



HEADLINES

EU/Institutions: European Council conclusions

On the 18-19 June the European Council gathered in Brussels to discuss a broad range of issues, including the supervision of financial institutions. After two days of debate EU leaders agreed on a text that calls for further efforts towards the improvement of both regulation and supervision in this area. Furthermore, the European Heads of State expressed confidence in the long-term EU economy, but stressed that continued efforts must be made with regards to the implementation of measures to respond to the crisis in line with the European Economic Recovery Plan, as agreed in December 2008. To facilitate the preparation of labour markets for future recovery, flexicurity is recognised as an important means. Equal importance is given to entrepreneurship and job creation, as well as skilled labour and a knowledge based, eco-efficient economy. With regards to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy - the overall plan of which Sustainable Consumption and Production is one of the seven key challenges - the European Council invites the Council to examine the Commission's progress report and take assertion to the implementation priorities.

ESBA Opinion

ESBA welcomes the Presidency Conclusions, but regrets that the Council missed the opportunity to address the current obstacles for SMEs with regards to access to finance, late payments by both businesses and institutions, and administrative burden. ESBA urges the Council, not to lose track of these issues, which remain of vital importance in the current economic downturn.

To read the Council conclusions, please click: [here](#)

IN BRIEF

EU/Environment: The BUILD UP Initiative

On the 16th of June, the European Commission introduced the Build Up Initiative to cut energy use in buildings. The new interactive web portal aims to help Member States implement the 2002 Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) by inviting building occupants, public authorities, umbrella organizations, home owners and tenants to exchange best practices, legislation and technology on energy reduction. The initiative is in line with the political agenda of November 2008 which put forward the adoption of a package of energy-efficiency proposals. At the same date the European Commission launched a recast of the EPBD to broaden the scope and further improve energy efficiency of houses.

To visit the BUILD UP web portal please click: [here](#)

To Learn more about Directive 2002/91/EC, please click: [here](#)

EU/Financial Market: EIF signs first CIP deal with Austria

On the 3rd of June the first guarantee agreement was signed with Austria under the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). The European Investment Fund (EIF) and Austria Wirtschaftsservice (AWS) established a cooperation that will help Austrian SMEs get better access to finance. The CIP programme runs from 2007-2013 and is aimed at encouraging productivity and competitiveness of European small and medium sized enterprises by supporting innovation activities, providing enhanced access to finance for SMEs without neglecting complementary environmental concerns.

For more information, please click: [here](#)

EU/Environment: Green Week 2009

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On the 23rd of June the European Commission launched the European Green Week Conference 2009: 'Climate change: act and adapt' in the Charlemagne Commission Building in Brussels. The three-day event, gathering high-level speakers from all over the world and participants from different levels of (inter)national institutions and the public, aims to provide a forum to share knowledge and experience with regards to different aspects in combating climate change. The Conference is structured by four themes: EU climate change policies, international dimension, living with climate change, and '2050 vision: a carbon free society'. Commission President José Manuel Barroso will present his closing speech on the 26th of June, in anticipation of the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen at the end of this year.

For more information, please click: [here](#)

EU/Financial Market: EIB loans may reach up to 70 billion Euros this year
The European Investment Bank (EIB) expects to increase its lending to EU- and pre-accession countries to 70 Billion Euros this year, therewith exceeding its initial increase from 45 to 60 billion Euro's as foreseen by the European Economic Recovery Package. The increase is due to crisis induced high demands for funding and a large influx of feasible projects. The three key areas in which EIB lending has seen a significant increase are SMEs, energy and mitigation of climate change, and investment in convergence regions.

To read more about the EIB's intentions, please click: [here](#)

EU/Entrepreneurship

On 18 June, the European Commission, in partnership with Junior Achievement Young Enterprises Europe, launched the "Your World, Your Business" campaign to foster a new generation of responsible young entrepreneurs. Based on a film, the innovative campaign encourages pupils and teachers to exchange their views about entrepreneurship and to consider social and environmental implications of running a business. The campaign aims to inspire more young people to set up responsible businesses themselves and to contribute to the well-being of society in an environmentally responsible manner.

To read more about the campaign, please click: [here](#)

PUBLICATIONS

OECD: Research and Development Expenditure in Industry

The publication "Research and Development Expenditure in 2009", published by the OECD, provides statistical data on R&D expenditure for industrial and services sectors in 25 OECD countries and 3 non-member countries.

To read more about the publication, please click: [here](#)

CONSULTATIONS

NEW

Online consultation on design in European innovation policy

The European Commission has launched a public consultation, centring around its staff working document on Design as a driver of user-centred innovation. The aim of the consultation is to find out whether the EU should do more in terms of design and, if positive, what. The questionnaire, which will take up a maximum of 90 minutes to complete, has been made available online and is divided into three sections: identification, key-, and specific questions. Furthermore a distinction is made between organisations and private persons.

To learn more about this public consultation, please click: [here](#)

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ONGOING

Online consultation on Administrative Burdens Reduction

The European Commission has launched an online consultation on the reduction of administrative burdens. Inspired by examples of Best Practice in Belgium and the Netherlands, the consultation invites entrepreneurs to identify unnecessary red tape in order to help the EU improve the quality of its legislation. The consultation is part of the Action Programme to reduce admin burdens on businesses in the EU by 25% in 2012.

To access the online consultation, please click [here](#)

COMING UP

2-3 July 2009 International Conference for Corporate Communication and Public Relations. The European Association of Communication Directors organises a two-day Communications Summit with highly respected speakers and networking opportunities for senior communicators.

For more information, please click: [here](#)

7 July 2009 The Swedish Presidency Programme for the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) will be presented to EU finance ministers in the ECOFIN Council.

For more information, please click: [here](#)

13-15 July 2009 In the run-up to the Copenhagen meetings in December crucial issues will be discussed at the six-month informal workshop on Climate Change held by the Presidency.

For more information, please click: [here](#)