



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.



23 - 29 April 2004

Headline News

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on 10 Years of Democracy in RSA (27/04/2004)

The European Union extends warm congratulations and good wishes to the Government and people of South Africa on the tenth anniversary of the achievement of democracy. The EU recognises South Africa's remarkable achievement in establishing a strong and functioning democracy in a post-apartheid context. Faced with the legacy of the all-encompassing evil that was the apartheid regime, the EU acknowledges South Africa's significant progress in terms of economic, social and constitutional reform. South Africa has taken an active role on the international stage, especially on the continent of Africa in its continued efforts to bring peace to troubled regions and in supporting the economic revitalisation of the continent. The EU looks forward to working closely with South Africa in the further deepening of our bilateral relations and in international fora.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PESC/04/51|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

The Next European Commission – Speech by The Rt. Hon Chris Patten (27/04/2004)

In a lecture at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Brussels, Commissioner Chris Patten (External Relations), observed: "Europe has made huge advances in the last 10 years. Building on the success of the single market, the euro is now a tangible symbol of the EU in the daily lives of some 300 million people. In a few days from now, the most ambitious enlargement ever will definitively draw a line under the divisions that have scarred our continent for decades. We have made strides in establishing the EU's international presence, building on our established strengths in trade policy and external assistance. Despite setbacks over Iraq, Europe has got its act together to meet the threats to our stability in the Balkans and to address the challenge of reconstruction in Afghanistan. We are working effectively with other international actors in the fight against global terrorism, and addressing poverty in support of the millennium development goals. Defence co-operation is starting to take shape.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/205|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=



Other News

EU takes action to foster international sustainable fishing (29/04/2004)

The EU has banned the import of tuna and swordfish products from countries whose fishing activities undermine international efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks in a sustainable manner. The countries and fish species targeted by the trade sanctions are: Bolivia, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia and Sierra Leone in respect of Atlantic big-eye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*); Equatorial Guinea and Sierra Leone in respect of Atlantic blue-fin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and Sierra Leone in respect of Atlantic swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*). Trade restrictions currently in place on imports from Belize, Honduras and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are to be lifted following action by these countries to bring their fishing practices into line with internationally agreed guidelines.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/564|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

GMO screening: EU Control Network expands to new Member States (29/04/2004)

As part of the enlargement process, 24 national enforcement laboratories from the acceding countries will sign an agreement in Prague to become part of the European Network of Genetically Modified Organisms' (GMO) Laboratories (ENGL). The network will assist the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) to manage the detection, identification and quantification of GMOs in food and feed samples across Europe. Under new European Union regulations the JRC has been acting since 18/04/2004 as the Community Reference Laboratory (CRL), with the role of co-ordinating the validation of detection methods. Since this date, applications for GM food or feed can now only be granted if the CRL decides, through a series of tests, that the application's methods are accurate and effective in detecting GMOs in food and feed samples.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/560|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

See also: **Question and Answers on the regulation of GMOs in the EU (30/05/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/102|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Increasing efficiency of EU development assistance - EC proposes complete untying of aid (28/04/2004)

The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a regulation on further untying of community aid from the EU budget in a bid to boost the effectiveness of its development assistance. The regulation should increase competitive bidding for the supply of goods and services financed by development aid thereby securing the best value for money of the €3.5 billion in annual EU development aid from the EU budget. Untying should furthermore promote regional integration by encouraging suppliers in developing countries to pursue contracts in neighbouring countries and strengthen local ownership by removing constraints on recipient governments' procurement of aid financed goods and services. As a novelty the proposed regulation offers unrestricted access to its programs to suppliers from other donor countries, including the USA and Japan. Access will be based on reciprocity. With the adoption of the regulation the EU will take the lead in the international efforts to end the practice of tying aid to the delivery of supplies from the donor country.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/558|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

EC appeals for respect of humanitarian principles in Sudan - announces €10 mil in extra aid (28/04/2004)

The European Commission launched a strong appeal to warring parties in the Darfur region of Western Sudan to secure "safe humanitarian access" so that the enormous needs of the population can be properly addressed. The Commission also announced that ECHO was preparing a new €10 million humanitarian aid decision to assist the victims of the conflict that has claimed thousands of lives and resulted in huge population displacements. The proposed decision will shortly be submitted to the Member States. Speaking at the launch of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office Annual Review ("ECHO 2003"), Poul Nielson, Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, highlighted the "tragic situation" in Darfur.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/557|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

EU budget for 2005: Commission presents its proposal for the enlarged Union (28/04/2004)

The Commission has adopted its proposal for the European 2005 budget (preliminary draft budget). It will be the first budget covering the expenditure for 25 Member States over the whole year. The room for new initiatives in 2005 is rather small as most expenditures are already fixed by prior decisions of the Council and EP. The budget proposal plans an expenditure volume of €109.5 billion. The current Financial Perspectives would provide for a maximum of €114.2 billion.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/554|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Address to the Summit of the Heads of State of the Niger Basin Authority – by Pres R Prodi (26/04/2004)

In a speech at the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques in Paris, European Commission President Romano Prodi said: "I fully endorse the establishment of principles of sound management and good governance for sustainable and shared development of the river basin. This approach will undoubtedly serve as a model for transboundary river basins in many other parts of the world. I had the privilege of launching the European Water Initiative at the Johannesburg Summit and of signing the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on Water and Sanitation with Presidents Mbeki and Obasanjo and the President of the European Council. A constructive dialogue between African and European partners is now in place, presided over by the African Ministerial Council on Water, in conjunction with the NEPAD, which has led to agreement on a joint work programme for implementing the Strategic Partnership. I welcome the constructive messages in the joint statement issued at the Pan-African Water Conference in Addis Ababa in December 2003. Together we have made an unequivocal commitment ..." See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/206|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

2575th Council meeting - Agriculture and Fisheries – Luxembourg (21-22/04/2004)

Amongst the issues tabled was reform of the Common Agricultural Policy regarding olive oil, cotton, tobacco and hops. The Council reached political agreement by qualified majority on the reform of these sectors in the Community, on the basis of a compromise drawn up by the Presidency that the Commission endorsed. The Danish, Spanish and Swedish delegations expressed their intention to vote against. The final adoption of the two Regulations will take place soon at a Council meeting after further technical examination of the compromise by the Special Committee on Agriculture at its forthcoming meeting.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PRES/04/112|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Ahead:

- **01/05/2004 – Enlargement of the EU from 15 to 25 Member States**
See: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/index_en.html
- **07/05-04/06/2004 – EU Film Festival**
See: <https://www.sterkinakor.co.za/>



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