



IN THIS ISSUE



→ **Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy, Mr Štefan Füle in EU Info Centre**

»»» DID YOU KNOW?

- That prior to the financial crisis of 2008, Latvia was one of the fastest growing economies in Europe.
- Up until the present day, total aid by the EU to Haiti has amounted to 609 million euros of which 309 million euros constitutes humanitarian aid (120 million euros from the Commission and 189 million euros from Member States). The remaining 300 million euros is planned for urgent renewal and construction.
- That Sweden is the most generous nation in the world in terms of aid to less wealthy countries. Since 2006, Sweden's donations have exceeded 1% of its GDP.

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CROATIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION



Croatia opens two negotiation chapters

The 9th meeting of the Accession Conference at the deputy level was held with Croatia on 19 February in Brussels. Following Slovenia's decision to remove the blockade to another two chapters, Chapter 13 – **Fisheries** and Chapter 27 – **The Environment** were opened. Both chapters are very demanding and require much preparation in the accession process. The Netherlands has removed the blockade to Chapter 23 which relates to the Judiciary and Fundamental Rights. Therefore, the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the European Union has unblocked Chapter 23, and invited Croatia to submit its negotiation position for the respective chapter. However, opening of this chapter still depends on Croatia's full cooperation with the ICTY. Since the start of negotiations on 3 October 2005, 30 chapters have been opened of which 17 have been temporarily closed.



More information on the [Delegation's website](#).



EU Commissioner Štefan Füle's visit to Croatia

During his first visit to Croatia, on account of the inauguration of the President of Croatia, the Commissioner of the European Commission for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Mr Štefan Füle, met with the new president, Mr **Ivo Josipović**. Commissioner Füle met also with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, Mrs **Jadranka Kosor**. Following the meeting, Mr Füle extended congratulations on Croatia's progress in approaching the European Union and emphasised that the conclusion of accession negotiations this year was a reachable goal. He also held a meeting with the accredited ambassadors from the EU Member States in Zagreb. The Commissioner exchanged views with the ambassadors on Croatia's progress on its path to the EU. Commissioner Füle also addressed the Croatian public in his letter which amongst other things stated: "Together we can build a larger and stronger European Union. In the role of Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, it pleases me to be able to greet Croatia upon its entry to the European Union during my five-year mandate, and eventually finalise negotiations even during the current year, should all outstanding issues be resolved".



For more information, including Commissioner Füle's letter in addressing the Croatian public, visit the [Delegation's website](#).

→ Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, **Jadranka Kosor** and Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, **Štefan Füle**



→ Ambassador Paul Vandoren

Meetings between Ambassador Paul Vandoren and Croatian officials

The Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Croatia, Ambassador Paul Vandoren, met with high-ranked Croatian officials on the 15 and 16 February. At the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Mr **Gordan Jandroković**, he spoke of the need to strengthen the campaign to raise awareness in preparing Croatian citizens for the referendum on Croatia's accession to the European Union, on further improvements in capacity building directed towards the EU accession and also training of Croatian officials. Ambassador Vandoren also spoke with the State Attorney General, Mr **Mladen Bajić**, on the developing situation concerning the efficient implementation of the National Strategy in the Fight Against Corruption and the role of USKOK in the process. At the meeting with the Minister of Administration, Mr **Davor Mlakar**, he exchanged thoughts on a series of key issues relating to capacity building through public administration reforms and, in such terms, the implementation of appropriate laws and other Croatian strategic plans.

The main topic of discussion with the Minister of Justice, Mr **Ivan Šimonović**, concerned reforms to the judiciary system, the fight against corruption and an efficient judiciary system. This especially relates to the ministry's organised capacity to cope with challenges relating to the requirements of accession to the EU at the point of opening Chapter 23 of the negotiations. Throughout his encounters, Ambassador Vandoren underlined the European Commission's commitment to ensure that, on its side, every element is in place to facilitate Croatia's accession, once negotiations are completed.

CROATIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION



→ Director of the European Personnel Selection Office David Bearfield

Employment in EU institutions

The Director of the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO), Mr David Bearfield, organised an informal meeting with the media at the EU Info Centre. He pointed out that the implementation of the **EPSO development programme** is under way. It represents the greatest reform in relation to the candidate selection system in EU institutions with the purpose of attracting a large st possible number of talented and qualified individuals in transparent manner. In the future, assessments are to be conducted once a year for specific job groups. The new assessment system will reduce the whole process from the current fifteen months to between five and nine months. The assessment itself will no longer be exclusively based on knowing EU facts, but rather desired competencies and skills by candidates for particular working positions. Daily cooperation amongst people from different nations, mobility within EU institutions, Member States and Representations from throughout the world, as well as financial viability, are just some of the benefits of working in EU institutions.



More information can be found on the [Delegation's](#) and [EPSO's](#) websites.



Croats have not given up on the EU, but pessimism prevails – Eurobarometer

Less than a quarter of Croatian respondents considered membership to the EU to be a good thing, while those viewing membership of their country as something positive was considered so, on the average, by more than half (53%) of citizens in the EU Member States. Support to EU enlargement had fallen by four points in Croatia when compared to previous surveys, but **more than half of the respondents in Croatia (56%) continue to support it**. The trend shows that after the popularity of the EU amongst citizens in the previous survey had somewhat increased, it had now once again fallen, and therefore only a quarter of respondents saw it as something positive. However, a stable relative majority of Croatian citizens viewed the EU neutrally. This survey showed that citizens have tired of accession negotiations and were dissatisfied on account of the Slovenian blockage. Strong support of the enlargement suggests that citizens possess a greater trust in European rather than Croatian institutions, but existing pessimism is a signal of the need for additional information to the public.



More information on the [Delegation's](#) and [Eurobarometer](#) websites.



First joint info day for Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus and Tempus programmes

An info day on the Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus and Tempus Programmes was held on 3 February and organised by the Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes and the Agency for Science and Higher Education. The first info day for this programme was held on occasion of the opening of the tender for participation in activities within the **Lifetime Learning Programme for 2010**, and the third invitation to tender in terms of the Tempus IV programme. Representatives from institutions of higher education participated in this event, with the main purpose to familiarise the potential candidates with the registration procedure and participation rules, as well as the latest news relating to tenders for 2010.



More on the website of the [Agency for Mobility and European Union Programmes](#).

Vote for your favourite photo in the competition "Southeast Europe"

The photograph competition organised by the DG Enlargement titled "**Southeast Europe: People and Culture**" was closed on 20 January. Around 3,200 photographs, were received from throughout Europe sent by amateur and professional photographers who wanted to share their views of the Western Balkans and Turkey. The biggest number of the works were received from Croatia, Turkey, Serbia and Romania, with photographs arriving from 33 various countries. The committee of professional photographers, has chosen 24 best photographs, among which four are from Croatia. **Currently, online voting is available to everyone**. The winner will be awarded with photograph equipment valued up to 1,000 euro, and will be invited to the opening of the photograph exhibition in Madrid and Brussels in May 2010.



Public voting ends on **26 March**. You can vote for the best photograph [here](#).



→ Photo contest finalists

NEWS FROM THE EU



The new European Commission approved in the European Parliament

European Parliament representatives on 9 February gave their approval to 26 candidates for the European Commission. In the vote, **488 representatives voted for**, 137 against (72 were withheld). The voting represented a culmination of processes that began in September, when the President received parliamentary support for his second mandate. The new team comprises of 27 members, one from each EU country. Fourteen of them, including the President, served in the previous Commission. Their new mandate will cover a period of five years. The new Commission is the first such commission to operate **in accordance with the Treaty of Lisbon**, whose goal is to improve the decision-making process in the EU and strengthen the blocks' position in international issues. As a custodian of EU agreements, the new Commission will ensure implementation of the Charter of Reforms.



More on the website of the [Delegation](#), the [Commission](#) and the [European Parliament](#).



Commission establishes two new DG's for energy and climate action

On 17 February, the European Commission brought about a number of decisions relating to the implementation of organisational consequences and the allocation of portfolios to commissioners. Two new directorate-generals were established, one for **energy (ENER)** and the other for **climate action (CLIM)**. The Directorate-General for Energy consists of departments belonging to the previous Directorate-General for Transport and Energy which had addressed energy issues, and the energy task force which is to be transferred from the Directorate-General for Foreign Affairs. For the purpose of improving the Commission's strategic approach to research, a task force was established which is to be presided by a general secretary. This will initiate, at the Commission level, strategic considerations regarding the research budget itself, the level of external control of research programmes and the relationship between research and other European Union policies.



More on the [European Commission's website](#).



President Barroso's letter on climate changes

President Barroso sent a letter on 18 February to the Heads of Member States and Governments of the EU whom he informed of the subsequent steps the Commission should undertake in its actions relating to climate changes. He stressed that the international process must continue in building upon what was **agreed in Copenhagen** and finding new means of once again establishing confidence in the process. He noted that an important element in the strategy was the implementation of accelerated mechanisms in financing developing countries as agreed in December. The main goal must be drawing together all partners through the ambition of the EU as well as engagement in the direction of multilateral agreements. Therefore, he asked Commissioner for Climate Action Hedegaard to carry a consultation of key international partners to find new ways to reinvigorate the international process so that this first evaluation might be included in the work of the Council in the springtime.



More information on the [Delegation's](#) and the [European Commission's](#) web sites.



European Council Meeting: EU needs a strategy for greater economic growth

At the meeting of the Heads of States or Governments in Bruxelles on 11 February, discussions were held on the new EU strategy for increasing work places and economic growth. "The European Union wants to assume the main role in business strategy", stated Council President, **Herman Van Rompuy**. The strategy would have a limited number of common and quantified EU goals. In regards to the debt crisis, the Heads of EU States and Governments promised assistance to Greece, if necessary. The Greek Government adamantly plans to improve public finances in the country and reduce the budget deficit by 4% in 2010. At the meeting, President Barroso presented parameters for exiting the economic crisis by constructing a new economic model for Europe by 2020.



More information on the [European Council's web site](#).

NEWS FROM THE EU



Commission delivers opinion on Iceland's accession bid

On 24 February the European Commission issued its opinion recommending **the opening of accession negotiations with Iceland**, following the country's application for membership of the European Union. Following that recommendation by the Commission, it is now for the Council of the European Union to decide on the opening of accession negotiations with Iceland.



More information on the [Delegation's](#) and the [DG Enlargement](#) websites.



February 9 – Safer Internet Day – Think B4U post!

Safer Internet Day, on 9 February 2010, was marked by the theme "Think B4U post!" e.g. once a picture is published on the Internet, it is difficult or almost impossible to retrieve it. The goal is not to prevent young people from using these sites, but **to make them aware of the risks of sharing personal information online** and to encourage them to control their online identity by thinking carefully about the consequences. Safer Internet Day 2010 will also mark the initiation of the Internet version of the exceptionally popular tool kit called eSafety (www.esafetykit.net), developed with the support of the EC, whose goal is to promote a safer and more responsible use of the Internet and other mobile devices for all, especially the young people.



More on the [Delegation's website](#) and www.saferinternet.org.



New logo chosen for all EU organic products

From 1 July 2010, the organic products logo will be **compulsory on all packaged organic products** produced in any EU Member State and those meeting the necessary standards. The winning logo is the result of the pan-European competition that was assessed by an internationally-recognised committee. During the last two months, more than 130,000 people voted on the Internet for one of the three finalists of the new organic product symbols. The winning design by Dušan Milenković, a student from Germany, gained 63% of the total number of votes for his logo "Eurolist".



More information on the [European Union's website](#).



Eurobarometer on the social climate in the European Union

Europeans are, on the average, generally satisfied with their personal situation, but are not satisfied with the economy, public services and the social policies of their countries, cites the recently published survey. The Eurobarometer on the social climate in the EU also suggested large differences between countries, with people in Nordic countries and the Netherlands generally more satisfied with their personal situation. According to the survey, the **majority of Europeans are in fact satisfied with life**, an average result of +3.2 points (on a scale of -10 to +10).



More information on the [European Union's](#) and [Eurobarometer](#) websites.

EU DICTIONARY

HARD CORE -The term hard core relates to a limited group of countries that are able and willing to develop "closer cooperation". This concept has found its practical use in the Schengen area of politics and has permitted a group of Member States to gradually reduce their border controls and establish free movement of persons. This hard core group was at first established outside of the EU's institutional framework, but this was eventually included in agreements through insertions into the Amsterdam Agreement. The Amsterdam Agreement officially adopted the use of hard core concepts by using the "closer cooperation" mechanism.

OPTING OUT - This represents an exception that is afforded to a country that does not want to join other Member States in particular areas of cooperation, a manner of avoiding a general state of delay. For instance, Great Britain did not want to participate in the third phase of economic and monetary union (EMU), with similar articles agreed to for Denmark in regards to the EMU issue, defence and European citizenship. In a similar manner, the Schengen acquis has only partially been accepted, since Ireland, Great Britain and Denmark can decide from case to case as to whether they want to or not, completely or partially, to cooperate in planned measures.

CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The European programme for a master's degree in the area of human rights and democratisation

The European programme for a master's degree in the area of human rights and democratisation, organised by the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC), is the EU's primary programme for educating experts in the area of human rights and democratisation. It entails an intensive one-year multi-disciplinary programme for a merged academic title that reflects the inseparable relationship between human rights, democracy, peace and development with an approach focused on practice. This programme offers an approach oriented towards activities and the policies of learning international laws, politics, philosophy, history and the anthropology of human rights. Students from the EU Member States and throughout the whole world have the opportunity to become familiar with and be taught by leading academics that represent 41 universities participating in the programme, as well as experts and representatives from international organisations and government organisations. Students have the opportunity to study in a multi-cultural environment.



The deadline for applications is **19 March 2010**, while details may be found [here](#).

Prevention and preparedness projects

The Directorate-General for Environment, Civil Protection Financial Instrument, has opened a tender for submitting project proposals regarding prevention and preparedness. The prevention projects include the contribution to the development of accident prevention policies, networking participants and policies through a cycle of accident management, and improving efficiency in existing policy instruments for accident prevention. The preparedness projects include improvement to the efficiency of urgent action by improving readiness and the awareness of civil defence forces, support and supplementary action in endeavours to protect citizens, the environment and property in the event of natural or man-made accidents, and allowing cooperation between countries ready for civil defence and pollution of the sea. Small and medium-sized enterprises, public authorities, universities and non-profit organisations may apply.



The deadline for applications is **31 March 2010**, while details may be found [here](#).

Transnational distribution of the European film

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) has drawn up an invitation for submitting proposals for the transnational distribution of European films (EACEA/19/09) in terms of the programme Media 2007. The invitation covers the area of cinema distribution, non-national feature films. Small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as specialised agencies, may participate in the tender.



The deadline for applications is **1 April 2010**. Details may be found [here](#).

Development of production projects – animation, creative documentary films and dramas

In terms of the Media 2007 programme, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) has drawn up an invitation for submitting proposals of support in developing production projects. Considered will be: drama projects intended for commercial use longer than 50 minutes, creative documentary films intended for commercial use longer than 25 minutes, and animation projects intended for commercial use longer than 24 minutes. Small and medium-sized enterprises may participate.



The deadline for applications is **12 May 2010**. Details may be found [here](#).

European Union Culture programme 2007-2013 – cooperation with Third countries

This sub-category competition provides support to culture-exchange projects between programme Member States and Third countries which have signed cooperation agreements with the EU containing articles in the area of culture. Each year, one or more countries are chosen to become a non-European partner. Regarding the respective country/countries, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) each year promptly informs users on its website, prior to the expiration of the deadline for submitting competition registrations. For 2010 and 2011, they were: Armenia, Belorussia, Georgia, Moldova, Egypt, Jordan, the Autonomous Palestinian Authorities (Western Coast and Gaza) and Tunis. The Cultural Cooperation Projects have to generate a real European added value as well as an international cooperation dimension, involve a minimum of three cultural operators from three different eligible Countries and involve cultural cooperation with at least one organisation from the selected Third Country. More on the Culture programme 2007-2013, including all competitions in terms of the programme, can be found at www.min-kulture.hr/ccp.



The deadline for registrations is **3 May 2010**. Details may be found [here](#).

EU PROJECTS IN CROATIA



Roundtable discussions on eleven projects financed by the EU

The EU Delegation held a round table discussion on 11 projects financed to the amount of almost one million euros. Assistance for these projects was received by **11 Croatian NGOs**, in accordance with the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR): the Civil Rights Project Sisak, Be Active – Be Emancipated (B.a.B.e.), the Nansen Dialogue Centre, the Association for Promoting of IT - culture and co-existence, Centre for Peace Studies in Zagreb, Centre for Peace - Non-violence and Human Rights in Osijek, the Croatian Association of Deaf and Blind Persons – DODIR, the Centre for Social Policies Initiatives, the Civil Initiatives Organisation (OGI), Women's Association – IZVOR, Open Media Group - O.M.G.. The Head of the Delegation, **Ambassador Paul Vandoren**, stressed the importance of the EIDHR programme for the development of democracy and human rights in Croatia and emphasised that reconciliation amongst communities living in areas of special state care are among the main priorities of the EU in regards to improvements in the field of human rights.



More information on the [Delegation's website](#).



IPA INFO 2008 - EU project informing a civil society on the EU

The EU Delegation held a roundtable discussion on the theme of the IPA INFO 2008 programme – EU project for informing a civil society on the EU, on the premises of the EU Info Centre. The event presented **six projects financed** to the amount of 210.000 euros by the European Union. The aim of the programme is to emphasise the benefit of the European Union for Croatia, and inform Croatian citizens of the benefits of the European integration process. The Delegation at this roundtable discussion also wanted to improve public debate on Croatia's membership of the European Union. "We wish to stimulate dialogue, especially in certain areas of the EU acquis, such as environmental issues, food safety, and consumer protection. The Croatian Government has a responsibility to reach the public in the pre-referendum period. However, their efforts will not succeed entirely without the active support of NGOs", said **Ambassador Paul Vandoren** at the opening of the event.



More on the [Delegation's website](#).



Project "CRO Compete – strengthening policies for market competition"

The project from the IPA 2007 programme valued at 840,000 euros, titled "CRO Compete – strengthening policies for market competition and state assistance", which is to be implemented by the Croatian Competition Agency, was presented at the EU Info Centre on 10 February. The aim of the project is **capacity building for the successful implementation of policies regarding market competition and state assistance**, as well as better distribution of information and a better understanding by the local authorities, business communities, students and the general public of the benefits that efficient market competition brings to consumers and tax-payers. This is, for the Competition Agency, the seventh project to be implemented with the assistance of EU funds.



More on the [Delegation's](#) and [Croatian Competition Agency](#) websites.



Strengthening the system of internal financial controls

The project, financed from the IPA 2007 programme, titled "Further Strengthening and Enhancement of Croatian Public Internal Financial Control", was presented on the premises of the Ministry of Finance on 9 February. The aim of the project, financed by a budget of 250,000 euros, is **improvement of the existing system of internal financial controls** in the public sector of the Republic of Croatia, which comprises of the financial management and controls, including internal audits. The expected project results are: updating the Manual for Financial Management and Controls with an emphasis on linking the internal financial controls system and the budget system, developing the programme for assessment of work quality of internal auditors and improving the yearly reporting model on the internal financial controls system.



More on the [Delegation's](#) and [Ministry of Finance](#) websites.

EU PROJECTS IN CROATIA



Assistance in the fight against drug trafficking and abuse

The official start of the IPA 2007 twinning project “Capacity building in the Ministry of Ministry of the Interior in the Fight Against Drug Trafficking and Abuse” was marked on 5 February in the Ministry of the Interior. Representatives of the twinning partners, from the Austrian Federal Investigation Bureau and from the Croatian Ministry of the Interior, presented the project and the set goals, with the **main goal** of this project being **capacity building in the Ministry of Interior in fight against organised crime**, especially suppression of trafficking, organized production and sale of narcotic drugs.



More on the [Delegation's](#) and the [Ministry of the Interior](#) websites.



Schengen IT system in Croatia

The conclusion of the project titled “Developing the readiness to implement SIS II” in terms of the Phare 2006 programme, was marked by the official ceremony in the Ministry of Internal Affairs on 4 February. In order to develop the technical requirements necessary in establishing an information system which is already functioning within the Schengen region, the EU has provided assistance to Croatia. This project has opened **a significant phase in Croatia's joining the Schengen area**, since implementation of SIS II is an absolute precondition for this action.



More in formation on the [Delegation's](#) and the [Ministry of the Interior](#) websites.



European Union Culture programme 2007-2013 – seminar

The Cultural Contract Point department of the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Croatian Movement and Dance Institute has organised a seminar on the topic of “European Union Culture programme 2007-2013 – **opportunities for projects in the area of applied arts**”. The seminar was held on February 19, at the Zagreb Dance Centre. Successful projects were presented in the field of applied arts as sub-financed from the 2007-2013 Culture Programme, along with a discussion on the experience of project partners. The Culture Contract Point department is a national coordinator for the Culture programme 2007-2013 in Croatia.



All on the Culture programme 2007-2013 is available on the [Department for Cultural Contact Point](#) website.

PHOTO NEWS



→ Commissioners awaiting the vote on the new Commission in the European Parliament

VISIT THE EU: LATVIA

Latvia has population of 2,259,000 inhabitants. The most numerous are the Latvians (59%), followed by the Russians (29%), Belorussians (3.8%) and so on. The largest and most important city in Latvia is Riga, where a third of Latvia's population 730,000 people reside.



Together with nine other countries, Latvia **became a member of the EU in 2004**, during the greatest enlargement of the Union to date in terms of scope and diversity.

Between the two World Wars, Latvia was an independent state. However, at the start of the Second World War, it was taken over by the Soviet Union, whose disintegration on 21 August 1991 allowed Latvia once again to become an independent state.

During the time of the USSR, of all the Baltic countries, Latvia was most oriented towards industry, especially the electrical and mechanical industries. The country carried out production for the needs of the Soviet army. With the fall of the USSR, Latvia's standard had fallen, as had occurred with the other ex-Soviet member states. However, in 1994, thanks to serious reforms, the situation in Latvia had significantly improved and today the country's gross domestic product has a yearly growth of 7.4%. Unemployment rates are relatively low at 8.6%.

Riga has the role of being the largest administrative centre, the main port, a traffic hub in general and the national metropolis. In terms of tourism, Riga is a unique city with an architecture that at first glance inspires. This city has for a long time

been a large sea port terminating a large internal maritime route. Land transport routes Via Baltica and Via Hansa – the largest Latvian transport route - run through Riga. Along with its great route significance, Riga has for centuries been the largest administrative centre for Latvia's current region. In the old sections of the town, Lutheran churches prevail. The cathedral in Riga has one of the largest church pipes in Europe. In the 16th century, when the Church of St. Peter was built, its tower was the largest wooden structure in Europe.

Along with joining the European Union in 2004, European Union funds have been providing financial support in a number of fields important for Latvia. Latvia has been given a chance to develop and to improve various economic sectors as well as to bring the state's welfare level close to that of prosperous countries of the European Union in a relatively short time period. Latvia became eligible for Structural Funds support when it entered the EU in 2004. The main objective of the development strategy was to tackle the major sources of regional disparities in the areas of infrastructure, human resources, and industry, as well as agriculture and rural development. Between 2004 and 2006, Structural Funds assisted in **creating over 2,200 new jobs** with unemployment

falling to around 5% by the end of 2007 and increasing GDP: by 2007, gross domestic product (GDP) per head had risen to 60% of the EU-27 average from 43% in 2004.

Comparing to the previous programming period, in the "new" period of 2007–2013 **European Union funding is more than four times larger**. If Structural Funds allocation for 2004–2006 was 625 million euros, Cohesion Fund investments 710 million euros, in the "new" period Latvia has been allocated **5,6 billion euros of European funding**. Out of this amount, 4,5 billion is related to the Regional Development Fund, Social Fund and Cohesion Fund managed by the Ministry of Finance. 1 billion is related to the Agricultural and Fisheries funds, managed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Entry to the EU has had an exceptionally positive effect on the economy and has strengthened confidence in continued economic growth. Prior to the global financial crisis, Latvia was looked upon as a country with the most favourable conditions for growth. The reforms implemented in the last ten years have significantly strengthened the private sector. Favourable macroeconomic conditions for further growth and the business environment have been created. However, last year Latvia sought loans from the EU in order to provide incentives for its stumbling economy which was affected by the global financial crisis. Financial assistance and a programme of cost-cutting measures helped equip the economy to endure the short-term lack of liquidity, while at the same time strengthening competition and supporting the orderly correction to the lack of equilibrium in the mid-term.



More information at:

<http://www.mk.gov.lv>

<http://www.latviatourism.lv>

NEW PUBLICATIONS IN THE EU INFO CENTRE

- **Activity Report 2008 – Twinning, TAIEX and SIGMA within the ENPI**
European Commission
- **Europe for Women,**
Publications Office
- **The Euromed partnership: the cultural agenda,**
Publications Office
- **General Report on the activities of the European Union 2009**
Publications Office
- **EPSO Development Programme, European Personnel Selection Office**
Publications Office
- **Eurostat – sustainable development in the European Union; 2009 monitoring report of the EU sustainable development strategy**
Publications Office
- **PHARE PROJECT - Enhanced Environmental Inspection for Enforcement of the New Environmental Legislation in Croatia**
PM Group



An overview of other titles available in the EU Info Centre can be found in the [electronic catalogue](#).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

9 MARCH 2010

Opening of the twinning project "Capacity Building for the Payment Agency" from the IPA 2007 programme
Ulica grada Vukovara 269d, Zagreb (10:00)

11 MARCH 2010

Lecture of the Ambassador Vandoren in the Europe House Zagreb
European House, Jurišićeva 1, Zagreb (18:00)

11 MARCH 2010

[Victims of Terrorism Day](#)
Throughout Europe

17 MARCH 2010

Opening the twinning project "Support to the Croatian Parliament for Joining the EU" from the IPA 2007 programme
Croatian Parliament, Trg sv. Marka 2, Zagreb (10:00)

22 MARCH 2010

The sixth meeting of the Council for Stability and Accession between the EU and Croatia
Brussels, Belgium

22 - 26 MARCH 2010

[Sustainable energy week 2010](#)
Throughout Europe

26 MARCH 2010

[Conference: What future for Milk](#)
Brussels, Belgium

30 MARCH 2010

Info-day for all potential applicants on Cultural Cooperation Projects with Third Countries from Culture 2007-2013 Programme
EU Info Centre, Zagreb (10:00 - 14:00)

29 - 30 MARCH 2010

The eleventh meeting of the Common EU-Croatia Parliamentary Committee
Zagreb

31 MARCH 2010

Closing the "Blue Border Supervision" project from the PHARE 2006 programme
Palača Dverce, Zagreb

12 APRIL 2010

Meeting of the Intergovernment conference with Croatia on joining the EU
Brussels, Belgium

Notice

The electronic EU-bulletin was sent on behalf of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Croatia. It is published on a monthly basis. Editor: Avis Beneš, EU Information Centre Manager. The bulletin is available in English and in Croatian. This information is of a general nature only and is not intended to address the specific circumstances of any particular individual or entity.

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