



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation to South Africa

Cape Town, 28 May 2010

Press Release

.../for immediate release

High-level EU-SA exchange

Members of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with South Africa are today completing a four day visit to the country. Led by Michael Cashman (MEP), the Members met in Cape Town with their counterparts from the South African Parliament for the 15th Round of the SA-EU Inter-parliamentary Dialogue.

"We are delighted by the way we have been welcomed to Cape Town by our South African colleagues, and it is an honour that we were present here to mark Africa Day. It is crucial that we listen to each other and strengthen the inter-parliamentary dialogue to bring about real change" said Mr Cashman.

EU Ambassador to South Africa, Lodewijk Briët, noted: "This high-level visit again bears testimony to the excellent relations between the European Union and South Africa. On behalf of the EU Delegation I wish to thank South Africa for hosting this exchange. It was characterised by robust and frank discussions on a wide range of topics of mutual interest."

Issues addressed in the two-day dialogue included:

- Regional integration and economic partnerships;
- Energy, environmental issues and climate change;
- The impact of the global financial crisis on the EU and South Africa;
- Global governance, multilateralism and developing countries;
- The South Africa - EU Strategic Partnership;
- Sport and development.

During their visit the EU Parliamentarians had the opportunity to meet with Parliament's National Assembly Speaker, Mr Max Sisulu as well as with the leader of the Official Opposition, the DA's Ms Helen Zille. Bilateral meetings took place with the ANC, DA, COPE, IFP and ID.

The visiting Delegation also visited a number of programmes the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation, as well as NGO "mother2mother".

Field visits to Khayelitsha included the EU-funded Decent Housing initiative, a Home-based Care Centre and an EU-SA-German collaboration, the Youth Empowerment through Football programme.

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