



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.



6 - 12 February 2004

Headline News

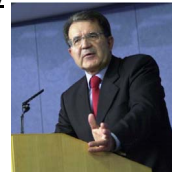
EC adopts plan to help developing countries fight agricultural commodity dependency (12/02/2004)

The European Commission has taken a number of initiatives to help developing countries enhance their export performance and reduce their vulnerability from price fluctuations of major international agricultural commodities such as cotton and coffee. The key objectives of these initiatives are to improve the income of commodity producers in developing countries and reduce producers' and states' income vulnerability to price fluctuations. The initiatives involve a comprehensive EU action plan on agricultural commodity dependency and a wide-ranging strategy for the support to the cotton sector in Africa. The Commission also proposes to simplify the criteria to benefit from FLEX, the EU instrument to compensate African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries for short term fluctuations in export earnings.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/199|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Building our future together – Speech by Pres Prodi to the European Parliament (10/02/2004)

In an address to the European Parliament, Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission said: "Today the Commission adopted the communication outlining the Union's policies and budget for the period 2007-2013. ... the Commission discussed the new Financial Perspective by examining first what needs to be done, what sort of Europe we want - and then looking at the figures and percentages. ... The document is based on three main priorities: (1) to encourage sustainable development, (2) to put the idea of European citizenship into practice, (3) to strengthen the role of the Union as a key player on the international stage."



See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/67|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Other News

NEST creativity: first crop of EU visionary research projects (11/02/2004)

The European Commission presented the first NEST (New and Emerging Science and Technology) projects retained for funding for 2004. These ten projects cover issues such as bio-terrorism, obesity, atom optics and the environment. NEST is a new research activity under the EU 6th Research Framework Programme (FP6 2003-2006), designed to respond to new scientific opportunities and challenges, and promote interdisciplinary high-risk research. NEST will launch more focused calls on emerging topics that will be identified through consultation with the research community. With a budget of €215 million over four years and almost 300 proposals submitted in last October's second round of calls, NEST's potential is great for further unconventional, frontier research.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/191|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

"EU will be better prepared for future epidemics" says Byrne (10/02/2004)

David Byrne, the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, has strongly welcomed the vote in the European Parliament to create a European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). "Outbreaks like SARS in 2003 and bird flu this year have been a wake-up call. Infectious diseases can pose a deadly threat and they do not respect national borders. This new EU agency will enable Europe to be better prepared for future epidemics," said the Commissioner. Work will start later this year on creating a Management Board for the agency. The ECDC is on course to become operational in 2005.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/190|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Commission provides €1 million to combat Avian Influenza in Vietnam (11/02/2004)

The European Commission will provide €1 million to support Vietnam's efforts to combat the Avian Influenza crisis in the country. The funds will be used to purchase urgently needed equipment. Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection David Byrne said, "Vietnam is at the forefront of global efforts to fight the present outbreak of avian flu, which is a menace not just for the region, but for the world at large. It is our duty to support it in this battle."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/192|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

See also: **Avian Influenza and Imports - Declaration at the European Parliament (10/02/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/66|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Plans to deliver €30 mil in humanitarian aid to displaced populations in Burundi & Tanzania (09/02/2004)

The European Commission has adopted two humanitarian aid packages totalling €30 million to meet the needs of vulnerable people in Burundi (€15 million) and Tanzania (€15 million) during 2004. The funds are managed by the Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) under the responsibility of Commissioner Poul Nielson. Projects will be implemented by humanitarian agencies operating in the target regions. Poul Nielson said: "Considerable progress was made towards peace in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2003. This opens up the prospect that the thousands of refugees who have fled conflict and are now living in camps in Tanzania could return to their homelands. ..."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/182|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Bio-diversity: Commission sounds alarm on need to reduce global bio-diversity loss (09/02/2004)

The European Commission will be seeking agreement on concrete measures to put a break on the decline in global bio-diversity at an international conference taking place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 9-20 February. During this 7th Conference of the Parties (COP7) to the Bio-diversity Convention, the 188 parties, including the European Commission, will promote actions to reduce global bio-diversity loss. The Commission hopes to reach agreement on the establishment of a global network of protected areas, indicators to measure bio-diversity and strengthening access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits. See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/168|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **The Convention on Biological Diversity: background and glossary (09/02/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/28|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Bio-diversity Loss: Facts and Figures (09/02/2004)

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/04/27|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Ahead:

- **09-12/02/2004, Plenary Session of the European Parliament, Brussels**
See: http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm
- **10-12/02/2004, European Student Convention, Dublin**
See: http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/meeting.asp?sNavlocator=5,13&list_id=177
- **10-13/02/2004, Global Rice Conference, Rome**
See: <http://www.fao.org/rice2004/en/e-001.htm>

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Magazine of ACP-EU development co-operation - No 201 Nov - Dec 2003

- **Focus:** The European Development Fund
http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/publications/courier/courier201/pdf/en_012.pdf
African governments commit to fighting illegal logging
http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/publications/courier/courier201/pdf/en_014.pdf
Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations
http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/publications/courier/courier201/pdf/en_021.pdf
- **News:** ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly
http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/publications/courier/courier201/pdf/en_005.pdf
The Natali Prize 2003: another African triumphs
http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/publications/courier/courier201/pdf/en_008.pdf
- **Dossier:** Intellectual property
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- **Full Magazine:** http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/publications/publications_courier_en.htm

