



**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 July 2004

### Headline News

#### **Commissioner Poul Nielson visits South Africa (13/07/2004)**

During his visit the European Union's Development Commissioner, Poul Nielson, travelled to the three provinces that the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development in South Africa (EPRD) gives priority to. In KZN he visited the EU funded eThekweni Area Based Management (ABM) Programme, a comprehensive urban development initiative in and around Durban. Subsequently the Commissioner visited the EU funded Wild Coast Spatial Initiative (SDI) focused at local economic development in the Eastern Cape. In Limpopo he attended a celebration of *10 Years of Cooperation between the EU and SA in the Water Sector*. Thanks to swift action from the South Africa Committee in Brussels, Mr Nielson was able to announce that a further €50 million had been approved that morning for the water services sector in South Africa. The Commissioner had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Dlamini-Zuma, and various senior officials as well as with representatives of civil society through the EU funded Foundation for Human Rights.



Seated: Commissioner Poul Nielson & Minister Buyelwa Sonjica (Water Affairs & Forestry) in Limpopo

See: **10th Anniversary of Co-operation in the Water Sector in South Africa** (Press Release)

<http://www.dwaf.pwv.gov.za/Communications/PressReleases/2004/EUSA13Jul04.doc>

See also: **SADC-EU negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) – Com Nielson, Namibia (08/07/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/355&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

#### **Commissioner Danuta Hübner visits South Africa (10/07/2004)**

During a stop-over in South Africa, en route to trade meetings in Mauritius, and having just attended the launch of the EU-SADC trade negotiations, Commissioner Hübner took the opportunity to meet with South African representatives of big business, the media, and the European diplomatic community. Ms Hübner's programme included a visit to the Johannesburg General Hospital where she experienced first hand the notable challenges faced by the health care sector in the country. During her stay in South Africa, Commissioner Hübner took the opportunity to inform the local media of the southern African EPA negotiations.



Commissioner Danuta Hübner

See: **Real nature of SA / EU trade talks (14/07/2004)**, Business Report, page 14

See also: **EU seeks bigger bite of SA vehicle sector (12/07/2004)**, Business Day, front page

<http://www.bday.co.za/bday/content/direct/1.3523.1656866-6080-0.00.html>

**Launch of EU-SADC Trade negotiations - Opening statement by Com Hübner, Namibia (08/07/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/354&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

**ACP-EU co-operation (8<sup>th</sup> ACP Trade Ministerial) - Statement by Com Hübner, Mauritius (11/07/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/361&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

**G90 Ministerial Meeting Plenary Opening Session - Address by Com Hübner, Mauritius (12/07/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/360&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

#### **Sugar: Commission proposes more market-, consumer- and trade-friendly regime (14/07/2004)**

The European Commission tabled a radical overhaul of the EU sugar regime. The current system has come under fierce criticism for misallocating resources, hampering competition, harming developing countries and giving consumers, taxpayers and the environment a raw deal. The Commission proposes to substantially cut back sugar exports and export refunds, abolish intervention, reduce EU production and the internal sugar price and grant a de-coupled payment to sugar beet farmers. The reform process shall start in July 2005. To give all parties time to adjust, the changes should be implemented over four years. In view of the uncertainties in the international field, a review is foreseen in 2008.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/915&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

See also: **The reform of the EU sugar sector – press Conference with Com Franz Fischler (14/07/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/363&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

**EU sugar sector: Facts and figures (14/07/2004)**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/04/177&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

#### Other News

#### **Further €42 million to Global Fund for fight against HIV/AIDS, TB & malaria (15/07/2004)**

The European Commission adopted a decision to pay an additional €42 million to the Global Fund to fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in developing countries bringing its total contribution to the fund since 2002 to € 375 million. The contribution should enable the Global Fund to boost prevention, treatment and care in order to accelerate the urgently needed response to these three diseases.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/926&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Climate change: the real threat to global peace – Speech by EC President Romano Prodi (15/07/2004)**

In an address on climate change President Prodi said: "We must start to think about peace and climate change, peace and the environment, peace, available resources and world redistribution as closely linked topics, to be tackled in combination and at world level. We must rethink our ideas on national sovereignty, international cooperation and interdependence and the concept of international public goods, drawing our inspiration for action from the principle of solidarity. ... While no country is sheltered from the effects of climate change, the developing countries are the planet's most vulnerable regions.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/04/366&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Sudan/Chad: Commission earmarks further €18 million for victims of Darfur crisis (12/07/2004)**

The EC's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) has earmarked an additional € 18 million in humanitarian aid to the victims of the conflict in Western Sudan. €10 million will be allocated to address the needs of displaced populations and other civilians inside the Greater Darfur region affected by the conflict. €8 million will be dedicated to the needs of refugees from Darfur who have fled to neighbouring Chad. More than two million people - a third of the entire population of the region - are affected by the armed conflict in Darfur. It is estimated that up to 200,000 Sudanese refugees have fled into Chad, and while most of these people are now accommodated in camps, tens of thousands still remain at the border.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/886&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **Pascal Lamy welcomes EU Presidency conclusions on WTO Doha Round (12/07/2004)**

EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy de-briefed EU Member States on the current state of discussions in the WTO Doha Development Agenda. Welcoming the conclusions by the presidency, Mr Lamy said: "The EU stands united to ensure that the WTO trade talks deliver to benefit to developing countries. I will have an opportunity to discuss this issue with my colleagues of G90 in Mauritius. I hope that this will allow us to get a step closer to make substantial progress on the negotiations at the end of July.

See: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/884&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### Ahead:

- **20/07/2004 – COREPER I meeting, Brussels** (see below)
- **20-23/07/2004 – 1<sup>st</sup> enlarged European Parliament Plenary Session, Strasbourg**

See: [http://www.europarl.eu.int/home/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.eu.int/home/default_en.htm)

#### **What is Coreper?**

The work of the Council of the EU is prepared by the ambassadors (permanent representatives) of the member countries and their deputies in the Committee of Permanent Representatives, colloquially referred to as COREPER, which is the abbreviation of the French name "Comité des représentants permanents". All cases presented to the Council of Ministers are reviewed by COREPER first. Here they try to solve as many questions as possible before the cases are presented to the ministers for discussion.

There are two variants of COREPER. COREPER I consists of the deputy representatives handles subjects such as the Single Market, fishing, industry, research, telecommunication, environment, education, health and culture. COREPER II consists of the ambassadors and handles i.a. institutional subjects, foreign policy issues, Justice and Home Affairs, Financial and general European Union issues.

Council : <http://ue.eu.int/showPage.ASP?lang=en>

#### **EU-SADC Programme makes Waves**

"Namibia's recently launched fisheries patrol vessel took part in a groundbreaking mission to Angola recently during which six vessels were arrested for serious infringements of SADC fisheries legislation.

The mission was carried out under the auspices of the **SADC-EU monitoring, control & surveillance programme (MCS)** with Namibia and Angola's two fisheries ministries. According to Carlos Palin, programme Manager of the SADC-EU MSC it was the first mission of its kind in the context of SADC Protocol fisheries. Following the success of the mission Palin said it was a shining example of bilateral cooperation.

The 2189 nautical mile voyage served as both a surveillance and training exercise, and was funded by the MSC programme."

Extract from: Fishing Industry News, June 2004 (p 33)  
<http://www.gwarmanpublications.co.za/>

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