



Slovenian Business & Research Association

Slovensko gospodarsko in raziskovalno združenje Bruselj

B I L T E N

Letnik VIII, številka 7-8

Julij-Avgust 2007

Ustanovni člani SGRZ:

Gospodarska zbornica Slovenije; Univerza v Ljubljani; Univerza v Mariboru; Inštitut Jožef Stefan; Zadrúžna zveza Slovenije; *s finančno podporo Ministrstva za visoko šolstvo, znanost in tehnologijo ter Ministrstva za kmetijstvo, gozdarstvo in prehrano.*

Pridruženi člani SGRZ:

Krka d.d. Novo mesto; Obrtna zbornica Slovenije; Nova Ljubljanska banka; Zavarovalno združenje Slovenije; Lek d.d.; Sava d.d.; Riko d.d., Univerza na Primorskem, Mestna občina Ljubljana, Mestna občina Maribor; Mestna občina Novo mesto; Mestna občina Nova Gorica, Mestna občina Celje, Holdinška družba Istrabenz d.d.; DDC Družba za svetovanje in inženiring d.o.o., Perutnina Ptuj d.d.; Geoplin Lendava d.d.; Fakulteta za kemijo in kemijsko tehnologijo, UL; Alianta d.o.o.; Euro Amex d.o.o; Kmetijsko gozdarska zbornica Slovenije.

Sedež SGRZ: 6, Av. Lloyd George, B-1000 Bruxelles, Belgija. Tel: 32 2 645 19 10, Fax: 32 2 645 19 17

Ureja: dr. Boris Cizelj, direktor SGRZ

Redakcija Biltena je bila zaključena 16. julija 2007.

Uvodnik

Pretekli mesec smo bili priča zaključnim aktivnostim, ki jih je pripravila nemška vlada ob izteku predsedovanja. Junij je bil namenjen razpravam o novi pogodbi o reformi unije ter energetskim in podnebnim zavezam. V času nemškega predsedstva je bil sklenjen dogovor o informacijskem sistemu za izmenjavo podatkov o vizumih, veliko aktivnosti je bilo narejenih v smeri oblikovanja t.i. SEPA – Single Euro Payment Area. Nemško predsedstvo je pustilo pečat.

S prvim julijem je vrh EU prevzela Portugalska, ki mora nadaljevati predvsem začete nemške aktivnosti na področju pogodbe o reformi Unije. Ob tem ima še druge prioritete, ki jih tokrat prilagamo v prilogi 1. Predvsem gre izpostaviti, da sistem 18-mesečnih trojčkov v predsedovanju Uniji že kaže svoje prednosti, predvsem v smislu kontinuitete in bolj dolgoročnega usklajevanja prioritet.

Za portugalsko predsedovanje bo v ospredju: ustavna pogodba, približevanje Zahodnega Balkana, priprava naslednjega cikla lizbonske strategije, krepitev čezatlanskega dialoga ter sodelovanje v Mediteranu, z Afriko in Latinsko Ameriko. Pravzaprav le v teh zadnjih poudarkih prepoznamo specifične interese Portugalske.

Izmed ostalih aktivnosti posebej izpostavljamo dosežek generalnega direktorata za konkurencu in sicer na področju diverzifikacije virov energije, v tokratnem primeru plina iz Alžirije.

Sicer pa je bil zadnji mesec predvsem namenjen energetske, zdravstvenim, raziskovalnim tematikam ter prenovi evropske industrijske politike.

Urednik

KAZALO

1. AKTUALNE NOVICE

- Portugalska na čelu EU
- Javna razprava na temo protidiskriminatornih ukrepov
- Evropska skupnost pridružena WCO
- Medvladna konferenca dobila privoljenje za izvedbo
- Dogovor o prenosu podatkov o potnikih v zračnem prometu

2. KRATKE NOVICE

3. NOVA ZAKONODAJA

- Uredba o prehranskih označbah
- Uredba o obogateni hrani

4. GOSPODARSKE NOVICE

- EU industrijska politika
- Pravice porabnikov energije
- Evropski znak zaupanja v čezmejno e-poslovanje
- Liberalizacija poštnih storitev

5. FINANČNE STORITVE

- Ciper in Malta v Evroobmočje
- Poročilo o ponarejanju €-bankovcev
- Poročilo o evroobmočju
- Previdnost pri zviševanju obrestnim mer
- investicije EBRD, Evropske banke za razvoj

6. REGIONALNA POLITIKA

- Slovenska kohezijska politika potrjena
- Dnevi odprtih vrat regij in mest EU 2007

7. TRANSPORT IN ENERGETIKA

- EU in ZDA za znižanje letalskih izpustov
- Julija odprt trg elektrike in plina
- EU in Alžirija – pogodba o dobavi plina

- Brazilija: Poglobitev odnosov na področju energetike
- Civilno letalstvo: vodnik po EU zakonodaji

8. EKOLOGIJA IN TRAJNOSTNI RAZVOJ

- Poostrena pravila za transport odpadkov
- Hkratna proizvodnja elektrike in toplote
- Prepoved prodaje naprav z živim srebrom

9. FARMACIJA IN ZDRAVSTVO

- e-bilten na portalu Zdravje-EU
- Ocena varnosti barve za živila »rdeča 2G«
- Zaščita pred soncem
- Zelena knjiga o bio-pripravljenosti

10. RR IN INOVACIJE

- Evropski inštitut za tehnologijo
- Dogovor o financiranju med EU in Egiptom
- 7. okvirni program – svetovalne skupine
- Nove smernice za raziskave na področju premoga in jekla

11. KMETIJSTVO

- Vinska reforma
- Promocija kmetijskih proizvodov
- So ribji ostanki nevarna hrana?

12. JUGOVZHODNA EVROPA

- Slovenija predsedujoča EU v Makedoniji in Črni gori
- EAR podpora Črni gori
- Makedonija na poti v EU, kljub nerešenim sporom

13. NAJAVE DOGODKOV

14. ZANIMIVE PUBLIKACIJE

15. PRILOGE

1. AKTUALNE NOVICE

■ Portugalska na čelu EU

S prvim julijem je vodstvo EU prevzela Portugalska. Prioritete njenega predsedovanja predstavljajo nadaljevanje nemških aktivnosti in uvod v slovensko predsedovanje. Posebej so izpostavljenje naslednja, dokaj obširna področja:

- Doseči sporazum in sprejetje nove Evropske ustavne pogodbe
- Doseganje ciljev Lizbonske strategije
- Krepitev varnosti, miru in enakosti
- Krepitev odnosov s t.i. tretjimi državami

Oči Evropske unije so uprte v zahtevno prvo točko, kateri bo Portugalska namenila posebej veliko pozornost. Ali bomo, kot napovedujejo, v oktobru pridobili novo, reformirano Evropsko pogodbo?

Spletna stran Predsedstva Portugalske:
<http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Presidencia/Conselho/>
in

http://www.eu2007.pt/NR/rdonlyres/EFA45F2C-33E8-40B3-A6AD-5512E56E9E7C/0/CadernoPrioridades_Ingl_es_0907_12h00.pdf

■ Komisija sprožila javno razpravo na temo protidiskriminatornih ukrepov

Evropska komisija je v začetku julija sprožila spletno posvetovanje na temo boja proti diskriminaciji v EU in njenih državah članicah.

Javni posvet se bo dotaknil potencialnih rešitev težav, povezanih z neenakostjo in diskriminacijo na osnovi spola, religije, zmožnosti, starosti, spolne orientacije na področju trga dela in tudi širše.

Spletno posvetovanje bo odprto od 4. julija do 15. oktobra 2007.

Posvet:
http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations/index_en.htm

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/public/pubst_en.htm#stud
<http://ec.europa.eu/antidiscrimination>
<http://equality2007.europa.eu>

Vabljeni k sodelovanju!

■ Evropska skupnost pridružena WCO

S 1. julijem 2007 je Evropska Skupnost pristopila kot članica k WCO – Svetovni carinski organizaciji, kar pomeni tudi priznanje EU in njeni vlogi, kompetencam in naporom na področju carinske politike. Članstvo bo pozitivno vplivalo na nadaljnji razvoj mednarodnega carinskega sodelovanja.

Cilj WCO je promocija in vzpostavitev modernega in varnega carinskega sistema po vsem svetu; promocija standardov kakovosti in vzajemnih prednosti, ki jih lahko državam prinese učinkovit carinski sistem.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/comm/on/about/welcome/index_en.htm#

<http://www.wcoomd.org>

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/994&format=HTML&aged=0&language=en&guiLanguage=en>

■ Medvladna konferenca dobila privoljenje za izvedbo

23. julija 2007 bo pričela potekati medvladna konferenca, ki bo o vse do 18. in 19. oktobra namenjena obravnavi vprašanj in predlogov reforme evropske pogodbe. Razprave se bodo še posebej dotaknile določil iz Evropske ustave, ki obravnavajo pravno osebnost EU, razširitev odločanja s kvalificirano večino, energetska solidarnost, boj proti podnebnim spremembam, simbole Unije idr.

Pri konferenci bodo aktivno sodelovali tudi predstavniki parlamenta, ki bodo svoje kolege redno obveščali o delovnih dokumentih konference. Parlament pa bo tudi ohranil odprt dialog s parlamenti držav

članic ter civilno družbo; vse do ratifikacije nove pogodbe.

Imenovani predstavniki: Elmar Brok (EPP-ED, Nemčija), Enrique Barón Crespo (PES, Španija) in Andrew Duff (ALDE, Velika Britanija)

Več o tem:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/nfopress_page/003-8952-190-07-28-901-20070706IPR08900-09-07-2007-2007-true/default_en.htm
in
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/nfopress_page/003-9177-184-07-27-901-20070712IPR09176-03-07-2006-2006-false/default_sl.htm

■ Dogovor o prenosu podatkov o potnikih v zračnem prometu

Evropski parlament je preučil dogovor, ki ga je EU pred kratkim sklenila z ZDA na temo prenosa podatkov o potnikih v letalskem prometu (PNR - Passenger Name Records). Poslanci so ugotovili, da dogovor še vedno ne zagotavlja zadostno varnost za prenos podatkov,

Za katere vse namene bodo podatki uporabljeni? Dogovor ne specifikira namena obravnave, zbiranja, uporabe, shranjevanja in dostopa do podatkov.

Dogovor ni sklenjen na podlagi pravno zavezujočega dokumenta in omogoča katerikoli od podpisnic, da pogoje spremeni enostransko.

Iz naštetih razlogov Parlament zahteva od Komisije dodatna pojasnila in informacije.

Več o tem;

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/nfopress_page/019-8993-190-07-28-902-20070709IPR08968-09-07-2007-2007-false/default_sl.htm

2. KRATKE NOVICE IN VABILA K SODELOVANJU

Vodka – predmet vročih diskusij

Evropski parlament je v začetku julija obravnaval posebej zanimivo temo – vodko ter njeno definicijo. Vodka se lahko pripravi iz kateregakoli živila, ki vsebuje škrob in fermentira. Ker pa več stoletna tradicija pozna le vodko, narejeno iz krompirja in žitaric, je Evropski parlament predlagal rešitev za proizvajalce take in drugače vodke.

Ime vodka naj bi ohranila pijača, izdelana iz krompirja in žitaric; pijača, narejena iz drugih živil, pa bo nosila ime npr. Vodka iz grozdja.

Več o tem:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/063-2627-030-01-05-911-20070131STO02626-2007-30-01-2007/default_sl.htm

Seznam prevoznikov, katerim je prepovedano opravljanje poletov v EU

V skladu z evropskimi standardi varnosti v letalstvu je Evropska komisija objavila nov seznam prevoznikov, katerim je zaradi ugotovljenega pomanjkanja varnosti prepovedala opravljanje poletov v evropskem zračnem prostoru.

Objavljena sta dva seznama - letalski prevozniki, ki jim je bilo prepovedano opravljanje letov v Evropi; ter letalski prevozniki, ki lahko opravljajo polete v Evropi le pod posebnimi pogoji.

Seznam:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/airban/pdf/list_en.pdf

Evropski socialni sklad z novo spletno stranjo

Konec junija je Evropska komisija lansirala novo spletno stran Evropskega socialnega sklada – glavnega instrumenta za investiranje v človeške vire.

Spletna stran s podatki, dobrimi primeri in aktualnimi razpisi nosi ime ec.europa.esf

RAPEX

Hitri sistem obveščanja EU o nevarnih proizvodih, ki krožijo na evropskem trgu. Posodobitve za maj-junij:

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=135

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=136

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=137

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=138

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=139

Završen predlog za zvišanje trošarin pri alkoholnih pijačah

Evropski parlament je v začetku julija zavrnil predlog Evropske komisije o zvišanju minimalnih trošarin za alkoholne pijače, razen vina.

Mnenje Parlamenta je posvetovalne narave, dokončno odločitev o tem predlogu bo sprejel Svet.

Več o tem:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/042-9005-190-07-28-907-20070709IPR08983-09-07-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm

in

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2007-0324+0+DOC+XML+V0//SL>

3. NOVA ZAKONODAJA

■ Uredba o prehranskih označbah

S 1. julijem je stopila v veljavo Direktiva o prehranskih označbah in zdravstvenih trditvah. Vključuje določila o trženju, oglaševanju in označevanju hrane z jasnimi in znanstveno podkrepljenimi prehranskimi označbami in znanstvenimi trditvami. Določa tudi pogoje za uporabo terminov, kot so npr. »bogat z vlakninami«, »nizka vsebnost maščob«, »brez dodanega sladkorja«.

V roku 4 letih, ko se zaključí prehodno obdobje, bodo tovrstne označbe dovoljene le v primerih, ko bodo sestavine dosegale natančno določene meje vsebnosti

posamezne sestavine (maščobe, sol, sladkor, vlaknine ...).

Za določanje meja vsebnosti sestavin je odgovorna Evropska agencija za varno hrano (EFSA).

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/267&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN>

In

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu>

■ Uredba o obogateni hrani

S 1. julijem je stopila v veljavo tudi Direktiva o obogateni hrani. Vključuje pravila o dodajanju vitaminov, mineralov ter drugih aditivov k prehranbenim izdelkom. Embalaža mora nujno vključevati nalepko z ustrezno prehransko označbo. Alkoholnim pijačam, ki vsebuje več kot 2% vrednosti alkohola, prej omenjenih aditivov ne bo dovoljeno dodajati.

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/267&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN>

In

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu>

4. GOSPODARSKE NOVICE

■ EU industrijska politika

Evropska komisija želi evropsko industrijsko politiko prilagoditi sodobnim in vedno večjim zahtevam globalizacije in novim okoliščinam, ki jih pogojujejo klimatske spremembe, potrebe po energetski diverzifikaciji in učinkovitosti.

Predlagani ukrepi Komisije gredo v smer spodbujanja razvoja okolju prijazne industrije, tehnologij, energetske in surovinsko varčnih proizvodov. Predlog zajema tudi ukrepe za postopno prilagajanje industrije na okolju prijaznejše proizvodne procese, ki ne bodo ogrožali konkurenčnosti evropskega gospodarstva.

Eden izmed poudarkov Komisije je tudi na sodelovanju oz. povezovanju različnih sektorjev.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/industry/index_en.htm

■ Prave porabnikov energije

Evropska komisija bo v kratkem sestavila t.i. Evropsko listino o pravicah porabnikov energije, s katero namerava okrepiti pravice porabnikov energije v EU.

Predvsem jih želi seznaniti z možnostmi, ki jih potrošniki imajo na področju dobave električne energije in plina; to so predvsem pogodbeni razmerja, cene, možnosti poravnave in zaščite pred nepravilnimi prodajnimi praksami, učinkovitejša zaščita ranljivih državljanov; manj administracije pri zamenjavi dobavitelja.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy_policy/consumers/index_en.htm

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1026&format=HTML&aged=0&language=SL&guiLanguage=en>

Direktiva o nepoštenih poslovnih praksah:
http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/cons_int/safe_shop/fair_bus_pract/index_en.htm

■ Evropski znak zaupanja v čezmejno e-poslovanje

Konec junija je bil v Evropskem parlamentu predstavljen predlog za uvedbo t.i. »Evropskega znaka zaupanja v čezmejno e-poslovanje«. Znak naj bi zagotovil zanesljivo prekomejno e-poslovanje, saj bi pri podeljevanju veljalo načelo samoregulacije – spletne trgovine bi smele uporabljati omenjeni znak, v kolikor lahko dokažejo, da pravočasno in zanesljivo izpolnjujejo obveznosti do naročnikov oz. kupcev ter da upoštevajo evropske standarde.

Spletna stran z informacijami o znaku zaupanja:

<http://www.euro-label.com/euro-label/ControllerServlet.jsessionid=D203C32>

866C5294497B3F4078343C5A2?lg=en&to=welcome&tc=language

Poročilo:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/058-8204-169-06-25-909-20070622STO08191-2007-18-06-2007/default_en.htm

■ Liberalizacija poštnih storitev

Evropski parlament bo prihodnje sredo odločal o končanju monopola državnih pošt na področju poštnih pošiljk s težo, ki ne presega 50 gramov.

Liberalizacija trga poštnih storitev bo povečala konkurenco ter posledično izboljšala storitve, povzročila razvoj novih in inovativnih izdelkov za potrošnike.

Prehodno obdobje do popolne liberalizacije se bo po predlogu Evropskih poslancev podaljšalo do 31.12.2010.

Za države, ki so pristopile k EU (12, med njimi tudi Slovenija) se prehodno obdobje podaljša še za dve leti, to je do 31.12.2012.

Več o tem:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/049-8867-190-07-28-909-20070705STO08854-2007-09-07-2007/default_en.htm

in

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/nfopress_page/056-8955-190-07-28-909-20070706IPR08902-09-07-2007-2007-true/default_en.htm

5. FINANČNE STORITVE

■ Ciper in Malta v Evroobmočje

Evropski parlament je v sredini junija podprl predloga Cipra in Malte, da s 1.1.2008 stopita v Evroobmočje ter s tem prevzameta skupno valuto evro.

Več o tem:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/nfopress_page/043-7975-169-06-25-907-20070615IPR07903-18-06-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm

in

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/news/hotissues/2007/euroarea_enlargement/cyprus_malta_en.htm

■ Poročilo o ponarejanju €-bankovcev

Evropska centralna banka je objavila poročilo o številu €-bankovcev, ki so jih v letu 2007 umaknili iz obtoka. Teh je bilo 265.000, med njimi pa prevladujejo bankovci v vrednosti 50 in 100, sledijo 20; te tri vrednosti predstavljajo 85% vseh zaseženih bankovcev.

Kako se preveri pristnost bankovcev?

Preizkusi so opisani na spletni strani Evropske centralne banke, na kratko pa ga lahko opišemo »otip-pogled-nagib«

Spletna stran ECB:
www.ecb.eu

Poročilo:
<http://www.ecb.eu/press/pr/date/2007/html/pr070711.en.html>

■ Poročilo o evroobmočju

V začetku julija je bilo v Evropskem parlamentu objavljeno poročilo o evroobmočju. Evropska komisija poziva države članice v poročilu k izkoristku ugodnih gospodarskih razmer, zmanjšanju proračunskih primanjkljajev, večjemu vlaganju sredstev v izobraževanje, usposabljanje, za raziskave in inovacije. Države članice morajo posebno pozornost nameniti tudi rasti cen nepremičnin, ki lahko vplivajo na stanje gospodarstva.

Več o tem:
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/nfopress_page/043-8961-190-07-28-907-20070709IPR08943-09-07-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm

■ Previdnost pri zviševanju obrestnih mer

Evropski poslanci pozivajo Evropsko centralno banko k previdnosti pri nadaljnjem zviševanju obrestnih mer.

Evropska politika obrestnih mer mora biti prilagojena do te mere, da ne bo ogrožala gospodarske rasti. Rast plač bi morala slediti rasti produktivnosti, ne bi smela ovirati odpiranja novih delovnih mest v okolju z nizko inflacijo.

Poslanci so izrazili podporo neodvisnosti Evropske centralne banke, želijo pa večjo preglednost pri delovanju ustanove, predvsem na področju kadrovanja za vodilna delovna mesta.

Več o tem:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/nfopress_page/043-8961-190-07-28-907-20070709IPR08943-09-07-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm

■ Investicije EBRD, Evropske banke za razvoj

V drugi polovici junija in v začetku julija je bila Evropska banka za razvoj zelo aktivna na področju posojil, predvsem naslednjim državam:

Srbija, Bolgarija, Romunija, Ukrajina, Moldavija, Rusija, Kazahstan, Gruzija, Madžarska idr.

Investicije so obsegale najrazličnejša področja, od obnove energetskega sektorja v JV Evropi (**SENCAP**), vodooskrbe, bančnega sektorja v Ukrajini, infrastrukture, avtomobilizma idr.

Več o tem: www.ebrd.com

6. REGIONALNA POLITIKA

■ Slovenska kohezijska politika potrjena

19. junija je Evropska komisija potrdila Nacionalni strateški referenčni okvir, ki opredeljuje prednostne naloge države na področju kohezijske politike (regionalni razvoj, razvoj človeških virov, razvoj podeželja).

Pristojna ministrstva so v začetku julija že objavila nekatere razpise za dodelitev sredstev EU, več jih bodo v jeseni.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

■ Dnevi odprtih vrat regij in mest EU 2007

Letošnje »Dneve odprtih vrat«, ki bodo potekali oktobra v Bruslju, organizirata Odbor regij in Generalni direktorat za regionalno politiko. Namenjeni so nosilcem odločanja, politikom, strokovnjakom s posameznih področij ter predstavnikom gospodarstva, bančnega sektorja ter predstavnikom civilne družbe.

Vsebina: preko javnih razprav in seminarjev o vprašanih regionalnega razvoja pridobiti nove ideje, rešitve, predvsem na izzive, kot so npr. Kako pritegniti vlagatelje, katere so smiselne investicije; prekomejna vlaganja idr. Na našo ponudbo se bo letos prvič predstavilo na tej veliki manifestaciji mesto Maribor.

Več informacij: www.opendays.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1072&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

7. TRANSPORT IN ENERGETIKA

● EU in ZDA za znižanje letalskih izpustov

Evropska komisija in ZDA sta konec junija sprožili pobudo za znižanje letalskih izpustov; cilj bodo skušali doseči preko pospešenega uvajanja novih tehnologij, učinkovitih in kratkih operativnih postopkov ter z vključevanjem ključnih podjetij ter proizvajalcev letal na obeh celinah.

Trajnostna strategija EU za področje letalstva zajema tri glavna področja in sicer: (učinkovito) upravljanje zračnega prometa, tehnološki razvoj ter trgovanju z izpusti.

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/847&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

● Julija odprt trg elektrike in plina

Državljeni EU lahko od 1. julija dalje na nacionalni ravni sami izberejo dobavitelja električne energije in plina. S tem datumom sta se namreč odprla oba trga. S tem želi Evropska komisija spodbuditi večjo konkurenčnost, znižanje cen ter okrepiti pravice potrošnikov.

Državljeni Slovenije so na dom dobili tudi brošuro »Odslej lahko izbirate«, izdala pa jo je Javna agencija Republike Slovenije za energijo.

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/983&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

● EU in Alžirija – pogodba o dobavi plina

Evropska komisija je dosegla razveljavitev do sedaj veljavnih ekskluzivnih pogodb o dobavi Alžirskega plina podjetjem v Italiji, Španiji in Portugalski.

V prihodnosti bodo tudi preostali deli Evrope dobavljali iz več držav, med njimi tudi iz Alžirije.

Za prihodnost je načrtovan Trans-Saharski plinovod (Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline TSGP), ki bo na 4300 km dolgi poti povezal afriško puščavo z evropskim trgom. Njegova letna zmogljivost bo 30 milijard m³ naravnega plina.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/competition/index_en.html

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/eu-wins-algerian-gas-deal/article-165444>

● Brazilija: Poglabitev odnosov na področju energetike

V začetku julija je bil med EU in Brazilijo podpisan sporazum s pogoji sodelovanja in

dialoga med obema regijama na področju energetske politike.

Sporazum predstavlja osnovo za tesnejše sodelovanje z Brazilijo, ki s svojimi kompetencami na področju biogoriv kot zanesljiv dobavitelj alternativnih virov energije, predstavlja enega najpomembnejših partnerjev EU v Latinski Ameriki. Cilj sporazuma je razviti bilateralno sodelovanje na področjih skupnih interesov (biogoriva, drugi alternativni viri energije, tehnologije z nizko vsebnostjo CO₂ ...).

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/international/bilateral/brazil/energy_en.htm
in
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1025&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

● **Civilno letalstvo: vodnik po EU zakonodaji**

Konec junija je Evropska komisija objavila vodnik po EU zakonodaji s področja civilnega letalstva. Namenjen je kot pripomoček pri postopkih implementacije dogovora o skupnem evropskem letalskem prostoru - ECAA (European Common Aviation Area).

ECAA določa nova pravila za interoperabilnost med različnimi sistemi za management v letalskem prometu. Namen je vzpostaviti skupna, enotna tehnična in proceduralna pravila ter odstranitev nepotrebnih ovir.

Vodnik je objavljen na spletni strani http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air_portal/international/pillars/common_aviation_area/doc/ecaa_handbook_edition_2007.pdf

O ECAA:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air/single_sky/index_en.htm
in
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/777&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

8. EKOLOGIJA IN TRAJNOSTNI RAZVOJ

● **Poostrena pravila za transport odpadkov**

V začetku julija je pričela veljati posodobljena in poostrena uredba o transportu nevarnih in nenevarnih odpadkov. Evropska komisija upa, da bo s tem v prihodnje preprečila nelegalno odlaganje odpadkov v deželah v razvoju.

Prenovljena uredba vključuje poenostavljena in zaostrena pravila:

- Prepovedan je izvoz nevarnih odpadkov iz EU v dežele v razvoju
- Prepovedan je izvoz nenevarnih odpadkov (npr. računalniški deli), ki je namenjen odlaganju. Prepoved velja za nečlanice EU in članice EFTA
- Države članice morajo izvajati nenapovedane preglede in poročati o kršitvah uredbe
- Države članice so pooblaščenice za izvajanje fizičnih pregledov (npr. odpiranje transportnih kontejnerjev)
- Pošiljateljem so odpadki povrnjeni na njihove stroške

Več o tem:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/shippments/index.htm>
<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l11022.htm>

● **Hkratna proizvodnja elektrike in toplote**

Po analizi, ki jo je opravila svetovalna hiša Frost and Sullivan, svetla prihodnost čaka kogeneracijo. Trg naj bi po ocenah do leta 2013 presegel vrednost 1.39 milijard dolarjev.

Svetovno gospodarstvo pestijo pomanjkanje energije in surovin, naraščajoča cena energentov, okoljevarstvena vprašanja... Kogeneracija ponuja rešitev v okolju prijazni, hkratni in učinkoviti proizvodnji elektrike in toplote.

Njene prednosti vse bolj prepoznava gospodarstvo ter tudi države članice EU. Slednji trend je še posebej prepoznaven v

energetski politiki in spodbudah za uporabe alternativnih, obnovljivih virov energije.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/headlines/news/article_07_07_09_en.html

http://ec.europa.eu/research/infocentre/article_en.cfm?id=/research/headlines/news/article_07_07_09_en.html&item=Infocentre&artid=4513

● **Prepoved prodaje naprav z živim srebrom**

Evropski parlament je podprl predlog Evropske komisije o prepovedi prodaje naprav, ki vsebujejo živo srebro. Prepoved velja predvsem za termometre in barometre.

Razlog za prepoved prodaje, ki bo pričela veljati leta 2010, je v zmanjševanju emisij živega srebra za 33 ton v naslednjih dveh letih.

Izjeme: starinske naprave ter merilci srčnega pritiska za profesionalno uporabo.

Več o tem:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/mercury/>

in

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/environment/parliament-backs-ban-mercury-devices/article-165397>

9. FARMACIJA IN ZDRAVSTVO

■ **e-bilten na portalu Zdravje-EU**

Od septembra 2007 dalje bo mogoče spremljati novosti in aktivnosti Evropske unije za področje zdravja preko novega elektronskega biltena. Informativni bilten bo izhajal dvakrat mesečno, med drugim pa bo vključeval novice o zdravstvenih ukrepih EU, pomembnih dogodkih s področja javnega zdravja. Namenjen bo državljanom EU, zaposlenim v zdravstvenih institucijah in tudi drugim zainteresiranim.

Pogoj za prejemanje e-biltena je registracija na portalu Zdravje-EU. Slednji omogoča, da evropsko javnost seznanite z vašimi lastnimi

novicami in dogodki na področju zdravja. Obrazec za objavo informacij je dostopen na spletni strani.

Več o tem;

<http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu>

■ **Ocena varnosti barve za živila »rdeča 2G«**

V začetku julija je Evropska agencija za varnost hrane (EFSA) objavila poročilo o barvi »rdeča 2G«, ki se uporablja pri barvanju nekaterih vrst klobas in mesa. Omenjena barva vzbuja pomisleke, predvsem z vidika zdravja porabnikov, saj se v telesu spremeni v substanco, imenovano anilin, ki je po mnenju strokovnjakov kancerogen.

Izjava za javnost:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/etc/medialib/efsa/press_room/press_release/pr_red2g.Par.0001.File.dat/pr_red2gl.pdf

Mnenje EFSA o barvi:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/afc/afc_opinions.html

■ **Zaščita pred soncem**

Potrošniki bodo to poletje lahko pridobili nove informacije o izdelkih za zaščito pred soncem. Pričel bo veljati nov sistem označevanja tovrstnih izdelkov, ki bodo preglednejši in natančni. Uporabljati se bo pričel nov logotip UVA zaščite in nov žig na embalaži.

Od poletja dalje bo prepovedana uporaba navedb, kot je npr. »popolna zaščita pred UV žarki/soncem«, »100% zaščita pred UV žarki/soncem«.

Izdelki bodo lahko vključevali nasvete za uporabo določenega faktorja glede na tip kože.

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/282&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN>

in

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction>.

do?reference=IP/07/1036&format=HTML&anged=0&language=en

■ Zelena knjiga o bio-pripravljenosti

Evropska komisija je sprejela Zeleno knjigo o bio-pripravljenosti. Cilj dokumenta je spodbuditi javno razpravo na ravni EU na temo »kako zmanjšati biološka tveganja ter povečati pripravljenost in odzivnost na morebitne izzive (npr. biološko orožje)«.

Za pripravljenost, preprečevanje in tudi za samo reagiranje v kriznih situacijah je bistvenega pomena prekomejno in sektorsko povezovanje in sodelovanje.

Javna razprava na to temo bo odprta do 1. oktobra 2007.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/dyna/press_room/index_en.cfm

in http://ec.europa.eu/food/resources/biopreparedness_en.htm

10. RR IN INOVACIJE

● Evropski inštitut za tehnologijo

Odbor za industrijo pri Evropskem parlamentu je v prvem branju julija potrdil predlog za ustanovitev Evropskega inštituta za tehnologijo.

Evropski poslanci ob tem želijo, da se v imenu Inštituta vključi tudi termin »inovativnost«. Ustanovljen pa bo po poteku pilotne faze, ko bodo pilotne »Skupnosti znanja in inovativnosti (KIC - Knowledge and Innovation Communities)« izpeljale prve projekte, na osnovi katerih bodo opravili študijo izvedljivosti Inštituta.

Poslanci opozarjajo tudi na še nerešeno vprašanje financiranja, ki bo moralo biti zagotovljeno tako s strani EU kot tudi s strani gospodarstva.

Več o tem:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/nfopress_page/057-8889-190-07-28-909-20070706IPR08888-09-07-2007-2007-false/default_sl.htm

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/057-8746-183-07-27-909-20070703STO08739-2007-02-07-2007/default_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/education/index_en.html

● Dogovor o financiranju med EU in Egiptom

V začetku julija sta EU in Egipt sklenila dogovor o financiranju izmenjave znanja in tehnologij, za obdobje naslednjih štirih let. Program se bo osredotočal na sodelovanje med egiptovskimi raziskovalci in evropskimi sogovorniki, predvsem s področij biotehnologije, informacijske tehnologije, obnovljivih virov energije in zdravja.

Višina proračuna je 11 milijonov evrov; od tega je skoraj 7 milijonov namenjenih v t.i. inovacijski sklad, namenjen financiranju skupnih projektov za komercializacijo novih proizvodov in procesov.

Sporočilo javnosti:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/headlines/news/article_07_07_11_en.html

● 7. okvirni program – svetovalne skupine

Na spletni strani 7. okvirnega programa so objavljeni sezname zunanjih svetovalnih skupin po posameznih področjih (zdravje, IKT, transport, aeronavtika...); aktivnosti posameznih skupin in dokumentacija s sestankov.

Za prijavitelje projektov v okviru 7.RTD OP je to lahko zelo dragocena informacija.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=eag

● Nove smernice za raziskave na področju premoga in jekla

Evropska komisija je sprejela predlog Sveta glede revidiranih smernic za koriščenje sredstev za raziskave na področju premoga

in jekla. Letni proračun za raziskave na omenjenih področjih (Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS)) znaša okoli 60 milijonov evrov. Program je ločen, a komplementaren 7.okvirnemu programu za raziskave. Pokriva pa različne vidike in problematiko jekla, premoga – od učinkovitega izkoriščanja, varnosti pri delu, okoljske varnosti, čiste energije in zmanjševanja emisij CO2.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/gp/gp_e/f/article_1095_en.htm#100707

11. KMETIJSTVO

Vinska reforma

Evropska komisija je v začetku julija sprejela predlog za reformo trga vina. Reforma se nanaša na povečevanje konkurenčnosti evropskih proizvajalcev, odpiranje novih trgov, poenostavitev pravil, ohranjanje tradicije vinarstva in seveda trajnostni razvoj na področju vinogradništva.

Z novo reformo naj bi bile odpravljene oblike pomoči, kot so npr. izvozna nadomestila, pomoč za zasebno skladiščenje, dosladkanje za obogatitev vina. Več denarja pa bo namenjenega promociji vinarske kulture, evropskega vina, predvsem izven EU. Predlog reforme vključuje tudi enotno plačilo na kmetijo, vzpostavlja rok sistema pravic do zasaditve trte idr.

Več:

http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/capreform/wine/index_en.htm

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1008&format=HTML&aged=0&language=SL&guiLanguage=en>

http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/video_search_en.cfm?witch=video&keyword=&ref=1&videoref=051269&LOGIN2=+Search

Promocija kmetijskih proizvodov

V začetku julija je Evropska komisija odobrila 23 programov v 11 državah članicah (Avstrija, Češka, Francija, Grčija, Italija, Nemčija, Nizozemska, Madžarska,

Poljska, Portugalska in Španija) za zagotavljanje informacij in promocije kmetijskih proizvodov v EU. Za programe bo EU zagotovila dobrih 38 milijonov €.

Sporočilo komisije:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1045&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

So ribji ostanki nevarna hrana?

Evropski parlament je potrdil poročilo, ki od Evropske komisije zahteva ukinitve prepovedi hranjenja živali-prežvekovalcev (1923/2006) z ribjimi ostanki, predvsem ribjim mesom in oljem. Poročilo poudarja neobstoj znanstvenih dokazov o prenašanju BSE in drugih bolezni na govedo, ki uživa tovrstno hrano.

Poročilo hkrati nakazuje na posledico - nerešeno problematiko prekomernih količin ribjih ostankov, ki jih ribiči ustvarijo preko 100 milijonov ton letno.

Več o tem:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/033-9006-190-07-28-904-20070709IPR08984-09-07-2007-2007-false/default_sl.htm

12. JUGOVZHODNA EVROPA

Slovenija predsedujoča EU v Makedoniji in Črni gori

Slovenije je s 1. julijem prevzela predsedovanje EU v Makedoniji in Črni gori. Mesto predsedujoče bo izjemoma opravljala leto dni, saj bo prvih 6 mesecev nadomeščala Portugalsko, ki v teh državah nima diplomatskih predstavništva.

Po naročilu Portugalske bo opravljala dejavnosti s področja skupne zunanje in varnostne politike ter pravosodnega sodelovanja.

Več o tem:

http://www.eu2007.pt/NR/rdonlyres/6C297B28-6A54-4C76-9E70-DDFD4C1B1B21/0/CadernoPrioridades_Ingl.es.pdf

● EAR podpora Črni gori

Evropska agencija za rekonstrukcijo je lansirala tretjo fazo EU-BAS programa (Business Advisory Services) za področje Črne gore.

Program, pri katerem sodelujeta tudi EBRD (Evropska banka za obnovo in razvoj) in SMEDA (Razvojna agencija za MSP), je namenjen za razvoj in podporo podjetništvu v manj razvitih in ruralnih regijah Črne gore. Posebej fokus namenja program ženskam in etničnim manjšinam. Podpira pa tudi razvoj ribištva.

Več:

http://www.ear.europa.eu/publications/main/pub-press_release_mon_20070629.htm

<http://www.ear.europa.eu/home/default.htm>

<http://www.ear.europa.eu/montenegro/montenegro.htm>

● Makedonija na poti v EU, kljub nerešenim sporom

Evropski parlament je v juliju potrdil poročilo o napredku Makedonije, o katerem smo pisali že v junijskem Biltenu. Država je dosegla napredek na ključnih področjih, zato je treba ohraniti zagon za reforme in sprejeto zakonodajo ustrezno in učinkovito izvajati.

Makedonija poleg pristopnih pogajanj še čaka razrešitev spora s sosednjo Grčijo glede uradnega imena države.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/030-8966-190-07-28-903-20070709IPR08945-09-07-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm

13. NAJAVE DOGODKOV

Climate and Energy Security: Towards a low carbon economy

Wilton Park (UK), 23. – 27. juli 2007

<http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/themes/environment/conference.aspx?confref=WP866>

Energy Efficiency, Energy Security, Renewable Energy: Taking Forward the Gleneagles Dialogue and the G8 St Petersburg Conclusions

Wilton Park (UK), 24. – 28. juli 2007

<http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/themes/environment/pastconference.aspx?confref=WPS06/18>

Bioenergy 2007 – Conference & Exhibition

Jyvaskyla (Finska), 3. – 6. september 2007

<http://seminaarit.ohoi.fi/default.asp?seminarID=6>

Search Matters 2007

Den Haag, 10. – 11. september 2007

[http://documents.epo.org/projects/babylon/ponet.nsf/0/62DAF4E26DC0713DC12572DC0041B508/\\$File/IC01_abstracts_en.pdf](http://documents.epo.org/projects/babylon/ponet.nsf/0/62DAF4E26DC0713DC12572DC0041B508/$File/IC01_abstracts_en.pdf)

EFMD 37th Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Small Business Conference

Ljubljana, 12. – 14. september 2007

http://www.efmd.org/html/Conferences/conf_detail.asp?id=061018ecvq&aid=061018hfzk&tid=2&ref=ind

EIIL workshop: Innovation for Growth

Bruselj, 12. – 20. september 2007

http://www.eiil.net/mambo/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=57&Itemid=45

Energy Security in the European Union: The Eastern and Baltic Dimension

Litva, 17. – 20. september 2007

<http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/themes/eu/conference.aspx?confref=WP870>

Managing European Projects – Advanced Graduate Program

Bruselj, 17. september – 13. december 2007

<http://www.managingeuprojects.eu/>



Gobally Competitive, Locally Engaged: Higher Education and Regions

Bruselj, 19. – 21. september 2007
<http://www.cfp.upv.es/oecd/inicio/index.jsp>



The Emerging Market Summit

London, 24. – 25. september 2007
http://www.economistconferences.com/Rountable/Public/con_common.asp?rtid=1044&tRegion=4&area=1



Serbia's EU Perspective

Beograd, 25. – 27. september 2007
<http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/themes/eu/conference.aspx?confref=WPS07/3>



The Romania Business and Investment Summit

Bucharest, 26. – 27. september 2007
<http://www.euroconvention.com/3253-programme.htm>



EuroBio 2007

Lille, 26. – 28. september 2007
<http://www.eurobio-event.com/etienne.php>



Developing the Project Pipeline for EU Structural Funds

Maastricht, 26. – 28. september 2007
<http://www.eipa.eu/en/activities/show/&tid=2175>



Wireless and Digital Cities

Cannes, 26. – 28. september 2007
<http://www.wirelesscitiescongress.eu/page.cfm/Link=1/t=m/goSection=17>



4th Cohesion Forum

Bruselj, 27. – 28. september 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/4thcohesionforum/index_en.htm



How to develop a Convincing Project Strategy for EU Funding: Do's and Don'ts for Local and Regional Actors

Barcelona, 1. – 3. oktober 2007
<http://www.eipa.eu/en/activities/show/&tid=1872>



Knowledge for Growth: Role and Dynamics of Corporate R&D

Sevilla, 8. – 9. oktober 2007
<http://iri.jrc.es/concord-2007/>



3rd Annual European Energy Policy Conference 2007

Bruselj, 9. – 10. oktober 2007
<http://www.epsilonevents.com/>



Agriculture in Europe: What is the Future?

Wilton Park (UK), 9. – 11. oktober 2007
<http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/themes/eu/past-conference.aspx?confref=WP828>



The 2007 DG ECFIN Annual Conference: Growth and Income Distribution in an Integrated Europe: Does EMU Make a Difference?

Bruselj, 11. – 12. oktober 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/events/2007/events_brussels_1110_en.htm



Advances in Stem Cell Research

Stockholm, 12. – 14. oktober 2007
http://www.eurostemcell.org/News/Stockholm_2007.htm



Patent Information Conference 2007

Riga, 16. – 18. oktober 2007
<http://www.epo.org/about-us/events/pi-conference-2007.html>




World Knowledge Forum 2007: Wealth Creation and Asia

Seoul, 16. – 18. oktober 2007
http://www.wkforum.org/WKF/main_e.php

 **Euro-Trans Days (European Targeted Research Association Network for SME)**

Warsaw, 17. – 18. oktober 2007
<http://www.euro-trans.info/>

 **Biofuels Finance and Investments 2007**


London, 17. – 18. oktober 2007
http://www.agra-net.com/portal/marlin/system/render.jsp?siteid=20000000062&MarlinViewType=MARKT_EFFORT&marketingid=20001561581&proceed=true&MarEntityId=10020766598&entHash=254a47a80

 **The Presidency Challenge – The Practicalities of Chairing Council Working Groups**


Maastricht, 18. – 19. oktober 2007
<http://www.eipa.nl/en/home/list/&pg=6>

 **2nd Biennial Event of Highland Regions: The Accessibility in Mountain Territories**

La Bresse (Francija), 18. – 19. oktober 2007
www.vosges.cci.fr

 **Lobbying in the EU: How to defend and represent your interests in Brussels**

Bruselj, 22. – 23. oktober 2007
<http://quest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=404c8780-1322-4ece-aa51-8b652bad37af>

 **The Annual Healthy Foods European Summit**

London, 23. – 24. oktober 2007
www.healthyfoodssummit.com

 **The European Nano-Food Forum 2007**


Bruselj, 24. – 25. oktober 2007
www.epsilonevents.com

 **World Congress : United Cities and Local Governments**

Korea, 28. – 31. oktober 2007
http://www.ccre.org/champs_activites_detail_news_en.htm?ID=1075&idca=3125

 **Strengthening Labour Regulations in the Global Economy**

Wilton Park (UK), 8. – 10. november 2007
<http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/themes/economic/pastconference.aspx?confref=WPS06/28>

 **ECFIN Annual Research Conference 2007: Growth and Income Distribution in an Integrated Europe: Does EMU make a difference?**

Bruselj, 11. – 12. november 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/events/2007/events_brussels_1110_en.htm

 **20th World Energy Congress**

Rim, 11. – 15. november 2007
<http://www.rome2007.it/home/home.asp>

 **Annual European Climate Change Conference 2007**

Bruselj, 13. – 14. november 2007
<http://www.epsilonevents.com/>

 **China: Towards an Innovative Society – the Risks, the Opportunities**

Wilton Park (UK), 13. – 17. november 2007
<http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/themes/regions/pastconference.aspx?confref=WP831>

 **3rd Annual European Energy Policy Conference 2007**

Bruselj, 21. – 22. november 2007
<http://quest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=455c0ca8-3464-4a45-9181-2c24fb62ff74>



**Financial Management of EU
Structural Funds**

Maastricht, 26. – 27. november 2007

<http://www.eipa.eu/en/activities/show/&tid=1856>

 **Annual European Climate Change Conference 2007**


Bruselj, 26. – 27. november 2007
<http://www.epsilonevents.com/>

 **High Level Group on Competitiveness, Energy and Environment Conference**

Bruselj, 27. november 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itmlongdetail.cfm?item_id=449

 **Turku Development Forum 2007**

Turku (Finska), 29. – 30. november 2007
www.turkudevelopmentforum.fi

 **UN Annual Conference on Climate Change**

Bali, 3. – 4. december 2007

 **Managenergy Annual Conference 2008**

Bruselj, 28. januar – 1. februar 2008
http://www.managenergy.net/events_me.html#2008

 **Annual European Climate Change Conference 2008**

Bruselj, 29. – 30. januar 2008
<http://www.climate-policy.eu/>

14. ZANIMIVE PUBLIKACIJE

- ❖ Science Education NOW: A Renewed Pedagogy for the Future of Europe, European Commission, 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document_library/pdf_06/report-rocard-on-science-education_en.pdf
- ❖ The Urban Dimension in the Cohesion Policy for the Period 2007-2013, DG regio, May 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/guides/urban/index_en.htm
- ❖ Internal Market Scoreboard, issue nr 16, EU Commission, July 2007

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/score/docs/score16_en.pdf

- ❖ Common Organisation of the market in wine and Amending certain regulations: Proposal for a Council Regulation, Working Paper Sec(2007) 893/2, July 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/capreform/wine/impact072007/full_en.pdf
- ❖ Research and Societal Engagement, Final Report, European Research Advisory Board, June 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/research/eurab/pdf/eurab_07_013_june_%202007_en.pdf
- ❖ Hurray for an End to EU navel gazing, Hugo Brady, Briefing Note, CER, June 2007
http://www.cer.org.uk/pdf/briefing_hb_su_mmit_28june07.pdf
- ❖ EU Environment Guide 2007, AmCham EU, June 2007
<http://www.amchameu.be/Pubs/order.htm>
- ❖ Study on Reduced VAT applied to goods and services in the Member States of the European Union, Final Report, DG Taxud, June 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/taxation/vat/how_vat_works/rates/study_reduced_VAT.pdf
- ❖ InfoRegio News Bulletin nr.157, May 2007 Issue , DG InfoRegio, 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/newsroom/newslet157/157_07_sl.pdf
- ❖ FP6 Horizontal Activities involving SMEs, Final Summary, DG Research, 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/pdf/horizontal-activities_en.pdf
- ❖ SMEs and Research: An Impact Assessment of R&D Funding Schemes, DG Research, 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/pdf/sme_impact_final.pdf
- ❖ Research for SMEs: Creating Knowledge for Growth, DG Research, 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/pdf/sme_en.pdf

- ❖ TechWeb, the New Website dedicated to SMEs and Research, DG Research, July 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index_en.cfm
- ❖ The Green Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change in Europe – Options for EU Action, DG Environment, June 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/index_en.htm
- ❖ Quarterly Report on the EURO Area, Vol 6, Nr 2, EU Commission, July 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/quarterly_report_on_the_euro_area/2007/report0207en.pdf
- ❖ Forum on Global Climate Strategies beyond 2012: the Route Ahead, Looking for a Consensus Framework, Report, Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies, June 2007
http://www.eui.eu/RSCAS/e-texts/200706_FSR_MadridForumProceed.pdf
- ❖ Reforming Universities: a European Issue, European Issues nr40, Fondation Robert Schuman, Laurent Bouvet, July 2007
http://www.robert-schuman.eu/question_europe.php?num=qe-40
- ❖ Fueling our Future – An Introduction to Sustainable Energy, Robert L.Evans, 2007
<http://www.libeurop.be/livre.php?numero=260785>
- ❖ Measuring and Fostering the Progress of Societies, OECD World Forum, Papers and Presentations, June 2007
http://www.oecd.org/site/0_3407_en_215713613193834911111100.html
- ❖ Energy – Monthly Statistics Nr 5/2007, Eurostat, July 2007
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1073.46587259&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-BX-07-005
- ❖ Main Crop Areas in the European Union in 2007, Issue nr 86/2007, Eurostat, July 2007
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1073.46587259&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-SF-07-086
- ❖ Community Innovation Statistics – Issue nr 81/2007, Eurostat, July 2007
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1073.46587259&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-SF-07-081
- ❖ How Mobile are highly qualified human resources in Science and Technology? Issue nr 75/2007, Eurostat, June 2007
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1073.46587259&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-SF-007-075
- ❖ Le Vin et L'Europe: Quel Modèle pour le Vieux Monde ? Nadège Chambon, Policy Brief nr 8, Notre Europe, June 2007
http://www.notre-europe.eu/uploads/tx_publication/Bref8-NChambon-patrimoineviticole-fr_01.pdf
- ❖ Energy Use in the New Millennium – Trends in IEA Countries, International Energy Agency, 2007
<http://www.iea.org/W/bookshop/FlyerMillennium.pdf>
- ❖ Lisbon II: Two Years On – An Assessment for the Partnership for Growth and Jobs, Ian Begg, CEPS Report, July 2007
http://shop.ceps.eu/BookDetail.php?item_id=1521
- ❖ Action Today to Protect Tomorrow: The London Climate Change Action Plan, London Mayor's Office
<http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/climate-change/ccap/index.jsp>

15. PRILOGA 1.

PORTUGUESE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL A STRONGER UNION FOR A BETTER WORLD July - December 2007

A Union of solidarity between equals

“Union” is the idea binding 27 sovereign European states in a common present and future. A Union open to the states that in Europe share the values on which this project is based: respect for human dignity and citizens’ rights, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law. A Union of solidarity between equals, founded on the will of its citizens.

A moment for action

Portugal takes over the Presidency of the Council conscious that the prosperity of the Member States in the Europe of the future and the well being of its citizens, depend on the decisions we will soon be taking. This is a moment for action. It is essential to improve the functioning of the EU through reform of the Treaties in order to ensure better implementation of the Lisbon Strategy and more efficient external action. This is the way in which we can influence our position in a globalised world.

Seeking the common interest

The Portuguese Presidency is founded on a clear assumption: we are committed to seeking the common interest and to generating the necessary consensus for Europe’s progress.

Operational basis

The 18-month Programme in force since January 2007, drawn up with Germany and Slovenia and endorsed by the General Affairs and External Relations Council, forms the operational basis for the Portuguese Presidency. It outlines work to be implemented through the various Council formations, in close cooperation with the European Parliament and with the Commission which has the right of initiative in numerous areas.

| |
|----------------------------|
| Future of the Union |
|----------------------------|

Completing the integration of Member States and Institutions

On 25th March we reaffirmed our commitment to Europe values and ambitions. We all recognise that we have a unique experience of living and working together in the EU, through the interaction between the Member States and the institutions. It is now time to improve that interaction and the working of the institutions to build a better future for our citizens.

IGC — a precise mandate

The European Council delivered to the Portuguese Presidency the mandate to call an IGC. Its objective is clear: to draw up a Treaty amending the existing Treaties with a view to enhancing the efficiency and democratic legitimacy of the enlarged Union, as well as the coherence of its external action. The mandate is precise: it will provide the exclusive basis and framework for the work of the IGC. The timetable for completing this task is defined.

The need for political will

We shall carry out our work in accordance with the expressed will of the Member States; but all participants will have to demonstrate the same political will during the IGC. Moving forward is the only political route that will be open to us.

Enlargement

The reform of the Union should facilitate the fulfilment of existing commitments on the enlargement process, commitments that must be respected. The benefits of this endeavour are obvious, through its

contribution to peace, stability and prosperity in Europe. The EU should develop and consolidate these gains.

A European perspective for the Western Balkans

The development of a European perspective for the Western Balkans has been a central feature of the EU's agenda. Reforms necessary to stabilise and bring countries closer to the Union, should be intensified.

Schengen and SISone4ALL

Portugal has already demonstrated the importance it attaches to the free movement of people in Europe, through the SISone4ALL proposal. The human dimension is one of the cornerstones of the Union. Our aim remains to open the way for the abolition of border controls between Schengen area Member States, before the end of this Presidency.

Euro zone

The Portuguese Presidency will also ensure that the necessary procedures are in place to bring into the Euro zone the Member States that meet the requirements laid out in the Treaties.

| |
|------------------------|
| Lisbon Strategy |
|------------------------|

New cycle

2007 is the first year in which all the instruments of the Lisbon Strategy are being applied in a concerted manner. It is also the moment to prepare for the new cycle which will be launched in 2008. Portugal is already contributing to this effort, in close consultation with the Commission and the next Presidency.

Economic Dimension

Public finance

Improving the health of public finances in the EU is essential in order to ensure solid economic growth, as well as the long term sustainability of economic and social policies. The impact of modernisation of public administrations on competitiveness and growth will be examined during the Portuguese Presidency.

Internal market

Ensuring that the Internal Market functions more efficiently is a key objective for the Europe of the future we seek to build. The Presidency will create the conditions for the establishment a new agenda on the Internal Market, on the basis of a Commission Communication. Particular attention will be paid to the internal market for financial services, as well as the fight against tax evasion and fraud. Postal services are also a subject for attention.

SMEs and Industrial policy

The mid-term review on industrial policy and on policy towards small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), will merit specific treatment. They are the backbone of Europe's business sector. We will foster a debate focused on strengthening the competitiveness of SMEs, including their access to financing.

Culture and Tourism

The development of tourism and cultural industries are important areas for growth and sustained job creation. Portugal will organise a European Cultural Forum and a European Tourism Forum, in order to underline the necessity of these areas in our common agenda.

Better lawmaking

Increasing the efficiency of the Internal Market will not be viable without legislating better, reducing bureaucracy and eliminating administrative burdens. We will continue to take forward the “Better Regulation” programme.

Triangle of knowledge

Strengthening the triangle of knowledge – innovation, research and education – is vital to allow Europe to compete and make its distinctive mark on globalisation.

Innovation

The Portuguese Presidency will continue work on the Action Plan for Innovation and will promote a debate on the future of policy on research and technology in Europe. It will also contribute towards the establishment of a European policy aiming to attract highly skilled workers. Modernising higher education and life-long learning are essential components of this vision.

Portugal will strive to ensure that a final decision is taken as soon as possible on the Regulation for the European Institute of Technology.

Cohesion and ultra-peripheral regions

We will support Cohesion as a central policy of the Union and will encourage a conceptual debate on the subject. In this context, we will seek to give due attention to the specific role of the outermost regions of the Union.

Maritime affairs

The maritime domain calls for an integrated approach. We will work towards the definition of a European Maritime policy to be based on the Action Plan to be presented by the Commission. A high-level conference on this issue will be held in Lisbon. We will endeavour to conclude the negotiations on the Marine Environment Directive and initiate discussions on the Commission legislative proposal on Illegal fishing. In the transport sector, the key areas will be the negotiation of the Third Maritime Safety Package and the initiatives linked to the “Motorways of the Sea”.

Social and Employment Dimension

European Strategy for Employment

The 10th anniversary of the European Strategy for Employment will provide the opportunity for a debate on the role of employment policies and methods of coordination. The central aim is to promote the creation of more and better jobs.

Flexicurity

In this context, the search for a balance between flexibility and security in the labour market, requires that adequate consideration be given to several elements: life-long learning, social protection mechanisms, active labour market policies, functional flexibility and the differences between the situations and models of the Member States. It is within this framework and while ensuring the participation of the social partners, that we can provide a contribution towards the definition of shared common principles at European level.

Social responsibility

Social responsibility is one of the foundations of the European model. Social inclusion, the fight against poverty, in particular child poverty, reconciling work with personal and family life, are the priority themes for the Portuguese presidency. We will also seek to include a gender-based perspective in all policy domains. The way we deal with these questions influences the perceptions that our citizens have of the European institutions.

Energy and Environmental Dimension

Sustainable environmental and energy model

Dealing with climate change and making progress towards a sustainable environmental and energy model are priority actions. There is a need to make this concept operational and to consolidate the EU's leading role.

Energy

Making the internal market for gas and electricity a reality is a key objective. The Portuguese Presidency is ready to steer the debate, following the proposals which the Commission will present. Attention will also be given to the following questions: the requisite legal framework for renewable energies; the adoption of the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-PLAN), energy efficiency and EU initiatives on the external aspects of energy policy.

Environment

The Portuguese Presidency will continue the necessary preparatory discussions for the United Nations Bali Conference on climate change. Within the EU, we will address the issues of water scarcity and drought resulting from climate change. They are frequent and devastating occurrences that require a common approach and adequate response mechanisms.

Biodiversity

Halting the loss of biodiversity is an imperative for any Presidency. We will seek to involve the business world, by holding a conference on the theme of "Business and Biodiversity".

| |
|--|
| Strengthening the area of freedom, security and justice |
|--|

Global approach to migration

Apart from freedom of movement for people in the Union, the principal goal of the Portuguese Presidency in this area will be to implement the "Global Approach to Migration". There is a need to intensify the partnerships between the EU and countries of transit and origin of migratory flows. An approach to migration issues wholly centred on illegal migration would be simplistic. The Portuguese Presidency will also foster a debate, in various fora, on the promotion of legal migration channels, the integration of migrants, health and migration, as well the links between this issue and Development policy, readmission and circular migration. We shall organise a high-level conference on Legal migration and a "EuroMed" Ministerial meeting on migration.

Legal migration

We will develop the policy on legal migration, based on the proposed Directives on the definition of common rights of third-country nationals in legal employment in a Member State and on conditions of entry and residence of highly skilled workers.

Illegal migration

The Portuguese presidency will continue the negotiations on a Directive providing for sanctions against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals. It is also a priority to conclude the negotiations on the proposal for a Directive on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals.

Southern maritime border

The Mediterranean and Africa are obvious priority areas for action, though not the only ones. The reinforcement of our southern maritime border is an urgent imperative. There is an urgent need to

strengthen the capacities of FRONTEX and develop an integrated system for managing the external borders of the Union.

E-justice

Placing justice at the service of citizens and businesses is a central task for the Portuguese Presidency. E-justice and mediation are essential instruments in this aim.

Data protection

The cross-border protection of personal data is essential to having a high level of trust, cooperation and efficiency in criminal justice. Particular attention will be paid to the Framework Decision on the the protection of personal data processed in the framework of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

Combating terrorism

The implementation of the European Union Strategy on Counter -Terrorism, in particular as regards bio-preparation, is also a priority.

Prüm

The integration of the Prüm Treaty in the “acquis” will be continued.

| |
|-----------------------------|
| Europe and the world |
|-----------------------------|

Projecting our values

The objectives of the Union will be viable only if we are successful, together, in projecting our values in an increasingly interdependent world. The peace and security we enjoy have to be underwritten by the response Europe offers to global challenges.

Our capacity to speak out has to be strengthened. Tackling climate change, promoting economic and social development, dealing efficiently with migration, fighting organised crime and people trafficking, and combating terrorism are some of the challenges that require leadership and shared responses. Portugal will pay particular attention to questions of disarmament and non-proliferation.

A fresh approach to the Mediterranean

We also seek to develop a fresh approach towards the entire Mediterranean region. Its strategic relevance to the EU is clear. The instruments already at our disposal need to be properly applied, in particular those of a financial nature, but there is a need to think beyond them. It is necessary to intensify our political dialogue with partners on the Southern and Eastern borders to respond to challenges that require common solutions. Stability in both regions is interlinked.

Africa

Africa and Europe have a recent history of missed opportunities. The time has come for them to develop a Joint Strategy. We have to act together and, externally, be seen to act in a concerted manner. The emphasis we place on the holding in Lisbon of the Summit between the EU and Africa flows from this perception.

Transatlantic relations

Strengthening transatlantic relations is a priority task. The Portuguese Presidency will contribute to furthering Transatlantic economic integration.

Latin America and MERCOSUL

Portugal has actively promoted closer ties between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. There is a large convergence of values and interests between the two regions. The negotiations on an association agreement between the EU and Mercosul should be re-energised. We also envisage the launching of negotiations, with a similar goal, with Central America and the Andean Community.

Brazil

The Portuguese Presidency will develop a specific political dialogue with Brazil. We shall be organising the first EU-Brazil Summit. It will be the launching point for the establishment of a strategic dialogue that reflects the international influence of both sides.

Strategic partners and Ukraine

The consolidation of relations between the EU and other strategic partners will be advanced. Summits with China, India and Ukraine will be at the core of our common external agenda.

We will act in close collaboration with European partners in order to create the conditions for progress in the EU-Russia relationship. The Portuguese Presidency will take forward the work carried out by the EU, with all the relevant international

partners, in closely following the prolonged crisis in the Middle East. The role of the Quartet in the Middle East Peace Process is crucial.

The Union will maintain its constructive approach in the handling of the situations involving Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq.

Trade and ACP countries

We will maintain the European commitment to an international multilateral trading system. We will continue to pursue the goal of integrating ACP countries into the world economy.

Fostering strategic cooperation

The EU has ambitious goals for sustainable development. It will not be able to meet them without converging international efforts. Making international cooperation more robust, through a new generation of external policies and effective multilateralism, will be essential to finding solutions to global challenges.

PRILOGA 2.

Hurrah for an end to EU navel gazing By Hugo Brady Centre for European Reform

On July 23rd European leaders will open fast-track negotiations in Brussels on a 'reform treaty' to make the EU work better. The proposed treaty should end years of pointless agonising over what to do with the EU constitution, agreed in 2004 but killed off by referendums in 2005. Much of proposed treaty will be taken from the wreck of the constitution. But controversial aspects are being amended or dropped and the new text will be stripped of any pretensions to be a US constitution-style founding charter. The treaty's remit will now be simple. It should enable smoother EU decision-making and a more effective foreign policy, without seriously altering the balance of power between the 27 member-states and the Union's main institutions: the Commission, the European Parliament and the Court of Justice.

If negotiations conclude as expected, by October 19th this year, the new treaty will be ratified by the end of 2008. Its changes will come into force from 2009 onwards. Parliaments in Britain, the Netherlands and elsewhere will debate whether the text should be put to a popular vote. But it seems likely that only one country, Ireland, will hold a referendum (more for political reasons than clear legal necessity). Even the referendum-happy Danes are satisfied that the treaty will not involve transfers of sovereignty and hint that they will forgo a plebiscite. Hence the vast majority of member-states will choose to ratify through their national parliaments. With luck, the EU may be about to move on from its disastrous experiment with the constitution.

Changes worth sticking with

EU member-states have agreed a blueprint of the new treaty, eked out at an all-night summit in Brussels on June 23rd. The summit, chaired by Germany, agreed to rescue a number of key institutional reforms from the failed constitution. But while the constitution would have replaced all previous treaties with an entirely new legal order; the reform treaty will amend only the existing EU framework. Britain, the Czech Republic, France, Poland and the Netherlands won changes at the summit that alter or water down the 2004 text, some significantly. Britain was especially successful in ensuring that some clauses – which were domestically highly controversial – will apply differently or not at all to the UK.

The reform treaty will mean:

★ A change in the six-month EU presidency

The member-states will improve EU co-ordination by replacing the six-month presidency of the European Council with a permanent president. This will be a non-executive job – the person will have no formal powers save his or her powers of persuasion and the force of personality – but will be full-time. The president's term will last two and a half years, renewable once. The six-month rotating presidency was acceptable with an EU of 12 or even 15, but is simply impractical in an EU of 27 members. With the exception of foreign affairs, the various sectoral meetings of the Council (agriculture, employment and so on) will be chaired by teams of EU countries, each serving for 18 months and working with the permanent president.

★ A single foreign policy representative

The EU will merge the jobs of its two main figure heads of foreign policy. One post, that of the commissioner for external relations, Benita Ferrero - Waldner has money and technical expertise, but little diplomatic clout. The other, the EU's High Representative for foreign policy, Javier Solana, has impressive diplomatic credentials – he is the representative of the EU's foreign ministers when they agree – but virtually no money. The new treaty will merge the Solana and Ferrero-Waldner jobs into one 'high representative for foreign policy and security'. Solana would then take over from the rotating presidency as the chair of foreign ministers' meetings and have access to Ferrero - Waldner's \$10.5 billion budget for foreign affairs. He or she will also speak for the EU externally, instead of the current trio of Solana, Ferrero - Waldner and the presidency's foreign minister. But the June summit also agreed to attach a declaration making clear that the revamped high representative will not supplant national foreign ministers. A new 'external action service', consisting of the merged Council and Commission foreign affairs departments, supplemented by national officials, will provide the high representative with advice, analysis and expertise. Their separate missions in countries outside the EU will also merge, saving valuable resources.

★ Eventual reform to the EU voting system

The EU will move to 'double majority' voting by 2017. The EU's current system agreed under the Nice treaty, is extremely complicated and discriminates unfairly against large countries, giving them fewer votes than their populations merit. Under double majority voting, a measure would pass only if 55 per cent of member-states voted for it, when they represent at least 65 per cent of the EU's population. That is both simpler and fairer than the status quo. To defuse a ferocious row with Poland over some loss of its influence under the new system, EU governments agreed delay this reform until after 2014. This concession means Poland will maintain its current voting weight for the next few years when important decisions on the EU's future financing are due.

★ **More vetoes abolished including in justice and home affairs**

From 2009, member-states will move from national vetoes to qualified majority voting (QMV) in 39 more areas, including cross-border crime and policing. The Commission, the European Parliament and the Court of Justice will also get a role in these sensitive matters for the first time. But member-states will be able to use an 'emergency brake' procedure to stop EU justice decisions from adversely affecting their national legal systems. Another sensitive policy area moving to majority vote is decisions affecting social security for migrants (across - border issue). The emergency brake procedure will apply here too, to stop national welfare systems being adversely affected by future EU decisionmaking. Strict unanimity will continue to apply for the most sensitive issues such as taxation or national security. The treaty will also contain a '*passerelle*' or bridging clause where member-states will have the option of moving to QMV on a particular brief, without the need for a new treaty. Any one member-state or national parliament can block the use of the *passerelle*. And the clause can never be used for a decision with defence or military implications.

★ **A legally binding EU rights charter**

The reform treaty will make the EU's charter of fundamental rights legally binding on European legislation. The charter was originally negotiated in 2000 to help ensure EU law respects basic human rights, such as dignity, freedom, equality and citizenship. When legally binding, the charter will apply to

European legislation only. It cannot intrude into purely domestic law or give the EU new powers. The UK has secured an opt out from this provision.

★ **National parliaments will vet new EU laws**

The reform treaty will allow national parliaments a role in EU law making for the first time. A majority of national parliaments will be able to challenge a piece of European legislation if they feel that the EU has exceeded its powers. Each parliament will be allocated two votes (some national parliaments have two houses; others have unicameral systems). If a simple majority of these votes (28 votes or more) is cast against a proposed EU law, the Commission will have to withdraw the proposal or explain why it is necessary. The Council of Ministers and European Parliament will decide if the Commission's explanation is convincing.

★ **More certainty in international co-operation**

The EU will get a single legal identity for signing international treaties. Many inter-governmental organisations (UNESCO, the International Money Fund and the World Health Organisation, for example) have a 'legal personality' that enables them to sign international treaties. Due to the way the EU has developed over the years, the member-states still sign international economic agreements as the 'European Communities' and foreign policy or justice agreements as the 'European Union'. Often the EU's international agreements contain both economic and foreign policy or justice aspects, which makes their negotiation extremely complex. The reform treaty will allow the member-states to sign future international treaties together as simply 'the EU'. This will make the EU less confusing to work with for outsiders and make it easier to work in those international organisations that allow non-state participants (the World Bank, for instance). Some argue this will eventually give the EU the power to become a state or declare war. This is hyperbole. The move would give the EU no new powers and the EU could not sign an international agreement without the unanimous approval of the member-states. Thus the single legal personality gives the EU more capability, without giving it more power. The reform treaty will also underline that a single EU legal identity poses no threat to the UN Security Council seats, of either Britain or France.

★ **Member-states can leave if they want to**

The reform treaty will allow for a member-state to leave the EU if it chooses. A country that wants to withdraw will negotiate new arrangements for working with the rest of the union but EU law would no longer apply to it.

Important caveats

Several member-states pushed for, and got, assurances that the reform treaty will respect national sensitivities in key areas. France and the Netherlands demanded changes to address public dissatisfaction with the EU that led to the rejection of the constitutional treaty by their electorates in 2005. To appease the Dutch, the EU's political criteria for the accession of new members will now be referred to in the new treaty. These state that no country will be able to join the EU unless it has, for example, robust national institutions, a fair legal system and a market economy. But applicants already have to meet those criteria, and putting them in the treaty is unlikely to make a difference in practice.

The French president, Nicolas Sarkozy, also controversially secured the removal of a commitment to 'undistorted competition' from the EU's list of basic objectives. This is a cosmetic change: many other references to competition will remain in the treaty. And a new protocol will reinforce the role of

competition policy. But symbolism is important to French public opinion on Europe: the French voted down the constitutional treaty two years ago, in part because they feared it symbolised an 'ultraliberal' EU.

Britain worried about removing the national veto in EU criminal justice decisions, and needed to ease concern at home that the charter's social aspirations might endanger UK liberal labour laws. Britain, along with Ireland will have the right to opt-out of any new crime and policing initiatives from the beginning of future negotiations. And Britain secured a new protocol to prevent the charter having any legal force in the UK. Ireland and Poland too reserved their right to opt-out of the charter in the forthcoming treaty negotiations.

Poland is getting an 'energy solidarity' clause in the new treaty – it fears Russia may withhold vital gas supplies – to enshrine the principle that EU countries will help a member-state hit by future energy shortages. And the Czechs inserted a clause to say that future treaty negotiations could be convened to take powers away from the EU.

Time to tidy up and move on

The proposed reform treaty – in classic EU style – will mean different things to different countries. For the 22 countries that were happy with the constitution, it preserves the delicate compromise that led to that treaty. For the British, it is probably the most significant negotiating victory in the history of its EU membership. For others, it represents the protection of key national interests. For the EU as a whole, the treaty will be an admission that the enlarged union has become much more diverse: economically, politically and in terms of its different legal traditions. The EU needs a rulebook that respects this new diversity, but also gives member-states the tools to work as one on Europe's most pressing challenges.

Even though the blueprint is agreed, it will still be tough to get final agreement in the formal negotiations. Poland, for instance, accepted the preliminary deal on double majority voting but will prove truculent when the details for moving to the new system are worked out. And pressure for referendums across Europe could make the negotiations just as fractious as the June summit.

PRILOGA 3.

The King Baudouin Foundation and Compagnia di San Paolo
are strategic partners of the European Policy Centre

Islam and the EU: the merits and risks of Inter-Cultural Dialogue By Sara Silvestri

Background

'Inter-Cultural Dialogue' (ICD) has become a fashionable term in the post 9/11 era and, increasingly, a flagship of the EU's fight against terrorism and radicalisation and its attempt to establish a positive relationship with Islam, inside and outside the Union's borders.

In December 2006, the Council and European Parliament adopted a Decision on ICD and, in May 2007, the European Commission launched the first-ever European Strategy for Culture, with the aim of promoting awareness of cultural diversity and EU values, dialogue with civil society and exchanges of good practice.

However, little is known about the origin of the term ICD, its real meaning and its objectives. It is also unclear how useful it really is, and whether it is a concept or a practice – or, rather, how to derive the latter from the former.

The expression itself is not new. For experts and practitioners in the field of culture and Communications, it is about inter-personal communication, mutual exchange and inclination to listen.

From Huntington to 9/11

The spread of the term in European and international circles dates back to at least the early 1990s. In 1993, Samuel Huntington published an article in *Foreign Affairs* developing the argument – still rooted in a Cold War perspective of a world divided into blocs – that future conflicts would take place at the fault lines between “civilisations” (characterised by different religious affiliations) – and that one of the fiercest of these would be between the West and the Muslim world.

The aim of ICD is to move away from and counter this polarised world view. With its emphasis on moving beyond narrow views and fundamentalism through positive dialogue between different cultures, it can be seen as a direct response to the notion of a “clash of civilisations”.

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership launched by the EU in 1995 included a ‘third basket’ devoted to cultural and civil society exchanges across the region, and the Barcelona Declaration refers explicitly to the need to promote dialogue among peoples of all religions in the Mediterranean.

Thanks to the personal engagement of former Commission President Jacques Delors and his successors, informal consultations have been taking place between EU officials and the various churches, religions and schools of thought in Europe since the 1980s.

In 1998, the then Iranian President Mohammad Khatami proposed establishing a year devoted to the “Dialogue of Civilisations” at the United Nations. This idea was taken up enthusiastically by the international community, but things did not go quite as planned: 2001 opened with the launch of this

initiative and ended up in the grip of the US-led war on terror following the 9/11 attacks perpetrated by terrorists claiming legitimacy from Islam.

In the wake of the attacks, initiatives in the field of ICD intensified in a number of national and international arenas, including the Council of Europe, UNESCO and the OSCE. However, in the changed climate, a new security dimension was added to these projects, thus partially altering the purpose of ICD.

The idea of ICD nevertheless gained strong currency, particularly within the EU, with various initiatives launched both to foster exchanges with Muslim groups across Europe and to discuss the broader scope of ICD beyond institutional relations with religious groups.

Two major opportunities were provided, in December 2001 and March 2002 under the auspices of the Prodi Commission, for religious leaders, intellectuals and practitioners in the cultural sector to offer EU policy-makers their reflections on ICD. During the 2003 Italian Presidency, EU Interior Ministers agreed a Declaration which recognised the contribution of 'faith communities' to social cohesion. The ill-fated Constitution signed in 2004 also contained a commitment to 'maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue' between EU institutions and religious and other organisations, whilst acknowledging that legal provisions regulating church-state relations remained the exclusive competence of Member States.

The Barroso Commission organised a meeting with religious leaders advocating peace in the aftermath of the 7/7 bombings in London which provided a vehicle for resuming dialogue between the EU and faith groups. These exchanges have continued ever since (with two major EU conferences on interfaith dialogue in 2005 and 2006); interest in Islam has increased in different corners, and efforts have been made to develop ICD initiatives on a range of fronts. In this context, Commission Vice-President Franco Frattini's role has also become more prominent.

State of play

Vagueness persists, however, about the purpose and implications of ICD: where does it start and end? Which actors are involved? Is culture a channel or the object of dialogue? If secular institutions do not 'do religion', how can they engage in 'interfaith' work through ICD?

Despite this, many EU policymakers now see ICD as the magic formula to engage with Muslim communities within and beyond Europe, with four main factors driving this interest in ICD and Islam.

Internally, there is concern about the implications of the growing number of Muslims in Europe for the future of its social, cultural, economic, legal and political fabric. This is linked to concerns about the integration of those who have immigrant status (legal or illegal) as well as those who have European citizenship but seem 'disconnected' from European life, turned towards their countries of origin or focused on traditions that isolate them from the societies in which they live.

On the external front, the EU's approach towards countries with a predominantly Muslim population is sometimes unclear. In particular, it is caught in a dilemma over whether – and to what extent – it should engage in political dialogue with 'Islamist' political actors; i.e. those who define their values and goals in relation to Islam.

Turkey's bid for EU membership also poses a number of questions about the impact this might have on Europe's 'identity' and, possibly, the role of religion in the public sphere. The recent tensions inside Turkey over secularism have only strengthened European concerns in this respect.

Finally, the various attacks carried out across the world by terrorists claiming to act in the name of Islam have created a general atmosphere of suspicion towards Muslims, particularly over the last six years.

EU Member States are determined to promote social cohesion and prevent discrimination, including against Muslims. However, they also face the concrete challenge of finding appropriate measures to prevent radicalisation and fight new forms of terrorism that threaten the lives of Muslims and non-Muslims alike, distort perceptions of Islam and prejudice the normal daily interaction of Muslims with the world around them.

This has led to controversial attempts to support 'moderate' Muslim groups and 'mainstream' the representation of Islam in the European public sphere through the creation, at national level, of advisory representative Islamic institutions. This risks forcing individuals into artificial categories and creating rivalries between Islamic traditions and communities.

The two-pronged violence – in actions and rhetoric – of the so-called 'Islamist' terrorists poses a double threat to European society: physical attacks and attacks on its values. The climate of fear this has created tends to generate negative stereotypes, exclusively security-oriented responses, and mistrust between Europe's Muslim and non-Muslim populations.

The EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy, launched by the Council in 2005 takes a comprehensive approach to meeting a series of interconnected challenges, and has four dimensions: prevention, protection, pursuit and response.

It commits the Union to combat terrorism globally while respecting human rights and enabling its citizens to live in an area of freedom, security and justice. In external relations, it includes EU aid projects for third countries in the field of good governance and the rule of law to address factors which can contribute to radicalisation and recruitment. It also includes expert meetings with the Euro-Med and Asian countries to analyse and compare radicalisation processes in the Mediterranean area.

ICD can only play a useful role in this global EU strategy focused on both 'human' and more traditional security objectives if it is aimed at enhancing equal opportunities, political participation and trust between citizens, immigrants and institutions.

What's in a term – and what's not

The term 'Inter-Cultural Dialogue' can be used to describe an overarching framework that brings together – and balances – all these concerns and different priorities. It provides a viable political tool to wield a form of soft power both domestically and internationally. Yet it can also be an empty and deceptive notion if its components and purposes are not fully spelt out and correctly understood.

The concept has, for example, been criticised for its 'fuzziness', which contributes to the impression that it might be used as a way to avoid addressing 'real issues' such as European policy towards the Middle East or jobs, education, and social security at the domestic level. In many people's minds, the

term ICD is also automatically associated with the idea of 'interfaith dialogue', a sphere of activity which is normally left to individuals and/or religious groups rather than secular institutions.

Clarifying that ICD is about dialogue between and within cultures in a broader sense prompts a second, intellectual challenge: what is 'culture'? To what extent is ICD linked with notions of 'civilisation', 'religion', 'nationality', and political and ethical 'values'? Does it imply any reference to the Western 'civilising mission' of the past and hegemonic power over language, culture, finance and politics? And, in an EU where internal mobility is increasing, with the consequent intermingling of traditions, identities, and lifestyles, is it an attempt to formulate the essence of 'European citizenship' another vague term?

ICD positions itself as an alternative to 'multiculturalism' (the idea of a pluralistic society where different cultures remain separate and self-contained) and confirms the EU concept of 'unity in diversity'. The reference to 'dialogue' evokes ideas of peace and solidarity, which are among the EU's founding values: 'dialogue' replaces the Huntingtonian 'clash' and the stiff notion of 'civilisation' is supplanted by the more subtle 'culture'. To make the link stronger, the two concepts are held together by the prefix 'inter' (which highlights the connection) rather than opting for the term 'multi' (which indicates multiplicity, without any reference to the interconnection between the different parts).

In the context of the difficulties still hampering the formulation of a common EU policy towards the broader Middle East, the rhetoric of ICD is perhaps a cohesive element that can hold European policy-makers together. In foreign policy, it enables them to project a 'single voice', promoting dialogue and distancing the EU from the use of force. Domestically, it averts a deterioration of the situation and possible retaliatory acts against Muslims.

As a consequence, what was initially seen as a recipe for promoting social cohesion has de facto become a synonym for the 'integration' of those immigrant and minority communities in Europe perceived to be problematic; i.e. Muslims. Many observers have even associated the ICD concept with process of 'institutionalisation' of Islam that, in fact, has little or nothing to do with the spontaneity and multi-dimensionality of the idea of intercultural relations between peoples, communities and faiths.

The added value of the EU (as distinct from other international organisations) championing ICD stems from its ability to ensure that the concept permeates societal and international relations at various levels. And whatever its limits, the EU is respected by its partners as an international actor because of the perception that it is ready to listen to them and willing to engage in dialogue.

However, while the EU institutions and several Member States have fully embraced ICD, other countries (both in Europe and at the UN) have engaged in parallel enterprises which appear to privilege the term 'civilisation' over 'culture'. In 2005, Spain and Turkey launched the UN's 'Alliance of Civilisations' initiative, explicitly to "try to tackle fear and suspicion, bridge divides and overcome prejudices and polarisations between Islam and the West"; in 2006, Denmark presented a distinct 'Co-existence of Civilizations' proje

Finally, the ICD 'card' is also often played by international bodies set up by Muslim countries such as the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) which tend to claim sovereignty and speak on behalf of all Muslims, including those living in the West.

Prospects

The EU has no competence for religious affairs, let alone Islam. However, its activities have had an indirect impact on the situation of Muslim communities in Europe, in particular through: a) immigration/integration policies; b) employment and social cohesion policies; c) external relations with Muslim countries; and d) responses to internal and external security challenges.

In the wake of 9/11 – and especially as a consequence of the bombings in Madrid and London, also carried out by terrorists claiming to act in the name of Islam – dealing with Islam has become a top priority for the EU. The German Presidency has pushed the issue even higher up the agenda, in particular by trying to develop ways to ‘institutionalise’ Islam in Europe.

The assumption behind this strategy – already adopted by a number of EU countries – is that giving Muslims the possibility to channel their claims through a legitimate body would diminish the chances of extremist groups exploiting Muslim concerns, anger and frustrations.

The idea of creating a public space for Islam in a European context – and in a political system that is secular but highly influenced by a long history of Christianity – is legitimate per se. However, combining this with the notion of ICD may prove misleading.

We do not yet know the forthcoming Portuguese Presidency’s plans in relation to Islam. However, it seems likely that concerns about the political participation of Muslims at the local and national level will be emphasised and perhaps prevail over the discourse on institutionalising Islam.

What’s to be done – and what’s not

ICD can be useful, but is not a panacea. It has meaning and effect only if it does not remain a dry formula, and is accompanied by a number of practical initiatives (especially in the social sector) which are not just specifically focused on Islam or on cultural events.

Indeed, concentrating solely on Muslims could pose a double risk: that Muslims may become even more isolated if they are singled out all the time for exclusive projects; and that the overall social fabric could be damaged if other minority and non-Muslim communities are not involved. It is also important to avoid ICD becoming a sterile public relations exercise.

The EU has reinterpreted the concept in an original way and needs to be faithful to this interpretation to bring about change and promote trust between individuals and communities as well as institutions.

If the Union wants to develop strategies for a productive interaction with Europe’s Muslim population, it should engage first and foremost with the variety of voices and institutions of those who are European citizens. It is a basic principle of international law that the rights and duties of citizens are domestic issues, rather than foreign policy questions, and should be regulated by sovereign European states and EU institutions.

However, given that a sizeable proportion of Muslims living in Europe are still citizens of Muslim countries and given that the EU has bilateral relations with these countries, communication with them and with such institutions as the OIC should not be neglected either.

Multilevel dialogue with all groups of Muslims living in Europe should be encouraged.

Hence, the creation of formal Muslim institutions, sponsored by EU governments seeking to bring together all these voices and channel their concerns and claims more effectively, should not be considered the 'only' way forward. They are only welcome if it is made clear that these are not 'representative' bodies but just 'tentative' forms of consultation.

Furthermore, any attempt to organise these initiatives around the idea of promoting 'moderate' Islam should be avoided. This would risk deepening existing divisions between different versions of Islam, and creating artificial forms of leadership and hierarchies that do not exist in the tradition and history of Islam.

Sara Silvestri is Lecturer in Religion and Global Politics at City University (London) and Research Associate at Cambridge University, and an EPC Associate Policy Analyst.