



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 – 20 April 2006

Headline News

[Com L Michel sends warning signal on shortage of doctors and nurses in Africa \(07/06/2006\)](#)

Louis Michel, the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, expressed his concern about the critical shortage of doctors and nurses in Africa, on World Health Day. He criticised the negative impact that the increasing dependence of wealthy countries on international recruitment of health workers is having on healthcare in developing countries.



Other News

[Presidency declaration on behalf of the EU on the Gambia \(20/04/2006\)](#)

The European Union strongly condemns the attempted coup to remove the government of The Gambia on 21/03/2006. We reject any effort to overthrow a democratically elected government. We welcome the fact that the Gambian people responded with calm and restraint. Whilst acknowledging the prerogative of the Gambian authorities fully to investigate the events surrounding the coup, we are concerned that some of those detained have been held without charge beyond the 72-hour limit required under Gambian Law.

[EC proposes improvements as to how European GMO legislative framework is implemented \(12/04/2006\)](#)

The European Commission gave its support to an approach proposed by Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner Markos Kyprianou and Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas on further steps to improve the scientific consistency and transparency for Decisions on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). The measures proposed aim to bring about practical improvements which will reassure Member States, stakeholders and the general public that Community decisions are based on high quality scientific assessments which deliver a high level of protection of human health and the environment.

[Presidency declaration on behalf of the EU re the 60th anniversary of the ICJ \(12/04/2006\)](#)

The European Union congratulates the International Court of Justice on its 60th anniversary. The EU reaffirms its strong support for the ICJ as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations and acknowledges its contributions to the peaceful settlement of numerous disputes between States.



[Equal opportunities policy: recruiting more women to positions of responsibility \(12/04/2006\)](#)

Today, as part of its staff policy of equal opportunities for women and men, the Commission will adopt its female recruitment targets for 2006. These targets cover first recruitments and first appointments of women to management and other administration posts and are aimed at improving female representation in such posts which, despite some genuine progress, is still inadequate.

[Islam in Europe: from dialogue to action – Speech by Com B Ferrero-Waldner \(07/04/2006\)](#)

Addressing a Conference of European Imams in Vienna, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy) said: "The European Commission is fully committed to fostering dialogue with Europe's major religions and communities of conviction. It is particularly important that the Islamic communities of Europe hear that message at the moment, when there is renewed attention to the so-called clash of civilisations. I say "so-called" because this term is a misnomer. What we are facing today is not a clash of civilisations, but a clash of ignorance."

[Commission publishes new EU Guidelines on Breast Cancer Screening and Diagnosis \(07/04/2006\)](#)

In an effort to improve survival rates from breast cancer across Europe, the Commission has published today the fourth European Guidelines for Quality Assurance of Breast Cancer Screening and Diagnosis. New issues tackled in this fourth edition include digital mammography and advice for specialist breast units.

See also: [New EU Guidelines on Breast Cancer Screening and Diagnosis \(07/04/2006\)](#)

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