




[Visit website: Australia](#) | [Contact Australia](#) | [Visit New Zealand](#) | [Contact New Zealand](#)

Issue Date: 29 January 2010  [Send to a Friend](#)

[subscribe Australia](#) / [Update your profile Australia](#) / [subscribe New Zealand](#) / [Update profile NZ](#)

To read this newsletter online, or to download pdf version, please [click here](#)

European Civil Protection effort in Haiti continues



As relief efforts in Haiti following the devastating 12 January earthquake continue, the **European Civil Protection Mechanism** is now facilitating assistance from 24 Member States. Part of the EU-financed EU Rapid Response Capability is being used in an emergency for the first time, providing fresh water and medical care. A new EU Civil Protection team arrived in Haiti last weekend to take over on-site coordination from the first team, which had been in Haiti since 36 hours after the quake.

As well as coordinating European assistance, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism is also making a direct contribution to the relief effort. 31 states participate in the Community Mechanism (EU-27 plus Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), pooling resources that can be made available to disaster-stricken countries all over the world through the Mechanism. When activated, the Mechanism ensures the coordination of assistance interventions inside and outside the European Union. Since its creation in 2001, the Mechanism has been activated for disasters worldwide, including Hurricane Katrina in the US in 2005, the 2008 earthquake in China and the forest fires in Southern Europe 2009. During the Haiti emergency, 24 European countries have provided assistance through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism including twelve urban search and rescue teams, 37 medical teams and supplies, two field hospitals; five advanced medical posts; six water sanitation units and water purification tablets, more than 1100 tents housing 7600 people, and hygiene articles.

The European Union releases regular updates on the response to the disaster in Haiti: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/ashton/haiti/index_en.htm

[Solidarity with Haiti](#)

EU High Representative Ashton & US Secretary of State Clinton: Washington talks



EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security, Catherine Ashton, met with US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, in Washington on 21 January. The most critical item on the agenda was Haiti, with HR Ashton saying "*So far the European Union has given half a billion US dollars in support. Twenty-four member states have sent support in the shape of medical teams or other ways in which they can provide support on the ground. There is a great willingness in the European Union to work closely with*

the United States, and of course under the auspices of the United Nations."

Discussions also focussed on Iran, Afghanistan, Yemen, Pakistan and the Western Balkans.

In New York, Catherine Ashton met with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and other senior UN officials.

Foreign Affairs Council conclusions

Leading discussions at the Council of the European Union's meeting on Foreign Affairs in Brussels on 25 January was the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton. The governments of the Member States were represented by Minister for Foreign Affairs or their representatives.

Discussions centred on the coordination of the EU's overall response to the earthquake in **Haiti**. In addition to the immediate humanitarian and development aid earmarked at the emergency Council on 18 January, the Council agreed that Member States would provide a collective EU contribution of at least 300 police personnel as a temporary reinforcement of the police capability of the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). In addition, the Council also agreed to set up a cell - EUCO Haiti - in Brussels to coordinate contributions by Member States of military and security support in response to the UN appeal. The purpose of this cell would be to match contributions to needs and maximise the speed and efficiency of the Union's response, avoiding duplication. EUCO Haiti will complement the coordination of the Member States' civil protection contributions by the European Commission Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC).

[Foreign Affairs Council conclusions](#)

EU notifies emission reduction targets following Copenhagen Accord

The European Union has formalised its support for the Copenhagen Accord on climate change and presented its commitments for emission reduction targets. In a joint letter to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the European Commission and the Spanish Presidency of the Council formally notified the EU's willingness to be associated with the Accord and submitted for information the EU's established greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for 2020. These consist of a unilateral commitment to reduce the EU's overall emissions by 20% of 1990 levels and a conditional offer to increase this cut to 30% provided that other major emitters agree to take on their fair share of a global reduction effort. Under the Accord, such notifications are to be submitted by 31 January 2010.

Commission President José Manuel Barroso said: "*The EU is determined to move ahead rapidly with implementing the Copenhagen Accord in order to make progress towards the agreement that we need to hold global warming below 2°C. The Accord provides a basis on which to build this future agreement and I therefore urge all countries to associate themselves with it and notify ambitious emission targets or actions for inclusion, as we are doing.*"

EU Heads of State and Government will assess the post-Copenhagen situation at the Informal European Council on 11 February.

[read more](#)

EU and NATO join forces to empower women for peace and security

On 27 January Vice-President Margot Wallström and NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen hosted a high-level conference on women, peace and security at the European Commission. This conference saw the participation of Spanish First Vice-President María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, Former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright alongside civil society representatives, military officials, high-level policy-makers and observers. The

participants concluded that all EU and NATO-led operations must comply with UN resolutions relating to women, peace and security, and must be supported by appropriate training, education, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

"I wholeheartedly welcome the enhanced cooperation with NATO in the field of women, peace and security, and our joint commitment to push for the implementation of existing international legislation. Only by working together – internationally, regionally and with civil society – we will be able to combat the marginalisation of women which is a real threat to global security", said Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative and Vice-President of the European Commission.

"I have come to realise that the security of women is the best indicator of the security of a nation. Unless we enhance the rights and responsibilities of women globally, our foreign policy goals will remain unachievable, and those we do achieve will turn out to be unsustainable. The UN provisions give us a strong legal framework for addressing gender based violence. It is now time to turn words into deeds", said Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the European Commission.

[download full list of conference conclusions](#)

EU economic update: Business Climate Indicator improves further and Economic Sentiment Indicator approaching its long-term average



The **Business Climate Indicator** (BCI) for the euro area rose for the tenth successive month. Nevertheless it remains at a low level, suggesting that year-on-year growth in industrial production was still negative in December.

In January, the **Economic Sentiment Indicator** (ESI) rose for the tenth successive month and stood at 97.1 (+2.1 points) in the EU and 95.7 (+1.6) in the euro area.

[Read full report](#)

Commissioners-designate

Following the withdrawal of the candidacy of Ms Jeleva and the designation of Ms Georgieva as new candidate for Commissioner, the Council, by common accord with Mr Jose Manuel Barroso, President-elect of the Commission, decided to repeal and replace the list of proposed Commissioners it had adopted on 4 December 2009.

The European Parliament will now vote on the whole College of Commissioners on 9 February, which will be in force until 31 October 2014.

A full list of the names, countries of origin, curriculum vitae, and responsibilities of the Commissioners-designate can be found at http://www.ec.europa.eu/commission_designate_2009-2014/index_en.htm

BHP Billiton - Rio Tinto iron ore production joint venture: EU opens formal proceedings

The European Commission has opened a formal antitrust investigation into Anglo-Australian mining companies Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton under the EU rules on restrictive business practices. Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton are respectively the second and third largest producers of iron ore in the world. The proposed joint venture between Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton would combine the parties' iron ore assets in Western Australia. The Commission will in particular examine the effects of the proposed joint venture on the worldwide market for iron ore transported by sea (so-called "seaborne iron ore"). Opening of proceedings does not imply that the Commission has evidence of any infringement but merely that the Commission will investigate the case as a matter of priority.

The proceedings concern the agreement signed on 5 December 2009 between BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto to establish a production joint venture covering the entirety of both companies' Western Australian iron ore assets. The Commission will in particular examine whether the joint venture would have a negative effect on competition on the worldwide market for seaborne iron ore. The current investigation relates to this agreement between the parties which now focuses on the establishment of a joint venture for iron ore production, leaving the marketing activities of the companies separate.

The Competition Authorities of the Member States concerned have also been informed. The companies' rights of defence will be fully respected.

[read full release: BHP-Billiton - Rio Tinto](#)

Europe Street at the National Multicultural Festival



Seventeen Member States and the European Union Delegation will form Europe Street at the National Multicultural Festival on Saturday 7 February. Europe Street will again be located in Ainslie Avenue, Canberra, and will feature a wide range of information on the specific member states as well as the EU as a whole. Information on Europe as a tourist, work or study destination will be available as will some giveaways. It's a great opportunity to come along see what Europe has to offer. You could also win a balloon ride for two! Participating countries include Bulgaria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, and Sweden.

<http://www.delau.ec.europa.eu/News&events/Cultural/EuropeStreet2010.htm>

National Multicultural Festival 2010

Windows on Europe Film Festival



Don't miss the 5th annual Windows on Europe Film Festival, which commences in Canberra on 6 February 2010. Seventeen award winning films will be screened in Canberra, Sydney, Brisbane, Auckland and Melbourne. For the full programme, and information on all films, please visit our website:

<http://www.delau.ec.europa.eu/News&events/Cultural/FilmFestival2010/index.htm>

Australian European University Institute Fellowships

Australian European University Institute Fellowships for research at the European University Institute, Florence

- Two three-month Postgraduate Fellowships (EUI fees and a one-off payment of \$7,000) for the period September-December 2009. Closing date 19 March 2010.
- One six-month Postdoctoral Fellowship (EUI fees and a one-off payment of \$12,000) for the period January-June 2010. Closing date 19 March 2010.
- One Visiting Scholar (EUI fees only), tenure of one month, to be taken, by arrangement, in the period 9 January-30 June 2011. Closing date 19 March 2010.

Open to postgraduates, early career and established researchers currently undertaking research in history, law, economics, and social and political sciences who are able to identify a direct benefit for their research from a period of residence at the EUI. The Postgraduate applicants must be at an advanced stage of their research, and the Postdoctoral Fellowship is available to those who have graduated with a PhD qualification within the last five years.

Further information: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/history/aeuifai/>; or

<http://www.eui.eu>; Inquiries emailed to peter.howard@arts.monash.edu.au

EU tube: Hip Hop Europe



EU Tube: Hip Hop Europe

<http://www.youtube.com/user/BabylonRevival> EU anthem. This video was produced by the EU's Azerbaijan Information Office.

[see EUtube](#)

Reminders: 2010 Jean Monnet and 2010 Erasmus Mundus

Call for Proposals under all three Actions of the **Erasmus Mundus** programme: Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes; Erasmus Mundus Partnerships; and Promotion of European higher education. The deadline for submission of applications under all three Actions is **30 April 2010**. More information: <http://www.delaus.ec.europa.eu/education/Erasmus/ErasmusMundus2010.htm>

The European Commission's **Jean Monnet** Programme is designed to increase knowledge and awareness about European integration world-wide. It encourages universities from **any country in the world** to set up teaching, research and conference activities on the European Union and on relations between the EU and other regions and countries. University-level institutions in countries outside the European Union are highly encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is **12 February 2010**.

[Jean Monnet: further information](#)

European Union Delegation: publications available online



The following publications are available from our website. If, however, you would like to receive hard copies of any of these publications, please send an email to delegation-australia@ec.europa.eu specifying the name of the publication(s) and the number you would like to receive.

[EU Insight: Education](#)
[EU Insight: Lisbon Treaty](#)

[European Union Australia Partnership Framework](#)

[EU Insight: Climate change](#)

[EU Insight: Economic relationship](#)

Upcoming events: Australia

Wed 24 Feb – Sat 6 March 2010 **Presentation of European short films**, Dolphin Theatre, 35 Stirling Hwy, Crawley, Perth; Screen Australia and AFTRS, Sydney. Free Entry. Language: English. [further information](#)

1.02-29.03.10 - **Paul Uhlmann: Becoming Imperceptible Art Exhibition**, Goethe-Institut Australien, Sydney. [further information](#)

26.02-14.03.10, **Adelaide International 2010**, The video- and performance-artists Nina Fischer and Maroan El Sani, present their video-installation "Spelling Dystopia" as part of the Adelaide Festival 2010. Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide, Hawke Building, City West campus, Univ of South Australia, 55 North Terrace. [further information](#)

20 years of the Peaceful Revolution and of the German Reunification Exhibition, 30 Oct 2009 - 31 March 2010, Goethe-Institut Australien, Melbourne www.goethe.de/ins/au/lp/ver/vsy/en5000568v.htm

[More events](#)

Upcoming events in New Zealand

Gateway to the EU in New Zealand <http://www.eu.org.nz/>

For more information on the items covered in news@eu, contact Roger Camilleri +61 2 6271 2744 roger.camilleri@ec.europa.eu or Jan Skorich +61 2 62712747 jan.skorich@ec.europa.eu .

 [Send to a Friend](#)

While the Commission aims to keep its network free from viruses, you are strongly encouraged to check this email and any attachments to it for viruses, as the Commission accepts no responsibility with regard to any computer virus transferred by way of this email.

Copyright 2010. Please properly accredit the Delegation of the European Union to Australia and New Zealand when reproducing any of the content of news@eu.