



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 March 2004

Headline News

EU supports Decade of Democracy

The European Commission is proud to announce funding of over R6.6 million for events celebrating South Africa's Decade of Democracy. The EU is South Africa's main development partner, providing over €135 million in grant funding each year through a programme jointly managed with the National Treasury. The Decade of Democracy grants will be channelled to 14 South African civil society organisations through the EU-SA partnership facility, the Conference, Workshop and Cultural Initiatives Fund (CWCIF). The 14 events selected for funding include publications, radio and TV programmes, film, music and exhibitions. Ambassador Michael Lake said: "The 10th Anniversary of Democracy is of special significance for the EU-SA partnership because of the European Union's long-standing support for the end of apartheid and the establishment of democracy in South Africa." For more information, contact: Coordinator@cwci.co.za or (012)-342-3911.

EC to boost efficiency of EU development aid through better coordination & harmonisation (11/03/2004)

The European Commission adopted its second annual report on Member States' efforts to deliver on their commitments taken in the context of the Financing for Development Conference in Monterrey (2002). The report concludes that Member States remain firmly on target to significantly increase their volume of Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2006. Based on the current forecasts and road maps, a total of over €19 billion of additional EU ODA will be made available during 2003-2006. The annual ODA effort will progressively increase to €38.5 billion or 0.42 % of the total EU GNI in 2006. This is €10 billion more per year in comparison with 2002, and equivalent to a 35% increase. The estimates also cover countries that join the EU this year.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/326|0|RAPID&lg=en&display=

All provisions of the Kyoto Protocol now legally binding in the EU (10/03/2004)

A Decision of the European Parliament and the Council entered into force that makes all the remaining requirements under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol legally binding in all Member States. The targets of the EU and its individual Member States related to emissions of greenhouse gases became binding in 2002. The new Decision relates in particular to the way in which emissions have to be monitored and reported in accordance with the Protocol. With this step, all provisions of the Kyoto Protocol have become EU law and the EU has reaffirmed its global leadership in fighting climate change and implementing the Protocol. See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/322|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Other News

The new EU of 25 compared to EU15

With the accession of 10 new Member States - the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia - the European Union will undergo the greatest enlargement in its history. What will be the impact of the 10 Acceding Countries on the new EU compared with EU15? And how will the EU25 compare with the United States?

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=STAT/04/36|0|RAPID&lg=en&display=



Renewal of the fisheries protocol between the EU and the Ivory Coast (10/03/2004)

The EC, on behalf of the European Union, and the Ivory Coast have initialled a new 3-year fisheries protocol to their fisheries agreement for the period 01/07/2004 - 30/06/2007. The content of the new protocol reflects the desire of the two parties to develop a partnership aimed at establishing sustainable fisheries in the Ivory Coast. Fishing possibilities have been slightly increased for both deep-water species and for tuna. The financial contribution, to be increased by 11% to over €1 million a year, has been entirely earmarked for measures that will help achieve this objective.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/320|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Commission welcomes European Parliament support against counterfeiting and piracy (09/03/2004)

The European Commission welcomed the European Parliament's vote in favour of a Directive on the enforcement of intellectual and industrial property rights, such as copyright and related rights, trademarks, designs or patents. The Directive would require all Member States to apply effective, dissuasive and proportionate remedies and penalties against those engaged in counterfeiting and piracy and so create a level playing field for right holders in the EU. The Commission is hopeful that, as a result of close co-operation between the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council, the Directive will be adopted definitively at first reading, possibly in April 2004. Member States would then have two years to implement it. See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/316|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

EU acts to increase transparency, efficiency and predictability in the use of trade defence (08/03/2003)

EU Member States have endorsed a Commission proposal to introduce greater transparency, efficiency and predictability in the use of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy. Under the new rules, definitive anti-dumping or countervailing measures will be considered adopted unless a simple majority of EU Members States opposes the move.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/310|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Commission takes steps to adapt banana import regime to enlargement (05/03/2004)

In view of accession of ten new Member States on 1 May 2004, appropriate arrangements have to be made to ensure sufficient supply of bananas to consumers in the new Member States. To this end, the current import volumes for bananas have to be increased for an EU of 25. The exact additional volume of bananas will be based on historical imports to the new Member States and is subject to negotiations with our WTO trading partners and hence still to be determined.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/307|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Textiles and Clothing: first meeting of High Level Group to boost European competitiveness (05/03/2004)

The Textiles High Level Group will develop recommendations on measures to improve competitiveness in the European textiles and clothing industry. Participants at the first meeting of the group include three European Commissioners: Erkki Liikanen (Enterprise and Information Society), Pascal Lamy (Trade), and Philippe Busquin (Research), Ministers from four EU Member States, a Member of the European Parliament, and representatives from industry, retailers, distributors, European trade associations, trade unions and local textile and clothing associations. The Group will develop recommendations on how to implement industrial and trade policies in the enlarged EU textiles and clothing sector.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/306|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

International Women's Day: 2004 offers many opportunities to promote the role of women (05/03/2004)

To celebrate International Women's Day, 8 March 2004, the Commission will organise a Conference which will explore the place of women in politics and EU Institutions. This, in a year which includes an unprecedented enlargement of the Union and Parliamentary elections across Europe. President Prodi and Commissioner Wallström will open the Conference, and participants will hear several speakers including Mrs Ene Ergma, President of the Estonian Parliament, Mrs Anne Van Lancker, Member of the European Parliament, Professor of political science at the Université Libre de Bruxelles Bérengère Marques-Pereira, and Senator Sabine de Béthune from the Belgian Parliament.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/305|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: ***Politics, Decision-making, Institutions: how to make women count? – by M Wallström (08/03/2004)***

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/119|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Overview of the Commission's activities to promote gender equality (05/03/2004)

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/46|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

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