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Issue Date: 25 June 2010  [Send to a Friend](#)

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EU goals for G20 Summit: securing strong and sustainable growth



The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, and the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, sent a joint letter to the other leaders of the G20 to present their thoughts on the key issues on the agenda of the G20 summit in Toronto from 26-27 June. The EU is a full member of the G20 and the G8.

The two Presidents called on the G20 to reaffirm its commitment to reform financial markets, confirming that the European Union has now put in place a comprehensive reform agenda to fulfil the G20 commitments. President Barroso and President Van Rompuy also referred to the agreement at European level that EU Member States should introduce systems of levies or taxes on financial institutions, to ensure fair burden sharing and set incentives to contain systemic risk, as part of a credible crisis resolution framework. *“We consider that international work on levies and taxes on financial institutions should continue to maintain a world-wide level playing field. Also the introduction of a global financial transaction tax should be explored and developed further in that context.”*

They called for the completion of the reform of the International Monetary Fund as a single and comprehensive package by November 2010 and highlighted the European Union’s determination to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals globally by 2015 and to achieve its development aid targets.

Finally, on climate change the two EU leaders emphasised that *“we must continue to promote strong action on climate change by putting emphasis on green growth, working together towards a global and comprehensive legal agreement post-2012 agreement building on the Copenhagen Accord, delivering on the fast start financing and acting domestically to reach the 2 degrees Celsius objective.”* [Read the full letter](#) and [Follow the EU at the Summit on Twitter](#)

EU Heads of State or Government meeting: European Council Conclusions



The European Union has met the worldwide financial crisis with united resolve and has done what was necessary to safeguard the stability of the Economic and Monetary Union. In May, agreement was reached on a support package for Greece as well as on a European financial stabilisation mechanism and facility, which was finalised in June. The EU has taken steps to ensure stronger economic governance, and remains committed to taking all necessary action to put EU

Member State economies back on the path of sustainable and job-creating growth.

To that end, the Council adopted **"Europe 2020"**, the new strategy for jobs and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. reaffirmed the EU's collective determination to ensure fiscal sustainability, including by accelerating plans for fiscal consolidation where warranted; confirmed the EU's commitment to **ensuring financial stability** by addressing the gaps in regulation and supervision of financial markets, both at the level of the EU and at the G20; and collectively agreed on the urgent

need to **reinforce the coordination of economic policies**.

Following the meeting, Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, noted implications of the Council's decisions for third countries: "*The bank levy will be discussed next week with our global partners, as an EU proposal at the G20 Summit in Toronto. In the G20, we will also propose to explore and develop the introduction of a global financial transaction tax.*"

[Media release](#)

EU-New Zealand hit it off in Madrid



The Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Miguel Ángel Moratinos, acting for the the EU's High Representative, Catherine Ashton, joined his New Zealand colleague, Foreign Minister Murray McCully, in chairing the six monthly EU-New Zealand Political Dialogue at Ministerial level. In a strictly bilateral context, both delegations covered topics regarding the EU's institutional development with special emphasis on external relations and EU enlargement, as well as issues related to the current world economic and financial situation. They worked to move forward the implementation of the EU-New Zealand Joint Declaration, adopted at the Ministerial Meeting in Lisbon in September 2007, the reference framework for EU-New Zealand relations until now. In the regional context, the partners addressed recent developments in the Asian regional architecture as well as the situation in Asia-Pacific—including Afghanistan and its neighbour Pakistan—and in the South Pacific. Finally there was a discussion on the effects of climate change and the measures that are being adopted by both sides to tackle this environmental threat. [EU-New Zealand](#)

Photo: Murray McCully with Miguel Ángel Moratinos

Situation in Gaza "unacceptable" says Quartet

On 21 June, the Quartet, comprising the United Nations, the European Union, the United States and Russia, issued a statement reaffirming its belief that the current situation in Gaza "*including the humanitarian and human rights situation of the civilian population, is unsustainable, unacceptable, and not in the interests of any of those concerned.*"

The Quartet reiterated its call for a solution that addresses Israel's legitimate security concerns, and declared its readiness to work closely with Israel, the Palestinian Government and international donors in order to achieve sustainable economic development on the basis of the full implementation of the Agreement on Access and Movement of 2005 and in the broader perspective of the two-state solution.

The Quartet concluded its statement by reiterating its support for "*proximity talks toward the resumption, without preconditions, of direct bilateral negotiations that resolve all final status issues as previously agreed by the parties. The Quartet believes these negotiations should lead to a settlement, negotiated between the parties within 24 months, that ends the occupation which began in 1967 and results in the emergence of an independent, democratic, and viable Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours.*" [Quartet Statement on Gaza](#)

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions a central plank of EU's climate policy



Speaking at the Sixth International User Friendly Energy Conference in Warsaw on 18 June, Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action, emphasised that reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a central plank of Europe's climate policy, with a long-term target, agreed by all members of the EU, of cutting emissions by 80-95% by 2050. Commissioner Hedegaard said that although Europe has been a driving force in combating climate change, she is happy that other regions are challenging the EU on the issue: "*The 2010 Renewable Energy Attractiveness Index cites the US and China as the best investment opportunities for renewables. The global race is on, this is an excellent development in terms of fighting climate*

change. But it also means that we in Europe need to do more to drive our innovation and leadership forward if we are to avoid the risk of being left behind. Green industries are enormously important to the EU economy." said Commissioner Hedegaard. [read full speech](#)

World Refugee Day 20 June



On World Refugee Day, statistics revealed by [Eurostat](#) indicated that EU Member States granted protection to 78 800 asylum seekers in 2009. The largest groups of beneficiaries of protection status in the EU27 were citizens of Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan. More than one quarter of EU27 asylum decisions resulted in protection status.

European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva, said *"The United Nations has decided to use "Home" as a theme for this year's World Refugee Day. In my own recent experiences, when meeting displaced persons or refugees in the field, I saw how meaningful this word is to them. Home is what they've lost; home is what they don't have; home is the place they want to get back to. These people are among the most vulnerable in the world and, as such, need our help. They did not choose such a life. Their dream is to return to their homes and be able to live and work in peace and security. World Refugee Day is an occasion to remind ourselves that offering asylum to those who need it is an obligation, deriving from Europe's long tradition of humanitarianism and its international commitment to protecting the weak and vulnerable.*

Protecting those fleeing persecution has contributed to make Europe what it is today". [World Refugee Day](#)

Europeans are more interested in science than sport and want research boosted



According to a new Eurobarometer report published this week, nearly 80% of Europeans say they are interested in scientific discoveries and technological developments, compared to 65% interested in sport. Over 70% of Europeans think EU-funded research will become more important in the future. Europeans overwhelmingly recognise the benefits and importance of science but many also express fears over risks from new technologies and the power that knowledge gives to scientists.

Research, Innovation and Science Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn said: *"The success of the Europe 2020 Strategy depends on cutting edge science to keep Europe competitive. In turn, that means ordinary Europeans need to back science and keep the pressure up on government and on industry to invest in it. These results show a very high awareness of the importance of science."*

Overall, the survey shows that European citizens are fairly optimistic about science and technology - 75% of respondents agree that thanks to science and technology there will be more opportunities for future generations. The results are available on the public opinion webpage on the Europa website: [Europeans more interested in science than sport and want EU research boosted](#)

Photo: Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science

Iceland nearer to joining the EU



Iceland's application for membership of the EU, made in July 2009, took a step forward when the European Council decided to open accession negotiations. Following the February 2010 recommendation of the European Commission, EU Member States unanimously agreed that Iceland meets the political criteria for membership.

Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Commissioner Stefan Füle said: *"The Commission remains supportive of Iceland's aspiration to join the European Union. The Council decision clearly underlines the fact that Iceland has a place in the European*

Union. I am certain that Iceland will continue to undertake all necessary efforts to ensure a positive outcome of the accession negotiations."

As the next step prior to the opening of negotiations, the Commission will prepare a Negotiating Framework which lays down the general guidelines for the accession negotiations and indicates the reforms Iceland must undertake to join the EU. [Iceland: EU Accession negotiations](#)

Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union



The Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union commences on 1 July, taking over from Spain, who hold the Presidency from 1 January to 30 June 2010.

To provide continuity in the work of the EU, Belgium has established a common work programme with the previous Presidency (Spain) and the next Presidency (Hungary), as provided by the EU Treaties. This programme therefore covers a period of eighteen months from January 2010 to June 2011. Priorities for this common work include a socio-economic programme that aims for sustainable, continued growth, a social programme, an environmental programme that aims to develop a carbon free economy and a programme for freedom, security and rule of law. The external action programme intends to provide the EU with a more important role as a player for peace and security in the world. [Trio of Presidencies website](#)

Jean Monnet Successes 2010



Australia and New Zealand have once again been successful in the recent Jean Monnet Awards. In Australia **Dr Stefan Auer** from La Trobe University has won a grant of EUR45,000 for a Jean Monnet Chair entitled *New Pathways in teaching European Integration*. There are now two Jean Monnet Chairs and one Jean Monnet Chair ad personam in Australia (the others being held respectively by Professor Pascaline Winand at Monash University and Professor Philomena Murray from Melbourne University). **Professor Bruno Mascitelli** from Swinburne University has won EUR21,000 for a European Module entitled "*Extending the understanding of the European Union in Australia*" and **Professor Pascaline Winand** has won EUR21,000 for a module entitled "*The European Union and the Developing World*".

In New Zealand, **Professor Martin Holland** (who is also a holder of a Jean Monnet Chair ad personam) has won EUR40,000 for an international conference entitled "*Assessing the external impact of the Lisbon Treaty within the Asia Pacific Region*".

The Jean Monnet programme aims to stimulate teaching, research and reflection in the field of European integration studies at the level of higher education institutions within and outside the European Community. [more on the Jean Monnet programme](#)

from left to right:

Professor Bruno Mascitelli, Dr Stefan Auer, Professor Pascaline Winand, Professor Martin Holland

EU Economy



Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per inhabitant expressed in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) varied from 41% to 268% of the EU27 average across the Member States in 2009. In Finland, France,

Spain, Italy, Cyprus and Greece, GDP per inhabitant was within 10% of the EU27 average. Ireland, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Germany and Belgium were between 15% and 35% above the average, while the highest level of GDP per inhabitant in the EU27 was recorded in Luxembourg. Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Malta, Portugal and Slovakia were between 10% and 30% lower than the EU27 average. Hungary, Estonia, Poland and Lithuania were between 30% and 50% lower, while Latvia, Romania and Bulgaria were between 50% and 60% below the EU27 average.

Employment: the number of people employed in the euro area remained stable during the first quarter of 2010 in comparison with the previous quarter whilst the number of people in employment in the EU declined by 0.2% (455,000 people).

Trade: the euro area recorded an external trade surplus of 1.8 billion euros with the rest of the world in April, in comparison with 2.6 billion in April 2009. In comparison with the previous month exports decreased by 2.4% and imports by 3.5%. However the EU recorded an external trade deficit of 10.2 billion euro 2010, in comparison with 7.8 billion last year.

Annual inflation in the euro area was 1.6% in May 2010 compared with 1.5% in April, and 0% a year earlier. The monthly inflation rate was 0.1% in May 2010. The annual inflation rate in the EU was 2% in May 2010, unchanged in comparison with April and 0.8% last year at the same date.

Industrial production rose by 0.8% in the euro area and by 0.5% in the EU in April in comparison with the previous month. Year on year industrial production rose by 9.5% in the euro area and by 7.8% in the EU27. [Eurostats](#)

EU tube: Switching Europe On



EU Tube : Switching Europe on (21 June 2010) EU policy on electrical goods - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CRnDjnfSAU>

[see EUtube](#)

Academic news and events

[European Integration at 60: Progress, Problems, Perspectives](#) 25-26 November 2010, Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand. Call for papers. Abstracts of 300 words should be submitted online by 1 August 2010. Please go to www.eucnetwork.org.au.

€1 million in funding and other start-up aid for entrepreneurs in 22 partner regions worldwide including Australia. The seventh European Satellite Navigation Competition (ESNC) is seeking the best applications in satellite navigation. Until the end of July, innovators all over the world, including Australia, will have the chance to develop their ideas for new products and services based on satellite positioning. Participants can access the ideas database for this year's European Satellite Navigation Competition from www.galileo-masters.eu.

Applications for the **Go8-Germany Joint Research Co-operation Scheme** close on 30 June 2010. Since 2008 this scheme has provided over \$3 million to support research exchange, particularly for early career researchers, between Australia and Germany. Further details are available from the Go8 website at: www.go8.edu.au/university-staff/programs-afellowships/64-go8-germany-joint-researchco-operation-scheme

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

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. Applications close on 30 June 2010. Further information is available from paul.pickering@anu.edu.au or <http://ces.anu.edu.au/>

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 until 18 July 2010, venues and dates: AF Sunshine Coast 2 - 4 July, AF Cairns 16 - 18 July, Orange 25 - 27 June. Refer to Alliance Francaise websites for full details <http://www.alliancefrancaise.com.au/>

Far Away So Close - German Life and History in Australia: Exhibition, Sydney, until 2 July 2010 . free entry . [further information](#)

HIJACKED 2 Australian and German Photography/Exhibition until 17 July 2010
 Australian Centre for Photography 257 Oxford Street, Paddington NSW 2021. free entry. [further information](#)

Melbourne Winter Masterpieces: European Masters Städel Museum, 19th-20th Century Exhibition. until 10 October 2010, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, [further information](#)

Schrebergarten Exhibition until 30 September 2010, Goethe-Institut Australien, Melbourne. Free entry. [further information](#)

Meg Stuart & Philipp Gehmacher: **MAYBE FOREVER** .presented by the Malthouse Theatre and Goethe-Institut, Dance. 23 June 2010 - 26 June 2010, 7.30pm. Malthouse Theatre, Melbourne [further information](#)

[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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