



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.



30 April – 6 May 2004

Headline News

Today is an historic day for Europe - Statement of President Prodi on enlargement (01/05/2004)

"Today we welcome into the EU family 10 new member countries and 75 million new EU citizens. Five decades after our great project of European integration began, the divisions of the Cold War are gone once and for all and we live in a united Europe. It took courage, determination and a lot of effort from the peoples and political forces in the new Member States to get this far. It took vision and generosity from the peoples and leaders in the current EU. This week, I will have the enormous pleasure of welcoming 10 new colleagues into the European Commission. They and their fellow citizens bring to the Union the cultures and diversity of 10 countries with distinct historical roots stretching back through the centuries..."

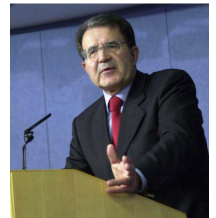
See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=IP/04/576|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **Accession Day – Speech by President Romano Prodi, Dublin (01/05/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=qt&doc=SPEECH/04/221|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

The first Commission of the new Europe - Speech by President Romano Prodi, Strasbourg (05/05/2004)

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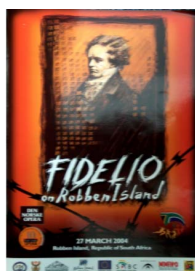


The EU-SA Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) finally enters into force (01/05/2004)

On 30/04/2004 the European Council notified the South African mission in Brussels of the completion of the ratification process of the TDCA on the European side. A few hours later the South African Ministry for Foreign Affairs reciprocated and notified the Council and our Delegation of the South African ratification. This means that the highly successful provisionally instituted trade and development chapters of the TDCA are now fully legal and other fields of co-operation such as economic, political, as well as cultural, environmental, and social will enjoy greater support and impetuous between the two parties. The TDCA enters into force today, 01/05/2004. Ambassador Lake said: " This milestone in our relations with South Africa further strengthens the close partnership that exists between us."

Delegation celebrates EU Enlargement, 10 Years of Democracy in SA, and Europe Day

Celebrations commenced in late March with a spectacular once-off performance of Fidelio, Beethoven's "liberation" opera, staged in the inner courtyard of the infamous jail on Robben Island, close to Cape Town. This performance, part-funded by the European Commission through the Conferences, Workshops and Cultural Initiatives Fund (CWCI) in commemoration of 10 years of Democracy, was subsequently screened nationally on SABC Television. This event was followed in late April by a once-off pre-European tour performance, again in part funded through the CWCI, of the awe-inspiring UShaka-KaSenzangakhona at the State Theatre in Pretoria. This African opera about the life of the legendary Zulu King Shaka was preceded by a full orchestral rendition of the EU Anthem and a well-received address by Ambassador Michael Lake on the enlargement of the EU. Bringing an end our festivities is the month-long EU Film Festival 2004, celebrating both Enlargement and Europe Day, commencing 6 May. The festival, that for the first time includes films from new Member States, will take place in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban at a leading Cinema Chain. All the celebratory events, while drawing significant numbers of dignitaries and VIPs were, and are well attended by the general public.



Other News

Human genetic testing: implications and recommendations (06/05/2004)

Genetic testing identifies illnesses that might be linked to our genes. It can help recognise hereditary diseases, tailor cures to an individual's genetic make-up and develop new drugs. But its use also has important ethical implications. At a conference on "Human genetic testing: what implications?" organised by European Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin in Brussels today and tomorrow, a high level expert group will present a report and 25 recommendations on how genetic testing can be used in a responsible and ethical way. The Expert includes scientists and representatives from different academic backgrounds, non-governmental organisations and the pharmaceutical industry.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/603|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Briefing note for the joint ACP-EC Council of Ministers (05/05/2004)

The 29th session of the ACP-EU joint Council of Ministers takes place in Gaborone, Botswana on 06-07/05/2004. The EU delegation will be led by Minister Kitt from the Irish presidency. Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Mr Poul Nielson will represent the European Commission. The first day of discussions will be dedicated to issues linked to EU-ACP trade and development cooperation. Main points to be covered include: Economic partnership agreements and Trade co-operation, development cooperation, compensating ACP's for export earnings losses, incorporating the EDF into the EU-budget, HIV-AIDS, and revision of certain provisions of the ACP-EC partnership.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/105|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

EU rules on animal by-products set to apply for imports (03/05/2004)

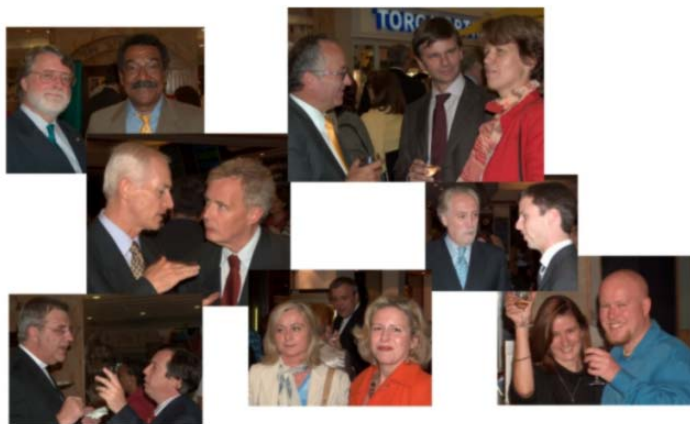
The European Commission has adopted a series of transitional and permanent implementing measures to prepare for the application of the import provisions of the Animal By-Products Regulation as of 01/05/2004. The key objective of the Regulation is to revamp the veterinary legislation on animal by-products (i.e. parts of a slaughtered animal that are not consumed by humans), basically only allowing certain products to enter the feed chain. ... Third countries export considerable quantities of animal by-products to the EU, either in the form of feed for farmed animals or pets (e.g. fishmeal, canned pet food) or as raw materials (e.g. tallow, bones, hides and skins) intended for the manufacture of such feed or for technical/industrial uses (production of cosmetics, medicinal products, medical devices, leather, glue, paint, plastic materials, etc). Only material derived from animals declared fit for human consumption can be imported or used for the production of animal feed. Slightly less stringent conditions apply for other uses, such as biogas and oleo-chemical products.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/588|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Iraq reconstruction: Commission releases €160 million (03/05/2004)

The European Commission is releasing €160 million to the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq. The money will be used to restore and strengthen the delivery of key public services, to improve livelihoods and to reduce poverty and to strengthen governance, human rights and civil society. This allocation is part of the €200 million pledged by the Commission at the Madrid International Donors conference for Iraq 2003-2004. External Relations Commissioner, Chris Patten, said: "Although the security situation continues to impose limits on all those who want to help with the reconstruction of Iraq, the European Union is determined to play its part in building a better future for the Iraqi people. Our priorities are to build democracy, to deliver decent public services, and help to create jobs. The money we are releasing today will be devoted to these aims." See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/584|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

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Images taken at the Film Festival Launch reception,
Cinema Nouveau, Brooklyn Mall, Pretoria