



EUROPEAN UNION

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PRESS RELEASE

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South Africa-European Parliament Joint Parliamentary Meeting 6-7 February 2008

The Parliamentary Group on International Relations of the Parliament of South Africa and the European Delegation for Relations with South Africa concluded their 11th Joint Inter-Parliamentary Meeting at Parliament in Cape Town earlier today. The meeting was jointly chaired by Mr O Bapela (South Africa) and Mr S O Neachtain (European Union).

Discussions were held on a wide range of topics of mutual interest and concern. These included a frank exchange on energy security, science and technology and specifically the issue of technology transfer.

Humanitarian issues such as migration, and gender were reflected upon and these exchanges took place within the framework of bilateral development co-operation. The challenges of achieving the Millennium Development Goals as well successful regional integration were dealt with in depth. In this context the Economic Partnership Agreements were discussed.

A highlight of the two-day meeting was the launch of the Legislatures Video Conferencing Facility, funded by the EU, which will allow legislatures in all nine provinces to communicate with each other and the National Council of Provinces, in real time, thus reducing costs.

The spirit of mutual co-operation and partnership, articulated in the Trade Development Co-operation Agreement, was reinforced by both sides.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of a Joint Declaration calling on both sides to ensure greater interaction by subject-specific Parliamentary committees, to establish mechanisms for implementation of mutually agreed decisions, and to issue joint declarations on agreed areas of co-operation.

For more information:

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