



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.



25 June – 1 July 2004

Headline News

Start of the Dutch Presidency – Speech by European Commission President, Romano Prodi (01/07/2004)



“The start of the Dutch Presidency is a time to take stock - to see where we are and where we are going. It is also a time to gather our strength and press ahead. Because we still have a lot to do - more than enough to keep us busy for the remainder of this Commission's term of office. But first let me express my appreciation for the work done by the Irish Presidency. Under the able management of Bertie Ahern, the Irish have overcome two major hurdles in the last couple of weeks. My successor has been designated and the IGC has been concluded. This clears the way for the Dutch. With the text of Europe's first Constitution now approved, the next step is to put forward the right arguments in the national debates, so the Constitution can be ratified. In the Commission we also look forward to working closely with the Dutch Presidency on a number of other tasks”

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/343&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Statement by President Prodi on the designation of José Manuel Durão Barroso (28/06/2004)

“It gave me great pleasure to learn that the Portuguese Prime Minister is to be the next President of the European Commission - first, because of José Durão Barroso's personal merits; second, because it recognises Portugal's constructive participation in the European integration process; and third, because it sends a signal of the European Union's restored unity. ... We have gone through some difficult times and other difficulties will surely lie ahead, but we are tackling them in the right way and José Manuel Durão Barroso is the right person to hold this office of great responsibility and sensitivity...”



See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/813&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

See also: **Treaty provisions on the next European Commission and its President (29/06/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/04/164&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

President Prodi addresses the press at the EU-US Summit in Shannon (26/06/2004)

[see page 2]

“Over the past five years, Europe has gone through an enormous transformation. Together with my colleagues at the Commission we have helped deliver the Euro, which by now has become the single currency for more than 300 million Europeans. We have negotiated and successfully completed the biggest expansion in the history of the European project by bringing in ten new Member States to our family. Together with the skilful Irish Presidency, we have adopted a constitution for the whole of the European Union. As a consequence, this European Union has become an important economic and political actor on the global scene. In our discussions with President Bush we, Prime Minister Ahern and myself, have today spoken in the name of more than 450 million Europeans. This is the reality in Europe and the new reality in the EU-US relations.” See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/811&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Other News

Money laundering: Commission proposes to update and improve Directive (30/06/2004)

A proposal to further strengthen the EU's defences against money laundering and terrorist financing has been presented by the European Commission. It would update and improve the EU's existing anti-money laundering Directive. In particular, money laundering would be defined as concealing or disguising the proceeds of a wider range of serious crimes. It would also ensure coherent application in all Member States of the latest Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which now cover not only the laundering of the proceeds of crime but the financing of terrorism.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/832&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Textiles & Clothing: meeting to prepare recommendations for future of EU textiles (29/06/2004)

The High Level Group on textiles and clothing met on Wednesday 30/06/2004 to wrap up five months of work to develop ideas to boost the competitiveness of the EU textiles and clothing industry. Participants gathering in Brussels include EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy and EU Enterprise and Information Society Commissioner Erkki Liikanen, representatives from EU Member States (France, Italy, Germany and Portugal), Members of the European Parliament as well as

representatives from industry, retailers, distributors, European textiles associations, trade unions and local textile and clothing associations.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/819&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Trade in Textiles (29/06/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/04/166&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Textiles and clothing: 7 recommendations to improve the competitiveness of the EU industry (30/06/2004)

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/838&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Roadmap for EU-US Regulatory Cooperation and Transparency I (29/06/2004)

[see page 1]

As a key element of the EU-US Positive Economic Agenda, US and European Commission authorities continue to promote EU-US regulatory cooperation, in particular through implementation of the EU-US. Guidelines for Regulatory Cooperation and Transparency as negotiated under the Transatlantic Economic Partnership (TEP). Implementation of the Guidelines has yielded good progress in a number of regulatory areas, but the scope for potential EU-US cooperation is far broader.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/04/165&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Roadmap for EU-US Regulatory Cooperation and Transparency II (29/06/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/816&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

GALILEO and GPS will navigate side by side: EU and US sign final agreement (28/06/2004)

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/805&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Commission statement on the transfer of power in Iraq (28/06/2004)

A ceremony marking the formal transfer of power to the Iraqi government from the occupation administration has taken place this morning. This is an important event. We hope that future generations of Iraqis will be able to look back at this day and see it as a moment when they were united and began working together to overcome the legacy of decades of conflict and brutal authoritarian rule. Only the Iraqi people can make this happen. The Iraqi population has suffered for many years at the hands of those who wished to manipulate the will of the Iraqi people to their narrow self-interest. The EU recognises this and stands united in its desire to assist the Iraqi people as they determine the future of their nation.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/812&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Trans-Atlantic Business Dialogue continues efforts to promote EU-US economic ties (25/06/2004)

At its most recent meeting, the Trans-Atlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) provided important recommendations to governments on its four priority areas: Open Trade and Security, Intellectual Property Rights and the Fight against Counterfeiting, Capital Markets and International Accounting Standards, as well as the World Trade Organisation and the Doha Development Round. European Commissioner Ján Figel' expressed his support for the process, commending the serious work carried out, and the efforts of the TABD to promote closer transatlantic ties and eliminate barriers in the transatlantic market.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/808&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Ahead:

- **01/07/2004 – Dutch Presidency begins**

See: http://www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS_ITEM=ACFEA51473FA46B9A02B9F986F6A6DEBX2X50629X9

- **09-10/07/2004 – EU Trade Commissioner, Danuta Hübner, visit to South Africa**

- **05-13/07/2004 – EU Development & Humanitarian Aid Commissioner, Poul Nielson, visit to Southern Africa**

Poul Nielson, European Commissioner for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, will visit South Africa and Namibia from 5 to 13 July 2004. The visit will ... not only provide an opportunity to get a first hand appreciation of development activities financed by the EC but will offer a good opportunity to reflect on the future co-operation with South Africa and Namibia. Commissioner Nielson will use the opportunity to recall the EC's firm intention of remaining a reliable and close partner not only of these two countries but of the Southern African region as a whole. On 8 July Commissioner Nielson will join Commissioner Danuta Hübner for the launch of the EU-SADC negotiations on an Economic Partnership Agreement.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/849&format=HTML&aged=0&language=en&guiLanguage=en>

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