and Pakistan authorities**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1240&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Statement of EU conditional negotiating proposals by Com P Mandelson (10/10/2005)

Addressing the WTO Doha Round Informal Ministerial in Zurich, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said: “The time has come for all of us to put cards on the table; to stop the bidding and to start to play the hand. If we do not advance this negotiation in concrete terms this week - and amongst ourselves today - we will have to acknowledge that we may simply run out of time for Hong Kong. That is not where I want to be. Within the limits of our mandate, the EU will make moves to prevent it and others must do likewise. Hong Kong matters ...”

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/589&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

See also: **Statement of EU conditional negotiating proposals – with explanatory annotations (10/10/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/357&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>



If you published an article on the defence of **human rights or democracy in the developing world** between 01/01/2004 and 31/08/2005 you may be eligible to compete for the **Lorenzo Natali Prize** for journalists given by the European Commission.

See: <http://www.nataliprize.info/index.php>

Other News

European Commission launches PLAN D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate (13/10/2005)

The European Commission today launched its Plan D (Democracy, Dialogue, Debate) laying the foundations for the profound debate about Europe's future which is to take place in the months to come. Faced with French and Dutch no votes on the European Constitution, Heads of Government called for a "period of reflection" to enable a broad debate to take place in each Member State. "Plan D's" clear objective is to build a new political consensus about the right policies to equip Europe to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1272&format=HTML&aged=0&language=en&guiLanguage=en>



SA and EU review their Cooperation (13/10/2005)

The European Commission and the South African Government this week concluded their annual round of consultations aimed at reviewing the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development in South Africa. The programme, made up of EC grants (roughly R1 billion annually), constitutes the largest donor programme in South Africa. Ambassador Lodewijk Briët noted: "Taking stock of our development cooperation this year is particularly important in the light of a new strategy for EU-SA co-operation to be developed for the period 2007-2013." This week also saw Commission trade representatives meet their DTI counterparts for informal trade talks on pending trade issues.

Cutting down red tape for EU contracts and grants (12/10/2005)

Simplify significantly the administrative burden for companies, SMEs and beneficiaries of EU grants while maintaining a high level of protection of community funds – this is the goal of new measures announced today by the European Commission. Based mainly on the practical experience of the Commission's services, the proposed simplifications will bring procedural requirements in line with the risks and stakes involved.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1257&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

EC proposes co-operation strategy with 3rd countries in areas of freedom, security & justice (12/10/2005)

The European Commission adopted a Communication "A strategy on the external dimension of the area of freedom, security and justice" that outlines the main external challenges facing the area of freedom, security and justice. The Communication identifies key areas for action with third countries, namely human rights, strengthening institutions and good governance, migration, asylum and border management, the fight against terrorism and organised crime, as well as principles to guide co-operation, such as geographic differentiation, partnership and flexibility.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1255&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Iran – Speech by Com B Ferrero-Waldner (12/10/2005)

Addressing the European Parliament on behalf of External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner Jan Figel noted: "In the current climate it is inevitable that discussions about Iran focus on its nuclear programme. That is one of the most serious security issues currently on the international agenda. The international community must be united if we are to find a satisfactory solution. ..."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/601&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



New Royal Netherlands Embassy opens in Pretoria (11/10/2005)

The new Royal Netherlands Embassy in Pretoria was opened this week by visiting Dutch Foreign Minister Bernard Bot who was joined by his South African counterpart, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and 600 guests. During his visit Dr Bot spoke of an *African-European Partnership for Peace and Security*: "It is good to see that the AU and the EU have become ever closer partners in recent years. ... The Netherlands believes that South Africa plays a crucial role in promoting peace and security. We see South Africa as an exporter of stability, both through the example it sets for other countries and through its active foreign policy. ..." See: http://www.minbuza.nl/default.asp?CMS_ITEM=1D4B33C2748D434C85F6C8B8960CD43CX1X43442X34



Statement by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Darfur (11/10/2005)

The EU condemns the killing of 3 AMIS staff and two PAE civilian contractors in Darfur on 8 October.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PRES/05/262&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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In the October 2005 issue:

- New inputs for development
- Ivory Coast: a challenge for peace
- The ACP Group and the EU are putting African cotton online
- HIV/AIDS: a threat to the agricultural sector in Sub-Saharan Africa

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/publications/courier/eCourier/ecourier_4_2005_en.pdf#zoom=100