



**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 July – 5 August 2004

### Headline News

#### **WTO mid-point agreement paves the way a stronger multilateral trading system (31/07/2004)**

Meeting in Geneva, the World Trade Organisation has taken a decision that effectively completes half of the trade negotiations launched in Doha in November 2001- the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). The text adopted sets the parameters of the future package in five key areas: agriculture, industrial products, development issues, trade facilitation, and services. To complete the Round, the framework needs to be filled out, notably with figures. The DDA is crucial to bolstering international economic growth and helping developing countries integrate into the global economy. The decision adopted today gives a clear signal that the multilateral trading system can deliver on the real needs of all its members, especially developing countries, and maintaining an ambitious round that is broad in scope.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1011&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

See also: **The Doha Development Agenda is back on track – Press conference by Pascal Lamy (31/07/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/379&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

#### **Ambassador Lake opens Impressionist Exhibition at the Johannesburg Art Gallery (01/08/2004)**

At the opening of the Johannesburg Art Gallery's Impressionist exhibition, Ambassador Lake said: "Just as Cape Opera's *Fidelio* on Robben Island earlier this year so strongly symbolised the close parallels between Europe's and South Africa's struggles and eventual achievements of freedom and democracy, this exhibition, *From Corot to Monet: Impressionists and Post-Impressionists from the Johannesburg Art Gallery*, also clearly places the spotlight on the close historic ties between the people of South Africa and Europe." The exhibition closes 05/09/2004. Address: Cnr King George & Klein St, Joubert Part, Johannesburg (Gallery closed on Mondays)

See: [http://www.joburg.org.za/aug\\_2002/art\\_collection.stm](http://www.joburg.org.za/aug_2002/art_collection.stm)



Ambassador Michael Lake (r) and Clive Kellner, Curator (Johannesburg Art Gallery)

### Other News

#### **Tackling poverty in Africa: EC allocates over €165 million for Ghana and Madagascar (30/07/2004)**

The European Commission approved programmes in Ghana and Madagascar amounting to €165 million, as part of its ongoing commitment to fighting poverty and promoting economic development in Africa. In Ghana, funds will boost central government spending on poverty reduction, while in southern Madagascar, the Commission will fund a rural development programme implemented by local organisations, and a parallel road upgrading programme to help boost the local economy.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1009&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

#### **EC wants tighter rules to protect wild animals/plants from unsustainable international trade (30/07/2004)**

The Commission adopted a proposal to tighten the international rules for trading in rare species such as the great white shark, the Napoleon fish – popular for aquariums – and timber from the rainforest tree ramin. The proposal will be discussed at the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), in October 2-14 in Bangkok. The Convention protects around 33 000 animals and plants against over-exploitation through international trade and ensures that such trade is sustainable. However, some countries want to ease controls for species such as the African elephant, the minke whale and the American bald eagle. The outcome of the Conference will later be reflected in EU law. See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1002&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

### Ahead:

- **15/09/2004 – Conference: Collective Preferences & Global Governance, Brussels**

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/global/csd/conf\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/global/csd/conf_en.htm)

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