



**MONTHLY BULLETIN ON THE EUROPEAN UNION
AND THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT**

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Issues¹
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SUBJECT	Date & place	DETAILS
“Europe, against anti-Semitism. For a Union of diversity”	19.02.04 Brussels	“Europe, against anti-Semitism. For a Union of diversity” Seminar organised under the auspices of the European Commission, the European Jewish Congress and the Congress of European Rabbis http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/policy_advisers/publications/seminar_anti_semitims/index_fr.htm
“Economic Review of EU Mediterranean Partners”, a Commission’s	5.03.04	European Economy. Occasional Papers: “Economic Review of EU Mediterranean Partners”, a publication by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs, March 2004. This is the second issue whose main purpose it is to give an overview

¹ Sources: Bulletin Quotidien Europe <http://www.agenceurope.com>, Calendar of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/publication/cal06_03_en.pdf, *What’s New. EU Institutions and Agencies* http://europa.eu.int/geninfo/whatsnew_inst.htm, Bulletin of the European Union <http://europa.eu.int/abc/doc/off/bull/en/200307/p106046.htm>, *European Voice* www.europeanvoice.com.

<p>publication</p>		<p>of recent macroeconomic and structural developments in Mediterranean countries which are partners of the EU in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The structure of this second issue is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a broad overview of macroeconomic developments in the region as a whole; • a section that attempts to assess the fiscal performance of Mediterranean partner countries, both in terms of fiscal outcomes and quality of public finances; • a section on the state of play of financial sector development, bank and non-bank finance in Mediterranean partner countries; • country specific sections on macroeconomic developments, structural reforms and international relations for each of the Mediterranean Partner countries. <p>See http://europa.eu.int/comm/economy_finance/publications/occasional_papers/occasionalpapers6_en.htm</p>
<p>EP Plenary debate following parliamentary questions on Israel's integration in the pan-European cumulation of origin system</p>	<p>09.03.04 Strasbourg</p>	<p>See full text of the debate and answer by Commissioner for enterprise and information Mr. Erkki Liikanen http://www3.europarl.eu.int/omk/omnsapir.so/cre?FILE=0309ma&LANGUE=EN&LEVEL=TOC2&CHAP=5&LEG=L5</p>
<p>2nd official visit of the EP delegation for relations with Israel to Israel</p>	<p>14-17.03.04 Israel</p>	<p>In the agenda, beside meetings with the Knesset and the Israeli authorities: meeting with Israeli NGOs (Physicians for human rights, an NGO for Palestinian and Israeli bereaved families, ...). The delegation is also going on a trip to the Negev to visit a Palestinian unrecognized village.</p> <p>Aprodev lobby letter sent on the eve of the visit (available at g.elli@aprodev.net).</p>

<p>EU-Israel Agreement on Scientific and Technical Co-operation approved</p>	<p>11.03.04 Strasbourg</p>	<p>Parliament approved, without amendments, the conclusion of the Agreement on Scientific and Technical Co-operation between the European Community and the State of Israel. An amendment put forward by the Green/EFA group calling for the scientific co-operation agreement to be rejected was defeated with 56 votes in favour 358 against and 14 abstentions.</p> <p>Israel participates in the Sixth Framework programme as a partner with the same rights and obligations as EU Member States: the only exception is the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) in which it is only an observer. In the four years from 2003 - 2006 Israel is expected to make a financial contribution to the Sixth Framework Programme totalling €191.9 million. The EU's contribution to the programme amounts to €16.3 billion.</p> <p>Israel is very advanced in the following fields: biotechnology both in agriculture and the environment, but also in neurobiology and stem cell research, optoelectronics, medical research, space travel, information technology, telecommunications and the development of software.</p> <p>See http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+DN-20040311-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=X&LSTDOC=N#SECTION12</p>
<p>Statement by the Irish Presidency EU at the 60th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights</p>	<p>Geneva 15-18.03.04</p>	<p>Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland Mr. Brian Cowen on behalf of the EU at the 60th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, high-level segment</p> <p>See http://ue.eu.int/newsroom/newmain.asp?LANG=1</p>
<p>EP seminar on the “Future of the Middle East”</p>	<p>02.03.04 Brussels</p>	<p>EP seminar on the “Future of the Middle East”, organized by the EP delegation for relation with Israel, with the support of the European Jewish Congress and “Israel at Heart”</p> <p>With the participation of MEPs, Commission officials, the Israeli Ambassador to the EU, Rev. Willem Glashouwer (European Coalition for Israel), etc.</p>

Comparative cases

(third countries violating human rights and customs rules, refugee issues)

SUBJECT	Date & place	DETAILS
US Foreign Sales Corporations (FSC): EU starts countermeasures on US products -	1.03.04, Brussels	See http://europa.eu.int/geninfo/whatsnew.htm
EU restrictive measures against Liberia	1.03.04	Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Council Common Position 2004/137/CFSP of 10 February 2004 concerning restrictive measures against Liberia See http://ue.eu.int/newsroom/makeFrame.asp?MAX=&BID=73&DID=79213&LANG=1&File=/pressData/en/cfsp/79213.pdf&Picture=0
EU restrictive measures against Zibabwe	1.03.04	Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Council Common Position 2004/161/CFSP of 19 February 2004 on renewing restrictive measures against Zimbabwe See http://ue.eu.int/newsroom/makeFrame.asp?MAX=&BID=73&DID=79218&LANG=1&File=/pressData/en/cfsp/79218.pdf&Picture=0
EU refugees policy	3.03.04	EU support for continued 'returns' in Kosovo See http://www.eur.eu.int/publications/news-a1a2a3yk4.htm

Other relevant issues

SUBJECT	Date & place	DETAILS
European Commission Rules of Origin	March 2004	New comprehensive Commission's portal on rules of origin (Directorate general for taxation and customs union) http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/customs/origin/rules_origin/rules_origin_0_en.htm