



**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.*



## 16 - 22 April 2004

### Headline News

#### **Developing Africa's infrastructure: EC invests over €230 million (22/04/2004)**

As part of its ongoing commitment to fighting poverty and promoting economic development in Africa, the European Commission approved programmes amounting to over €230 million to rebuild key roads, improve the way roads are maintained and to help bridge the digital divide in several African countries. Key sections of trunk roads in Mali, Niger and Uganda will be improved or rebuilt, while a regional information and communication technology programme in Eastern and Southern Africa will widen access to the internet, increase connection speeds, and support national authorities in developing information technology policies.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/522|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/522|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

#### **Commission takes further steps to ensure access to medicines for poor countries (21/04/2004)**

The Commission placed 7 anti-retrovirals in the list of medicines placed under EU protection against trade diversion. The move is intended to enable pharma producers to significantly increase supplies of medicines at lower, so-called 'tiered' prices, to 76 developing countries, while keeping higher prices for the same items in the EU. The application was filed by GlaxoSmithKline in February 2004. The products on the list will bear a logo allowing customs to easily identify them. Being on this list and bearing the logo will mean that imports of these products into the EU for free circulation, re-exportation, warehousing or trans-shipment will be prohibited.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/509|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/509|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

#### **Presidency Declaration on behalf of the EU on the Zengeza by-elections in Zimbabwe (15/04/2004)**

The European Union condemns the violence, intimidation and irregularities before and during the Zengeza parliamentary by-elections on 27-28/03/2004. The electoral environment cannot be deemed to have been free, fair or safe for the voters of Zengeza. The shooting incidents, which left one person dead and others wounded, are of special concern. The events in Zengeza set a worrying precedent for future elections, including the upcoming by-elections in Lupane in May 2004 and the planned March 2005 parliamentary elections.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PESC/04/46|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PESC/04/46|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

### Other News

#### **Establishment of the High-level Group on the Lisbon Strategy (22/04/2004)**

President Prodi and Mr Wim Kok announce the establishment of the High-level Group on the mid-term review of the Lisbon strategy in 2005. The decision to set up this Group was taken by the European Council last March. Its remit is to make proposals to the Commission to give renewed stimulus to the Lisbon strategy and to improve actual delivery. The Group will be chaired by Mr Wim Kok, former Prime Minister of the Netherlands and will be made up of leading figures representing the different stakeholders (trade unions, business, political authorities, academics). It will report to the Commission by 01/11/2004. See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/518|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/518|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

#### **European Commission seeks to strengthen the fight against organised financial crime (22/04/2004)**

The European Commission adopted a communication to strengthen the fight against organised financial crime throughout the EU. The communication contains an overview of actions already taken and lists number of actions that will make it more difficult for criminals to spend the proceeds of crime without detection. Illicit gains can be undermined by enhancing the ability of law enforcement services to identify, freeze and confiscate criminal proceeds. Greater use of financial investigative techniques to trace money trails associated with crime is also an important tool.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/517|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/517|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=)

#### **EU-25 in the Global Economy – Speech by Pascal Lamy, Hannover (21/04/2004)**

In an address to the "Niedersächsischer Aussenwirtschaftstag" EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy stated: "... the importance of enlargement should not be underestimated in economic terms. Three figures about enlargement are enough to

allow us to assess the challenges: we will add 20% more people, two thirds more Member States and 5% of GDP. Enlargement implies the incorporation of economies with very different levels of development and economic structures and this against the backdrop of a complete system transformation in the countries concerned. Diversity in the EU will grow, no doubt: for instance, the share of the public sector and of agriculture in GDP is on average significantly higher in the acceding countries than in current EU Member States..."

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/190|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/190|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

#### **Climate change: EP vote paves the way for global fight against climate change (20/04/2004)**

The European Commission welcomes the European Parliament's vote in favour of a new Directive that will give an important boost to the development of greenhouse gas emission reduction projects. The new Directive will allow European companies participating in emissions trading to count credits from emission reduction projects around the world towards their obligations under the European Union's emissions trading scheme. The scheme builds on the project-based mechanisms "Clean Development Mechanism" and "Joint Implementation" created by the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/505|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/505|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

#### **Fischler calls for courageous reform decisions on tobacco, olive oil, cotton and hops (19/04/2004)**

Speaking ahead of this week's Agriculture Council meeting in Luxembourg, Franz Fischler, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, urged ministers to take courageous decisions to reform the tobacco, cotton olive oil and hops support systems. "I hope that the Council will take the necessary reform decisions, in the interest of farmers, consumers and the environment. The status quo is definitely not an option," he said.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/491|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/491|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

#### **Opening of EPA negotiations between the Caribbean and European Community, Kingston (16/04/2004)**

In his opening address to the forum, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Poul Nielson, said: "The negotiations we are launching today are guided by the central objective of the Cotonou Agreement that is the reduction of poverty via a sustainable development and the gradual integration of the ACP countries into the world economy. In fact, the developing countries are of course part of the world economy already but mainly as producers of raw materials only. What we really mean with the expression of "integration into the world economy" is a just integration creating a better position for the Third countries.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/184|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/184|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

See also: **Statement by Pascal Lamy, Kingston (16/04/2004)**

[http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/181|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/181|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

#### **Commission proposes banana import quantities for new Member States (16/04/2004)**

The European Commission presented transitional measures for banana imports into the ten new Member States to the Management Committee for Bananas. The Regulation would fix an additional quantity of bananas of 300 000 tonnes to supply the market of new Member States for the period May-December 2004. This additional quantity would be fixed on a transitional basis, and should in no way prejudice the outcome of the negotiations in the context of the Article XXIV (6) GATT in which the European Union is to engage in the coming weeks. This additional quantity would provide the new Member States with a sufficient supply of bananas. The Regulation also defines the necessary transitional measures for managing the additional quantity as of 1 May 2004 in the enlarged EU.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/490|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/490|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

#### **Presidency Declaration on behalf of the EU on the situation in Darfur, Sudan (15/04/2004)**

The European Union welcomes the signing of the humanitarian ceasefire agreement between the Government of Sudan and the SLM/SLA and JEM. It calls on all parties to observe and scrupulously respect the rules of that agreement. It congratulates the Chadian mediators for their efforts to promote the conclusion of the agreement. It salutes the commitment of all parties to authorise unrestricted humanitarian access and facilitate the distribution of humanitarian assistance to the people of the Grand Darfur region.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PESC/04/47|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PESC/04/47|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

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