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New EU Centre in Melbourne: Building Bridges from Europe to Asia



Friday 28 May sees the launch of a new European Union Centre (EUC) at RMIT University in Melbourne. The Centre aims to promote a better understanding of the European Union and EU-Australia relations. Head of the European Union Delegation to Australia, Ambassador David Daly will deliver a keynote address on *The Lisbon Treaty: Making Europe a stronger partner in the World* and said that the Treaty makes the EU more democratic and transparent: *"It clearly delineates responsibilities between the EU and its Member States, and makes the EU more efficient by simplifying its decision-making procedures,"* Ambassador Daly said. *"It also streamlines how the EU operates internationally and will make Europe a stronger and more effective global partner"*. [For more information see the press release](#)

Commission sets out vision for bank resolution funds

The European Commission proposed on 26 May that the European Union establish an EU network of bank resolution funds to ensure that future bank failures are not at the cost of the taxpayer or destabilise the financial system. Following discussion at the forthcoming European Council, the European Commission will present these ideas at the G-20 Summit in Toronto on 26-27 June 2010. Such funds would form part of a broader framework aimed at preventing a future financial crisis and strengthening the financial system. The Commission believes that a way to achieve this is by introducing requirement for Member States to establish funds according to common rules in which banks are required to pay a levy. The funds would not be used for bailing out or rescuing banks, but only to ensure that a bank's failure is managed in an orderly way and does not destabilise the financial system.

Internal Market and Services Commissioner Michel Barnier said: *"It is not acceptable that taxpayers should continue to bear the heavy cost of rescuing the banking sector. They should not be in the front line. I believe in the 'polluter pays' principle. We need to build a system which ensures that the financial sector will pay the cost of banking crises in the future. That is why I believe that banks should be asked to contribute to a fund designed to manage bank failure, protect financial stability and limit contagion – but which is not a bail-out fund. Europe must take a lead in developing common approaches and providing a model for cooperation which could be applied globally."*

[Commission sets out vision for bank resolution funds](#)
[Bank Resolution Funds – Frequently Asked Questions](#)
[Bank Resolution Funds: Text of the Communication](#)

Coping with the crisis: Brussels Economic Forum



President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, opened the Brussels Economic Forum on 25 May, warning against overreaction to the current economic troubles, saying *"We are not in a monetary Armageddon. Verbal inflation will not bring back confidence. It is a political duty to keep a sense of proportion. Crises are always*

unprecedented, but I am glad the EU has been able to deal with this one. It took time, the coordination was difficult, but it is the result that counts."

President of the European Commission, José Barroso, went on to outline the major challenges facing the European Union in regards to the economic downturn, leading to major setbacks in terms of income and employment. However, *"The crisis has highlighted the adaptability and flexibility of the Community approach. From this point of view, we proved again that the EU is more than 'just' an international organisation. Five decades of economic and institutional integration have formed an order of shared peace and prosperity, something we – that is the Member States through the EU institutions - want to defend and project into the future."* said Barroso.

[Summary of the opening address by Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council](#)

[José Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission "Coping with the crisis. How has the world changed?" Brussels Economic Forum 2010 Brussels](#)

Reinforcing economic governance in Europe

The first meeting of the Task Force on economic governance on 20 May brought together representatives from the EU's 27 Member States; European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs, Olli Rehn; President Trichet from the European Central Bank; Prime Minister Juncker from the Eurogroup; and President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy. The four agreed objectives were to achieve greater budgetary discipline, to reduce the divergences in competitiveness, to achieve an effective crisis mechanism; and to strengthen economic governance.

[The EC proposals: reinforcement of economic governance in Europe](#)

[Remarks by President Van Rompuy : the 1st meeting of the Task Force on economic governance](#)

European Economic Update



Figures from Eurostat indicate that **euro zone annual inflation** was 1.5% in April 2010, up from 1.4% in March. A year earlier the rate was 0.6%. Monthly inflation was 0.5% in April 2010.

The first estimate for the euro area (EA16) **trade balance** with the rest of the world in March 2010 gave a 4.5 billion euro surplus, compared with +1.6 bn in March 2009.

In March 2010 compared with February 2010, seasonally adjusted **exports** rose by 7.0% and imports by 10.4%.

In the **construction** sector, seasonally adjusted production rose by 7.6% in the euro area (EA16) and by 6.8% in the EU27 in March 2010, compared with the previous month.

ASEM Development Conference in Indonesia



The European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, will be in Indonesia from 24 to 26 May to attend the second Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Development Conference and to participate in high level discussions on EU-Indonesia cooperation. On the occasion of his first visit to Asia, the Commissioner will reaffirm the EU's commitment in the field of education as a way to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, by signing a €200 million agreement

in budget support to basic education in Indonesia.

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is a forum for dialogue between Europe and Asia and involves virtually the whole of Asia and Europe. The most recent ASEM Summit in Beijing in October 2008 admitted six new members, bringing the membership up to 45 partners, together representing half of the world's GDP, almost 60% of the world's population and over 60% of global trade. At the 8th ASEM Summit, taking place in Brussels on 4-5 October 2010, two more members will formally join the process – **Australia** and **Russia**.

Further information: [All about ASEM - Asia-Europe Meeting to address global challenges](#)

EU-ASEAN ministerial meeting: 37 Ministers from Europe & Asia meet in Madrid



Ministers from 37 countries - 27 from the European Union and the ten that form the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - met in Madrid on 26 May to commemorate the thirty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of a formal framework for relations between the two groups.

The meeting, presided over by the High Representative for the European Union for Foreign and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, comes at a time when both the EU and the ASEAN have important projects at hand. The EU is launching the new institutional framework of the Lisbon Treaty and strengthening its internal unity to face the impact of the economic and financial crisis; and ASEAN is taking the first steps towards developing its Charter, which reflects the organisation's ambition to advance its integration process and to acquire greater importance on regional and international levels.

Relations between the EU and ASEAN began in the 1970s. Both groups share a common commitment to regional integration as a means to promote regional stability, build prosperity and face global challenges. Today, the ASEAN has ten members: the five founding members - the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand - plus five that have joined over time: Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Burma and Cambodia. East Timor has applied for membership of the organisation, and Papua New Guinea has observer country status. [read more](#)

Climate change: impacts of cutting 30% of EU greenhouse gas emissions



The European Commission on 26 May presented an analysis of the costs, benefits and options for moving beyond the EU's greenhouse gas reduction target for 2020 from 20% below 1990 levels to 30% once the conditions are met. The measures taken to support energy-intensive industries against the risk of carbon leakage were examined as required under the ETS (Emissions Trading System) Directive. The analysis shows that the reduction in EU emissions as a consequence of the economic crisis, together with a drop in carbon prices, has changed the estimates of two years ago when the revised ETS was presented. Therefore in light of the new data, an analysis of the implications of the different levels of ambition as a motor for modernising the EU economy and creating new jobs by promoting innovation in low-carbon technologies is included in the Communication. This analysis encompasses the efforts required in the different sectors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions beyond 20%, up to 30%, looking also at the impacts of these efforts and the potential policy options to achieve them. The current context of constrained public finances and economic contraction has been taken into account when assessing possible alternatives.

Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action, said: *"Whether to increase our reduction target for 2020 from 20% to 30% is a political decision for the EU leaders to take when the timing and the conditions are right. Obviously the immediate political priority is to handle the crisis. But as we exit the crisis, the Commission has now provided input for a fact-based discussion. The decision is not for now, but I hope that our analysis will inspire the debate in the Member States on the way forward."*

Further information:

[Climate change: impacts of the move to 30% EU greenhouse gas emissions](#)
[Future Action](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Global Jean Monnet Conference: the EU after the Lisbon Treaty



At the Global Jean Monnet Conference in Brussels, which brings together Jean Monnet professors from 62 countries across five

continents, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso spoke of the Lisbon Treaty's contribution to the "European project". With the Treaty "the new external action service, responsible for Europe's diplomacy, will bind national diplomatic services closer together, and reinforce the place of Europe in the world" said Barroso.

"Despite the improvements that are found in the Lisbon Treaty, these remain difficult times for Europe - and indeed the rest of the world. We live in the middle of an historic challenge: we need to fight against the fear that citizens naturally feel during very difficult economic times; fear that can provoke inward-looking reactions. And we should not forget that in these times there are sometimes occasions where we see populism, xenophobia, chauvinism in Europe. That is why we need this type of leadership at all levels to make the case for Europe, the passionate case for some but at least in a rational way for everyone. I expect a great deal from the Jean Monnet Programme in all these respects – analysis, interpretation, and fresh ideas for the future of Europe." President Barroso concluded.

[Pictured: José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, and Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, at the Global Jean Monnet/ECSA-World Conference: "The European Union after the Treaty of Lisbon"]

[Read President Barroso's full speech](#)

[More on the Jean Monnet programme](#)

European Aviation Crisis Coordination Cell (EACCC)



The European Commission, Eurocontrol and the European Aviation Safety Agency have worked closely together since the disruptions to air traffic in Europe following the volcanic eruption in Iceland. Together they have decided to create a European Aviation Crisis Coordination Cell (EACCC) to ensure a timely response to any future pan-European crisis severely affecting aviation.

This improved approach will offer EU member countries greater flexibility in managing their airspace, allowing for less flight disruption while still ensuring the highest level of safety. Vice-President Siim Kallas, Commissioner responsible for Transport, said: *"This is a great step forward in reducing the impact of a natural disaster that has affected airlines and their passengers. This crisis has highlighted the need for coordinated action at European level, and it is this kind of proactive developments that will allow us to find a sustainable solution for dealing with this crisis."*

[European measures to minimise disruption caused by volcanic ash](#)

Europe Day celebrates 50 years of diplomatic relations with New Zealand



In a wide-ranging speech to around 200 guests at the Wellesley Club in Wellington on 19th May, **George Cunningham** spoke about the history of European integration and how the EU had enlarged to become a major world player. NZ had perceptively recognised Europe's growing significance early on by establishing diplomatic relations already in 1960. Since then it has benefited from a likeminded relationship with the largest economy in the world. Despite being half a world away, the number of official visits from the EU to NZ has been on the increase over the past six months, a true example of *"distance makes the heart grow fonder"*. The EU and NZ are acting together in many international fora and because of that, Mr Cunningham noted that *"NZ's commitment to the ETS is important and will help everyone keep the momentum going for the next major world climate change meeting in Mexico and beyond"*.

Minister **Judith Collins** responded warmly *"on behalf of a country that cherishes its European traditions"*. She noted the strong historic connections and the hard work being done together in trouble spots around the world, both recently in such places as Afghanistan and former Yugoslavia, and in past World Wars. Cooperation is nowadays so wide-ranging that NZ sees *"the whole of Europe as one of our most vital partners in trade, education, scientific research, culture and personal linkages"*. Thus Europe Day 2010 demonstrated more than ever before that the unbreakable bonds that tie the EU and NZ together.

[George Cunningham's Europe Day 2010 speech](#)

[Minister Judith Collins response](#)

Best places in the world to live? Europe, New Zealand and Australia

Despite the economic downturn, European cities continue to dominate the top of the ranking in the Quality of Living worldwide city rankings 2010, in a study commissioned by [Mercer](#). Of the top 50 cities, 27 are in Europe, seven in the US, 6 in Australia, 4 in Canada, 4 in Asia, and 2 in New Zealand. However, the top US city is Honolulu, which ranks at 31, with 18 European cities in the top 30. Vienna, Austria, ranks number 1 of the 50, and Auckland in New Zealand comes in at no. 4. Sydney is no. 10, Melbourne 18, and Wellington 12.

On the eco-city rating, based on water availability and potability, waste removal, sewage, air pollution and traffic congestion, Calgary in Canada comes out on top, with Wellington in New Zealand at no. 5. European cities also fare well, and Adelaide, Australia, moves up the list to no. 7 spot. For the full report, see <http://www.mercer.com/qualityoflivingpr>

EU funds PhD scholarship at the ANU Centre for European Studies

The ANU Centre for European Studies is offering a PhD scholarship for a student to undertake a doctoral program funded by a grant from the European Union. The project will support the Centre's aim to promote the study of the European Union in one of the following general areas: law, politics, history, culture, business, economics and Europe's role in the Asia Pacific. The applicant will hold an Honours Degree in a relevant discipline.

The Scholarship is only open to Australian and New Zealand citizens and to Australian permanent residents. The Scholarship provides a tax free stipend of \$22,500 per year for three years. Applications close on 30 June 2010.

Further information is available from Professor Paul Pickering 02 6125 3451 or paul.pickering@anu.edu.au or the website at <http://ces.anu.edu.au/>

Share the Moment: Eurovision 2010



Hello Europe, this is Oslo calling!

Share the Moment is the theme for the 55th Eurovision Song Contest to be held in Oslo, Norway. Love it or hate it, Eurovision is Europe's favourite television show, and will be broadcast this weekend in Australia and New Zealand.

After more than five decades featuring some 1,100 songs, the contest has become a modern classic, strongly embedded into Europe's collective mind.

Read on to find out how it all started over half a century ago...<http://www.eurovision.tv/page/home>

Academic news and events

Criminal Justice Cooperation: Comparing European, United States, Asia-Pacific and Australian Approaches. 4 and 5 October 2010, University of Canberra (tbc). International conference, preliminary notice and call for papers. More information from <http://www.canberra.edu.au/faculties/law/crossing-borders-conference>

Canberra student wins summer school course in Germany : The International Summer Science School Heidelberg (ISH) is a project of the German city of Heidelberg and a range of prestigious local institutions of science. For four weeks every summer, the ISH brings emerging talent from all over the world to Heidelberg. For the first time, this year's ISH will also host three Australian participants, one of them being 17 year old Melanie Tacey from Canberra, 12th Grade student at Trinity Christian School. Melanie is looking forward to her stay in Germany. [read full release](#)

Presentation by Marin Dikanovic, Masters Student and Intern at the Monash European and EU Centre : *The European Union: interning at the European Commission*. This presentation will look at the application process for the European Commission Traineeship, and how to improve your chances of being selected as a trainee. A short insight about the tasks and life of a trainee at the European Commission and the European Anti-Fraud Office will also be given. Date and Time: Monday, 31 May 2010 from 2pm to 3pm. All welcome – No charge. RSVP by 26 May to patricia.arnold@general.monash.edu.au

EU tube: AIDS - Remember Me?



EU Tube: AIDS remember me? 740,000 people in the EU today have HIV/AIDS. One in three is unaware they have it. There is a rise of new infections in the EU and neighbouring countries. An EU survey reveals that in Europe less and less people know how the disease is transmitted and take the necessary precautions.

http://www.youtube.com/user/eutube#p/a/8A7578AB6100828C/0/C_9RyAxFgFk

[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.

[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 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. Email spielwelt@hotmail.com.au

Spanish Film Festival: Brisbane 20-30 May. www.spanishfilmfestival.com

[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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