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Issue Date: 8 July 2010  [Send to a Friend](#)

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Celebrating Europe in Brisbane



On 28 June H.E. David Daly was a Guest of Honour at the Europe Day reception in Brisbane hosted by the Speaker of the Queensland Parliament, the Hon. Mr John Mickel, and by the Australian Council for Europe. The Europe Day event brought together a large gathering of diverse people from different parts of Queensland - politicians, businessmen, civil society. The President of the Australian Council for Europe, Mrs Elfi Massey-Vallazza, introduced the speakers and gave an account of the work of the ACE. Ambassador Daly spoke about the European Union in today's world and in particular, the role which shared values play in addressing global issues and the partnerships which shared values can engender - such as the EU partnership with Australia.

Photo: left to right, Mr John Massey, Mrs Elfi Massey-Vallazza, H.E. David Daly. More photos can be found in our [Gallery](#)

A new diplomatic service for Europe



High Representative of the European Union for Foreign and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton, addressed the European Parliament on 7 July on the creation of the European External Action Service. *"My vision for the EEAS is one which ensures that when we speak, our voice is heard. And when we engage, our actions make the difference. Our citizens know that in the face of big problems such as fragile states, pandemics, energy security, climate change and illegal migration, we are more effective together. And that effectiveness requires us to mobilise all the means at our disposal – diplomacy, political engagement, development assistance, civil and military crisis management tools in support of conflict prevention, peace building, security and stability. Important for the future of Europe, important for the future of the world."* said Commissioner Ashton. [read the full speech](#)

If you are in Melbourne and would like to know more about the EEAS, Dr Georg Wiessala, Professor of International Relations, University of Central Lancashire, UK, is presenting the Jean Monnet Public Lecture entitled *"EU-Asia Relations and the new European Diplomatic Service"* on Friday 30 July at the University of Melbourne. The National Centre for Research on Europe in New Zealand is sponsoring the visit of Prof. Wiessala to New Zealand from 20 July to 22 August 2010 under a Jean Monnet teaching module award; in addition to speaking at universities in New Zealand he will also give lectures in Singapore and Australia. [more information](#)

Oil exploration and extraction - risks, liability and regulation



EU Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger, speaking to the European Parliament on 7 July 2010 on the potential risks linked with offshore oil exploration and extraction, outlined five critical points

where action is needed to maintain Europe's safety and environmental credentials in the areas of prevention, remedies and liability. Commissioner Oettinger said that the **utmost caution** must be exercised with respect to new drillings; that existing levels of prevention could be reinforced through **thorough checks and controls**; that the 'stress test' on **existing legislation** must be completed; that **control and disaster intervention mechanisms** needed to be enhanced at a European level, and that joining forces with international partners to **strengthen existing international and regional standards** would mean that environmental disasters should simply not happen.

Commissioner Oettinger has called a meeting with EU Member State national regulatory and supervisory authorities to take place on 14 July.

Banning illegal logging



Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Environment, on 7 July welcomed the European Parliament vote on the Proposal for a Regulation to ban illegal timber, saying. *"Illegal logging often causes serious environmental damage and undermines the efforts of those who are trying to manage forests responsibly. That is why the Commission proposed to regulate timber imports, with the aim to prevent the sale of illegal timber, or products made with such timber, on the EU market. The Parliament's vote today brings us a lot closer to remedying this situation. The impacts of illegal logging go beyond environmental protection, with potentially negative effects on the rule of law and the livelihoods of local people who depend on forests for many products and services. Hence combating illegal logging will bring environmental and development benefits. With this, we are sending a signal to the world that the EU will no longer serve as a market for illegally harvested timber. I look forward to its formal adoption by Council after the summer break."*

This 'Due Diligence Regulation' requires traders to take steps in order to minimise the risk of placing illegally harvested timber on the market. The Council and Parliament have also agreed that placing illegal timber products on the EU market will be explicitly prohibited, with enforcement by Member States. [read full statement](#)

Renewables 62% of new electricity generation capacity in the EU in 2009



The "**Renewable Energy Snapshots**" report, published on 5 July by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), shows that renewable energy sources accounted for 62% (17GW) of the new electricity generation capacity installed in the EU27 in 2009. The share rose from 57% of new capacity in 2008. For the second year running, wind energy accounted for the largest share of the new capacity: 10.2 GW out of the 27.5 GW built, representing 38% of the total. In absolute terms, renewables produced 19.9% of Europe's electricity consumption last year. [read full report](#)

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)



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, three more members will become part of the process – Australia, New Zealand and Russia.

Over the next few weeks in the leadup to the Summit, we will bring you updates and articles and the

relevance of ASEM in today's world. [read about ASEM](#)

Two apples a day keep cholesterol away: EU-funded food research includes New Zealand researchers



Eight EU-funded research projects on food quality and safety were presented on 8 July at a conference at the European Parliament, as part of an initiative of the European Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, to showcase the practical benefits of EU research.

One project, ISAFRUIT, has found that eating two apples (300gr) a day can help reduce cholesterol by 10% and that dipping apples and peaches in hot water at precise temperatures can reduce brown rot by 80% and remove e-coli and salmonella bacteria. Researchers from the Horticulture and Food Research Institute of New Zealand, under the leadership of Dr Roger Harker, are benefitting from EU research collaboration. [read full release](#)

Reinforcing economic confidence in Europe



Speaking to the Economic Committee of the European Parliament on 5 July, European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs, Olli Rehn, presented the European Commission's initiatives aimed at advancing growth and reinforcing economic governance.

"The EU had a comprehensive policy agenda for Toronto, and the Summit's outcome reflects our priorities. We agreed in G20 on the paramount importance of global coordination in order to safeguard and support the ongoing recovery of the world economy by combining an orderly completion of fiscal stimulus this year and subsequent growth-friendly fiscal consolidation, tailored to national circumstances. The Commission is in favour of full transparency and advocated the extension of bank stress tests and the publication of the results by the end of July. This will help reduce uncertainty and restore confidence. In parallel, both national and EU financial backstops – the European Financial Stability Mechanism and Facility – have been put in place. The steady fiscal course is essential to reinforce consumers' and investors' confidence, and thus to turn the emerging but still gradual recovery into a period of sustainable growth and job creation." said Commissioner Rehn. [read full speech](#)

New capital requirements for banks



Following the vote in the European Parliament on 7 July, European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services, Michel Barnier, welcomed the agreement by the European Council and European Parliament on new capital requirements for banks.

"The amendments to the Capital Requirements Directive voted today by the European Parliament target the investments and practices that lie at the root of the recent crisis. The requirements on pay and bonuses send a strong political message: there will be no return to business as usual. The EU is leading the way in curbing unsound remuneration practices in banks. Banks will need to change radically their practices and the mentality that have led in many cases to excessive risk-taking and contributed to the financial crisis. The tougher capital requirements for banks' trading books and their investments in securitisations - the kind of highly complex products that have caused huge losses for banks - will ensure that banks hold significantly more capital to cover their risks. This will make the sector as whole better able to resist stress." said Commissioner Barnier. [read full release](#) and [Q&As](#)

EU Economy



The euro area (EA16) seasonally-adjusted **unemployment rate** was 10.0% in May 2010, unchanged compared with April. It was 9.4% in May 2009. The EU27 unemployment rate was 9.6% in May 2010, unchanged compared with April. It was 8.9% in May 2009.

The overall **tax-to-GDP ratio** in the EU was 39.3% in 2008, the first year of the economic and financial crisis, compared with 39.7% in 2007. The EU tax ratio was 40.6% in 2000, fell to 38.9% in 2004 and then rose until 2007. The overall tax ratio in the euro area (EA16) fell to 39.7% in 2008 compared with 40.4% in 2007. Since 2000, taxes in the euro area have followed a similar trend to the EU27, although at a slightly higher level. In comparison with the rest of the world, the EU tax ratio remains generally high and more than one third above the levels recorded in the USA and Japan.

In 2009, the price level of a **comparable basket of food and non-alcoholic beverages** was more than twice as high in the most expensive EU Member State than in the cheapest one. Denmark was nearly 40% above the EU average and had the highest price level for food and non-alcoholic beverages in the EU in 2009. Ireland, Finland, Luxembourg, Austria, Belgium, Germany and France were between 10% and 30% above the EU average. Italy, Cyprus, Sweden and Greece were up to 10% above the average, while the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom, Slovenia, Malta and Portugal were up to 10% below. [Eurostats](#)

Recipients of EU funding in 2009

The European Commission has disclosed who in 2009 received EU funds in policy areas like research, education and culture, energy and transport or external aid. The online database, now containing more than 114 thousand entries going back to 2007, has been upgraded to allow more search options. It now also provides information on Commission administrative expenditure.

Janusz Lewandowski, EU Commissioner for budget and financial programming, said: *"Very few public administrations in the world have gone that far with financial transparency. We provide European citizens with an easy access to detailed information on who benefited from our grants and contracts. I believe this will contribute to better accountability and better quality of EU spending."*
[read full release](#)

Almost 700 000 new citizens of Europe in 2008

A Eurostat report released on 6 July reveals that in 2008, 696 000 persons acquired citizenship of an EU Member State. The new citizens in 2008 came mainly from Africa (29% of the total number of citizenships acquired), non-EU Europe (22%), Asia (19%) and North and South America (17%).

In 2008, the highest number of citizenships were granted by France (137 000 persons), the United Kingdom (129 000) and Germany (94 000), which together accounted for over 50% of all citizenships granted by the EU Member States.

The highest proportion of new citizenships were registered in Sweden (54 citizenships granted per 1,000 resident foreigners), Portugal (51), Poland (48), Finland (47) and Hungary (43). The EU27 average was 23 citizenships granted per 1,000 resident foreigners. The largest groups that acquired citizenship of an EU Member State were citizens of Morocco (64 000 persons), Turkey (50 000), Ecuador (27 000), Algeria (23 000) and Iraq (20 000). France granted 45% of all the citizenships acquired in the EU27 by Moroccans, Germany 49% of those acquired by Turks, Spain 93% of those acquired by Ecuadorians, France 88% of those acquired by Algerians and the United Kingdom 44% of those acquired by Iraqis. [Acquisition of citizenship in the EU in 2008](#)

Sri Lanka temporarily loses preferential access to EU markets

Sri Lanka will temporarily lose its preferential access to the European Union market from 15 August 2010. The decision to withdraw the preferential tariff system GSP+ from the country was taken by the Council of Ministers in February 2010. Based on dialogue with the Sri Lankan authorities on shortcomings in its implementation of three UN human rights conventions, the EU in June offered to delay the entry into force of the Council decision by a further six months. In exchange, it asked for tangible and sustainable progress on a number of outstanding issues. In the absence of a reply from the authorities in Colombo by 1 July, the European Commission is not in a position to table a proposal with a view to delaying the Council Decision.

"We very much regret the choice of Sri Lanka not to take up an offer made in good faith and in line with the EU commitment to a global human rights agenda. We will however keep the door open for

Sri Lanka to return to talks," said HR/VP Catherine Ashton. [read full release](#)

Fighting poverty with music



December 2010 in Brussels.

Through networking sites and music festivals, young people from the European Union States aged between 15 and 25 are invited to submit, before 30 September, a song related to fighting poverty. Each participant will create an original song on the general issue of development, and notably on the eight Millennium Development Goals. The winners - selected through online voting and a jury of music professionals – will get a professional studio recording of their song and will have the opportunity to perform during the European Development Days in

“Music is a powerful tool to mobilise people from all ages and all countries on the fight against poverty. This music contest is part of the Commission's effort to engage the young generation and raise awareness of how important achieving the Millennium Development Goals is. I'm looking forward to many contributions from rap, hip-hop to hard rock.” said Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development. [Music against poverty contest](#)

Updated list of airlines banned from European airspace



The European Commission has updated the list of airlines banned in the European Union to include one carrier from Surinam and to expand the operating restrictions on Iran Air. However, two carriers from Indonesia, Metro Batavia and Indonesia Air Asia, have been taken off the list of banned airlines. [Commission updates list of airlines banned from European airspace](#)

EU tube: Passenger rights



reouted close to your original times, or if the airline can prove that the cancellation was caused by extraordinary circumstances.

<http://ec.europa.eu/transport/passenger-rights/en/07-air-cancellation.html>

[see EUtube](#)

Academic news and events

€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 .

[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 .

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>

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

Rap Tour: Damion Davis & Nico Suave, Concerts, 20 July 2010 – 5 August 2010. Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, Bundaberg, Melbourne, Launceston, **HobartHip-Hop Made in Germany**. [further information](#)

Zeitgeist Becomes Form: German Fashion Photography 1945-1995 / Exhibition 23 July 2010 - 28 Aug 2010 . Australian Centre for Photography, 257 Oxford Street, Paddington NSW 2021. [further information](#)

The power of language in images Exhibition, 19 July 2010 - 10 September 2010, Goethe-Institut Australien, Sydney [further information](#)

Help me I am blind - Heidi Specker and Theo Deutinger, Exhibition, 23 July 2010 - 11 September 2010, 344 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria. [further information](#)

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

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](#)

[More events](#)

Upcoming events in New Zealand

Gateway to the EU in New Zealand <http://www.eu.org.nz/>

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