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Europe Street at the National Multicultural Festival



Be sure to catch us at Europe Street this weekend! Seventeen Member States and the European Union Delegation will form Europe Street at the National Multicultural Festival on Saturday 6 February, this year again in Ainslie Avenue, Canberra.

Europe Street 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. You could also win a balloon ride for two! There's a quiz for children with some great prizes, an hourly draw, free t-shirts and 'tattoos'. Participating countries include Bulgaria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, and Sweden.

<http://www.delaus.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 starts in Canberra this weekend. Award winning European 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.delaus.ec.europa.eu/News&events/Cultural/FilmFestival2010/index.htm>

European Civil Protection effort in Haiti continues



200,000 tents and 36 million "ready to eat" meals are required in Haiti, says the latest **fact sheet on Haiti** from the European Union. Priority items, besides tents, include shelter kits, tarpaulins, jerry cans, blankets, plastic sheets, hygiene kits and kitchen kits. The main challenge in terms of water is limited distribution and storage capacity, and sanitation in camps remains a major concern.

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

Council acts against illegal logging

On 30 January the European Council agreed on a draft regulation laying down obligations for operators who place timber and timber products on the European market. The regulation is aimed at minimising the risk of illegally harvested timber and timber products reaching the EU market. The new rules are intended to be based on the due diligence system, enabling operators to track the timber and timber products, to have access to information concerning compliance with the applicable legislation and to manage the risk of placing illegally timber products on the European market. More specifically, the draft regulation makes operators seek sufficient guarantees that the timber products they sell have been harvested according to the relevant laws of the country of origin. Illegal logging poses a significant threat to forests as it contributes to the process of deforestation, which is responsible for about 20% of CO₂ emissions, threatens biodiversity and undermines sustainable forest management and development.

[draft legislation on illegal logging](#)

Ashton, Clinton, Miliband and Kouchner: joint statement on Nigeria

EU High Representative Catherine Ashton, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, British Foreign Secretary David Miliband and French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner issued a statement on Nigeria, which begins:

"We express our deep regret at the recent violence and tragic loss of lives in Jos, and extend our sympathies to the bereaved and injured. We urge all parties to exercise restraint and seek peaceful means to resolve differences between religious and ethnic groups in Nigeria. We call on the Federal Government to ensure that the perpetrators of acts of violence are brought to justice and to support interethnic and interfaith dialogue. Nigeria is one of the most important countries in sub-Saharan Africa, a member of the UN Security Council, a global oil producer, a leader in ECOWAS, a major peacekeeping contributing country, and a stabilising force in West Africa. Nigeria's stability and democracy carry great significance beyond its immediate borders."

[Read the full statement](#)

EU High Representative Catherine Ashton welcomes Presidential elections in Sri Lanka

"The EU welcomes that the Presidential Elections in Sri Lanka, the first election of this kind for many years, took place in an overall peaceful environment. The large turn out demonstrates the wish of the Sri Lankan people to participate fully in the democratic process. The EU congratulates President Mahinda Rajapaksa on his re-election and stands ready to work with him and his Government in support of his objective of bringing sustainable peace to all people in Sri Lanka and actively engaging in an inclusive process of national reconciliation. The EU reiterates its concern that a significant number of incidents occurred during the election campaign. It trusts that the irregularities reported by election observers and the election commission will be duly investigated and that the safety and security of all candidates and campaign workers will be ensured by the authorities. The EU looks forward to continuing and reinforcing its cooperation with Sri Lanka, with a view to consolidating the relationship on the basis of shared values and common interests."

Assessment of first month of Spain's Presidency of the EU Council

The Spanish Secretary of State for the European Union, Diego López Garrido, taking stock of the first month of Spain's Presidency of the EU Council, acknowledged the support that his Government has received from European institutions and Member States for the work priorities it has set for the coming six-month period. Among these objectives, he

emphasised economic recovery and the creation of quality employment, the strengthening of Europe's role in the world, further development of citizens' rights - above all in terms of equality between men and women - and security.

The Secretary of State hailed an important achievement as being the "absolute co-ordination" between the Presidency, the European Commission and the new institutions created by the Treaty of Lisbon: the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Policy and Security, Catherine Ashton. He also referred to the capacity for political initiative that the Presidency had shown in the face of unexpected and dramatic events such as the earthquake in Haiti, with the EU's response having been "immediate and well-coordinated".

[read more](#)

EU economic update: inflation at 1%, unemployment at 10%



Euro area annual **inflation** is expected to be 1.0% in January 2010 according to a flash estimate issued by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. It was 0.9% in December 2009.

The euro area (EA16) seasonally-adjusted **unemployment** rate was 10.0% in December 2009, compared with 9.9% in November. It was 8.2% in December 2008. The EU27 unemployment rate was 9.6% in December 2009, compared with 9.5% in November. It was 7.6% in December 2008. For the euro area this is the highest rate since August 1998 and for the EU27 since the start of the series in January 2000. Eurostat estimates that 23,012 million men and women in the EU27, of whom 15,763 million were in the euro area, were unemployed in December 2009. Compared with November, the number of persons unemployed increased by 163,000 in the EU27 and by 87,000 in the euro area. Compared with December 2008, unemployment went up by 4.628 million in the EU27 and by 2.787 million in the euro area.

[Eurostat news releases](#)

Commission President Barroso's statement on the Greek economy

In response to journalists' questions on the Greek economy, President Barroso made the following statement:

"The huge Greek government deficit for 2009 came to a surprise to us all. Such deficit results from a combination of budgetary slippage with statistical misreporting. A deficit of such a magnitude must be decisively corrected. Moreover the government debt in Greece is excessively high. Greece is determined to correct her very excessive deficit. In mid-Jan the government adopted a programme to bring the deficit below 3% of GDP in 2012. The adjustment effort is appropriately front-loaded in 2010. This is indeed a very ambitious plan. The Commission has assessed the programme. The envisaged correction of the deficit is feasible but subject to risks. Provided such risks will not be allowed to materialize through the timely implementation of corrective measures the deficit will indeed be corrected. We believe this will be done. The Greek government is committed to take such measures. In this understanding, the Commission will recommend to the Council next Wednesday an endorsement of the Greek programme. The Commission will be in charge of monitoring the implementation of the programme through a very intense surveillance of budgetary developments in Greece. It will do it in a rigorous way. Indeed, a successful correction of its very excessive deficit is not only important for Greece but for the euro area and the EU as a whole."

Europeans broadly satisfied with their lives, but concerned for the future

Europeans are broadly satisfied with their personal situation, but less satisfied when it comes to the economy, public services and social policies in their country, according to an opinion survey released on 2 February. The Eurobarometer on the social climate in the EU also found large differences between countries, with people in the Nordic countries and the Netherlands generally most satisfied with their personal situation. The survey forms part of the European Commission's Social Situation Report which examines social trends in Europe, this year focusing on housing. According to the Eurobarometer survey, a majority of Europeans are satisfied with life in general. The highest level of satisfaction was reported in Denmark, with Sweden, the Netherlands and Finland also having high levels. The lowest levels of satisfaction were reported in Bulgaria, followed by Hungary, Greece and Romania.

The European Commission's latest annual Social Situation Report shows that Europeans now spend more of their income on housing costs than they did ten years ago, while mortgage debt has increased sharply across the EU. On average, Europeans spend one-fifth of their disposable income on accommodation.

[Eurobarometer on Social Climate: full report](#)

Success in the fight against counterfeiting: ASEM joint customs operation

A joint customs operation, codenamed Diabolo II, conducted in the framework of the ASEM (Asia–Europe meeting) has led to the seizure of more than 65 million counterfeit cigarettes and 369,000 other counterfeit items representing over 20 different trademarks. The operation also resulted in further international investigations into criminal activities. Final results of this operation were released on 29 January at a debriefing meeting held in Tokyo. Siim Kallas, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for administrative affairs, audit and anti-fraud, said: *"The success of this joint operation highlights the importance of maintaining close cooperation among all partners to combat the global trade in counterfeit goods and to protect legitimate trade in genuine products. This operation is an excellent model for future operational cooperation, built on confidence and trust, involving all ASEM partners, including Brunei Darussalam, China and India, who were unable to participate in this exercise. I would like to congratulate all participants for their efforts in this joint customs operation and strongly encourage continuing such joint actions"*.

ASEM, with its 45 European and Asian members, again proved an effective platform for cooperation among customs administrations. The operation's success is due to the excellent cooperation and effective work involving customs officials from 13 Asian countries and 27 EU Member States.

[ASEM customs cooperation](#)

32.8 million pieces of lost luggage: an international issue

A conference in Rome on 1 February highlighted the ways in which technology can play a role in improving the quality of baggage handling across the European Union. A public consultation on air passenger rights was launched at the beginning of December and included questions on the issue of lost and damaged luggage as well as airline bankruptcy. The consultation, which is open to everyone, ends on 1st March 2010. The results of the consultation will inform proposals to improve current legislation in both these areas, including the possible creation of national authorities responsible for monitoring the baggage handling system. An investigation carried out by the European Commission last year on the issue of lost luggage showed that the number of bags delayed at airports amounted to 4.6 million between January 2008 and October 2008 in the European Union. In 2008, 32.8 million pieces of luggage were reported lost around the world.

[Public Consultation on air travel](#)

European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation

Call for applications for the **European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA) 2010/2011** organised by the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC).

The E.MA is an intensive one year multidisciplinary joint degree academic programme reflecting the indivisible links between human rights, democracy, peace and development with a practice-orientated approach. The first semester of the programme (September to January) takes place in Venice, while the second (February to July) is at one of seven E.MA participating universities situated in the Member States of the European Union. The European Master's Program in Human Rights and Democratisation is open to EU and non-EU citizens. Fluency in English is an admission requirement for the programme. While not a prerequisite, the ability to understand lectures and read academic text in French is a definite advantage for participation in the programme. Candidates for admission will find all information to apply on the E.MA website at <http://www.emahumanrights.org> and on the EIUC website at <http://www.eiuc.org>. The deadline for application is 19 March 2010 (date of the receipt in Venice of the application materials).

EU tube: ECHO in Haiti



EU Tube: Haiti. <http://www.youtube.com/profile?v=3kHoHH-05yl&user=eutube#p/a/u/1/5dhGKD9GUxM>

ECHO has deployed a team to the stricken area (humanitarian experts and support staff). They are working round the clock to help ensure EU-funded support gets to people who are in desperate need. They report that delivery of humanitarian aid is scaling up rapidly.

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm

[see EUtube](#)

Reminders: Australian European University Institute Fellowships, 2010 Jean Monnet, 2010 Erasmus Mundus

Australian European University Institute Fellowships for research at the European University Institute, Florence. See previous news@eu for full details, or visit our website for more information

on the fellowships and the previous winners:

<http://www.delaus.ec.europa.eu/studyineurope/AEUFAI.htm>

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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.

NEW: [Key Facts 2010](#)

[EU Insight: Education](#)

[EU Insight: Lisbon Treaty](#)

[European Union Australia Partnership Framework](#)

[EU Insight: Climate change](#)

[EU Insight: Economic relationship](#)

Upcoming events: Australia

7 February 2010 **Bulgarian Australian Association Free concert** in association with the National Multicultural Festival, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra. [more information](#)

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 February to 29 March 2010 - **Paul Uhlmann: Becoming Imperceptible Art Exhibition**, Goethe-Institut Australien, Sydney. [further information](#)

26 February to 14 March 2010, **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

4 to 8 May 2010: **The Importance of Being Earnest**. The Melbourne French Theatre Company presents the original play, as written by Oscar Wilde in French. Play in French with English subtitles. More information <http://www.mftinc.org/index2en.htm>

[More events](#)

Upcoming events in New Zealand

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

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