



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.



27 February – 4 March 2004

Headline News

EC will provide over €96 million in 2004 to support democracy & human rights worldwide (04/03/2004)

The European Commission has approved €96.35 million for the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) for 2004. This year EIDHR will focus on the support to democracy, good governance and the rule of law, on the prevention of torture and the rehabilitation of victims of torture, on the promotion of international justice and on combating the death penalty. Activities will be carried out in the 32 countries where EIDHR support can achieve the greatest impact and complement other community assistance programme and EU political dialogue.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/302|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Planned reform of the EU's sugar regime & developing countries – by Com Franz Fischler (03/03/2003)

In an address to the Least Developed Countries Sugar Conference, Franz Fischler, European Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, covered the following points:

- Why is a sugar reform unavoidable?
- How to deal with the concern of least developed countries?
- What is the roadmap for further reform?

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/116|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **Post-reform: What next for EU agriculture? - Speech by F Fischler (02/03/2004)**

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

CAP, WTO & Enlargement: Looking beyond our common borders – Speech by F Fischler (01/03/2004)

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/111|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Other News

US Foreign Sales Corporations (FSC): EU starts countermeasures on US products (01/03/2004)

The EU countermeasures on a list of US products in the long-standing WTO dispute on the US Foreign Sales Corporations enter into force today 1 March 2004. Countermeasures on the selected products consist of an additional customs duty of 5% to be enforced as from today, followed by automatic, monthly increases by 1% up to a ceiling of 17% to be reached on 1 March 2005, if compliance has not happened in-between.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/282|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC): Questions and Answers (27/02/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/40|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Europe to the conquest of comets: Com Philippe Busquin welcomes Rosetta launch (02/03/2004)

The European Space Agency's "Rosetta" comet-intercept spacecraft was launched in Kourou, French Guyana. European Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin welcomed the lift-off of this exciting project. Rosetta sets off on what will be a ten-year journey through our solar system to meet up with Comet Churyumov-Gerasimenko. The spacecraft will find out more about comet nuclei, take images of the comet itself and release a lander onto its surface. For the first time in history, a comet travelling sunwards will be investigated from close quarters.



See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/286|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

EC welcomes new rules to guarantee safety and quality of human cells and tissues (02/03/2004)

The Council of Ministers adopted a directive setting high quality and safety standards for dealing with human tissues and cells throughout the EU. Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner David Byrne said: "We now have rules in place with comprehensive and binding requirements for the safety and quality of cells and tissues from donor to patient. ... Patients can now be sure that human tissues and cells derived from donations in another Member State nonetheless carry the same guarantees as those in their own country."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/288|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **Quality and safety standards for human tissues and cells (19/06/2002)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/02/894|0|AGED&lg=EN&display=

Presidency declaration on behalf of the European Union regarding Zimbabwe (01/03/2004)

The Acceding Countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia, the Candidate Countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, declare that they share the objectives of Council Common Position 2004/161/CFSP of 19 February 2004 on renewing restrictive measures against Zimbabwe. They will ensure that their national policies conform to that Council Common Position. The European Union takes note of this commitment and welcomes it.

Presidency Declaration on behalf of the EU regarding restrictive measures against Liberia (01/03/2003)

The Acceding Countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia, the Candidate Countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, declare that they share the objectives of Council Common Position 2004/137/CFSP of 10 February 2004 concerning restrictive measures against Liberia. They will ensure that their national policies conform to that Council Common Position. The European Union takes note of this commitment and welcomes it.

President Prodi welcomes Libyan readiness to join Barcelona Process (28/02/2004)

On 27 February 2004 President Romano Prodi and Colonel Muammar Gaddafi had a very warm and friendly meeting, at which Colonel Gaddafi stressed that Libya was ready to start working immediately to join the Barcelona process. The meeting took place during the second extraordinary Summit of the African Union in Sirte, which President Prodi attended as the special guest of African Union Commission President A.O. Konare. At the meeting with Col Gaddafi, President Prodi expressed his appreciation for the latter's role in organising the Summit and for what Libya is doing for peace in general and for Africa in particular. He went on to congratulate the Libyan leader on the important steps he had taken to bring Libya fully back into the international community.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/279|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **Address at extraordinary African Union Summit in Sirte, Lybia – Speech by Romano Prodi (27/02/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/104|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Convergence in EU-US antitrust policy: an EU perspective – Speech by Com Mario Monti (28/02/2004)

In addressing the University of California's recent Conference on US and EU Antitrust Aspects of Mergers and Acquisitions, Prof. Mario Monti, European Commissioner for Competition Policy, noted: "I would like to devote my short intervention today to saying a few words about what I believe is one of the most important (and perhaps least heralded) success stories in EU-US relations in recent years: our increasingly convergent approach to antitrust and to merger control policy. Convergence that is even more evident after the recent conclusion of our Merger Review process, about which I will also say a few words."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/107|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Ahead:

- **08-11/03/2004, Plenary Session of the European Parliament**
See: http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm
- **11/03/2004, Competitiveness Council, Brussels**
See: http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/meeting.asp?sNavlocator=5,13&list_id=224
- **11-12/03/2004, Third European Business Summit, Brussels**
See: <http://www.ebsummit.org/>
- **04/03/2004, International Food Safety Conference, Dublin**
See: http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/meeting.asp?sNavlocator=5,13&list_id=102

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