



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 June 2003

Headline News:

EU fundamentally reforms its farm policy to accomplish sustainable farming in Europe (26/06/2003)

Today, EU farm ministers adopted a fundamental reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The reform will completely change the way the EU supports its farm sector. In future, the vast majority of subsidies will be paid independently from the volume of production. To avoid abandonment of production, Member States may choose to maintain a limited link between subsidy and production under well-defined conditions and within clear limits. These new "single farm payments" will be linked to the respect of environmental, food safety and animal welfare standards. Severing the link between subsidies and production will make EU farmers more competitive and market orientated, while providing the necessary income stability. ...The Council further decided to revise the milk, rice, cereals, durum wheat, dried fodder and nut sectors. In order to respect the tight budgetary ceiling for the EU-25 until 2013, ministers agreed to introduce a financial discipline mechanism. This reform will also strengthen the EU's negotiating hand in the ongoing WTO trade talks.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/898|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **Statement of President Prodi on CAP (26/06/2003)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/907|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Middle East Trade: an EU perspective – Speech by Pascal Lamy, EU Trade Commissioner (23/06/2003)

Speaking at the World Economic Forum meeting in Amman, Jordan, Commissioner Lamy said: "... Trade is fundamental to rebuilding peace and confidence, as trade is usually one of the earliest green shoots to emerge from the dust and the rubble. Trade reconnects people, and by bringing them into contact with markets, gives them an economic stake in stable society. Of course, trade is deep in the blood of the people of this region: the crossroads, the meeting place of the ancient world. Why can't trade play a major role here, as it did in the transformation of Central and Eastern Europe, in South East Asia and now China? ... there is no reason why trade cannot help bring the Middle East to a happier, and certainly more prosperous, future ...". See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/319|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Other News:

Commission supports rooting out torture (26/06/2003)

On the occasion of the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, the European Commission and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) are backing efforts in five countries - Morocco, Mexico, Georgia, Sri Lanka and Uganda to crack down on torture. The initiative aims to begin the implementation of the Istanbul Protocol in these countries. The Protocol is a manual on the "Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment", which the Commission is supporting with €991,413.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/904|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Liikanen and Evans Reaffirm Commitment to Transatlantic Partnership (25/06/2003) [see page 2]

European Commissioner Erkki Liikanen and his United States counterpart, Commerce Secretary Don Evans, reaffirmed the importance of the transatlantic economic and commercial partnership at a meeting in Washington, D.C. The leaders both expressed their belief that the transatlantic partnership is critical for future security and prosperity in Europe, the US, and around the world. See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/896|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **Looking ahead in transatlantic relations – Speech by Romano Prodi, President of the EC (25/06/2003)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/322|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

The EU joins forces with international partners on research to 'clean up' fossil fuels (25/06/2003)

In Washington the European Commission, represented by Loyola de Palacio, Vice President in charge of Energy and Transport, signed an international charter on CO₂ capture and storage (CO₂/carbon sequestration). This will create the "Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum" with Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Italy, India, Japan, Mexico, Norway, the People's Republic of China, Russia, the United Kingdom and the US. The Forum aims to stimulate research into carbon sequestration technologies, to "clean up" fossil fuels by capturing CO₂ at source and storing it for thousands of years deep underground. This will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/892|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

World first: European research discovers solutions to environmental impact of antibiotics (25/06/2003)

The results of three European research projects (ERAVMIS, REMPHARMAWATER and POSEIDON) covering 13 European countries and establishing the environmental impact of human and veterinary antibiotics and possible solutions, will be presented to the press (27 June) in Sweden at Scandinavia's largest waste-water treatment plant. Antibiotics can find their way into our environment, with harmful and worrying consequences. In the last decade 12,500 tons of antibiotics per year were consumed and consumption continues to increase. These compounds are partly degraded by the body but thousands of tons still enter the environment each year by excretion. Recent findings confirm that antibiotics can now be found in municipal waste water and agricultural waste. If nothing is done, these antibiotics will contaminate our water resources and soils. See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/891|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

EU-Canada Wine and Spirits Agreement to end generic use of European names (24/06/2003)

'Port', 'Sherry', 'Chablis', 'Rhine' and 'Marsala' will only be used in Canada to label European wines once the EU-Canada Agreement on Trade in Wines and Spirit Drinks is fully implemented. Under a bilateral agreement, both the EU and Canada will commit to the protection of each other's geographical indications for wines and spirits. The European Commission approved the text of the agreement today and forwarded it to Council with a recommendation for Council to authorise signature and entry into force of the agreement.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/883|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Europeans Say "Yes!" to a strong Europe in Space (24/06/2003)

A four-month consultation on Europe's future in space came to a close in Paris, with EU Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin, European Space Agency Director General Antonio Rodotà and other leading players in the space sector calling for a significant increase in European efforts in space research and an upgraded institutional framework. Participants stressed the need to develop space technology, such as Internet by satellite and security applications. The Conference provided important input for the forthcoming EU White Paper on Space Policy, due to be published by the European Commission in October 2003. See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/880|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **European Space Policy Frequently Asked Questions (24/06/2003)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/03/138|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Facilitating safety in animals & animal products: EC issues manual to assist trading partners(23/06/2003)

Guidelines to explain the EU's import requirements for animals and animal products have been produced by the Commission's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) as part of efforts to facilitate safe food trade with third countries. The guidelines are based on existing legislative requirements and specific needs identified by FVO inspectors in their contacts with third country partners. The aim is to provide service-oriented explanations of the sometimes complex EU legislation. A particular focus has been put on clearly explaining the steps that developing countries must take, thereby facilitating access to the EU market for their products.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/878|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Ahead:

- **Special Olympics World Games, Ireland, 21-29/06/2003**

See: <http://www.2003specialolympics.com/en/>



Special Olympics

- **Plenary session of the European Parliament** See: http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm

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

EU - US Summit, 25 June 2003

On 25 June 2003 leaders from both sides of the Atlantic gathered at the EU-US Summit in Washington. The President of the European Commission, Romano Prodi, together with the President-in-office of the European Council, Greek Prime Minister Constantine Simitis, met US President George W. Bush.

On the EU side, Vice President and Commissioner for Transport and Energy, Loyola de Palacio, as well as Commissioners for Enterprise and Information Society, Erkki Liikanen, for Trade, Pascal Lamy, together with the High Representative for CFSP (Common Foreign & Security Policy), Javier Solana, the Greek Foreign Minister and President-in-office of the Council, Georgios Papandreou, and Greek Minister for Justice, Philippos Petsalnikos, also participated.

President Bush was accompanied by an unprecedented number of Senior Administration officials including Vice President, Dick Cheney, Secretary of State, Colin Powell, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, Attorney General John Ashcroft, Trade Representative Bob Zoellick, Secretary of Agriculture, Ann M. Veneman, Secretary of Energy, Spencer Abraham, Secretary of Transportation, Norman Mineta, Secretary of Treasury, John Snow, Secretary of Commerce, Don Evans, Secretary of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge, and Chief of Staff, Andrew H. Card. See: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/press_room/presspacks/eu_us/pp_eu_us_en.htm#1