



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.



8 – 14 April 2005



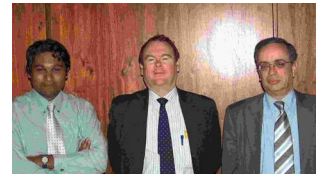
Headline News



Joint EU-SA Science and Technology talks (15/04/2005)

After a series of science and technology interactions and consultations between the South African research community, the Department of Science and Technology, and a team of EU officials (Directorate General for Research at the European Commission), the 5th Meeting of the EU-SA Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee commenced on 15/04/2005. In the lead up to the event Ambassador designate, Lodewijk Briët, said: "South Africa has actively participated in and benefited from the 4th and 5th (research) Framework Programmes of the European Commission. Although the participation of third countries financed under the current 6th Framework Programme is more difficult, South African research institutions in 2004 were allocated more than R40 million. In addition there was extensive joint knowledge sharing and generation."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/index_en.html



From l to r: Mr D Naidoo (Deputy Director General, Department of Science and Technology), Mr K Campbell (Engineering News) and Mr A Siegler (Director: European Commission Directorate General for Research)

Commission approves proposals to increase volume and effectiveness of development aid (12/05/2005)

The European Commission adopted proposals aimed at speeding up progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by increasing the volume and effectiveness of the development aid provided by the Commission and the Member States. The pillars of the three communications adopted today are a significant increase in official development assistance (ODA) (with a new intermediate target of 0.56% of GNI in 2005, the ultimate goal being 0.7% by 2015), greater coherence between Community policies, better coordination between Member States and the EU and more ownership of aid by the recipients. Commenting at the time, Louis Michel (Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid), said "As things stand, it would take 100 years to achieve the MDGs in Africa ... The challenges of poverty and unfettered globalisation, which sidelines whole swathes of the population, demand a change of attitude".

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/423&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **The Commission's "MDG Package" (Millennium Development Goals) (12/04/2005)** [see page 2]
<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/124&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Other News

Sustainable Development : A Core Objective of the EU – Speech by Margot Wallström (14/04/2005)

During an address to the Stakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development in Brussels, Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the Commission responsible for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy, said: "Sustainable development has become a core issue on the world's political agenda, and is a top priority for the European Union. ... The decisions we make today will determine how we live tomorrow. It is vital therefore that as we grow and develop our society we find the right way forward to also tackle climate change, natural resource shortages, transport congestion and world poverty – to name but a few of the many challenges we face."



See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/229&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Global promotion of the Rule of Law - Speech by Benita Ferrero-Waldner (14/04/2005)

In a speech entitled The International Criminal Court, Transatlantic Relations and Co-operation with Third Parties to Promote the Rule of Law, Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations & European Neighbourhood Policy) noted: " ... Our support to the Court lies at the core of our commitment to promoting a rule-based international order. The EU has consistently taken the view that the setting up of a permanent International Criminal Court to prosecute war-crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide was a development of crucial importance for international peace and security. We see the Court, which applies "blended" legal traditions, as a splendid manifestation of effective multilateralism at work."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/228&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: The ICC website <http://www.icc-cpi.int/home.html&l=en>

EC opens in-depth investigation into Sasol / Total joint venture in petroleum-based waxes (13/04/2005)

The European Commission has opened a detailed investigation under the EU Merger Regulation into the planned creation of a full-function joint venture between German company Sasol Wax International AG and the French company Total S.A. The joint venture will be active in the field of petroleum-based waxes and bitumen additives. The Commission's initial market investigation has found that the proposed transaction could create significant competition concerns given the strong positions, horizontal overlaps and vertical links between the two companies' paraffin waxes and micro waxes activities.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/425&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Outcome of the European Union-African Union Ministerial Meeting (11/04/2005)

Jean Asselborn, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration and current President of the Council of the European Union, hosted Nigeria's Minister for Foreign Affairs and current President of the African Union (AU), Olu Adeniji, in the context of a European Troika meeting with the AU on 11 April 2005 in Luxembourg. Mr Asselborn made the following comment: "Today our dialogue has reached a level of maturity that enables us to raise all the important issues, all the issues of mutual interest in an open and candid manner, equal-to-equal obviously, so that together we can seek solutions to the problems that Africa faces and those that Europe faces as well."

See: <http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/communiqués/2005/04/11ue-ua-presse/index.html>

See also: **European Union-African Union Ministerial Meeting Final communiqué (11/04/2005)**

<http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/communiqués/2005/04/11ue-ua-final/index.html>

Resumption of cooperation with Sudan is linked to the evolution of the situation of in Darfur (11/04/2005)

The European Commission has announced today in Oslo that it is ready to contribute at least €590 M to address the needs of Sudan, whether humanitarian or developmental for the period 2005-2007. Nevertheless, the Commission has made clear that the resumption of cooperation will be progressive, taking into account the effective implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the evolution of the situation in Darfur.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/413&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

President Barroso Congratulates New Iraqi Prime Minister on his Appointment (08/04/2005)

"On behalf of the European Commission and on my own, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to you on your nomination as Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq. I wish you great success in tackling the challenges that lie ahead of you, and would like to emphasise that the European Commission will continue to be a partner and supporter of the development of a secure, stable and democratic Iraq. In view of the various tasks that lie ahead for the Iraqi transitional government, I am happy to assure you that the European Commission stands ready to provide assistance in these tasks, including support to take the political and constitutional process forward..."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/406&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

High-speed internet access via electricity grid: EC seeks to create new market opportunities (08/04/2005)

Using electric power supply lines to offer low-cost high speed internet access will be made easier thanks to a Commission recommendation issued today. The recommendation, which is addressed to the Member States, aims to clarify rules on using electric power cables to carry electronic communication data.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/403&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Power line communications : Questions and Answers (08/04/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/119&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Ahead:

- 14-15/04/2005 – 5th Meeting of the EU-SA Joint Science & Technology Cooperation Committee, Pretoria

For further information please contact Frank Oberholzer at 012-452-5200



Foundation for Human Rights
First Call for Proposals for 2005 announced

See: <http://www.fhr.org.za/>

The Commission's "MDG Package"

Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, and the Economic & Social Committee: Speeding up progress towards the MDGs, The European Union's contribution

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/tmp_docs/communication_speeding_mdgs_12_04_2005_en.pdf#zoom=100

Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: Accelerating progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals – Financing for Development and Aid Effectiveness

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/tmp_docs/communication_mdgs_financing_for_development_12_04_2005_en.pdf#zoom=100

Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, and the Economic & Social Committee: Policy Coherence for Development - Accelerating progress towards attaining the MDGs

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/tmp_docs/communication_coherence_12_04_2005_en.pdf#zoom=100