



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 14 November 2006
15136/06 (Presse 320)

**7th meeting of the EU-South Africa Co-operation Council,
Brussels, 14 November 2006**

Press release

The seventh meeting of the EU-South Africa Co-operation Council took place in Brussels on 14 November 2006.

The Council adopted a Joint Statement to advance towards an EU-South Africa Strategic Partnership. With the statement the Parties embark on a process to enhance their existing cooperation towards shared objectives and strategic political cooperation on regional, African and global issues, including conflict prevention and resolution in Africa. The Strategic Partnership will also develop stronger and sustainable economic cooperation and extend cooperation to social, cultural and environmental fields.

P R E S S

The meeting also discussed the political situation in Africa and the Middle East as well as topical issues on the global agenda such as the UN-reform, migration, WTO and HIV/AIDS. The Council adopted a communiqué on the issues discussed.

With a recently approved negotiating mandate for the EU-side, South Africa and the EU will also start the negotiations for a comprehensive update and revision of the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA), the cornerstone of their relations since 2000. With respect to the review of the TDCA trade provisions, the Parties agreed to address its relationship to the SADC-EPA negotiations.

EU and South Africa also reached an agreement on further liberalisation of trade in the automotive sector. This agreement, welcomed by the European car manufacturers, is the outcome of lengthy negotiations on an industry that is important for both sides.

The meeting took place under the co-chairmanship of Mr Erkki Tuomioja and Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Foreign Ministers of Finland, representing the Presidency of the EU, and South Africa. The EU delegation also included the troika-members Commissioners Louis Michel and Peter Mandelson, Mr Javier Solana, SG/High Representative, and Ms Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel, Director for Africa from Germany. The South African delegation included Ms Lulama Xingwana, Minister of Agriculture and Land Affairs and Mr Derek Hanekom, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology.

The EU and South Africa welcomed this invaluable opportunity to work towards enhanced co-operation and look forward to continued dialogue in the future.