30th Anniversary of European Union Parliament/Australian Parliament friendship

The ANU Centre for European Studies (ANUCES) is proud to host a public seminar to mark the 30th Anniversary of the relationship between the European Union Parliament and the Australian Parliament. HE Mr David Daly, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the EU to Australia and New Zealand, Mr. Harry Jenkins MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Australian Parliament, and Professor Jacqueline Lo, Director, ANU Centre for European Studies, are special guests. The European perspective will be presented by Mr. Hannu Takkula MEP (Finland) and Mr Michael Cramer MEP (Germany). Professor Paul Pickering, Deputy Director, Research School of Humanities and the Arts, ANU and Dr. John Besemeres, Visiting Fellow, ANUCES will present the Australian view.

The visiting MEPs include: Ms. Mara Bizzotto (Chair of the delegation), Mr. Georgios Papastamkos (Deputy Chair), Mr. Gabriel Mato Androver, Mr. Michael Cramer, Mr. Petru Constantin Luhan, Mr. Emilio Menéndez del Valle, and Mr. Hannu Takkula.

The public seminar will be held on Tuesday 22 February 2011 from 12noon to 1pm followed by light lunch, at the ANU Centre for European Studies, Building 67C, 1 Liversidge Street, ANU campus. All welcome. Please RSVP to Europe@anu.edu.au by Friday 18 February. Enquiries to Europe@anu.edu.au or 6125 9896

Europe hits the streets again for the National Multicultural Festival

Twenty-two Member States and the European Union Delegation will form Europe Street at the National Multicultural Festival on Saturday 12 February. Europe Street will again be located in Ainslie Avenue, Canberra, and will feature a wide range of information on the specific member states as well as the EU as a whole. Information on Europe as a tourist, work or study destination will be available as will some giveaways. It’s a great opportunity to come along see what Europe has to offer. You could also win a balloon ride for two! Participating countries include Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. [read more]
Looking into the Windows of Europe: film extravaganza commences this week!


EU salutes the courage of Egyptian people

Catherine Ashton, the EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, last night made a statement following the speech by President Mubarak.

“The demands and expectations of the Egyptian people must be met. It is for them to judge whether the steps announced by President Mubarak fulfil their expectations and aspirations. President Mubarak has not yet opened the way to faster and deeper reforms. We will pay close attention to the response by the Egyptian people in the coming hours and days.

The EU salutes the courage of the Egyptian people who have pursued their campaign for democratic change peacefully and with dignity. Violence can never be accepted. As I have always said, peaceful but real and lasting transformation delivering deep democracy is what is now required. Full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is essential. All abuses must be investigated. I urge the Egyptian authorities and the army to protect the peaceful demonstrators and act with calm and restraint.

An orderly and irreversible transition towards democracy and free and fair elections is the shared objective of both the EU and the Egyptian people. The lifting of the state of emergency is a step forward and must be implemented as soon as possible. The future of Egypt lies firmly in the hands of the Egyptian people. The EU stands ready to help in any way it can. I will visit Egypt as soon as possible.

I will continue to engage with the Egyptian authorities to convey the need for an orderly, meaningful and lasting democratic transition. The time for change is now.”

Middle East Quartet

The Middle East Quartet - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, United States Special Envoy for Middle East Peace George Mitchell, and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union Catherine Ashton - met in Munich on 5 February. They were joined by Quartet Representative Tony Blair.

The Quartet took note of dramatic developments in Egypt and elsewhere in the region in recent days. The Quartet members considered the implications of these events for Arab-Israeli peace and agreed to discuss this further in upcoming meetings as a matter of high priority. The Quartet reiterated its statements related to the Middle East, and in particular to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It strongly urged the parties on that basis to overcome current obstacles in the peace process.

In view of the developments in the Middle East, the Quartet expressed its belief that further delay in the resumption of negotiations is detrimental to prospects for regional peace and security. The Quartet emphasized the need for the parties and others concerned to undertake urgently the efforts to expedite Israeli-Palestinian and comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace, which is imperative to avoiding outcomes detrimental to the region.

EU HR Ashton addresses UN Security Council on international peace and security

Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, on 8 February addressed the United Nations Security Council in New York on the EU's contribution to international peace and security. As of 1 January the European External Action Service, one of the Lisbon Treaty's main innovations, is up and running under Ashton's authority, which gives her the responsibility of speaking on behalf of the EU to international bodies such as the United Nations.
"In many countries today we are seeing people demand greater freedoms, democracy and accountability," said Ashton, "We have a long-standing commitment to effective multilateralism with a strong UN at the core."

Touching on the many freedom movements around the world, Ashton said "we are seeing demonstrations of the basic wish for people to be guaranteed political participation, fundamental freedoms, social justice and economic development. Our position is clear: the democratic aspirations of citizens must be met through dialogue, genuine political reform, and free and fair elections that are well-prepared." [read more]

A race to the top: Europe's low-carbon future

European Commission President Jose Barroso congratulated the organisers of the Low Carbon Prosperity Summit for the appropriateness of its name. "The European Commission has tried to demonstrate the synergy between low carbon and prosperity in its Europe 2020 strategy: a vision for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Europe 2020 is the compass that guides us towards a low carbon development strategy. And if it mentions ‘green growth’, ‘resource efficiency’, 'low-carbon economy’, it is not to jump on the buzz-word bandwagon. No. Our Europe 2020 Strategy mentions these things because sustainable growth and the shift to a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy are not optional extras, introduced in the Strategy as an afterthought. They are the key to repositioning Europe for the new markets of the 21st century, new areas of growth, new jobs for Europe’s citizens. In today’s world of growing pressures over global public goods, the only adequate answer to ensure the preservation of the planet, security of supply and economic growth is to turn to more efficient use of resources." said Barroso. [read more]

caption: European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso greeting HRH Charles, Prince of Wales, patron of the Summit

Reshaping Europe's Economy

In a wide-ranging address to the European Parliament on 8 February, which touched on the Middle East, energy efficiency and stronger economic convergence, Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, said of the EU’s economy "I would like to remind everybody that the euro as a whole remains a strong currency, well above the value at which it was launched, that inflation has remained for 10 years at a lower rate than 2%, and that there is a balance on the current account for the Eurozone as a whole."

Van Rompuy also announced that the European Commission will in March present to the Council a progress report on the implementation of recent decisions concerning energy and innovation. [read more]

On 9 February Van Rompuy delivered a key note speech at the European Financial Services Round Table, saying "We need to do more - reform the financial sector, boost growth and reinforce economic policy coordination". [read the full speech]

European Economy

A flash estimate published by Eurostat on 31 January shows the annual inflation rate in the euro area was 2.4% in January 2011, while in December it was 2.2%. Read

Figures published by Eurostat on 2 February show that, in December 2010 in comparison with November 2010, the industrial production price index increased by 0.8% in the euro area and by 1.1% in the European Union. Read

According to the most recent survey by Eurobarometer on energy, 60% of Europeans would feel better protected by coordinated energy measures between the EU countries. 79% of them say they support solidarity between Member State in the event of supply difficulties. Read

Data published on 1 February by Eurostat reveals the unemployment rate in the Euro Area remained stable at 10% of the working population in December but the number of unemployed decreased. Read

Daytime Driving Lights now compulsory on all new cars in the EU
All new cars sold in the European Union should have their lights on at all times as of 7 February, as a new regulation entered into force. Daytime Running Lights - which automatically switch on as the engine is started - are already compulsory in Scandinavian and Baltic countries, where winters are long and dark. Their introduction throughout the EU is expected to increase road safety, "as they substantially raise the visibility of motor vehicles for other road users," the European Commission said in a statement. The provision applies to cars and small vans only but Daytime Running Lights are to become compulsory for trucks and buses as of August 2012.

EUtube: the common phone charger - Good news for consumer - Good news for the environment

Every time we change our phone we usually get a new charger, which leads to an enormous amount of unnecessary charger waste. This affects both consumers and the environment. But thanks to the EU Commission, Europe's major mobile phone manufacturers have now agreed to adopt a universal charger for data-enabled mobile phones sold in the EU. [watch video] EUtube -

http://www.youtube.com/eutube

Academic news and events

The ANU Centre for European Studies invites you to The Annual Schuman Lecture on the (possible) relationship of the EU Court of Justice with the UN Security Council and International Tribunals. Speaker: Professor Joe Verhoeven, Université Panthéon-Assas, Paris II. Chair: H.E. Mr Patrick Renault, Ambassador, Embassy of Belgium. Venue: ANU Centre for European Studies, 1 Liversidge Street, ANU. Monday 14th of February 2011, commencing at 12:00 noon. RSVP to Europe@anu.edu.au

The European Union Centre at RMIT University invites you to join an array of expert speakers for a UNFCCC Briefing to learn the outcomes and key findings from the recent UN Environment Conference in Cancun. Learn about the latest in climate economics from Lord Stern, the business and investment view from key participants including Sir Richard Branson, Ted Turner, and the opportunities for Australia in Durban and beyond. When: Wednesday February 23rd 8.30am – 10.30am. Where: @ RMIT Storey Hall, Building 16, Level 7 Conference Room 1) 342 - 344 Swanston Street (Nearest Cross Street, La Trobe Street). Click here to register.

The European Union Centres Network of New Zealand will host a visit from world renown experts on the EU, Prof. Thomas Risse and Prof Tanja Borzel, who will present a series of lectures and roundtable seminars. More information: http://www.delaus.ec.europa.eu/newzealand/education/Risse&Borzel.pdf

Monash European and EU Centre has called for applications for International Research Fellowships 2011-2012. Grants of up to A$11,000 are available. Closing date for applications is 7 March 2011. More information from www.monash.edu.au/europecentre

Erasmus Mundus Call for Proposals: this Call for Proposals aims to support projects under all three Actions of the programme: Action 1: Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes, Action 1A: Erasmus Mundus Master Courses, Action 1B: Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates. The deadline for submission of applications under all three Actions is 29 April 2011. More information on the Erasmus Mundus website: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/funding/2011/call_eacea_41_10_en.php


The Delegation to the European Union is seeking applications for the European Union Visitors Program. Travel and per diem costs are covered by the EUVP. Participants are required to have completed their university education or equivalent training and to have been employed for several years in their chosen career/field. Applications close 28 February 2011 (please note change of date). [read more]

Europe and East Asia: Debating Democracies, Identities and Futures - jointly hosted by the University of
Melbourne & Deakin University, 15 April 2011. This workshop seeks to bring together an inter-disciplinary gathering of scholars of European and East Asian regional integration. We also welcome papers or panels addressing the broader links between East Asia, Europe and the democracies, identities and futures of other relevant countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Please send a 200-word abstract with your biographical information to Dr. Marshall Clark (marshall.clark@deakin.edu.au) or Assoc. Prof. Philomena Murray (pbmurray@unimelb.edu.au) by 15 February 2011. Location: The workshop, sponsored by University of Melbourne and Deakin University, will be held at the Deakin University Melbourne City Centre.

Upcoming cultural events
The Church of Sweden in Melbourne and the Embassy of Sweden commemorates the 50th anniversary of the death of Dag Hammarskjöld with an exhibition entitled "Dag Hammarskjöld - Poet and Photographer". The exhibition runs from 6 February to 7 April 2011 with the official opening by Ambassador of Sweden Sven-Olof Petersson on Sunday 20 February at 12.30 at the Church of Sweden, 21 St Georges Road, Toorak, VIC Read more

17 Dec 2010 - 6 Mar 2011 ABBAWORLD - exhibition at Powerhouse Museum in Sydney Experience the music, memories and magic that made ABBA a worldwide phenomenon for more than 35 years in the first official exhibition about the group. In association with the Embassy of Sweden. More events

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.

- NEW EU Insight: European External Action Service
- Study in Europe 2011
- Key Facts 2011
- EU Insight: Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)
- EU Insight: Education
- EU Insight: Lisbon Treaty
- European Union Australia Partnership Framework
- EU Insight: Economic relationship

For more information on the items covered in news@eu, contact Roger Camilleri +61 2 6271 2744 roger.camilleri@eeas.europa.eu or Jan Skorich +61 2 62712747 jan.skorich@eeas.europa.eu.

Send to a Friend

While the Commission aims to keep its network free from viruses, you are strongly encouraged to check this email and any attachments to it for viruses, as the Commission accepts no responsibility with regard to any computer virus transferred by way of this email.

Copyright 2010. Please properly accredit the Delegation of the European Union to Australia and New Zealand when reproducing any of the content of news@eu.