



**European Union**  
Delegation of the European Commission  
in South Africa

**... this week  
in review**

*This publication seeks to provide information on EU activities of interest to SA readers.*



## 1 – 8 January 2004

### Headline News

#### **The Irish Presidency (01/01/2004)**



This is the sixth time that Ireland has held the Presidency of the EU. It comes at an historic time for the EU, as it experiences its most extensive enlargement since its establishment. The accession of 10 new Member States on 1 May 2004 will be a major highlight of the Irish Presidency. This event will mark an historic ending of the post-war division of Europe and it is important that this opportunity is taken to bring all Europeans together to build a better Europe.

The Irish Presidency Programme identifies 4 priority objectives: (a) A successful enlargement of the EU to include 10 new Member States; (b) Working Together for Economic Growth, with emphasis on striving to make Europe the most competitive economy in the world; (c) A Safer Union, by developing the Union as an Area of Freedom, Security and Justice; (d) Global Engagement with the Outside World. See: <http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/homepage.asp?sNavlocator=1>

#### **Commission adopts plans to deliver €78 mil in humanitarian aid to populations in Africa (05/01/2004)**

The European Commission adopted three humanitarian aid packages totalling €78 million to meet the needs of victims of conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (€40 million), Sudan (€20 million), and the Coastal West Africa region (€18 million). Commissioner Poul Nielson (development and humanitarian aid) said: "The adoption of these plans is an affirmation of our commitment to engage and remain engaged in some of the largest and most consuming humanitarian crises to the benefit of the people in need. We will continue to focus our efforts on front-line humanitarian priorities such as health and food." See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/4/0IRAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/4/0IRAPID&lq=EN&display=)

### Other News

#### **Curbing Corruption in a Globalised World: A Tribute – Speech by Commissioner P Lamy (08/01/2004)**

In an address entitled 'Curbing Corruption in a Globalised World: A Tribute to Peter Eigen and Transparency International', EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said: "... everyone knows, Transparency International (TI) is synonymous with Peter Eigen. ... You will understand that as EU Commissioner, I have taken a particular interest in TI's efforts to promote a comprehensive EU policy against corruption. ... they helped shape the comprehensive approach, which the Commission set out in a policy paper in May 2003, covering aspects such as criminal law, tax deductibility of bribes, export credit guarantees, procurement rules, accounting standards, foreign aid programmes, corporate social responsibility, etc. If today the fight against corruption is much higher on the EU's agenda, this is in no small measure due to TI's persistent and constructive pressure." [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/4/0IRAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/4/0IRAPID&lq=EN&display=)



#### **Anti-Semitism Controversy – Speaking notes by EC President Romano Prodi (07/01/2004)**

All of you have certainly read in Monday's Financial Times an article on the issue of anti-Semitism very critical of the Commission. The article was signed by the president of the World Jewish Congress, Edgar Bronfman, and the president of the European Jewish Congress, Cobi Benatoff. We were accused both of action and inaction for having published the by now famous Eurobarometer poll on Israel and for not having published the by now equally famous Report on anti-Semitism commissioned by the Vienna-based Monitoring Centre on Racism and anti-Semitism. ... Suffice to say that we were blamed for a "failure of will and decency". See : <http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/prodi/speeches/20040107.htm>

#### **Commission encourages international solidarity when utilising exotic plants (07/01/2004)**

When an EU company uses exotic plants like Aloe Vera for producing cosmetics it should share the benefits of this use with the country where the plant came from. This is the key message in a Communication adopted by the Commission. The use of exotic plants like Aloe Vera, Ginseng, etc is widespread in the EU, particularly in cosmetics. Several industry sectors are investing in research to discover new applications for such so called "genetic resources" in medicines, cosmetics or agriculture. The Communication urges companies and research institutes not to take genetic resources from other countries - usually developing countries that are rich in bio-diversity - without their consent. European companies and research institutes

should guarantee that the countries of origin get a fair share of the profits and research results arising from the use of their resources. See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/210|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/210|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

#### **Market abuse: Commission adopts first implementing measures (07/01/2004)**

The European Commission has adopted three implementing measures related to the Directive on insider dealing and market manipulation (market abuse - 2003/6/EC). These implementing measures cover among other things detailed criteria for determining what constitutes inside information, which non exhaustive factors have to be examined when assessing possible market manipulation as well as provisions on how and when issuers must disclose inside information. They also set out standards for the fair presentation of investment recommendations (including the disclosure of conflicts of interest). Finally, they set out conditions for benefiting from exemptions from the prohibitions of market abuse in the case of share buy-back programmes and price stabilisation of financial instruments.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/160|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/160|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

#### **Commission allocates €31 million for humanitarian aid to vulnerable populations in Iraq (05/01/2004)**

The European Commission has allocated €31.75 million to humanitarian aid in favour of vulnerable populations in Iraq. The Commission's total humanitarian response to the conflict in Iraq in 2003 thereby reaches €100 million. The objective of the decision is to enable an urgent and forceful response to a humanitarian situation that remains precarious. Activities will include the delivery of health-, water- and sanitation services; education; de-mining and a particular security component in view of the volatile security situation faced by humanitarian aid workers. Funds are managed by the Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/300|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/300|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

#### **Communication between Libya and EU (02/01/2004)**

In a telephone conversation between the European Commission's Romano Prodi and Libyan leader Colonel Khadafi the Libyan leader congratulated President Prodi for escaping the recent terrorist bomb attack. President Prodi expressed his satisfaction for the very important achievements made by Libya on the international scene, allowing the lifting of UN sanctions and permitting the EU to follow this decision at the earliest. Colonel Khadafi underlined the importance over the years to be able to count on the permanent dialogue offered by President Prodi, proving this dialogue-strategy to be the only winning one. Confirming the line expressed recently in Tunis (5+5 Summit), President Prodi warmly invited Libya to join the Barcelona Process. "Now it is time for Libya to enter through the main door and to contribute to the Euro-Med dialogue and to be part of EU's ring of friends". See: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/lybia/intro/pr04\\_02\\_01.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/lybia/intro/pr04_02_01.htm)

#### ***Ahead:***

- **28/01/2004, Launch of eThekweni Area Based Management Programme, Durban**

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