



**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 July 2003**

**Headline News:**

**The European and African Union – Speech by Romano Prodi, President of the EC, Maputo (11/07/2003)**

On the occasion of the African Union Summit European Commission President Romano Prodi said: "... My first message is one of support for your bold plans for the continent. As I wrote to President Mbeki last year, the European Union wishes the African Union well. We share the objectives and principles set out in your Constitutive Act. We are aware of the complexity and constraints facing African leaders as they seek to build robust, efficient institutions accountable to Africa's people. In Europe, after 50 years of integration, we are now working on a Constitution. ... We also support your economic and social agenda for Africa. Dialogue in connection with the G8 in particular has shown that NEPAD must be a partnership. So implementing NEPAD is not a matter for Africa alone. ..."

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=SPEECH/03/363|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=SPEECH/03/363|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

**Current and future trends of the human rights' agenda – Speech by the Rt Hon Chris Patten (14/07/2003)**

At a Special Seminar with NGOs the EC's Commissioner for External Relations, Chris Patten said: "We find ourselves at a fascinating juncture in the history of human rights in international relations. In little over half a century, we have seen the horrors of war galvanise the international community into embracing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; we have witnessed a gradual strengthening of international human rights law. And we have recently seen international interventions in conflicts - such as in Kosovo triggered and justified by humanitarian concerns and the protection of human rights. From tyrants hiding behind the cloak of sovereign immunity, we have come to an increased willingness to bring even heads of state to justice for their crimes witness the decision last month by the Special Court for Sierra Leone to indict Charles Taylor. With 90 ratifications already secured for the International Criminal Court, the human rights' writ indeed begins to run large. Amidst these significant developments, it is more important than ever to articulate why human rights matter in EU external relations' policy. See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=SPEECH/03/364|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=SPEECH/03/364|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

**Other News:**

**EC takes action: €100 million to improve conditions in Gaza & West Bank (17/07/2003)**

[see page 2]

Following the recent positive developments in the Palestinian Territories and the withdrawal of IDF forces from parts of the Gaza Strip and Bethlehem, the European Commission is urgently delivering a €100 mil package of financial assistance to support the implementation of the Road Map for Peace. A €30 mil emergency programme to rebuild essential services will have an immediate effect on the daily lives of the Palestinian population. €40 mil from the new Reform Support Instrument will boost the economy by paying Palestinian Authority arrears to small- and medium-sized enterprises. A total of €30 mil in loans for SMEs will help relaunch this sector and create employment. Total assistance from the European Community budget for supporting the reform process and providing humanitarian aid to the Palestinians stands at €570 mil for 2002/3.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/1040|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/1040|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

**EU research investigates health risks of tattoos and body piercing (17/07/2003)**

The fashion for tattoos and body piercing is growing in Europe, along with concerns about the health risks associated with them. But the knowledge about the chemical structure, identity, and toxicological profiles of a large number of dyes used in tattooing is mostly lacking. In this light, the Commission is collecting and assessing all necessary information to establish a common knowledge basis. EU research results released today present a comprehensive overview of possible health hazards and exposures associated with tattoos and piercing. When health standards are disregarded, these practices can bring about viral infections such as hepatitis, HIV; bacterial and fungal infections; allergic reactions such as skin irritation and urticaria; malignant lesions such as melanoma; leprosy and other devastating diseases. The Commission study identifies substances and materials associated with adverse health effects and recommends the development and use of safe, pure and sterile substances and materials.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/1033|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/1033|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

### **SPAM: European Commission goes on the offensive (15/07/2003)**

Erkki Liikanen European Commissioner for Enterprise and the Information Society outlined today in Brussels how the European Commission is planning to address the proliferation of unsolicited commercial e-mail, otherwise known as 'spam'. Given the timely adoption last year of a directive on Privacy and Electronic Communications, Member States have to transpose a 'ban on spam' into national legislation by the end of October 2003. As a second step, the European Commission expects a Communication on spam to be adopted in the autumn. Concrete action would focus on effective enforcement, notably through international co-operation, technical measures for countering spam, and consumer awareness. The proposed measures would be first tested with Member States and interested parties through a workshop to be convened in October. See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1015|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1015|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

### **Commission grants €4 million in humanitarian aid to Uganda and Somalia (11/07/2003)**

The European Commission has approved two humanitarian aid packages, each worth €2 million, to support vulnerable populations in northern Uganda and Somalia. The objective is to help meet the needs of people affected by civil strife. In both countries, the suffering due to conflict has been compounded by adverse weather conditions. The aid is channelled through the Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), which comes under the responsibility of Commissioner Poul Nielson. See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1003|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1003|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

### **Commission tightens up security in airports in Member States (11/07/2003)**

The Commission adopted the requirements for the national security quality control programmes in European airports. These measures are intended to give full effect to the aviation security regulation, which will apply in airports from 19 July 2003. Loyola de Palacio, the Vice-President with special responsibility for transport and energy, made the following statement: "Following the events of 11 September, the EU has considerably tightened up the European security rules in airports, and the new regulation adopted today completes the arrangements by laying down requirements concerning the quality control of the rules introduced by the Member States. The level of security in European airports will therefore be strengthened even further." See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1001|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1001|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

### **USA-Steel: victory for the Complainants in the WTO Panel against the US steel safeguards (11/07/2003)**

Press statement by the European Commission, Japan, Korea, China, Switzerland, Norway, New Zealand and Brazil: "Today, the WTO Panel requested by the EC, Japan, Korea, China, Switzerland, Norway, New Zealand and Brazil (Co-complainants) ruled that each of the US safeguard measures imposed on 10 steel product groupings was in breach of WTO rules. The Co-complainants welcome the Panel's decision which upheld their main arguments and call upon the US to terminate its WTO incompatible safeguard measures without delay. Should the US appeal this Panel's decision, the Co-complainants will continue to work together to ensure that the WTO Appellate Body confirms that the US steel safeguard measures violate WTO rules." See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1002|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1002|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

#### **Ahead:**

- **EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, Dalian, China, 22-24/07/2003**

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/asean/intro/index.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/asean/intro/index.htm)

- **Plenary session of the European Parliament, 1-4/09/2003**

See: [http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm)

- **5<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference, Cancún, Mexico, 10-14/09/2003**



Officially, this meeting will be the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference. The Ministerial Conference is the organisation's highest-level decision-making body. It meets "at least once every two years", as required by the Marrakech Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organisation — the WTO's founding charter. The main task of this September's conference will be to take stock of progress in negotiations and other work under the Doha Development Agenda.

See: [http://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/minist\\_e/min03\\_e/min03\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min03_e/min03_e.htm)

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#### **A road map paid for in euros - By Christopher Patten FT.com site; Jul 16, 2003**

Cynicism often attends our greatest ambitions. Sending a man to the moon, launching the euro, ending the sway of communism: all these once seemed impossible. Yet they were accomplished against the odds. When it comes to the prospects for peace in the Middle East, cynics abound. Yet the "road map" - first conceived under the Danish presidency of the European Union and later worked on and adopted by the "quartet" of the US, the United Nations, the EU and Russia - is now our best chance of achieving that peace. Many doubted it would bring us even to the fragile truce we see today.

See: [http://search.ft.com/search/article.html?id=030716006022&query=A+road+map+paid+for+in+euros&vsc\\_appld=totalSearch&state=Form](http://search.ft.com/search/article.html?id=030716006022&query=A+road+map+paid+for+in+euros&vsc_appld=totalSearch&state=Form)