



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE



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... Parliament

Commission presidency: Parliament will vote next week on José Manuel Barroso

MEPs will vote on Wednesday 16th September on whether to appoint José Manuel Barroso for a second term as President of the European Commission.

The Conference of Presidents – the leaders of Parliament’s political groups and the President of Parliament – confirmed that the vote would be held when they adopted the final draft agenda of next week’s parliamentary session in Strasbourg.

European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek said:

"The meeting of the Conference of Presidents came to a clear decision, which sends a strong signal to the citizens of Europe. In this time of economic crisis, we can not afford to continue in a political vacuum. We need to be able to move forward, deciding whether or not Mr Barroso will be Commission President for the next five years. Mr Barroso will now seek the support of a majority of MEPs in the vote next Wednesday in Strasbourg. His 'political guidelines' and discussion with the individual political groups have been widely appreciated by MEPs and set an important precedent for the future."

Mr Barroso will debate his plans for a possible second term in office with Parliament on Tuesday. The vote on whether to elect him as Commission President will take place the following day at midday.



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... *Commission*

Participation of Switzerland in EU education, training and youth programmes

[COM \(2009\) 462](#) - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the signing and provisional application of an Agreement between the European Commission and the Swiss Confederation establishing the terms and conditions for the participation of the Swiss Confederation in the 'Youth in Action' programme and in the action programme in the field of lifelong learning (2007-2013).

By this proposal, the European Commission has proposed to the Council an agreement with Switzerland to allow Swiss universities, schools, students and other young people to participate in the EU's programmes 'Youth in Action' and 'Lifelong Learning Programme'.

The signature of this agreement will mean that Switzerland will take part in these programmes alongside the Member States of the EU, the European Economic Area and Candidate Countries. Under the terms proposed, Switzerland could participate from 2011 and would contribute a total of €50.1m in 2011-13.

Explaining European integration: 20 years of support to EU studies around the world

This year's 20th anniversary edition of the annual Jean Monnet Conference celebrates the contribution of academic studies to the European integration process and to better knowledge about the EU worldwide. Professors of EU studies, supported through the Jean Monnet Programme, will draw on their expertise and experience in teaching Europe to feed a dialogue between academics, policy makers and civil society representatives from around the globe on current EU policy questions, including the constitutional evolution of the EU, the current economic downturn and the Euro.



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The 2009 Jean Monnet Conference was held in Brussels on 7-8 September entitled "*20 years of support to European Integration Studies: From the Jean Monnet Action to the Jean Monnet Programme*". Commission President José Manuel Barroso and Ján Figel', Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, participated in the event.

Since 1989, the EU has encouraged the study of European integration around the world through what is today the Jean Monnet Programme. The Programme supports professors specialised in European integration, at universities in 62 countries on the five continents, reaching a quarter million students every year.

Jean Monnet - 20 years of support to EU integration studies

In the past twenty years, the Jean Monnet network, which has expanded to comprise 146 Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence, 839 Jean Monnet Chairs and 2060 Jean Monnet Modules (short courses on European integration), has been crucial in spreading knowledge and understanding about the history and workings of the EU in the Member States and around the world.

At this year's Jean Monnet conference, professors from each of the five continents reflected on their experience in the past twenty years of researching and teaching EU studies in their own countries and the impact of EU studies on relations between their home countries and the EU. The highlight of the conference was an exchange of experiences between Jean Monnet professors from Central and Eastern European Member States and candidate countries on the practical aspects of providing guidance during the accession process to the EU.

The final element of the conference was an up-to-date academic analysis of current pressing issues facing the EU. In the presence of high-level policy makers, the Jean Monnet professors discussed:

- the impact of the Lisbon Treaty on the EU's decision-making capacities and democracy;
- the world-wide economic downturn and the role of the Euro;
- migration;
- Euro-Mediterranean relations; and
- intercultural dialogue.

Previous Jean Monnet Conferences have dealt with such topics as sustainable development, equal opportunities, globalisation and citizenship, and have served to conceive and announce important initiatives such as the European neighbourhood policy and the Commission's approach to intercultural dialogue.

To find out more:

European Commission: [The Jean Monnet Programme](#)



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European day of Languages 2009

The European Commission marks the European Day of Languages every year and this year is no exception. A wide range of events are organised across Europe to promote cultural and linguistic diversity and to encourage children and adults alike to learn languages.

In Brussels the 2009 festivities will take place on the Place Jourdan on Friday 25th September.

Around the theme of storytelling, the events will focus on raising awareness of Europe's rich linguistic diversity. The activities will be concentrated around tents erected for the occasion where local inhabitants, the business community and passers-by can enjoy a festival of languages.

Visitors will be invited to sing along to songs and listen to stories in different languages, make their own comic strip in a language of their choice or take a trilingual tour through an exhibition of fairy tale characters. There will be magic tricks and, in the cafés surrounding the Place Jourdan, the chance to taste a new language.

Find out about the [European Day of Languages festivities in other countries](#).