



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.



13 - 19 February 2004

Headline News

EU signs R85 mil Legislature Support Programme with South Africa (17/02/2004)

The European Commission and the Speakers Forum of the Republic of South Africa signed a €10 mil four-year agreement aimed at strengthening democracy and good governance. EU Ambassador Michael Lake said: "It is indeed a great privilege for us to be able to contribute to the strengthening of the democratic process in South Africa. Through capacity building, training and infrastructural improvements this programme seeks to support the lawmakers and policy developers at both the national and the provincial levels." See: [Citizen \(18/02/2004\)](#)



Address by Poul Nielson at the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (17/02/2004)



In his recent address to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Poul Nielson said: "... The mobilisation of Africa to tackle the key problems it faces is of fundamental importance for the future of the continent. The international community should respond to Africa's own efforts with a contribution reflecting the historic opportunity for progress. For our part, we are supporting the AU's Institutions and have responded to the Union's focus on peace and security with a decision to make available €250 million for a peace facility.

We feel that Europe can be a key partner for the AU as it pursues its agenda of peace and security, good governance and economic integration and trade."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/80|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Other News

Commission finalises preparations for arrival of new Commissioners on 1st May (18/02/2004)

The European Commission agreed on the measures it will put in place to ensure the smooth integration into the College of the 10 new Commissioners from 01/05.2004. The Commissioners from the new Member States will be full members of the College and will play a full and active role in the decision-making process. While they 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. The new Commissioners will each have a cabinet.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/233|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **Commission prepares recruitment of senior managers from the new Member States (18/02/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/229|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Europe, against anti-Semitism for a Union of diversity (18/02/2004)

"There is no place for racism or anti-Semitism in the European Union" says President Prodi in his message announcing details of the Seminar to tackle the underlying causes of anti-Semitism in the broader perspective of the role of the Jewish communities in Europe. Organised jointly by the European Commission, the European Jewish Congress and the Congress of European Rabbis, the Seminar will take place in Brussels on 19 February and will be opened by President Prodi.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/237|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **A Union of minorities – Speech by Romano Prodi (19/02/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/85|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=



Romano Prodi and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Haiti Brussels, (18/02/2004)

The European Union is greatly concerned at the recent outbreaks of violence in a number of provincial towns. It calls on all political forces, without exception, to refrain from any kind of violent behaviour. The marked deterioration in the security situation has been accompanied by serious violations of human rights and democratic rules. The European Union deplores yet further instances of armed gangs disrupting peaceful demonstrations on 12 and 15 February 2004. ...

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PESEC/04/23|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=



President Prodi met with TPN members to discuss Transatlantic Partnership (17/02/2004)

A group of political members of the Transatlantic Policy Network (TPN) met with President Romano Prodi to present TPN's recently published set of recommendations to strengthen Transatlantic partnership. The TPN group included Members of European Parliament. They were joined by a US delegation. TPN has spent the last eighteen months developing consensus recommendations for a stronger and more productive partnership between the US and the EU. These recommendations were broadly endorsed at a high-level group of American and European political and business leaders at a Transatlantic Leadership Summit last December in Washington.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/04/218|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: ***Has the transatlantic relationship run out of road? – Speech by the Rt Hon Chris Patten (13/02/2004)***

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=SPEECH/04/77|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

WTO US: EU requests WTO panel on US anti-dumping methodology (17/02/2004)

The European Union will request the establishment of a panel to examine the WTO compatibility of the United States' use of "zeroing" when performing its dumping calculations. "Zeroing" is a calculation methodology which consists of ignoring negative margins of dumping and therefore results in an increase of the dumping liability of exporters, including from the EU. This is no longer permitted by WTO rules. Consultations were held with the US on two occasions in 2003 but they failed to resolve the dispute as the US confirmed that they would continue to apply zeroing. The panel request covers 31 anti-dumping cases involving a wide range of EU exports such as steel, pasta, ball bearings and chemicals. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy commented "The US zeroing practice is negatively affecting our exporters to the US and the problem will only grow further if zeroing is allowed to continue. Despite our efforts to solve this matter amicably, the US failed to solve this issue. In these circumstances, we have no choice but request a panel".

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/04/217|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Ahead:

- **09-20/02/2004, Convention on Bio-diversity, Kuala Lumpur**
See: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/biodiversity/un_cop7/index_en.htm
- **10-12/02/2004, Presidency HIV/AIDS Conference for Europe and Central Asia, Dublin**
See: http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/meeting.asp?sNavlocator=5.13&list_id=25

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