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Re-launch of the Monash University and EU Centre



The Monash European and EU Centre (MEEUC) is one of three EU centres in Australia. Formally launched in Melbourne on 31 July 2006, the Centre was re-launched on 22 April 2010 under a new five year funding phase. Ambassador David Daly spoke at the re-launch of the Centre, saying "*The European Commission is very pleased to fund this centre with its €1m contribution representing around 62% of the total costs, in partnership with Monash University. Monash has come through a tough competitive process to attract this funding from the European Commission. This pays tribute to the ideas, the people and the supportive structure which Monash brought to its project proposal*". [read full speech](#)

The Lisbon Treaty: a Stronger Europe in the World

The following day, Ambassador Daly treated a full house of students and faculty members to a wide-ranging speech on the Lisbon Treaty, taking them through the journey of various European treaties: Paris, Rome, Maastricht, Amsterdam, Nice – not just beautiful, famous European cities - which of course they are - but they are also the *nom de plumes* of a series of European treaties which form the legal basis of the European Union; they dictate the rules by which the Union functions. Now we have added Lisbon to this list.

Ambassador Daly prefaced his remarks by quoting the prescient words of Victor Hugo, who, writing in 1849, foresaw a renunciation of the cyclical violence that was such a defining feature of European history and the adoption of the new European order: "*A day will come when all the nations of this continent, without losing their distinct qualities or their glorious individuality, will fuse together in a higher unity and form the European brotherhood. A day will come when the only battlefield will be the market-place for competing ideas. A day will come when bullets and bombs will be replaced by votes.*" Victor Hugo spoke these prophetic words in 1849, but it took more than a century for his utopian predictions to start coming true. [read Ambassador Daly's speech](#)

The European Union: Great Power?



"*Can we reach any judgements about whether the EU qualifies as a 'great power'? Most people questioned in third states perceive the EU as a 'force for good' - a response containing two elements: force implies achieving a result. Opinion polls also show that the EU is the only power that people feel does not need a counter balance if its influence grows. Overall in today's world we should perhaps regard the EU as a 'modern' power, but one that gets results.*" said John Hesketh Richards, Minister-Counsellor of the European Union Delegation at the Australian Defence Force Academy on 19 April.

The world has moved on from the Congress of Vienna in 1815, when

the world's population was 1 billion, and the five 'great powers' were all European, to today, a world of 7 billion, where the exponential growth in world trade, globalisation, and increasing interdependence have all made major changes to the way power is exercised.

The EU is top of the economic league table. This is sometimes not fully appreciated in countries which tend to continue to breakdown our statistics by Member State. EU citizens, 7% of the world's population, generate 22% of global GDP. The EU model is increasingly looked to by other groupings to provide ideas if not necessarily to be emulated in full. While the EU's military power does not function as a single force it is able to respond decisively and efficiently within a framework designed to respect human rights and values. The EU has become a global player in terms of security. [read the full speech](#)

Europe and the Global Financial Crisis



Peter Bekx, Director of International Economic and Financial Affairs in the European Commission's Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs, is visiting Australia from 4 to 9 May to take part in the 1st Informal EU-Australia Macroeconomic and Financial Dialogue. He will also meet with Treasury and DFAT officials for discussions. On Wednesday 5 May from 12.00 noon to 2.00pm, Mr Bekx is presenting at the ANU Centre for European Studies.

The lecture will discuss the impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Europe – the world's largest economy; the strategy the EU has put in place to guide recovery of the European economy and create growth; as well as the EU's role in the G20 process of coordination between major economies. For more information and to RSVP (by 3 May), please email Europe@anu.edu.au. - [link to flyer](#)

Commissioner Rehn on joint EU-IMF negotiations for Greece

Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn outlined the outcome of negotiations towards the joint EU-IMF programme with Greece, saying: *"In the past ten days, the experts of the Commission, the ECB and the IMF have worked extremely effectively and hard with the Greek government to work out a programme that will reverse the debt spiral of Greece and restore its overall economic competitiveness. The outcome will be a multi-annual programme that will lead to major fiscal and also structural adjustment. Funding to Greece through the coordinated bilateral loans by the euro-area member states will be conditional to implementing the decisions required to meet the conditions of fiscal consolidation and structural reforms. The financial support will give Greece a sufficient breathing space from the pressures of the financial markets to decisively restore the sustainability of its public finances and to put the economy back on a path of sustainable growth. This exercise has been done not only because of Greece, but for every Euro Area Member State and their citizens to safeguard financial stability in Europe and globally – which is absolutely crucial for our economic recovery, steady growth and employment."*

Commission President Barroso's visit to China 29 April to 1 May



On 29 April, the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, embarked on his first trip to China since the start of the new Commission, giving continuation to the close cooperation established in the past 5 years. He went first to Beijing then to Shanghai for the opening ceremony of the Shanghai World Expo 2010. The main focus of the visit is to develop a forward looking agenda for bilateral relations, under the new framework provided by the Lisbon Treaty, and includes discussions on climate change, clean energy technologies, the current economic situation, Trade and investment. Following his meeting with Mr Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, President Barroso said *"Premier Wen and I spoke candidly about our concerns. We spoke about our current economic situation globally and the contribution that China and the EU, as very responsible partners, can give to a sustainable global recovery. We discussed without taboos all issues, from the importance of rebalancing global growth and further reducing global imbalances, to trade, investment and currency matters. I welcome the commitment of PM Wen to going on with opening the Chinese economy. I think the EU can also congratulate itself for having resisted protectionist pressures and*

having kept our markets open. We have discussed specifically the issues of climate change and energy. We are determined to build on the Copenhagen Accord and I think our regular dialogue on this topic is essential. We had an in-depth discussion of energy policy. Both China and the EU are resolved to act as responsible global energy players so as to ensure energy security and sustainability. Tomorrow I will have the pleasure of inaugurating the EU-China Clean Energy Centre here in Beijing, a key tool to strengthen our cooperation on clean-energy technologies, and this is a key element in our efforts to combat climate change". [Joint Press Statement: EU-China](#)

19th EU-Japan Summit in Tokyo



Mr Yukio Hatoyama, Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, and Mr José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, met in Tokyo on 28 April 2010 for the 19th Summit between Japan and the European Union. Mr Katsuya Okada, Foreign Minister of Japan, Mr Masayuki Naoshima, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, Baroness Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and Mr Karel De Gucht,

European Commissioner for Trade, also attended the Summit. As well as discussing Japan-EU bilateral relations, Summit leaders exchanged views on a number of key international questions. At the conclusion of the Summit, the leaders concurred that the discussions had been useful for charting a path for the future strengthening of the relationship. Summit leaders noted with satisfaction that they had been able to firm up Japan-EU common positions on important global and regional challenges facing the international community. In a number of areas, they were able to identify concrete short-term cooperation priorities. [Main points emerging from the Summit: Joint EU-Japan statement](#)

New Zealand joins the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People



The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued a statement following New Zealand's joining the UN Declaration on the rights of Indigenous People.

"Indigenous issues form an integral part of the European Union's human rights policy. The adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007 advanced the rights and ensured the continued development of indigenous peoples around the world. HR Catherine Ashton therefore warmly welcomes the important announcement made by the government of New Zealand on 19 April in the framework of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues taking place in New York and in the New Zealand Parliament that New Zealand now supports the UN Declaration. She looks forward to continuing the close co-operation with New Zealand on a broad range of human rights issues". [Read the press release](#)

Volcanic ash cloud crisis: tackling the impact on air transport

European Commission Vice-President Siim Kallas, responsible for transport, on 27 April presented a preliminary assessment of the economic consequences for the air transport industry of the volcanic ash crisis. In addition the Vice President presented a range of possible short-term actions and structural measures to help the air transport industry overcome this unprecedented period. Faced with this crisis, the first priority of the Commission was to intervene to facilitate the opening of airspace under strict safety conditions so that millions of stranded passengers could get home and to ensure that EU passenger rights are fully respected.

Vice-President Siim Kallas said: *"The European Union has been hit by an unprecedented crisis with the closure of airspace due to the volcanic eruption leading to more than 100,000 cancelled flights and more than 10 million passengers unable to travel. The first priority for the Commission was to facilitate the opening up of more airspace to get stranded passengers home. Since the beginning, passengers have been our first priority and my message to industry has been very clear – EU passenger rights must be fully respected. Now, as we are getting back to normal our focus can shift*

to relief measures for the industry. This is about practical measures to provide relief to the air transport sector so they can weather this crisis. The Commission is also proposing structural changes to ensure we do not face this situation again." The Commission proposes Accelerating the implementation of the "**Single European Sky**" and pan-European mobility plans put in place for future major disruptions. The package of proposals presented by the Vice-President will be discussed by transport ministers meeting at the extraordinary Council in Brussels on 4 May. [Ash fallout](#)

EU remains the most significant aid donor in the world



Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for Development, speaking at the European Investment Bank conference on 29 April, shared his vision on EU's development policy: *"The starting point for my remarks is that the EU remains the most significant donor in the world, providing over half of global aid while it only represents about a fifth of the world's GNI. The EU provided nearly 50 billion of aid in 2009, which means its aid doubled in the past ten years. The economic crisis has put both the developed and the developing world in a challenging situation. Capital flows have dropped, trade revenues have decreased, and remittances have gone down. Millions of people have been thrown back into poverty. Even in these difficult times we have managed to make a difference. Two years ago the EU was able to respond rapidly to the food price crisis, allocating €1 billion for those that were worst hit. Last year we rolled out the Vulnerability flex mechanism to help those developing countries whose economies suffered most from the downturn. This is what Europeans should be immensely proud of. However, despite our efforts we need to do more and do it soon. The collective EU intermediate target by this year that the EU and its Member States have committed to is 0,56% of GNI. The challenge of achieving 0.7% by 2015 is achievable, but requires a lot of political will. We have to respect our promises; it is not only our obligation, it is in our interest."* [EU biggest donor of aid](#)

Development Commissioner in Haiti

Commissioner Andris Piebalgs travelled to Haiti on 23 and 24 April to launch the first reconstruction projects funded by the EU. This was the first EU visit since the international donors conference "Towards a new future for Haiti" that took place in New York on 31st March last. Commissioner Piebalgs signed five conventions to fund projects supported by the European Commission. These projects focus on the reconstruction of the State, school and road infrastructures and social services. The mission undertaken by Commissioner Piebalgs in Haiti highlights the European Commission's solidarity and marks the transition between humanitarian urgency and the reconstruction of the country.

EU presses for Cyprus solution

The Commission and the European Union are fully committed to support efforts at reaching a settlement of the Cyprus problem, which would be to the benefit of Cyprus and the EU in general. Important progress has been made in shaping a settlement that would reunite the island on the basis of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. President Barroso said *"Now that Mr Eroğlu has been elected leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, it is crucial that the settlement talks go on. The Commission encourages Mr Eroğlu to continue in a constructive spirit the efforts towards settlement and reunification. The Commission will continue to offer full support to the leaders' efforts towards a comprehensive settlement. Turkish Cypriots are EU citizens and should enjoy all benefits of EU Membership as soon as possible. It is in the hands of both leaders to make this happen."* [Statement on the results of the elections in northern part of Cyprus](#)

Normalisation of relations between Turkey and Armenia

The spokesperson of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission, Catherine Ashton, issued a statement on 26 April:

"The High Representative has taken note of the decision by Armenia to suspend the procedure of ratification of bilateral protocols relating to the normalization of relations with Turkey. The High Representative is pleased to note that Armenia remains committed to pursue the process of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations but at the same time expresses concern about the loss of momentum in this process. The EU reiterates its call to both countries to continue their dialogue

and remain committed to the process of normalization without preconditions and in a reasonable timeframe. The EU will continue to provide its political and technical support to this process and stands ready to help implementing the steps agreed between the two countries." [Read full statement](#)

World Press Freedom Day 3 May

On World Press Freedom Day on 3 May the European Commission officially launches the Lorenzo Natali Prize for 2010. The international prize is awarded in partnership with Reporters Without Borders and the World Association of Newspapers to the best journalism on development, democracy and human rights. The Natali Prize is an international prize awarded each year since 1992 to the best journalistic work on development, democracy and human rights. It is open to journalists working in developing countries. In 2009 more than 1 000 journalists from 130 countries took part. More information at: <http://www.nataliprize2010.eu>

European Economic Update

In April, the **Economic Sentiment Indicator** again rose and exceeded its long term average, reaching 101.9 (+2.1 points) in the EU and 100.6 (+2.7) in the euro area. However, coming out of a deep recession clearly means that further sustained improvements will be required for economic activity to reach its pre-crisis levels.

In April, the **Business Climate Indicator** for the euro area improved further. The rebound of the indicator suggests that economic activity in industry will continue to recover in the coming months, although it has still some way to go to reach its pre-crisis level. Managers in industry were upbeat about their order books and the production trend observed in recent months. They were also optimistic about their export order books. They considered that stocks of finished goods were lower than desirable and still declining. Their previously optimistic production expectations remained largely unchanged. Full details are available on the Europa website: http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/db_indicators/surveys/index_en.htm

Academic news and events

The EU goes to Uni: EU Delegation staff continue to present information on [Studying in Europe](#) at this year's University Exchange Fairs. Covered so far have been the Gold Coast University, Griffith University and the Queensland University of Technology in **Queensland**; the University of Sydney, Macquarie University and the Sydney University of Technology in **NSW**; the University of Adelaide and the University of **South Australia**. You still have a chance to catch up with our friendly presenters in **Victoria**, at the Australian Catholic University, RMIT and Monash University. For detailed information on these presentations and exchange fairs, please contact Lisa Vassallo, Delegation of the European Union, Canberra, on lisa.vassallo@ec.europa.eu

EU tube: Single Market Award



EUTube: The **Single Market Award** aims to highlight the importance of the internal market and raise awareness of the opportunities associated with the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital in the EU but also of the problems that may arise when the application of the internal markets regulatory framework does not function. The prize is a recognition of companies, organisations or people that have helped to improve the internal market. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWEaXUn_f-U

[see EUTube](#)

European Union Delegation: publications available online



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

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: [Study in Europe 2010](#)
[Key Facts 2010](#)

[European Union Australia Partnership Framework](#)

[EU Insight: Climate change](#)

[EU Insight: Economic relationship](#)

Upcoming events: Australia

Australia-Germany Solar & Wind Energy Industry Conference 2010.

Over a dozen expert speakers from Germany and Australia will cover support policies, technological progress, legal aspects and flagship projects. Over 150 representatives from the solar and wind energy industry are expected to attend. Admission will be free for anyone operating in the field of renewable energies. For more information please refer to the [news release](#)

Spanish film Festival: Sydney 5-16 May, Canberra 6-16 May, Melbourne 12-23 May, Adelaide 13-16 May, Brisbane 20-30 May. www.spanishfilmfestival.com

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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