



**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.*



## 10 – 16 September 2004

### Headline News

#### **Ambassador Lake opens CAGE workshops (13/09/2004)**

Earlier this week Ambassador Michael Lake opened a series of workshops at the EU supported Conflict and Governance (CAGE) Fund. This €4 million facility is a joint initiative between the European Commission, the National Treasury and the Policy Planning and Advisory Unit within the Presidency. The Programme aims to provide support to policy research institutions undertaking work on policy making, implementation and review in the context of conflict resolution and governance. Ambassador Lake observed: "As this Programme encourages input from non-governmental policy research institutions there is the added benefit of it bringing the government and its citizens closer together".

#### **Joining forces to alleviate poverty and hunger in developing countries (13/09/2004)**

The Commission and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) have agreed on a strategic partnership aimed to reinforce their synergy and join efforts, in areas of common concern, towards the shared goal of reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development goals. In particular, specific attention will be initially given to foster close collaboration in five specific areas: food security, sustainable rural development and agricultural policies, food safety and quality, natural resources management and statistical cooperation and information exchange. On signing the partnership, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Poul Nielson said: "The Strategic partnership we have signed today will ... reinforce the quality of our collaboration in the pursuit of a common goal: alleviating rural poverty and hunger in developing countries".

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1096&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



Dr. Jacques Diouf,  
Dir -Gen of the FAO, with  
Com Poul Nielson

#### **The Tragedy in Beslan and the Fight against Terrorism – Speech by the Rt. Hon Chris Patten (15/09/2004)**

In an address to the European Parliament Plenary, Commissioner Chris Patten (External Relations) said: "I reiterate the Commission's condolences to the people of Beslan. I also, unhesitatingly and unreservedly condemn terrorist acts wherever they are perpetrated. Attacks on civilians are always contemptible. When they deliberately target children, they plumb new depths of atrocity. ... For the Commission, there are two principles that guide cooperation with Russia on terrorism. First, that it is equally, if not more, important to work together to prevent terrorism, by which I mean addressing its root causes. Second, that human rights are paramount and must be respected - the fight against terrorism does not justify or excuse the violation of human rights. Rather, it is strengthened by a demonstrable respect for the human rights of all citizens.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/398&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### Other News

#### **HIV/AIDS - EU and neighbours pledge common action to counter resurgent epidemic (17/09/2004)**



Health ministers, AIDS experts, industry and civil society representatives from across the EU and its eastern neighbours are meeting in Vilnius to pledge action to counter a growing HIV/AIDS epidemic. The Vilnius conference will adopt a declaration committing participants to a coordinated continent-wide effort to fight the disease with all involved working together in partnership. A package of measures set out in a paper presented by the European Commission will be endorsed as a key element of this effort.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1111&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **HIV/AIDS: 20 years on. Have we really stopped caring? – Speech by Com Pavel Telicka (17/09/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/404&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**HIV/AIDS – resurgent epidemic in Europe and neighbourhood: EC calls for political leadership (08/09/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1076&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Results of the European Economic and Social Committee's September plenary session (16/09/2004)**

Key opinions adopted on the EU's financial perspective, entrepreneurship, demographic change, economic governance and the role of women's organisations under the Cotonou Agreement.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=CES/04/107&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **The Emergence of collective preferences in international trade – Speech by Pascal Lamy (15/09/2004)**

At a conference on “Collective preferences and global governance: what future for the multilateral trading system”, EU Trade Commissioner, Pascal Lamy said: “International market-opening is a tremendous force for growth and employment that benefits us all. But whatever its benefits, it also has a destabilising impact on the economic and social fabric, and potentially on societal choices. ... The issue of collective preferences is at the very heart of the debates on regulating globalisation (i.e. formulating rules for the opening of markets, minimising the destabilising effects and maximising the benefits) and on global governance (how to co-ordinate collective choices, why and how to foster collective preferences). Since the issue is a relatively new one and raises certain conceptual difficulties, there is a risk that it may be misunderstood in one way or another and that it will run up against an unholy alliance of opponents...”

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/400&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Speech on Iraq – by the Rt. Hon Chris Patten (15/09/2004)**

During an address to the European Parliament Plenary in Strasbourg, Commissioner Chris Patten (External Relations) observed: “The worst shambles to have overwhelmed us in the last 5 years has of course been the row over Iraq. I don’t want to go back over old arguments. If we needed reminding that you cannot have a common policy if the larger member states are deeply divided, then here was the evidence. ... Is the world today safer than before the overthrow of the appalling Saddam? Is global terrorism in retreat? Are we closer to building bridges between Islam and the West? Is the world’s only super-power more widely respected? Have the citizens in our democracies been treated in a way that will encourage them to give governments the benefit of the doubt next time they are told that force needs to be used preemptively to deal with an imminent threat? I simply pose the questions...”



See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/399&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Hurricane Ivan: European Commission earmarks €1.5 million for victims in Grenada (14/09/2004)**

The European Commission, through its Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), has earmarked €1.5 million for humanitarian aid to meet emergency needs caused by Hurricane Ivan on the Caribbean island of Grenada. The focus of the aid will be on providing the most vulnerable people with emergency shelter, as well as food, drinking water, hygiene kits and tarpaulins for house roofing. About 5000 homeless families will be targeted. Other interventions could include support for rehabilitating water supplies and sanitation. Extensive house destruction has forced thousands of people to go to organised shelters, and many others who are homeless are in “informal” shelters. The aid will be implemented through ECHO partners in the region.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1102&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Commission launches stakeholder consultation on future climate change policy (14/09/2004)**

What should be the EU’s approach to the future international fight against climate change? How should EU countries work together to fight climate change after 2012, when the current Kyoto Protocol’s targets end? These questions are part of a web-based stakeholder consultation which the European Commission starts today. The consultation gives an opportunity for stakeholders (citizens, businesses, policy makers, NGOs, authorities, scientists and others) to contribute to the debate on the future of global climate policy. The Commission will use the contributions in the development of the EU’s future climate change policy and its contribution to the international debate on the future international climate change regime.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1099&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Ahead:**

- **07/10/2004 – EU Enlargement & Trade Workshop, SAITEX, Johannesburg**  
[Interested? Please call Nathalie at 012-342-3911 for more information.](#)
- **16/11/2004 – President T Mbeki to visit the EU, Brussels**

**For further information please contact Frank Oberholzer at 012-452-5200**

