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Europe 2020: new economic strategy for Europe



The European Commission launched the Europe 2020 Strategy to prepare the EU economy for the next decade. The Commission identifies three key drivers for growth, to be implemented through concrete actions at EU and national levels: smart growth (fostering knowledge, innovation, education and digital society), sustainable growth (making production more resource efficient while boosting competitiveness) and inclusive growth (raising participation in the labour market, the acquisition of skills and the fight against poverty). This battle for growth and jobs requires ownership at the top political level and mobilisation from all actors across Europe. Five targets are set which define where the EU should be by 2020 and against which progress can be tracked.

European Commission President Barroso said, "*Europe 2020 is about what we need to do today and tomorrow to get the EU economy back on track. The crisis has exposed fundamental issues and unsustainable trends that we cannot ignore any longer. Europe has a growth deficit which is putting our future at risk. We must decisively tackle our weaknesses and exploit our many strengths. We need to build a new economic model based on knowledge, low-carbon economy and high employment levels.*" [Further information](#)

Commission welcomes Greek Government's ambitious programme

José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, issued a statement on 3 March welcoming the announcement by the Greek Government to introduce a set of additional consolidation measures. "*This announcement confirms the Greek Government's commitment to take all necessary measures to deliver the programme's objectives and in particular to ensure that the 4% of GDP deficit reduction target for 2010 will be met. Full and timely implementation of fiscal measures, along with decisive structural reforms, in compliance with the EU Finance Ministers' decision is paramount. This is in the interest of the Greek people, who will benefit from sounder public finances, better growth prospects and job opportunities. It is also important for the overall financial stability of the euro area. The measures provide a strong signal of the readiness of the Greek Government to proceed with courageous decisions.*" he said. [Read the full statement](#)

Climate change back on the agenda



President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, this week addressed the European Parliament in the leadup to formal deliberations of the Council scheduled for 25 and 26 March. The two main issues on the agenda will be economic

recovery and addressing climate change. *"As you know, the EU developed an ambitious climate change action policy and we played a constructive and leading role in the international negotiations. Nevertheless, this was not translated into the result we wanted"* said President Van Rompuy. Commenting on EU plans for economic recovery: *"What we need to do now is to find ways of improving Europe's medium-term economic performance, looking at the horizon of Europe 2020."* [Read the speech](#)

Progress in free trade negotiations with Vietnam, Singapore & India



EU Trade Commissioner, Karel De Gucht, has wrapped-up his first official visit to Asia with notable advances in bilateral trade deals in the region. Commissioner Karel De Gucht stated, *"I am very pleased that my first visit to the region has led to such concrete developments – especially a deal between the EU and [Vietnam](#) to launch future bilateral trade negotiations. This will mean more jobs and greater business opportunities for both sides. At the same time, I hope the launch of trade negotiations in Singapore will encourage other countries in South-East Asia to do the same."*

In [Singapore](#), Commissioner De Gucht and Singapore Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang formally launched the start of bilateral trade talks with the joint aim of concluding a deep and comprehensive FTA as soon as possible. Both sides restated their commitment to work closely at the World Trade Organisation and in particular to advance the conclusion of the Doha Round of negotiations.

In India, talks between Commissioner De Gucht and Minister of Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma have given fresh impetus to an EU-India FTA. Both sides expressed their determination to conclude the FTA negotiations ahead of the EU-India summit in October. [More information on ASEAN-EU relations](#)

Launch of the reconstruction phase in Haiti



EU Development Commissioner Andris Piebalgs announced the release of €100 million to support recovery activities in Haiti, after an agreement was reached with the Haitian government about priority areas. *"Even if the humanitarian crisis in Haiti is not over, we now have to launch the phase of reconstruction of the country. As the world's biggest donor, the EU has a special responsibility to make its action effective by dividing roles between Member States and the Commission."* stated Commissioner Piebalgs.

On 17 February the Government of Haiti launched a Post Disaster Needs Assistance exercise to assess the country's long-term development needs, with the participation of experts from the EU, the UN, the World Bank and other partners. The first report is expected to be published on 12 March and the findings will inform discussion during the Haiti reconstruction conference in New York on 31 March. The PDNA results will be used to determine the allocation of a further EU aid package of €200 million for longer-term reconstruction. This will be in addition to individual contributions from EU Member States.

[Haiti reconstruction](#)

Picture: Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, in the centre, visiting "City Soleil" refugees in Haiti

EU emergency response in Chile following major quake

The European Commission has provided an initial €3 million for immediate relief following the Chile earthquake. The funds are managed by ECHO, the Commission department dealing with humanitarian aid and civil protection, under the responsibility of

Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva. The EU Civil Protection Mechanism was activated on 1 March, following a request for international assistance from the Chilean President. An EU Advanced Medical Post (AMP), with surgery, is being deployed immediately, together with a Technical Assistance and Support Team. [More information](#)

Combating illegal immigration and people smuggling

Justice and Home Affairs Ministers meeting in Brussels on 25 and February adopted a series of conclusions aimed at improving cooperation with third countries with a view to the strategic, evidence based and systematic implementation of the Global Approach to Migration. The responsibility for the control and surveillance of external borders lies with the individual Member States of the European Union, in cooperation with FRONTEX, the EU's border management agency. Concerning FRONTEX, the Ministers sought agreement from the European Parliament on the reinforcement of the capabilities of the agency, covering areas of asylum support under the auspices of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO); the creation of Rapid Border Intervention Teams (RABIT) and the development of an "Erasmus" type pilot programme for border guards. [See the recommendations](#)

Catherine Ashton deplores Burma's decision to reject Aung San Suu Kyi's appeal

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, has deplored Burma's decision to reject Aung San Suu Kyi's appeal against the imposed sentence. A statement issued by her spokesperson begins: "*The High Representative deplores the decision of the Supreme Court [of Burma/Myanmar] to reject the appeal of Aung San Suu Kyi against the unjust sentence imposed last year. This damages prospects for an inclusive political dialogue between the Government and opposition parties that is urgently needed to achieve progress in national reconciliation and secure long-term stability. In the perspective of the planned elections later this year, the High Representative calls on the authorities to heed the appeals of the international community to allow her and all other prisoners of conscience to participate in the political process.*" [Read the full statement](#)

HR says Israel's decision to add Hebron & Bethlehem to national heritage detrimental

The spokesperson for Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, said: "*The High Representative regards the recent decision by the Government of Israel to add sites in Hebron and Bethlehem to the list of Israeli national heritage sites as detrimental to attempts to relaunch peace negotiations. The European Union calls on Israel to refrain from provocative acts. The European Union recognises the importance of these religious sites to all three Abrahamic faiths and supports the principle of access for all.*" [more](#)

Applications sought for 2010 European Union – Qantas Journalist Award

The EUQJA is open to an Australian journalist of not less than three years experience in the print or electronic media, who can satisfy the selection panel that he or she would benefit from a working visit to EU institutions and up to three Member States. Preference is given to applicants in a position to increase Australian understanding of EU affairs by having material published or broadcast. Previous applicants are encouraged to apply. Selection is based primarily on the journalist's proposal outlining an issue or issues on European integration to be pursued during the visit. There is no application form per se, but candidates are urged to read the application guidelines www.delous.ec.europa.eu/EUQJA.htm Applications close by cob 30 April 2010. The EU will assist the journalist in formulating a suitable program of 15 working days that must be

undertaken by the end of March 2011. Business class travel to and from Europe is courtesy of Qantas Airways and arranged by Travel Makers of Canberra. The Award also provides reasonable accommodation costs and a living allowance. More information: www.delaus.ec.europa.eu/EUQJA.htm Enquiries: Roger Camilleri, Delegation of the European Union, Canberra, T: (02) 6271 2744; E-mail: roger.camilleri@ec.europa.eu

European Union Visitors Programme

The EU Delegation is currently accepting applications for the European Union Visitors Program (EUVP) program in 2011, with final selections made by the end of May 2010. The EUVP invites aspiring leaders from countries outside the European Union to visit Europe to gain a first-hand appreciation of the EU's goals, policies and people, and to increase mutual understanding between professionals from non-EU countries and their EU counterparts. A limited number are selected from Australia and New Zealand each year. The EUVP is jointly sponsored and administered by the European Parliament and the European Commission and has been in operation since 1974.

An EUVP visit consists of an individual five- to eight-day program of meetings with EU officials at the EU institutions in Brussels, Strasbourg and/or Luxembourg. Eligible participants are usually mid-career government officials (local, state and federal), journalists, trade unionists, educators, officials of non-profit, non-governmental organisations and other professionals with career-related interests in the European Union. Participants are required to have completed their university education or equivalent training and have several years experience in their chosen career/field. Deadline for applications is 30 March 2010. [read more](#)

EU-NZ Trade Conference, Auckland



The EU-NZ Trade Conference held on 23 February was a highly successful event organised by the Auckland Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the European Union's Wellington Delegation and the NZ-Europe Business Council. The event, attended by around 130 EU and NZ trade decision-makers-opinion formers, began with a networking breakfast, surrounded by European business stands. During his visit to New Zealand, which included Annual Trade Talks between the two sides, top EU Trade Negotiator Mauro Petriccione also had the opportunity to meet with New Zealand Trade Minister Tim Groser. [EU-NZ trade talks](#)

EU helps Pacific with funding for fisheries and deep-sea minerals



The European Union and the Pacific members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States on 2 March finalised financing agreements for three regional projects totalling €22 million. The projects are funded under the 10th European Development Fund and aim to further the sustainable management and use of marine resources in the Pacific. The **Scientific Support for the Management of Coastal and Oceanic Fisheries in the Pacific Islands Regions** is for the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and fisheries resources, the **Development of Sustainable Tuna Fisheries** aims to assist with poverty alleviation in the Pacific, and the **Deep Sea Minerals in the Pacific Islands Region** will strengthen Pacific planning and management systems for deep-sea minerals. [More information](#)

Windows on Europe Film Festival



You still have a chance to catch the award winning European films in Auckland and Melbourne. For the full programme, and

information on all films, please visit our website:

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

EU tube: Bran Nue Dae for Europe



EU Tube: This video features music by Australia's Yothu Yindi, from the hit movie [Bran Nue Dae](#). Creator of the video, James, says " *The EU is more than just a group of 27 countries joined together. It's about individual freedoms which today we take for granted. The freedom to work, the freedom to live, the freedom to travel, the freedom to study, the freedom to be who and what we each desire to be, and above all else, protect our national democracies and our right to vote for the party of our choice. These freedoms are the achievements we Europeans have obtained through the European Union. Why do I have an Aboriginal Australian band playing the music? Because the song is about a new day, looking forward and not backwards, and sings of hope. Yothu Yindi is an inspiration for not only their own people, but for humanity as a whole. And for Europe, it is a brand new day.*" <http://www.youtube.com/user/EuropeanUnionRules>

see [EUtube](#)

Academic news and events

ANU Centre for European Studies Public Lecture Series: Judge Aindrias Ó Caoimh, Irish Judge on the Court of Justice of the European Union since 2004, will speak about his experiences as a Judge of the Court and challenges facing the Court under the new Treaty of Lisbon which came into force on 1 December 2009. Chaired by: Anne McNaughton, ANU College of Law. Wednesday 10 March at 3.00pm at 1 Liversidge Street, Bldg 67C, ANU. RSVP by Monday 8 March 2010 12.00pm - E: europa@anu.edu.au. Phone: 6125 9896. Judge Ó Caoimh is also presenting at a seminar at Sydney Law School, University of Sydney, on Thursday 11 March. [More information](#)

ANU Centre for European Studies Visiting Fellowships May 2010 – April 2011: The ANU Centre for European Studies has announced a [Call for Applications](#) under this year's Visiting Fellowship program. The Program is part of the Centre's mission to promote research, education and dialogue between Europe and Australia, and is specifically aimed at supporting and hosting local and international scholars wishing to undertake research at the Australian National University. The broad theme for 2010 is 'Europe and the Law'. For the 2010 research themes of the Research School of Humanities, click [here](#). The closing date for applications is 1 May 2010, for visits to take place from May 2010 – April 2011. For more information, see <http://ces.anu.edu.au/>

"Back to Russia? Explaining the Ukrainian Presidential Elections of 2010" The Monash European and EU Centre and the Mykola Zerov Centre for Ukrainian Studies invite you to attend a presentation by Professor David R. Marples, University of Alberta, Canada. The lecture examines the results of the Ukrainian presidential elections of 17 January and 7 February and offers an assessment of the likely consequences for Ukraine. Thursday, 11 March 2010, 6:00pm to 8:30pm, Monash University (Caulfield Campus), 900 Dandenong Road, Caulfield East, Room S230 (Link Theatre), Building S, Level 2. RSVP by Tues. 9 March. to patricia.arnold@general.monash.edu.au ph 03 9903 4638

Italian Government Scholarships 2010 - 2011, The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has released the 2010—2011 Italian Government Scholarships which are available for Australian citizens and Italian citizens residing abroad. Applications must be completed on line no later than 31 March 2010. Printed copies and further documents need to be sent to the Embassy of Italy in Canberra no later than 12 April 2010. All information and documentation is available on website www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Ministero/Servizi/Stranieri/Opportunita/default.htm

DAAD Alumni Conference "Tackling the Future" 26-28 March, University of Sydney
The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst, DAAD) will hold a Big Alumni Meeting at Sydney Uni in March, hosted by Vice Chancellor Michael Spence, with keynotes, panels, performances, workshops and excursions on the topic of "Tackling the Future – Environmental Challenges and their Impact on Academic Cooperation, Economy and Culture". For more information, please contact Dr Andreas Jaeger, the DAAD's representative in Australia: andreas.jaeger@usyd.edu.au or <http://ic.daad.de/sydney/events.htm>

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.

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>

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

"Living pictures" at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney – the MCA presents an exhibition of works by prominent French video artist Sylvie Blocher, on display from 17 February to 26 April 2010, and presented concurrently at the Penrith Regional Gallery from 13 February to 4 April 2010.

French Film Festival: 2-21 March Sydney; 4-21 March Melbourne; 18-31 March Canberra; 17-31 March Brisbane; 17-31 March Perth; 18-31 March Adelaide; – more information <http://www.frenchfilmfestival.org/>

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/>

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 .

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