

In touch with EU



News from the Association

Welcome to the second issue of 'In touch with EU'.

Problems with bouncing e-mails mean that some of you might not have seen the first issue. If that's the case, you can access it via our website.

2011 Conference

Next year's Conference will be held on Monday 14 March at the British Library. We're still finalising the programme, but speakers confirmed so far include Alex Warleigh-Lack, Professor of Politics and International Relations at Brunel University, who will give delegates an overview of policy and institutional developments in the EU.

EIA President Ian Thomson, has again agreed to give his annual tour de force on recent developments in EU information provision and resources.

The cost will be £30 to EIA Members, £45 to non-members. A booking form will shortly be available on our website.

Resource Centre

The end of September target for stocking our new Moodle-based Resource Centre hasn't quite been hit: we've now got quite a lot of material on the site, but need a bit more time before making it public.

Intended to be a single source for EIA Members wanting materials on EU information, the site currently includes a new pdf compendium of our 'How to' guides (all revised in the last few weeks), a short but growing online version of

'Eurojargon', a brief EU quiz, and links to useful sites and sources, amongst which are selected news feeds and a glossary of 'nicknames' given to EU Directives and Regulations.

And we are, of course, developing and adding training materials. The outline of what we intend to make available over the coming months is:

- 1 - What the EU is
- 2 - What the EU does
- 3 - How the EU works
- 4 - Finding out about EU legislation
- 5 - Finding out about EU policies
- 6 - Finding out about keeping up to date
- 7 - Finding out about statistics
- 8 - Finding out about funding
- 9 - Finding out about specialist databases
- 10 - Finding out about information networks

Feedback

Please send comments, criticisms etc about the newsletter to eric@eia.org.uk.

Eric Davies
EIA Coordinator

Reminder: although it is possible to print this newsletter, it's not intended to be printed, as the embedded URLs will be lost ...

Issue 2 - October 2010

It's official:

EU documents , publications and sources

ECC-Net

A report issued to mark the 5th anniversary of the European Consumer Centres Network (ECC-Net) shows that the number of enquiries has risen from some 43,000 in 2005 to more than 60,000 in 2009. The Network is funded by the European Commission and the Member States and offers consumers free legal advice and assistance throughout the EU and in Iceland and Norway. See: [ECC-Net website](#).

Parliament - Commission cooperation

New rules on how the European Parliament and European Commission should work together have been approved by MEPs on the Constitutional Affairs Committee. If adopted by the full Parliament, the deal will give Parliament new rights and powers in EU policy making, reflecting its new position under the Lisbon Treaty. See: [Press Release](#).

European Ombudsman

The European Ombudsman has adopted a new visual identity (logo). On the new-look website are details of a strategy adopted by the Ombudsman to raise the quality of the EU administration and to ensure that EU citizens enjoy their rights fully. The strategy will form the basis for the Ombudsman's work during his current mandate (2009-2014). See: [Strategy page](#).

Plus, to mark 'International Right to Know Day', the Ombudsman called on the EU administration to be as transparent and citizen-friendly as possible, saying: 'Only if European citizens feel that the EU administration is transparent, accessible and accountable, will they develop the necessary trust and willingness actively to participate in the democratic life of the Union.' See: [Press Release](#).

Regional Competitiveness Index

The 'EU Regional Competitiveness Index 2010', developed by the Joint Research Centre's Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen and the Commission's DG for Regional Policy, highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the Union's 271 regions. The RCI measures the competitiveness of a region, including factors related to innovation, transport and communication infrastructure, health, education and quality of institutions. See: [RCI 2010](#).

Youth on the Move

Two COMdocs on the Youth on the Move initiative have now been published on EUR-Lex: 'Communication ... Youth on the Move: An initiative to unleash the potential of young people to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the European Union' (COM (2010) 477) and the associated 'Proposal for a Council Recommendation: Youth on the move - promoting the learning mobility of young people' (COM (2010) 478). See: [Youth on the Move website](#).

EU law

The Commission's '27th Annual Report on Monitoring the Application of EU Law (2009)' is now on EUR-Lex as COM (2010) 538. Accompanied by the Working Documents SEC(2010) 1143 and SEC(2010) 1144, the Report highlights the late transposition of Directives by Member States as a continuing challenge for the EU.

It also reveals that, at the end of 2009, 'EU law comprised, apart from the rules of the Treaty, some 6140 regulations and just under 1820 directives in force throughout the 27 Member States.' By the same point, the Commission was handling around 2,900 complaints and infringement files - down by 16% on the previous year. See: [Report text](#).

Focus on ...

Statistics Explained

Described as 'Eurostat's new way of publishing statistics on the internet', [Statistics Explained](#) sets out to 'serve as a portal to European data on any topic.' The initiative presents recent data and offers 'deep and specific' links to relevant figures on the Eurostat website, together with metadata, definitions, legal texts and other materials.

The site largely comprises topic-specific articles written for a general audience. Its main advantage over the general Eurostat website is that each article incorporates information on a range of related issues. The example given on the site is for road transport, which - we're told - 'is looked at and analyzed in articles on infrastructure, environmental impact, energy consumption, economic importance, congestion problems, traffic accidents, regional patterns and many more.'

Each article is presented in a standard format, with contents table, graphics (charts, tables etc), a 'Context' section, and links to further information from Eurostat and other sources.

The glossary is a useful feature, allowing users to read a definition of a term and go back to the article. The feature seems to be pretty well used; for example, in an article on 'Competitiveness in EU road freight transport', terms defined in the first paragraph include: competitiveness, European Union (EU), cross-trade, cabotage, turnover, employee, tonne-kilometres (tkm).

Navigation seems easy enough, with a standard menu on all pages offering - amongst other things - options to view the site content via 'Statistical themes' and 'Categories'. 'Statistical themes' offers articles according to Eurostat's nine standard divisions, while 'Categories' is an alphabetical list of items available.

Available in English, French and German, the site is presented in a refreshingly simple style, with the main page largely limited to the menu, a small number of new additions, and 'Today's article'.

The screenshot shows the main page of the Statistics Explained website. The header features the European Commission and Eurostat logos on the left, and the 'Statistics Explained' title with a graphic of an open book on the right. Below the header is a search bar and a navigation menu. The main content area is titled 'Main Page' and includes a welcome message, a brief description of the site's purpose, and two featured articles. The first article, 'New: International trade by enterprise characteristics', includes a pie chart and a brief description. The second article, 'Today's article: Foreign language learning statistics', includes a bar chart and a brief description. The page is designed to be user-friendly and informative, providing a clear overview of the available statistics.

European Commission
eurostat

Statistics Explained

search
Go Search

navigation
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Statistical themes
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links
Europe
Eurostat
Eurostat data
EU Bookshop
Contact Eurostat

toolboxes
What links here
Related changes
Special pages
Permanent link
RSS Atom

in other languages
English
Deutsch
Français

share blog cite print bookmark send to friend Log in

Quality page [view draft] [edit]

Welcome to Statistics Explained

Statistics Explained, your guide to European statistics.

Statistics Explained is an official Eurostat website presenting all statistical topics in an easily understandable way. Together, the articles make up everyone's **encyclopedia** of European statistics, completed by a statistical glossary clarifying all terms used and by numerous links to further information and the very latest data and metadata, a **portal** for occasional and regular users alike.

To find the information you need, use the hierarchical theme tree, the categories or the search function (alt-f).

New

New: International trade by enterprise characteristics

This article takes a look at recent European Union (EU) international trade statistics from a very specific angle: the characteristics of the enterprises actively engaged in importing and exporting.

International trade statistics play a vital role in the assessment of every economy. Combining them with additional information from other sources, particularly business statistics, significantly enriches them, providing a closer view of traders and their characteristics such as size, sector of economic activity or level of concentration. This allows for a deeper analysis of the impact of trade on employment, production and value added, essential in a globalised world where economies are increasingly interconnected. [More ...](#)

Today's article

Foreign language learning statistics

The European Union (EU) recognizes 23 official languages, in addition to which there are regional, minority languages, and languages spoken by migrant populations. School is the main opportunity for the vast majority of people to learn these languages – as linguistic diversity is actively encouraged within schools, universities and adult education centres as well as the workplace. This article presents statistics on language learning at primary and secondary schools in the EU Member States.

Main statistical findings

Q&A

Our AskEric service gives EIA members the chance to pose their questions to our EU information experts. Whether it's simple or complex - if you're having trouble finding the answer, try AskEric ...

An EIA Member recently asked this question:

I have been contacted by my client who has supplied a control panel for an air conditioning unit to a customer in Denmark. The company is a pharmaceutical firm which added a modular building into existing premises and required the air conditioning control panel.

Now my client has prepared the paper work for sign off by the client and there is a disagreement over which standard number should apply.

My client has supplied the product to standard number BSEN61439 historically, although the client has asked that standard BSEN60204 apply. I think this is normal in the UK for electrical wiring.

Please can you help me to find out what the correct standard for Denmark is and why the company may have understood that the different standard applies?

AskEric answered:

The 'EN' denotes that the standard is a 'European standard' issued by CENELEC, the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (www.cenelec.eu).

The 'BSEN' notation confirms that these are British versions of the originals. On the BSI site, both the standards you've been quoted are mentioned on [this page](#).

I assume your client is aware of the note on that page about supplementary requirements for assemblies forming part of a machine being covered by the BS EN 60204 series.

Danish versions are available via Dansk Standard, as on [this page](#).

The discussion over the two standards is presumably a matter of interpretation between the customer and client as to which is most relevant to the job in hand.

AskEric questions and answers will soon be available in the Moodle Resource Centre, available exclusively to EIA Members via our website.

Snippets:

News and views from non-EU sources

EurActiv

From: [Local angle 'key' to communicating EU](#)

Localisation is the key to better communicating EU policy issues to journalists, EU officials and media professionals agreed at a conference in Brussels yesterday (14 October).

"We need to make information available to journalists on how what we're doing will affect people on the ground, and we've got a bit of work to do on this," Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen, chief spokesperson at the European Commission, told the EuroPCom conference – billed as the 'First European Conference on Public Communication' and hosted at the Committee of the Regions.

European Policy Centre

From: [The Treaty of Lisbon: A Second Look at the Institutional Innovations](#)

With the Lisbon Treaty in force and the institutional innovations gradually being implemented, this joint study by EPC, CEPS, and EGMONT, (which follows one issued in 2007 while the Treaty was still a chimera), makes a preliminary assessment of how it is likely to work in practice. Some trends are already apparent, say the authors: the balance between the institutions has changed, with a more complex set-up and 'joint management' everywhere. But the most significant conclusion is that the Treaty's success – or failure – will in the end be determined in and by national capitals.

euobserver

From: [Voting begins for EU 'worst lobbying' award](#)

Voting has begun for the 'Worst EU lobbying awards 2010' – an initiative drawing attention to companies that reportedly use underhand techniques to influence the direction of EU legislation.

EUbusiness

From: [Big retailers caught breaching EU chemicals law](#)

A report released today reveals big retailers are breaching the EU's flagship regulation on chemicals, while many products such as school supplies, sports accessories and sex toys are shown to contain high concentrations of 'substances of very high concern'.

Statewatch

From: [European Journalists Warn EU Home Affairs Chief that European Data Law Threatens Freedom](#)

The European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) has warned the European Union that rules over data retention are a threat to press freedom and need to be urgently reviewed.

In a meeting in Brussels with the European Union Commissioner Cecilia Malmström, who is responsible for Home Affairs, a delegation of EFJ leaders said that the EU Data Retention Directive 2006/24/EC raised serious concerns for civil liberties and press freedom, and potentially compromised protection of journalists' sources, a cardinal principle of journalism across Europe.

ONLINE INFORMATION 2010

Keeping you ahead of the
digital revolution

Online Information is the event that takes you to the heart of the digital revolution, providing an annual meeting place for the global information and information management industry.

This year's event features:

- **Over 200 international exhibitors** showcasing the latest products and services
- **More than 100 free to attend seminars** including sessions covering Content Management, ePubublishing & eBooks, Business Information, Enterprise Search, Library Management, STM Information, Marketing through Social Media plus information master classes and career development talks
- **Meet up with your peers** from over 70 countries worldwide
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