



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 April 2003

"Let us not hesitate in seizing this opportunity" – Speech by Günter Verheugen, Commissioner responsible for Enlargement (European Parliament plenary session - Strasbourg, 09/04/2003)

"Today you are called on to decide on one of the most important questions for the future of our continent, namely whether we will have 10 new members on 1 May 2004. This is one of the most important decisions taken by the House in this current parliament. We are reaching the end of the long road, driven along this road by the determination to finally put an end to the division of Europe. Parliament has always given its whole-hearted support. Unlike any other parliament in Europe, the European Parliament refused, even during the Cold War, to let drop the subject of the gaping wound created by a divided Europe and pleaded for a common European future where peoples could determine their future freely and democratically. Today's decision concerns the millions of people who paved the way for a free and united Europe with courage and determination. The peoples who have earned their place amongst us. The millions of people who for many years have shouldered the hard and far-reaching reforms needed to build modern western societies. ..."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/1870|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Commission adopts €9.5 mil funding decision for emergency humanitarian aid to Iraq (09/04/2003)

The European Commission has adopted a humanitarian aid decision for €9.5 million (part of the €21 million immediate assistance announced on 20 March IP/03/416) to provide emergency relief for victims of the war in Iraq. See:

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/5230|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Middle East: Commission provides €15 mil in humanitarian aid for the Palestinian victims of the crisis (09/04/2003)

The European Commission is providing a further relief package worth €15 million to Palestinian victims of the ongoing crisis in the Middle East. The aid will support provision of food, medicines, water and sanitation to meet the needs of the most vulnerable Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as well as in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The funds will be made available through the Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) which comes under the responsibility of Commissioner Poul Nielson. The relief package will be channelled through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the World Food Programme (WFP), Non Governmental Organisations (NGO) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This decision brings to nearly €100 million the amount allocated for the region since the outbreak of the second Intifada in September 2000.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/5190|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Enlarged Europe and the Mediterranean meet to discuss enterprise (08/04/2003)

On 10 and 11 April, the European Commission Delegation in Tunis, in conjunction with the Ministry for Industry and Energy, is organising an International Congress on "Free Trade Area: the challenge of competitiveness and industrial modernisation". The congress, which will be held at the Gammarth Carthage Palace Hotel, Tunis, focuses on the Euro Tunisie Enterprise (ETE) programme, the €20 million European instrument that has supported the Tunisian national programme for small and medium-sized enterprises since 1996. The Congress has a dual aim: to foster the exchange and transfer of know-how and experiences between the MEDA countries and the EU candidate countries and also to highlight the role and importance of the support of the European Union's programmes.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/5170|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

"The Enlarged European Union - Partner of the Developing World: The Impact of EU-Enlargement on European Development Co-operation Policy" – Speech by Poul Nielson, Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid (Opening session of the international policy dialogue meeting - Berlin, 07/04/2003)

"In 2004 we'll be 25 countries in Europe and 193 in the World. More than one out of eight countries in the world will be members of the EU. This meeting asks a very simple question: how will the EU of 25 relate to the 143 developing countries in the world? ... My contribution to the discussion is to ask: Why is the EU doing development co-operation - which way are we going? ..." See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/186|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Co-existence of genetically modified and conventional crops: roundtable on latest research results (04/04/2003)

A roundtable meeting to examine the latest research results on the co-existence of GM and non-GM crops will be hosted by the European Commission on Thursday 24 April. A wide range of stakeholders, representing industry, NGOs, consumers and other players, will attend the meeting. The aim of the roundtable is to discuss the scientific basis for any agronomic and other measures that may be necessary to facilitate the sustainable co-existence of these different agricultural practices.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/495|0|RAPID&lq=EN

The future of textiles and clothing after 2005 - impact of the elimination of textiles and clothing quotas on trade, industry and development world-wide (Conference: 05-06/05/2003, Brussels)

After over three decades of existence, quantitative restrictions on the import of textile and clothing products will become part of history on 1st January 2005. Such an event will have a major impact on a sector which accounts for some €350 billion a year in international trade, and which is of crucial importance for many developing countries as well as in other regions in the world. See: http://trade-info.cec.eu.int/textiles/conf_index.cfm

The Commission Outlines the EU Strategy for Cancun - Presentation by MP Carl, Director General, DG Trade (Trade Negotiating Committee of the WTO, 02/04/2003)

"Where are we? This is the beginning of the real negotiations, not the end. The chips are largely on the table. We are not "deadlocked" simply because our respective proposals or positions differ in their degree of ambition. If that was the definition of deadlock, all issues on the agenda are similarly affected. Anything else would be surprising only 18 months since Doha. ..." See: http://europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/lamy/speeches_articles/sp_mpc10.htm

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