



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.



11 – 17 April 2003

“Signing the Treaty of Accession” – Speech by Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission (Ceremony of the Signing of the Treaty of Accession - Athens, 16/04/2003)

“Today we are celebrating the Treaty of Accession. It enlarges our European Union to embrace 10 new Member States and another 75 million people. At the same time it paves the way for further accessions, in particular those of Romania and Bulgaria scheduled for 2007. Today, here at the Parthenon, the cradle of democracy, we call on our peoples and Parliaments to approve this Treaty sanctioning the peaceful, democratic unification of our continent. Today we can be rightly proud of what Europe has achieved since the first Treaty on coal and steel was signed: decades of peace, co-operation and friendship between our peoples, shared prosperity, an ever closer union among our countries, and the primacy of our values -- democracy, the rule of law, respect for minorities, tolerance and solidarity. ...”

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/2030|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Press Statement on Accession Treaty Signing Ceremony, see: <http://www.eu2003.gr/en/articles/2003/4/16/2533/>
Athens Declaration, see: <http://ue.eu.int/newsroom/newmain.asp?lang=1> (Latest News)

Commissioner Patten to visit Australia and New Zealand 16 - 24 April 2003 (15/04/2003)

External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten is travelling to Australia and New Zealand from 16 to 24 April to meet senior members of the respective governments. Discussions will include EU-Australia and EU-New Zealand relations, WTO negotiations, bilateral trade issues including agriculture, as well as international issues such as reconstruction in Iraq and the DPRK.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/5460|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

European Commission-Australia Ministerial Consultation, see:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/australia/intro/mc160403.htm

The European Commission proposes measures to facilitate the issuing of visas and entry into the Schengen area for members of the Olympic family taking part in the 2004 Athens Games (15/04/2003)

The European Commission has presented a proposal for a Regulation laying down specific measures to facilitate the procedure for applying for and issuing visas and the entry into the Schengen area for members of the Olympic family who are to take part in the 2004 Olympic and/or Paralympic Games in Athens. Coming on top of the support provided by the European Structural Funds for the preparation of the Olympics and the initiatives now being finalised between the European Commission and the Games Organising Committee in the field of sport and youth, the proposed regulation confirms the excellent co-operation between the European Union and the Olympic movement in a year when the Athens games will coincide with the European Year of education through sport.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/5430|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

European Commission supports peace process in Congo-Brazzaville (14/04/2003)

The European Commission is supporting, through its Rapid Reaction Mechanism, the urgent disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) of the so-called Ninja Rebels in the Republic of Congo (Congo-Brazzaville). The signature on 17 March 2003 of a cease-fire agreement between the Government and the "Ninja Rebels" in the Pool Region has opened up an important window of opportunity for peace. The decision of the Commission, worth €731000, responds to this in a concrete manner. Implementation on the ground will be undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which has the capacity to initiate actions within a few days. The UNDP has recent experience of this type of operation from a similar programme implemented in Congo-Brazzaville.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/5400|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the recent massacres in and around Drodro, North-Eastern part of the DRC (14/04/2003)

The European Union strongly condemns the recent acts of military aggression in and around Drodro, in the Ituri Region, in the north eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, which culminated in the massacre of hundreds of civilians and expresses serious concern about the grave humanitarian consequences for the Congolese population. It asks all parties to facilitate humanitarian access to the population affected by the conflict, and to bring the perpetrators of those crimes immediately to justice.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PESC/03/47|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Joint Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union and the United States on the Humanitarian situation, especially the practice of forced recruitment, in Liberia (14/04/2003)

The International Community has observed the growing and very disturbing practice of forced recruitment of refugees and other civilians to fuel the civil conflicts in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. Many civilians have been forcibly recruited by some actors, involved in the conflicts in both Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, to fight in these civil conflicts. The United States and the European Union deplore the forced recruitment of refugees and other civilians to fuel these destructive, corrosive and senseless conflicts. The forced recruitment of civilians further complicates and exacerbates the unstable situation both in Liberia and in other conflicts in the region.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PESC/03/34|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Message from the European Commission following the referendum in Hungary (13/04/2003)

The Hungarian referendum result, following so closely on the resounding "yes" votes in Malta and Slovenia, is a momentous occasion for rejoicing. By coming out overwhelmingly in favour of EU membership today, the Hungarian voters have signalled their clear choice to build their future within a strong, united Europe. This decision marks the end of Hungary's tragic separation from the European family of democratic nations. By the same token it marks the start of the Hungarians' full participation in our shared future, to which they have so much to contribute with their rich and enlightened cultural heritage. It also sends a strong signal of Hungary's faith in European integration as the best way to preserve peace and prosperity, to show their oneness with the rest of Europe while safeguarding their own identity, and to strengthen and foster these values in a globalised world.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/541|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

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