



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Commission
To South Africa

Pretoria, 15-09-05

Press Release

.../ for immediate release

EU position on SA lifting of Ostrich ban

The European Commission can confirm that it has been informed by the South African authorities that the avian influenza outbreak in ostriches last year, in South Africa, has successfully been contained.

This development permits the European Commission to commence the necessary procedures to repeal the current EU safeguard decision (Decision 2004/614/EC) banning all ratite meat for export from South Africa to the European Union. This issue will be tabled at the next meeting of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health in early October. However, standard EU procedure makes it unlikely that any new Decision by the above Committee on this issue will come into effect before the end of 2005.

The EU congratulates the South African Government on their successful efforts to eradicate this disease which has caused, and continues to cause, many difficulties for countries around the world.

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