



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*



12 – 25 January 2007

Headline News

[Kimberley Process - Speech by Com B Ferrero-Waldner \(23/01/2007\)](#)

On the occasion of the pre-screening of the film Blood Diamond, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner (External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy) addressed the audience: "I hope that through Blood Diamond many will become more aware of the potential link between the world's most glamorous commodity and some of its most iniquitous violence. This is the problem that the film describes – and that the Kimberley Process was created to address. ...It makes very clear why in 2003, the international community needed to step in to curb trade in conflict diamonds by establishing a unique international scheme bringing together governments, industry and civil society. The EU has supported the Kimberley Process since its birth, and this year the European Commission is serving as its Chair, representing all the EU member states."

[Commission funds FHR conference on Business and Human Rights in South Africa \(16/01/2007\)](#)



Speaking at the launch of the EU-funded Foundation for Human Rights' conference on Business and Human Rights, EU Ambassador Lodewijk Briët, said: "The EU has long been engaged in the pursuit of a fairer economic environment in Europe and worldwide. The European Commission strives to promote fairness in its international economic relations through fair and open trading rules, both at the bilateral level - through bilateral trade agreements - and in multilateral fora, where the Commission is committed to reframe international trade rules in the context of the Doha Development Round . . . Our partnership with the FHR is a clear example of the value the EU attaches to human rights, to the expansion of democracy, stability and, ultimately, international peace." The eminent speaker list included Ms Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (now President of Realising Rights: the Ethical Globalisation Initiative)

Amb Briët addressing the conference Business and Human Rights

Other News

[EIB announces €900 mil \(R8.5 bn\) lending programme in South Africa \(16/01/2007\)](#)

The European Investment Bank announced a new lending programme in South Africa. The use of the €900 mil will be focused on infrastructure projects of public interest e.g. power, water supply, sewerage, communications, and support to private sector investment, with substantial development values including small & medium scale investments. For more information please contact the EIB on 0027-12-425-0465.

[A new deal for fruit and vegetables in the EU – Speech by Com M Fischer Boel \(24/01/2007\)](#)

At a meeting with the Agricultural Committee at the European Parliament in Brussels, Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel (responsible for Agriculture and Rural Development), stated: "Reform has been right at the top of our agenda. To complete the reforms which we began in 2003 and 2004, we have already concluded packages for sugar and bananas. And this morning, the process has taken another step forwards - as the Commission College has approved the proposal for a reform of the European Union's fruit and vegetable sector. Wine will follow in a few months. ..."

See also: [Speaking points for the press - press conference on fruit and vegetables reform \(24/01/2007\)](#)

[Fruit and vegetable reform \(24/01/2007\)](#)

[CAP reform: Benefits of fruit and vegetable reform \(24/01/2007\)](#)

[Building Europe for a global age – Speech by Com P Mandelson \(22/01/2007\)](#)

Addressing the "Going for Gold Event" in Amsterdam, EU Trade Commissioner, Peter Mandelson, observed: "The debate ... all comes down to change. The world is changing around us at a dramatic speed. And that change is reshaping our lives, economies, societies. We need the best means at our disposal to respond. A global economic and political order that has shaped the world since the middle of the nineteenth century is ending ... The rise of China and India and the resurgence of Asia mean we are moving towards a truly multipolar economic world, and politics is following closely behind. ..."

See also: [Start of a new series of public debates: "Discourses on Europe" \(15/01/2007\)](#)

[German Presidency's Working Programme presentation – Speech by Pres JM Barroso \(17/01/2007\)](#)

Addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg, European Commission President, José Manuel Barroso, stated: “2007 is a crucial year. Our 50th anniversary is a time to celebrate past achievements, and to build on those achievements to the benefit of a new generation of Europeans. A generation for whom Europe's original rationale is in the past, but for whom Europe can and does offer so much for the future. It is a happy coincidence that the anniversary falls during the German Presidency. Many of our core policies – the euro, cohesion, the internal market, enlargement – owe much to Germany. As we have just heard from Chancellor Merkel, the commitment of Germany to Europe remains as powerful as ever. The German Presidency offers an opportunity to demonstrate why the European Union matters so much in the age of globalisation ... We cannot build tomorrow's Europe with yesterday's tools. We have a great opportunity to start changing that in the next six months. Let us go to work.”



Amb L Briët congratulates his German counterpart, Amb H Adt, on taking over the Presidency of the European Union.

[Presidency's declaration on behalf of the EU on the acquittal of five accused in Burundi \(19/01/2007\)](#)

The European Union, which had expressed its concern when the accused were arrested, welcomes the acquittal and release of the public figures implicated in the preparation of a putative attempted coup in Burundi. It also welcomes the recent release of the journalists and activists from civil society. These releases contribute to a positive climate which strengthens the rule of law and democratic institutions.

[FP7: Tomorrow's answers start today – Speech by Com J Potočnik \(15/01/2007\)](#)

At the launch of the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) at the Internationales Kongresszentrum Bundeshaus in Bonn, European Science and Research Commissioner, Janez Potočnik, reflected: “My journey started in April 2005 when I presented the European Commission's proposals for the Seventh Framework Programme to the EU Council and Parliament ... that journey has finally come to an end. There have been over 1600 suggested amendments to the original proposals ... there has been a continuous attempt to find a common position. ...”

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