



The South African soprano Pretty Yende is considered to be a shooting star on the opera scene.



South African Embassy organises charity concert

Nelson Mandela Tribute Concert

The South African embassy in Vienna is holding a charity concert on 20th April at the Konzerthaus in Vienna in support of Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital Trust. It was Nelson Mandela's last wish to build a children's hospital in Johannesburg, the second medical facility of its kind in South Africa and the fifth in the entire African continent. They will also be celebrating the twenty-year anniversary of freedom and democracy in the Republic of South Africa. The two South African opera stars, Johan Botha and Pretty Yende, as well as the Vienna Chamber Orchestra conducted by Stefan Vladar will be performing works by Giuseppe Verdi, Gaetano Donizetti, Vincenzo Bellini, Giacomo Puccini, Franz Lehár and Johann Strauss.

www.konzerthaus.at

European Union

Green light for SME financing

Following a decision by the Board of Governors of the European Investment Bank (EIB), small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) across Europe should be able to benefit from the first funds from the new European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) before the summer. The landmark decision taken today by the EIB Board of Governors will allow for the pre-financing of SME projects linked to the Investment Plan for Europe before the summer.

ec.europa.eu

Indonesia

Business licensing facilitated

The Indonesian Ministry of Industry has transferred complete authorisation to BKPM (Indonesian Investment Coordination Board) to issue business licences for 436 of 1.249 industrial sectors as well as licences to allow extensions of business activities in various sectors. The government is taking this measure in order to transform BKPM into a "one-stop" licence centre. By having simpler approval procedures, the general conditions for foreign investors will be made easier and will therefore attract new investments by foreign companies.

www.wko.at

China

Shanghai expands free trade zone

The Guangdong Free Trade Zone will now include the Nansha New Area in Guangzhou, Qianhai in Shenzhen and Hengqin New Area in Zhuhai, covering 116,2 sq km. The Tianjin Free Trade Zone covering an area of 119,9 sq km will incorporate the port, the airport as well as the Binhai New Area Industrial Park. The industrial areas in the provincial capital city of Fuzhou as well as Xiamen und Pingtan are also going to be included in the Fujian Free Trade Zone. Furthermore, the Shanghai Free Trade Zone, which has existed since 2013, will be extended substantially and will also include the well-known Lujiazui Financial District, the Jinqiao Development Zone and the Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park.

www.wko.at

IACA/ICC

Corruption Workshops

The Austrian International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and IACA invite you to take part in two workshops on the worth of contracts and the dangers of alleged corruption in arbitral proceedings. The workshops will take place back-to-back, from 7th to 8th May and 8th - 9th May, in Vienna, Austria. A group of international experts will present legal issues and discuss real cases, highlighting the complexities of corruption in business, the civil law consequences, possible costs for business, and response mechanisms. Participants wishing to have a special situation discussed can anonymously submit questions as well.

www.iaca.int

