



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

GENERAL AFFAIRS



16.10.09

Pittsburgh G20 summit

G20: avoid placing too big a burden on future generations – **08/10/2009**

The Parliament said that the EU needs a stronger financial supervisory architecture with a single financial supervisory authority, in a resolution on the Pittsburgh G20 summit. MEPs also stressed the need for long-term fiscal sustainability, so as to avoid imposing too heavy a burden on future generations. But the priorities now must be to create jobs and protect people from the impact of the crisis. The Parliament welcomed the G20 summit conclusions, including the commitment to avoid any premature withdrawal of support measures used to stabilise financial markets. The work on exit strategies must start now, so as to implement them as soon as the recovery permits, says the resolution. [Click here](#) for further info

Statistics

EUROSTAT Regional Yearbook 2009 – 14/10/2009

Eurostat, the EU's Statistical Office, has just published the 2009 edition of its regional yearbook. The publication gives an overview of economic, social and demographic developments in the Union's 271 regions, and where data are available, in the regions of the three applicant countries (Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey) and in the four EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland). The yearbook includes chapters on population, cities, labour market, gross domestic product, household accounts, structural business statistics, information society, science, technology and innovation, education, tourism and agriculture. [Click here](#) to view the Regional Yearbook 2009

COM (2009) 530 - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on statistical returns in respect of the carriage of goods by road (Codified version)



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The purpose of this proposal is to undertake a codification of Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/98 which establishes the obligation on each Member State to compile Community statistics on the carriage of goods by road by means of road transport vehicles which are registered in that Member State and on the journeys made by such vehicles. The new Regulation will supersede the various acts incorporated in it. This proposal fully preserves the content of the acts being codified and hence does no more than bring them together with only such formal amendments as are required by the codification exercise itself.

Enlargement

COM (2009) 543 – Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Multi-Annual Indicative Financial Framework for 2011 – 2013

The Multi-Annual Indicative Financial Framework (MIFF) for the Instrument of Pre- Accession Assistance (IPA) is designed to provide information on the indicative breakdown of the overall IPA envelope proposed by the Commission in accordance with article 5 of the IPA Regulation (EC) 1085/2006. It acts as the link between the political framework within the enlargement package and the budgetary process.

The Multi-Annual Indicative Planning Documents (MIPD) established for each beneficiary country and for the multi-beneficiary programme, through which pre-accession aid is delivered, takes into account the indicative breakdown proposed in the MIFF. The MIFF is based on a rolling three-year programming cycle.

This MIFF is for the years 2011-2013. It indicates the allocation of the envelope for pre-accession assistance by country and by component for these years, and also gives an indication of the multi-beneficiary programme envelope and support expenditure.

Other matters

COM (2009) 529 - Communication from the Commission to the Council on the opening of consultations with Niger under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement

In light of the Cotonou Agreement and the political situation in Niger, the Commission feels that, without prejudice to the remainder of President Tandja's term until 22 December, a violation of these essential elements has taken place and considers it necessary to open consultations with the authorities in power in Niger in order to examine possible solutions to the crisis which would re-establish constitutional order. These consultations should encourage



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a swift return to a consensual and inclusive political dialogue that would establish a constitutional framework embracing the political forces of the country. These consultations will be conducted in accordance with Articles 9 and 96 of the revised Cotonou Agreement and will take account of the results of mediation and consultation conducted by the European Union and other international institutions.

The Commission therefore proposes that the Council invite the Republic of Niger for consultations under Articles 9 and 96 of the Cotonou Agreement. The Commission proposes that, during the consultation period, ongoing cooperation activities and those planned under the recently signed 10th EDF national indicative programme be confined to payments relating to contracts already being implemented, humanitarian measures or those that directly benefit the population and preparatory measures for the implementation of future projects. It further proposes that the other elements of the development cooperation framework with Niger be suspended until an acceptable solution to the crisis is found.

The EU in the World

COM (2009) 495 – Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council the European Union and Latin America: Global Players in Partnership

The Strategic Partnership between the European Union (EU) and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) was founded in Rio de Janeiro in 1999. Much has changed over the past ten years in Europe, in Latin America and at global level, creating new challenges and new priorities.

The Communication assesses the state of play of the Strategic Partnership with regard to Latin America and the results of the Commission's strategy for Latin America. The Communication also addresses the bi-regional challenges posed by the global economic and financial crisis (hereafter the crisis), climate change and other topics that have risen up the political agenda in the bi-regional relationship, as far as Latin America is concerned, notably migration. This coincides with the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the European Community's regional and country strategy documents for the period 2007-2013, and thus also presents an opportunity to adapt current cooperation instruments to new needs and circumstances.

The Communication is also a contribution to constructive preparations for the next EU-LAC Summit to be held in spring 2010 in Spain. It seeks synergy with other institutionalised political dialogues to which the EU or its Member States are party. This should help boost the EU-Latin America alliance.



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Lisbon Treaty

10 things about the Lisbon treaty you should know – 15/10/2009

Citizens' initiative: If 1 million Europeans present a petition to the European Commission then it would have to look at ways of introducing the proposals. Alternatively it could force the Union's executive to look at ways of repealing legislation.

Lawmaking: The European Parliament would become an equal in terms of lawmaking with the Council of Ministers, where member state national governments are represented.

Policy: Members of the European Parliament would be on an equal legislative footing with the Council regarding EU agriculture and fisheries policy, trade policy, legal immigration and EU structural funds, to name just a few.

National Parliaments gain an increased role in EU decision making with the treaty giving them eight weeks in which to argue their case if they feel a draft law oversteps European Union authority.

An EU President: European leaders will have to elect a new EU President to chair their 4 summits a year and set out the agenda ahead. This would replace the six monthly rotations and the holder is likely to be the public face of the Union.

High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy: The second new job created under Lisbon. The powerful EU "foreign minister" will chair meetings of Foreign Affairs Ministers, oversee the multi-billion EU aid budget and run the proposed European External Action Service - a European diplomatic corps.

Double majority in Council votes: The treaty changes the voting arrangements in the Council of Ministers. New arrangements mean that instead of voting by unanimity measures can now be carried if they have 55% of the votes in the Council from countries representing 65% of the EU's population.

Commission President elected by MEPs: Any new President of the European Commission would be elected by the European Parliament.

Charter of Fundamental Rights: The Charter becomes legally binding meaning all laws must adhere to it. The UK and Poland have certain opt outs on this point.



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Withdrawal: For the first time countries have the right to withdraw from the European Union.