



**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 February 2005



### Headline News



#### **Delegation launches new Website (10/02/2005)**

The Pretoria Delegation of the European Commission will launch its new Website on 14/01/2005. The expanded and newly designed site was necessitated by the increasing number of requests the Delegation deals with daily, covering anything from trade data, funding opportunities, and media information to forensic auditing and EU youth initiatives. Commenting on the new site Ambassador Michael Lake said: "This new facility will improve and simplify the public's access to relevant EU/SA related information. It also creates greater transparency of our activities in South Africa and provides its visitors with the opportunity to directly to interact with the Delegation on specific issues." See: <http://www.delzaf.cec.eu.int>

#### **Commission sets positive agenda for 2005 review of the Sustainable Development Strategy (09/02/2005)**

With the adoption of the orientations for the review of the Sustainable Development Strategy European Commission President José Manuel Barroso sets a positive agenda for sustainable development. "...Without clear political leadership and commitment to change, our children and grandchildren will not be able to enjoy the prosperity and quality of life we have today. Climate change is accelerating, we are putting increasing pressure on our natural resources, biodiversity is at stake and narrowing the wealth gap between North and South remains an enormous challenge. If we want to preserve the delicate balance between economic, social and environmental concerns needed for a sustainable society, we must take action now". See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/156&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Com Mandelson proposes measures to complement G8 push on debt, aid and development (04/02/2005)**

In a speech at the London School of Economics, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson set out a plan of concrete actions to put the weight of international trade policy at the service of development in 2005. He called for more co-ordination between EU Member States in targeting aid, and argued that beyond simply opening their markets to developing countries, developed countries needed to help them build their capacity to trade.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/77&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **See also: An action plan for trade and development in 2005: the EU, the WTO, the G8 (04/02/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/39&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **EU launches new export help service for developing countries (04/02/2005)**



The EU launched an improved and multilingual version of its on-line Expanding Exports Helpdesk, intended to help developing country producers seeking to export to EU markets. The new Expanding Exports Helpdesk service includes new on-line features and key services now available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. There is a new 'Market Place' service to facilitate deals between traders and an enlarged database of trade statistics. Refer to the Helpdesk at: <http://export-help.cec.eu.int>. Users of the helpdesk are invited to make suggestions as to further information which they consider could be usefully added to the helpdesk to better serve their needs (email: [export-help@cec.eu.int](mailto:export-help@cec.eu.int)).

### Other News

#### **Commission accelerates preferential trade measures to benefit tsunami-hit countries (10/02/2005)**

In its most recent response to the Tsunami disaster, the European Commission has proposed to accelerate the entry into force of the new EU preferential trade regime for developing countries. The new Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) will now come into effect on 01/04/2005. The focus of the new regime is on developing countries most in need such as the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia. The EU GSP, already by far the most generous in the world, provides for further tariff concessions, in particular in the clothing and the fishery sectors.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/160&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **See also: GSP: The new EU preferential terms of trade for developing countries (10/02/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/43&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Tsunami: further EC help to rebuild fisheries & aquaculture sector in tsunami-hit areas (10/02/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/164&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>



### **EU-funded South African Police Service's Emerging Leader Programme bears fruit (09/01/2005)**

This week, in Johannesburg, Bloemfontein and East London, the South African Police Service (SAPS) will present close to 800 certificates to its first intake of Service members on the EU-funded Emerging Leader Programme. This initiative seeks to assist in the training of as many as 1500 members as managers and an equal number as supervisors. The ELP makes up part of the €9.26 million (about R70 million) education component of the overall EU commitment to the five year Capacity Building and Institutional Development Programme for the SAPS and the Department of Safety and Security valued at €18.5 million.

### **Climate change: Commission outlines core elements for post 2012 strategy (09/02/2005)**

The European Commission has adopted a communication setting out future policies on climate change. It includes a set of proposals designed to structure the future negotiations of the EU with its global partners over climate change policies after 2012 when the first commitment period under the Kyoto protocol ends. These proposals open the door to bring major emitters but also rapidly emerging economies on board. The communication also suggests maritime transport and aviation as sectors that must be included in a post-2012 regime.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/155&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Winning the Battle Against Global Climate Change (09/02/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/42&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Erasmus Mundus: an additional 69 universities join the programme (09/02/2005)**

The European Commission has selected a further 17 Erasmus Mundus master's courses, involving 69 European universities new to the scheme. The selected master's courses will start at the beginning of the next academic year (2005-2006) and come on top of the 19 that already started last autumn. The Erasmus Mundus programme aims to strengthen European cooperation and international ties in higher education. For the academic year 2005-6, the number of recipients of Erasmus scholarships will increase to about 900 students and 100 academics. This programme is open to students from third countries. See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/154&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Education & Training – the Erasmus Mundus Programme**

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/mundus/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/mundus/index_en.html)

### **Customs: Commission and Member States step up action against counterfeiting and piracy (08/02/2005)**

Statistics just published by the European Commission show a significant increase in the amount of counterfeit and pirated articles seized at the EU's external borders in 2003. Customs officials seized almost 100 million of such articles in 2003 compared with 85 million in 2002, of an estimated value of one billion euros. Of particular concern in terms of consumer health and safety is the increase in the number of seizures of games and children's toys, food products and medicines.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/147&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Counterfeiting & piracy: Frequently Asked Questions (08/02/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/40&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Security Research: Commission prepares for the unexpected (07/02/2005)**

The recent tsunami in Asia and a number of terrorist attacks over the last years have demonstrated the need for quick and organised responses in crisis management situations. How can we respond quickly and effectively? Recent experience in crisis management situations suggests that technology can help save lives and restore security. The European Commission is planning a wide-ranging European Security Research Programme to help reinforce the security of European citizens.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/145&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

See also: **Terrorist attacks and Tsunami: EU Research to prepare for the unexpected (07/02/2005)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/38&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **Presidency Declaration on behalf of the EU re. International Com of Inquiry on Darfur Report (07/02/2005)**

The European Union welcomes the report, and in particular the recommendations, by the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur ... The EU recalls that, from the outset, and in particular in the Council conclusions of 26 July 2004, it has stated its support for the establishment of this Commission of Inquiry. The EU expresses its concern at the findings of the inquiry, which attribute to the Government of Sudan and the Janjaweed responsibility for serious violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law, which could be qualified as crimes against humanity. The EU notes that the Commission also found rebel forces to be responsible for committing acts which could be classified as war crimes.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=PESC/05/8&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Ahead:**

- **11/02/2005 – Civil society hearing: The EU's future development policy, Brussels**  
For more details, please contact: [Vasco de Oliveira](#) or [Christian Weger](#) at the EESC Press Office
- **12-20/02/2005 - Earth & Space Week 2005, Brussels**  
See: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/space/esw/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/space/esw/index_en.htm)

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