



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.



14 - 20 May 2004

Headline News

The WTO volcano smoking again – Press Confence by Pascal Lamy (14/05/2004)

During a press conference at the OECD Ministerial the European Commissioner for Trade, Pascal Lamy, observed: "Trade negotiations are like volcanoes: there are three phases they can be sleeping smoking or erupting. After a period of relative calm - with only some underground activity - the WTO volcano is "smoking" again, and the smoke is pretty dense ... Where are we now: let me briefly start with agriculture ... I think we have a visible architecture for export subsidies and domestic support whereas on market access we are only at the "design stage". The different designs which where on the table have been shot at and there is no ownership of this at the moment. We need to be ready to look at other options. The EU is open to look at other options. We are ready to do so - provided all our interests are addressed. A "composite formula" addressing offensive interests but also covering sensitivities is the way forward ..."



See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/250|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **Moving the WTO agricultural negotiations forward – Press Conference by Franz Fischler (14/05/2004)**
http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/251|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Commission celebrates 50th anniversary of its External Service (19/05/2004)



On 19 May, Chris Patten, Commissioner responsible for external relations, chaired the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the European Commission's External Service. The External Service is a unique tool for the implementation of the EU policy abroad, with a major network of 130 Delegations established in third countries, as well as accredited to international organisations. Commissioner Patten commented: "There is no question that Commission delegations play a crucial role in ensuring the effectiveness of EU action around the globe. They are staffed by hard working and committed people, and this occasion gives me the opportunity of saluting their efforts, as well as making them known to the wider world at home and abroad."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/662&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Other News

Commission authorises import of canned GM-sweet corn under strict labelling conditions (19/05/2004)

The European Commission authorised the placing on the market of sweet corn from genetically modified maize line Bt11. This decision is valid for 10 years and addressed to the company Syngenta. Any imports of the canned vegetable will have to show clearly on the labelling that the corn has been harvested from a genetically modified plant. Grain from the GM maize line Bt11 has been authorised for import into Europe since 1998 and is widely used in the EU in feed and in derived food products, eg maize oil, maize flour, sugar and syrup, snack foods, baked foods, fried foods, confectionary and soft drinks. The authorisation today covers the specific use for imports of canned or fresh sweet corn (maize). The labelling will have to show clearly that the corn is a GMO in line with the new EU legislation.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/663&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Climate Change, Emission Trading & National Allocation Plans – by Margot Wallström (18/05/2004)

In a press briefing Margot Wallström, European Commissioner for the Environment, said: "Dealing with climate change is one of the biggest challenges on the EU and international environmental agenda. Scientists agree that it is happening and a growing number of scenarios show us the high costs we will pay in the future if we do not begin to tackle this issue now. Very new figures from the European Environment Agency show that our action can make a difference - some of the actions we are taking under the European Climate Change Programme are beginning to produce results. ...The EU is determined to take the lead and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We are all in this together - Member States must support each other in their efforts to reduce emissions and each of them knows that for the single EU wide trading system to work they must all follow the same rules and criteria."



See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/254&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on recent events in Nigeria (17/05/2004)

The Presidency, on behalf of the European Union, expresses its serious concern and distress at the constant incidents of death and destruction that are taking place in Nigeria. The European Union wishes to express its utter dismay at the recent outbreak of violence in the town of Yelwa in Plateau state in central Nigeria and at the one that followed in the town of Kano. Likewise, the European Union transmits its deepest sympathy to the government of Nigeria and to the families of the victims for such dramatic events. The European Union notes the rapid response of the Nigerian Government in despatching additional security forces to the areas concerned and in imposing a curfew in order to stop this dramatic cycle of violence. The European Union urges restraint on both communities and the need to avoid any acts of retaliation or provocation which will only result in renewed bloodshed and loss of life.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PESC/04/59&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Ahead:

- **07/05-04/06/2004 – EU Film Festival**
See: <https://www.sterkinekor.co.za/>



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the Courier

Magazine of ACP-EU development co-operation - No 202 Jan - Mar 2004

- **News:** Information and communication technologies as a tool for development - The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)
http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/publications/courier/courier202/pdf/en_06_ni.pdf
- **Dossier: Global Public Goods**
http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/publications/courier/courier202/pdf/en_14_ni.pdf
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