



**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.*



## 28 May – 3 June 2004

### Headline News

#### **Presidency Declaration on behalf of the EU regarding Burundi (28/05/2004)**

The European Union welcomes UN Security Council resolution 1545 of 21 May 2004 and its decision to deploy a peacekeeping operation in Burundi (ONUB) in support of the efforts of the Burundian people to restore lasting peace and to bring about national reconciliation as provided for under the Arusha Peace Agreement. The European Union wishes the operation success in the execution of its mandate and it assures the UN of its support for this operation, reinforcing the prospects for peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region in general and in Burundi in particular. It takes this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation for the efforts made by the Governments of South Africa, Mozambique and Ethiopia as well as by the African Union through AMIB in assuring peace and stability during the past months of Transition and preparing for this new phase in the Burundi peace process.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PESC/04/68&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Presidency Declaration on behalf of the EU on the Lupane by-elections in Zimbabwe (28/05/2004)**



The European Union condemns the intimidation and irregularities before and during the Lupane by-elections on 15-16 May 2004 which, together with continuing restrictions on freedom of association and on equal access to the media, meant that these elections cannot be judged free and fair. The intimidation of voters and obstruction of campaigning by war veterans and youths, the registration of voters at polling stations by traditional leaders, the use of State apparatus in favour of the ruling party, and lack of access by the opposition to the voters roll that had been amended until days before the election, are just illustrations of an unacceptable electoral environment.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PESC/04/69&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### Other News

#### **UN conference on Greater Darfur - Commission pledges €10 million in humanitarian aid (03/06/2004)**

The European Commission announced its intention to commit an additional €10 million in humanitarian assistance for victims of the conflict in the Greater Darfur region of Sudan. The announcement was made in Geneva at a United Nations conference on the situation in Darfur. This new aid package, which will be channelled through the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) will meet a range of emergency needs including health, nutrition, shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation and protection. The aid should improve the basic living conditions of up to one million victims of the conflict. The aid package will add up to the €9.2 million humanitarian aid that the European Commission has already allocated to the victims of the Darfur crisis.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/710&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **The humanitarian crisis in Greater Darfur - ECHO's response (03/06/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/04/133&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **North Korea: Commission approves €9.1 million in humanitarian aid (03/06/2004)**

The European Commission adopted a €9.1 million humanitarian aid plan to boost healthcare for up to ten million people in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The funding, to be allocated by the Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) under the supervision of Commissioner Poul Nielson, will provide much-needed equipment and medicines, and help rehabilitate health centres, hospitals and specialist facilities. The programmes will be implemented by international agencies operating in the country and monitored by ECHO's support office in Pyongyang. Since 2001, ECHO has provided more than €38 million for humanitarian programmes in North Korea.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/711&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Banana imports: Commission proposes to open tariff-only negotiations (02/06/2004)**

The European Commission took another step to modify the EU's import regime for bananas. As agreed by the Council of EU Ministers in 2001, the move to a tariff-only system shall take place no later than 2006. To ensure this, the European Commission has today proposed to the Council to open WTO negotiations. Once the Council has agreed, the Commission will negotiate the import tariff for bananas with the relevant producer countries. It will seek to maintain the same level of protection and preferences for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries as the existing regime provides while entirely respecting its obligations and commitments vis-à-vis other trading partners, EU producers and EU consumers.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/707&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Further efforts needed to put environment at the heart of EU policy decisions (02/06/2004)**

More needs to be done to integrate environmental thinking into EU policy decisions. This is the conclusion of a report published by the European Commission. The report assesses progress on the so-called Cardiff process launched by EU heads of state and government in 1998 to integrate environmental concerns into other EU policy decisions. It recognises that the only way to tackle worrying environmental trends, such as climate change, declining fish stocks and emissions of pollutants, and to move towards sustainable development, is to make environmental issues central to the policy decisions in sectors that have significant environmental impacts. Failure to integrate environmental thinking means ongoing costs to society. Some progress has been achieved, for instance in agriculture and fisheries, but a lot remains to be done. The Council needs to re-invigorate the process of environmental integration and deliver on the strategies that already exist.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/700&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **European Union and Egypt strengthen their relations (01/06/2004)**

The Association Agreement between the European Union (EU) and the Arab Republic of Egypt has entered into force, opening a new era in their relationship. Following ratification by the two parties, all aspects of the Agreement – political, economic, and social - are now operational. The trade and trade related provisions of the Agreement entered into force provisionally on 1 January 2004. The Agreement will be instrumental in bringing Egyptian law more closely in line with EU legislation and promoting economic reform. It will also upgrade the current political dialogue with the objective of developing shared political values. This is the sixth Association Agreement to enter into force in the Mediterranean region, bringing one step closer the region-wide Free Trade Area which the Barcelona Process aims to create by 2010. Chris Patten, Commissioner for External Relations said: "I am delighted that we are taking this significant step forward in our relationship with Egypt, which is a country of major importance in the region. This Agreement once again demonstrates that there need be no deep divide between Europe and the Arab world. We hold shared values and ambitions, and I look forward to working even more closely with Egypt to build peace and prosperity in the region and beyond."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/697&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **The role of Europe in today's globalised world – Speech by Pascal Lamy (31/05/2004)**

In an address to the Seventh Conference on Globalisation held in Amsterdam recently, EU Trade Commissioner, Pascal Lamy, said: "I would like to talk briefly to you about some globalisation themes, and then to put them into the context of the discussions on the Doha Round, to see if modern multilateralism in action, so to speak, in the form of trade negotiations, is matching up to the challenge we set at the start of the Commission. Namely: of harnessing globalisation in the interests of all: to produce growth and jobs, and better regulation in the name of justice. For the fact is that globalisation currently is a two sided coin: one bright, the other excessively dark. Like the moon from time to time, the dark side is to the fore at present. We have to challenge that."

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/277&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Ahead:**

-  changing our behaviour
- 07/06/2004 – Euro Conference (Cape Town)
- 09/06/2004 – Euro Conference (Johannesburg)
- 10-13/06/2004 – European Elections

See: <http://www.elections2004.eu.int/ep-election/sites/en/index.html>

#### **01-04/06/2004 – Green Week Conference 2004, Brussels**

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/index_en.htm)



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