



**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 June 2004

### Headline News

#### **Commission Statement on the European Parliament elections (14/06/2004)**

The Commission expresses satisfaction at the way the elections have taken place, mobilising citizens and political forces across the continent in strict compliance with the rules of democracy. As regards the rate of participation, the elections send two very important signals: first, participation by citizens in the countries that were members of the Union at 1 May is stable, with encouraging signs in some countries where there has been a significant increase in the number of voters. Secondly, these elections reveal a serious problem of participation in a large number of member countries that joined the Union last May. With two clear exceptions, plus two other cases of countries where the situation can be regarded as acceptable, the rate of participation in the new Member States is highly unsatisfactory. <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/742&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

europa.eu.int  
european  
elections  
10 - 13 june



#### **European Responses to the HIV/AIDS Pandemic – Speech by Poul Nielson (03/06/2004)**

During a breakfast presentation, entitled *European Responses to the HIV/AIDS Pandemic: Challenges Ahead and Role of Foundations and Civil Society* at the European Policy Centre in Brussels, Poul Nielson, Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, said: "HIV/AIDS threatens to destroy whole societies in the South whilst the threat in the North is of a different nature. It is also a personal tragedy for more than 40 million men, women and children infected by HIV with a large majority, 90%, living in developing countries. Since the beginning of the epidemic more than 24 million people – among which 5 million children – have died. The EC is addressing HIV/AIDS together with malaria and tuberculosis, the three main killers in developing countries in a co-ordinated and coherent manner"

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/296&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### Other News

#### **Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Equatorial Guinea (17/06/2004)**

The EU welcomes the forthcoming opening of the new Parliament of Equatorial Guinea after the holding of Parliamentary and Municipal elections last April 25th. The EU believes that the process leading to the opening of the new Parliamentary session contains both positive and negative aspects which the new Government should consider in the future. The EU considers that the electoral campaign took place in a peaceful way and allowed political parties to carry out their activities in an atmosphere of relative normality. Nevertheless, the Spanish Parliamentary observers present in the country detected important irregularities that have distorted the electoral process in contradiction to the Agreements between the Government and the democratic opposition, reached in Mбини in August 2003.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PESC/04/77&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Turkey and the EU towards December 2004 – Speech by Günter Verheugen (17/06/2004)**



In an address to the Friends of Europe in Brussels, Günter Verheugen, Member of the European Commission Responsible for Enlargement, said: "Turkey is a candidate country. This was confirmed by the heads of states and Governments in Helsinki in December 1999. The issue we face is therefore not whether Turkey can be a member of the EU, but whether and when negotiations on the accession of Turkey can begin. The Copenhagen political criteria sets out the conditions that need to be met. The sequence is clear. First meeting the political criteria and then negotiations. The prospect of EU accession has proved to be a robust catalyst of political transformation in Turkey. Since December 1999 Turkey embarked upon a process of far-reaching constitutional and legislative reforms. ..."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/309&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **President Prodi discusses transition to democracy and peace with DRC Minister (16/06/2004)**

President Prodi received the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mr Antoine Ghonda. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, who brought with him a message from President Kabila, informed President Prodi of the latest events in the Congo, and in particular in Bukavu and Kinshasa.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/766&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **WTO farm talks: "Breakthrough possible if others match EU," says EU Farm Commissioner (15/06/2004)**

Speaking at the news conference in Winnipeg, Canada, EU Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler struck an upbeat note regarding the ongoing WTO farm trade liberalisation negotiations. "I think a breakthrough is possible in July and the EU is ready to do its part to make it happen. The EU has put its export subsidies on the table. We are offering that at the end of a transition period, the legal basis and the budget for EU export subsidies will be gone. We expect the US to do exactly the same for their export credits or the Canadians to do exactly the same with their Canadian Wheat Board. Export monopolies, subsidies, state guarantees or long redemption periods unfairly promote exports, depress prices and hence harm developing countries. So let's do away with them as well! Fudging the issue, playing hide and seek with academic discussions is no longer good enough," he said.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/748&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **The world meat market: Building a future on the lessons learned – Speech by Franz Fischler (14/06/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/300&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**The EU and the WTO: Moving the negotiations forward – Speech by Franz Fischler (14/06/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/298&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **UNCTAD XI: EC calls for action to assist commodity dependent developing countries (11/06/2004)**

The European Commission will call for concrete global measures to support commodity dependent developing countries and their producers at the 11<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI) taking place on 13-18/06/2004 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. In April 2004 the EU adopted a comprehensive action plan to help developing countries enhance their export performance and reduce their vulnerability from price fluctuations of major international agricultural commodities such as cotton and coffee. The commodity issue is one of the three priorities which the European Union has set for UNCTAD XI. The other priorities for this meeting are: (i) Integrating trade and investment in national development policies and poverty reduction strategies; and (ii) regional integration and south-south trade.



See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/739&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Statement at Roundtable on Innovative Financing for Development, Unctad XI – Poul Nielson (15/06/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/302&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**Commodities, Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development – Speech by Poul Nielson (15/06/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/304&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **EU funding helping to find ocean remedies for cancer (11/06/2004)**

EU funding is helping to find cancer treatments for certain deadly tumours using small marine animals. European researchers are using chemical agents extracted from a type of Caribbean sea squirt, named Ecteinascidia turbinata, to treat some tumours. ...The project, involving Dutch, French and Spanish participants, aims to test the chemicals in treating sarcomas, a rare tumour that kills about 3,900 Europeans a year. Although sarcomas respond to chemotherapy, which shrinks the tumour's growth, a cure has not yet been found. But the discovery of the alkaloid chemical, Ecteinascidin-743 (ET-743), is a breakthrough for medical science.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/736&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **International Action against defrauding Aid Funds (11/06/2004)**

A new European network aims to help to fight fraud against international aid funds. This project of an "EU FraudNet", proposed by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), shall be designed to foster the co-operation among different international donors and investigative bodies.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=OLAF/04/12&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Where next for EU Trade policy? – Speech by Pascal Lamy ( 11/06/2004)**

In his address in Berlin to the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said: "...I wanted to ... briefly run you through the main issues on our trade agenda. Top of the list, of course, is the Doha Development Agenda. But I also wanted to say a few words about the ongoing negotiations with our Latin American partners on the EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement as well as on how things look trade-wise in the transatlantic relationship, in view of the EU-US Summit that will take place towards the end of the month in Ireland. Because, while the DDA is certainly the most important show in town, it is not the only one."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/295&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Preventing the financing of terrorism and of certain foreign regimes (10/06/2004)**

The European Commission, in partnership with the four European Credit Sector Federations (European Banking Federation; European Savings Banks Group; European Association of Cooperative Banks; European Association of Public Banks), have established an electronic database containing all relevant data concerning persons, groups and entities, subject to European Union financial sanctions.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/734&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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