



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.



26 March – 1 April 2004

Headline News

Three ways for Europe to prevail against the terrorists – Article by Javier Solana (01/04/2004)

The Madrid attacks have reminded us of the potency of the terrorist threat to Europe. I see three sets of responses: "First, we must make European counter-terrorism more effective. Governments have improved co-ordination since the September 11 attacks. Useful initiatives have been launched, transatlantic co-operation has been bolstered and some excellent police and intelligence work has been done. We must build on this. ... Second, we must maintain our determination to understand and tackle the factors behind terrorism. No cause justifies terrorism, but nothing justifies ignoring the causes of terrorism. Clearly, there is a fanatical fringe who are beyond political discourse. But it is nourished by a pool of disaffection and grievance. ... Third, all European citizens, can and must defend our democracies by exercising and defending the rights that we hold dear. A climate of fear and repression is what the terrorists seek. Faith in democracy is the best weapon in our defence."



See: [This Day, page 10, \(02/03/2004\)](#)

See also: **The fight against terrorism: EC proposes measures on the exchange of information (30/03/2004)**
http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/04/425I0IRAPID&lg=EN&display=

EC welcomes Member States' approval of its €250 million African Peace Facility proposal (31/03/2004)

Statement from Commissioner for development aid and humanitarian affairs, Mr. Poul Nielson: "I am pleased that Member States have today adopted the European Commission's proposal for a € 250 million Peace Facility to promote African peace keeping in Africa. In little less than nine months since the AU launched the idea in Maputo, the Facility has now become a reality. ... Without peace there can be no development. The Peace Facility provides an important instrument to support African efforts to promote peace to the benefit of the entire continent and its population."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/04/434I0IRAPID&lg=EN&display=

Other News

10 Years of Democracy - 10 New Member States – Musical Gala Concert at the State Theatre, Pretoria

On 23/04/2004 the European Union and the South African Government will co-host a musical gala evening in commemoration of 10 years of Democracy and in celebration of the 10 Member State Enlargement of the EU. The programme includes:

- The EU anthem – Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy'
- Hendrik Hofmeyr's Double Concertino for Violin and Flute
- The African Musical epic, **USHaka**, KaSenzangakhona



While reviewing the preparations for the event, EU Ambassador Michael Lake said: "How better to celebrate these two huge achievements of peace – for the enlargement of the European Union is about peace and prosperity for Europe just as democracy is about peace and prosperity for South Africa and Southern Africa – than through music and song." Tickets to be available through Computicket.

EC ratifies treaty on plant genetic resources to improve access to seed & agri. biodiversity (31/03/2004)

The European Community and nine of its Member States deposited at the FAO their instruments of ratification of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, making it possible for the Treaty to enter into force in 90 days. The Treaty facilitates access (for research and breeding) to seeds of the most important agricultural plant species. The sharing of commercial profits for the benefit of conservation and the sustainable use of genetic resources will be an important step forward in North-South relations.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/04/433I0IRAPID&lg=EN&display=

New EU Centre for Disease Prevention & Control adopted (31/03/2004)

The Council of Ministers agreed on the Commission's proposal to create a new European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). This is the final step in the process which began in July 2003 when the Commission presented the draft law to create the ECDC (see IP/03/1091). Parliament and Council recognised the importance of the new agency and put the law on a legislative fast track. The ECDC is on course to become operational in 2005. The EU summit in December 2003 decided that the ECDC will be based in Sweden and the Swedish government has chosen Stockholm for its location.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/427|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

See also: **Influenza and how the EU should respond to a pandemic (31/03/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/432|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Commission finalises modernisation of the EU antitrust enforcement rules (30/03/2004)

The European Commission adopted today a series of documents which complete the landmark modernisation of the European Union's antitrust enforcement rules and procedures. The documents, which cover such things as treatment of complaints, the issuance of guidance letters and the functioning of the European Competition Network linking the European family of competition authorities, will come into effect on the 1 May at the same time as the new antitrust enforcement regulation. See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/411|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Afghanistan: How the EU is making a difference (30/03/2004)

The European Union has been, and continues to be, one of the major donors backing the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Taking together contributions from the Community Budget and Member States, the EU provided over €850 million in 2002 and €835 million in assistance to Afghanistan in 2003 to help in its reconstruction efforts. At the Tokyo donors' conference in 2002 the European Commission (EC) played a leading part in this EU performance. The Commission promised €1 billion over 5 years. In both 2002 and 2003, the actual amount committed to Afghanistan has been higher, and assistance has been delivered swiftly. At the Berlin International Conference on Afghanistan, Europe will again be a significant participant. See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/77|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

See also: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/afghanistan/intro/arsg.htm

Afghanistan: The path towards self-sufficiency – Speech by The Rt Hon Chris Patten (31/03/2004)

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/169|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Global efforts to phase out ozone-depleting substances back on track (29/03/2004)

The European Commission welcomes the outcome of an extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the 1987 Montreal Protocol, on 24-26 March in Montreal, the Protocol's birthplace. The 183 Parties agreed how to respect a scheduled ban on the production and consumption of methyl bromide, a highly ozone damaging pesticide still in use in some countries. Under the Montreal Protocol, the ban is to come into effect in industrialised countries on 1 January 2005. Demands for far-reaching exemptions put forward by the US and a number of other countries, including some EU Member States, had jeopardised the phase-out timetable and were the main reason that a previous conference of the Parties in Nairobi last November collapsed.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/396|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Fidelio on Robben Island (27/03/2004)

The part-EU funded staging of Beethoven's "Freedom Opera", Fidelio, within the confines of the prison on Robben Island, was indeed a most memorable occasion. In the South African context, the performance strongly symbolised the victorious fight over apartheid, and the subsequent birth of democracy – just as it did almost two hundred years ago in Europe, after Napoleon's tyranny on the continent ended in his defeat. EU Ambassador Michael Lake summed up the evening's proceedings: "What a venue, what music, what a way to commemorate ten years of democracy!" What the critics wrote:

<http://tonight.co.za/index.php?fArticleId=388938&fSectionId=358&fSetId=251>

<http://www.taipetimes.com/News/feat/archives/2004/03/24/2003107603>



Ahead:

- **01/04/2004 - Conference on Migration, Donegal, Ireland**
See: http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/meeting.asp?sNavlocator=5,418,13&list_id=348
- **01/04/2004 - EU–African Union Foreign Ministerial Troika, Farmleigh House, Dublin**
See: http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/meeting.asp?sNavlocator=5,418,13&list_id=123
- **02/04/2004 - EU–South Africa Foreign Ministerial Troika Dublin**
See: http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/meeting.asp?sNavlocator=5,418,13&list_id=312

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