



**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 May 2003

Dear Reader,

Welcome to ... **this week in review**. We are proud to officially launch this, our Delegation's official weekly publication which covers developments, decisions and events within the European Union's institutions that are likely to be of interest locally and within the region. We are encouraged that our pilot programme over the past 15 weeks has met with a positive response and we continue to welcome contributions and feedback from our target audiences.

Ambassador Michael Lake  
Head of Delegation



### **Headline News:**

#### **President Prodi on the Convention for the Future of Europe, EU-Canada Summit (28/05/2003)**

The President of the European Commission, Romano Prodi, during the joint press conference held on the occasion of the EU (Troika) Canada Summit, referred, inter alia, to the Convention for the Future of Europe: "In the meetings I had with the Prime Ministers of Greece and Canada, Mr. Simitis and Mr. Chrétien, I had the opportunity to discuss the situation on the Convention for the Future of Europe. I have to honestly admit that the draft text presented by the Praesidium of the Convention is a disappointment. Despite all the hard work we have all put in to this, the text now before us simply lacks vision and ambition. It does not solve the problems created by the Treaty of Nice. On the contrary, it is in some respect a step backwards: for example in the area of majority voting where the Union has to move forward to avoid paralysis. I want to say this as a wake-up call for the members of the Convention. We cannot let ourselves become victims or hostages of a text that fails to propose solutions, that threatens to paralyse Europe."

#### **EU clears plan to ensure delivery of cheap medicines to developing countries (26/05/2003)**

The Council adopted a regulation enabling exporters to deliver essential medicines at strongly reduced ('tiered') prices to poor countries by making sure the goods are not diverted back to the European Union. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy welcomed the decision: 'This regulation is an important contribution to a global partnership ensuring cheap yet sustainable supply of key medicines to the populations of poor countries.'

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/7480|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/7480|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

#### **ACP: Commission to investigate the impact of EU enlargement on development aid (26/05/03)**

In response to concerns expressed by ministers from ACP countries, the European Commission plans to carry out an impact study of how EU enlargement will affect its development assistance programmes. Development and Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Poul Nielson has promised that the Commission will investigate the potential repercussions of next year's enlargement, which will see the EU grow from 15 to 25 Member States, on its development assistance to the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of countries. See: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/news/news\\_en.htm#1](http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/news/news_en.htm#1)

### **Other News:**

#### **Die another day (28/05/2003)**

Welcoming the theme of this year's World No Tobacco Day (31/05), *Tobacco free fashion and film*, Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner David Byrne said: "Big tobacco uses film and fashion as a means of promoting and marketing their products. ... to those who are the targets I say: See through the plot. Feel free to say no to their deadly products. Die another day." EU legislation bans tobacco advertising on television and is going to ban it in print media, radio and on the internet.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/7700|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/03/7700|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

### **EU-SADC Cooperation: 9th SADC Drug Control Committee Meeting, 27-29 May (27/05/2003)**

European Commission Ambassador Michael Lake opened the 9<sup>th</sup> SADC Drug Control Committee meeting. The meeting deals with drug-related data, drug abuse, and illicit drug trafficking trends in SADC Member States. Mr Lake said: 'Since the SADC Regional Drug Control Programme was approved by SADC Members States in 1998, the EU had been assisting with the full implementation of the main intervention areas of the SADC Regional Drug Control Programme and this assistance is guaranteed at least until 2005.'

### **Humanitarian policy: Commissioner Poul Nielson warns against mixing politics and aid (26/05/03)**

Development and Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Poul Nielson has cautioned that the growing politicisation of aid is eroding humanitarian principles and putting the lives of victims and aid workers at risk. At the launch of ECHO 2002, the EU aid office's annual review, he warned that the principles of humanitarian law, such as impartiality and independence of action, are being gradually worn away. See: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/news/news\\_en.htm#2](http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/news/news_en.htm#2)

### **Senegal: EU €300 million aid package (26/05/03)**

The European Commission's office in Dakar said that it has recently signed an agreement with Senegal to launch a five-year aid package to fund development programmes and debt relief worth €307 million.

See: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/news/news\\_en.htm#4](http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/news/news_en.htm#4)

### **Development: €686 million approved for Health and Debt Relief (26/05/2003)**

The ACP-EU Council bringing together Ministers from African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries and EU Member States has allocated money to support global initiatives in the areas of Health and Debt Relief. €351 million has been approved for fighting killer diseases while €335 million has been given to debt relief.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/749|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/749|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

### **The EU and the Kingdom of Morocco strengthen their scientific and technical cooperation (23/05/2003)**

On 26/27 May, the European Commissioner for Research, Mr Philippe Busquin, and the Moroccan Minister for Scientific Research, Mr Omar Fassi-Fehri, took part in a National Workshop on Research in Morocco. A scientific and technical cooperation agreement will be signed in the next few weeks that will make it easier for Moroccan universities, companies and research centres to participate in the EU's 6<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme (2003-2006).

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/737|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/737|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

#### ***Ahead:***

#### **11<sup>th</sup> EU-Russia Summit, St. Petersburg 31/05/2003**

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/768|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/768|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

#### **G8 Summit – Evian-les-Bains, France, 01-03/06/2003** See: <http://www.g8.fr/evian/english/home.html>

#### **EU Green Week 2003, 02-05/06/2003** See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/index_en.htm)

And: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/773|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/773|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

#### **Euromed (Mid-term Ministerial Conference), Heraklion, 24-27/06/2003**

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



**Great news for all fans of European films – the EU Film Festival is back.**

One year after record audiences made it clear that this feature on the country's cultural calendar was a must, the EU again presents a film festival that will showcase films from all across the European Union.

Spokesman for the European Commission Delegation in South Africa, Frank Oberholzer said, "We are particularly pleased that the festival, for the third year running, has expanded in size and this year will be run in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban. We feel that increased local exposure to the many European cultures is important, particularly in the light of the European Union and its Member States remaining not only South Africa's largest trading partner but also by far the country's biggest development partner."

Durban: Gateway 06-12 June

For film reviews & festival schedule, see: <http://www.sterkinekor.com/festivals/EuropeanUnionff/listing.asp>