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# EU Alert

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## EU Publishes Amendments on IPA to Adapt to Iceland Accession Application

Aiming to adapt the legal framework for the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) to Iceland's application for membership of the European Union, the Official Journal publishes on June 24th 2010, Regulation (EU) N° 540/2010 amending Council Regulation (EC) N° 1085/2006 regulating the instrument. Following the submission on 16 July 2009 of the application by the Republic of Iceland for membership of the European Union, the Council has invited the Commission to submit to the Council its opinion on Iceland's application. Further to this opinion Iceland can therefore be considered as a potential candidate country and take part on the instruments set up for that purpose.

<http://euroalert.net/en/news.aspx?idn=10009>

## Parliament and the Commission Award Prizes for Real FAKE Competition

This competition was a first step in a larger public awareness campaign that is being launched by the European Union to make Europeans more aware of the dangers of counterfeit and pirated goods and their harmful effects on consumers and the economy. The winners, students between 10 and 15 years old, were invited to a grand awards ceremony at the European Parliament, in Brussels held in June 23rd. Winners of the Real FAKE competition have been presented by Internal Market and Services Commissioner Michel Barnier, and members of the European Parliament in a ceremony organized at the European Parliament. This competition, addressed to schools, aimed at raise awareness among youngest citizens about the dangers of fake products and piracy. Hundreds of submissions from all over Europe were received, from which an independent jury made its selection of successful entries.

<http://euroalert.net/en/news.aspx?idn=10007>

## EU Objectives for the G20 Summit in Toronto

As full member of the G20 and G8, the European Union will be present in the forthcoming meeting in Toronto (Canada). A few days before the launch of the Summit, President Barroso and President Van Rompuy have sent to other leaders a letter presenting EU's position and objectives over the issues to be dealt in Toronto. Based on the outline which President Barroso sent to the European Council back in May, Presidents Van Rompuy and Barroso have transmitted a letter to the other G20 leaders on the key issues for the EU on the G20 agenda.

In their letter, the two Presidents stress that securing strong and sustainable growth remains the overriding priority as it has been set forth by the recently adopted "Europe 2020" strategy. In their letter, Presidents underline that "given the major risks that late exit from extraordinary fiscal stimulus would entail for public accounts' sustainability, at the Toronto summit, the G20 should agree on a coordinated and differentiated exit strategy to ensure sustainable public finances."

<http://euroalert.net/en/news.aspx?idn=10006>

## More Europeans Face Difficulties to Pay Household Bills

According to data provided by the last Eurobarometer survey on social impacts of the crisis, there are more and more Europeans who struggle to meet their current expenses. To the general perception of the gravity of poverty around them, more Europeans are concerned about keeping their jobs or the payment of pension and sanitary expenses. The survey, carried out in May 2010, marks the halfway mark of the 2010 European Year against poverty and comes after EU leaders agreed on 17 June to lift 20 million Europeans out of poverty and social exclusion over the next decade.

Overall, EU citizens believe that poverty has increased in the year prior to the survey, at all levels: 6 out of 10 believe poverty has increased in their local area, three-quarters feel poverty has increased in their country and 60% think poverty has increased across the EU as a whole.

<http://euroalert.net/en/news.aspx?idn=10002>

## GDP per Capita Varied in the EU Between 41% and 268%

According to the data released by Eurostat, the GDP per inhabitant varied in the European Union from 41% to 268%. These data are based on first preliminary estimates for 2009 and provide information for EU27, as well as candidate countries, EFTA and four Western Balkan countries.

These figures for GDP per inhabitant, expressed in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS), are published by Eurostat, the statistical Office of the European Union. They cover the 27 EU Member States, the three candidate countries, three EFTA Member States and four Western Balkan countries. Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Malta, Portugal and Slovakia were between 10% and 30% lower than the EU27 average. Hungary, Estonia, Poland and Lithuania were between 30% and 50% lower, while Latvia, Romania and Bulgaria were between 50% and 60% below the EU27 average.

<http://euroalert.net/en/news.aspx?idn=10001>

## Commission and US Agree to Cooperate on Civil Aviation

The European Commission and the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have officially concluded negotiations for the establishment of a Memorandum of cooperation in civil aviation research and development, in a meeting hosted by the EU Spanish Presidency.

The Memorandum will develop objective based on the use of air transport systems more efficient and greener through a legally binding framework for cooperation. Under the Memorandum the two parties will be able to address through cooperative activities any research and development issues in civil aviation such as: safety, security, environment, performance, alternative fuels, aircraft design, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), sub-orbital airplanes, satellite-based communications and related ATM applications, etc.

<http://euroalert.net/en/news.aspx?idn=9996>

## Council Defines the Requirements of European Citizen's Initiative

On 14 June, the General Affairs Council reached an agreement on the practical details of how to implement this important innovation in the democratic functioning of the EU. The presidency will now negotiate the details with the European Parliament.

The European citizens' initiative is one of the most visible results of the Treaty of Lisbon. Its aim is to bring the EU closer to its citizens and to encourage more cross-border debate on EU issues. It will enable citizens to call on the Commission to put forward legislative proposals on specific issues if they number at least one million signatories from a significant number of member states.

<http://euroalert.net/en/news.aspx?idn=9989>

## EU Simplifies Rules for the Implementation of Programmes

The Spanish Secretary of State for the European Union, Diego López Garrido, and the President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek have signed an amendment to the Regulation governing Community Funds. This Wednesday, in Strasbourg, the Spanish Secretary of State for the European Union, Diego López Garrido, and the President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek, took part in the signing of the amendment of the Regulation governing Community Funds.

The proposed amendment, put forward by the Commission, is based on simplifying the existing rules to facilitate quicker implementation of programmes and projects financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund.

<http://euroalert.net/en/news.aspx?idn=9988>

## EP Calls for User's Privacy with RFID Technologies

The European Parliament gave its backing to the development of an "internet of things", the new information technology combining electronic chips and internet addresses, in a resolution adopted on its last plenary session. In their plenary session in Strasbourg, MEPs have assessed the future of data protection in the framework of information society. The first resolution drafted by Maria Badia i Cutchet (S&D, ES) and adopted by an overwhelming majority, was on the internet of things, which, thanks to RFID technology, is revolutionising "person to thing and thing to-thing interaction". In future it will be possible for all the information on a product to be stored, received and transmitted in wireless mode via a chip stuck on the product and measuring just a few millimetres.

<http://euroalert.net/en/news.aspx?idn=9985>

## **Consultation: Derivatives and Market Infrastructures**

On 3rd July 2009 the Commission adopted a Communication<sup>1</sup> on "Ensuring efficient, safe and sound derivatives markets" which set out the problems identified in the OTC derivatives markets and the possible tools to address these problems. The Communication was accompanied by a detailed Staff Working Paper<sup>2</sup> describing the different characteristics of the various segments of the OTC derivatives market. Together with the publication of the Communication and Staff Working Paper, the Internal Market and Services Directorate General of the Commission launched a full consultation<sup>3</sup> with different options on how to implement the policy tools envisaged in the Commission's Communication. The consultation was followed by a public hearing and high-level conference on 25th September 2009

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/consultations/2010/derivatives\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2010/derivatives_en.htm)

## **Consultation: Short Selling**

The Commission services have launched a public consultation on short selling. Its purpose is to consult market participants, governments, regulators and other stakeholders on possible provisions to be considered in a forthcoming Commission proposal for stand alone legislation dealing with potential risks arising from short selling.

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/securities/short\\_selling\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/securities/short_selling_en.htm)

**If you have any queries about the EU Alert bulletin, or would like some more information about any of the topics in this edition, please contact Enterprise Europe West Midlands on 0121 455 0268**

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