

In touch with EU



News from the Association

Training courses

We're offering two courses in 2011. Both will take place in London, and both cost £150 to EIA Members and £175 to others. Places can be booked via our website, which also has programme details. The courses are:

Finding out about the EU, 18 February

Sessions include:

- The European Union - what it is, what it does, how it works
- Tracing policy and legislative documents
- Tracing background and explanatory materials
- Keeping up-to-date

DEADLINE EXTENDED!

We've now got the minimum number of bookings needed for this course to run.

The deadline for bookings is therefore extended to Friday 11 February

REVISED PROGRAMME

The original programme has been tweaked - see the latest version on our website

Case law, 10 June

Sessions include:

- Europe's supreme court
- The fundamental principles of EU law
- The General Court and the Civil Service Tribunal
- Tracking case law
- Links to national courts

CONFERENCE

There are still plenty of places available at our 14 March conference. If you're planning to attend, please book now - it helps enormously with catering and other arrangements!

EIA Awards

Our Conference on 14 March will see the presentation of the 2011 EIA Awards. It's not too late to nominate for the **EIA Award for European Information Sources** (printed or electronic) or for one of our 'people' prizes: the **EIA Award for Outstanding Contribution to EU Information** and the **Helen Greer Prize** (for a particularly outstanding contribution to EDC librarianship).

Committee nominations

Also to be decided on 14 March is the composition of our Committee. Three of the six posts are up for election: Treasurer (currently Ian Mayfield) and Committee Representatives 2 and 3 (currently Kathy Pitt and Helen Young).

Feedback

Please send comments etc to eric@eia.org.uk.

Eric Davies
EIA Coordinator

This newsletter can be printed, but the embedded URLs will be lost ...

Issue 5 - January 2011

It's official:

EU documents , publications and sources

New Council publication

'The European Council in 2010' is a 50-page review of the activities of the European Council during its first year as an EU Institution. In the first part the European Council's President, Herman Van Rompuy, summarises and analyses the main challenges and achievements of 2010: 'preserving the stability of the eurozone, creating a new strategy for durable growth and jobs and strengthening the position of the European Union in the world.' The second part of the publication includes the official conclusions of the six European Council meetings held during the year. See: [Publication text](#).

Culture Programme

COM (2010) 810 is the Commission's 'Interim evaluation report on the implementation of the Culture programme'. In it, the Commission accepts the external evaluator's conclusions that improvements could be made in a number of areas and intends 'to take the results of this evaluation into account chiefly with a view to preparing the new EU programme in the field of culture for the period after 2013.' See: [Report text](#).

Sport

'Developing the European Dimension in Sport' has been adopted by the European Commission as COM (2011) 12. The Commission makes proposals in three main areas: the societal role of sport, its economic dimension, and the organisation of sport. See: Press Release [IP/11/43](#).

Public procurement

A 'Green Paper on the modernisation of EU public procurement policy: Towards a more efficient European Procurement Market' has been issued as COM (2011) 15. With it, the European Commission launches a consultation on the

modernisation of the rules, tools and methods to enable public procurement to 'make transparent and competitive contract awards as easy as possible for European public authorities and their suppliers.' The deadline for responses is 18 April. See: [Green Paper page](#).

Digitisation

A report on Digitisation of Europe's cultural heritage calls on Member States to increase their efforts to put collections online. It also 'endorses the Digital Agenda's objective of strengthening Europe's digital library Europeana and suggests solutions for making works covered by copyright available online.' See: Press Release [IP/11/17](#).

Recycling

COM (2011) 13 is a Commission Report 'on the Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste'. Accompanied by SEC (2011) 70, it concludes that the Strategy 'has played an important role in guiding policy development' and that, overall, 'recycling rates have improved, the amount of waste going to landfill has decreased and the use of hazardous substances in some waste streams has been reduced.' See: [Report text](#).

Europe 2020 Strategy

The Communication 'A resource-efficient Europe - Flagship initiative under the Europe 2020 Strategy' (COM (2011) 21) sets out the Commission's views 'on a strategic framework that should deliver a more sustainable use of natural resources and the shift towards resource-efficient, low-carbon growth in Europe.' COM (2011) 17 is the Communication 'Regional Policy: contributing to sustainable growth in Europe 2020'. See: Press Releases [IP/11/63](#) and [IP/11/99](#).

Focus on ...

European Navigator

Described as a digital library, the [European Navigator](#) (ENA) website contains more than 16,000 documents on the European integration process, many of them being hard to find elsewhere. Materials are divided into five main sections:

- Historical events
- European organisations
- Special files
- Interviews
- Research and teaching

The site is designed and developed by the Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l'Europe (CVCE), a public body supported by Luxembourg's Ministry of Higher Education and Research.

'Historical Events' sets out the key dates in the history of European integration from 1945 to the present day, 'chronicling the formation of the community of Europe, its development and enlargement, and the geopolitical upheavals resulting from the fall of the Berlin Wall.'

'European Organisations' looks at the major international organisations involved in European integration that were established in Western Europe after the Second World War. In addition to the EU and its predecessors, this section looks at the Western European Union (WEU), the Council of Europe (CoE), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

'Special Files' offers material on specific subjects related to European integration, including notable current events (e.g. the 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome), the involvement of selected countries in the European integration process, and people who have played a major role in the history of Europe.

'Interviews' contains audio and video interviews with people who have been actively involved in memorable moments in the integration process, including Jacques Delors, Nicole Fontaine, Leo Tindemans.

'Research and Teaching' gives access to CVCE research projects and to expert contributions produced by or for the Centre, together with audio and video recordings of lectures, conferences and seminars.

A section on new additions allows recently-added material to be easily identified.



Note that ENA is a media-rich site which requires users to have Adobe Flash player installed. It can also be slow to load and its use of frames seems at times to hinder rather than help navigation and viewing of the content.

Despite those irritations, the site is well worth a visit, both for those looking to learn more about how the EU developed and those seeking old, hard-to-find materials.

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 ...

This query was recently submitted:

We've been asked to find a Commission communication on the application of State aid rules to support measures in favour of banks. I've looked on the preparatory acts section of Eurlex, but can't see anything. Am I missing something?

AskEric answered:

The 'Preparatory acts' section of EUR-Lex contains Commission documents (COMdocs) and is certainly the obvious place to look for 'Communications'.

However, the Commission occasionally issues other documents called 'communications', which are not COMdocs and which are not published in the 'Preparatory acts' section of EUR-Lex.

In this case, the item concerned was published in the C series of the Official Journal, as 2010/C 329/07: 'Communication from the Commission on the application, from 1 January 2011, of State aid rules to support measures in favour of banks in the context of the financial crisis'. It is one of four communications issued since Autumn 2008 providing detailed guidance on the State support to financial institutions. All have been published in the OJ C.

Interestingly, this particular issue of the OJ ([C/329](#), 7 December 2010) also contains two other Communications.

It's therefore worth bearing in mind that not all 'communications' are COMdocs!

Snippets:

News and views from non-EU sources

EurActiv

From: [The Hungarian EU Presidency](#)

Hungary is the final member of a 'trio' that also includes Spain and Belgium to take over the six-month rotating presidency of the EU Council of Ministers. It did so on 1 January.

Formal talks on the next EU budget and future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) kick off during its six-month term at the bloc's helm.

European Policy Centre

From: [The Turkey-EU deadlock](#)

Turkey's EU membership negotiations enter 2011 in dire straits, says Amanda Paul in this commentary. The Turkey-EU-Cyprus triangle, opposition from a number of member states, and Ankara's growing disillusionment over what it considers to be an insincere EU approach, is proving to be a potent mix which is eroding relations. A vicious circle of blame is becoming increasingly difficult to break and, unless there is a change in approach, accession talks are set to remain in a dangerous deadlock.

euobserver

From: [MEPs have stopped blogging, are afraid of Twitter, love Facebook](#)

While use of Twitter is slowly on the uptake amongst MEPs, it can hardly be said to be popular among them in the way that other online activities are, according to a survey of how MEPs are using new media released on Tuesday by Brussels lobby firm Fleishman-Hillard.

Fewer than one in three MEPs surveyed felt that Twitter was effective, with many "struggling to see the value" of the online device.

EUbusiness

From: [EU Court refuses trademark for chocolate rabbits](#)

In accordance with the Community Trade Mark Regulation the shape of a chocolate rabbit or reindeer with a red ribbon cannot be registered as a Community trade mark, the General Court (ECJ) ruled on 17 Jan 2011.

The Ruling comes after chocolate makers Lindt & Sprüngli AG and August Stork filed several unsuccessful applications before the OHIM. The ECJ deemed that those shapes and those of a small bell with a red ribbon, a chocolate rabbit and a chocolate mouse are devoid of any distinctive character. In accordance with the Community Trade Mark Regulation.

Statewatch

From: [Observatory: EU Internal Security Strategy](#)

This Observatory contains:

- Latest developments
- Council of the European Union
- European Commission
- European Parliament
- European Data Protection Supervisor
- UK parliament
- UK Government
- Civil society
- Background

EIA Conference

14 March 2011, British Library, London

£30.00 EIA members, £45.00 others.

**Places limited;
book online at
www.eia.org.uk**

Listen to:

Professor Alex Warleigh-Lack, giving an overview of EU policy and institutional developments;

EIA President Ian Thomson, presenting his annual review of recent developments in EU information provision and resources;

Michael Duero, highlighting recent developments on the EUR-Lex website;

Julian Oliver, giving insights into the website EurActiv.com;

Dominic Brett, speaking about the Commission's current information priorities.

The event will also include presentation of the EIA's annual EU Information Awards.

JUSTIS
PUBLISHING

Celebrating 25 years of full-text online European information provision

For their sponsorship of our conference and annual Awards, we're grateful to UK and European legal information specialist [Justis Publishing](http://www.justis.com), which celebrates its first quarter of a century this year.

In addition to [EU Bulletins](#), Justis provides full-text law reports and legislation from a wide range of jurisdictions, including the unrivalled, easy-to-search [Justis Celex](#), [OJC](#) and [OJ Daily](#); while the company's provider-neutral citator, [JustCite](#), cross-references and deep-links into an even wider selection of material from numerous third-party resources, including many European information platforms.

EU bulletin

Your daily feed of EU cases, regulations and
as they happen.

Adopted Legislation

Regulation concerning the arms embargo
on the Islamic Republic of Iran