



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.



20 August – 9 September 2004

Headline News

Commission statement of the tragic deaths of hostages in Russia (03/09/2004)

The Commission reacted with shock and deep sadness to the news of the deaths of hostages at the school in Northern Ossetia in Russia. The "killing of these innocent people is an evil, despicable act of barbarism. The fact that many of them appear to have been young children murdered in cold blood is simply horrible", said the Commission President, Romano Prodi. The Commission condemns all forms of terrorism fully and unconditionally. It regrets that the hostage crisis could not be solved peacefully but the blame cannot be put on anyone else but those who committed this heinous crime. "I would like to express my deepest and sincerest condolences to the families of the victims who will have to live with the memory of this horrible day. The fight against terrorism is a common cause to all peace-loving peoples and governments of the world", he said. See: **Presidency Declaration on behalf of the EU: two acts of terrorism in the Russian Federation (02/09/2004)**



<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PEESC/04/100&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Darfur crisis: Commission releases a further €20 million in humanitarian aid (25/08/2004)

The European Commission allocated €20 million in humanitarian aid for the victims of the crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan. This latest aid package will help provide the victims with food and nutritional support, shelter, access to clean water and sanitation, emergency health care and protection for vulnerable civilians. The aid will be channelled through the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and brings total Commission aid for the Darfur crisis to €104 million for this year. See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1042&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Other News

EU-ACP: launch of trade and development negotiations with the Pacific region (08/09/2004)

On 10/09/2004 the EU opens negotiations for an Economic and Partnership Agreement (EPA) between itself and 14 Pacific countries aimed at promoting trade and development by concluding a region-to-region agreement. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said: "The launch of negotiations with the Pacific region marks another stepping stone in our common efforts to make regional integration and trade contribute to development. Now that we have started talks with all six ACP regions, we should switch gear and move into full negotiating mood". Commissioner Nielson added: "With the EU Pacific launch the EPA process is now thoroughly on track. This is evidence that the EU and ACP's are succeeding in making trade and regional integration work for development."

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1085&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

HIV/AIDS – a resurgent epidemic in Europe and its neighbourhood (08/09/2004)

A paper adopted by the European Commission calls for the EU to show political leadership in averting an HIV/AIDS epidemic in Europe and its neighbouring countries. The proportion of newly reported HIV cases has doubled in Western Europe since 1995. In certain of the countries that joined the EU on 1 May and in the EU's eastern neighbours the rates of new infections are amongst the highest in the world. The Commission's paper is due to be debated by Health ministers and AIDS experts from across the EU and its eastern neighbours at an international conference in Vilnius on 16-17 September.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1076&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Who does what in the CAP? – Speech by Commissioner Franz Fischler (07/09/2004)

During an informal agriculture council meeting, Franz Fischler, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, noted: "With the implementation of the 2003 reform and the incorporation of the remaining unreformed sectors into the new CAP, EU agriculture is well prepared to meet the future challenges. It is also clear that the reform will have major implications for what and how we will produce our food and fibre in Europe. It is therefore a welcomed initiative from the Presidency that we today should analyse and discuss what all that means in practice."



See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/392&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Presidency Declaration on behalf of the EU: independent electoral commission for Burundi (06/09/2004)

The European Union welcomes the establishment by the Burundian Government, after the approval given by National Assembly and Senate, of an independent Electoral Commission which will play the leading role in the organisation of local, regional, parliamentary and presidential elections. The EU considers the establishment of the Commission as a major step in the implementation of the Arusha peace process. Its creation makes it possible to proceed with the adoption of a new constitution and electoral laws. The EU also welcomes the law that creates the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PESC/04/102&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Angola: EC provides €3 million for the repatriation of refugees from Namibia and Zambia (02/09/2004)

The European Commission released €3 million from the European Development Fund to support transport and logistics for the repatriation of up to 45,000 Angolan refugees from Namibia (€1 million) and Zambia (€2 million). The aid will be channelled through the Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and implemented by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1059&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Countdown 2015: Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights for all – Speech by Poul Nielson (31/08/2004)

Addressing a Global Roundtable in London, Development Commissioner Poul Nielson said: "The Cairo Conference in 1994 was an historic milestone. World leaders moved on from a preoccupation with population growth and trying to limit family size. Instead a new approach was developed that centred on respect for human rights, gender equality, and improved rights for women and men to decide on the number of their children. ... I find it disheartening that ten years after the broad consensus in Cairo some countries are still trying to roll back what was achieved back then. It is equally hard to explain to the many that depend on our aid that we need to continue defending the Cairo consensus instead of pooling all our energy and resources together to address the important challenges we continue to face."

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/385&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Togo - Commission proposes « roadmap » towards the full resumption of EU aid (31/08/2004)

The Commission has adopted a proposal outlining a "roadmap" towards the full resumption of EU aid to Togo. The proposal links the full resumption of aid, including the release of new development aid funds from the 9th European Development Fund, to the holding of free and fair parliamentary elections. To further encourage positive change in Togo it is proposed to initiate the planning of new aid activities as soon as a date for transparent and democratic parliamentary elections is set and that the necessary electoral arrangements are in place and agreed by all parties in Togo.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1054&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Presidency Declaration on behalf of the EU: Somalia National Reconciliation Conference (31/08/2004)

The EU welcomes the outcome of the meeting in Gigiri, Kenya, on 29 August 2004, which announced the conclusion of the process of appointing members of a transitional federal parliament. The EU commends the efforts of Somali leaders in achieving this significant outcome and calls upon them to ensure that the same spirit of positive co-operation prevails during the remainder of the reconciliation process. The EU reassures all parties involved in the process of its continued commitment and reiterates its support for the challenges confronting Somalia the coming months.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PESC/04/86&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Buying green: how public authorities can help save the environment and taxpayer's money (26/08/2004)

The European Commission has produced a Handbook on Green Public Procurement. It explains in clear, non-technical terms how public purchasers, such as schools, hospitals and national and local administrations, can take into account the environment when buying goods, services and works. Green purchasing increases demand for green goods, encourages green production and helps environmentally friendly technologies conquer the market. It also considers efficient use of energy and resources as well as waste prevention, thus contributing to saving taxpayer's money. The new Handbook gives best-practice examples and provides advice all along the steps of a procurement procedure.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1045&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **The Handbook and further information**

http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/publicprocurement/key-docs_en.htm

Ahead:

- **13-16/09/2004 – European Parliament plenary session, Strasbourg**
See: http://www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS_ITEM=FE009F5A6C1B437085C6187A3243F0F9X1X46886X75
- **20-24/09/2004 – EU-China General Affairs and External Relations Troika, New York, USA**
- **20-24/09/2004 – EU-US General Affairs and External Relations Troika, New York, USA**
- **20-24/09/2004 – EU-Russia General Affairs and External Relations Troika, New York, USA**
- **20-24/09/2004 – EU-Japan General Affairs and External Relations Troika, New York, USA**
- **20-24/09/2004 – EU-Bosnia-Herzegovina General Affairs and External Relations Troika, New York, USA**
- **20-24/09/2004 – EU-Rio Group General Affairs and External Relations Troika, New York, USA**
- **20-24/09/2004 – EU-GCC General Affairs and External Relations Troika, New York, USA**
- **20-24/09/2004 – EU-UNSG General Affairs and External Relations Troika, New York, USA**

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