



**European Union**  
Delegation of the European Commission  
in South Africa

**... this week  
in review**



## **14 – 20 March 2003**

### **“Iraq” – Statement on Iraq by Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission (20/03/2003)**

“This is a sad and sombre day for all nations around the world. The onslaught of war has put paid to the international community's efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Iraq crisis within the United Nations. Today we must all pray that the war will be short and as bloodless as possible and that it will bring the least possible disruption to the region. We trust that all involved will do their utmost to limit the number of civilian casualties. Iraq's territorial integrity must be preserved. The Commission is committed to delivering humanitarian aid quickly and effectively, under international auspices, where it is most needed....” See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/4190|RAPID&lg=EN;](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/4190|RAPID&lg=EN;)

### **“Iraq” – Speech by Chris Patten, Commissioner for External Relations (European Parliament Iraq Debate, 20/03/2003)**

“This debate takes place against an extremely sombre background. Whatever the outcome of the war that has started in Iraq and we must all pray that the military phase will be short and as bloodless as possible there can be no denying that this has been a very bad passage for the Common Foreign and Security Policy; a very bad passage for the European Union as a whole; a very bad passage for the authority of the UN; for NATO; and a very bad passage for transatlantic relations. .... The Presidency made heroic efforts to maintain a common position. The European Council's declaration of 17 February was well judged. Member States agree about the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; they agree on the need for full and effective disarmament of Iraq; they agree that the UN must remain at the centre of the international order; they agree, indeed, that force should only be used as a last resort; but they disagreed all too publicly about when that point had been reached.” See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=SPEECH/03/1480|RAPID&lg=EN;](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=SPEECH/03/1480|RAPID&lg=EN;)

### **Conflict in Iraq: Commission sets aside €21mil of humanitarian funding for possible victims (20/03/2003)**

Following the news of military action against Iraq, Poul Nielson, the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid has announced an initial allocation of €21 million in humanitarian aid. Mr Nielson said: "Our key objective is to dispatch aid as speedily as possible to the victims of this crisis. Obviously, the exact scale and nature of the humanitarian needs over the coming days and weeks are not yet clear but what we do know is that, even in the best case scenario, a lot of people are going to need help. Our initial efforts are focused on ensuring that basic relief items such as medical supplies, tents, blankets and food are available for populations displaced as a result of the fighting and for other vulnerable groups." See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/4160|RAPID&lg=EN;](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/4160|RAPID&lg=EN;)

### **Letter of President Prodi ahead of the European Council to the Presidency and to the Heads of State and Government of the EU (19/03/2003)**

“Today the world is divided and the divide also runs through the Union. The situation is grim and we need to study the root causes if we are to bridge the divide and turn this crisis into a springboard for the Union. We are divided but on the means, not the ends and not even on the EU's strategic alliances. At all events, the Union must reforge its unity quickly so it can look to the future. Military operations in Iraq will not spell the end of the fight against international terrorism. Meanwhile, the dramatic spectacle of poverty and exclusion across the world is still before our eyes and the mix is growing more explosive by the day, while the Middle East deserves the right to peaceful coexistence with one state for Israel and one for the Palestinians. Our unity is basically what Europe's citizens are demanding in these tense days....” See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=MEMO/03/590|RAPID&lg=EN;](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=MEMO/03/590|RAPID&lg=EN;)

### **Commission to help developing countries meet the challenge of climate change (18/03/2003)**

The European Commission has adopted a strategy to help developing countries meet the challenges posed by climate change (in particular by supporting them in the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol). In its Communication entitled "Climate Change in the context of development co-operation", the

Commission proposes an EU action plan aimed at integrating climate change concerns into EU development co-operation activities. See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/394|0|RAPID&lg=EN](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/394|0|RAPID&lg=EN);

**“Afghanistan” – Speech by Chris Patten, Commissioner for External Relations (Afghanistan Strategic Forum Brussels, 17/03/2003)**

In a speech addressing the high level Afghanistan Strategic Forum (the Brussels-based leg of the Afghan Consultative process) Commissioner Patten stated “ ... the process of reconstruction is truly underway and we have an Afghan-led Consultative Group, and a robust Development Budget that sets out the Government's vision for the future. ... For 2003, the top priority for us all must be to build on the success of last year, and to work together to ensure that all of Afghanistan benefits from recovery and reconstruction.” See:

[http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/137|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/137|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

**“Governance and its Relationship to Poverty Reduction” – Speech by Pascal Lamy, EU Trade Commissioner (Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, New Delhi, India, 14/03/2003)**

During his recent visit to India Commissioner Lamy stressed the ‘Doha Development Agenda’ and asked how one integrates development into trade policy. Lamy identified three key elements: market access, rules and trade-related assistance, and discussed them in detail. See:

[http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/127|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/127|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

**EU research analyses the new "development model" for Europe (14/03/2003)**

The challenges facing Europe's distinctive model of development are the focus of 33 research projects presented today by the Commission. The post-World War II model is not adapted any more to today's realities: its approach of combining economic, social and sustainability goals needs reassessing given the many changes in the world. Its aims of improving people's quality of life and encouraging their integration into a wider European society could be increasingly difficult to achieve without a fundamental rethinking of principles. The Commission projects analyse challenges such as increasing pressure coming from international competition, changes in financial markets, growing inequalities, migration and ageing. See:

[http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/376|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/376|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

**Commission allocates €8.4 million for ECHO Flight operations (14/03/2003)**

The European Commission has allocated €8.4 million to fund the operations of ECHO Flight in the Horn of Africa during 2003. The service offers a vital lifeline for highly vulnerable people in this troubled region, providing access to places that are difficult or impossible to reach by land. It is heavily used by field staff working for ECHO and its operational partners, and enables essential supplies and equipment to be delivered speedily to the areas where they are most needed. ECHO Flight is currently serving about 180 humanitarian and development projects with an overall value of €200 million. See:

[http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/384|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/384|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

***For more information please call Frank Oberholzer: 012-452-5200***