



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 June 2003

Headline News:

Creation of the Organisation for an International Geographical Indications Network (ORIGIN) Speech by EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, Brussels (11/06/2003)

"I am delighted to note the presence of producers from developing countries. For Europe, geographical indications are a tool for development of quality in agriculture. And therefore a tool for development. Why? There are for me five reasons:

- ... use of geographical indications is an effective instrument for organisation of the countryside and of professionals ...
- ... geographical indications are a wealth multiplier ...
- ... they encourage a more balanced distribution of added value ...
- Geographical indications stimulate quality and consequently strengthen competitiveness ...
- ... they contribute to the identity of the heritage of our countries and regions ..."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/292|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display

European Commission on the UK debate on Euro membership, Midday Express (10/06/2003)

The European Commission has welcomed on 9 June the ongoing debate in the UK about Euro membership. The report on the "five Treasury economic tests" presented by Chancellor Gordon Brown is a demonstration that the merits of membership continue to be part of the UK European and economic policy agenda. The "five tests" are part of this domestic debate. The Commission does not, in consequence, propose to comment on the analysis. In the same way, questions of a possible UK referendum on the Euro and the timing of any such referendum are national ones. The UK has an "opt out" and therefore no obligation to join the Euro under the current Treaty. We shall continue to follow the debate in the UK with interest while continuing to pursue further integration within the Euro-area.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEX/03/0610|0|RAPID&lg=N&display=

Commission and Tanzania agree a €44 mil programme for water and sanitation provision (10/06/2003)

The European Commission and the government of the United Republic of Tanzania have signed a Financing Agreement "Water Supply Programme Regional Centres" for the benefit of the three towns of Iringa, Mbeya and Mwanza, which together have a population of almost 1 million. The programme will be co-financed by the European Union 8th EDF (European Development Fund) (€33.7 million) and by the Federal Republic of Germany through its development bank KfW (€10.2 million), with a contribution from the Urban Water and Sewerage Authorities of the three towns concerned (€0.97 million). This financing package of €44 million is intended to be the first of a series of three for water and sewerage services in the three towns. See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/815|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Other News:

Proposed Programme for assistance to 3rd countries regarding migration and asylum (11/06/2003)

The Commission has adopted a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council "Establishing a programme for financial and technical assistance to third countries in the area of migration and asylum". The proposal has been presented by commissioners Chris Patten and Antonio Vitorino, respectively in charge of External Relations and Justice and Home Affairs, and contains a multi-annual programme (for 2004 to 2008, with an overall expenditure of €250 million) that gives effect to the Commission's communication on "Integrating migration issues into the EU's external relations" issued in Dec 2002. See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/03/129|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Commission's reaction to Polish referendum (10/06/2003)

On 8 June, the European Commission warmly congratulated Poland on the outcome of the referendum. This decision is a turning point in European history. A great, proud nation is turning the page of a tragic century and freely takes the seat that should have belonged to it right from the start of the process of European integration. ... This clear-cut outcome confirms the courage and consistency with which Poland went through fourteen years of transformation to become a modern democracy, a functioning market economy and eventually a member of the European Union.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEX/03/0610|0|RAPID&lg=N&display=

The Commission's CAP reform proposals: Questions and Answers (10/06/2003)

Why reform, and why reform now? What is the CAP reform looking to achieve? What is the rationale behind proposing new rural development measures? How will farmers benefit from the strengthened rural development policy in practice? What will happen to farmers' incomes? What is in it for developing countries? How would "cross-compliance" be applied? Why a further reform of the dairy sector? Why cut the intervention price for cereals? Will the proposals for the CAP reform result in a real simplification? What about other non-reformed market organisations such as sugar, olive oil, cotton, tobacco, fruit and vegetables? See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/03/128|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Striving for European excellence in clinical research to help cure cancer (10/06/2003)

A better and longer life for cancer patients through enhanced research efforts in cancer clinical trials. At a forum today in Brussels European Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin discussed with researchers and clinicians, specialising particularly in the area of cancer, and with representatives of health authorities in Member States the best way of achieving this goal. Upgrading the quality of clinical research to improve patients' survival chances and quality of life, lies at the heart of the Commission's efforts to establish standards for good clinical practice. At the same time the Commission aims at boosting competitiveness in European research, and at ensuring a high quality of public clinical research.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/812|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Development: Forging a new deal for Africa (09/06/03)

African finance ministers recently met to flesh out plans for boosting sluggish economic growth and reducing poverty across the troubled continent. They saw delivering on pledges - by both African nations and donor states - as key to the success of the new initiative. See: http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/news/news_en.htm#5

Seminar on Social cohesion in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Speech by EU External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten, Brussels (05/06/2003)

"Latin America's recent economic history has been peppered with false dawns and unfulfilled promises. So many stories of success have seen their plots dramatically unravel at just the point when the elusive happy ending seemed within sight. Today it is a continent marked by growing financial and social instability, where pessimism prevails all too often over optimism. For many, it is at a critical point, balanced precariously between deeper crisis, or steady recovery. ..."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/278|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

The Commission's air transport agreements with third countries: Questions and Answers (05/06/2003)

Why was this package of measures needed and what does it contain? Who will negotiate agreements from now on? What is going to happen with the current agreements? What effect will a renegotiation have on the industry? How will the system of negotiations work? ... Also: EU-US agreement - what issues will be negotiated? What would be the impact of an Open Aviation Area (OAA) between the EU and US? ... And: Other countries - will the Commission propose other negotiations?

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/03/124|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Ahead:

- **Plenary Session of the European Parliament, 18-19/06/2003** See: http://www.europarl.eu.int/plenary/default_en.htm
- **EU-Western Balkans Summit, 21/06/2003** See: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/see/index.htm
- **Special Olympics World Games, Ireland, 21-29/06/2003**
See: <http://www.2003specialolympics.com/en/>
- **EU-US Summit, 25/06/2003** See: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/us/intro/index.htm



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