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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.

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Uvodnik

Pa smo jo dočakali. Novo evropsko pogodbo. Po nekajletnih poskusih, naporih, težavah in uporih je Nemčiji in Portugalski končno uspelo uskladiti voljo 27 držav članic, nekoliko več politikov in mnogo več državljanov. Za to so bili potrebni kompromisi zlasti s Poljsko, Veliko Britanijo in Italijo. Ob tem se je izpostavilo sicer postransko vprašanje kraja, kjer bo podpisana nova evropska pogodba. Ali bo to Bruselj ali bo to Lisboa, bomo še videli.

Delo EU pa seveda še zdaleč ni končano. Vprašanja podnebnih sprememb, zmanjševanja emisij toplogrednih plinov, energetska neodvisnost Evrope, razvoj alternativnih virov energije, konkurenčnost...to so teme, s katerimi se ukvarjajo komisarji, poslanci in voditelji držav EU-27. V preteklem mesecu so bili podpisani različni sporazumi s prej omenjenih področij. Vodijo v bolj zeleno prihodnost, v novih partnerstvih, z novimi tehnologijami, s skrbjo za javno zdravje in zdravje posameznika.

Z zadovoljstvom vas obveščamo, da sta pristopila v preteklem mesecu k Združenju dva nova člana: Korona d.d. in Gea College d.d.

Druga pomembna, pozitivna vest je, da nas je Ministrstvo za visoko šolstvo, znanost in tehnologijo imenovalo za nacionalno informacijsko točko za program »Regije znanja« v 7.Okvirnem programu. To pomeni, da bomo vključeni v delo ustreznega Programskega odbora in,

da bomo na tej osnovi lahko zainteresirane še bolj podrobno in pravočasno informirali o prihajajočih razpisih ter jim pomagali uspešno sodelovati v teh programih.

Še posebej pomembno se nam zdi to za bodoče sodelovanje z obema združenjema slovenskih občin, preko katerih naj bi – ob podpori Vladne službe za lokalno samoupravo in regionalno politiko – posredovali ustrezne informacije vsem slovenskim občinam.

Za uspešnost pri vključevanju v projekte 7.okvirnega programa je potrebno tudi izobraževanje. Za naslednje leto smo spet pridobili vodilnega evropskega strokovnjaka Seana McCarthy-ja, ki naj bi v Ljubljani predaval 14.februarja. O podrobnostih boste pravočasno obveščeni.

Včeraj zvečer smo imeli dr.McCarthy-ja kot predavatelja za člane različnih mrež v Bruslju, ki jih SGRZ koordinira (NIROC, EREF, RIBN), ali je z njimi povezan (Mreža lizbonskih regij, Evropska projektna mreža, idr.). V izredno zanimivem predavanju in razpravi, ki je sledila, so bile izpostavljene predvsem naslednje točke:

- FP7 je daleč največji program EU na področju raziskovalno-razvojne dejavnosti (53 mlrd €) in interes za sodelovanje je velik;
- Mnogi še vedno ne razumejo, da je razpis konec, ne pa začetek celotnega procesa (kdor ni spremljal prioritet evropske politike in nastajanje delovnih programov ima manjše možnosti za uspeh na razpisu);
- Glavne koristi sodelovanja v EU projektih so: povezave s kvalitetnimi organizacijami in posamezniki, spoznavanje novih tehnologij ter, finančna sredstva. V nedavni anketi so udeleženci projektov 6.OP postavili ta vrstni red, za razliko od obratnega, ki so ga imeli v glavah, ko so začeli sodelovati.

Dobro sodelovanje s partnerji vas pripelje v prave mreže, grupacije in grozde – to pa pomeni, da vas slejkoprej začnejo tudi najboljši vabiti v svoje projekte.

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1. AKTUALNE NOVICE

■ Nova pogodba EU

Evropa je dosegla dogovor o novi pogodbi. Podpisana bo v sredini decembra in se bo imenovala Lisbonska pogodba.

V teku pogajanj so bila razrešena ključna vprašanja, med njimi vprašanje števila poslanskih sedežev v Evropskem parlamentu (750 sedežev + predsednik Parlamenta) ter vprašanje mehanizma Joanina.

Novo pogodbo, ki bo nadomestila ustavno pogodbo, doslej dvakrat zavrnjeno (v Franciji in na Nizozemskem), čaka ratifikacija v vseh državah članicah.

Več o tem:

http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/20071019soc.htm

■ Evropa brez tobačnega dima

Evropski parlament je sprejel zeleno knjigo o Evropi brez tobačnega dima, ki jo je pripravila Evropska komisija. Evropa z omenjenim dokumentom poziva k prepovedi kajenja v javnih prostorih in k prepovedi prodaje tobačnih izdelkov mladoletnikom. Njen glavni namen pa je zaščita državljanov EU pred zdravju škodljivim tobačnim dimom.

Bodoče naloge Komisije so :

- priprava poročila o stroških zdravljenj v okviru nacionalnih zdravstvenih sistemov, ki so posledica kajenja in izpostavljenosti tobačnemu dimu
- prepoved uporabe tobaka v zasebnih prevoznih sredstvih v navzočnosti mladoletnih oseb
- prepoved prodaje tobačnih izdelkov osebam, mlajšim od 18 let; tudi prek interneta
- umik tobačnih izdelkov s samopostrežnih polic v trgovinah na drobno;
- podpora preventivnim ukrepom in protikadilskim kampanjam za mlade;

- prepoved oglaševanja tobačnih izdelkov na internetu;
- spodbujanje držav članic k uvedbi visoke stopnje obdavčitve vseh tobačnih izdelkov, na katero inflacija ne bi vplivala;
- strožji nadzor nad tihotapljenjem tobaka idr.

Več o tem:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/066-12157-295-10-43-911-20071023IPR12111-22-10-2007-2007-true/default_sl.htm

■ Kritike Turčije zavoljo nezadostnega napredka

Evropska komisija je predstavila poročilo o napredku Turčije v njenih prizadevanjih k pristopu k EU. Ponovilo se je nezadovoljstvo, ki ga je Komisija izrazila že leto poprej. Ugotavlja namreč, da je uresničevanje reform neenakomerno in prepočasno; svojo pozornost bo morala Turčija usmeriti na

- zagotavljanje svobode izražanja
- zmanjšanje politične vloge vojske ter civilni nadzor nad njo
- pravice nemuslimanskih skupnosti
- pravice manjšin
- zagotavljanje kulturne raznolikosti idr.

Dokler omenjena področja ne bodo rešena v skladu z evropskimi normativi, bo turško približevanje EU ostalo (deloma) zamrznjeno.

Več o tem:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/008-11890-295-10-43-901-20071019STO11874-2007-22-10-2007/default_en.htm

■ Schengenska širitev bo 21. decembra

Iz portugalskega predsedstva so sporočili, da so vsa poročila o uporabi SIS (schengenskega informacijskega sistema) in pripravljenosti držav pozitivna.

Tako se naj bi širitev schengenskega sistema zgodila 21. decembra ob 00.01, ko bo odpravljen nadzor nad kopenskimi in morskimi mejami.

Dokončna potrditev datuma širitve bo sprejeta na decembrskem zasedanju notranjih ministrov EU.

Več o tem:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?lang=EN

http://www.eu2007.pt/UE/vEN/Noticias_Documentos/20071107Schengen.htm

in

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/024-12840-316-11-46-902-20071109STO12832-2007-12-11-2007/default_en.htm

■ Vedno manj Evropejcev

Evropa se sooča z upadanjem rodnosti, kar ima interdisciplinarne razsežnosti; le te segajo na področje gospodarstva, politike zaposlovanja in upokojevanja, enakosti med spoloma, migracijske politike, vseživljenjskega učenja ...

O vplivu teh razsežnosti, možnih rešitvah se ukvarjajo različni odbori Evropskega parlamenta; trenutno se kot najboljša rešitev kaže uvedba t.i. modre karte, s katero želi EU pritegniti kvalificirane in izobražene delavce iz tretjih držav.

Več o modri karti – pod rubriko »Gospodarstvo«

Več o tem;

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/008-12714-309-11-45-901-20071107STO12713-2007-05-11-2007/default_sl.htm

■ Prosti pretok kapitala: EU nadzor na amandmaji madžarskega gospodarskega prava

Evropska komisija je Madžarski poslala uradno obvestilo o nadzoru nad amandmaji h gospodarskemu pravu, saj naj bi bili v nasprotju z EU zakonodajo. Komisijo namreč skrbi, da omenjen madžarski zakon

vključuje neupravičene omejitve prostega pretoka kapitala z

1. z velikimi zahtevami na področju javnih prevzemnih ponudb v sektorjih energije in dobave vode
2. z omogočanjem, da organi z javnimi pooblastili imenujejo člane uprav energetskega podjetij in jim določajo pravice do upravljanja in nadzora nad podjetji.

Več o tem:

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

in

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1681&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

2. KRATKE NOVICE IN VABILA K SODELOVANJU

Pravica do »feta sira«

Grčija poziva članice EU k pomoči pri zaščiti t.i. feta sira, značilnega proizvoda za Grčijo. Feta sir je od leta 2005 zaščiten z geografskim poreklom, tako imajo grški proizvajalci izključno pravico do trženja sira v slanici, pod imenom »feta«.

Grčija v svoji prošnji navaja nujnost uvedbe nadzora nad spoštovanjem evropske zakonodaje v posameznih državah članicah; kar pomeni nadzor nad trženjem sira v slanici, proizvedenega izven Grčije, in znamko »feta«.

Zračni promet v sistem trgovanja z izpusti toplogrednih plinov

Odbor za okolje Evropskega parlamenta zahteva, da bodo morala po letu 2010 vsa letala, ki pristajajo v EU, upoštevati evropska pravila glede trgovanja z emisijami.

Poslanci bodo o tem razpravljali na plenarnem zasedanju v Strasbourgu v sredini novembra.

Več o tem:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/062-12839-316-11-46-910-

20071109STO12831-2007-12-11-2007/default_sl.htm

RAPEX

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

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=154

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=155

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=156

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=157

3. NOVA ZAKONODAJA

■ Krepitev sodelovanja z državami EFTA

Danes je bila med EU, Švico, Norveško in Islandijo podpisana nova Luganska konvencija o pristojnostih, priznavanju in izvrševanju sodb v civilnih in gospodarskih zadevah.

Konvencija izraža zaupanje v pravne sisteme EU in omenjenih držav in omogoča prožnejše postopke in izboljšuje pravno varstvo; njene določbe so tudi usklajene s trenutnim pravnim redom EU. Pristojnosti sodišč EU in že omenjenih EFTA državah bo podobna; s tem bodo razsodbe lažje prepoznane in izvršene.

Več o tem:

<http://curia.europa.eu/en/actu/communiqués/cp06/aff/cp060010en.pdf>
in

http://www.ec.europa.eu/commission_barros_o/frattini/index_en.htm

■ Predlog enotnega evropskega trga telekomunikacij

Evropska komisija je 13. novembra sprejela predlog za reformo trga telekomunikacij in pravil. S tem želi državljanom omogočiti

dostop do boljših, cenejših, varnih in učinkovitih telekomunikacijskih storitev.

Paket telekomunikacijskih reform, ki ga je Komisija predstavila Evropskemu parlamentu, naj bi se do konca leta 2009. Vključuje naslednje glavne ukrepe:

- Pravice uporabnikov do zamenjave operaterja, do preglednih in primerljivih informacij o cenah
- Večja izbira za uporabnike (zavoljo večje konkurence)
- Večja varnost in preprečevanje prenašanja virusov, prejemanja nezaželene pošte
- Dostop do širikopasovne povezave
- Boljša zakonska ureditev trga telekomunikacij
- Neodvisni nadzorni organi trga telekomunikacij
- Oblikovanje evropskega nadzornega organa trga telekomunikacij, ki bo sodeloval pri zagotavljanju, da so pomembne komunikacijske storitve dosledno zakonsko urejene v vseh 27 državah članicah EU.

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1677&format=HTML&aged=0&language=SL&guiLanguage=en>
in

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/458&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

4. GOSPODARSKE NOVICE

■ Starostna meja za upokojitev

Sodišče Evropskih skupnosti je v sredini oktobra določilo, da lahko članice EU določijo obvezujočo največjo starostno mejo za upokojitev. Odločitev bo predvidoma omogočila zaposlovanje mladih.

Sporočilo Sodišča:

<http://www.curia.europa.eu/en/actu/communiqués/cp07/aff/cp070073en.pdf>

■ Učinkovitejša izterjava nedovoljenih državnih pomoči

Evropska komisija je objavila navodila državam članicam za učinkovitejšo izterjavo nezakonito dodeljenih državnih pomoči. Ob tem je Komisija predstavila tudi dobre primere izterjave ter izpostavila popolnost in jasnost odločb o izterjatvah (identiteta subjektov, ki morajo vrniti sredstva, višina sredstev ter roki za vrnitev sredstev).

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1609&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

■ **Modra karta za zaposlitev visoko kvalificiranih tujcev**

Evropska komisija je konec oktobra predstavila predlog Direktive o posebnih pogojih za vstop in bivanje visoko kvalificiranih tujcev, ki prihajajo iz tretjih držav. Njen namen je odkriti in zagotoviti delavce, ki jih evropska podjetja potrebujejo.

T.i. evropska modra karta bo zagotavljala

- posebno shemo za mlade profesionalce
- poenostavljen postopek za pridobitev dovoljenja za bivanje in delo v EU
- veljavnost dveh let z možnostjo podaljšanja
- mobilnost delavca z modro karto v različne države članice EU, ne samo eno (pod določenimi pogoji)

Sicer pa bo vsaka država članica sama odločala, katere tipe kadrov potrebuje ter kolikšno število evropskih modrih kart bo na voljo.

Pristojni evropski ministri bodo o predlogu direktive razpravljali v mesecu novembru.

Več o tem:

<http://www.europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/423&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

■ **Partnerstvo med Komisijo in avtomobilsko panogo**

Evropska komisija in glavna evropska podjetja iz avtomobilskega sektorja (ACEA, CLEPA in EMF) so v začetku novembra razglasili novo partnerstvo za sodelovanje in

lažje obvladovanje sprememb, ki se dogajajo in ki jih še pričakujejo v avtomobilskem sektorju.

Iniciativa je namenjena nadzoru razvoja in sprememb v industriji; hkrati naj bi spodbujala izmenjavo dobrih praks glede obvladovanja sprememb na družbeno odgovorni način.

Ob tem je bil vpostavljen tudi forum na visoki ravni, ki omogoča dialog med relevantnimi podjetji in institucijami.

Forum:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_014b_social/restructuring/forum_en.htm

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/restructuring/docs/partnership_en.pdf
in
http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/annonce/template_en.cfm?prodid=3096

5. FINANČNE STORITVE

■ **Slovenija: kršitve Direktive o finančni preglednosti?**

Evropska komisija bo zaključila postopek ugotavljanja kršitev proti Sloveniji zaradi neizvajanja Direktive o preglednosti odnosov med državami članicami in javnimi podjetji. Odločitev je bila sprejeta potem, ko je Slovenija sprejela pravni akt, ki v celoti izvaja Direktivo o finančni preglednosti.

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1548&format=HTML&aged=0&language=SL&guiLanguage=en>

■ **Direktiva MiFID**

V veljavo stopa direktiva MiFID, direktiva o trgih finančnih instrumentov. V Sloveniji je bila direktiva prenesena v nacionalno zakonodajo že julija letošnjega leta; njen namen pa je povečati konkurenco na finančnih trgih, ščititi vlagatelje ter vzpostaviti skupni regulatorni okvir ta evropski trg vrednostnih papirjev. Bornoposredniške družbe, investicijska podjetja bodo lahko s »potnimi listi« delovala po vsej Evropski uniji.

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/911&format=HTML&aged=1&language=SL&guiLanguage=en>

■ **Investicije EBRD, Evropske banke za razvoj**

V oktobru in novembru je bila Evropska banka za razvoj zelo aktivna pri izdajanju področju posojil na področjih podjetništva, energije, železniškemu transportu, finančnemu in nepremičninskemu sektorju, ... predvsem državam Hrvaški, Slovaški, Češki, Rusiji, Kirgistanu, Kazahstanu, Azerbajdžanu, Mongoliji ter regiji JV Evrope.

Več o tem: www.ebrd.com

6. REGIONALNA POLITIKA

■ **Evropska komisija potrjuje regionalne razvojne programe**

Evropska komisija postopno potrjuje regionalne operativne programe posameznih regij in držav članic. V preteklem mesecu je tako potrdila operativne programe nekaterih regij v Italiji, na Finskem, Slovaške, Luksemburga, Švedske, Francije in Portugalske...

Več o tem:

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

■ **Sprejeti nacionalni referenčni okvirju EU-27**

Evropska komisija je do oktobra potrdila nacionalne referenčne okvirje (NRO) vseh držav članic EU.

Ob tem komisija ugotavlja, da NRO-ji vključujejo ključne postavke, ki nas vodijo do izpolnitve ciljev Lisbonske strategije, ti pa so: razvoj in raziskave, energetska učinkovitost, spodbujanje podjetništva, človeški viri, varovanje okolja, učinkoviti transport idr.

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/419&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

7. TRANSPORT IN ENERGETIKA

● **Postopek proti državam, ki niso predložile svojega akcijskega načrta za energetska učinkovitost**

Evropska komisija je v sredini oktobra sprožila postopek za ugotavljanje kršitev proti 12 državam, med njimi tudi Sloveniji, saj še niso predložile nacionalnih akcijskih načrtov za energetska učinkovitost, v katerih morajo predstaviti strategije za doseg cilja večanja prihranka energije za 9% do leta 2016.

Ta cilj določa in zavezuje države članice Uredba o učinkoviti rabi končne energije in energetskih storitvah.

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1526&format=HTML&aged=0&language=SL&guiLanguage=en>

● **Upravljanje zračnega prostora**

Evropska komisija je sprejela nova pravila za večjo interoperabilnost upravljalni sistemov (ATM) evropskega letalskega prometa. Njihov glavni namen je vzpostavitev splošnih tehničnih in proceduralnih pravil ter odprava ovir za uporabo harmoniziranega ATM sistema.

Nova pravila pomenijo pomemben korak naprej skupnemu zračnemu prostoru, saj podpirajo zračno navigacijo in koordinacijo v zraku in na zemlji

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air/single_sky/index_en.htm

● **EU sodelovanje z Jordanijo**

Evropska komisija je konec oktobra z Jordanijo podpisala skupno deklaracijo o sodelovanju na področju energije. Ta deklaracija predstavlja okvir za sodelovanje na naslednjih prioritetenih področjih:

- konsolidacija Jordanske politike trajnostnega razvoja energije in razvoj obnovljivih virov energije
- tehnična pomoč, namenjena zakonodajnemu in regulatornemu

okviru za promocijo visokih standardov nuklearne varnosti.

Za podobno vrsto sodelovanja se EU dogovarja tudi z drugimi mediteranskimi državami, med njimi predvsem Egiptom, Marokom in Alžirijo.

Več o tem;

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/jordan/intro/index.htm

in

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/energy/index.htmhttp://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

● **Razpisi za področje transporta in energije**

Na spletnih straneh Direktorata za promet in energijo so objavljeni aktualni razpisi s področja transporta in tudi energije:

1. A study on passenger transport by coach in Europe

Objava: OJ S 208-251920

Rok: 20/12/2007

2. A framework contract on impact assessment studies for possible implementing measures under the Eco-design Directive of Energy-Using Products and the Framework Directive on Energy Labelling of Household Appliances

Objava: OJ S 198-239670

Time-limit for receipt of tenders: 22/11/2007

3. Framework contract on aviation security policy development

Objava: OJ S 193-234231

Rok: 28/11/2007

Podrobnosti:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/tenders/index_en.htm

8. EKOLOGIJA IN TRAJNOSTNI RAZVOJ

● **Komisija sprejela veliko širitev mreže Natura 2000**

Evropska komisija je danes sprejela veliko širitev mreže Natura 2000. Evropska

skupnost bo tako v prihodnje razdeljena na biogeografske regije in sicer: Atlantik, Alpe, Borealna regija, Kontinentalna regija, Makaroneška regija, Mediteran in Panonska regija. Povečalo se je število mest (za število 4.255 oz. za 90.000 km²) s posebnim pomenom za EU.

Natura 2000 pomeni jedro evropske politike varovanja narave, ogroženih živalskih in rastlinskih vrst ter biološke raznolikosti.

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1683&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

● **Partnerstvo za boj proti emisijam CO₂**

Koalicija držav EU, ZDA, Kanade, Nove Zelandije in Norveške je konec oktobra napovedala ustanovitev t.i. International Carbon Action Partnership (ICAP), katerega namen je boj proti globalnemu segrevanju. ICAP bo predstavljal mednarodni forum za dialog, predstavitev izkušenj in prenos dobrih praks s področij zmanjševanja emisij toplogrednih plinov in tržnih sistemov z emisijami.

Sodelovanje naj bi zagotovilo večjo usklajenost programov in večje povpraševanje po proizvodih in storitvah z nizko stopnjo emisij CO₂.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1627&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Spletna stran: www.ICAPCarbonAction.com

● **Finančna podpora za Evropske okoljske organizacije**

Evropska komisija je objavila javni razpis za financiranje projektov, namenjen evropskim nevladnim okoljskim organizacijam.

Proračun 8.500.000 €

Rok: 7 December 2007

Podrobnosti:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/finasup_08.htm

● **Ukrepi proti SO₂**

Komisija je sprožila postopke zavoljo preseganja omejitev glede koncentracij žvepovega dioksida (SO₂) v zraku proti Franciji, Italiji, Španiji, Angliji in tudi Sloveniji. Omenjene države onesnažujejo zrak iz industrijskih obratov, kar povzroča težave in bolezni srca in ožilja.

Ker pa razprave o novi direktivi še potekajo (v Svetu in v Parlamentu), Komisija še ne bo uvedla ukrepov za ugotavljanje kršitev zaradi preseganja omejite.

V vsakem primeru pa bodo države morale najti ustrezne dolgoročne rešitve težav z onesnaževanjem.

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1537&format=HTML&aged=0&language=SL&guiLanguage=en>

Odločitev sodišča:

<http://curia.eu.int/en/content/juris/index.htm>.

9. FARMACIJA IN ZDRAVSTVO

■ Bela knjiga o zdravju

Evropska komisija je sprejela novo strategijo o zdravju, imenovano »Skupaj za zdravje«. Strategija želi zagotoviti splošni strateški okvir za različne izzive in probleme na področju zdravstva, politik in globalnega zdravja.

Osredotoča se na tri strateška področja za izboljšanje zdravja v EU; te so:

1. Dobro zdravje v starajoči se Evropi
2. Varovanje pred nevarnostmi za javno zdravje
3. Podpora dinamičnemu zdravstvenemu sistemu in tehnologijam.

Strategija je osnovana tudi na štirih principih

1. Skupne zdravstvene vrednote
2. Zdravje kot največje bogastvo
3. Zdravje v vseh politikah
4. Krepitev EU vpliva na globalno zdravje

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/strategy/health_strategy_en.htm

Bela knjiga o strategiji zdravja v EU:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/Documents/strategy_wp_en.pdf

■ V EU vse več otrok s prekomerno težo

8. november je bil razglašen kot »evropski dan zdrave prehrane in kuhanja«. V EU namreč narašča število otrok s prekomerno težo; trenutna številka znaša 22 milijonov evropskih otrok s prekomerno telesno težo.

Namen dneva zdrave prehrane je spodbuditi zanimanje otrok za zdravo prehrano, seznanitev z osnovnimi načeli zdravega prehranjevanja; spodbujanje dobrih navad ter spodbujanje k telesni aktivnosti.

Evropski dan zdrave hrane in kuhanja ima tudi svojo spletno stran, ki otrokom pokaže, da je zdravo prehranjevanje tudi zabavno. Naučijo se lahko kuhati s prvovrstnimi zdravimi recepti in kuharskimi nasveti.

Spletna stran zdrave hrane in kuhanja:
<http://eu.mini-chefs.eu>

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/events/minichefs_en.htm.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1663&format=HTML&aged=0&language=SL&guiLanguage=en>
in
<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/newsroom/en/276.htm>

■ Strategija razvoja zdravja in varstva potrošnikov

Generalni direktorat za zdravje in varstvo potrošnikov je objavil osnutek strategije razvoja zdravja in varstva potrošnikov v obdobju 2009 – 2014; s tem pa tudi vabi k javni razpravi in komentiranju omenjene strategije.

Zainteresirani posamezniki lahko svoja mnenja sporočilo na Generalni direktorat.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/events/future_challenges_en.htm

Strategija

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/ev_ents/future_challenges_paper.pdf

Brošura:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/ev_ents/futures_leaflet.pdf

10. RR IN INOVACIJE

Nov val razvojnih strategij za 13 otoških držav Pacifika

Evropska komisija je podpisala državne strateške dokumente s trinajsterico otoških držav v Pacifiku (Cookovi otoki, Kiribati, Marshalovi otoki, Mikronezija, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua Nova Gvineja, Samoa, Salomonovi otoki, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu). S tem je EU zagotovila 267 milijonov € iz Evropskega razvojnega sklada (za obdobje 2008-2013); namenjenih trem ključnim ciljem:

- odgovorno vodenje države
- trajnostno upravljanje z naravnimi viri
- rast

Sporočilo komisije:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1552&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Nov program za nanoelektroniko

EU je napovedala nov program CATRENE, namenjen za razvoj in raziskave na področju nanoelektronike. Namenjen je vsem ključnim partnerjem v verigi dodane vrednosti (aplikacije, tehnologije, materiali in dobavitelje opreme).

Program bo lansiran 1. januarja 2008 za obdobje 4 let (z možnostjo podaljšanja za dodatna 4 leta- do 2016); tekel pa bo v okviru programa Eureka.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/infocentre/article_en.cfm?id=/research/headlines/news/article_07_11_12_en.html&item=Infocentre&articleid=5553

Okoli sveta v 80 minutah?

Evropska komisija s sredstvi podpira možnost za razvoj novih hipersoničnih

zračnih plovil, ki naj bi omogočile transport iz Bruslja v Sydney v dveh urah. Projekt Evropske vesoljske agencije, imenovan LAPCAT II, se bo pričel v oktobru 2008 in bo trajal 36 mesecev; preiskoval pa bo nove koncepte in tehnologije zračnih plovil.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/infocentre/article_en.cfm?id=/research/headlines/news/article_07_11_09_en.html&item=Infocentre&articleid=5533

11. KMETIJSTVO

Manjša pomoč za pridelavo energetskih rastlin

Evropska komisija je predlagala zmanjšanje površin, za katere kmetje zahtevajo pomoč za pridelavo energetskih rastlin. Upravičena velikost površin v celotni EU že presega 2 milijona hektarjev; ob dejstvu, da je proračun za omenjeno subvencijo omejen in ob dejstvu, da kmetje prejmejo pomoč v višini 45€/hektar, je Komisija odločila zmanjšati količino prijavljenih in odobrenih hektarjev na 70%.

Predlog Komisije je v sredini oktobra potrdil tudi Upravljalni odbor za neposredna plačila.

Sporočilo Komisije:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1528&format=HTML&aged=0&language=SL&guiLanguage=en>

Dajatve za prekoračitev mlečnih kvot

Na podlagi začasnih podatkov Evropska komisija ocenjuje višino dajatev, ki jih bodo morale plačati države, ki so presegle dovoljene kvote. Med njimi so Italija, Avstrija, Ciper, Danska, Nemčija, Luksemburg in Nizozemska. Preostale države (med njimi Slovenija) so ostale v mejah dovoljenih kvot, tako jim dajatev ni potrebno plačati.

Sporočilo Komisije:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1543&format=HTML&aged=0&language=SL&guiLanguage=en>

Prva razpisa in programa za razvoj podeželja

Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo je iz programa razvoja podeželja objavilo dva razpisa in sicer za:

1. Pomoč mladim prevzemnikom kmetij (proračun 2007-2008: 10,3 mio €)
2. Posodabljanje kmetijskih gospodarstev (proračun 2007-2008: 20,35 mio €)

Razpisa sta odprte narave in bosta odprta do objave preklica. Projektno dokumentacijo pa je mogoče poslati **od 5. novembra dalje**.

Razpis:

http://www.mkgp.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/program_razvoja_podezelja_republike_slov_enije_za_obdobje_2007_2013/javni_razpisi/

Dobrobit živali pred zakolom

Združenje evropskih veterinarjev je prevzelo aktivno vlogo pri oblikovanju in dopolnjevanju zakonodaje o dobrobiti živali, namenjenih zakolu.

V predlogu dopolnitve obstoječe direktive za dobrobit živali so med drugimi izpostavili naslednje točke:

- raven stresa živali v procesu zakola mora ostati na minimumu
- delavci, ki so vpleteni v proces zakola, morajo biti ustrezno usposobljeni in morajo posedovati certifikat o ustreznem znanju
- vsaka klavnica mora zaposlovati posebnega delavca za nadzor nad celotnim procesom klanja, od izkrcajanja naprej
- naprave in metode za zakol morajo biti usklajene z evropskimi standardi

Več podrobnosti, tudi o živalih, namenjenih za pridobivanje krzna:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/slaughter/fve_new_reg_en.pdf

in

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/slaughter/slaughter_stakeholders_en.htm

Finančna sredstva za obnovo in preureditev vinogradov

Evropska komisija je sprejela odločbo o določitvi okvirne dodelitve finančnih sredstev državam članicam za obnovo in preureditev vinogradov. V tržnem letu 2007/2008 bo na voljo 510 milijonov EUR, od tega za Slovenijo slabe 3 milijone evrov (2 699 939 oz. 139 hektarov).

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1654&format=HTML&aged=0&language=SL&guiLanguage=en>

12. JUGOVZHODNA EVROPA

Hrvaška in Makedonija pridruženi v CIP

Hrvaška in Makedonija sta prvi državi izven EU in EEA regije, ki sta se pridružile Programu za konkurenčnosti in inovativnost (Competitiveness and Innovation Programme).

18. oktobra je Makedonija z EU podpisala memorandum o soglasju, s katerim je formalno pristopila k omenjenemu programu.

Hrvaška ga je podpisala 1. oktobra 2007.

Odprta so še pogajanja o pridružitvi Turčije ter drugih držav Zahodnega Balkana.

Sporočilo komisije:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1542&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Makedonija podpisala sporazume o IPA

Makedonija je prva država v regiji, ki je konec oktobra z EU podpisala sporazum o predpristopni pomoči (IPA). Gre za finančno pomoč, namenjeno za policijsko reformo in tudi drugo razvojno pomoč; v višini 12 milijonov evrov. Usmerjena pa je v pospeševanje reform za hitrejši doseg kriterijev za vstop v EU.

Več o tem:

<http://www.delmkd.ec.europa.eu/en/whatsnew/2007/19%20IPA%20signing.htm>

● **Hrvaška; prehajanje schengenske meje**

Hrvaški državljani bodo lahko tudi po širitvi schengenskega prostora državne meje s Slovenijo, Italijo in Madžarsko prečkali z osebnimi izkaznicami. Ob tem bodo morali posedovati tudi posebne kartone z osebnimi podatki, s katerimi bodo dokazovali vstop in bivanje v obmejnih državah.

Kartone bodo prejeli brezplačno ob vstopu v območje Schengena.

● **Kosovo: Novo srečanje trojke**

V začetku novembra se je na Dunaju trojka EU-Rusija-ZDA ponovno srečala s predstavniki srbske vlade. Tema pogovorov je bila status Kosova.

Sestanek zaradi velike občutljivosti teme ni prinesel ničesar novega, le odločitev, da se trojka ponovno sestane v Bruslju, 20. novembra 2007.

Več o tem:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/declarations/96946.pdf

13. NAJAVE DOGODKOV

 Open Forum on the Future of Networks of Excellence

Bruselj, 20. november 2007
<http://www.supportresearchnoes.eu/cc/openforum.xhtml>

 Sustainable Forest Management and Wood Energy: Developing Local Cooperation between Private and Municipal Forest Owners in Europe

Bruselj, 20. november 2007
<http://www.euroforenet.eu/euroforenet-2/topicality-of-the-project/en/>

 Fostering Innovation – RTD in Eastern Europe

Sofia, 20. – 21. november 2007
http://www.central2013.eu/nc/event-calendar.html?tx_events_pi1%5Bpointer%5D=0&tx_events_pi1%5BshowUid%5D=26

 funding, Equity and Efficiency of Higher Education

Portorož, 21. – 24. november 2007
<http://www.fhe.fm-kp.si/>

 International Conference on Managing, Financing and Protecting Innovation

Benetke, 21. – 22. november 2007
http://application.epo.org/ipcal/i_event.php?id=1138

 3rd Annual European Energy Policy Conference 2007

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

 Sustainable Agriculture

Bruselj, 22. – 23. november 2007
<http://www.sustainableagriculture2007.eu/>

 Innova Energy

Bruselj, 22. – 23. november 2007
<http://www.innova-energy.com/Common/Concept.aspx>

 Telling the Story: Communicating Cohesion Policy Together

Bruselj, 26. – 27. november 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/country/commu/conferences/november07/index_en.cfm

 EMU at 10: Achievements and Challenges

Bruselj, 26. – 27. november 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/events/2007/events_emu_at_10_en.htm



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/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=449



First Global Biogas Congress

Bruselj, 27. - 28. november 2007
<http://www.agranet.com/portal/marlin/system/render.jsp?siteid=20000000062&MarlinViewType=MARKTEFFORT&marketingid=20001578000>



Creative Industries and Culture – towards a Creative Economy

Bruselj, 28. november 2007
European.office@turku.fi



Environmental Technologies and Eco-Innovation for Implementation of Environmental Strategies in Regions

Bruselj, 29. november 2007
Krista.Huhtala-Jenks@westfinland.be



Transnational Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Bio-Technology

Bruselj, 29. – 30. november 2007
<http://kbbep.tetalap.hu/>



2nd Turku Development Forum 2007

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



EUROFI 2007 – Achieving the Integration of the European Financial Markets in a Global Context

Bruselj, 3. – 4. december 2007
<http://www.forum-europe.com/>



Effective Collaborative R&D and Technology Transfer

Bruselj, 3. – 4. december 2007
<http://www.eirma.org/f3/calendar.php?do=getinfo&e=192&c=1>



Competition, Integration, Growth: Challenges for Austria and its Neighbours

Dunaj, 3. – 4. december 2007
http://www.economistconferences.com/Rountable/Public/con_common.asp?rtid=1165&rtRegion=4&area=1



Effective and Collaborative R&D and Technology Transfer

Lisbon, 3. – 4. december 2007
<http://www.eirma.org/f3/calendar.php?s=3ccfec748f4addb43f70f55100dc78d3&do=getinfo&e=192&c=1>



UN Annual Conference on Climate Change

Bali, 3. – 4. december 2007
http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_13/items/4094.php



Microsoft's Innovation Day: Living and Building Europe's Digital Future

Bruselj, 4. december 2007
<http://www.euinnovationday.com/>



EuroBioForum

Lisbon, 5. – 7. december 2007
<http://www.esf.org/activities/eurobiofund/eurobioforum-lisbon-2007.html>



Digital Libraries and Technology-enhanced Learning

Luksemburg, 17. – 18. december 2007
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/telearn-digicult/call3-infoday en.html>



Managemergy Annual Conference 2008

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



4th Annual European Climate Change Conference 2008

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



International Conference on Waste Management and Climate Change

London, 31. januar- 1. februar 2008
http://www.euractiv.com/25/images/LondonCall%20for%20papers_tcm25-166167.pdf



INTED 2008 (International Technology, Education and Development Conference)

Valencia, 3. – 5. marec 2008
www.iated.org/inted2008



The European Energy Policy: Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency – How to reach the Targets

Maastricht, 17. – 18. marec 2008
<http://www.eipa.nl/en/activities/calendar/&tid=4>



Higher Education and Research: Addressing Local and Global Needs

Utrecht, 15.- 18. juli 2008
<http://www.unesco.org/iau/conferences/Utrecht/index.html>

14. ZANIMIVE PUBLIKACIJE

- ❖ European Competitiveness Report 2007 – Raising Productivity Growth, Commission Staff Working Document Sec(2007)1444, October 2007
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/competitiveness/doc/compet_report_2007/compreg_2007_sec_1444.doc
- ❖ The CER Guide to the Reform Treaty, Hugo Brady & Katynka Barysch, CER, October 2007
http://www.cer.org.uk/pdf/briefing_reform_treaty_17oct07.pdf
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15. PRILOGA 1.

A new deal with Russia?

It's in the interests of both the west and Russia to seek a grand bargain on the issues that divide them

by Charles Grant

Published in Prospect Magazine, November 2007

"The Soviet Union was easier to deal with than Russia is today," says a senior French diplomat. "Sometimes the Soviets were difficult, but you knew they were being obstructive in order to achieve an objective. Now Russia seeks to block the west systematically on every subject, apparently without a purpose."

Relations between Russia and the west are at their prickliest since the break-up of the Soviet Union. Russia is blocking a UN security council resolution that would authorise independence for Kosovo under EU tutelage. It is thwarting US and EU efforts to impose more UN sanctions on Iran. It says that if the US proceeds with plans to install missile defence systems in Poland and the Czech Republic, it will target missiles on European cities. It has blockaded Georgia. Its ban on imports of Polish meat has led the EU to walk away from talks on a "partnership and co-operation agreement." And so on.

Yet there may be method behind Russia's obduracy. Some influential figures in Washington, including Henry Kissinger, think Russia may be seeking a "grand bargain." President Putin dropped hints that he might be open to such a bargain when he met think tankers (myself included) in Sochi in September. "If our partners want us to do something, they must be specific," he said. "If they want us to resolve Kosovo, let's talk Kosovo. If they are worried about nuclear programmes in Iran, let's talk about Iran, rather than talking about democracy in Russia." He has a point: the US has tended to make wide-ranging demands of Russia without prioritising them.

The EU has a central role to play in any set of bargains between the west and Russia. Its trade and investment links are much more extensive than those of the US. Moscow's antagonistic behaviour has gone some way to help forge a common EU approach on Russia (though not yet on energy). Nicholas Sarkozy and Angela Merkel have been more critical of Putin than their predecessors, while all EU governments issued statements of solidarity with Britain over the Litvinenko affair.

What should the EU's common approach amount to? Bernard Kouchner, France's foreign minister, summed up the mood at a recent gathering of EU ministers: "Faced with the reality [of the new Russia], we must be realist." This realism should focus on interests rather than values, since Russia's rulers do not appear to subscribe to liberal political values. So although the EU should speak up for human rights, it should not pick fights over Russia's internal politics: it lacks the ability to shape them and the attempt could be counterproductive. It should instead seek to work with Russia on three areas of mutual interest.

One is energy, where Russia and the EU share long-term interests: Russia supplies almost half the EU's gas imports. But the dependency is two-way, since Russia's gas pipelines run westwards.

Europeans want assurances that Russia will develop new gas fields, since a gap between demand and Russian supply is likely to emerge in a few years. Russia will need western technology and expertise to develop reserves in its far north and east. Europeans also want the right to invest in Russia's oil and gas industries.

The Russians worry about moves to liberalise the European energy market. They like dealing with the quasi-monopolies that combine supply and distribution, such as Gaz de France and Eon Ruhrgas. But the EU is slowly moving towards the "unbundling" of supply and distribution, which may prevent Gazprom from buying distribution networks. The EU also plans to ban non-EU firms from buying retail networks, unless their home country grants reciprocal access—which Russia does not.

Russia will have to abide by the EU's rules on energy markets, just as the EU will have to accept that Russia will limit the right of foreign companies to own its leading energy assets. The EU should assure Russia that liberalisation will not, as it fears, prevent Gazprom from making long-term supply contracts with EU firms. Mutual dependency should encourage both sides to compromise.

The integration of Russia into the global financial system is a second area where Europeans and Russians can work together. Thanks to the high oil price, Russia's government and leading companies are sitting on funds worth several hundred billion dollars. They want to put some of this cash into foreign companies. Earlier this year, the FT estimated foreign direct investment by Russians at \$140bn. Russian companies also want to raise money abroad, as many of them are doing on the London stock exchange.

But the EU is becoming concerned about "sovereign wealth funds"—investment funds that are run by governments and may have opaque objectives—from Russia, China and elsewhere, and may try to regulate them. It should allow these funds to invest in European firms, so long as they are transparent and operate independently of politicians. And the EU should welcome Russian acquisitions of its companies, so long as its rules are respected and European companies gain reciprocal rights.

The third area where the EU and Russia should work together is their "common neighbourhood." This may be difficult: some Russians do not accept that the EU has legitimate interests in the former Soviet republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Yet both the EU and Russia would benefit if these countries became stable, prosperous and well governed. Fearing more "colour revolutions," similar to those in Georgia and Ukraine, the Kremlin opposes democratic forces in all these countries, on the grounds that they will promote western interests against Russia—a policy that risks becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy. Russia also fears encirclement by an expanding Nato.

The EU should offer to work with Russia to promote peaceful change in Belarus, stability and unity in Ukraine, and a resolution of the "frozen conflicts" in Transnistria, South Ossetia, Abkhazia and Nagorno-Karabakh. EU governments should allay Russian concerns by saying they will not support Nato membership for Ukraine or Georgia in the medium term. But the EU should also offer such countries closer ties—and make clear to Moscow that they must be free to determine their own destiny.

The EU has a huge stake in the future of Kosovo; it cannot integrate the western Balkans until the status of that territory is resolved. It will be responsible for most of the money, soldiers, policemen and administrators that will be needed for any peace plan to work. Russia has almost no interest in Kosovo, other than as a card to play against the west. The EU and the US believe that the least bad option for Kosovo is supervised independence, which Russia rejects.

But what if Russia were offered something in return? The US decision to deploy missile defence systems in Europe—against an Iranian threat that does not yet exist—was unwise. Russia's anger over the deployment is genuine. Some former US officials claim that the deployment would break the spirit of promises made to Russia in the 1990s: the US said it would have no significant military presence in the central European countries that were joining Nato.

The Europeans should urge Washington to postpone the deployment indefinitely—so long as Russia accepts independence for Kosovo in return. In any case, there are senior Russians and Americans who want to discuss how their missile defence systems could mesh together, and such talks will need time.

Russia may prove unwilling to bargain with either the US or the EU. But if its foreign policy continues on its current trajectory, it will lose friends around the world. It will also harm its energy sector and the prospect of its top companies becoming real multinationals. If Putin really cares about maximising Russian power, he should seek a grand bargain.

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PRILOGA 2.

The EU and Russia beyond 2008

Russia Profile and the Centre for European Reform host an event in Brussels

Published in Russia Profile, 1 November 2007

There were no empty seats at Tuesday's roundtable in Brussels on Russia-EU relations, sponsored jointly by Russia Profile and the London-based Centre for European Reform (CER).

Speakers from both sides agreed that last year was a difficult one for Russia's relationship with the EU and that the signing of a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) was not even on the horizon. Since experts predict that it may take five or more years for a new PCA to be ratified by the parliaments of the 27 members of the EU once it is formulated and signed, it is clear that Russia-EU relations are in desperate need of a rethink, especially in the energy sphere. The purpose of the roundtable was for the participants from both sides to look for a way forward, both in the energy dialogue and the general framework of relations, rather than simply to make accusations. More or less, the participants lived up to these intentions, concentrating first on a possible energy partnership and, later, shifting their attention to the general political context of relations.

Charles Grant, the director of the Centre for European Reform, opened the discussion by arguing for "new realism" in relations with Russia. Unlike the "realism" advocated by many Russia-watchers from former Soviet bloc countries, this approach does not envisage solely focusing on taking a tough stand on every issue of interest between Russia and the EU, while effectively characterizing Russia as just one more dangerous authoritarian state. Grant's "new realism" suggests focusing on interests rather than values and is based on three spheres of possible cooperation.

The first and, potentially, the most important sphere of possible cooperation is energy, an area in which Russia and the EU are mutually dependent. The EU receives almost half of its gas imports from Russia and Russia's gas pipelines run mostly westward. "Europeans want assurances that Russia will develop new gas fields, since a gap between demand and the current levels of Russian supplies is likely to emerge in a few years. Russia, for its part, will need Western technology and expertise to develop reserves in its far north and east," Grant said.

The second area of cooperation is the integration of Russia into the global financial system, which would pave the way, in Grant's words, for "making Russian companies truly multinational." However, if Russian companies and investment funds are allowed to acquire companies inside the EU, Brussels should insist on reciprocal openness from the Russian side.

And, finally, shared interests in Russia and the EU's "common neighborhood" should be addressed jointly. Both Russia and the EU are interested in the former Soviet republics and countries that were once within the Soviet sphere of influence becoming "stable, prosperous and well-governed." The same applies to Kosovo, even though Russia and the EU have differing visions of the ways towards achieving that goal. However, in Grant's opinion, Russia might agree to a "supervised independence" for Kosovo if the United States, at the urging of European governments, postpones its plan to deploy anti-ballistic missiles in Central Europe.

This set of proposals received a detailed and interested response from the Russian side during the roundtable discussion, even though some of the Russian participants questioned the feasibility of this “new realism.”

In his speech, Russian ambassador to the EU Vladimir Chizhov argued for clarity in terms, insisting that juxtaposing “Russia” and “Europe” was wrong since Russia is the largest country in Europe, and the “old continent” should be grateful to many generations of Russians for bringing European civilization to the borders of China and Japan.

Other participants concentrated on every one of the three spheres of possible cooperation, pointing to possible pitfalls in all three of the proposed areas of cooperation.

All participants agreed that the energy dialogue is hampered by the lack of mutual trust. The EU suspects Russia and its companies of trying to monopolize the EU energy market. In return, the Russian side suspects that the recent EU “energy initiative,” whose contents were released on Sept. 19, 2007 by the European Commission, is actually targeted against the Russian companies that are hoping to operate in the EU. The initiative requires a strict separation of the producing and distributing companies in the EU’s energy sector (the so-called “unbundling procedure”) and introduces several measures designed to protect the EU energy supply networks from being bought by foreign companies. This new policy could create problems for Gazprom, which is involved in both supplying natural gas to Europe and delivering this gas to individual consumers.

Christian Cleutinx, director general of the European Commission’s department on energy and transport, tried to allay the Russian participants’ fears by saying that the “the emergence of a single energy market of 27 countries is good news for Russia, too” and that “unbundling vertically integrated producing and distributing companies in Europe creates new opportunities for third-party access.” Cleutinx also stressed that the purpose of the unbundling is to create “a level playing field for everyone,” including Western European energy giants E.On and Gaz de France.

“The problem is, however, that E.On and Gaz de France are never cited as a ‘threat to Europe’ in the Western European press, while Gazprom is often cited as such,” commented Alexander Rahr, program director for Russian and CIS Affairs at the German Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin. “So when the European Commission says that it wants to ‘unbundle’ both the EU companies and the foreign ones, only the second part of that formula may stay in the long run. Unbundling inside the EU may fail, but ‘unbundling’ of Gazprom, cutting it from the EU market, may work.”

The presentations of other participants pointed to another fact that is often overlooked in the media: the energy industries in both Russia and the EU are dependent on one another. For example, Russia supplies 35 percent of the uranium for the EU’s nuclear power stations. Additionally, the Nordstream pipeline, which is currently being constructed under the Baltic Sea, will not only bring the much needed 55 billion cubic meters of natural gas annually to the EU by 2015, but will also require \$20-30 billion in investments, which cannot come from Russia alone. According to the estimates of Joan MacNaughton, senior vice president for environmental policies at Alstom (a company that provides support for power generation), the Russian energy sector will need \$1 trillion of investment by the year 2030. This problem can be resolved only if the second sphere of common interests – financial interpenetration – starts working.

Is it possible to overcome the high levels of distrust and combine Russia’s resources with the EU’s investment potential? One of the ways to resolve the issue is to have Russia sign the Energy Charter,

a document signed by 52 countries that, among other things, liberalizes access to pipelines in transit countries and removes energy price disparities. Russia continues to refuse to sign the Energy Charter, however, claiming that its internally low energy prices are determined by the country's huge energy resources and their relative proximity to Russia's cities, which is a "natural advantage." This position is unlikely to change any time soon.

"Our main priority is the domestic consumer," explained Stanislav Naumov, director of the analysis and planning department at the Ministry of Industry and Energy in Moscow. "If energy is a political weapon, so be it. We use this political weapon in order to supply our economy with energy and our households with warmth and light in a pretty cold country. As for the rest of our energy, we are ready to offer it to the market, which will continue to be primarily the European market for many more years."

Alstom's MacNaughton suggested that the EU should avoid pressuring Russia to ratify the Energy Charter and wait for the moment when Russia realizes that agreeing to the charter is in its interests.

Such a conciliatory approach was a welcome respite for the Russian side and set the tone for the second part of the discussion, which focused on non-energy related political issues.

Konstantin Kosachev, the chairman of the committee on international affairs of the State Duma, suggested "unbundling" human rights and political freedoms from the other issues on the political agenda – a move that could pave the way for cooperation on Kosovo and missile defenses in Europe better than any exchange of geopolitical influence.

"The best way for the EU to promote democracy in Russia is to contribute to the creation of a strong middle class in Russia, which will be able to resolve the problem of democracy by itself," said Kosachev. This idea, obviously unpalatable to some of Russia's critics inside the EU, generally fits the "new realism" framework as viewed by Grant. Interestingly, some of the roundtable participants' remarks on economic matters revealed a solid economic base for such an approach inside Russia itself. For example, Naumov made known that all energy production in Russia, with the exception of hydroelectric stations and nuclear power facilities, is now privately owned. This situation obviously leaves little room for speculation about a "return of totalitarianism" in Russia.

Richard Spies, the president of BP Russia, suggested an interesting way of "depoliticizing" Russia-EU economic relations: "Every case of one company inside Russia or the EU buying into its partner beyond the Russia-EU border should be viewed as an opportunity and not as a subject for governmental concern and regulation. Every such move creates jobs and increases the well-being of people. In this way, it also promotes democracy."

PRILOGA 3.

More than just a debate about the headscarf

Article by Katinka Barysch, published in the Financial Times, 7 November 2007

Turkey is about to give itself a new constitution. That is good because the current one was written by the army in 1982, after the last military coup. But the constitutional debate so far has been divisive. Attention has focused on the government's suggestion to scrap the ban on girls wearing headscarves in universities. Depending on where you stand, this represents a move either towards greater religious freedom and equal opportunities, or towards the Islamisation of the Turkish state - and away from the secular order that Mustafa Kemal Atatürk established in 1923.

The narrow focus on the headscarf is unfortunate. The new constitution involves a much broader range of issues, including the role of women in politics and society, minority rights and the unity of the state, and the intricate system of checks and balances that makes Turkey's traditionally fragile democracy work. This is about who runs modern Turkey and how.

The new constitution is one step in this shift of power that is seeing the secular establishment yield ground to a new, more religious middle class. Others have included: the election victory of Recep Tayyip Erdogan's moderately Islamist AK party in 2002; the constitutional amendments needed for starting European Union accession talks in 2005, which removed the army from the heart of politics; the generals' threat of intervention in April 2007 over the presidential bid of the AKP's Abdullah Gul; and this summer's parliamentary election, which returned Mr Erdogan to power with an even stronger mandate.

Few people doubt that Turkey needs a new constitution that protects the individual against the state, rather than the other way round. Mr Erdogan's government has vowed not to touch well-established principles such as the separation of state and religion. But opponents accuse it of staging a creeping Islamist coup and encouraging Kurdish separatism. They are on stronger ground when they say they suspect that the new constitution would leave the AKP overly -powerful.

Under the old order, the army and the president were the main checks against any government undermining Atatürk's rules. The fact that past governments were usually squabbling coalitions added another layer of checks and balances. Now the army has been confined to barracks, the AKP controls the parliament and the president is a close ally of Mr Erdogan, the prime minister. The new constitution would firmly enshrine the politicians' control over the military and turn the presidency into a more ceremonial role. Combine that with AKP proposals to let girls study in headscarves and allow teaching in languages other than Turkish, and it becomes clear why some think Atatürk's order is under threat.

Nevertheless, the deep-seated suspicion with which many in the established, secular elite follow the AKP's every move is baffling to outside observers. After all, this administration has done more to modernise democracy, improve women's rights, open up the economy and move towards Europe than most previous governments.

Unfortunately, the way the AKP has set about writing the new constitution has reinforced rather than dispelled its opponents' suspicions. Rather than launching a country-wide grassroots debate or setting

up an inclusive constitutional council, it has asked a hand-picked group of professors to write a first draft behind closed doors. The leaking of this draft in September caused uproar, not so much because of its content but because of the risk the "army's constitution" of 1982 could now be replaced with the "AKP's constitution" of 2008. The next non-AKP government would be sorely tempted to go for yet another constitution. Protracted constitutional debates would soak up energy desperately needed for pressing tasks such as improving the education system, modernising the judiciary, pushing the European Union talks forward or helping stabilise Turkey's volatile neighbourhood.

It is not too late for the government to rectify this mistake. It needs to follow up on its belated promises to involve civil society and opposition parties in the constitutional debate. It needs to show that it is serious about individual rights by abolishing article 301 of the penal code, under which scores of writers and journalists have been charged for insulting "Turkishness". Acknowledging legitimate concerns about Turkey's checks and balances, it needs carefully to broaden the debate from the divisive issue of headscarves to how power should be exercised in a modern, secular and predominantly Muslim country.

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