



**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.*



## 5 – 11 November 2004

### Headline News

#### **Partners in Progress - SA & EU review their Development Cooperation (04/11/2003)**

The European Commission (EC) and the South African (SA) Government this week concluded their annual round of consultations aimed at reviewing the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development (EPRD) in South Africa. The programme, made up of EC grants in excess of R1 billion annually, is the largest donor programme in the country. It is complemented by a similar amount available in European Investment Bank loans. Ambassador Michael Lake said: "We are pleased with the EPRD's overall progress as we meet our targets in terms of both efficiency and effectiveness."



#### **The signing of the European Constitution – Speech by Romano Prodi (29/10/2004)**

At the signing of the European Constitution in Rome, Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission, said: "Today, Europe is reaffirming the unique nature of its political organisation in order to respond to the challenges of globalisation, and to promote its values and play its rightful role on the international stage. The new Constitution does not confine itself to consolidating the political and institutional system set up by the Treaty of Rome. It contains innovations that will make the Union more democratic, more effective and more transparent. ..."

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/479&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### Other News

#### **Commission participates in public discourse on the impact of the TDCA for EU-SA relations (04/11/2004)**



The South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) hosted conference, entitled *The TDCA: impacts, lessons & perspectives for EU-South and southern African relations*, provided an opportunity to the European Commission's Directorates of both Trade and Development, as well as its Delegation in Pretoria, to discuss key issues with government representatives and civil society. Included were presentations on

SA-EU, SADC-EU & AU-EU political dialogue, the TDCA (Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement) & the Southern African EPAs (Economic Partnership Agreements), as well as the Economic Cooperation Chapter. For more information please contact Mr Peter Draper: +2711-339-2021, +2711-339-2154 (f) at SAIIA.

#### **Commission offers fresh support for the electoral process in Iraq (04/11/2004)**

As EU leaders prepare to meet the Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi at the European Council on 5th November, the European Commission is setting out the details of a €31.5 million package to support election activities in Iraq. Most of this sum will be channelled through the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq, although the Commission will fund a number of additional activities to support the election process. These include European election experts to work with the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq and the United Nations in Baghdad, and to train Iraqi election observers. These measures show the importance that the EU attaches to the holding of inclusive and transparent elections in Iraq, and its commitment to supporting the political transition towards constitutionally elected Iraqi Government. The package, which includes €16.5 million of fresh money, brings the Commission's total contribution to Iraq in 2003-2004 to almost €320 million.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1340&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **President Prodi congratulates President Bush on his re-election (03/11/2004)**

"My warm congratulations to President Bush on his re-election after a difficult ballot whose outcome was far from sure. As the country's leader in the most dramatic time of its history, he has had to deal with the horrifying onslaught of terrorism. I hope his second term will see the United States and the whole world enjoy the political stabilisation and the guarantee of collective security we have all done our utmost to ensure. Europe will continue to work to strengthen its bonds of friendship and cooperation with the United States. Those bonds, which have never been called into question, are vital to maintaining peace in the world on the basis of multilaterally shared principles and values."



### **Access to medicines: EC proposes to allow export of generic medicines to poor countries (29/10/2004)**

The European Commission has proposed a Regulation to allow manufacturers of generic pharmaceuticals to produce patented medicines for export to "countries in need" without sufficient capacity to produce them. The Regulation would implement within the EU a WTO decision of 30/08/2003 under which national authorities can grant "compulsory licences" for such production if certain conditions are fulfilled. One requirement is that the destination country must have notified the WTO that it is seeking the medicine covered by the licence. The proposed Regulation puts no further restriction on the medicines and diseases to be covered. To help ensure that medicines get to the patients who need them and to protect patent holders, customs authorities will be able to prevent the re-importation into the EU of medicines produced under the system.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1332&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **EC to strengthen its efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and Tuberculosis (29/10/2004)**

The European Commission has adopted a comprehensive policy framework to strengthen its efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. The strategy confirms poverty reduction as the overall focus of its efforts. For the first time it also proposes to address these three diseases in the context of human rights and human security. Furthermore it proposes a coherent response to the three diseases across all of its external relations. The European Commission has allocated over €1.1 billion to fight the three diseases from 2003 - 2006.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1336&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **EU action against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria 2000-2005 (29/10/2004)**

<http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/04/250&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Commission proposes €250 million to improve access to modern energy services in ACP (28/10/2004)**

The European Commission adopted a proposal to set up a €250 million Energy Facility to increase access to modern energy services for people in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP). This is a significant contribution to the EU Energy Initiative that was launched at the World Summit for Social Development in Johannesburg in 2002. The proposed facility is designed to have an important catalytic effect in generating additional funds for energy. The facility will: (i) promote energy initiatives, provide information and build research and management capacity in ACP countries; (ii) provide the missing link in financing sustainable Energy projects and activities.

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1322&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **EU-WTO: WTO gives thumbs up to EU trade policy (27/10/2004)**

The EU was praised at its seventh trade policy review for its instrumental role in the promotion of the WTO negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and the strengthening of the multilateral trading system. The WTO also commended the EU for the results of its agricultural and fishery reforms. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said that "Today the WTO gave an "A" grade to EU trade policy. This confirms that the international community perception of the EU trade policy is more positive now than ever before. This good result is also a clear acknowledgement of the instrumental role played by the EU in putting the DDA back on track."

See: <http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1316&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### ***Ahead:***

- **08/11/2004 – EU-India Summit, The Hague**  
See: [http://www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS\\_ITEM=9E3CD5874C834339B701942610AB2E63X1X50410X05](http://www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS_ITEM=9E3CD5874C834339B701942610AB2E63X1X50410X05)
- **08/11/2004 – EU-ECOWAS Ministerial meeting, Accra**  
See: [http://www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS\\_ITEM=034773A7FE49464982B24281A0A886FDX1X34095X99](http://www.eu2004.nl/default.asp?CMS_ITEM=034773A7FE49464982B24281A0A886FDX1X34095X99)
- **15/11/2004 – President T Mbeki to visit the European Commission, Brussels**

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### **EU terminates anti-dumping proceeding on hot-rolled coils**

Subsequent to a review of the definitive anti-dumping duties and undertakings on imports of hot-rolled coils (iron & steel products) originating in South Africa, the Council of the European Union adopted the following regulation:

**"The anti-dumping proceedings concerning imports of certain flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600mm or more, not clad, plated or coated, in coils, not further worked than hot-rolled originating in ... South Africa are hereby terminated."**

(This regulation was published in the EU Official Journal on 10/09/2004. This regulation applies retroactively from 20/03/2003)