



**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.*



## 12 – 18 March 2004

### Headline News

#### **European Council to Focus on Fight against Terrorism (15/03/2004)**



Speaking as President of the European Council, the Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern, made the following statement on proposals to counter terrorism in the aftermath of the 11th March terrorist attacks in Madrid. "The callous and cowardly attacks on 11 March served as a terrible reminder of the threat posed by terrorism to our society. We condemn utterly those who planted the bombs that wrought such destruction and cost so many lives last Thursday. The attacks in Madrid were an attack against the very values on which the Union is founded. There can be no justification whatever for acts of terrorism. The European Union will not be deflected from the pursuit of democracy or justice by these desperate acts. We stand in soli-

darity with the Spanish people and pledge ourselves to combat all forms of terrorism within our power in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations ..."

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PRES/04/810|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PRES/04/810|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

See also: **European Commission action papers in response to the terrorist attacks on Madrid (18/03/2004)**

[http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/660|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/660|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

[http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/650|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/650|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

**Existing legislative instruments relevant to the fight against terrorism, and draft measures already on the Council table (18/03/2004)**

[http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/630|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/630|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

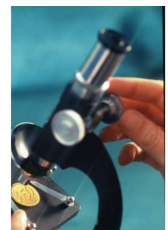
**EU Counter Terrorism efforts in Justice & Home Affairs field (12/03/2004)**

[http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/590|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/590|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

### Other News

#### **Investment in research: Europe is making progress, but too slowly (17/03/2004)**

Commissioner Philippe Busquin reported on the progress made in implementing the action plan of 30/04/2003 to step up public and private spending on research in Europe. The aim is to increase investment in research from its current level of almost 2% of Europe's gross domestic product to 3% by 2010, in line with the commitment made by the Barcelona European Council in March 2002. The initial results are positive, but still insufficient, given the performance in the Member States' research budgets in 2003 and 2004. The EC is also improving the framework conditions for investing in research. ...The Commission is also improving the framework conditions for investing in research, by modernising the competition rules, promoting better rules and better management for intellectual property and improving the mobility and working conditions of researchers, notably via its proposal for a directive, to facilitate entry and stays for researchers from third countries, and other initiatives currently in the pipeline regarding researchers' careers and recruitment. See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/3580|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/3580|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)



See also: **Europe at the forefront in research on solar, wave and geothermal energies (16/03/2004)**

[http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/3500|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/3500|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

**Innovation, Productivity & eEurope - recipe for long-term growth – Speech by E Liikanen (16/03/2004)**

[http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/1350|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/1350|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

#### **European industry leaders and EU policymakers call for budget boost for Security Research (15/03/2004)**

A high-level group of 27 top European industry executives and policymakers formally presented their report to Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission. The report entitled, "Research for a Secure Europe", describes the need for increased European funding and co-ordination in security research. It also outlines 12 recommendations for the future, including an urgent call for a minimum of €1 billion to be spent annually to develop technology in this area. The group, chaired by European Commissioners Philippe Busquin (Research) and Erkki Liikanen (Enterprise and Information Society), was convened last October in order to present their vision for a future European Security Research Programme from 2007.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/3350|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/3350|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

See also: **European Commission recommends more effective crime prevention policy in the EU (15/03/2004)**

[http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/336|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/336|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

### **EC proposes stepping up EU action to combat child porn, racism and spam on the internet (12/03/2004)**

Safer Internet plus, a new €50 million, 4-year programme to make the internet safer for children, was proposed by the European Commission. This programme, running from 2005 to 2008, would build upon EU work under way since 1996 to combat illegal and harmful internet content. Encompassing new media, such as videos, and new issues such as "spam", it would bring in accession countries, and focus more closely on end users: parents, educators and children. It aims to mobilise talent in the public, private and voluntary sectors to prepare hard-hitting safety campaigns. Its four action lines are: fighting illegal content; tackling unwanted and harmful content (including spam); promoting a safer environment, and awareness-raising. See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/333|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/333|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

### **Mercosur: Commission approves €4 million to support regional integration (12/03/2004)**

The European Commission has approved a €4 million project to support the reduction of trade barriers between Mercosur countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), thus contributing to the economic integration of the bloc. With this project, the European Commission matches its political support to Mercosur regional integration efforts with deeds aimed at stimulating economic and social development in the region. Tearing down barriers to regional trade will also help Mercosur countries to reap the full benefits of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement currently being negotiated.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/331|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/331|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

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## **Enlargement and institutional changes**



### **In the case of the European Commission:**

#### **Until 1 May 2004**

The current system remains in place. The Commission is composed of 20 Commissioners from the EU-15.

#### **1 May 2004 to 31 October 2004 transitional period**

The Commission will be composed of 30 members: the 20 current Commissioners and 10 Commissioners from the accession countries. The Commissioners from the new Member States will be full members of the College and will participate in the decision-making process on exactly the same terms as Commissioners from the present Member States. While, during this short transitional period, the new Commissioners will not have specific portfolios, they will each be associated with the work of an existing Commissioner in order to ease their integration into the Commission's work.

#### **1 November 2004 to 31 October 2009 – the Treaty of Nice comes into force**

A new Commission takes office on 1 November, date foreseen in the Accession Treaty. Under the rules of the Treaty of Nice this Commission will be composed of 25 Commissioners (one from each Member State).

#### **Furthermore:**

The Treaty of Nice states that when the Union is composed of 27 Member States, the number of Commissioners should become inferior to the number of Member States. The Council must decide on the exact number by unanimity. The Members of the Commission shall be chosen according to a rotation system based on the principle of equality of all Member States. This amendment shall apply for the first Commission following accession of the 27<sup>th</sup> Member State. Hence, the Commission in office when accession of the 27<sup>th</sup> Member State happens could include 27 or more members for a transitional period.

The Inter-governmental Conference is currently discussing changes to the composition of the Commission. The system of first-rank and second-rank Commissioners as proposed by the Convention has been heavily criticised and has to be reviewed by the IGC.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/61|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/61|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)