



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 – 25 August 2005

Headline News

EU responds to Kofi Annan appeal for Southern Africa

The European Commission has announced that it will make available US \$5 million in additional funding for World Food Programme (WFP) aid efforts in Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Swaziland. This ensures that the EU is now covering over 50% of total food commitments to date in Zimbabwe. The Commission had already pledged €20 million (about \$25 million) towards the Regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) that started in January this year. This money was made available 'in particular to procure and distribute maize and other essential food items to the people of Zimbabwe'. The EC has now agreed to allocate a further €4.45 million (about \$5 million). Both of these commitments from the EC's food security budget line go a long way to securing the WFP food pipelines until the end of this year.

See: http://www.eusa.org.za/PDFdownload/PressReleases/EC_food_press_release_2005.pdf

EC welcomes Israeli disengagement from Gaza & prepares further €60 mil support package (25/08/2005)

The European Commission welcomes the Israeli disengagement from the Gaza Strip and Northern parts of the West Bank as a significant step towards implementing the Quartet Roadmap. The Commission is particularly encouraged by the close coordination and the restraint shown by Israelis and Palestinians which attest to the courage and commitment of both sides. Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, said: "I am heartened by the manner in which the preliminary stages of disengagement from Gaza and Northern parts of the West Bank have taken place. I am conscious, however, that this is only the beginning, and the challenges that lie ahead are immense. To address some of these challenges the Commission is preparing a new financial package of €60 million to rebuild infrastructure and strengthen Palestinian institutions in the Gaza Strip. I shall be announcing further details of this package in September."

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1066&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Other News

Avian Influenza: Commission asks Member States to step up surveillance (25/08/2005)

The European Commission convened a meeting of EU veterinary experts from all Member States to discuss the avian influenza situation in Asia and Russia (Siberia) and which steps should be taken in order to increase vigilance against the disease spreading to the EU. The Commission has asked the Member States to step up surveillance and will make financing available in order to facilitate this effort. A number of actions were agreed at the meeting, including a review of contingency plans and increased vigilance to ensure that existing measures such as import bans are fully enforced. However, a generalised ban on keeping poultry outdoors was not considered proportionate to the current risk of disease introduction through migratory birds.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1068&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health working group meeting conclusions (25/08/2005)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/285&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Timeline of actions by the Commission on avian influenza and human flu pandemic preparedness (25/08/2005)

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/284&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Questions and Answers on EU action on Avian Influenza and Flu Pandemic Preparedness (25/08/2005)

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/283&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

European Commission actions in the field of aviation safety (17/08/2005)

Over the last few years, the European Commission has made considerable progress in its regulatory activities in the field of aviation safety, with tools put in place to prevent air accidents and incidents. This action is designed to replace an intergovernmental system of international standards implemented by each Member State with a system of binding Community rules applied in a uniform and rigorous way by all EU Member States. Although the implementation of this new framework is in the hands of the Member States, the European Commission, assisted by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), ensures consistent application of the rules.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/281&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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