



**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.*



## 17 – 23 September 2004

### Headline News

#### **EIB finances improved water supplies for Cape Town (23/09/2003)**

A major scheme to improve and secure water supplies for 3.2 million people in Cape Town, South Africa is being financed with €100 million from the European Investment Bank. The EIB, the European Union's long-term lending institution, is supporting the construction of the Berg River dam and supply scheme as a key part of an extensive water demand management programme for the conurbation through a facility which can be drawn in any preferred currency such as e.g. euro but also US dollars and notably SA rand. The loan agreement for the Berg Water Project was signed with Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) today in Cape Town by Martie van Reinsburg, CEO of TCTA and EIB Vice-President Torsten Gersfelt. For further information about the EIB's activities in South Africa, see <http://www.eib.org/lending/acp>.

See: <http://www.eib.org/news/press/press.asp?Press=2843&region=-1&sector=-1&eligibility=-1&years=-1&months=-1&categories=-1&country=-1>

#### **Trade and Development: success stories in EU trade-related assistance (21/09/2004)**



Between 2001 and 2004 the European Commission spent €2.8 billion in supporting developing countries' efforts to benefit from trading opportunities, meaning new commitments of around €700 million per year. A total of 121 new projects were launched in 2003 alone. EU Commissioners Pascal Lamy and Poul Nielson launched a report on the EU's trade-related assistance - Making Trade Work for Development – setting out a number of these success stories. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said: "Trade can make a vital contribution to economic growth and poverty reduction in the developing world. To reflect this fact, we have made trade-related assistance a priority for the EU's development spend in recent years."



See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1117&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Trade and development- some facts and figures (21/09/2003)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/04/218&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### Other News

#### **The future of the Union of 25 – Speech by President Romano Prodi (23/09/2004)**

In a recent address on the future of the enlarged EU, European Commission President Romano Prodi said: "... I would like to highlight sustainable development, poverty and opening Europe up to the world. Europe's recent past shows that the best strategy for tackling these three major issues involves solidarity, cooperation and the search for political solutions to conflicts. Throughout the world, the European Union must do its bit to ensure that every human being and every people can enjoy certain basic rights -- the right to food, to housing, to health and security. But above all we must put all our strength and our traditions behind ensuring that people throughout the world have dignity and hope. That is why we have put forward far-reaching, new proposals in recent years to open up our markets to the poorest countries and step up assistance to the developing world. In this area we are the major donors, even though we still need to do much more ...".

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/417&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Loyola De Palacio visits Jordan and Egypt to boost co-operation across the Mediterranean (22/09/2004)**

Loyola de Palacio, Vice-President of the European Commission, in charge of Energy and Transport, will visit Amman (Jordan) and Cairo (Egypt) from 23-27/09/2004. The main objective of this official visit was to discuss the development of the region's oil, gas, electricity and transport sectors in the framework of Euro-Mediterranean co-operation and the European neighbourhood Policy.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1130&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **US request for WTO consultations regarding EU Customs Procedures (21/09/2004)**

Statement by Arancha González, EU Spokeswoman for Trade: "The US has today requested WTO consultations concerning certain aspects of the EU customs regime. We regret the US move to bring this issue to the WTO rather than using the

bilateral EU-US Joint Customs Cooperation Committee, which would have provided a better forum for resolving these issues. We now hope that any disagreement over this matter can be satisfactorily resolved in consultations and that we do not need to move to litigation. The consultations will give us an opportunity to explain to the US that we fully comply with all WTO rules relating to customs matters.”

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1127&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Presidency Declaration on behalf of the EU re adoption of UN SC Resolution 1564 on Sudan (22/09/2004)**

The European Union welcomes the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of Resolution 1564. Resolution 1564 is an important contribution to the urgently required increased pressure on the Government of Sudan, the Justice and Equality Movement, the Sudanese Liberation Army/Movement and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement to reach a political solution to the conflicts in Sudan as a matter of immediate priority. The European Union fully supports the appeal made by the Security Council on the Government of Sudan to meet its obligations towards all Sudanese and the international community. The European Union also calls on the other parties to the conflicts to fully comply with their international obligations. The European Union joins the Security Council in deploring the recent cease fire violations and stresses the urgency of ending the climate of impunity in Darfur by bringing to justice those responsible, including members of the popular defence forces and Janjaweed militia.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PESC/04/109&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Caribbean storms: EC earmarks further €3 million for victims (21/09/2004)**

The European Commission, through its Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), has earmarked a further €3 million for humanitarian aid to meet emergency needs caused by Hurricane Ivan in Grenada (€1.5 million) and tropical storm Jeanne in Haiti (€1.5 million). This brings total aid provided so far for victims of the recent storms to €4.5 million. The focus of the aid will be on providing the most vulnerable people with emergency shelter, as well as food, drinking water, emergency communication services, hygiene kits and tarpaulins for house roofing. Other interventions could include support for rehabilitating water supplies and sanitation. The aid will be implemented through ECHO partners working in the region. ECHO assessment missions following Hurricane Ivan are currently underway in both Grenada and Jamaica.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1120&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Presidency Declaration on behalf of the EU re peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea (17/09/2004)**

The EU reaffirms its full support for the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea and expresses its concern about the continuing stalemate. Both Ethiopia and Eritrea need peace and stability to focus on the serious challenges facing their countries and the EU urges both countries to take a more constructive stand. The EU recognises that in the current situation, the continued presence of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) is essential for stability in the region and welcomes UN resolution S/RES/1560, extending the UNMEE mandate for a further six months. The EU fully supports the proposed rationalisation of the mission and has full confidence that the Secretary General of the United Nations will ensure that UNMEE will maintain its current level of effectiveness.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PESC/04/108&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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

- 07/10/2004 – EU Enlargement & Trade Workshop, SAITEX, Johannesburg
- 11/10/2004 – EU Enlargement & Trade Workshop, Durban
- 12/10/2004 – EU Enlargement & Trade Workshop, Cape Town
- 13/10/2004 – EU Enlargement & Trade Workshop, Port Elizabeth
- 14/10/2004 – EU Enlargement & Trade Workshop, East London

Interested? Please call Nathalie at **012-342-3911** for more information.

- 16/11/2004 – President T Mbeki to visit the EU, Brussels

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