



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Commission to South Africa
Head of Delegation

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NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF:
Mr. R. MOORE, DIRECTOR, DG DEV/E

Subject: Weekly Press Review – South Africa (7 - 13 September 2009)

*Please note that this Press Review reflects the views of the newspapers covered,
and not the views of the Delegation*

Media articles reporting on the second EU-SA summit, held in Kleinmond, Western Cape, focused mainly on Zimbabwe and climate change issues discussed at the summit.

Zimbabwe: a high-level EU delegation visited Zimbabwe; SA Deputy President Motlanthe defended a SADC summit's call for sanctions against Zimbabwe to be lifted.

Collins Chabane, Minister for Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, said environmental management would be central to the new strategic planning and monitoring framework envisioned by the Presidency.

The strengthening rand, while bringing good news on the inflation front, posed a threat to exports and therefore to the economy's ability to pull out of the recession.

Trade union federation Cosatu called on Cabinet Ministers who have purchased luxury official vehicles to return them.

Lodewijk Briët

cc: Ms Wiedey-Nippold; MM Cocchi; Navarro; Ms Brewka Pino (DEV); MM Thompson; Wunenburger; Casella; (TRADE); MM Quince; Trimiño Pérez; Krastev (AIDCO); MM Sivenas; Mizzi, Ms Saarela (AGRI); MM Clancy; Jennings (COMM); Delegations in SADC region; MM Wood; Ms McLauchlan (EP Secretariat)

SA WEEKLY PRESS REVIEW 7 - 13 September 2009
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EU SA summit, Kleinmond, Western Cape

Zuma calls for "just" climate change deal at summit

Mail & Guardian, 11/09/09

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-09-11-zuma-calls-for-just-climate-deal>

Speaking at the second EU-SA summit in Kleinmond, Western Cape, SA President Jacob Zuma said harmful emissions should be resolved fairly, taking into account the interests of both rich and poor countries. Zuma said it was critical that climate change challenges were addressed in a coordinated, just and equitable manner. At a media briefing later, Swedish Prime Minister Reinfeldt said negotiations needed to be speeded up to deliver an agreement for the UN summit, to be held in Copenhagen in December. A joint SA-EU communique agreed that scaled-up funding was necessary, especially for the most vulnerable countries, while the world moved towards a low-carbon economy.

Zimbabwe features prominently in summit discussions

Sunday Independent, 13/09/09

<http://www.sundayindependent.co.za/index.php?fArticleId=5162969>

Sunday Independent reported that Zimbabwe featured prominently in the EU-SA discussions, as well as in the prior bilateral discussions with Sweden. While SA called on the EU to lift sanctions against Zimbabwe, EU Development Commissioner Karel de Gucht said it was wrong to call the EU measures economic sanctions, as they were restrictive measures targeted against certain individuals and institutions, with no impact on the general population. The article also reported on other topics covered during the summit, such as Javier Solana's request that the SA navy contribute to the international fleet which is guarding global shipping from Somali pirates off the Horn of Africa, climate change and EU funding of R1.3bn for SA's growth and job creation programme.

Zimbabwe

EU says Zimbabwe ties enter new phase

Mail & Guardian, 11/09/09

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-09-13-eu-says-zimbabwe-ties-enter-new-phase>

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-09-11-zim-wants-apology-from-eu-over-sanctions>

The first high-level EU delegation to visit Zimbabwe in seven years said relations with the country were entering a "new phase", but that full cooperation hinged on the implementation of a power-sharing deal. Swedish International Development Minister Gunilla Carlsson also said targeted sanctions against Zimbabwe would not be lifted until human rights abuses ended. Meanwhile Zimbabwe's state media reported that President Mugabe wanted an "apology" for the imposition of EU sanctions. An Information Ministry official was quoted as saying "It is not in our national interest to allow foreigners to dictate to us how we should govern ourselves".

SA Deputy President says SADC's intention is not to protect Mugabe
Mail & Guardian, 10/09/09

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-09-09-motlanthe-sadc-is-not-protecting-mugabe>
<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=81014>

SA's Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe said a SADC summit's call for sanctions to be lifted against Zimbabwe was not to protect Mugabe, but to promote investment. Motlanthe defended the appeal by SADC leaders while answering opposition party questions in SA's Parliament, saying the SADC had taken "a very responsible approach" to Zimbabwe's woes. The 15-nation bloc concluded a summit earlier in the week, saying the international community should lift all forms of sanctions because Zimbabwe had shown progress in implementing an inclusive government. However, Business Day (9/9) said there was a "depressing familiarity" about Zuma's upbeat assessment of Zimbabwe at the summit. The article said Zimbabwe was "levelling off at a pitifully low level".

Environmental management central to Presidency's new strategic framework
Business Report, 09/09/09

<http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?fArticleId=5156943>

Collins Chabane, Minister for Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, said environmental management would be central to the new strategic planning and monitoring framework envisioned by the Presidency. The framework was recently released in the form of a Green Paper by Chabane and National Planning Minister, Trevor Manuel. Chabane said government was committed to its key role in global climate negotiations. Chabane indicated that environmental factors would play a part in determining South Africa's energy mix.

Rand's strength threatens SA's economic recovery
Business Report, 08/09/09

<http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?fSectionId=552&fArticleId=5155838>

The rand continued to make gains, bringing good news on the inflation front, but posed a threat to exports and therefore to the economy's ability to pull out of the recession. The exchange rate fell below R7.60 to the dollar, a level last seen 13 months ago. While a strong rand cuts import costs, economists expressed concern that it would delay the recovery, after three successive quarters of contraction. A strong rand makes local goods less competitive by increasing the price of the goods on foreign markets.

Cosatu wants Ministers to return expensive vehicles
Iol.co.za, 08/09/09

http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=594&art_id=vn20090908041625755C926427

Cosatu called on all Cabinet Ministers, such as Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande, who have spent more than R1 million on official vehicles, to return them and applauded Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan on his choice of vehicles, which cost less than R600,000. Cosatu spokesman Patrick Craven welcomed reports that the government was now reviewing the rules. The DA, which has been tracking what it calls wasteful expenditure by the government, said that its total now stood at R119,96m.