

# EUROPOLITICS

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**FOCUS**

## Airline profits bounce back

The recovery in the global air transport sector has been stronger than projected and airlines are expected to register profits of US\$8.9 billion this year, but Europe is lagging behind, notes a report by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The sector has experienced huge losses for the last two years. Buoyed by the recovery process, airlines' earnings are once again driven by higher demand compared with a moderate increase in seating capacity, the IATA announced, on 21 September.

All regions of the globe showed improved prospects except Africa, where the outlook remains unchanged. There are important differences between regions, however. The situation is favourable in North America and the Asia-Pacific region. Europe is lagging behind and is expected to be the only region in the red, but its losses are set to drop to 1.3 billion euro. "Continuing economic weakness in the European economy and faltering consumer confidence are depressing passenger traffic from Europe," notes the IATA.

The association is cautious, projecting profitability falling to US\$5.3 billion in 2011, given the expected slowdown of economic growth.

**GENDER EQUALITY STRATEGY**

## Commission encourages wide participation

By Sophie Petitjean

The idea of establishing an annual tripartite meeting of the EU institutions to ensure progress on gender equality, defended by the European Parliament in its resolution of 17 June, has made its mark. The European Commission endorses it in the new strategy for gender equality 2010-2015, presented by Commissioner Viviane Reding (justice and fundamental rights), on 21 September.

According to the EU executive, this annual high-level dialogue, in which the European Parliament, the Council Presidencies, social partners and civil society would participate, could serve to assess progress on implementing the new EU strategy.

Based on yearly reports, advances would be analysed in the light of the strategy's five priorities: 1. equal economic independence; 2. equal pay for equal work; 3. equality in decision making; 4. dignity, integrity and a halt to gender-based violence; and 5. the promotion of gender equality outside the EU.

These five priorities form an integral part of the Women's Charter, adopted in March this year.

In parallel with this high-level meeting of the institutions and civil society, the Commission intends to sound out European enterprises with a view to increasing women's participation in decision making.

"I've never really been in favour of quotas for women in management positions in companies until now, but given

*"I intend to meet the CEOs of major European public enterprises in spring 2011 to discuss the situation," said Reding*

the lack of progress in this area, we could be forced to consider new initiatives at EU level," commented Reding. "I intend to meet the CEOs of major European public enterprises in spring 2011 to

discuss the situation and the scope of voluntary regulation. Depending on the results of these talks with industry, I will study whether new initiatives are needed in 2012," she added.

**MORE JOBS, LESS VIOLENCE**

Among other actions, the Commission plans to make it easier for women to participate in the labour market by encouraging work-life balance and thus to attain the 75% employment target (for both genders) set in the 'Europe 2020' strategy. Access to quality jobs will be encouraged and entrepreneurship and self-employment among women will be supported **(continued on page 5)**

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**FINANCIAL REGULATION****Barnier: Hedge funds text “not there yet” ahead of crucial vote**

By Sarah Collins

Internal Market Commissioner Michel Barnier has admitted that there are still significant hurdles to overcome on the controversial draft Directive on alternative investment fund managers (AIFM) ahead of a scheduled parliamentary vote in October. Two central issues - how to treat funds and managers located outside the 27-member bloc and asset stripping by private equity funds - remain to be thrashed out, he told *Europolitics*.

“We are in the last stretch,” he said. “We are still talking... but we’re not there yet.” His comments come ahead of a key meeting between experts from the Council, Parliament and Commission this week in Strasbourg that aims to thrash out technical details on the draft proposal (COM(2009)207), which effectively requires the managers of hedge, private equity and real estate funds as well as venture capitalists to register with their home supervisors and provide much more information to regulators on key activities, such as borrowing.

The third-country row revolves around the so-called passport to market funds across the bloc - which under the Commission’s April 2009 proposals would be available to managers once they register in any EU member state. France is uneasy about allowing non-EU managers unbridled access to the European market, while the UK - home to an estimated 80% of the bloc’s hedge funds - is anxious that foreign funds and managers not be treated more stringently than those based in Europe. The offending Articles 34-38 were left blank in a 27 August compromise text drawn up by the Belgian EU Presidency, although a new negotiating text is due to be published at the end of this week. The Commission originally suggested the passport - which is the legal foundation for lumping the new rules into the internal market dossier - become available to non-EU funds and managers after a three-year grace period during which it would examine whether “equivalent” supervision was in place. Parliament’s rapporteur, Jean-Paul Gauzès (EPP, France), favours giving the passport to all managers if their national

regulators opt in to EU-style rules, shutting EU investors off from investing in funds that do not comply. “I hope the requirements necessary for the passport - in terms of transparency, responsibility for those who use it - will be sufficient to convince all member states so they can buy into the overall compromise,” Barnier told *Europolitics*.

**ASSET STRIPPING**

The other missing section of the latest draft compromise (Articles 26-30) relates to private equity fund managers, conglomerates of large-scale investors which buy up ailing companies or new businesses. The European Socialists have lambasted private equity funds for buying up companies in order to sell off their viable assets, leaving an indebted shell and scores of jobless ex-employees. But venture capitalists - who invest in start-up companies - are anxious to have an opt-out from the rules, saying added reporting and disclosure requirements will push up costs and force them to pull their cash out of European companies. ■

**BANKING/STATE AID****Commission takes note of possible BayernLB-WestLB merger**

By Sophie Mosca

Following the 20 September announcement of a possible merger between the regional German banks (Landesbanken) BayernLB and WestLB, the European Commission confirmed, on 21 September, that the German officials had informed it of this eventuality.

It nevertheless warned that the merger plans would not put an end to the investigations under way on large amounts of state aid granted to the two banks and that it was studying their viability in the light of the restructuring plans submitted.

“Given that both banks are under restructuring, a merger itself may not automatically result in restoration of their long-term viability,” commented Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia. He added: “The Commission would need to assess whether the merged entity would be viable in the long term and whether the measures

to ensure burden-sharing and to limit competition distortions are adequate.”

**MASSIVE AID**

To date, WestLB, located in North Rhineland-Westphalia, has received different types of public aid: a risk shield of €5 billion, a capital injection of €3 billion, and an asset relief measure, including further aid, which is currently being assessed by the EU executive. The aid was matched with the obligation to reduce its balance sheet by half and find a buyer by the end of 2011.

BayernLB, based in Bavaria, has received a capital injection of €10 billion and a risk shield of €4.8 billion. While for WestLB the Commission had already taken a final decision in May 2009, the case has been opened again because WestLB required an additional impaired asset measure. The BayernLB investigation had to be extended because of Austria’s nationalisation of its subsidiary, Hypo Group Alpe Adria.

The two Landesbanken, both of which were hit very hard by the financial crisis, have issued a joint statement noting that a decision would be taken by the end of the year on “whether a merger makes sense economically”. This is no surprise because this question has been under review for months. These seven banks owned by the regions and savings banks were weakened by significant losses on derivatives and property markets. They are seen as the Achilles heel of the German banking system, with €500 billion of the €700 billion in toxic assets held by German banks in their accounts. The prospect of stricter new international standards on equity capital (Basel III) leaves them little choice but to merge. German Economy Minister Rainer Brüderle has instructed the regional states to agree to merge their banks and suggested in the 19 September issue of the daily newspaper *Bild* that, in time, there should be no more than “one or two at most”. ■



## Gender equality

(continued from page 1)

at European level through targeted initiatives. In accordance with the Women's Charter, the Commission will also promote the principle of equal pay for equal work, including the launch of a European day for equal pay.

It would be held annually to build awareness that women earn an average of 17.6% less than men in the European Union.

The executive will also work with member states to eradicate violence against women and will give priority to fighting female genital mutilation. It will kick off an integrated strategy

to combat violence against women in March 2011, including an information campaign at European level. "Europe

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*"We can continue to be precursors today for women's participation in decision making"*

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was a precursor with its inclusion of the principle of equal pay for equal work in the Rome Treaty in 1957. We can continue to be precursors today for women's participation in decision making and the fight against gender-based vio-

lence," said the commissioner. Some 61% of Europeans find that the EU should be proactive on these problems. In a recent Eurobarometer survey, 87% of respondents called for tackling the problem of violence against women.

### WOMEN'S LOBBY PLEASED

Myria Vassiliadou of the European Women's Lobby welcomed the new strategy, stating that women's associations were expecting tough monitoring and concrete results, especially as regards all forms of violence against women and the equal participation of women in decision making. "What we need is binding measures and full implementation," she said. ■

## INTEGRATION

### Roma expulsions: Parliament keeps up offensive

By Pierre Lemoine in Strasbourg

France has not seen the end of the European Parliament's criticisms of its Roma policy. The other member states are also going to have to assume a general responsibility for the absence of an EU policy on Europe's largest ethnic minority.

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) will hold a hearing of European Commission Vice-President Viviane Reding and Commissioners Cecilia Malmström (home affairs) and László Andor (employment) at a special session, on 29 September in Brussels, at the initiative of the Socialists & Democrats (S&D).

The Greens have decided to organise a "large meeting" with "representatives of Roma from across Europe". The group has also requested the European Commission to review (which it has already planned to do) the amounts allocated to the integration of Roma and other less favoured populations - €17.5 billion for 2007-2013 - and largely under-used by member states.

After the formal condemnations of France, particularly the resolution adopted by a large majority (337 to 245, 51 abstentions) in plenary on 9 September, and after the quarrels at the highest

levels (especially at the European Council, on 16 September), the Roma issue has moved from the French domestic level to European level.

On 21 September, in plenary in Strasbourg, the head of Parliament's largest group (EPP), French national Joseph Daul, had to remind his country of its duties while regretting the "unfortunate circular" that explicitly targeted the Roma this summer in France. "First, every member state must conform to the treaty and EU law and the Commission, guardian of the treaties, must ensure that they do so. All the member states are equal and this is what makes the strength of the European Union. [...] Second, my group regrets the strong language used in connection with this matter but I think that debate is closed. On the equally sensitive and symbolic subject of the values Europe defends, I think that serenity and mutual respect between member states and the EU institutions must prevail. Third, this situation requires a European response, a Community response and not 27 national responses. [...] I have asked a Roma member of my EPP group, Livia Járóka, to head an internal working group that will present detailed proposals within two months at most."

### "SECURITY SCENARIO"

Before Daul spoke, S&D group leader Martin Schulz (Germany) denounced

the "duplicity" of the French head of state, who after the latest European Council claimed to have the "unanimous" support of the EU heads of state and government.

"Yes, on the form [the remarks by the commissioner], he had everyone's support. On the substance, however, apart from Berlusconi, no one sided with him." Schulz stressed the contrast between Sarkozy's "positive work" during the French EU Presidency, which enabled the "Union to progress," and the French head of state's "defensive" position on the domestic scene today.

"During my holidays this summer in France," said the Socialist leader, "I saw the escalation of the security scenario. All this has been coldly calculated by pros."

The Co-Chair of the Greens in the EP, Franco-German national Daniel Cohn-Bendit, denounced "the culture of lies at the level of French ministers and the head of state". "What is distressing is that French political leaders see Europe only as a large France and, in the opposite case, it should not exist." Co-Chair Rebecca Harms said the Greens had lodged a complaint with the EP president against European Council President Van Rompuy for his failure to inform the assembly, claiming that he had denied the conflicts in the European Council. ■

**AGRICULTURE****Ministers call for maintaining two-pillar post-2013 CAP**

By Louis Antoine

Meeting informally on 21 September in La Hulpe, just outside of Brussels, the EU's agriculture ministers debated the broad objectives to be assigned to the post-2013 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). All called for maintaining the CAP's two-pillar structure while boosting complementarity, coherence and transparency between them, said Sabine Laruelle, the Belgian minister chairing the EU's work this half-year. Agreement exists on keeping the first pillar (direct aid and market support measures) fully financed by the EU budget, but work is still needed on how aid should be distributed, she admitted. On the second pillar (rural development), the watchword is 'flexibility'.

Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Ciolos highlighted the importance of complementarity between the two pillars "to achieve certain common objectives," in particular food security and management of natural resources and territories. From there, the idea is to determine how to translate these challenges into appropriate instruments, said the commissioner, who will present, on 17 November, his communication on reform of the Union's agricultural policy. For Ciolos, the first pillar must contribute to income support but also to better natural and ecological management of

agriculture and take account of land management and social challenges.

The President of the European farmers' association, Pdraig Walshe, warned ministers against a thorough remodelling of the first pillar to give the policy a more environmental approach. "This is unacceptable and would endanger the economic performance and competitiveness of EU agriculture," he commented.

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*Commissioner Dacian Ciolos will present, on 17 November, his communication on reform of the Union's agricultural policy*

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"If the agriculture ministers succeed in putting together an ambitious project as 27, we will have more weight in each of our respective countries to make sure that the finance ministers allocate the best budget possible to agriculture after 2013," added Laruelle, who is fully aware of the importance of the budget stakes, which will dominate the negotiations.

In their recent common position on the CAP, the German and French Agriculture Ministers, Ilse Aigner and Bruno Le Maire, argued for "resources equal to

our ambitions" and noted that the EU's financial framework should be established before determining the allocation for agricultural expenditure. According to Le Maire, 20 countries are ready to rally behind the Franco-German position. "For the first time, there is real consensus by all, including the United Kingdom, that agriculture is a strategic sector. I am not hearing any country say that agriculture is less important than another sector." Answering critics who claim that Paris and Berlin have a conservative position, Le Maire commented: "There won't be a revolution in the CAP. A good policy requires the capacity to renew instruments and adapt them to global realities," such as volatility and the environment.

The Franco-German position was given a rough ride by Polish Minister Marek Sawicki. He noted that Paris and Berlin are defending their own interests without regard to the other countries. "This is a bad signal for the negotiations," he said. Like all the Eastern European countries, Poland defends the idea of a single rate for direct support, an idea strongly rejected by the French and Germans.

Meanwhile, the traditionally anti-CAP British called for the phase-out of direct aid that is not directly tied to a precise objective, such as environmental protection. ■

**EU/ALBANIA/BOSNIA****EP to vote on visa liberalisation in October**

By Joanna Sopinska

The European Parliament is expected to take a decision on the visa liberalisation process with Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina in October, *Europolitica* has learned. The European Commission has recently given its nod to the visa liberalisation file being transferred to the Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE). The EU executive sent a fact-finding mission to Albania and Bosnia in July. The Commissioner for Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmström, said, on 20 September, that the two

countries had made considerable progress and it was now for the Parliament and the Council to give their nod. The decision is subject to co-decision procedure between these two institutions.

The LIBE committee will vote on the issue on 28 September. Provided the vote is positive, the file would be forwarded to the next plenary session, scheduled for October. The main political groups in the EP confirmed, on the occasion of a special panel discussion with the European Commission in early September, that they will support the idea of granting Albania and Bosnia visa-free access to the

Schengen area at a session in October if the EU executive confirms the two countries have met the criteria. However, some MEPs remain opposed to the idea, fearing that free movement will enable Albanian criminals to continue trafficking in the EU. The EP's rapporteur on visa liberalisation for the Western Balkans, Tanja Fajon (S&D, Slovenia), assured them that even if the visa regime is lifted, the monitoring process will continue. The proposal to fully liberalise the visa regime with Albania and Bosnia was backed, in early September, by the EP's Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET). ■

## TRANSPORT

# New rules on air accident investigations

By Isabelle Smets

By the end of 2010, new rules on investigations into aviation accidents will enter into force in the EU.

The European Parliament approved, at its plenary session on 21 September, a regulation that will set up a European network of national investigation officials and introduce measures that take victims' families into account.

The amendments were drafted as a compromise with the Council, which will enable the Transport Council to approve the regulation, on 15 October.

The rules will apply to accidents and serious incidents (near-collision, problem with take-off/landing, multiple breakdowns, etc) in civil aviation.

**MANDATORY INVESTIGATIONS**

It makes investigations mandatory and will strengthen cooperation by national authorities via the new network. The difficulty of the negotiation was to strike the

right balance between conflicting interests in the event of an accident: those of the technical investigators (who try to identify the causes), the judicial investigators (who try to identify liabilities), the regulation and certification authorities and so on. It had to be assured, for example, that the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), which has certification authority, could not be both judge and judged: its participation in investigations will be limited to an advisory role.

Relations between technical and judicial investigators also had to be clarified so as to guarantee the confidentiality of information disclosed during the safety investigation.

This is a vital condition to ensure the cooperation of crew members in technical investigations, according to the European Cockpit Association.

The association was relatively disappointed at the outcome of the vote, however, since it claims that strict independence between the technical and judicial

investigations is not guaranteed by the new text.

**SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES**

This is the other key dimension of the regulation. The new rules will oblige member states to draw up an emergency plan for accidents, which includes measures "to aid victims and their families". Airlines registered in the EU will also have to prepare such a plan, which must particularly include psychological support for victims and their families. The airlines' plans will have to be audited by the national authorities.

When an accident occurs, a reference person will be named as the contact person for victims and their families. Airlines will also have to produce a list of those on board the aircraft within two hours of an accident, to reduce waiting time for families. Before a flight, passengers will be entitled to name a person to be informed in the event of an accident. ■

## ENVIRONMENT

# MEPs consider inability to curb biodiversity loss "unacceptable"

By Anne Eckstein

While the international community is meeting in New York on this very theme (see *Europolitics* 4046), the European Parliament underlines that the Union must aim to reinforce international efforts with a view to halting the loss of biodiversity and, in so doing, contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. In a report drawn up by Esther de Lange (EPP, Netherlands) and adopted in the Strasbourg plenary session, on 21 September, MEPs deeply regret the fact that the Community goal to curb biodiversity loss by 2010 has not been achieved: this, they say, is "ethically, ecologically and economically unacceptable". Furthermore, MEPs believe that the Parliament must do everything in its power to halt biodiversity loss by 2020 and restore ecosystems and insist that the conservation of biodiversity must be taken into account in all policies.

MEPs deeply regret the fact that the

European Union goal to halt biodiversity loss by 2010 has not been met. "We have a moral responsibility to leave the

*"We have a moral responsibility to leave the Earth to our children and grandchildren in such a state that they can still do something with it"*

Earth to our children and grandchildren in such a state that they can still do something with it", said rapporteur de Lange. The report, which looks at the implementation of EU biodiversity conservation law, welcomes the new headline target of halting biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020 and restoring them where feasible. This "constitutes the absolute minimum level of ambi-

tion to be realised by 2020," emphasise MEPs. To that end, they ask the European Commission to ensure that biodiversity is further mainstreamed in other EU policy areas, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, regional policy and cohesion, industry, development cooperation, research and innovation.

**PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDING**

MEPs believe that public spending alone will not suffice to achieve the EU headline target and they therefore underline the importance of corporate responsibility in protecting biodiversity. The Commission is asked to look at ways of implementing policies that encourage investment in conserving biodiversity and discourage investment that impacts on biodiversity, in both the public and private sectors. MEPs also underline the need to incorporate external costs and risks, such as the damage done to biodiversity or costs incurred to support biodiversity, in the final price of products placed on the market. ■

**ENERGY****Parliament approves law on security of gas supply**

By Dafydd ab Iago

The European Parliament adopted, on 21 September, a draft regulation introducing strengthened provisions to favour security of gas supply. MEPs adopted the measure, agreed in first reading with the Council, by 601 votes in favour and 27 against. There were 23 abstentions. Speaking during the morning debate, rapporteur Alejo Vidal Quadras (EPP, Spain) dubbed the regulation a "milestone" and a genuinely "powerful instrument" to improve security of gas supplies<sup>1</sup>. The draft

regulation should now be formally adopted in the first half of October by the Council. If all goes well, it will enter into force before the end of the year.

"If applied speedily and effectively, it will be a powerful message to our gas suppliers that Europe stands all for one and one for all in the crises," said Vidal-Quadras. He was seconded by Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger, who told MEPs of the draft regulation being "good news" for industry. "Nobody can exclude the possibility of a gas crisis," added Oettinger.

Buzek went on to note that "great" responsibility has been placed in the hands of the European Commission. During a so-called 'Union emergency', the executive is responsible for ensuring a smooth exchange of information, the consistency of national actions and coordination with third countries. Buzek promised that the EP will "closely" monitor the effectiveness of the new regulation.

**CHAOS FROM RUSSIA**

"If supply disruptions occur, for instance from Russia, there will not be chaos immediately. In the future, the EU will be better prepared and be able to respond more flexibly. That makes us even less open to political blackmail," said the Chair of the EP's Committee on Industry (ITRE), Herbert Reul (EPP, Germany).

Konrad Szymanski (ECR, Poland) hopes that the regulation will not be an excuse to continue a policy of "indifference" by both countries and companies to the "abuse of Russian gas weapons" in Central Europe. "I hope the European Commission will firmly fight against the abuse of its monopoly position by Gazprom. Also for political reasons, Gazprom not only wants to keep full control over gas pipelines, including on EU territory, but also complete control over the raw material, even after its sale to Community market," warned Szymanski. ■

(1) For an overview of the regulation's provisions see *Europolitica* 4044

**Background**

The regulation was prompted by the 2008 and 2009 Russian gas supply crises. In theory, market mechanisms remain the first course of action. Major provisions include a new infrastructure standard in the event of extremely low temperatures. This will require European gas companies to supply households and emergency services, including hospitals. Member states must also boost security on their networks within four years. New cross-border interconnections between EU countries will have to be in place within three years of the regulation's entry into force. Three main crisis levels are established as 'early warning', 'alert' and 'emergency'. Within two years, member states will have to design prevention plans.

**DEROGATIONS GRANTED**

The provisions will not, however, apply to Malta and Cyprus - at least for as long as no gas is supplied on their respective territories. Additionally, Luxembourg, Slovenia and Sweden are not bound by, but only "endeavour" to meet the infrastructure standard. This is due to a lack of gas storage facilities or liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities in Slovenia and Luxembourg. Sweden, with no gas transit to other member states, receives less than 5% of its total primary energy consumption from gas. European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek also welcomed the adoption of the regulation. "The EU should be better protected from gas crises thanks to this new law on better EU-wide coordination of supplies and gas interconnection plans," said Buzek. "Gas supply crises in Europe should be better managed and disruption in household gas supplies avoided."

**INTERNAL MARKET****Six areas of action to promote e-commerce**

By Sophie Mosca

The European Parliament adopted, on 21 September, a report by Pablo Arias Echeverria (EPP, Spain) that aims to proceed towards the completion of the internal online market and to restore the confidence of European consumers in this new form of commercial transaction.

A day earlier, during the debate, the rapporteur underlined the need to remove obstacles to e-commerce in the EU, which represents 15% of growth, in order to be able to make full use of its potential. This is a market that must be developed

in order to realise the objectives of the 'Europe 2020' strategy but, in 2009, only one in three Europeans purchased via the internet and only 7% of transactions involved cross-border exchanges. "We must overcome these current obstacles to develop this essential tool for European businesses and citizens; this is a responsibility that we must assume," argued the Spanish MEP.

To that end, the report proposes improving consumer protection by amending Community regulations in six areas of action: 1. strengthening internet access for all European users; 2. rectifying the

fragmentation of the online market; and 3. that of rules in terms of consumer protection; 4. strengthening consumer confidence; 5. developing initiatives to encourage businesses to use e-commerce; and 6. guaranteeing the safety of minors using the internet.

Moreover, it proposes establishing a confidence label guaranteeing the reliability and quality of products sold on the cross-border electronic market and believes it is essential to simplify delivery, which poses a problem when operators refuse to honour orders placed by consumers located in another member state. ■



## DISASTER PREVENTION

## MEPs press for holistic approach

By Anne Eckstein

Appropriate financing and legislation on forest protection, fire prevention and water scarcity, combined with a balanced agricultural policy, are essential to combat natural and man-made disasters, notes the European Parliament in a resolution and report adopted on 21 September. It calls for the adoption of a holistic approach to disaster prevention, with special attention on isolated, remote, mountainous or scarcely populated areas, and more flexible conditions for Solidarity Fund intervention in such areas.

In a report on a European approach to prevention of natural and man-made disasters, Joao Ferreira (EUL-NGL, Portugal) points out that “responsibility for disaster prevention lies primarily with the member states”. He stresses the “importance of reducing inequalities between regions and member states in terms of their capacity to protect their populations [...] by supporting their efforts to

improve prevention, particularly in the regions and member states”.

The EP stresses the need for adequate financial resources: disaster prevention must be included in the next financial

*Effective prevention  
also requires an  
environmentally and  
socially balanced  
agricultural policy*

perspectives (2014-2020). Effective prevention also requires an environmentally and socially balanced agricultural policy. MEPs therefore call for creation of a European agricultural public insurance scheme to limit the losses suffered by farmers due to natural or man-made disasters. Such a system would avoid a multiplicity of national insurance schemes that create huge imbalances between farmers’

incomes. They also recommend a minimum compensation scheme for farmers from member states hit by disasters. Farmers should also get extra funding for the extra costs they bear in taking measures to prevent fires and to dispose of water.

Parliament finds that certain measures should be given priority, such as drafting and revising building safety and land-use legislation, ‘re-naturalising’ river beds, reforestation, monitoring erosion, protecting inhabited areas that are particularly vulnerable to disasters and maintaining key infrastructures, such as dams, fuel pipelines and communication facilities. Stressing the importance of forests and the links between droughts, forest fires and desertification, MEPs call for adoption of a policy on water scarcity, drought and adapting to climate change.

They also ask the Commission to consider coercive measures to discourage negligence and deliberate action in starting fires. ■

## ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

## Court dismisses three appeals

By Célia Sampol

On 21 September, the EU Court of Justice dismissed the appeals lodged by Sweden, the Association de la presse internationale (API) and the European Commission against the judgement of the Court of First Instance of 12 September 2007 on access to the Commission’s judicial submissions.

The judgement partially annulled the Commission’s decision of 20 November 2003 refusing access to its submissions to the Court of Justice and CFI in various judicial proceedings. Regulation 1049/2001 on access to the documents of the EU institutions establishes that any European citizen and any natural person residing in a member state or any legal person established in a member state has the right to obtain access to the institutions’ documents. It nevertheless lays down exceptions, particularly when disclosure of the document undermines the protection of court proceedings or the purpose of investigations.

In August 2003, the API asked the Commission for access to its submissions in several cases. In November, the executive turned down the request based on the exceptions allowed under the regulation. The API appealed the decision before the Court of First Instance. On 12 September 2007, the CFI partially annulled the Commission’s decision in that it refused access to the submissions concerning nine cases.

It nonetheless held that when court proceedings concern a case for which oral arguments have not yet been presented, the Commission may refuse to give access to its submissions without conducting a review of their content. The API (Case C-528/07 P) and Sweden (Case C-514/07P) then appealed this judgement and the Commission (Case C-532/07P) did the same.

The court upheld the CFI’s ruling, which established that when the oral arguments have not yet been presented in a case, the exception concerning

court proceedings applies without the institution having to review the content of each document requested. The judges recognise the existence of a general presumption that the disclosure of an institution’s submissions in court proceedings is harmful to the protection of the proceedings as long as these are pending.

On the other hand, they consider that the Commission must review each document requested to determine whether its disclosure may be harmful to the related court proceedings.

The API welcomed the court’s confirmation of “certain” of its arguments, particularly that the Commission may not refuse access to its submissions after the judgement has been issued, including in sensitive cases of infringement proceedings against member states. It continues to maintain, however, that the disclosure of documents even before the hearing “would be a great service to transparency”. ■

**EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE****MEPs to interview new EU ambassadors**

By Chiade O'Shea

Five new heads of delegation and one new EU special representative will appear before the European Parliament in October, its Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) announced, on 21 September. The committee held a debate in camera to decide which of 27 new ambassadors announced by High Representative for Foreign Affairs Catherine Ashton, on 15 September, will be questioned by MEPs before taking up their post. The special representative to Sudan, Rosalind Marsden of Britain, will also appear following her appointment in August. AFET

said that they had chosen the six "most strategically important" of the 28 posts, namely the China, Georgia, Japan, Lebanon and Pakistan ambassadors, plus the Sudan special representative. The German Markus Ederer (Beijing), Bulgarian Philip Dimitrov (Tbilisi), Austrian Hans Dietmar Schweisgut (Tokyo), Dutch Angelina Eichhorst (Beirut), Swedish Lars-Gunnar Wigemark (Islamabad) and Marsden can expect to be grilled extensively on their briefs, but the AFET committee will not ultimately have a veto over their appointment. During negotiations for setting up the External Action Service, MEPs lobbied to have the right to approve or overrule high-

level appointments such as these, but Ashton refused outright, backed up by the Commission and Council. She nonetheless agreed to this consultation procedure. The heads of delegation to Afghanistan and Washington DC, Ashton's two major appointments to date, have already appeared before the AFET committee. The new delegates' nationalities and gender will be noted. The largely male, North-West European group of heads of delegation with one Bulgarian and one woman roughly represents the overall level of diversity in the ambassadors' list, but MEPs may note that it nonetheless includes more women and new member states than before. ■

**EUROPEAN COUNCIL****Van Rompuy reconciles Community and intergovernmental methods**

By Célia Sampol

The President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, is calling for a departure from the Manichean system opposing Community methods and intergovernmental methods because he believes that the two are not, and must not be, contradictory. These are the ideas that he developed, on 20 September, before students from the Ecole de Sciences-Politiques in Paris, at the invitation of the think tank Notre Europe.

This debate has resurfaced since the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty, which confers upon the European Council the status of institution and creates the position of president of the European Council. While the Presidencies in exercise of the Council found themselves pushed aside, the latter was led to take the initiative on certain dossiers, such as economic governance. This gave rise to protests, in particular at the European Parliament, where MEPs warned against systematising the practice of intergovernmental cooperation, which would risk undermining the traditional Community method of taking decisions developed by the European Community throughout its construction. The subject has become all the more topical with the debate on the Roma and the verbal confrontations between the French authorities and the European Commission.

However, the former Belgian prime minister refuses to see the "renationalisation of

European policy" today but rather prefers to speak of the "Europeanisation of national policy" because "Europe has never gone against the nations". The president of the European Council even considers that, "if national policies play an important role in our Union, why shouldn't that reinforce it?". For Van Rompuy, opposing Community and intergovernmental methods, "like good and bad," is an "old system" and a "red herring". Firstly, he notes, "it is normal, when taking decisions which concern the foundations of money and which furthermore involve extraordinary amounts, that responsibility for this is assumed by a head of government". Whom other than prime minister Papandreou should have defended the austerity measures in Greece, he asks.

**LESSONS FROM GREEK CRISIS**

"The European Council is the place where one and the other can find common and thus European positions and we do this in close cooperation with the other institutions," such as the Commission (the president of which is a member of the European Council), the Council, the bank and the Parliament. In the case of the Greek crisis, it was also the "novelty of the situation" which "obliged" member states to take responsibility. "We had to invent aid mechanisms, which did not exist. The EU Treaty prohibits countries from taking on the debts of a partner and did not anticipate important Community instruments for eurozone coun-

tries". When solutions are explored outside of the legal framework, the role of the EU institutions is "logically in the background".

The president therefore considers it essential for everyone to maintain his role. He recalls that the Union has always progressed thanks to two principles: "the principle of transfer" and "the principle of participation". The first "constructed Europe" by transferring elements of executive, legislative or judicial power at national level to a new EU level. It is at the basis of the creation of a Commission, a Parliament and the court. The second "strengthens Europe" by bringing national representatives and executive, legislative or judicial powers into a common, binding framework. This idea underlies the creation of the Council of Ministers and the European Council as well as the involvement of national parliaments in EU legislation.

**CONCILIATORY TONE**

"A Europe solely constructed by transferring national power to a European level risks losing a solid foundation. A Europe entirely dependent on the permanent involvement of all partners risks collapsing. Both are necessary," said the Flemish Christian Democrat, attempting a conciliatory conclusion. ■



The speech (in French) is available at [www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/fr/ec/116623.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/fr/ec/116623.pdf)

## FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

## Malmström spells out seven principles for passenger data transfer

By Nathalie Vandystadt

More and more countries are taking an interest in the personal data on passengers collected by airlines (Passenger Name Record) as part of their counter-terrorism policies. To cope with future requests, the European Commission presented, on 21 September, EU principles on the protection of privacy that must be respected in any negotiation. Also on the table are three confidential mandates for the renegotiation of the existing agreements with the United States, Australia and Canada.

In May, MEPs decided to postpone their vote on the agreements already in place – but not concluded by the EU – with the United States (2007) and Australia (2008), until such time as the Commission presents a comprehensive 'PNR model' setting out Europe's expectations on respect for privacy. The following are the seven principles sought by Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmström:

1. PNR data should be used exclusively to

fight terrorism and serious transnational crime.

2. The categories of the PNR data exchanged should be limited to what is necessary for that purpose, and be clearly listed in the agreement.

3. Passengers should be given clear information about the exchange of their PNR data, have the right to see their PNR data and the right to effective administrative and judicial redress.

4. Decisions having adverse effects on passengers must never be based on an automated processing of PNR data. A human being must be involved before a passenger is denied boarding. This seeks to prevent 'profiling'.

5. Third countries must ensure a high level of data security and an effective independent oversight of the authorities that use PNR data.

6. PNR data cannot be stored longer than necessary to fight terrorism and serious transnational crime, and third countries should limit who has access to the data.

7. PNR data may be shared by the third country with other countries only if those countries respect the standards laid down in the PNR agreement with the EU.

*Europolitics* has learned that Japan and New Zealand may also be interested in the European data. They, too, will have to comply with these principles, like the United States, Canada and Australia in the framework of the new negotiating mandates the Commission would like to see adopted by the EU Council as soon as possible. It is mainly the agreement with Washington that is controversial. MEPs, national data protection officials and civil liberties activists, as well as Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding, consider the 15-year data retention period in the US too long. It amounts to a "profiling of every European who goes to or flies over the United States," according to Belgium's French-language section of the Human Rights League.

The EP Committee on Civil Liberties (LIBE) will debate this issue on 28 September. ■



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**ENERGY COMMUNITY****'Yes' to Ukraine, 'no' to renewables and third package**

By Dafydd ab Iago

The Energy Community (EnC) is set to formally accept Ukraine into its fold at the organisation's eight Ministerial Council in Skopje, on 24 September. A signing ceremony, following the enactment of a new Ukrainian gas law in July 2010, will formally close Ukraine's lengthy and difficult route into the EnC. Less positively, energy ministers from the region will not push ahead with adoption of the EU's *acquis* in the field of renewable energy. There will also be no adoption of the EU's third package of legal measures on energy liberalisation.

**"REAL" PROGRESS**

Following completion of negotiations for entry into the EnC, Ukraine failed to move forward in implementing the necessary reforms. A memorandum of understanding concluding accession negotiations was actually signed in October 2009. The EnC's Ministerial Council approved the accession of Ukraine - and Moldova - in December 2009 subject to the adoption of an EU-compliant gas law. Under the previous government, there were numerous concerns as to Ukraine's genuine commitment to reform. Previous Ukraine Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko herself appeared to stall implementation of key reforms.

Earlier in the month, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso discussed reform of the Ukrainian energy sector with the country's President, Viktor Yanukovich. Barroso talked of "real" progress since the two last met. "We now expect Ukraine to move forward on the implementation of the gas sector reforms," said Barroso. The Commission president also referred to modernisation of the Ukrainian gas transit network. Over the coming weeks, the EU promises to finance two transit network feasibility studies. "Ukraine will remain a key transit country provided long-term and stable transit conditions can be found, which reflect the interest of all parties: Ukraine, EU and also Russia," said Barroso.

Following accession to the EnC, Ukraine now faces a set of deadlines for implementing some 15 items of EU legislation in the areas of electricity, gas, environment, renewable energy and security of supply.



Yanukovich (left) and Barroso: Real progress

**NO EXTENSION**

Less fortunate are affairs relating to the adoption of the EU's new Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC). A lack of reliable renewables statistics appears to be the major stumbling block. "Otherwise, we might run into the danger of having too high or too low targets," explained one official. Energy ministers from the region appear keen not to be seen as 'wasting' time. For this reason, the Ministerial Council will adopt 'recommendations'.

A recent study commissioned by the EnC's Vienna-based Secretariat predicted that EnC countries could reach a 24% renewables share by 2020. Binding national renewables targets could vary from 19% in Montenegro to 36% in Albania. Adopting binding renewables targets, as in the 2009 RES directive, would help the region tap into 'vast' potential. Releasing the study on renewables, EnC Secretariat Director Slavtcho Neykov was quick to point to statistical problems, notably inconsistent data collection and measurement methods. This might pose serious problems when establishing the starting point upon which renewables targets would be based.

A more pecuniary explanation for RES resistance is the cost of adopting the 2009

directive. The EnC study itself mentions a figure of some €3.1 billion to €5.4 billion. Adoption of the RES Directive could create 10,000 to 167,000 full-time equivalent jobs in the region, primarily in the electricity sector. Nonetheless, losses in politically sensitive coal and lignite sectors would be significant, at up to 21,700 jobs.

**RECOMMENDATION ONLY**

EnC ministers are also not yet pushing very hard for further legislation on energy market liberalisation. "Contracting parties have not kept the deadlines for implementing the second package," said an official. The EnC appears to be politely ignoring the fact that 25 out of 27 EU member states face infringement procedures over the second liberalisation package.

In all events, the Ministerial Council has made a decision not to push ahead with the third package. A diplomatic 'recommendation', however, may help EnC countries not to 'waste' time. In all events, officials are still talking hopefully as to adoption next year. This would then mean the entry into force of the EU's 2009 energy markets legislation with notable measures, including ownership unbundling of transmission system operators from energy distributors and producers. ■

**Background**

The Energy Community (EnC) defines itself as a 'process' extending the EU's internal energy market to the South-East Europe region. The EnC Treaty entered into force on 1 July 2006. Contracting parties are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo. Moldova acceded on 1 July 2010. The EnC is attractive as it aims to create an integrated energy market allowing for cross-border energy trade in the region that is linked to the EU market. This not only enhances security of supply, but also attracts investment in power generation and networks.



# In Brief

## EIB loans in Italy

Contracts were signed, on 20 September, for two loans backed by resources made available to the Italian banking group UniCredit Leasing by the European Investment Bank (EIB) to support investment by small and medium-sized Italian businesses and projects in the renewable energy and environmental infrastructure sectors. The EIB has granted UniCredit Leasing two credit lines designed to further strengthen cooperation with the company. These latest contracts provide for €350 million for financing investments by SMEs and €200 million for supporting renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

## Barroso pushes for more action on MDGs

The president of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, called for more efforts to be made in solving extreme poverty, ill health and illiteracy worldwide as he detailed the EU's new pledge to achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the United Nations in New York, on 20 September. "The European Commission alone has helped put nine million more girls and boys in schools since 2004," he said. "We have connected 31 million households to clean drinking water," he went on, adding that "there is no place for complacency". Barroso reiterated the EU's support for the developing world, particularly in the 'forgotten crises' the Union tries to target. He said that despite the economic difficulties, the EU would provide an additional €1 billion towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

## EP vote on Congo postponed

The European Parliament's vote, scheduled for 23 September, on the failures in protection of human rights and justice in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been postponed until the next parliamentary session in Brussels, on 6 and 7 October. The vote was to coincide with a national strike in France, which will paralyse the train network and air transport, thus complicating MEPs' return journey. However, the debate on the same topic the previous day remains on the agenda. EPP Chair Joseph Daul criticised the motion for postponement, which was introduced by the ECR and received the support of the Greens. "You want to get paid without voting," he lamented.

## Spend more to save more?

The European Parliament's EPP group advocates an increase of the EU budget without increasing national budgets. Addressing the EP plenary in Strasbourg, on 21 September, during a debate on the financial perspectives 2014-2020, group leader Joseph Daul (France) said that "Issues like immigration, energy, the climate or research and innovation can only be treated appropriately at European level. This means that we must invest together, so as to lower the cost to the individual member states. We see this with the Union's 2011 budget: member states do not wish to see the budget increased, and they believe that since they must save at the national level, the same should be done at European level. We do not disagree, but we put it differently: rather than spending 'nationally' in areas where Europe is more effective, we should spend collectively".

## Rehn: Lithuania and Romania make "adequate" budget cuts

The European Commission has stepped up pressure on the governments in Vilnius and Bucharest to slash spending next year in line with EU recommendations. Under a six-monthly review of progress under the excessive deficit procedure - which is brought to bear on countries that flout a rule to keep budget shortfalls below 3% of gross domestic product - the two member states were told, on 21 September, that 2011 budgets will have to be tough to help reduce their deficits by a 2012 deadline. "Lithuania and Romania have undertaken adequate steps towards correcting their budget deficits [...] but they need to pursue their efforts to ensure this really happens," said Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn. Romania has committed to bringing its deficit down to 7.3% of GDP this year (from 7.8%), while Lithuania has promised to cut it by 3% this year from last year's high of 8.9%.

## EGF assistance in Ireland

The European Commission approved, on 21 September, an application from Ireland for assistance under the EU Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF). The €7.4 million requested by the Irish authorities will help 850 redundant workers back into employment. The application was submitted after 1,135 employees were made redundant by SR Technics Ireland Ltd operating in the aircraft maintenance sector. The application will now be sent to the European Parliament and EU ministers (the EU's budgetary authority) for approval. The total estimated cost of the package is almost €11.5 million, of which the EU has been asked to provide EGF assistance of €7.4 million.

# EU Agenda

**Wednesday  
22 September**

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

### PLENARY SESSION

*Plenary Chamber, Strasbourg*

*Agenda:*

**9:00-11:50**

- Key debates
- Conclusions of the European Council meeting (16 September 2010) - European Council and Commission statements
- Financial supervision package - Council and Commission statements
- End of key debates

**12:00-13:00**

Votes

- Multiannual financial framework for the years 2007-2013 - report by Reimer Böge (EPP, DE)
- Draft amending budget No 7/2010: guarantee provided by the European Union in accordance with the provisions of Article 122 of the TFEU, financial assistance to member states - report by László Surján (EPP, HU)
- Refund of value added tax - report by Sharon Bowles (ALDE, UK)
- Pharmacovigilance of medicinal products (amendment of Regulation (EC) No 726/2004) - report by Linda McAvan (S-D, UK)
- Pharmacovigilance (amendment of Directive 2001/83/EC) - report by Linda McAvan (S-D, UK)
- Placing on the market and use of biocidal products - report by Christa Klauß (EPP, DE)
- European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (Debate: 06/07/2010) - report by Peter Skinner (S-D, UK)
- Macro-prudential oversight of the financial system and establishment of a European Systemic Risk Board (Debate:

06/07/2010) - report by Sylvie Goulard (ALDE, FR)

- Powers of the European Banking Authority, the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority and the European Securities and Markets Authority (Debate: 06/07/2010) - report by Antolín Sánchez Presedo (S-D, ES)
- European Banking Authority (Debate: 06/07/2010) - report by José Manuel García-Margallo Y Marfil (EPP, ES)
- Specific tasks for the European Central Bank concerning the functioning of the European Systemic Risk Board (Debate: 06/07/2010) - report by Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE, ES)
- European Securities and Markets Authority (Debate: 06/07/2010) - report by Sven Giegold (Greens/EFA, DE)
- Enforcement of intellectual property rights in the internal market - report by Marielle Gallo (EPP, FR)
- European strategy for the economic and social development of mountain regions, islands and sparsely populated areas

**15:00-18:00**

- Failures in protection of human rights and justice in the Democratic Republic of Congo - Council and Commission statements followed by debate
- Transatlantic relations: USA travel fee - Council and Commission statements followed by debate

**18:00-19:00**

- Question time (Council)

### PRESIDENT'S DIARY

*Strasbourg*

- 14:45 Ceremonial signing of co-decision legislation - Protocol Room
- 17:30 Chairing the meeting of the EP delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (EMPA) - Room SDM S1

### DELEGATIONS

#### MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS SUMMIT

**9:00-21:00, New York**

More info on Monday 20 September

#### DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH SWITZERLAND, ICELAND AND NORWAY AND TO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

**15:00-18:30, Strasbourg: SDM-S1**

Preparatory meeting

#### DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH CANADA

**15:00-18:30, Strasbourg: SDM-S1**

#### DELEGATION TO THE EURONEST PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

**15:00-17:30, Strasbourg: SDM-S5**

#### DELEGATION TO THE UFM PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

**17:30-18:30, Strasbourg: SDM-S1**

## COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

### MEETING OF COREPER I

*Brussels*

### MEETING OF COREPER II

*Brussels*

### EUROPEAN CONSUMER PROTECTION ENFORCEMENT DAY - HIGH LEVEL MEETING

*Brussels*

The European Consumer Protection Enforcement Day will kick off with a critical analysis of the current model for collaboration in consumer right protection, and will also examine possibilities for boosting efficiency and effectiveness in the future. The programme will therefore also feature a debate on the amended protection model.

## RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION FOR A MORE SECURE EUROPE

22-24 September, Oostende

The annual Security Research Conference (SRC) is a meeting place for security research, technology development and innovation stakeholders in Europe. This year's edition is organised under the Belgian Presidency by the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO) in cooperation with the European Commission through cofunding by the FP7 European Security Research Programme.

Contact: Brigitte Decadt : Brigitte.

DECADT@belspo.be, +32 2 238 35 70

## EUROPEAN CONSULAR COOPERATION CRISIS SEMINAR

22-23 September, Brussels

During the crisis seminar the potential added value of European cooperation at consular level during crises will be sought, together with the fields within consular work which are eligible for European cooperation during crises.

Contact: Audrey Van Scharen : Audrey.

vanscharen@diplobel.fed.be, +32 (0)2 501 32 71

## EUROJUST UNDER THE TREATY OF LISBON: A REINFORCED ROLE FOR MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION

20-22 September, Bruges (Europa College)

More info on Monday 20 September

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### TRAVEL AND VISITS

■ Andris Piebalgs in New York (20-22/09): participates at the side event on "The Central Role of Education for Development"

■ Androulla Vassiliou in Copenhagen (22-23/09): attends the Grundtvig Tenth Anniversary Conference on "European Cooperation in Adult Learning-Shaping the Future"

■ John Dalli participates at the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Advisory Forum (Malta)

■ Maria Damanaki receives Dr Jane Lubchenco, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and

Administrator of US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

■ Günther Oettinger delivers a speech at the Institute of Energy Economics at the University of Cologne (EWI) (Cologne)

■ Günther Oettinger delivers a speech at European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) (Brussels)

■ Günther Oettinger receives Prof. Dr. Helga Nowotny, President of the European Research Council

■ Günther Oettinger receives Jacques De Boisseson, President of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China plus a delegation of this organisation

■ Connie Hedegaard in New York (19-25/09): meetings with several ministers

## GENERAL COURT

9:30

### Eighth Chamber

■ Hearing T-262/09: Defense Technology v OHMI - DEF-TEC Defense Technology (FIRST DEFENSE AEROSOL PEPPER PROJECTOR)

Intellectual property

Community trade mark – Action for annulment brought by the proprietor of the national word and figurative marks, unregistered marks and trade name containing the word elements 'FIRST DEFENSE' and 'DEF-TEC PRODUCTS' for goods in Class 13 against the decision of the Fourth Board of Appeal of the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM) of 4 May 2009 in Case R 493/20024 (II) annulling the Opposition Division's decision, which refused in part registration of the figurative mark containing the word element 'FIRST DEFENSE AEROSOL PEPPER PROJECTOR' in respect of goods in Classes 5, 8 and 13 in the opposition proceedings brought by the applicant

## COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

### Commission meeting

■ 5th meeting of the Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy ENVE

Venue: Committee of the Regions, Brussels

## Upcoming conferences

5 October, Brussels

### ■ Final conference of the SCE Project

Subject: The European Cooperative Statute conference will present the findings of the study programme.

Organisers: Cooperatives Europe and Euricse

Contact: Antonina Guarrella, Tel. +32(2)743.10.33 - office@coopseurope.coop or Tel. +39(0)461.28.36.58; chiara.strano@euricse.eu

Venue: Copa-Cogeca, rue de Trèves, 61, 1040 Brussels

6 October, Brussels

### ■ Alpine Macro Region Seminar

Subject: An Open Days 2010 event, the seminar is based on concrete experiences of cooperation, the event will focus on the best ways to make the Alpine region a competitive space.

Organisers: the ALPMAR consortium Tyrol (Austria), Western Slovenia (Slovenia), Franche-Comté (France), Trentino (Italy), South Tyrol (Italy) and Lombardia (Italy)

Contact:

emanuela\_ammoni@regione.lombardia.it

Venue: 9:00-13:00, Place du Champ de Mars, Brussels

8- 9 December, Paris

### ■ GeoPower Europe 2010 - Turning up the heat on geothermal energy in Europe

Subject: The 2nd annual GeoPower Europe conference and exhibition will focus on policy, finance, and real project opportunities.

Organisers: GeoPower Europe

Contact: Tel: +44 (0)207 099 0600, info@greenpowerconferences.com

Venue: Renaissance Hotel Paris La Defense  
www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk



# ALDE condemns

the blatant discrimination against the Roma minority in a number of Member States and in particular attempts to target this community for mass expulsion which is contrary to the values and laws of the EU which prohibit discrimination on grounds of ethnicity or nationality and guarantee freedom of movement of EU citizens.

A more enlightened approach across the EU would envisage the integration and improvement in living conditions of Roma and their equal treatment as any other European citizen.



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