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World Cup: victory tinged with sadness

European Commission President Barroso congratulated Spain on the outcome of the World Cup Final, saying *"I would like to express my warmest congratulations to the Spanish football team for its outstanding and well deserved victory in the World Cup. Likewise I heartily congratulate the colourful and joyful fans for the support and enthusiasm they showed towards their team throughout the tournament. I also want to pay tribute to the runners-up, the Netherlands, and to Germany, who came third. Throughout this championship, the European teams were ambassadors of Europe's spirit, energy and openness. At the same time, I am particularly glad to congratulate the African continent and, in particular, South Africa and its people, for providing an ideal stage for a perfectly-run World Cup. This championship was a truly global sporting celebration."*

Soon after President Barroso issued his statement, the world heard the horrific news of the bombings in the Ugandan capital, Kampala. EU High Representative and Vice-President of the European Commission, Catherine Ashton condemned the bombings, saying *"I am deeply saddened by the loss of life resulting from these attacks, and send my condolences to the people of Uganda and the families of the victims. These cowardly attacks against innocent civilians gathered in celebration of international sport shows a shocking disregard for human life and basic social values. We must not allow these attacks to undermine the efforts to help bring stability to the region. The EU stands ready to continue its close cooperation with Uganda."*

Building bridges: Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)



Times change. Foreign relations used to be the exclusive domain of governments. Foreign ministries operated behind closed doors. Diplomats met other government officials, attended receptions and once in a while hosted a "cultural event" showcasing national folk music and dance. Contrast that with the vast array of non-state actors which drive and influence relations among countries in today's globalised and inter-connected world. With 24/7 news channels, the Internet, Twitter and other social networking tools, state representatives are fast losing their monopoly on fashioning public attitudes and perceptions. Today, the reputation of nations can be built or destroyed by the activities of a host of other actors, including business leaders, journalists, academics and scholars, non-governmental organisations, youth associations, faith groups, sportsmen and women, political parties, parliamentarians, trade unions and social activists.

As Asian and European leaders prepare to meet in Brussels on October 4-5 for ASEM 8, they recognise that building a real strategic Asia-Europe partnership will require out-of-the box thinking, involving a wide range of people from different interest groups, not just officials. People-to-people links are no longer exclusively about encouraging youth exchanges, learning foreign languages and visiting cultural exhibitions. In today's fast changing world, non-state actors have a vital role to play in discussions on a range of questions which go far beyond the narrow definition of "socio-cultural issues". [EU Centres](#), set up in 26 universities in the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan, are designed to increase awareness about the political, economic and cultural importance of relations between the EU and specific countries. [read more: ASEM: people to people](#)

EU reaffirms its commitment to Turkey at Istanbul meeting



Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Commission Vice-President, and Ştefan Füle , Commissioner for Enlargement, on 13 July participated in the European Union-Turkey High Level Political Dialogue Meeting in Istanbul. The main objective of the meeting – in which Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu and Chief Negotiator Egemen Bağış also participated – is to reaffirm the EU's commitment to Turkey and explore ways the EU and Turkey can enhance cooperation in the region.

HR/VP Catherine Ashton commented: *"Turkey has recently started to become more assertive in its foreign policy. We welcome the increasingly important role of Turkey in the region. In this context we will also look at the ways in which the EU and Turkey can enhance cooperation."*

The EU-Turkey Political Dialogue meeting is part of regular bilateral meetings between the European Union and Turkey, taking place on a ministerial level twice a year. [read more](#)

from left to right: Ştefan Füle, Catherine Ashton, Ahmet Davutoğlu, Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Egemen Bağış, Turkish Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator for Turkey's accession negotiations with the EU

The EU continues to support the Palestinian people

The European Commission has agreed an additional financial package worth €71 million for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, topping up the €224 million already allocated by the EU in the 2010 European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, as well as a reinforcement of humanitarian aid for Palestinian refugees.

Ahead of her trip to the region this weekend, Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Commission Vice-President said: *"Further to our direct financial support through payment of PA civil servants' salaries and social benefits, this package reinforces our support to the institution-building efforts made by the Palestinian Authority towards establishing a future State of Palestine."*

The funds will be channelled through the EU's assistance mechanism for the occupied Palestinian territory, PEGASE, which was launched in February 2008. So far the Commission has already provided €650 million in support to the Palestinian Authority through the PEGASE mechanism. Since 2000, the European Commission has provided close to € 275 million in humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees in the Middle East. [read full report](#)

EU set to cap emission allowances from 2013



The European Commission on 9 July adopted a decision which determines for the first time a ceiling on the number of emission allowances that will be available under the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) in 2013, the first year of the 2013-2020 trading period. The ceiling has been set on the basis of the 2009 climate and energy package of legislation, which requires a 20% cut in EU greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 from 1990 levels. The cap would need to be revised if a decision were taken to increase the emission reduction target to 30%, as the EU has committed to do if other major economies agree to take on their fair share of a global emissions reduction effort.

Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hedegaard said: *"The EU Emissions Trading System is the world's largest greenhouse trading system for CO₂ and a cornerstone in the fight against climate change. The ETS is key to meeting the EU's ambitious emission reduction targets for 2020, which we have set at 20% and might increase when the time and conditions are right. An EU-wide cap that decreases annually provides market operators with a long-term perspective and the necessary predictability on which they can base decisions to invest in emission reductions and in green technologies."* [Emissions trading and Member States unanimously back Commission proposed rules for auctioning of allowances](#)

Renewable energy: 10.3% of energy consumption in the EU in 2008

In 2008, energy from renewable sources was estimated to have contributed 10.3% of gross final energy consumption in the European Union, compared with 9.7% in 2007 and 8.8% in 2006. The 2009 Directive on renewable energy set individual [targets](#) for all Member States, for example that the EU will reach a 20% share of total energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020. These targets take into account the Member States' different starting points, renewable energy potential and economic performance.

Renewable energy sources cover solar thermal and photovoltaic energy, hydro (including tide, wave and ocean energy), wind, geothermal energy and biomass (including biological waste and liquid biofuels). The contribution of renewable energy from heat pumps is also covered for the Member States for which this information was available. [Renewable energy](#)

Biodiversity: new report highlights win-win business practices that do more for the planet



A new report funded by the European Commission makes a strong case for integrating biodiversity into private sector business plans and core activities around the globe. The report reveals considerable recent growth in eco-certified products and services, growing consumer concerns for sustainable production, and shows how biodiversity can provide a substantial business opportunity in a market that could be worth US\$ 2-6 trillion by 2050. It makes key recommendations for businesses, and calls on accounting professions and financial reporting bodies to develop common standards to assess biodiversity impacts, and develop new tools for this purpose. "TEEB for Business" will form part of the TEEB synthesis report to be launched at a meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010.

European Commissioner for the Environment Janez Potočnik said: *"Despite some local successes, and in spite of a growing awareness of the problem, the global rate of biodiversity loss does not appear to be slowing. But this report shows that businesses can help, and I am heartened to see these tangible examples of companies that are flourishing without damaging the only planet we have."* [read report](#)

EU action against illegal timber exports from developing countries



On 15 July, European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, delivered a speech in London at the launch of a report prepared by an international think tank on "Illegal Logging and Related Trade". The report documents progress made at the global level of combating illegal logging and improving forest governance in developing countries.

Commissioner Piebalgs said: *"The EU must be at the forefront of fight against illegal timber trade. Following Ghana, the Republic of Congo, and soon Cameroon, I encourage all wood producing countries to sign the tailor-made voluntary trade agreements with the EU. This is in our mutual interest: we guarantee European consumers that the furniture, the decoration and any wooden product they buy has been legally produced and imported within the EU, in respect of the biodiversity and forest life cycle; in the same time, this will benefit developing countries who will enjoy a legal and sustainable exploitation of their forests, ensuring jobs creation and domestic resources"*.

Illegal logging has been on the political agenda of the EU for a decade. In 2003 the European Union adopted an Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). The cornerstones of the Action Plan are the voluntary partnership agreements: trade deals between the EU and timber producing countries aimed at stopping illegal logging. The Partnerships are a mechanism to ensure only legal timber enters the EU, a mechanism to promote good forest governance and management and an opportunity to address indigenous people's rights.

[Commissioner Piebalgs in London to promote EU action against illegal timber exports](#) and [FAQs](#)

GMOs: a more flexible approach towards cultivation

On 13 July the European Commission proposed conferring on EU Member States the freedom to allow, restrict or ban the cultivation of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) on part or all of their territory. While keeping unchanged the EU's science-based GM authorisation system, the adopted package proposes a change to the GMO legislation.

The new recommendation on co-existence allows more flexibility to Member States taking into account their local, regional and national conditions when adopting co-existence measures. The proposed regulation amends Directive 2001/18/EC to allow Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory. The strict authorisation system already in place, which is based on science, safety and consumer choice, will remain the same. [Q&As](#) and [press release](#)

Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and growth: the Council adopts broad economic policy guidelines

On 13 July the Economic and financial Affairs Council took an important step in the implementation of the new Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and growth, by adopting a recommendation establishing new broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States and of the Union. The recommendation, together with a draft Decision on guidelines for employment policies, forms "*integrated guidelines*" for structural reforms which will have to be carried out over the next few years under the new strategy. On the basis of these integrated guidelines, Member States will draw up national reform programmes which will set out in detail the actions to be undertaken. [Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and growth](#)

Estonia joins the euro-family



On 13 July the European Council took the formal decision which will pave the way for the introduction of the euro in Estonia as of 1 January 2011. Estonia will become the 17th European Union country to share the euro currency.

"Estonia has achieved a high degree of sustainable economic convergence and is ready to adopt the euro on 1 January 2011. We commend Estonia for its long-standing commitment to prudent policies. To ensure that the adoption of the euro is a success, Estonia must pursue its efforts to maintain a prudent fiscal policy stance. Estonia must now continue with its practical preparations to ensure that the changeover takes place smoothly", said Olli Rehn, EU Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs.

The official conversion rate is set to be 15.6466 kroons per 1 EUR. For more information see: [Estonia joins the euro-family](#)

from left to right: Jürgen Ligi, Estonian Minister for Finance, Olli Rehn and Didier Reynders, Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Institutional Reform and President of Ecofin

Economic governance: strengthening the Stability and Growth Pact

The European task force on economic governance met on 12 July, with discussions centering on the Stability Pact and macro-economic surveillance. In order to strengthen the Stability and Growth Pact, the Task force agreed that greater attention must be paid to debt and to surveillance procedures. Broad consensus was reached on creating a three-pronged competitiveness surveillance mechanism which must take account of the specific nature of the euro area. [read the communique](#)

EU Economy



Figures published on 7 July by Eurostat show that in the first quarter of 2010 the **GDP** in the euro area and that of the EU increased by 0.2% in comparison with the previous quarter and at +0.1% in the euro area. Over one year the GDP in the euro area increased by 0.6% and that of the EU by 0.5%.

According to Eurostat figures the **volume of retail trade increased** in

May 2010 in comparison with April - by 0.2% in the euro area and by 0.4% in the EU; **industrial production rose** by 0.2% in the euro area and by 1.0% in the EU27; and general inflation fell to 1.4% in the euro area and to 1.9% for the EU27. [Eurostats](#)

EU tube: Biodiversity



tomorrow it could be us.

EU Tube : **Biodiversity** is the variety of life on earth including ecosystems, species and genes. We are part of biodiversity and our lives depend on it. And this life supporting biodiversity is disappearing from our cities at an alarming rate. Today it is the sparrow, but

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9vqfXyPRmE&feature=channel>

[see EUtube](#)

Academic news and events

Dr Georg Wiessala, Professor of International Relations, University of Central Lancashire, UK, presents the Jean Monnet Public Lecture “*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 [more information](#)

€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](#)

Melbourne French theatre presents *L'Emmerdeur (A Pain in the @*#!)* entirely in French with English subtitles. Tuesday 24 August to Sat 28 August 2010, at Collingwood College – corner Cromwell Street & McCutcheon Way. In this riotous comedy by the creator of *The Dinner Game* and *The Closet Pignon* brings his estranged wife, her psychiatrist lover, police, hotel staff and a dangerous hitman to the very edge of insanity. For all details see – www.mftinc.org

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](#)

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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