



**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.*



## 15 – 21 October 2004

### Headline News

#### **Developing countries: Commission proposes system of trade preferences for 2006-2008 (20/10/2004)**

The European Commission has adopted a proposal setting out the details of the EU system of trade preferences (Generalised System of Preferences – GSP) for the period 2006-2008. This proposal builds on the guidelines issued by the Commission in July. The GSP is a key instrument to help developing countries reduce poverty by stimulating their exports to the EU. The Commission proposes to improve the current system in a number of areas: simplification (cutting back from five to three separate arrangements); expanding the product coverage; focusing the benefits on those developing countries most in need; and setting up an additional GSP benefits to encourage sustainable development. The text will now be sent to the EU Member States, European Parliament and Economic and Social Committee so that it can be adopted in time for entry into force on 1 July 2005.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1264&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Developing countries - facts & figures on new EU scheme of trade preferences for 2006-2008 (20/10/2004)**  
<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/04/243&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **EU-ACP: EU, Commonwealth, Francophonie join hands to support ACP trade policy makers (15/10/2004)**

The European Commission, the ACP Secretariat, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie are jointly launching a major effort to support capacity in the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to formulate trade policies and negotiate trade agreements. A network of trade advisors will be established throughout the ACP: 9 senior experts and 48 analysts will reinforce ACP international trade administrations. In-country training of national counterparts will be the other large component of the €17 million programme financed by the European Development Fund under the EU-ACP Cotonou Agreement.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1230&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### Other News

#### **Commission proposes package of new measures for the fight against terrorism (20/10/2004)**

The European Commission adopted four Communications in which new measures for fighting terrorism are presented. The four Communications respond to requests made by the European Council in March and June and aim to contribute to the preparation, together with the Council, of the European Council meeting of 17 December 2004. The different documents put forward clear suggestions on what would enhance European prevention, preparedness and response to terrorist attacks, respectively on terrorist financing, on prevention and consequence management and on critical infrastructure protection.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1275&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **New measures against terrorism - Communication on the terrorist financing (20/10/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1276&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**New measures against terrorism - Protection of critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks (20/10/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1277&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**New measures against terrorism - Enhancing prevention & consequence management of terrorist attacks**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1278&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Turkey and the EU: a Common Future? – Speech by Olli Rehn (20/10/2004)**

In an address to a group meeting of the Greens/EFA of the European Parliament, Olli Rehn, Commissioner-designate for Enlargement, said: "We are on the threshold of opening a new chapter of the European integration process. Accession negotiations with Turkey, if launched, will be lengthy and complex, requiring skill, stamina and imagination. If we undertake this journey together, the potential benefits at the end of the road would be highly significant. The European Union would include a strong, stable and democratic Turkey, thus contributing to its own security and stability. Turkey would enjoy the strongest possible support to pursue its process of modernisation and democratisation. ..."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/466&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



### **Outcome of Agriculture/Fisheries Council of October 2004 (19/10/2004)**

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/04/241&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Commission close to settle antitrust probe into Coca-Cola practices in Europe (19/10/2004)**

The European Commission has received commitments from The Coca-Cola Company regarding its business practices in the European Union. Commissioner Monti considers that the commitments are sufficient for a settlement decision, which will close a five-year probe. They will bring more competition to the European market for carbonated soft drinks and increase consumer choice in shops and at cafés. The commitments will be published for third-party comments before becoming final. This is only the second draft settlement decision to be reached since a new EU Antitrust Regulation came into force last May and the first one to apply Europe wide.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1247&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Commission appeals against WTO sugar ruling (15/10/2004)**

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has circulated and made public the panel reports in the dispute brought by Australia, Brazil and Thailand against the EU sugar regime. In response, the Commission announced that it would appeal the ruling. The panel comes to the conclusion that the EU has been exporting more sugar with export subsidies than it is permitted to do under the WTO Agreement. The panel finds that a footnote in the EU's WTO schedule regarding export of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) and India equivalent sugar with export subsidies has no legal effect. It further considers that exports of EU sugar produced outside the quotas ("C sugar") benefit from export subsidies. The African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries' strong intervention against this challenge indicates that the case also threatens the value of the current preferential access arrangements which the EU has had in place for decades.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1237&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **EU deploys Election Observation Mission for elections in Mozambique (13/10/2004)**

The European Commission is deploying an EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) for the Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Mozambique scheduled for 01-02/12/2004. The deployment of the EU EOM follows an invitation from the Foreign Minister of Mozambique, and is a concrete expression of the EU's effort to support the fostering of democratic institutions and stability in the country. The decision to deploy an EU EOM to Mozambique also testifies to the European Union's long-term commitment to the democratisation process since the 1992 Rome Peace Accords. The purpose of the EU EOM in Mozambique is to increase the transparency and the confidence in the election process through the presence and reporting of international observers. The EU is urging the National Election Commission of Mozambique to give observers access to all relevant stages of the election process, including tabulation of results at all levels.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1232&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### ***Ahead:***

- **15/11/2004 – President T Mbeki to visit the European Commission, Brussels**

***For further information please contact Frank Oberholzer at 012-452-5200***