

In touch with EU



News from the Association

Training courses

In recent years, we've generally found it difficult to attract sufficient numbers to our training courses to make them viable.

A number of courses have had to be cancelled, due to lack of interest. Each time we cancel, we incur a cancellation charge - usually some hundreds of pounds.

Our latest course, on case law, had just five delegates (two dropped out - one on the day). There was much praise for the course content and the helpful, approachable trainers from the five people who attended. However, despite the quality of the course, it lost money.

The Association's Committee has decided that we cannot continue to run courses at a loss.

We will therefore not be arranging any public courses in the immediate future - although we're always happy to consider requests for in-house training.

Virtual training

Given the lack of face-to-face courses, the Committee is keen to extend and improve the online training offered via our Moodle site. We hope to see significant developments with Moodle over the coming months.

Free publications

A reminder that EIA Members can access our pdf publications free of charge via our website. They include a compendium of our 'How To' guides. Compiled in December 2010, the compendium brings together guides on how to:

- 1 - use the Official Journal
- 2 - find a Directive
- 3 - trace COM documents
- 4 - trace EC case law
- 5 - trace national implementing measures
- 6 - access and use the institutions registers
- 7 - find out about EU funding
- 8 - find out about the ERDF and ESF in the UK
- 9 - find out about EU contracts & tenders
- 10 - trace EU statistics
- 11 - research the EU (a guide for students)
- 12 - keep up-to-date with the EU

Feedback

Please send comments etc to eric@eia.org.uk.

Eric Davies
EIA Coordinator

This newsletter can be printed, but the embedded URLs will be lost ...

It's official:

EU documents , publications and sources

Budget

The draft Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2014-2020 has been published by the European Commission as 'A Budget for Europe 2020' (the multi-part COM (2011) 500). The Commission proposes an overall EU budget for the next seven years of €1,025 billion in commitments and €972.2 billion in payments. It also proposes a number of changes to the Union's budget, including ending the VAT-based own resource from 2014 and introducing two new own resources: a tax on the financial transactions (FTT) and a new VAT element.

The European Parliament has compiled an 'interactive tool' showing how much the EU spends in each Member State, what it's spent on and where it comes from.

See: [Financial Framework page](#) and Press Release [20110630IPR23042](#)

Polish Presidency

Poland has identified three priorities on which its six-month Presidency of the Council will focus: 'European Integration as a Source of Growth'; 'Secure Europe'; and 'Europe Benefitting from 'Openness''. Together with Denmark and Cyprus, Poland is part of a Presidency Trio which will direct the work of the Council for the next 18 months.

See: [Poland Presidency website](#) and [Presidency programme](#)

Statistics

Eurostat has published the 2011 edition of 'Key figures on Europe'. The 180-page pocketbook presents a selection of statistics from the Eurostat yearbook ('Europe in figures')

covering: economy and finance; population; health; education and training; the labour market; living conditions and social protection; industry, trade and services; agriculture, forestry and fisheries; international trade; transport; the environment; energy; and science and technology. It covers the EU and its Member States, with some data also provided for other countries (members of EFTA, candidate countries, Japan, United States).

See: [Key figures page](#)

Enlargement

Iceland's EU membership bid has received a boost, with an intergovernmental conference (IGC) reporting significant progress with the accession process. Iceland's membership of the European Economic Area (EEA) means it has already adopted much of the legislation that EU membership requires.

Croatia is on course to join the EU on 1 July 2013, following a decision by Member States to close accession negotiations and allow the Accession Treaty to be signed by the end of this year.

See: [Enlargement website](#)

Public procurement

The results of an evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of EU public procurement legislation have been published by the European Commission, together with a summary of responses to January's Green Paper (COM (2011) 15).

See: Press Release [IP/11/785](#)



Transparency Register

A joint, public Transparency Register has been launched by the European Parliament and the European Commission. It replaces the Commission Register created in 2008. Details of more than 4,000 organisations on that Register are to be transferred to the Joint Transparency Register over the coming 12 months.

The scope of the new Register is broader than its predecessor, and includes law firms, NGOs, think tanks and other organisations or individuals engaged in influencing EU policy-making and implementation.

See: Press Releases [IP/11/773](#) and [MEMO/11/446](#)

EU demographics

'The greying of the baby boomers: A century-long view of ageing in European populations' is the title of a recent issue of 'Statistics in focus'. It presents results from the 'Europop2010' projections from Eurostat, which show the EU population peaking at around 2040, with one person in eight aged being aged 80 or more in 2060. Population is expected to increase from 501 million in 2010 to 526 million in 2040, and then drop to 517 million in 2060.

See: [Statistics in focus 23/2011](#)

National parliaments

According to the European Commission's Annual Report on relations with National Parliaments, political dialogue improved in 2010. Changes under the Treaty of Lisbon have seen national parliaments more engaged in EU affairs.

See: Press Release [IP/11/698](#)

Copyright

Under Council Directive 92/100/EEC, authors have an exclusive right to authorise or prohibit the rental and lending of originals and copies of copyright works. In the case of public lending, Member States may derogate from that right on condition that authors obtain remuneration for such lending. In a preliminary ruling in Case C-271/10, the Court of Justice has decided that authors must be able to derive an adequate income and payments to them cannot be purely symbolic or calculated exclusively according to the number of borrowers. In addition, large public lending establishments should pay more to authors than smaller ones.

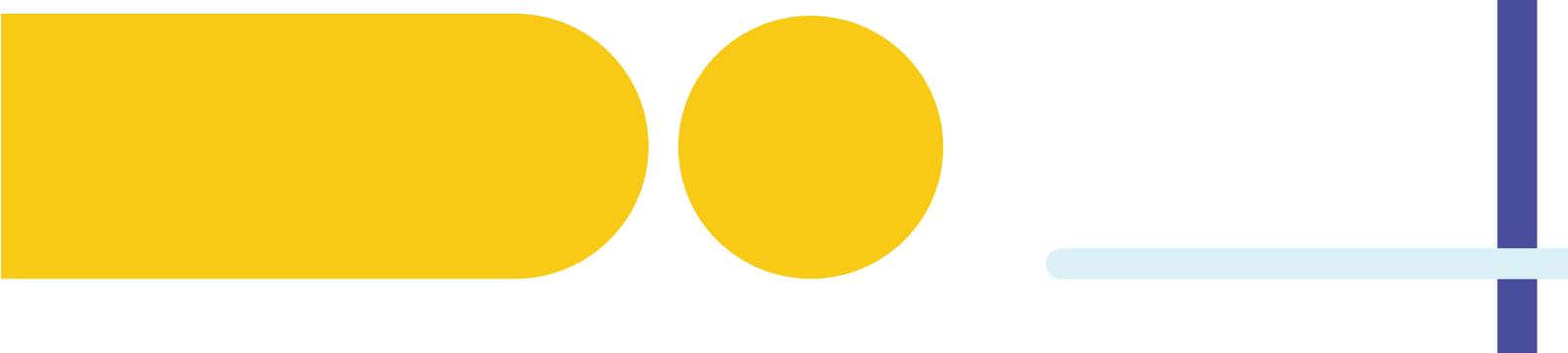
Directive 2001/29/EC on certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society gives authors, performers and producers the exclusive right to reproduce audio, visual and audio-visual material. It also allows Member States to authorise the making of private copies on condition that the copyright holders receive 'fair compensation'. In its judgment in Case C-462/09, the Court of Justice has ruled that Member States who have introduced an exception for private copying are obliged to ensure effective recovery of the fair compensation, even when the commercial seller of the reproduction media is established in another Member State.

See Press Release [66/11](#) and Press Release [60/11](#)

Horizon 2020

The Union's next framework programme for research and innovation - the successor to the Seventh Framework Programme or FP7 - is to be called 'Horizon 2020'.

See: Press Release [MEMO/11/435](#)



Focus on ...

This site is a part of 



EUR-Lex

Access to European Union law

EUROPA > EUR-Lex Home > Official Journal

Official Journal of the European Union

The Publications Office is building up the archive of the [Official Journal](#).

On the EUR-Lex website, it is currently possible to access copies of the OJ L back to 1968, with 1952 the ultimate target.

Texts are produced as pdf files in the language of the originals; so, for example, copies of OJ L 312 of 28 December 1968 are available only in Dutch, French, German and Italian.

The texts can be found using a year/month/number browse option and by a basic year/number search function.

Special editions of the OJ L, containing legislation in force when Member States joined the EU, are also being added, with the 2004 and 2007 special editions already available.

It's worth noting that, despite the impression given on the main OJ page that all texts can also be accessed in a variety of formats (pdf, htm, tiff) using the site's search functions, searches for older items often find only bibliographic details, not full texts.

Depending on the amount of information known, it might therefore be best to use the 'archive' option rather than the general search approach.

EUROPA > EUR-Lex Accueil > Journal officiel > 1968

Journal officiel de l'Union européenne

Année 1968

Mois	L (Législation)
Janvier	L 004 - 028
Février	L 031 - 050
Mars	L 053 - 075
Avril	L 079 - 100
Mai	L 103 - 121
Juin	L 124 - 151
	L 153 - 187
	L 188 - 215
	L 217 - 238
	L 240 - 267
	L 272 - 289
	L 294 - 312

Q&A

Our AskEric service gives EIA members the chance to pose their questions to our EU information experts. Whether it's simple or complex - if you're having trouble finding the answer, try AskEric ...

In response to the question:

“ What’s the easiest way to find a comdoc, if you know the number? ”

Eric suggested:

If you know the number, you can search for the document on [EUR-Lex](#), using the ‘Preparatory acts’ option from the left-hand menu.

Having selected ‘COM documents’ (you should be at [this page](#)) scroll down to the ‘Direct access to PDF documents’ section, enter the appropriate year and number in the boxes provided, and hit ‘Search’.

However, it can often be quicker to Google* the number. This works best if you enclose the COM reference in speechmarks, as in: "COM(2008) 800" (it doesn't matter whether there are spaces between the various elements or not). In the case of this example, the [results page](#) shows both the EUR-Lex record and the relevant PreLex dossier.

It's not always so simple, though - see for example [results](#) for "COM(2006) 13", where items are from the relevant DG and the ‘Summaries of EU legislation’ collection. Either may be useful, but DG pages have a habit of disappearing, so if a durable link is required, EUR-Lex would be the best option.

And top [results](#) for "COM(2009)25" include items on Bob Marley and on social networking - though EUR-Lex is also near the top of the list.

This approach is well worth trying - just make sure you know where you're heading when you click a link.

* other search engines are also available!

Snippets:

News and views from non-EU sources

European Policy Centre

From: [Internal border controls in the Schengen area: much ado about nothing?](#)

The question relating to the reintroduction of internal borders checks in the Schengen Area has become increasingly sensitive. ... In this Commentary, Yves Pascouau, analyses the Conclusions of the European Council on that specific issue. It demonstrates that, while the Council has agreed to establish a mechanism to reintroduce internal border controls, the implementation of such a mechanism remains uncertain.

Euobserver

From: [EU states appeal court ruling on transparency](#)

EU member states are set to launch an appeal of a lower court decision with the European Court of Justice hoping to prevent greater transparency in decision-making - even about transparency rules themselves.

Anxious that a recent landmark court ruling could radically open up to public scrutiny decision-making in the Council of Ministers ... a full 20 EU countries have jumped aboard an appeal of the decision.

EurActiv

From: [Brussels confronts 'EU budget myths'](#)

Just days before unveiling long-awaited proposals for the EU's budget until 2020, the European Commission has published a collection of facts on how Europe is financed, in a move apparently aimed at countering stereotypes

conveyed by the Eurosceptic British press that it is oversized and unaccountable.

European Voice

From: [MEPs present code of conduct plans](#)

A group of MEPs today [has] presented proposals for a new code of conduct to the European Parliament's group leaders, claiming their plans will help boost public trust in the institution.

[...]

The working group was created following the 'cash-for-influence' scandal in March, when an undercover investigation by the UK's Sunday Times newspaper alleged that four MEPs were willing to take money in exchange for submitting amendments to proposed EU legislation.

Notre Europe

From: [How to spend better together](#)

The negotiations about the EU budget after 2013 can't ignore austerity concerns but, due to its limited size, we cannot expect major savings from applying austerity at the EU-level.

A more intelligent response to the austerity challenge is to look at ways to make savings by better coordinating EU and national-level spending or by re-organising spending tasks. To explore these potentialities for efficiency gains, Notre Europe launches a set of publications under the title "How to spend better together", which contains both transversal and sectoral analysis.

Commission overhauls communication policy

EurActiv has made public a letter to President Barroso from Viviane Reding, the Commissioner responsible for the communication portfolio.

The letter is available as a [pdf file](#) and is referred to in the article [Commission plans to 'embed' journalists with Barroso](#).

Dated 21 June, the letter sets out a raft of reforms introduced by Commissioner Reding with the aim of improving the Commission's communication efforts.

Most of the initiatives taken over the last five months can be described as 'inward looking', focusing on the mechanics of the communication process within the Commission. They include a reorganisation of DG COMM, giving Commissioners better information on press coverage, installing teleprompters in the press room, and ensuring that a dedicated photographer for the President is permanently on call.

There is also a proposal to allow the funding of journalists travelling with President Barroso or Commissioners to important meetings abroad.

Of wider interest to those of us involved in EU information are developments in other areas, including the following:

- Commissioners' websites are now being updated in real time, and sites have been harmonised (although looking at examples via the [Commission](#) page, there is little evidence of a standard layout, so this perhaps refers to content);

- Commission staff can access an automated blog monitoring service, with 'fast and effective rebuttal' of stories organised by the Spokesman's Service. DG COMM is to create a network of social media experts to improve the Commission's use of Facebook, Twitter etc.

- Most significantly, the letter gives brief details of moves to streamline 'the multitude of Commission networks.' Work is already underway to harmonise their visual identity. According to Commissioner Reding, the next step: 'will be to bring them together under one "umbrella", to create a single entry port for citizens requesting information about the EU, as proposed in the 2008 Lamassoure report*.'

The single entry port is expected to be launched in October, to coincide with the Commission's adoption of a report on citizenship.



* Interestingly, the Lamassoure report [The citizen and the application of Community law](#) makes no mention of European Documentation Centres - despite covering the education sector as one of a number of areas of 'specialist' information provision. So it's perhaps not the comprehensive survey that some people seem to think it is.