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 July 2005

Headline News

***EC's role in fighting terror and its response to the London bombings* – President Barroso (13/07/2005)**

Addressing a joint press conference with Vice President Frattini, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso said: "Following the bombing attacks on London of last Thursday, I decided to change the agenda of today's meeting of the Commission, to give us the opportunity to examine the situation. We looked into whether everything that must be done is being done, and whether everything that is being done is being done as swiftly and decisively as possible. Let me once again express our deepest sympathy, condolences and solidarity to the victims, their families, to the people of London and of the United Kingdom. We know that the threat that has struck in London can strike again. It can strike anywhere in our Member States, at any time. In response to this threat against our common values, the European Union will stand together ever closer and intensify mutual support and assistance."

See: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/439&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

Commissioners Mandelson and Fischer Boel in China for WTO trade talks (11/07/2005)

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson and EU Agriculture Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel visited Dalian, China for three days of meetings culminating in a Mini Ministerial Meeting as part of the WTO Doha Round negotiations. Speaking on his arrival in China, Commissioner Mandelson said: "Last week's G8 meeting strongly restated the importance of reaching an ambitious outcome for the Doha Round by the end of 2006. Converting that political will into real progress towards an agreement in Hong Kong is now imperative. In Dalian we need to take a step closer to a comprehensive deal that balances agricultural reform with new market access in services and manufactured goods and a new focus on the special needs of developing countries. This is the only way to guarantee the benefits of free and fair trade for all members of the WTO".

See: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/896&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

Other News

European Commission approves a proposal for an ambitious development policy (13/07/2005)

The Commission has adopted a proposal defining the new development policy of the EU. The policy aims at reducing poverty in line with the Millennium Development Goals. The Communication is a proposal for a joint statement by the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission. This "European Consensus" would provide, for the first time in 50 years of development co-operation, a common framework of objectives, values and principles that the Union – all 25 Member States and the Commission - supports and promotes as a global player and as a global partner. The EU is the biggest aid donor in the world, accounting for 55% of development assistance, 20% of which is managed by the Commission.

See: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/902&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

***EU enlargement under stress* – Speech by Commissioner Olli Rehn (12/07/2005)**

In a recent speech, Commissioner Rehn (Enlargement) said: "I'd like to reflect on how we move forward in enlargement policy at a moment of political uncertainty for the EU – and how we communicate better what is at stake, both as to the economic benefits and our strategic interests. … Enlargement is rather a process than an end in itself; in this process the perspective of EU membership works as a powerful anchor of democracy and incentive for political and economic reform. Look at Spain (…) in the last 20 years. Look at Poland (…) in the last 10 years. Look at Croatia (…) in recent years – and follow them in the coming years to see what the prospect of accession can do for the rule of law and economic reforms.

See: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/438&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

Commission Releases Funds to Fight AIDS in Libya (12/07/2005)

The European Commission today released €1 million to provide urgent support to Libya in its fight against the AIDS/HIV epidemic in Benghazi. This money will pay for urgent policy advice and technical support to the Libyan health authorities and upgrade the capacity of the Benghazi Centre for Infectious Diseases and Immunology (BCIDI) to international standards. These projects are part of the longer-term "HIV Action Plan for Benghazi". The Action Plan was launched by the EU in

November 2004 and is being implemented by the Libyan authorities with support from the Commission and EU Member States. See: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/907&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

A better work/family life balance in the EU: either we all help out or we lose out (11/07/2005)

To balance work and family life better, the European Social Model needs to be modernised and the EU's economy needs to pick up. Europe's demographic changes mean it needs more children, a higher percentage of working women and care for the increasing number of elderly. The EU can tackle this 'magic triangle' if everyone helps share the burden, through new ways of balancing work/family life.
See: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/898&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

Single market for EU defence equipment industry (11/07/2005)

The European defence industry is marked by market fragmentation at national level. This is an important sector which is a catalyst for growth and innovation in other industries ranging from high-tech (e.g. aerospace, IT) to more traditional industries (e.g. steel, shipbuilding). The absence of a functioning single market constitutes a major obstacle to the consolidation, competitiveness and sustainability of this sector.
See: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/887&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

Presidency declaration on behalf of the EU on inauguration of new Sudanese Presidency (11/07/2005)

The EU warmly welcomes the inauguration today (09/07/2005) of the Presidency of the new Government of National Unity in Sudan. This is a vital and historic step in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, signed on 09/01/2005, which brought to an end more than twenty years of brutal civil war. … There can be no comprehensive peace in Sudan without an end to the conflict in Darfur. The EU expresses its hope that the new Presidency will take urgent steps to resolve the crisis there through peaceful means. The new Presidency must also continue to act with restraint in the East of the country. See: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PESC/05/71&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en
See also: **Presidency statement on behalf of the EU on the signature, on 05.07/2005, of the "Declaration of Principles for the resolution of the Sudanese conflict in Darfur" (08/07/2005)**
http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PESC/05/70&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

European Local and Regional Policy and the Role of Subsidiarity and Good Governance

Addressing an audience attending the presentation of the Kaizer-Maximilian-Prize (Austria), Commissioner Danuta Hübner (Regional Policy) said: "The European Union depends on its regions and cities; they are the pillars of our community. They guarantee the protection of historical, political, social and cultural diversity in Europe … Let's not forget that the majority of EU legislation is implemented in the regions and in the cities…."
See: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/430&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

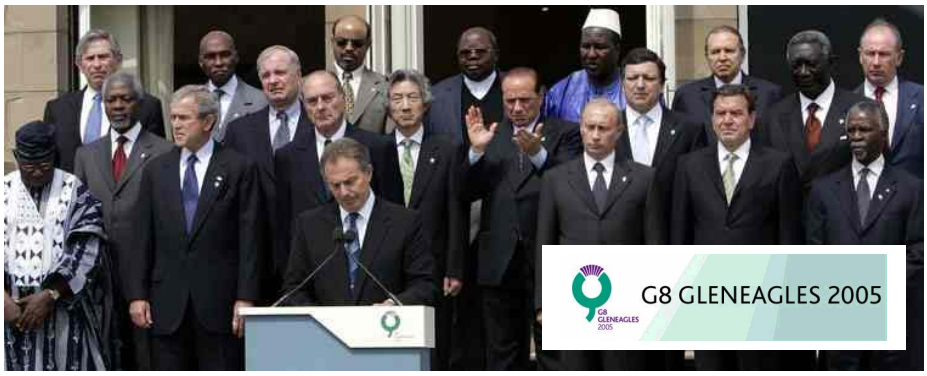
Statement by President Barroso on the results of the Luxembourg referendum (10/07/2005)

"The Commission welcomes with great satisfaction the positive result of the referendum on the Constitutional Treaty announced today in Luxembourg. I have personally congratulated the Luxembourg Prime Minister, Jean-Claude Juncker, a convinced European who worked unstintingly for this successful outcome. … This is a clear signal that a majority of Member States believe that the Constitutional Treaty is what is needed to pave the way for a Europe that is more democratic, more transparent, more effective and stronger on the global stage.
See: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/893&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

Presidency declaration on behalf of the EU on parliamentary elections in Burundi (08/07/2005)

The European Union welcomes the peaceful conduct of the National Assembly elections in Burundi on 4 July. These elections represent an important step in Burundi's transition towards democracy and durable peace. The EU congratulates the Burundian people who showed their commitment to ensuring a stable and democratic future for their country. The EU further welcomes the work of the European Union Observation Mission in Burundi and its conclusions that the elections were, despite some minor irregularities and allegations of fraud, generally in accordance with international standards.
See: http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PESC/05/69&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

Photo File:



Leaders attending the G8 Summit in Scotland
http://www.g8.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1078995902703

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