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Climate Action: EU continues the fight

European Commission President Barroso wrote to EU Heads of State and Government informing them of the next steps in the Commission's work on climate action. President Barroso underlined that the international process needs to continue, building on what could be agreed in Copenhagen and finding new ways to instil trust back into the process. He stated that an important element in the strategy is the implementation of the fast start financing for developing countries agreed in December and that the core goal must be to bring all partners closer to the EU's ambitions and commitment to a multilateral agreement.

President Barroso has therefore asked Climate Change Commissioner Connie Hedegaard to undertake a consultation of key international partners to find new ways to reinvigorate the international process.

[read the full statement](#)

EC creates two new Directorates-General for Energy and Climate Action

The European Commission has created two new Directorates-General: DG Energy (ENER) and DG Climate Action (CLIM). The Energy DG consists of the departments in the former Transport and Energy DG dealing with energy issues and of the Task Force Energy which will be transferred from the External Relations DG. The departments responsible for transport policy will remain in the renamed Mobility and Transport DG (MOVE). The Climate Action DG will be created from the relevant activities in DG Environment, the activities in the External Relations DG related to international negotiations on climate change and the activities in the Enterprise and Industry DG related to climate change.

[read more](#)

Mr Smith goes to Europe



The Hon Stephen Smith MP this week became the first Australian Foreign Minister to visit EU Member State Slovakia. During his visits to Spain, Austria, the Slovak Republic and the United Kingdom, Minister Smith emphasised the importance Australia places on its relationship with the European Union, saying "*Given Australia's heightened engagement in Europe, we now have an Australia/European Union Partnership Framework.*

We've recently become a member of ASEM, the Asia Europe Meeting, we've recently become a member of, or an Asian dialogue partner of, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and of course we work closely on NATO and International Security Assistance Force matters in Afghanistan."

Mr Smith visited the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO), and gave speeches in Madrid, Vienna and Bratislava. More http://www.foreignminister.gov.au/speeches/2010/100215_madrid.html

picture shows Mr Smith with Spanish Prime Minister José Zapatero

European trade delegation in Australia for high level talks

A delegation from the European Union led by senior trade negotiator Mauro Petriccione is in Australia from 17 to 19 February for discussions on trade and investment with Australian officials.

The European Union and Australia are working together in the WTO, they are both keen to improve multilateral and bilateral relationships, and both have been actively negotiating Free Trade Agreements with Asian countries.

In Canberra, the delegation met with the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries; followed by a full day Trade Policy Dialogue with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

In Sydney, the group will attend the Joint European Australia Business Council / Australian Services Roundtable Forum, and meet with the Lowy Institute to discuss Australian and EU engagement in the Asian region.

The delegation will then fly to Wellington for similar discussions in New Zealand.

Agreement to help Greece

The Heads of State or Government of the European Union pledged to help Greece tackle its debt crisis, if needed. They issued a statement in support of the efforts by the Greek government and their commitment to do whatever is necessary to safeguard the financial stability in the euro area as a whole. On 16 February, the Council of the European Union gave its opinion on the latest update by Greece of its stability programme, which sets out plans for reducing its government deficit below 3% of gross domestic product by 2012. The Council asked Greece to present a report by 16 March 2010 setting out the timetable for implementing budgetary measures for 2010, and another by 15 May outlining the policy measures needed to comply with the Council's decision. Greece has not requested any financial support.

José Barroso, President of the European Commission, issued a statement following the Informal Meeting of Heads of State and Government in Brussels, in which he expressed confidence in the strong commitment from all Heads of State and Government regarding the eurozone. President Barroso stressed that a clear lesson from the financial crisis was that the Member States of the European Union were more interdependent than ever before and by supporting one economy, the EU supports all. [read the full statement](#)

EU Finance Ministers also issued new recommendations to Lithuania, Malta and Romania. The Council adopted conclusions on the EU single market, calling for a "comprehensive and ambitious implementation of the Services Directive".

[read more](#)

European Economic Update

The first estimate for the **euro area (EA16) trade balance with the rest of the world** in December 2009 gave a 4.4 bn euro surplus, compared with -1.8 bn in December 2008. The November 2009 balance was +4.0 bn, compared with -6.9 bn in November 2008. In December 2009 compared with November 2009, seasonally adjusted exports rose by 3.1% and imports by 1.7%. The first estimate for the December 2009 extra- EU27 trade balance was a 2.5 bn euro deficit, compared with -11.3 bn in December 2008. In November 2009 the balance was -6.8 bn, compared with -24.4 bn in November 2008. In December 2009

compared with November 2009, seasonally adjusted exports rose by 2.0% and imports by 0.5%.

Euro area and EU27 GDP up by 0.1% : GDP increased by 0.1% in both the euro area (EA16) and the EU27 during the fourth quarter of 2009, compared with the previous quarter. In the third quarter of 2009, growth rates were +0.4% and +0.3% respectively. Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, seasonally adjusted GDP decreased by 2.1% in the euro area and by 2.3% in the EU27 in the fourth quarter of 2009, after -4.0% and -4.3% respectively in the previous quarter.

Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs looks at the enormous task ahead

As President Barroso's new team starts its term, Andris Piebalgs holds the significant development portfolio within EU foreign policy and will work closely with the new foreign affairs chief, Catherine Ashton. Development policy is a key part of the "["Europe 2020" vision](#)" looking ahead to a "global Europe" and making progress towards the [Millennium Development Goals](#) .

The EU is the biggest aid donor in the world, channelling some 60% of total official development assistance to Asia, Pacific, Middle East, Africa, Caribbean and Latin America (€49bn in 2008, or €100 per European citizen).

Helping developing countries recover from the economic slowdown and beyond will be the top priority for the incoming Development Commissioner. The vast majority of these countries are experiencing falling exports, remittances and capital flows while at the same time lacking their own resources. In recent years, soaring food prices have brought poverty, hunger and malnutrition to nearly 100 million people, and the World Bank estimates the recent crisis will increase this number by 50-90 million, most in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Comments on the Commissioner's statement are welcomed at http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/featured_20100209_en.cfm

Commission plans a further €90 million for the relief effort in Haiti

The European Commission on 11 February proposed drawing funds from the emergency reserve of the EU budget to fund a further substantial package of humanitarian aid in Haiti. In a new Commission decision worth €90 million, the emphasis will be on making a significant contribution to the immense and urgent need for shelter for Haitians whose homes were destroyed or damaged in the earthquake as well as supporting distribution of food and the provision of much needed health care.

"We should avoid at all costs a second-wave humanitarian disaster in Haiti. With the approaching rainy and hurricane season, giving people a roof over their heads is a key priority" said Kristalina Georgieva, the new European Commissioner responsible for international cooperation, humanitarian aid and crisis response.

In addition to supporting shelter activities, the decision would be used to meet continuing urgent needs in other sectors including food, health and water/sanitation. This new funding will bring the EU's overall response in Haiti to €609 million of which €309 million is humanitarian aid (€120m through the Commission and €189m through the Member States). The remaining €300 million is for urgent rehabilitation and reconstruction. Together with the upcoming EU military mission aiming to provide shelter this funding will further contribute to alleviating the suffering of the Haitian people.

[latest fact sheet on Haiti](#)

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research,

Innovation and Science, at AmCham EU

Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn, as part of her programme of meeting senior leaders of European and global innovative businesses in the early weeks of her mandate, met members of the American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union (AmCham EU) in Brussels on 18 February.

She spoke about the research and innovation challenges facing Europe and the world and on the central role of research and innovation in the economic recovery and in the Europe 2020 strategy. *"Some of the challenges are so big that no one continent can solve them alone. The United States of America is Europe's most important science and technology partner. Europe has a large and excellent knowledge base. It is the largest producer of scientific publications. But we are not good enough at transforming our inventions into commercial successes. For example, the MP3 standard for compressing audio data was invented in Europe, but commercialised in America – as was Apple's iPod. This has to change. If we could deliver a large and harmonised single market for services, together with a European venture capital market, just imagine how much we could achieve."* said Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn.

Windows on Europe Film Festival



Speaking in Sydney at the official opening of the Windows on Europe Film Festival on 12 February, Ambassador David Daly, said *"What makes this festival unique is that it brings together films from across Europe into one festival demonstrating the European Union's rich and diverse culture. With nearly 500 million citizens in 27 Member States spanning from the Atlantic to the Black Sea and from the Arctic to the Mediterranean, and the free movement of its citizens across borders, we are home to a real diversity of culture, with our languages, religions and ethnic backgrounds. I know that Australia also benefits from a rich cultural diversity and is creating a successful multi-cultural society. The seventeen films in this year's festival are a celebration of this European diversity. And what better art form than the cinema to convey the diversity of our culture."*

You still have a chance to catch the seventeen award winning European films in Sydney, Brisbane, Auckland and Melbourne! Opens this weekend in Brisbane. 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>

Meet the winners of the EU balloon ride for two



The Wolnicki family from Canberra received a double prize this week - husband Mat entered the draw at the Europe Street festival and won a balloon ride for two in the European Union's hot air balloon, and wife Aleks became an Australian citizen.

"We were thrilled to hear that we had won a balloon ride in the EU balloon. We have seen it in the early mornings, and it has been one of our dreams to soar in the skies over Canberra. It was very special for us, especially as I received Australian citizenship just the day before." said Aleks.

Picture shows Ambassador David Daly presenting the prize to the Wolnicki family: Mat and Aleks, with sons Bruno and Kosma. [read more about the European Union balloon](#)

EU tube: European cinema. Made for you!



EU Tube: European cinema. Made for you!
From: [eutube](#) | February 15, 2010

The new EU clip shows if you seize the moment and grab your chance, then you will fulfil your dream. <http://www.youtube.com/eutube>

[see EUtube](#)

Academic news and events

The newly-established European Union Centre at the RMIT University in Melbourne is seeking applicants for the **Directorship** of the Centre. Applications close 24 February 2010. More information can be found at [Director: European Union Centre RMIT](#)

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 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. Candidates for admission will find all information to apply on the E.MA website at <http://www.emahumanrights.org>. The deadline for application is 19 March 2010.

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/AEUIFAI.htm>
Inquiries emailed to peter.howard@arts.monash.edu.au

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>

[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

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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