



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.



18 – 24 July 2003

Headline News:

Development Assistance Stays - Statement by Michael Lake, Head of EC Delegation in SA (24/07/2003)

Of late a perception appears to be circulating that the European Union has frozen or intends to freeze significant sums of money available for development assistance to Africa as a response to African countries insisting that Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe be allowed to attend meetings between Europe and Africa. This is simply incorrect. In response to this rumour my colleague, Ambassador Francesca Mosca, who heads up the Delegation of the European Commission in Zimbabwe, has stated that the 'EU is continuing to support African countries in accordance with commitments undertaken both under the Cotonou Agreement and under other initiatives, such as humanitarian aid, food security, HIV/AIDS, etc.'" On a South African level this rumour is equally unfounded. There is absolutely no freeze on funds foreseen and in fact, we are ready to sign our new multi-annual, multi-billion Rand programme with the South African Government. Through this programme a sum of €125 million per annum will be provided to development in South Africa for the years 2003-2006.

See: [No freeze in sight, Business Day, 25/07/2003, page 8](#)

Trade in Agriculture: Study shows openness of EU market to imports of farm products (24/07/2003)

An independent study prepared by the French institute of research INRA (Institut National pour la Recherche Agricole) for the European Commission shows the EU is one of the worlds most open market to imports of farm products from third countries and especially from developing countries. Taking into account trade preferences given to developing countries, the average customs duty actually applied by the EU to farm imports is 10.5 %, a figure three times lower than frequently mentioned data. As a result of this low level of protection, the EU is by far the world's number one importer of agricultural products, and the main importer of farm products from developing countries as well as from Least Developed countries.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/11130|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

EU-WTO: Pascal Lamy welcomes Council conclusions on the Road to Cancun (21/07/2003)

EU Member States have adopted a set of conclusions setting out the EU's views on the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun in September 2003, a half-way point in the negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy welcomed this move.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/10550|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Other News:

GMOs: EC publishes recommendations to ensure co-existence of GM and non-GM crops (23/07/2003)

The European Commission published guidelines for the development of strategies and best practices to ensure the co-existence of genetically modified (GM) crops with conventional and organic farming. They set out the general principles and the technical and procedural aspects to be taken into account, and provide a list of possible actions that could be tailored for implementation at national or regional or local level.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/10960|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: European legislative framework for GMOs is now in place (22/07/2003)

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/10560|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Commission adopts new measures to combat climate change globally (23/07/2003)

The European Commission today adopted a new initiative to combat climate change globally. The proposal for a new Directive will allow European companies to carry out emissions-curling projects around the world and convert the credits earned into emissions allowances under the European Union emissions trading scheme. The proposal builds on the so-called market-based flexible mechanisms "Joint Implementation" and the "Clean Development Mechanism" envisaged by the Kyoto Protocol. Their aim is to reach the global emissions reduction targets in a cost-effective way while transferring advanced technology to other industrialised and developing countries.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/10770|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: The Kyoto protocol

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/03/1540|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

and: Commission welcomes final adoption by Council of EU Emissions trading Directive

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/10730|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Counterfeiting: EC welcomes the adoption of a new regulation to strengthen customs action (22/07/2003)

The European Commission welcomed the adoption by the EU Council of Ministers of a regulation to combat counterfeiting and piracy. The regulation, which will enter into force on 1 July 2004 and replace the existing regulation (3295/94/EC), sets out the conditions under which the customs authorities may intervene where goods are suspected of infringing intellectual property rights. The new regulation gives greater legal clarity, extends its scope to new intellectual property rights, makes the rules more accessible for right holders and is a powerful legal instrument to tackle this kind of fraud more effectively.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/105910|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Council and Parliament prohibit antibiotics as growth promoters (22/07/2003)

David Byrne, EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, has welcomed the final adoption, at the Agriculture Council, of an EU Regulation controlling the use of additives in animal feed. The new Regulation will strengthen the control of all types of additives in animal feed, but in particular it completes the EU's drive to phase out antibiotics as growth promoters. Strengthening rules on the safety of animal feed is one of the cornerstones of the EU's food safety strategy. Banning the use of antibiotics as growth promoters in feed is also vital to efforts to combat anti-microbial resistance. The Regulation will come into force later this year, once it has been published in the EU's Official Journal.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/105810|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **Com Byrne welcomes political agreement on official controls on food of animal origin (22/07/2003)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/105710|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Commission concerned at Member States' failure to implement new racial equality rules (18/07/2003)

The European Commission is deeply concerned that Member States have so far failed to write new EU rules on racial discrimination into national law. Many Member States are set to miss the deadline of 19 July 2003 for transposing the legislation. See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/104710|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Action to stop EU brain drain: EC proposes measures to improve researchers' careers (18/07/2003)

A range of measures to help prevent Europe's best scientists abandoning their careers in Europe in favour of more lucrative opportunities in the US and elsewhere were proposed by the European Commission. The Communication "Researchers in the European Research Area: one profession, multiple careers" proposes concrete steps to encourage and structure improved dialogue and information exchange with researchers and to establish a genuinely competitive research labour market at a European level. Recommended actions include a "European Researcher's Charter", a "Code of conduct for the recruitment of researchers", a common way of evaluating and recording researchers' skills, qualifications and achievements, advanced training tools, access to adequate funding and minimum social security benefits for PhD students.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/105110|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Ahead:

- **Plenary session of the European Parliament, 1-4/09/2003**

See: http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm

- **5th WTO Ministerial Conference, Cancún, Mexico, 10-14/09/2003**



Officially, this meeting will be the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference. The Ministerial Conference is the organisation's highest-level decision-making body. It meets "at least once every two years", as required by the Marrakech Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organisation — the WTO's founding charter. The main task of this September's conference will be to take stock of progress in negotiations and other work under the Doha Development Agenda.

See: http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min03_e/min03_e.htm

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

Is Foreign Aid good for South Africa?

Don't miss **Ambassador Michael Lake**
and other panellists in the

After Eight Debate

Safm 104-107,
Friday 25 July (08h00-09h00)