



Business Support on Your Doorstep

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## EU NEWS

### Erasmus programme for Young Entrepreneurs

The European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry, has recently launched a pilot project for an exchange programme for young entrepreneurs, aimed at equipping them with relevant skills for managing their new companies.

The 'Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs' pilot project will provide 870 entrepreneurs with a grant to spend between one and six months in another EU Member State, learning from an experienced entrepreneur who is running an SME in the chosen country. With the help of local chambers of commerce and other intermediary organisations, people starting their own businesses will be paired up with established SMEs in other EU countries.

'Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs' is part of the Small Business Act and its objective is to foster entrepreneurship, internationalisation and competitiveness of potential entrepreneurs and newly established micro and small enterprises in the EU. The pilot project should encourage more people to set up new businesses and boost the exploitation of commercial opportunities of the internal market. Currently, too few people in the EU establish new companies and only 8% of the existing European SMEs export goods and services to other EU countries.

Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs website

<http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/>

### Experts' recommendations to avoid repeat of financial crisis.

A group of financial experts has put forward 18 detailed recommendations to strengthen supervision of the EU's financial institutions and markets. Recommendations include developing common rules for investment funds across all 27 EU Member States, capping bankers' bonuses in line with shareholder interests and establishing a crisis management system for the EU's financial sector. Two new EU control systems, one for financial supervision and another for managing risk, are also advocated.

The European Commission will give a first preliminary assessment and response to the main conclusions of the report already next week. The report will be also discussed at the spring summit of EU leaders.

To read the 18 recommendations

[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/president/pdf/statement\\_20090225.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/pdf/statement_20090225.pdf)

To consult the whole report

[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/president/pdf/statement\\_20090225\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/pdf/statement_20090225_en.pdf)

### **Latest Commission's reports on the implementation of legislation and practical problem-solving in the Internal Market**

The Commission has recently issued three reports – Scoreboard, SOLVIT and Citizen Signpost Service (CSS) – as a package highlighting the close links between implementation of legislation and practical problem-solving in the Internal Market.

According to the latest Internal Market Scoreboard, Member States continue to perform well in implementing agreed Internal Market rules into national law on time. The Scoreboard's new chapter on the state of economic integration of the Internal Market demonstrates that enlargement can be seen as the major driver for further integration within the Internal Market, with most of the EU-10 Member States being very open to imports and direct investment from other Member States.

The analysis of CSS enquiries and SOLVIT cases provide a direct link to the difficulties citizens and businesses are experiencing and help to identify issues which may still need to be resolved in order to improve the operation of the Internal Market. In 2008 both services received a high number of requests in the areas of social security, professional qualifications and free movement of persons. Also, it is noticeable that late transposition or ineffective application of certain Internal Market rules tends to lead to an increase in the number of cases submitted to these services, for example in the areas of residence rights and professional qualifications.

Internal Market Scoreboard

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/score/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/score/index_en.htm)

'How is Internal Market integration performing? Trade and Foreign Direct Investment Indicators for monitoring the state of the economic integration'

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/score/relateddocs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/score/relateddocs/index_en.htm)

SOLVIT report 2008

<http://ec.europa.eu/solvit>


Citizens Signpost Service (CSS) report 2008

[http://ec.europa.eu/citizensrights/front\\_end/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/citizensrights/front_end/index_en.htm)

### **Future ICT and research innovation agenda: results of public consultation are online**

From 4 September 2008 to 9 November 2008 the European Commission conducted an online public consultation on 'Shaping the ICT research and innovation agenda for the next decade'. The final report of this consultation has now been published and analyses 565 contributions from industry, ICT experts, policy-makers and the wider public. The results of the consultation will be fed into a renewed strategy for ICT research and innovation, to be unveiled in spring next year. The four main questions addressed to stakeholders were:

1. What are the main challenges ahead for ICT research and innovation? As the ICT revolution continues, what are Europe's key priorities for research and innovation?
2. How, and in what fields, should Europe aim to lead? Europe has world industrial and technological leaders in key fields such as telecommunications and embedded systems. How



can advances in these areas be reinforced and what new areas should a leadership profile be sought?

3. What is the role of public policy in putting Europe at the forefront of ICT innovation? How can research policy be consolidated to create a European market for ICT innovation? How can complementary policy fields such as standardisation, licensing and intellectual property regimes be adapted to support the early commercialisation of research results?

4. What features need to become available for Europe to adopt a more systemic approach for ICT?

To read the report, please go to

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item\\_id=2521&lang=en](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=2521&lang=en)

## **MEETINGS, FAIRS & EVENTS**

### **'Creativity and Innovation Conference and Exhibition', Brussels – 2 and 3 March 2009**

The European Commission is organising the 'Creativity and Innovation Conference and Exhibition - Best practices from European Union programmes'. The event will explore and identify examples of best practices among projects that have received funding through several European Union programmes and funds. It will be accompanied by a special exhibition showing the results of 20 star projects from around Europe that are good examples of the EU contribution, highlighted by the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009.

Organiser: European Commission

When: 2 and 3 March 2009

Where: Charlemagne Building

170, rue de la Loi – 1049 Brussels – Belgium

Further information and online registration

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education\\_culture/valorisation/conferences\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/valorisation/conferences_en.html)

### **9<sup>th</sup> Annual EBAN Congress, Madrid – 27 and 28 April 2009**

EBAN is the European trade association for early stage investors, an independent and non-profit association representing the interests of business angels networks (BANs), early stage venture capital funds and other entities involved in bridging the equity gap in Europe. EBAN was established with the collaboration of the European Commission in 1999 by a group of pioneer BANs in Europe and EURADA (the European Association of Development Agencies).

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual conference will analyse the current economic crisis from the point of view of angel group leaders and early stage fund managers. Moreover, success and war stories will be presented.



Organiser: EBAN  
When: 27 and 28 April 2009  
Where: Madrid, Spain  
Contact:

For further information about the congress and to register  
<http://congress2009.eban.org/>  
EBAN website  
<http://www.eban.org/>

### **Making IPR work for SMEs, Brussels – 27 April 2009**

The European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry, is organising a conference on 'Making Intellectual Property Right work for Small and Medium Enterprises'. The event aims to identify the challenges for businesses and governments to develop better support measures in the IPR field to help SMEs optimise their creative and innovative potential and defend their assets against counterfeiting and piracy.

About 400 European and national policy makers, enforcement practitioners, innovation support organisations and SMEs are expected to ensure a lively and practice-oriented conference.

Organiser: European Commission  
When: 27 April 2009 (9:30 – 16:30)  
Where: Charlemagne Building  
170, rue de la Loi – 1049 Brussels – Belgium  
Contact: [ENTR-BEST-IPR-CONF@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ENTR-BEST-IPR-CONF@ec.europa.eu)

For further information and online registration  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise\\_policy/industry/ipr\\_conference.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/industry/ipr_conference.htm)

### **European Maritime Day and Stakeholder Conference, Rome – 19 and 20 May 2009**

The first European Maritime Day was celebrated in 2008 in Brussels. This year, the event is hosted by the Commission in partnership with the Italian Government. Moreover, all interested parties are invited to organise their own events around 20 May, either at any location across Europe or alongside the stakeholder conference in Rome.

The conference will focus on sea-related cross-policy issues (i.e. clusters, tourism and climate change) and recent progress in the implementation on the Integrated Maritime Policy, with regard to the maritime governance, development of coastal regions and sustainable use of ocean resources and activities at seas.

The draft programme will be available very soon and registration will open at the end of February. To hold events as a part of the 2009 celebrations of the European Maritime Day, application forms are available on the website of DG Maritime Affairs. The deadline to register is 15 March 2009.

For further information visit this webpage  
[http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/index_en.html)

### **Second Americas Innovation Forum, Montevideo – 24, 25 and 26 May 2009**

The Government of Uruguay, through its National Research & Innovation Agency, is organising the Second Americas Innovation Forum. The purpose of this Forum is to bring together leading entrepreneurs, business executives, academics and government officials as a follow-up event to the Forums organized last year by the US Government in Atlanta and by the Uruguayan Government in Punta del Este.

The Second Forum will focus on different areas, such as sound management of innovation, innovation economics, biotech applied to health and primary sectors, information technology and renewable energies

Organiser: Government of Uruguay

When: 24, 25 and 26 May 2009

Where: Montevideo - Uruguay

Contact: European Commission Delegation in Uruguay, Mr Esteban Garcia de Motiloa

Tel: 00598 2 19 44 01 24 – e-mail: [esteban.garcia-de-motiloa@ec.europa.eu](mailto:esteban.garcia-de-motiloa@ec.europa.eu)

**The list of the events advertised in the EU and Services Bulletin is not exhaustive. Therefore, you are kindly invited to visit the events page on the events section of the intranet or the Enterprise Europe Network website.**

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Information about Cash Control and Security Amendment to the Custom Code available for the Enterprise Europe Network**

The European Commission, Directorate-General Taxation and Customs Union, has developed the following new and updated leaflets and posters to be disseminated to the general European and non-European public as well as to economic operators and hauliers:

- a leaflet on Cash controls at the EU's external borders;
- an awareness poster on Cash controls;
- a leaflet on the security amendment to the Customs Code.

Leaflets are multilingual and include text in EU and non-EU languages, whereas the posters are available in all EU languages and some non-EU languages.

Deadline to order copies of the leaflets and of the posters: 4 March 2009

For further information please contact Amy Burnett via e-mail: [amy.burnett@ec.europa.eu](mailto:amy.burnett@ec.europa.eu)

### **DG Environment News Alert on Thematic Issues**

Catering to subscriber demand, the European Commission, Directorate-General Environment, has extended its weekly news alert to include thematic issues with topics chosen according to the environmental policy agenda. All subscribers to the weekly news alert will automatically receive the monthly Thematic Issues.

Weekly news alert service

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/research\\_alert\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/research_alert_en.htm)

News Alert Thematic Issues

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/specialissue\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/specialissue_en.html)

Information about activities related to the integration of research into environmental policy development

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/research\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/research_en.htm)

### **SME Week Newsletter Nr. 3 online**

In this last issue of the monthly SME Week Newsletter, some articles focus on access to finance and entrepreneurship for young people. Another one is dedicated to SME Week events scheduled in Spain. There is also an interview of Hungarian MEP and Vice-President of the SME Intergroup in the European Parliament, Edit Herczog.

SME Week Newsletter Nr. 3

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/entrepreneurship/sme-week/newsletter/20090219\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/entrepreneurship/sme-week/newsletter/20090219_en.htm)

SME Week website

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/entrepreneurship/sme-week/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/entrepreneurship/sme-week/index_en.htm)

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **First review of the European Research Council to be initiated soon**

After two years of operations, the European Research Council's (ERC) structure and mechanisms will be reviewed to analyse its achievements and develop strategies on the future direction of this pioneering research funding initiative.

The review will be conducted by a high-level panel of eminent representatives of science and policy from the European Union and the United States of America to be appointed by the Commission. The independent panel will meet between February and July and prepare an initial report this summer.

The ERC is internationally renowned for its European frontier research and, in its first two years, allocated more than 850 million Euros to 575 successful applicants. Currently, the ERC is managed by an independent Scientific Council and operates by implementing a structure that is to become an autonomous Executive Agency in summer 2009.

ERC website

<http://erc.europa.eu/>



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