



Ecco Chamber

FORTNIGHTLY ITALIAN NEWS MADE IN
SOUTH AFRICA

**APEROL
APERILINK**

CAPE TOWN

**NO
PERIPHERY**

INDEX

- **Chamber's Note**
- **SMILE Cocktail Event**
- **Aperol Aperilink - Cape Town**
- **EU Investment for Transformation**



Chamber's Note

No Periphery

One of the costs of globalisation, which also has various benefits, is being susceptible to crises that originate on the other side of the world. Within a few months of detection, the Coronavirus was in just about every country of the world. Invisibly the same ripple effect is radiating from Russia's attack on Ukraine.

War is not unprecedented within the last two decades. Various countries and regions around the world have experienced the tragic loss of life and destructive effects of war during the common era's third millennium. However, what is unusual is the extent to which this war impacts one of the world's main economic centers which is Europe.

For one, this greatly affects investment in the region. Stock exchanges in Europe declined sharply when Putin's Russia began its invasion. Around the world companies exposed to risk in Ukraine have been particularly affected, including Barloworld and Mondi here in South Africa.

While South Africa does not rely heavily on Ukrainian supplies, the nature of the EU, South Africa's biggest trade partner, is that many inputs are sourced from across Europe. For example, Italy is already experiencing supply shortages of sunflower oil and wheat. These are two major inputs in their food production which will inevitably raise the cost of food coming into South Africa from Italy. In turn, this is bound to have effects on our members including importers and restaurants.

Furthermore, Italy's largest import from Ukraine is steel, vital for Italy's machinery and manufacturing sector. This is not to mention rising oil and gas prices, which are ubiquitous in the cost of just about everything.

The world we live in makes the old cliché that we are all connected even more true. We can no longer repeat the adage 'it doesn't affect me'. While this may expose us inconveniently to things outside of our own control it may finally make people more responsive to the plight of others.

Italcham!

UPCOMING EVENTS



SMILE

NETWORKING & COCKTAIL

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN
AN ITALIAN APERITIVO
& BUSINESS NETWORKING
EVENT

HOSTED FOR SMILE
MEMBERS

24 MARCH 2022

18 : 00

ITALIAN CLUB
JOHANNESBURG,
BEDFORDVIEW

Tickets

Members: R 150

Non-Members: R 250

DIVACucine
ITALIAN KITCHENS • LIFESTYLE FURNITURE

SMITHS
SOUTH AFRICAN DRY CRAFT GIN
Elderflower Citrus Spice

CERA
diCUPRA®



SHATTERED GLASS GROUP
OFFERING YOU INTEGRATED TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS


SMILE
SMALL MEDIUM ITALIAN
LEAGUE OF ENTERPRISES

UPCOMING EVENTS

**APEROL[®]
SPRITZ**

APERILINK

CAPE TOWN

AN ITALIAN APERITIVO
&
BUSINESS NETWORKING

7 APRIL 2022

18 : 00

OLD TOWN ITALY,
CONSTANTIA

Tickets

R250 - Members

R400- Non-Members

*EXCLUDING VAT



**APEROL[®]
SPRITZ**



*Not for sale to persons under the age of 18



European study tour will assist officials to develop the framework for a profitable green hydrogen industry in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG - A team of top South African government officials departs this week for Europe to learn more about green hydrogen and the enormous potential it holds for South Africa to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while at the same time create new jobs and grow the country's economy.

The intense, week-long tour to the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Germany will include directors from the Departments of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC), Transport (DoT), and Science and Innovation (DSI) as well as experts/researchers/managers from the Presidency, the Council for Science and Industrial Research (CSIR), Transnet's Port Authority, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and Hydrogen SA (HySA).

The tour, made possible by the European Union, is a follow-up to several EU-commissioned studies that have shown that:

- (I) South Africa has a unique competitive advantage in producing green power fuels;
- (ii) establishing a green power fuels industry will provide new export markets for the country;
- (iii) a green power fuels industry offers a viable solution for 'difficult-to-decarbonise' sectors such as shipping, road and rail transportation, steel, cement and fertiliser production, amongst others.

Green or renewable hydrogen is hydrogen obtained by the electrolysis of water using renewable electricity. It is a renewable alternative to fossil fuels and its use avoids net emissions of CO₂. Studies have shown that South Africa has exceptional wind and solar natural resources, which together with abundant, low-cost land, 50 years of experience in the commercial production of synthetic fuels, and good shipping access to the rapidly growing international markets of the EU and Japan, provide a unique competitive advantage for the country in the production of green power fuels.



“That is why the EU, South Africa’s number one trade and investment partner, as reflected in both the volume of trade and the substantive preferences afforded through the region’s Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the EU, has been working actively since 2019 to promote green power fuels as an alternative energy source for South Africa. It holds enormous potential benefits, both to help South Africa meet its emissions targets but also to create scores of new jobs and so help grow the economy,” says Roberto Cecutti, head of the Trade and Economic Section at the EU Delegation to South Africa.

He says that the tour, to include a full-day visit to the Port of Rotterdam (pioneering the use of green hydrogen in its operations) as well as a bilateral exchange with EU hydrogen policy makers at the EU Commission in Brussels, will demonstrate how South Africa could transition to green hydrogen. In addition, the tour will also ensure that the South African team will meet potential partners who could assist with and finance the establishment of a green hydrogen industry.

“Talk is cheap. We are not only interested in talking about, but in showing how it can be done and in supporting South Africa establish a green power fuels industry. South Africa is an important and strategic partner for the EU, one of only 10 with whom the bloc has a preferential relationship. We too gain from this, by obtaining another supplier of green hydrogen. So it is a win-win for South Africa and the EU,” adds Cecutti.

Participants will depart on 19 March and return on 26 March. The tour includes:

- A meeting with FMO (Dutch Development Bank) and Invest International
- A visit to the Port of Rotterdam
- A visit to Hydrogen Valley (Groningen in the Netherlands)
- A meeting with CMB Maritime Engineering (Antwerp)
- A visit to Tadao Hydrogen regional bus network (Hudain, Northern France)
- Meetings and knowledge exchange with the EU Commission (Brussels)
- A dinner hosted by GIZ
- A visit to the Jülich Research Institute (Cologne)