



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 June – 3 July 2003

Headline News:

Iraq: Commission grants a further €37 million in humanitarian aid (03/07/2003)

The European Commission has approved a new humanitarian aid package worth €37 million to help victims of the ongoing crisis in Iraq. The focus of the aid is on supporting health, nutrition, water, sanitation and food programmes. The funds are channelled through the Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) under the direct responsibility of Commissioner Poul Nielson, and the programmes will be implemented by experienced United Nations and NGO partners.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/942|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

European Union's Presidency: welcome Italy & farewell Greece

With Italy for a strong, united Europe - Speech by Romano Prodi, EC President, Strasbourg, (02/07/2003)



"The Italian Presidency is beginning at a critical point in the life of the Union. It has the tough but exhilarating task of carrying through the revision of the Union's founding Treaties and delivering the first European Constitution. The six months of the Italian Presidency will see the start of the Intergovernmental Conference. It will work on the basis ... of the draft Constitutional Treaty drawn up by the Convention..." (for more on the Italian Presidency see page 2)

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/340|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Greek Presidency closes on high note – Speech by Romano Prodi, President of the EC, Strasbourg, (01/07/2003)



"We are approaching the half-way stage of a year rich in ambitious projects and intense debate that will determine the face and destiny of Europe. This year has inevitably demanded an amount of spadework, wedged as it is between the introduction of the euro and the biggest enlargement in our history. I heartily congratulate Prime Minister Simitis and all the men and women who have laboured alongside him in coordinating and guiding us towards our political and institutional goals. ..."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/337|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Other News:

Fisheries: EC seeks Council green light to open talks on partnership agreement with Libya (03/07/2003)

Today, the European Commission asked the Council of Ministers to authorise the start of negotiations with the Government of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to conclude a fisheries partnership agreement. Such a partnership agreement would be of mutual benefit. While the EU would obtain sustainable fishing opportunities in Libyan waters, Libya would get EU support to modernising its fisheries sector. Furthermore, a closer co-operation in the fisheries sector would also strengthen the ties between Libya and the EU. According to EU rules, Member States have to give the Commission a mandate with negotiating guidelines, before the talks can start.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/939|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Greenhouse gas emissions trading: EC hails agreement on climate change breakthrough (02/07/2003)

The European Parliament voted in favour of a compromise package on emissions trading, thereby finalising a Directive which will give carbon dioxide a market value across the Community from January 2005. "The agreement on this Directive signifies a breakthrough both for climate change and emissions trading", Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström declared: "It means that the largest emissions trading scheme in the world to date will be a reality from 2005, and that the architecture foreseen under the Kyoto Protocol is coming to life. Companies across 25 countries must now start incorporating climate change into day-to-day commercial decisions, and begin assessing what innovative steps they can take to reduce emissions." See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/931|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Euro area economy continues to tread water (02/07/2003)

According to the latest Quarterly Report on the Euro Area, three factors that have been weighing on growth have improved. The uncertainty associated with the conflict in Iraq is now lifted, inflation is decelerating and financial conditions are becoming more supportive. As a consequence, following virtually no growth in economic activity in early 2003, expectations are still for

a modest rebound of activity in the second half of 2003 although cumulative growth in 2003 may turn out to be slightly lower than earlier expected.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/930|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Commission proposes simplified control procedures for shipments of waste (01/07/2003)

The European Commission has proposed a revision of the 10-year-old Waste Shipment Regulation. This Regulation sets environmental criteria for waste shipments within, into and outside the European Union. It covers shipments of practically all types of waste by all types of means, including vehicles, trains, ships and planes. The proposal strengthens the current control procedures, simplifying and clarifying them to the benefit of both the environment and waste shipment companies. The proposal is also a step towards greater international harmonisation of waste shipments, as it fully implements the UN Basel Convention, which regulates shipments of hazardous waste at international level. The proposal reduces procedures and lists of waste from three to two.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/925|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

European Commission calls for concerted effort to promote social inclusion of Roma (30/06/2003)

Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner, Anna Diamantopoulou, called on current and future EU Member States to work together to tackle the social exclusion of Roma. She launched an appeal for greater cooperation between the EU, the World Bank and other international organisations. The Commissioner also stressed the need to boost dialogue with Roma representatives underlining there should be "nothing for Roma, without the Roma".

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/917|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **Nothing for the Roma without the Roma - Speech by Anna Diamantopoulou, EC Commissioner**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/335|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Pres Prodi and Muammar Gaddafi discuss illegal migration and African issues on the phone (28/06/2003)

The fight against illegal migration and trafficking in people and the need to give fresh impetus to Africa's economic and social development were discussed over the phone last night by European Commission President Romano Prodi and the Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/918|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Ahead:

- **Plenary session of the European Convention, 04/07/2003**

See: <http://european-convention.eu.int/sessplen.asp?lang=EN>

- **Joint Presidency-Commission Meeting, 04/07/2003**

See: http://www.ueitalia2003.it/EN/PrimoPiano/Dettaqgio/PP_riuncoll.htm

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Programme of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union – Speech by Silvio Berlusconi, Prime Minister of Italy, Strasbourg (02/07/2003)

"As one of the founding countries, Italy has a long experience of remaining true to the spirit and the letter of the Treaties, which within the space of a few decades have enabled us, peacefully, to develop one of the most remarkable political and institutional experiments that history has seen. Italy is therefore keenly morally and intellectually aware of the responsibility and honour of presiding over the Union in this formative period, when we need to hold on firmly to the lessons of the past in order to build the future, to deal with innovations and seize opportunities that were previously unimaginable, and to overcome differences by finding new solutions, which in turn will enrich our shared project. ... Europe today owes its greatness to the progress it has accomplished, to its proud contribution to peace and international law, but it owes its particular greatness to the specific technical expertise which it has brought to bear in seeking to overcome every crisis, clash of interests and difference in vision by applying a common method and common rules and a common approach towards adjusting both method and rules to the realities of a changing world."

See: http://www.ueitalia2003.it/NR/rdonlyres/474C4688-E636-410D-B815-193F1813C264/0/0701_DlscorsoBerlusconi_EN.pdf

See also:

the **Presidency webpage**, <http://www.ueitalia2003.it/EN/Presidenza/benvenuto/> ;

the **Programme of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (01/07/2003 – 31/12/2003)**

http://www.ueitalia2003.it/NR/rdonlyres/57F9D4ED-4498-47F5-A4ED-73FE0BF965AC/0/ProgrammaPresidenza_ING.pdf

