



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.



7 - 13 May 2004

Headline News

WTO-DDA: EU ready to go the extra mile in three key areas of the talks (10/05/2004)

In order to inject new momentum into the WTO talks under the Doha Development Agenda, Commissioners Pascal Lamy and Franz Fischler have sent a letter to their WTO counterparts. In the letter the EU outlines three areas where it is ready to make further movement to contribute to the talks:

- 1) the EU is ready to put on the table all export subsidies, provided the EU gets full parallelism and a balanced overall package on agriculture,
- 2) new flexibility on Singapore issues, and
- 3) a package on concessions for the poorest and weakest WTO members (essentially G-90).

The EU calls on other WTO members to match this level of ambition so that the Doha Round can make real progress in July, by agreeing to modalities for the rest of the negotiations.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/622|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **A beacon of hope and peace – Speech by President Romano Prodi (11/05/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/240|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Agriculture Negotiations DOHA Round – Speech by Commissioner Franz Fischler (11/05/2004)

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/237|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

A new EU initiative to jump start WTO farm talks – Speech by Com Franz Fischler (10/05/2004)

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/230|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=



Franz Fischler

29th Session of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers, Gaborone (Botswana), 6/7 May 2004 (07/05/2004)

The 29th Session of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers took place in Gaborone from 06-07/05/2004 under the co-chairmanship of Ministers Pierre Moussa (Republic of Congo) and Tom Kitt (Ireland). The EC was represented by Com Poul Nielson. For the first time, representatives of the 10 new Member States of the EU participated as full members of the ACP-EC Council, following the enlargement of the EU on 1 May 2004. The two-day session began with a meeting, at ministerial level, of the ACP-EC Development Finance Cooperation Committee. This Committee deals with the implementation of Financial Cooperation, which is one important component of the ACP-EC Partnership, along with political dialogue and Trade Cooperation. See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PRES/04/152|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Other News

USA-Foreign Sales Corporation - Pascal Lamy welcomes US Senate vote (12/05/2004)

In a further step towards US compliance in a longstanding trade dispute between the EU and the US, on 11/05/2004 the US Senate adopted the Jobs Act, a bill that repeals the FSC/ETI. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy commented "I have repeatedly stated that our objective remains the withdrawal of the US illegal subsidy ... I very much hope that the House will soon follow so that an FSC/ETI repeal bill is rapidly adopted and signed into law by President Bush. It goes without saying that the moment WTO-compliant legislation becomes law, the EU will immediately repeal the countermeasures. That will be good news for all involved in transatlantic trade. Let's hope the time has come to put this long standing dispute behind us once and for all".

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/636|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=



Pascal Lamy

Creating new knowledge in nanotechnology - better quality of life, competitiveness and jobs (12/05/2004)

The European Commission adopted an EU strategy to help Europe to become world leader in the rapidly developing field of nanotechnology the science of the infinitely small. Nanotech applications include atom-scale "nano-robots" that can be injected in the human body to cure diseases, electronic "nano-chips" that can store and process much more information than today's microchips, "nano-fibres" for better and always-clean clothes, and "nano-materials" for high-performance coatings, for instance in aircraft and spaceships.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/639|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **Nanotechnology: Innovation for tomorrow's world**

ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/nanotechnology/docs/nano_brochure_en.pdf

Facilitating food and agriculture trade: EU biggest global food importer (11/05/2004)

A meeting of EU Agriculture Ministers in Killarney, Ireland, confirmed the EU's commitment to a strong relationship with developing countries, particularly as regards trade in food and agriculture products. To facilitate this type of trade, the European Commission has put in place clear food safety rules as well as guidelines on how to apply the rules. The Commission also finances technical assistance projects to help developing countries live up to the EU food safety standards. Furthermore, the EU reaffirmed its strong commitment to create better market opportunities for developing countries through the ongoing WTO Doha Development Agenda.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/627|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Presidency Declaration on EU's behalf regarding recent events on the DRC-Rwandan border (10/05/2004)

The EU expresses grave concern at recent reports of an attack apparently led by the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) on Rwandan territory and of an incident involving Rwandan troops said to have taken place on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The EU wishes to point out that the presence of any foreign troops from any country whatsoever on the territory of the DRC is a violation of international law and an attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The EU believes that the United Nations Organisation Mission in the Congo (MONUC) should intervene actively as a matter of urgency in order to counter any attempt on the part of the FDLR to infiltrate Rwandan territory, with a view to establishing real stability in the east of the DRC.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PESC/04/56|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Telling gold from copper: new EU trademark for reference materials (10/05/2004)

The world's largest Analytical Fair and conference, being held in Munich 11-14/05/2004, will see the launch of a new European trademark for reference materials for chemical and biological measures. The European Reference Materials (ERM®) seal will provide a quality assured system for measuring chemicals and biological elements in food and other products. The system will for instance help detect forged coins, measure the level of sulphur in fuels and detect genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The ERM® trademark will help boost public confidence in food consumption, health-care, environmental protection and fair commerce by ensuring European measurements are based on reliable reference materials. The first 130 ERM®s will be presented at the Munich conference.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/623|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Sierra Leone - Commission grants €2 million for local elections (07/05/2004)

The European Commission has adopted a proposal to grant €2 million in support of local government elections in Sierra Leone to be held on 22/05/2004. Funding will cover procurement and shipment of ballot materials, information material for election commissioners and fees for temporary workers employed at polling stations on election day.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/610|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Outcomes of recent Council Meetings

2578th Council meeting - Agriculture and Fisheries – Luxembourg (26/04/2004)

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PRES/04/180|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

2577th Council meeting - External Relations - Luxembourg (26-27/04/2004)

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PRES/04/116|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

2576th Council meeting - General Affairs - Luxembourg (26/04/2004)

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PRES/04/115|0|RAPID&lq=EN&display=

Ahead:

- **07/05-04/06/2004 – EU Film Festival**

See: <https://www.sterkinekor.co.za/>



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