PM Gillard to attend Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Brussels

The eighth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) to be held in Brussels on 4-5 October offers both regions a unique opportunity to build a stronger and more effective 21st Century partnership to tackle key global challenges. The summit, attended by 48 Asian and European leaders will discuss joint action to reshape the international financial system, review global and regional hotspots and seek ways to tackle sustainable development challenges. Australia, New Zealand and Russia will be officially welcomed as new ASEM members. Australia will be represented by Prime Minister Julia Gillard on her first overseas trip as PM.

The ASEM8 agenda is the result of intense consultation with all ASEM partners. The theme for ASEM 8 is “Improving the Quality of Life”. Global economic governance, especially reforming the international financial architecture will figure high on the agenda, following up on the ASEM 7 summit in Beijing in 2008 which was held only weeks after the outbreak of the financial crisis. Discussions in Brussels are likely to focus on how best to tackle global imbalances including in trade, income and development as well as questions related to international exchange rates, banking regulation and reform of international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund. Leaders will in fact use the opportunity offered by ASEM 8 to help prepare for the G20 Summit which will be held in Seoul on November 11-12. [read more]

Europe as an International Partner for Australia

Canberra’s Capital Jewish Forum was recently addressed by EU Ambassador David Daly on “The EU as an International Partner for Australia”. Ambassador Daly shared with the group the EU’s evolution on the world stage. Today Europe has a common foreign and security policy, giving the EU a clear voice on international issues and the tools to intervene on the ground where appropriate.

"The EU and Israel are solid partners based on our common, long-standing cultural, historic and economic ties." said Ambassador Daly. "We welcome the fact that talks between Israel and the Palestinian authorities have recently started, and congratulate PM Netanyahu and President Abbas for their vision and political courage." [read more]

[photo: Capital Jewish Forum [CJF] Founder Manny Waks with Ambassador David Daly]

Crisis, solidarity, interdependence

Over the last year the economic and financial crisis has put our Union before one of the greatest challenges ever. Our interdependence was highlighted and our solidarity was tested like never before.” European Commission President Barroso, State of the Union speech to the European
Ambassador David Daly used these words to introduce his speech to Australian Business in Europe (ABIE) on 9 September in Melbourne, concluding "The economic crisis has demonstrated clearly the high interdependence between European economies and the solidarity needed between European countries." [read full speech]

Outcomes of European Council meeting : Presidency Conclusions

The European Council meeting on 16 September was convened primarily in order to focus on the EU's external relations. Also discussed was the Task Force on economic governance, with an unscheduled discussion on the situation of the Roma in Europe. The European Council is, in the words of Council President Herman Van Rompuy "an institution of our Union and not a summit in the manner of the G8 or the G20. It is embedded in the institutional framework of the European Union, but it brings to the Union inputs from the highest political level in the Member States."

The upcoming G20 summit in Seoul, the Middle East, the Pakistan Floods, the Western Balkans were discussed in depth, as well as the EU's emergence from the economic crisis. [read the full conclusions]

EU High Representative proposes negotiations with Iran

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission made the following statement:

"The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States and I met today. We reaffirmed our determination and commitment to seek an early negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear issue and focused our discussion on further practical steps to achieve it at an early date." [read more]

World's first network for CO2 capture and storage

The European Commission on 17 September completed the launch of the EU tool that supports early large-scale demonstration of CO2 capture and storage technologies. The CCS Project Network is the world's first network of CCS demonstration projects to foster knowledge sharing and raise public understanding of the role of CCS in cutting of CO2 emissions. To guarantee that the work of the CCS Project Network is valuable to the wider energy community, an annual Advisory Forum has bee established to review progress. [read more]

All Aboard for European Language Day!

On Friday 24th September a free multilingual double decker bus will stop at Sydney’s hotspots as part of European Language Day. From 10am to 5.30 pm, passengers can climb aboard to get a taste of French, German, Italian and Spanish language and culture. European Language Day is organised by the five Sydney based European Cultural Centres - Alliance Française, the British Council, Goethe-Institut, Instituto Cervantes and Italian Cultural Institute - who formed in January 2010 the EUNIC Australia Sydney Cluster (European Union National Institutes for Culture). During this event the institutes will showcase their language courses and provide information about their common projects and cultural events.

The day will start at the Waverley Library, stopping at various locations including Bondi Junction, the University of New South Wales, and the University of Sydney, Newtown, Surry Hills and the
Youth on the Move

Five million young Europeans are looking for a job. Many of them will miss opportunities because they lack the right qualifications or experience. On 16 September, the European Commission launched Youth on the Move, a new flagship initiative aimed at helping these young people to gain the knowledge, skills and experience they need to make their first job a reality.

In this framework, the European Commission also launched a public consultation on the future of its mobility programmes for post 2013. The objective of this public consultation is to gather input from relevant stakeholders to guide the Commission in its reflection and designing process of the new programmes so as to ensure an adequate response to current needs, challenges and expectations. Participation in this consultation is encouraged as it will offer the opportunity to influence the future design of the European Union's mobility programmes, in particular the future EU Programme for international cooperation in higher education and human capital development. The consultation will be open until 30 November 2010. More information: http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news2540_en.htm

Academic news and events

ANU Centre for European Studies, Research School of Humanities and the Arts, ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences present The Limits of Refugee Law – A European Perspective. Drawing upon their recent research, Professor Guy Goodwin-Gill of Oxford University will consider the meaning of the right to asylum in the European Union, and Associate Professor Jane McAdam of UNSW will examine the issues of individual risk, armed conflict and the standard of proof in complementary protection claims across the EU. 6:00 PM Wednesday 29 September 2010, Sir Roland Wilson Building 120, The Australian National University. Enquiries Phone: 6125 9896. RSVP by 27 September 2010 to Europe@anu.edu.au


Go8 European Fellowships - call for applications. The Fellowships are open to early career researchers from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Croatia. Each fellow receives benefits worth $20,000 to travel to Australia in 2011 and work at a Go8 (Group of 8) university for up to six months. Applications close 22 October 2010. Further information from: http://www.go8.edu.au/university-staff/programs-a-fellowships/63-go8-european-fellowships

The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) arranges overseas work experience opportunities for university students studying degrees in engineering, science, and technology related disciplines. Paid professional traineeships are available in over 80 countries and range from 2-12 months. Weblink: http://www.swin.edu.au/iaeste/

Upcoming cultural events

The Embassy of Spain invites you to the concert "Romantic Spain at Floriade" performed by classical guitarist Carlos Alberto Pérez, Sunday 3 October 2010, 11am - 12.30pm on the Carnival Stage - Parkes Way Entrance to Floriade, Commonwealth Park, Canberra. More information
Paris to Melbourne with an atlas: The Languages Discipline together with the EU Centre at RMIT University and Des Cowley of the State Library of Victoria, invite you to a talk by Michael Shirrefs (ABC Radio National) on his surprising discovery of a large gift of books from France to the State Library of Victoria, with a rare opportunity to view these books not usually on display to the public. Tuesday 12 October, 5-6pm or 6.15-7.15pm, McArthur Gallery (Maps, Rare Books & Children's Literature area) Level 2a - off Redmond Barry Reading Room, State Library of Victoria, Entry 1, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne. Event is free but numbers are strictly limited to 10 per group. RSVP by Friday 8th October, 03 9925 2264 or kerry.mullan@rmit.edu.au

NETS - an exhibition project spanning the textile departments of the Australian National University, Canberra, Novia University of Applied Arts, Finland, the University of Cumbria, UK, and their associated communities of graduates and artists. Until 30 September 2010. School of Arts and Social Sciences, Building 105, Ellery Crescent, Actin. Tel: (02) 6125 5841 sofagallery@anu.edu.au http://www.soa.anu.edu.au

Two German Architectures: 1949 – 1989, Exhibition, 30 September 2010 - 23 October 2010, Gallery of Australian Design in Canberra. further information

Schrebergarten Exhibition until 30 September 2010, Goethe-Institut Australien, Melbourne. Free entry. further information

The German Embassy, The ANU Centre for European Studies, and The Institute of Professional Practice, Heritage and the Arts invite you to a public lecture on Thursday 7 October 2010, 12 noon to 2pm: Neferiti, the Permanent Representative of Egypt in Germany – Cultural Heritage and the Global Dialogue. Speaker: Professor Dietrich Wildung. Venue: Sir Roland Wilson Building Theatrette, Building 120, Australian National University. RSVP: Europe@anu.edu.au by 5 October

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

Henk van Leeuwen, in association with the Embassy of Finland, presents Pianist Paavali Jumppanen from Finland: “Fresh and exciting playing, immense power and an extraordinary range of colors.” Concert on Tuesday 26 October 2010 at 6.00 pm at the Embassy of Finland, 12 Darwin Avenue, Yarralumla. Program: Mozart Sonata in B-Flat Major K 281, Four Preludes by Jouni Kaipainen (Finland), Beethoven Sonata in f-minor op 57 "Appassionata". Seating is limited so early booking is essential. All tickets are $25. Please book by email ewa.walczuk@formin.fi or by phone: (02) 6253 7901. Tickets are to be paid for and collected before the concert.

Berliner Philharmoniker at Perth Concert Hall, Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 November, 2010, conducted by Sir Simon Rattle. The Perth Theatre Trust and the Perth Concert Hall World Orchestra Series continues in 2010 with the inaugural Australian tour of the Berliner Philharmoniker. Recognised as the world's greatest orchestra, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to hear these historic premier performances in Australia’s finest acoustics. More information www.aegogdenperth.com.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.

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Key Facts 2010
EU Insight: Education
EU Insight: Lisbon Treaty
European Union Australia Partnership Framework
EU Insight: Climate change
EU Insight: Economic relationship
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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