



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 – 26 February 2004

Headline News

The European Union and South Africa - Book Launch (25/02/2004)



"In this book we begin to see how the practice of implementation, since the EU-SA Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement (TDCA) came into provisional effect, compares with the theory. The TDCA stands on three pillars – trade, development co-operation and political co-operation – which support the edifice of EU SA co-operation. The reader will find much in this book to show that neither the EU nor South Africa is resting on its laurels ..." These comments by Ambassador Michael Lake at the launch of this EU funded study into EU-SA relations by Professors D Venter and E Neuland (University of South Africa – Inst. for Business Innovation). The first 100 applicants to send us a request by email (containing their postal address) will receive a complimentary copy. Please email: delegation-s-africa@cec.eu.int

Combating AIDS, malaria & TB: Com Busquin in Dakar for clinical trials partnership launch (23/02/2004)

Commissioner Philippe Busquin (research) visited Senegal from 22-24/02/2004 to launch the operational phase of the €600 million "European and-Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership" programme. The visit further aimed to encourage West African countries to mobilise around this important initiative. The EU is funding clinical trials, and fostering clinical research in Developing Countries, with €200 million. The programme focuses on the three major poverty-related killer diseases of sub-Saharan Africa: AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. A further €200 million will come from EU Member States, and another €200 million will be funded by other international donors and industry. On top of this, the EU is also devoting €200 million to basic (pre-clinical) research in this field.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/248|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **"Breaking the Barriers" Partnership to Fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia, D Byrne (23/02/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/93|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Wine labelling: Commission adopts amendments to Regulation (23/02/2004)

The European Commission adopted today a set of amendments to the wine labelling regulation. With these amendments the two categories of "traditional expressions" used on wine labels to designate quality wines merged into one single category and third countries will be allowed to use them only if they comply with a set of strict conditions equivalent to those existing for Member States. Requests by third countries to use traditional expressions will be considered by the Commission and the Member States and the right of use will be granted if all conditions are fulfilled. The amendments were adopted in response to a number of concerns raised by third countries.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/254|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **Outcome of Agriculture/Fisheries of February 2004 (25/02/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/38|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Other News

The Commission rejects calls to drop the Kyoto Protocol (26/02/2004)

The European Commission strongly rejects all calls to change its position concerning the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and its full implementation by the European Union. "The Protocol represents a significant first step towards realising the goal of stabilising atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases at safe levels. We cannot and we will not back down in the fight against human induced climate change", said the President of the Commission, Romano Prodi in Brussels.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/269|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

International Council of Small Business World Conference supported by the Commission (26/02/2004)

With the support of the Commission, the 49th Annual World Conference of the International Council for Small Business was launched by the deputy Minister of Department of Trade and Industry, Lindiwe Hendricks, EU Ambassador Michael Lake and a number of other dignitaries. Drawing widely on the experiences of Europe, Mr Lake concluded: "This is a unique forum that brings together policy-makers, researchers as well as business people. In particular I hope that the divergent perspectives that these stakeholders have to offer will help us find new ways to integrate small enterprises better in the world economy and prepare them for the challenges and opportunities created by globalisation." See: <http://www.icsb2004.com/news.html>

New powers to apply competition rules to air transport between the EU and third countries (26/02/2004)

The Council of ministers adopted a Regulation which gives the European Commission clear and effective jurisdiction to review airline transactions, such as alliances, which have an impact on routes between the EU and third countries. This ends a long-standing anomaly whereby the Commission has full powers to review alliances between EU airlines and all mergers regardless of the carriers' country of origin but not an alliance between, say, an EU airline and a US counterpart.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/272|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Commission's Annual Policy Strategy: Political and financial priorities for 2005 (25/02/2004)

The Annual Policy Strategy adopted by the Commission sets out the political priorities for 2005. This will be the guideline for the Commission's legislative programme and the allocation of resources. The top operational priority is the integration of the new Member States. Politically, the Commission wants to ensure that in the EU of 25 Member States and 450 million citizens competitiveness and cohesion are enhanced, security and European citizenship are guaranteed for a greater number of more mobile citizens, and that the Union will be able to take on more external responsibility.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/259|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Loyola de Palacio welcomes the outcome of EU/US discussions on GALILEO (25/02/2004)

The US and the Commission, joined by the EU Member States, held a successful round of negotiations in Brussels on 24-25/02/2004. The delegations built upon progress made in The Hague and in Washington and were able to reach agreement on most of the overall principles of GPS/Galileo co-operation. "This agreement will allow all users to use in a complementary way both systems with the same receiver: it creates indeed the world standard of radio navigation by satellite." said Loyola de Palacio, European Commission vice-president in charge of Transport and Energy.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/264|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **GALILEO project is off the ground (20/02/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/244|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

WTO arbitrators agree on EU request for sanctions in US 1916 Anti-Dumping Act dispute (24/02/2004)

Today, the WTO arbitrators have accepted the EU's request seeking authorisation to impose sanctions on the US given its non-compliance with a WTO ruling condemning the US 1916 Anti-dumping Act in 2000. The sanctions would take the form of a specific legislation applicable to dumped imports from the US and mirroring the US 1916 Anti-Dumping Act. The EU may now adopt a mirror regulation at any time. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy commented: "The decision of the arbitrators is a welcome reaffirmation that the WTO is a rule-based system and members may not ignore their obligations with impunity. I welcome the recent move of the US Congress to bring legislation forward to implement the WTO ruling. I hope that rapid action from Congress will make sanctions unnecessary."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/258|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Europe will plough on with its farm reforms - Speech by Commissioner Franz Fischler (20/02/2004)

Speaking to the press in Washington D.C., Franz Fischler, EU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, touched upon the stalled WTO talks, the necessary farm policy reforms in rich countries and biotechnology. He announced that he would table concrete proposals how to reform the EU's support system for sugar. "... We will continue our reforms. Before summer, I will table proposals on how to make the EU's sugar regime more market oriented and trade friendly, and I expect the EU to take a similar decision on EU support for cotton, tobacco and olive oil in March. But thanks to the joint EU/US framework paper on WTO and agriculture from last summer, I am confident that the US will follow the European example and reform its farm bill to make it less trade distorting and more market oriented".

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/247|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Environmental liability: Commission welcomes agreement on new Directive (20/02/2004)

The European Commission has welcomed the agreement on the groundbreaking Environmental Liability Directive that has been reached in conciliation by the European Parliament and the Council. It will enable the proposed Directive now to be adopted swiftly. Agreement on an EU measure on Environmental Liability has been sought since the late 1980's. The new Directive is the first EU law specifically based on the "polluter pays principle". It will ensure that future environmental damage in the EU is prevented or remedied and that those who cause it are held responsible. Environmental damage includes damage to animals, plants, natural habitats and water resources as well as contamination of land which causes significant harm to human health.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/246|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **Byrne calls for worldwide animal welfare standards (23/02/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/253|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/92|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Ahead:

- **02/03/2004, Environment Council, Brussels**
See: http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/meeting.asp?sNavlocator=5,13&list_id=196
- **04/03/2004, Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council, Brussels**
See: http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/meeting.asp?sNavlocator=5,13&list_id=244

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