



**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 July 2004

### Headline News

#### **President Prodi's statement on the approval of José Barroso as his successor (22/07/2004)**

The President of the European Commission Romano Prodi congratulated his successor, President José Manuel Durão Barroso following the vote at the European parliament on Wednesday. "My legacy is a Commission that has delivered on its promises. I am confident that President Barroso will continue to unify Europe with the force of an institution that is today able to serve the common interest in the European Union better than ever before. The wide-ranging support he has gained from the Members of the Parliament is the best precondition for a close cooperation between the Commission and the Parliament. I know that President Barroso can bring Europeans even closer together."



#### **Commission President-Designate, José Barroso sets out challenges, European Parliament (21/07/2004)**



In an address entitled *Building a Partnership for Europe: Prosperity, Solidarity, Security* Commission President-Designate, José Barroso set out challenges ahead: "We must deliver a better quality of life. This means taking decisions now to create the right incentives for cleaner energy and cleaner transport. We must live up to our international agreements in Kyoto and make sure that our partners do the same. We must balance decisions today against their impact on growth, jobs and the environment tomorrow if we are to offer coming generations a truly sustainable future. ... On the world stage, we must spread peace and stability. This applies as much to our nearest neighbours as to the support that we give to the role of international institutions such as the United Nations. We must keep the spotlight on conflict prevention and on the eradication of poverty and disease, particularly in Africa."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/375&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Josep Borrell takes over from Pat Cox as President of European Parliament (21/07/2004)**

After his election the President said he would make a full statement of his plans in September, after time for consultation with the various leaders in Parliament. For now, he mentioned the installation of the new Commission, the plans for the new Financial Perspective, the Stability and Growth Pact, the Euro-Mediterranean relationship and the Middle East as key issues for the future as well as the ratification of the Constitution, which the Parliament would have to follow closely. Commission President Romano Prodi congratulated Mr Borrell and called for the Parliament to fulfil its paradigm role in bringing EU institutions closer to the lives of the citizens of Europe. See: <http://www.europarl.eu.int/president/home/en/default.htm>



### Other News

#### **Commission allocates €8 million in humanitarian aid to Sahrawi refugees in Algeria (22/07/2004)**

The Commission has approved a humanitarian aid decision for €8 million to assist 158 000 Sahrawi refugees in the camps of south west Algeria. Although it has been a forgotten crisis for over thirty years, the situation of the Sahrawi refugees is still worrying. The €8 million is allocated through the Humanitarian Aid Office, ECHO, to provide assistance for this population which is extremely dependent on international aid. The Decision is intended to improve food security in basic foodstuffs, diversify the food basket for families and provide for minimum hygiene requirements and access to water.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/986&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Research and pharmaceuticals: EU & SA 'pharming' solutions to major diseases (22/07/2004)**



A team of researchers plans to perfect techniques for producing antibodies and vaccines, obtained from plants, to prevent and treat major human diseases. The idea is to use genetically modified (GM) crops eventually to produce plant-based pharmaceuticals. Pharma-Planta is a consortium of eleven European countries and South Africa which, thanks to €12 million in EU funding, plans to produce vaccines and other treatments for major diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, rabies and TB. Led by the Fraunhofer Institute in Aachen (Germany), the project,

with scientific co-ordination by St George's Hospital Medical School in London (UK), hopes to start clinical trials by the end of 2009. See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/985&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Presentation of the Dutch Presidency – Speech by Romano Prodi, (21/07/2004)**

“The start of the Dutch Presidency is an appropriate time to reflect on our achievements in the last few years and to discuss the very important tasks that still have to be completed before the end of our term of office. The greatest achievement of the last five years has been the removal of the wall that divided the continent into two for half a century. ... Now more than ever, the strengths of the EU model and the values on which it is founded, namely peace, freedom and solidarity, come to the fore. I am convinced that, with enlargement, we have improved the security and the prospects for growth of the entire Union.”

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/374&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **The Irish Presidency's achievements – Speech by Romano Prodi, European Parliament (21/07/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/373&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **First five years of the euro a success, says Commission, but difficult challenges lie ahead (20/07/2004)**



The EC published a report on *Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) after 5 Years*, which highlights the positive contribution that the single currency has made to macroeconomic stability, as well as its key role in accelerating economic integration in Europe. But the report also draws attention to some difficult challenges that lie ahead for the euro area. Joaquin Almunia, EU Commissioner for economic and monetary affairs, said: “5 Years on Economic and Monetary Union represents a remarkable political and institutional achievement for the EU. The challenge is now to tackle the remaining causes of slow growth in the Union.” <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/964&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Forest Law Enforcement Governance & Trade (FLEGT) - EC acts to combat illegal logging (20/07/2004)**

The EC adopted a comprehensive set of measures to combat the growing problem of illegal logging and the related trade in illegally harvested timber that robs governments in affected developing countries of an estimated €10-15 billion every year in lost revenue. The package is based on an innovative approach that links the push for good governance in developing countries with the legal instruments and leverage offered by the EU's internal market.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/980&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Statement on the adoption of certain measures against illegal logging by Com Poul Nielson (20/07/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/372&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**FLEGT – Questions and Answers (20/07/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/04/194&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Plant health & world trade: EU signs up to new international rules (20/07/2004)**

The Agriculture Council has approved a revision of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to strengthen its role in setting international standards. Council decided that the EU should become a party to the IPPC in its own right, alongside the 25 EU Member States. Both decisions recognise the growing importance of the IPPC in the international trading system. The World Trade Organisation recognises the right of WTO members to impose restrictions on imports if these are needed to protect their agriculture from plant diseases or pests. ... The standard-setting process in the IPPC emphasises participation, consultation and technical competence. The new rules explicitly foresee the participation of bodies such as the EU.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/969&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **GMOs: Commission authorises import of GM-maize for use in animal feed (19/07/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/957&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Employment and poverty reduction in developing countries – EC and ILO join forces (19/07/2004)**

The European Commission and the International Labour Organisation have agreed on a strategic partnership to reinforce their joint efforts to reduce poverty and improve labour conditions in developing countries. The partnership will also foster closer collaboration towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Decent Work for All Agenda and other internationally agreed development targets. The aim is to make the greatest possible contribution to strengthening the social dimension of development cooperation. The Commission has been working closely together with the ILO since 1958. See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/954&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Commission strengthens cohesion policy in the enlarged European Union (15/07/2004)**

The EC has adopted the legislative framework for the reform of cohesion policy for the period 2007-13. The new framework proposes a more targeted and simplified approach for the implementation of the next generation of European national and regional development programmes. The aim of the programmes will be to boost competitiveness and growth in the enlarged EU, with a proposed allocation of €336.3 billion over seven years, around one-third of the budgetary plans for the next period. The cohesion legislative package consists of a general regulation, together with regulations for each of the funding sources (European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), Cohesion Fund).

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/925&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **The new instruments for the reformed Cohesion Policy 2007-2013 (15/07/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/927&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**New streamlined funding for European Social Fund and social policy (15/07/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/928&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Ahead:**

- **20-23/07/2004 – 1<sup>st</sup> enlarged European Parliament Plenary Session, Strasbourg**

See: [http://www.europarl.eu.int/home/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/home/default_en.htm)

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