




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

Issue Date: 7 May 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](#)

Happy Europe Day!



Why are EU flags flying on Commonwealth Avenue Bridge, Canberra's busiest thoroughfare? Because 9 May celebrates [Europe Day](#), the occasion for activities and festivities that bring Europe closer to its citizens and peoples of the Union closer to one another.

Catherine Ashton, European Union High Representative and Vice-President of the European Commission, speaking on the occasion of Europe Day 2010, emphasised the importance to Europe of its partners around the world, saying "*only together will we be able to create policies and initiatives to tackle the challenges the world is facing in the 21st century. We have to find effective answers on a wide range of risks and threats: the fragility of states, terrorism, organised crime as well as the wider issues that affect our citizens: energy, climate change and the competition for natural resources, pandemics, illegal migration and human trafficking, financial and economic issues, trade, health and demography.*"

Exactly 60 years ago on 9 May 1950 the declaration of the great European Robert Schuman laid the ground for a united, stable and peaceful Europe, that would emerge from the ashes of two devastating world wars. This historical declaration and its great significance continue to lead the integration project on the European continent and inspire partnerships we forge beyond the borders of Europe. Europe Day has become the symbol of a new beginning, of a free and successful way of peaceful cooperation between sovereign nations, based on shared values and common interests such as peace, solidarity, democracy, welfare of people and the rule of law.

[Read the full declaration](#)

Spring forecast 2010-11: economic recovery in progress in the EU



The Commission's spring forecast confirms that economic recovery is in progress in the EU. After having experienced the deepest recession in its history, the EU economy is set to grow by 1% in 2010 and 1¾% in 2011. This implies an upward revision of ¼ percentage point for this year from the Commission's autumn forecast, as the EU countries benefit from a stronger external environment. Nevertheless, weak domestic demand continues to restrain the recovery further out. The speed of recovery is forecast varies across Member States, reflecting their individual circumstances and the policies they pursue. Labour market conditions have shown some signs of stabilisation recently, with the unemployment rate projected to peak this year at a lower level than forecast earlier, yet at close to 10% in the EU. The temporary fiscal measures put in place have been key in turning the EU economy around, but also added to the public deficit, which is set to rise to 7¼% of GDP in 2010, before falling back slightly in 2011.

EU Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs, Olli Rehn, said: "*The improved outlook for economic growth this year is good news for Europe. We must now ensure that growth will not be derailed by risks related to financial stability. Sustainable growth calls for determined fiscal consolidation efforts and reforms that enhance productivity and employment.*"

A successful completion of the financial support to Greece can be expected to increase investor and consumer confidence. Full forecast document at: [2010 EU Spring Forecast](#)

Solidarity in the eurozone



Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, on 3 May made a statement on Greece and on solidarity in the Euro area, which reads in part:

"We are all concerned by Greece's economic and budgetary situation, though at the moment our thoughts turn to the human victims in Athens. Greece was in a difficult situation with regard to its public finances and its competitiveness. A major programme has just been concluded. The agreement is both ambitious and credible, given the efforts it foresees in budgetary terms and in terms of competitiveness. The agreement is also historic in terms of the amount of financing provided to one country (110 billion Euro). We agreed in March to ensure the financial stability of the Euro area, and in this context to provide financial support to Greece."

[read the full statement](#)

EC President Barroso speaks to European Parliament prior to the meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Euro Area



European Commission President Barroso on 6 May made a detailed statement to the European Parliament prior to the meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Euro Area due to take place on Friday, 7 May 2010.

President Barroso's statement included the following remarks:

"The Commission has made sure that the mechanism, whilst being based on bilateral loans, is a European one. The Commission was instrumental in setting it, and will play an important role in its management and implementation. It is my firm conviction that the unprecedented financial support given to Greece - 110 billion Euros! - and the adjustment programme are an adequate response to the Greek crisis. I have no reason to doubt that it will be firmly implemented both by Greece and by the Euro area Member States. This view is shared by others that matter. I notice for instance the supportive statement of the G20 Finance Ministers just now issued. Regrettably, not all market players seem already convinced. We have to say loud and clear that the doubters are wrong."

[read the full statement](#)

Peter Bekx: presentation



Peter Bekx, Director of International Economic and Financial Affairs in the European Commission's Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs, visited Australia from 4 to 9 May to take part in the 1st Informal EU-Australia Macroeconomic and Financial Dialogue, also meeting with Treasury and DFAT officials for discussions. On 5 May, Mr Bekx made a presentation at the ANU Centre for European Studies. The presentation is now available online at

<http://www.delous.ec.europa.eu/News&events/News/2010/BekxANU.htm>

Ashton: EU Member States largest contributors to UN budget



EU High Representative Catherine Ashton spoke at the UN Security Council on 4 May on the growing cooperation between the United Nations and the European Union in the area of peace and security. The reasons behind the creation of the UN are similar to those that

originally drove European integration: "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

"It is no surprise then" said Ashton, "that EU Member States jointly constitute the largest contributors to the UN regular and peacekeeping budgets. But this partnership is about much more than money. The EU is a strong supporter of the UN in political and operational terms." [Read the full statement](#)

Local climate action: Covenant of Mayors



More than 500 European mayors committed their citizens to cut CO2 emissions by more than 20% by 2020. By signing the Covenant of mayors, they pledged to save energy, foster renewable energy and raise awareness among their citizens.

A new initiative from the Committee of the Regions will help signatories of the Covenant of Mayors turn their commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions into a concrete reality, as local leaders push ahead with plans to tackle climate change. Building on the expertise of its [Europe2020 Monitoring Platform](#), enlarged to include contributions from Covenant of Mayors members, the CoR will compile a unique database of action being carried out at the local level to combat global warming. The data will then be shared with all the members of the platform and Covenant of Mayors signatories to allow them to learn from their peers about how best to meet their obligations to cut emissions. The results will form part of the Committee of the Regions' contributions to the new EU Energy Action Plan. The data collected by the survey will constitute a significant source of ideas for local and regional authorities looking to tackle energy issues. Visit the CoR's website: www.cor.europa.eu

The volcanic ash cloud: lessons for the future

EU transport ministers meeting at a European Council session on 4 May in Brussels unanimously supported the provision of more coordinated European solutions in exceptional situations such as the volcanic ash crisis and its repercussions. Ministers agreed on the need to develop a new European methodology for safety risk assessment and risk management to serve as an objective basis to make informed decisions on airspace closure and reopening, in case of ash clouds or other potential threats.

Key elements of the Single European Sky package, originally due to enter into force in 2012, are to be fast-tracked. The initiative will set up a single European system for air traffic and organise Europe's airspace by traffic flows rather than national borders. A European Network Manager, a single body to coordinate the management of European skies, should be appointed by the end of 2010. Ministers also stressed the need for a more interlinked European transport system. They backed the idea of European mobility plans, which, in the event of a sudden transport crisis, would make it possible to switch quickly from one transport mode to another. [Press release](#)

260,000 asylum applicants registered in 2009 in the EU

In 2009, there were nearly 261,000 asylum applicants registered in the European Union's 27 countries, or 520 applicants per million inhabitants. The main countries of citizenship of these applicants were Afghanistan (20,400 or 8% of the total number of applicants), Russia (20,100 or 8%), Somalia (19,000 or 7%), Iraq (18,700 or 7%) and Kosovo (14,200 or 5%).

The highest number of applicants were registered in France (47,600 applicants) followed by Germany (31,800), the United Kingdom (30,300), Sweden (24,200), Belgium (21,600), Italy (17,500), the Netherlands (16,100), Greece (15,900) and Austria (15,800). When compared with the population of each Member State, the highest rates of applicants registered were recorded in Malta (5,800 applicants per million inhabitants), Cyprus (3,300), Sweden (2,600), Belgium (2,000) and Austria (1,900).

European Union at Shanghai EXPO 2010



The EXPO takes place between 1 May and 31 October in Shanghai, on the theme "Better city, better life". 70 million visitors are expected to

attend. Besides a [permanent exhibition](#) on the theme “Intelligent Europe”, the EU will organise major cultural events – starting with the celebration of “[Europe Day](#)” on 9 May. The EU will use the opportunity of the EXPO to develop its relationship with many parts of Chinese society, including high-level policymakers, academics and representatives of civil society, by holding a series of events on many current topics.

University of Sydney World Scholars: PhD Scholarships 2011

Annual scholarships from the University of Sydney recognise outstanding international research students. Up to 20 highly prestigious, competitive PhD scholarships will be awarded this year, covering the full cost of tuition fees to three years. Several European Union countries - France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain Sweden and the United Kingdom, have been included as eligible countries for this year's intake. Applications for World Scholars aware are now open. For more information, please visit the [University of Sydney website: scholarships](#)

Academic news and events

The Monash European and EU Centre invites you to attend a presentation by Mr Udo Hemmerling, German Farmers' Federation, entitled **EU Common Agricultural Policy and Australia - Past and Future Challenges**, on Tuesday, 11 May 2010, 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Venue: Room H241, Level 2, Building H, Monash University (Caulfield Campus), 900 Dandenong Road, Caulfield East. **All welcome – No charge.** RSVP to patricia.arnold@general.monash.edu.au ph 03 9903 4638

EU tube: 60 years of peace in Europe



EUTube: Schuman: 60 years of peace in Europe. This clip was produced on the occasion of the 9th of May (**Europe Day**) for the commemoration of the Schuman declaration.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/eutube#p/a/u/0/DWgEcw6R7NQ>

[see EUTube](#)

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: [Study in Europe 2010](#)
[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

Touring French Film Festival 16 April - 18 July 2010, venues and dates:

AF Toowoomba 16 - 18 April

AF Rockhampton 23 - 25 April

AF Cote du Nord 30 April - 2 May

AF Armidale 7 - 9 May

AF Newcastle 14 - 16 May

AF Geelong 21 - 23 May

AF Hobart 28 - 30 May

AF Wagga Wagga 4 - 11 June

AF Sunshine Coast 2 - 4 July

AF Cairns 16 - 18 July

Also screening in Tamworth (18 - 20 June) and Orange (25 - 27 June). Refer to Alliance Francaise websites for full details <http://www.alliancefrancaise.com.au/>

Eurovision song contest – Sunday 30 May, 7pm start. Glam up and join us with friends for a night of glitz, music and fun – Eurovision style! Ticket price of \$30 includes light meal, Eurovision on a big screen, and stand up comedy during the break. Contact Teatro Vivaldi on 02 6257 2718 to pre-purchase or make group bookings. \$5 from each ticket sold will be donated to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Prizes for best outfit of the night! Raffle prizes! **Poster**

Winter Lantern Walk – a German tradition held in Glebe Park, Canberra, hosted by Spielwelt German Parents Association. Sunday 20 June 6 to 7.30pm. All welcome to experience a traditional German Lantern Walk. Join in the singing, see the play, song sheet provided. Email spielwelt@homemail.com.au

Australia-Germany Solar & Wind Energy Industry Conference 2010. 10 May. for more information, please see [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/>

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.