



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.



9-15 January 2004

Headline News

EU Trade policy priorities post Cancun – Speech by Pascal Lamy (14/01/2004)

In an address to the Bavarian Industry Association EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy observed: "Cancun was quite a shock for everyone concerned - for the EU, for developing countries, for the system as a whole. ... It is now clear that there were a variety of reasons. And here, let me set aside all the debate about the procedural questions, for there were clearly other serious underlying problems behind the failure of Cancun, which will have to be addressed for the Doha Development Agenda negotiations to be successful. For example, we absolutely cannot ignore the emergence of developing country groups such as the G20 (which regroups large part of Latin America as well as India and China) and the G-90 (essentially African countries and other least developed countries) who clearly felt that their priorities did not get sufficient attention. For another, the fear of some WTO members of China and her huge exporting potential is now almost palpable..."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/14/01RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **The re-launching of negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda – Pascal Lamy (13/01/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/11/01RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Re-launching WTO talks – Franz Fischler (Agriculture, Rural Development & Fisheries) (13/01/2004)

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/10/01RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Looking to the future: Inauguration of the Irish Presidency – Speech by Romano Prodi (14/01/2004)



In an address to the European Parliament, President Romano Prodi said: "I am sure that Bertie Ahern and his colleagues will bring to bear all their determination and abilities to ensure that this will be a successful Presidency. Let me start with enlargement. After years of careful preparation, the first of May will be a day of celebration. I am pleased that the central point for these celebrations will be in Dublin. After all, the Irish people are famous for their warmth and conviviality. I am also pleased that the celebrations will particularly involve young people, from whom we have so much to learn. ... Enlargement will bring about major changes for all our institutions."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/12/01RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Other News

Commissioner Fischler says "More Europe for less money is not possible" (15/01/2004)

At a press conference opening International Green Week in Berlin, EU Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler commented on the funding of the European Union. "The debate on the future of the EU budget after 2006 has begun. Ultimately the debate about money comes down to the simple question of how much we are prepared to spend on Europe. I fully understand those who say that in times of state spending cuts the EU must also play its part. ... But at the same time those same heads of government agree that in future the EU should take on even more tasks. In other words, people are asking for more Europe for less money. But not even a conjuror could pull that trick off let alone politicians! A strong and efficient Europe cannot be had on the cheap!" Topics covered included agricultural funding and WTO negotiations.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/56/01RAPID&lg=EN&display=

See also: **Change to secure the future: agricultural policy - Speech by Franz Fischler (15/01/2004)**

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/15/01RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Enlargement & agriculture: €5.76 billion for rural development in new member states (14/01/2004)

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/45/01RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Safety first - new laws for product recalls (15/01/2004)

The revised General Product Safety Directive (GSPD-2001/95/EC), adopted in 2001 and entering into force today concerns safety controls of all consumer products (except food). It sets safety requirements for consumer products such as sports- and playground equipment, child-care articles, lighters and most household products such as textiles and furniture. David Byrne, EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, said: "For the first time manufacturers have the legal obligation to inform authorities if a product is unsafe.... Also for the first time the Commission can even now initiate recalls and provisional bans to assure the same level of protection for the entire EU. This is very good news for consumers."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/53/01RAPID&lg=EN&display=



US Byrd Amendment Dispute: EU requests authorisation to apply sanctions against US (15/01/2004)

The deadline for the US to bring the Byrd amendment into conformity with WTO rules expired on 27/12/2003. Given the lack of compliance from the US, the EU requested WTO authorisation to impose sanctions. The move is necessary to safeguard EU rights to retaliate thus defending the interests of EU exporters affected by this measure. The so-called Byrd Amendment mandates the distribution of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties to the companies that have brought the case in the first place and was ruled out illegal by the WTO's Appellate Body in January 2003. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy commented: "... Trade defence instruments are a legitimate tool, but they have to follow WTO rules. It is clear that the Byrd Amendment is a WTO-incompatible response to dumping and subsidisation and must therefore go."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/49|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Commission hosts launch of the world's first all IPv6 research network (14/01/2004)

The European Union has been instrumental in giving political and financial support to the rapid take up of the new Internet Protocol IPv6. This next generation of Internet technology will support the better integration of new Internet services into homes, businesses and even vehicles. The European Commission has fostered co-operation between the Research and Education Networks around the world to establish the world's first all IPv6 research network.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/43|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Population Issues – Speech by Poul Nielson (12/01/2004)

In an address to the European Population Forum, Poul Nielson, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid noted: "The European Commission works on population issues within and outside Europe from many angles. For my part, I will focus on our policy and work with respect to sexual and reproductive health and rights in developing countries. ... Six years after the Cairo Conference and one year after the clarification of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) at Cairo plus 5, the adoption by the UN of the Millennium Development Goals brought renewed focus to many ICPD concerns and offered the opportunity to reinforce efforts and undertakings around ICPD."

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/04/9|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Commission adopts 14 new humanitarian aid decisions worth over €30 million (09/01/2004)



The European Commission has approved a series of humanitarian aid decisions for crises in Asia, Africa and Latin America worth €31.296 million. The following assistance for vulnerable people is being provided in Africa: Angola (€900,000), Coastal West Africa (€500,000), Republic of Congo (€2 mil), Ethiopia (€2 mil), Sahrawi refugees in Algeria (€5 mil), and Somalia (€2 mil). These 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.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/31|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

European Hearing on Organic Food and Farming (09/01/2004)


On 22/01/2004 the European Commission will hold a 'European Hearing on Organic Food and Farming Towards a European Action Plan' in Brussels. The main purpose of this hearing is to listen to the views of the widest possible range of stakeholders, including experts in the agricultural, environmental and consumer field and to gather experiences from pilot initiatives. Following this public hearing, the Commission will prepare an Action Plan in the form of a Communication to the European Council and Parliament, including a list of possible actions to boost organic farming. The Brussels hearing is to provide the Commission with the most complete and appropriate guidance from stakeholders with a view to drawing up this Action Plan. See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/30|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Declaration on the killing of the Archbishop M Courtney in Burundi (08/01/2004)

The Presidency Declaration on behalf of the European Union: The European Union condemns firmly the death of the Apostolic Nuncio in Burundi, Archbishop Michael Courtney, brutally murdered during a road ambush in Minago, and expresses its deep sympathy to his family and the Holy See. The European Union pays homage to the figure of the Archbishop Michael Courtney whose commitment to alleviate the enormous suffering of the local population and to stop violence was highly appreciated by the Burundian people and the international community.

See: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/questen.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=PESC/04/6|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Ahead:

- **20/01/2004, The Council of Economics and Finance Ministers of the European Union**
See: http://www.eu2004.ie/templates/meeting.asp?sNavlocator=5,13&list_id=88
- **20/01/2004, Youth Solidarity Day**
See: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/echo/youthsolidarityday/index_en.htm
-  **28/01/2004, Launch of eThekwini Area Based Management Programme, Durban**
- **02-03/02/2003, ACP-EU Parliamentary visit, Cape Town**
- **11/02/2004, Visit of Pascal Lamy to South Africa, Cape Town**

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