



**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.*



**4 – 10 July 2003**

**Special Message – for immediate distribution:**

**"Africa: Is Europe doing its part?"**

**By European Commission President, Romano Prodi**

*This week's meeting of African heads of State in the Mozambican capital Maputo marks a crucial turning-point in the short history of the African Union (AU). One year since the AU was launched in South Africa, the Maputo Summit will set up the institutions for African nations to fight poverty, promote democracy and build peace.*

*The OAU accompanied the African conquest of independence and the end of apartheid, but the organisation did not manage to keep peace on the continent. This key role is now taken up by the AU.*

*We know the price to Africa and global security that has resulted from the lack of attention paid by the international community to Africa's problems: genocide, millions of deaths in various conflicts and chaos in many countries. We are witness to the despair of Africa's youth, who often have no option but to emigrate to Europe, even when this is illegal and carries high risks. We understand the individual and collective misery inherent in the average African's life expectancy of 47 years.*

*We must therefore support the African Union and NEPAD (New Partnership for African Development launched by African heads of State) because these initiatives signal Africa's determination to take its destiny in its own hands. The major industrialised regions must now join in efforts to support the Africans' own agenda.*

**Fostering peace**

*We agree that conflict prevention, peace keeping and peace building are activities best carried out by Africans. African ownership in this area should be supported and encouraged by the international community, which should provide financial and political support. The EU has done this in the recent past in places such as Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These steps mark a maturing of EU security-policy thinking and I warmly welcome them. This is also why I have supported French efforts in Côte d'Ivoire and British intervention in Sierra Leone. These operations have served to avoid the worst and preserve the chances of a peaceful, political solution for these countries and for West Africa as a whole.*

*But this is not enough!*

*If the Africans want to further develop their own capacities, the European Commission is willing to propose to EU Member States and their African partners that part of the EU development funds could be used to develop the tools to support African peace-keeping operations.*

**Improving health**

*The very first symptoms of poverty are rundown health-care systems that have proven incapable of halting the very rapid spread of AIDS and other communicable diseases. To improve health in Africa, the biggest challenge is therefore to develop and sustain the capacity of poor countries to deliver basic health services. Donors can best support this through general support for public finances, debt relief and good policies in the health sector. This is the basic policy stance of EU development aid.*

*The EU has so far pledged \$2.5 billion, or 54% of total pledges, to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. For 2004 alone, current EU pledges to the Fund amount to \$425 million. This means the EU pledge is more than twice as high as the US pledge of \$200 million. We acknowledge, however, and welcome the US announcement of a \$15 billion AIDS package, which demonstrates a growing understanding in the US administration and Congress.*

We should also remember, as last year's Johannesburg Conference stressed, that the lack of safe water and sanitation is causing more deaths than armed conflicts. That is why I intend giving fresh impetus soon to the proposal I put to the members of the European Council to set up a European Fund for Water in Africa

#### Ending hunger

Hunger remains a sad reality on the African continent. The solution must be to eradicate the need for African governments to rely chronically on charity, media campaigns and donor pity. Europe believes that developing a strong, export-oriented African agricultural sector will ensure both long-term development and African dignity.

This approach is reflected in our development cooperation with Africa. In 2001 we disbursed some \$385 million in support of African agricultural development, which is equivalent to 7.7 times US disbursements. Both amounts are below, far below, needs.

This determination to help African governments end hunger on the African continent is shared by our US partners. But we clearly differ on the method. Although we acknowledge the importance of the amounts allocated by the US, we are concerned about the features and orientations of US food-aid policies, which mainly concentrate on in-kind donations and surplus disposal, while we try to give as much as possible in the form of grants used to purchase locally.

The continuing US assertion that the EU is hindering the development of biotechnology and bio-crops in Africa is unacceptable and quite simply false. The EU has not advised African governments to refuse American GMO food. We have repeatedly stated that recipient countries should be allowed to make their own decisions on biotechnology and GMO imports. And we confirmed this with the recent decision of the European Parliament to accept all GMOs that respect the precautionary principle.

#### Exploit trade opportunities

We agree that nations prosper when they embrace free trade and the rule of law, and the EU continues to be the poor countries' major trading partner. Exports from developing countries to the EU have risen by 15% per year since 1995, and by 1999 the developing countries had a trade surplus with the EU. EU agricultural imports from developing countries amount to some €36 billion, which is more than the combined imports of the US, Canada, Australia and Japan. This will increase further with the EU's decision in 2001 to grant the least-developed countries quota and tariff-free access for all products to EU markets.

Farm subsidies are still an important concern of developing countries. Here I think all rich countries could do much better. The EU is moving in the right direction. Over the last decade we have reformed the Common Agricultural Policy and reduced export subsidies from 25% to 5% of export value. As recently as 26 June, the EU adopted a development-friendly reform of the CAP. While the EU is definitely moving, albeit too slowly, towards less market distortion, the US has gone in the opposite direction, increasing agricultural subsidies in a massive farmer-assistance package signed by the President in May 2002.

#### Development aid

While trade and investment are powerful growth factors, development aid will continue to be a necessary tool to harness African efforts.

EU development aid amounts to 0.34% of GDP and the EU has pledged to go even further and bring this to 0.39% by 2006. This is not enough and we recognise it. And an increasing number of EU countries have reached or will soon reach the UN target of 0.7%. But total US aid contributions still stood at only 0.12% of GDP at the end of 2002, and may increase to 0.15 % in 2006 as a result of the most recent US announcements. We do appreciate this US effort to catch up with its OECD partners, but the gap will widen unless further US increases are announced and implemented with a greater sense of urgency.

In terms of aid volume, the EU provides over half the global aid (over \$29 billion out of \$57 billion in 2002), compared to the US figure of \$12 billion. In absolute figures, official aid amounts to \$76 per European and \$43 per American citizen.

The challenge for us Europeans is to step up this effort and rally the new member countries, while continuing to step up the effectiveness, flexibility and speed of execution of our aid. With our African partners I intend tackling the reform of our procedures for implementing our aid to restore the flexibility it has lost over the years.

#### Europe is doing its part, but even that is not enough

Europe welcomes this broader discussion on our policies' overall impact on the poor. The Europeans must provide more development aid than anyone else, but it is legitimate to ask about the rest. The Africans are not asking Europe or the US for charity. What I hear from my African colleagues is a clear appeal to the rich countries to put policies in place that will allow Africa's peoples to take their destiny in their own hands.

#### **Headline News:**

#### **EU-Africa Bringing the dialogue forward (04/07/2003)**

The European Commission has adopted a Communication on 'The EU-Africa dialogue'. The Communication is adopted at a crucial time three months after the EU-Africa Summit was postponed and as African leaders are preparing to meet in Maputo,

Mozambique for the first meeting of the African Union (AU) since it was launched one year ago in Durban. The Communication assesses the state of the EU-Africa dialogue and suggests ways of bringing it forward.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/948|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/948|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

**Other News:**

**“WTO challenge against EU sugar will hurt developing countries” says EC (10/07/2003)**

The EU deeply regrets the decision by Brazil, Australia and Thailand to request a WTO panel against the EU common market organisation for sugar. These three countries are challenging the right of the EU to export sugar without export refunds, as well as the special arrangements for sugar imports from a number of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, as agreed in the Uruguay Round. In the last months sugar exporting ACP countries have expressed their strong concern and opposition to the Brazilian, Australian and Thai action, which runs the risk of undermining preferential ACP sugar exports to Europe.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/993|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/993|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

**Morocco: EIB lends €14 million for port infrastructure (09/07/2003)**

The European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Union's financing institution, is providing €14 million to the Kingdom of Morocco for the repair and upgrading of breakwaters and quays, along with the improvement of operational safety, at five of the country's ports: Tangiers, Larache, El Jadida, Essaouira and Sidi Ifni. The works will be carried out by the Ports Directorate of the Ministry of Equipment, Housing and Town and Country Planning. The project forms part of the Kingdom of Morocco's National Economic and Social Development Plan 2000-2004.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=BEI/03/75|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=BEI/03/75|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

**EC proposes strict ethical guidelines on EU funding of human embryonic stem cell research (09/07/2003)**

The Commission adopted a proposal for guidelines on EU-funded human embryonic stem cell research. The EU 6th Research Framework Programme (FP6 2003-2006), as adopted by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament in 2002, allows for the funding of human embryonic stem cell research in relation to the fight against major diseases. Such research, in particular when it involves the derivation of stem cells from human supernumerary embryos, can only take place within a framework of clear and strict ethical guidelines.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/969|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/969|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

**Middle East: Commission grants €10 million in humanitarian aid for Palestinians (08/07/2003)**

The European Commission has approved a €10 million humanitarian aid package to support victims of the crisis in the Palestinian Territories and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. The funds, allocated via the Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), which comes under the responsibility of Commissioner Poul Nielson, will help meet the basic food, health, household, water/sanitation and protection needs of vulnerable groups. The programme will be implemented by ECHO's usual partners such as non-governmental organisations and the International Committee of the Red Cross. ECHO has a long-standing humanitarian commitment to vulnerable people in the Middle East. With this latest funding decision, its support for victims of the ongoing crisis since the start of the second Intifada in September 2000 has now topped €100 million.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/958|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/958|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

**Namibia: Commission grants €100,000 to victims of flooding in the Caprivi Strip region (07/07/2003)**

The European Commission has adopted a decision to provide humanitarian support to vulnerable populations affected by flooding in the Caprivi Strip region of North-eastern Namibia. €100,000 will be channelled by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), which comes under the responsibility of Commissioner Poul Nielson, through the International Federation of the Red Cross. The overall goal of the relief operation to be funded under this decision is to alleviate the impact of flooding on the Caprivi Strip region, as a contribution to the Government of Namibia's own efforts. The situation in the flood-affected region is likely to remain critical for the next three months.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/956|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/956|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

**Council lifts and modifies sanctions on Iraq (07/07/2003)**

The Council adopted measures lifting most of the sanctions on Iraq and leaving in place (in a modified form) some restrictive measures in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1486(2003) of 22 May.

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PRES/03/195|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PRES/03/195|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

**Declaration by Presidency on behalf of the EU concerning the presidential election in Togo (04/07/2003)**

The European Union notes the proclamation by the Constitutional Court of Togo of the official result of the elections on 1 June according to which Mr Gnassingbe Eyadema was elected President of the Togolese Republic. The European Union recalls its declaration of 12 February, in which it urged the Togolese authorities to ensure that the elections were held in a free and transparent manner so as to promote the democratic process in Togo, in accordance with the spirit of the 1999 Lomé Framework Agreement according to which, inter alia, President Eyadema would not stand for a third term of office. The European Union expresses its serious concern about the incidents occurring before, during and since the election ...

See: [http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PESC/03/72|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PESC/03/72|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)

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