



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 January – 5 February 2004

Headline News

EU-ACP Parliamentary Delegation visits Southern Africa (03/02/2004)

A delegation consisting of parliamentarians from the European Union as well as from the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific bloc of countries is currently in South Africa. The delegation, headed by Ms Glenys Kinnock (MEP), Co-president of the ACP-EU Joint Assembly, is due to meet with President Mbeki, Trade Minister Erwin, Speaker of Parliament (F Ginwala) and Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (N Pandor), as well as with various South African Parliamentarians. Discussions covering conflict in Africa, the Africa Union, HIV/Aids, trade and development, as well Zimbabwe are planned. Later this week the delegation is set to meet President Muluzi in Malawi. See: **EU to dip into development funds for peace in Africa (04/02/2004)**; <http://www.bday.co.za/bday/content/direct/1,3523,1535316-6098-0,00.html>



Mrs G Kinnock (MEP) flanked by South African President T Mbeki & Ambassador M Lake in Pretoria

EU-ACP: EU launches regional trade negotiations with Eastern and Southern Africa (05/02/2004)

The EU and 16 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa have decided to join forces and promote trade and development by negotiating a region-to-region Economic and Partnership Agreement (EPA). By opening up trade between both regions and setting up clear rules for trade, the EPA will contribute to the economic integration of the region. Tearing down barriers to trade among themselves is the necessary complement to the almost full access to the EU market already enjoyed by these countries. See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/169|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

See also: **EU Eastern and Southern Africa trade: facts and figures (05/02/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/25|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Commission takes steps to further improve aid delivery to Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (04/02/2004)

The European Commission (EC) has adopted a number of proposals to improve the EU-ACP Partnership Agreement that was signed in Cotonou in June 2000. The proposals are made ahead of negotiations between EU and ACP on a planned revision of the Cotonou agreement to start in May 2004. The main objective of the proposals is to further improve the conditions for an efficient delivery of EC development assistance to ACP countries. Proposals include: (i) increasing flexibility in the allocation of resources to better adapt to new needs and to allow better responsiveness to international initiatives and conflicts; (ii) redefining and decentralising management of development aid funds in ACP countries in order to simplify implementation and strengthen local ownership; (iii) promoting wider regional integration between ACP and non-ACP countries by facilitating co-operation with their regional organisations.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/167|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Other News

Avian influenza: EU experts in Vietnam help investigating threat to human health (04/02/2004)

Two EU public health experts have arrived in Vietnam to join a World Health Organisation (WHO) team working to contain the avian influenza outbreak in Asia. They join an EU animal health expert sent to Vietnam last week to assist in efforts to eradicate the disease from the country's poultry farms (see MEX/04/0129). Avian influenza is highly contagious among chickens and other birds but is usually difficult for humans to catch. However, the number of human death from the current epidemic in Asia has risen to thirteen and the WHO has declared containing the disease to be a public health priority.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/165|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

See also: **Avian influenza outbreak in Asia: Member States agree to prolong on poultry import embargo (03/02/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/160|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Trade implications of EU enlargement: Facts and Figures ... (04/02/2004)

... also, by 01/05/2004, the EU trade agreements will apply to the territory of the new Member States. This requires certain adaptations, notably to secure the level of traditional trade flows. Talks are ongoing with our trading partners, from Chile to South Africa, from Israel to Croatia, with a view to securing such adaptations by 1st May.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/23|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

EU launches on-line helpdesk to foster developing country access to EU markets (02/02/2004)

A new on-line helpdesk set up by the European Commission (<http://export-help.cec.eu.int>) will provide a tool for developing countries' exporters to access more easily the EU market. The free-of-charge helpdesk contains key information on customs duties, customs documentation, rules of origin and trade statistics available on line immediately. A second phase, currently being developed, will widen the range of information to cover product specific import requirements such as sanitary and phytosanitary requirements. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said "With the launch of this helpdesk we want to ensure that exporters in developing countries get the maximum information and assistance in tackling the EU market. For instance we want to ensure there is maximum take-up of the EU's trade preferences. This is a clear example of our commitment to providing technical assistance to developing countries and to make sure that theoretical market access translates into more trade." See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/140|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=
See also: **EU Developing Countries trade relation: key facts and figures (02/02/2004)**
http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/22|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

The Existential Question: Will Britain ever 'actually' join the EU? – Speech by Chris Patten (30/01/2004)



In an address at the University Of Cambridge, the Rt Hon Chris Patten, Commissioner for External Relations observed: "The question is a reminder that the analysis of Britain's relationship with Europe or, to be more prosaically correct, with the other members of the European Union is a subject for psycho-therapists as much as for political scientists. It is a subject that has divided parties, consumed the most promising political careers in flames, enfeebled and even destroyed governments, helped to vulgarise and demean parts of our media, distorted the debate about Britain's world role and purpose, and corroded our ability to pursue our national interest. The subject of Europe continues to provoke a collective nervous breakdown in the political classes. Every government eventually succumbs to the same virus. It is as though a higher destiny had ordained that we can only have a relationship with Europe that inevitably becomes fractious and irritating, a relationship that before long has otherwise perfectly serious politicians going through a pantomime of foot-stamping, finger-wagging, name-calling nonsense. ..."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/52|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Ahead:

- **09-12/02/2004, Plenary Session of the European Parliament, Brussels**
See: http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm
- **10-12/02/2004, European Student Convention, Dublin**
See: http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/meeting.asp?sNavlocator=5.13&list_id=177
- **10-13/02/2004, Global Rice Conference, Rome**
See: <http://www.fao.org/rice2004/en/e-001.htm>

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Photo File:

Mrs G Kinnock (MEP) with Ms F Ginwala, Speaker of Parliament



Mrs G Kinnock (MEP) with Ms N Pandor, Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP)



Mrs G Kinnock (MEP) and Mr M Metsing (MP, Lesotho) meeting with project staff at Orange Farm settlement

Ambassador M Lake and Mr P Jordan (MP, Chairperson of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Portfolio Committee) at a meeting with the EU-ACP Joint Assembly delegation