



# Brussels in Brief

Highlights on EU policies and funding programmes related to the knowledge-based economy

## The “Lisbon Strategy”

**JANUARY 2007**

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## General EU Information

### EU Institutions

#### ❖ Council of the EU

##### **1 January 2007 – Germany takes over EU Presidency**

The future of the Union will be one of the central issues on which the Presidency will focus during the following six months. In this regard, the Presidency will hold consultations with the Member States in the first half of 2007 and deliver a report to the Council on the results of these consultations. The report will explore possible future developments and serve as a basis for further decisions on the reform process. The EU Council meeting in June 2007 will focus on this issue.

On 25 March 2007, EU heads of State and Government, as well as the presidents of the Commission and the Parliament, will gather for a ceremony in Berlin to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome. They will issue a joint declaration calling to mind Europe's values and ambitions, and confirm their shared commitment to resolving the tasks ahead.

Further information: Presidency's website <http://www.eu2007.de>

##### **15 January 2007 – Slovenia successfully adopts the Euro**

European leaders gathered in Ljubljana to celebrate Slovenia's changeover to the euro. Prime Minister Janez Janša hosted the symbolic "Welcome to the Euro" event which saw the first of the new EU member states join the euro area.

Less than three years after joining the EU, Slovenia has taken a significant step towards even greater European integration. The single currency will provide easier access to a large financial market along with a reduction in transaction costs as exchanging money is no longer necessary. Eliminating exchange risks should also foster foreign investment.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/president/focus/slovenia\\_euro\\_en.htm#press](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/focus/slovenia_euro_en.htm#press)

#### ❖ European Commission

##### **29 January 2007 – Commission launches first Sustainable Energy Week**

Following the launch, on 10<sup>th</sup> January, of the proposal for a new Energy Policy for Europe, the European Commission launched on 29<sup>th</sup> January the first EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW), a series of events that bring together participants who cover most sectors of activity in renewable sources of energy and in energy efficiency, at all levels of responsibility: public and private, European, international, national, regional and local. Its major aim is to set the basis for the accomplishment of the measures necessary to implement two key pillars of the proposed new Energy Policy: accelerating the shift to low carbon energy and boosting energy efficiency..

Further information: <http://www.eusew.eu>



## ❖ European Parliament

### **15-18 January 2007 – Parliament's January plenary session in Strasbourg**

MEPs gathered for the first Plenary session of 2007 to elect a new President, 14 Vice Presidents as well as 6 Quaestors who look after their internal affairs. German Christian Democrat Hans-Gert Poettering (DE, EPP) was elected in a first-round ballot and replaced the previous President, Spanish Socialist Josep Borrell, whose term ended on 15<sup>th</sup> January. Presidents of the two main political parties are: Joseph Daul (FR, EPP) and Martin Schulz (DE, ESP).

The session also met German Chancellor Angela Merkel who sets out her vision for Europe as Berlin takes over the 6 month rotating EU Presidency. Later in the week MEPs also discussed a series of reports on rail travelers' rights and safety on Europe's railways.

The first Strasbourg session of the year saw MEPs formally welcome new colleagues from the EU's two newest members - Bulgaria and Romania - to the Chamber. The 18 MEPs from Bulgaria and 35 from Romania (appointed by their national parliaments) formally took their seats, their presence taking the number of MEPs to 785 from 27 countries representing 177 different political parties.

Further information: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/focus\\_page/008-2269-015-01-03-901-20070122FCS02268-15-01-2007-2007/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/focus_page/008-2269-015-01-03-901-20070122FCS02268-15-01-2007-2007/default_en.htm)

## Other bodies

## ❖ European Investment Bank

### **January 2007 – New Secretary General for the European Investment Bank**

The EIB's Management Committee has called upon Alfonso Querejeta, a Spanish national, former Director of Human Resources of the EIB, to assume the duties of the post of Secretary General, Director General of Human Resources and General Counsel of Legal Affairs with effect from 1 January 2007.

Rémy Jacob, a French national, and former Deputy Secretary General responsible for management of the EIB's internal resources, has been appointed Director General of the newly created Strategy and Corporate Centre Directorate, with effect from 1 January 2007. His responsibilities encompass the EIB Group's general strategy, planning of the Bank's Corporate Operational Plan, budget, financial control and reporting, economic and financial studies, external communication and corporate social responsibility as well as buildings, facilities and logistics.

Further information: <http://www.eib.europa.eu/news/press/press.asp?press=3239>

### **12 January 2007 – The European Investment Bank opens Warsaw office**

The European Investment Bank recently opened its first representative office in the new member countries. The establishment of the EIB Warsaw office will improve the EIB's responsiveness to the financing needs of public and private clients and strengthen cooperation with the local institutions and partners.

The EIB office will also accommodate experts from JASPERS, a joint technical assistance programme set up by the EIB, the European Commission and the EBRD to assist the countries of central and Eastern Europe to develop high quality projects which will receive support from the EU's Structural and Cohesion Funds.

Further information: <http://www.eib.europa.eu/news/press/press.asp?press=3244>

## EU policies and funding programmes for Research, Innovation, Training and Competitiveness

### ❖ Research Policy

#### ○ Generalities

##### **January 2007 – Germany presents Presidency research priorities**

While FP7 itself is up and running since January, decisions will need to be taken in the following months on a number of related policy and legal issues of considerable importance. These include the promotion of joint programmes by Member States in line with Article 169 and Article 171 on the Joint Technology Initiatives (JTI).

Plans to boost innovation are also on the cards for the first half of 2007, with the German EU Council Presidency hoping to table an initiative for an IPR Charter for public research and higher education institutions. The aim of the Charter will be to improve the exploitation of research results and prevent the loss of knowledge, thereby increasing Europe's competitive edge globally.

Last but not least, the Germany will aim to raise awareness of the need to help young researchers in Europe get a head start. Prior to its presidency, the German government saw to it that the programme to support young researchers establishing their own teams, which used to come under the Marie Curie Actions, was relocated to the European Research Council (ERC).

Further information: CORDIS German EU Presidency service <http://cordis.europa.eu/presidency/>

##### **12 January 2007 – Research and Development expenditure in the EU**

Investment in research and development (R&D) in Europe would appear to be stagnant, according to preliminary figures from Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities. Although growing by 1.5% since 2001, R&D expenditure in the EU27 in 2005 stood at 1.84% of GDP - the same as in 2004. The preliminary results raise doubts as to whether the EU as a whole will be able to reach the Barcelona objective of investing 3% of GDP in research by 2010.

The unchanged figure also begs the question as to whether the EU can remain competitive against other world economies such as the US and Japan, where R&D accounted for 2.68% and 3.18% of GDP respectively in 2005. Emerging economies are also catching up; China reported spending 1.34% of its GDP on R&D in 2005.

The Barcelona target stipulates that two thirds of R&D investment should come from the private sector. Among the Member States, Luxembourg scored the highest with 80% of R&D investment coming from business, followed by Finland, Germany and Sweden with well over 60% each. Overall, the business sector finances the 55% of all R&D in the EU27, followed by the governmental sector at 35% and funding from abroad at 8%.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/07/6&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

##### **12 January 2007 – Commission launches new information source on research systems and policies in the EU**

The Commission recently launched **ERAWATCH**, a new online information platform on research systems and policies within the European Union.

ERAWATCH offers for the first time, in one single place, comprehensive and timely information on the research systems of all EU Member States, countries associated with the Framework Programme as well

as the US, China and Japan. It should allow a better understanding of the research systems and the environment in which they operate, to assist European policy analysts and policy makers in developing more effective research policies.

Further information: <http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch/>

**18 January 2007 – European Science & Research Commissioner makes first official visit to Israel**

Israel has been a fully associated member of the EU's research funding programmes since 1996 and both the EU and Israel have benefited from this partnership. During his visit, Commissioner Potočnik met members of the Israeli government and attended a conference on Israel's participation in the EU's research programme FP7 at Bar Ilan University. He also met with representatives of the Israel academic and business communities. His discussions with Israel focused on ongoing negotiations to finalise Israel's association to FP7, and highlighting the importance of research as an element of the overall EU-Israel relationship.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/48&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

**19 January 2007 – "Communicating European Research 2005". A Book published by the European Commission to improve European public's understanding of science**

The book is a result of last year's conference on that subject, and draws on the workshops, lectures and events that took place with science communication experts from across the globe. With chapters such as "Science news on the net", "Getting R&D results into the press" and "The challenge of showing and discussing the unknown", the book casts a useful light on many of the pressing issues relating to communicating about science, and indeed general communication with a European and international dimension. Recipients of EU research funds are required to undertake activities that communicate their results to the public and this will continue to be an important element of the new Framework Research Programme, which will start in 2007.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/64&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

**25 January 2007 – Commission launches new expert group on philanthropic research funding**

The European Commission has set up an expert group to investigate how universities could raise more funds from philanthropic sources such as foundations, trusts, charities, corporate and private donors and alumni. The new group brings together representatives of foundations, universities and research bodies from across Europe. Over the coming months, the group will analyse the situation in Europe and abroad and highlight good practices in terms of university fund-raising structures, managing relations with donors and public administration support.

The group is expected to report on its findings by November 2007. Its work will be used by the European Forum on Philanthropy and Research Funding, which will be launched later this year by the European Foundation Centre with the support of the European Commission.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/policy/philanthropy\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/policy/philanthropy_en.htm)

## ○ Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development

### 1- The 7<sup>th</sup> Framework programme for research and development 2007-2013 (FP7)

#### **Become an expert evaluator for FP7**

The website to register as an expert for research activities has been launched on [CORDIS](#). The call for experts has been launched both for individuals and for organisations.

Further information: <https://cordis.europa.eu/emmfp7/index.cfm?fuseaction=wel.welcome>

#### **12 January 2007 – FP7 draft grant agreement published**

The draft has been published by the European Commission to inform applicants of the broad nature of the future standard grant agreement. The main sections of the draft standard grant agreement comprising the core text and the 'general conditions' are available on line. Other related annexes will be posted later on. The Commission emphasises that the text may yet change as it is still the subject of ongoing consultations. Based on this standard text, separate texts will be drafted for the 'People' and 'Ideas' programmes.

Further information: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/calls-grant-agreement\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/calls-grant-agreement_en.html)

#### **15 January 2007 – EURAB proposes making open access obligatory for FP7 research**

The European Commission should consider mandating all researchers funded under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) to publish the results of their research in an open access repository within six months of initial publication, according to the European Research Advisory Board (EURAB). While some concerns over open access are justified, such as the quality of the peer review process, preserving long term access, and the viability of smaller circulation publications, the overwhelming benefits far outweigh these concerns, states a new report by EURAB.

As a funding body, the Commission seeks to increase the visibility of, and improve access to, research funded by the Commission without compromising the freedom of scientists to publish where they feel is most appropriate.

A key recommendation is that the Commission considers instructing those receiving FP7 funding to lodge any publications resulting from their research in an open access repository as soon as possible after publication.

As a supporting body, the Commission should place emphasis on streamlining the process of deposit for researchers, and on standards for supporting interoperability. In this context, the Commission should introduce a specific supporting action in every FP7 thematic priority to facilitate the use of deposit in open access repositories, states the EURAB report.

A communication on scientific publishing is expected shortly from the European Commission.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/eurab/pdf/eurab\\_scipub\\_report\\_recomm\\_dec06\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/eurab/pdf/eurab_scipub_report_recomm_dec06_en.pdf)

#### **15 January 2007 – ERA-NETs met a need, but need still exists, finds expert group**

Since the European Commission launched the ERA-NET scheme in 2002, intending to coordinate national research programmes, the initiative has 'met a need', according to an expert group charged with reviewing the scheme. The need for ERA-NETs persists, however. The experts' report gives a ringing endorsement to the continuation of ERA-NETs, while proposing ways in which their structure could be bettered.

In FP7, the Commission should seek to ensure consolidation and coherence, says the report. This could be done through the creation of a high level group, by the Competitiveness Council, to review the strategic role of transnational research initiatives and make recommendations on the involvement of EU Member States and Associated States in both ERA-NETs and similar initiatives based on Article 169. The group should also reflect on how best to organise ERA-NET activities in the future.

Under FP7, a new scheme entitled ERA-NET PLUS will complement ERA-NET. The new initiative will permit a Community contribution to the funding of joint calls of 25-33%. The Commission believes that this will facilitate the cross-border flow of the money needed to support trans-national activities without falling

back on the concept of 'juste retour'. Current plans will see two ERA-NET PLUS calls per year over the first two years of FP7, each with a minimum budget of €5 million.

Further information: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP7\\_NEWS&ACTION=D&RCN=26948](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP7_NEWS&ACTION=D&RCN=26948)

### **17 January 2007 – Germany's performances in FP6**

Germany took the opportunity to look back at its impressive results in the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) as it held a national launch event for FP7 in Bonn on 15 and 16 January.

Germany is ranked first among all participating countries for FP6. The latest available statistics from the European Commission show 7,449 German participations in 3,027 FP6 contracts, with a total EU contribution to German participants of around €2.3 billion. Overall, German researchers participated in 82% of FP6 projects in the thematic priorities and received nearly 19% of the overall FP6 budget. Proposals involving Germany also had a 24% success rate - significantly higher than the EU average of 18%.

According to preliminary figures from Eurostat for 2005, Germany is one of the highest investors in research in Europe, spending 2.51% of its GDP on research and development (R&D). In 2007, the German Government says it will increase its funding for research to €10 billion.

Also key to Germany's successful participation in FP6 is ensuring that the national research agenda reflects what is happening at EU level, and vice versa.

Germany has also managed to bring onboard industry more successfully than many of the other participating countries

Further information:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP6\\_NEWS&ACTION=D&DOC=20&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=1169720103153&RCN=26962](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP6_NEWS&ACTION=D&DOC=20&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=1169720103153&RCN=26962)

### **17 January 2007 – New simplified FP7 model consortium agreement**

A project initiated by a number of industry and research organizations has resulted in the drafting of a simplified Model Consortium Agreement for the 7th Framework Programme.

DESCA (Development of a Simplified Consortium Agreement for FP7) is meant to simplify a currently intricate field. In FP6, many participants produced their own model consortium agreements, leading to lengthy and complex discussions. DESCA offers instead a consistent approach to FP: it will be stripped of unnecessary complexity in both content and language, and will balance the interests of all of the main participant categories.

DESCA will regulate critical aspects of project governance not covered by the grant agreement between the Commission and the project consortium.

Further information: Simplified model consortium agreement

[http://www.desca-fp7.eu/DESCA/Website%20DESCA\\_ca\\_version\\_09\\_2007.pdf](http://www.desca-fp7.eu/DESCA/Website%20DESCA_ca_version_09_2007.pdf)

## **2- FP7 Rules for participation**

Rules for participation have been adopted on December 22, together with the launch of the first FP7 call for proposals. The European Commission is currently working on the writing of the FP7 grant agreement to complete these rules for participation (see above).

## **3- FP7 Events and consultations**

### **16 January 2007 – Springboard into FP7 civil aeronautics workshop results**

The workshop, organised jointly by AeroSME and the Industry Management Groups (ASD-IMG4) attracted 180 participants, the majority of which were SMEs. It presented first hand information on the six large collaborative research proposals to be submitted in the 1st Aeronautics call of the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) and provided a unique platform to involve potential SME partners.

The large Industries' approach to EU funded research and the current status of the Clean Sky Joint Technology Initiative were outlined; while an official of the European Commission set out the EC approach and the FP7 rules of participation.

The presentations delivered at the event are now available for download.

Further information: <http://www.aerosme.com/html/workshopsFP7Cal1.asp>

**1 February 2007, Cologne, Germany – Information Day on European ICT Research and Development**

Participants will be able to learn about the priorities and procedures for the ICT Work Programme 2007-2008, as well as network with potential partners for building a project symposium. Online event registration will be available from early January, while registered participants for the IST2006 event in Helsinki can already transfer their registration details now.

Further information: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/participating/forthcoming-events\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/participating/forthcoming-events_en.html)

**1 February 2007, Prague, Czech Republic – Hydrogen and fuel cells information and brokerage day**

The Energy Directorate of the European Commission's Research DG will hold an information and brokerage day on Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in Prague. The main objectives of this event are:

- to help applicants maximise their chances of success;
- to inform about the content of the Work Programme and the first call for proposals, to clarify doubts about the scope and content of the published topics, to explain available funding schemes and to present the evaluation criteria and process;
- to encourage potential applicants to present and discuss the objectives, scope and structure of planned proposals;
- to identify possible interactions, overlaps and/or synergies, to help partners from new Member States, such as small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to join project consortia under formation;
- to present the state of play of the future Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Joint Technology Initiative.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/index_en.htm)

**6 February 2007, London, United Kingdom – UK FP7 launch event**

The event will be opened by Malcolm Wicks, Minister for Science & Innovation, and EU Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik will give a talk on FP7 and the global context.

Further information: <http://www.glasgows.co.uk/ukfp7event/>

**6 February 2007, Brussels – FP7 Info Day: Capacities – e-Infrastructures**

The European Commission, DG INFSO - Unit 'Research Infrastructure' is organising an information event in the context of the launch of the first calls for proposals under the e-Infrastructures topic of the 'Capacities' Specific Programme, Seventh Framework Programme.

Further information: <http://cordis.europa.eu/ist/rn/ri-cnd/fp7info-day.htm>

**7-8 February 2007, Brussels - FP7 Information Multiplier Event**

Key audience: NCP and EU research liaison officers (by invitation only)

Organiser: DG for Research (C-5)

RTD-C-5 contact: [julia.acevedo@ec.europa.eu](mailto:julia.acevedo@ec.europa.eu)

**8 February 2007, Budapest, Hungary – Hungarian FP7 launch event**

János Kóka, the Hungarian Minister of Economy and Transport and Szilveszter E. Vizi, the President of Hungarian Academy of Sciences will speak at the event.

Representatives from the European Commission will present the four specific programmes of FP7 (People, Ideas, Capacities and Cooperation) and discuss project management and financial issues.

Further information: <http://www.nkth.gov.hu>

**9 February 2007, Krakow, Poland – Information and brokerage day: CO2 capture and storage and clean coal technology**

The Energy Directorate of the European Commission's Research DG will hold an information and brokerage day on 'CO2 capture and storage for zero emission' and 'clean coal technology' in Krakow.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/index_en.htm)

**13 February 2007, The Hague – FP7 Congress - World Forum Convention Center (WFCC)**

National event on Information on FP7

[http://www.senternovem.nl/egl/Kaderprogramma7/kp7\\_congres.asp](http://www.senternovem.nl/egl/Kaderprogramma7/kp7_congres.asp)

**13-14 February 2007, Brussels – FP7 energy and transport information days**

The information days are intended to offer support to those wishing to prepare a proposal in response to the first FP7 calls.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/etid>

**26-28 February 2007, Berlin - European Research Council (ERC) - Launch conference**

Organiser: German Research Foundation (DFG) + German Research Ministry (BMBF), hosted by the German EU Presidency.

Key audience: (by invitation only) ERC WG, EUROHORCS, ESF, ERC IDC, main Representative. Org. of European Scientific Community, next generation researchers.

RTD-B1 contact: [gianpietro.van-de-goor@ec.europa.eu](mailto:gianpietro.van-de-goor@ec.europa.eu)

**27-28 February 2007, Galway or Cork (tbc), Ireland – Information and brokerage day: wind and ocean energies**

Organised by the the Ireland Programme Committee, the EC's Dublin Office and the EC's Directorate-General for Research and Directorate-General for Energy and Transport. Further information soon available.

**28 February 2007, Vienna, Austria – Information and brokerage day: smart energy networks**

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/energy/index_en.htm)

#### **4- European Technology Platforms**

**6 December 2006 - Seminar of the Industrial Leaders of European Technology Platforms: "Supporting Technology Platforms and the development of Lead Markets" Brussels.**

Download the presentation of the speakers:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/seminar7\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/seminar7_en.html)

Access individual platforms' website to follow their work and specific events:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/individual\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/individual_en.html)

### **❖ Innovation Policy**

**22 January 2007 - Companies gain by sharing intellectual property, finds survey**

European companies increasingly believe that collaborating with third parties in research and development (R&D) will help them better maximise the value of their intellectual property (IP). They also think that policymakers can do a lot more to safeguard and leverage Europe's knowledge and ideas. These are some of the conclusions of a report from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

In the survey, the majority of those interviewed support the idea of a more open IP strategy. A total of 68% believe that by increasing collaboration with third parties on R&D, they will increase their innovation output. Meanwhile some 46% say that it made business sense to share inventions with 'open-source' communities, while 28% support the idea of sharing inventions through cross-licensing in 'patent pools' with third parties.

A European Community Patent, which would allow individuals and companies to obtain a unitary patent throughout the EU, is seen by many as the best way to ensure that European companies' IP is protected and leveraged. The European Commission has sought several times to introduce a Community Patent, but this has so far been blocked by the Council, the main hurdle being the language in which a patent can be filed.

Further information: <http://www.eiu.com/>

## ❖ Education policy

### 11 January 2007 – Germany takes measures to encourage lifelong learning

Germany is to mobilise funding for further education, wishing to instigate a change in mentality towards lifelong learning.

Using money put aside for education, the Government wishes to build up employability.

The new initiative follows the completion of two reports commissioned by the Government. The report proposes three new funding schemes: grants for those pursuing further education; a broadening of the law on capital for further education, allowing money to be released before the end of the current seven-year period; and third, a grant making available funds for cost-intensive measures.

In the latest report from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Germany ranks around the middle of the 30 strongest industrial nations. It is predominantly elder people and those with few qualifications that are using further education opportunities the least. 'Participation in professional further education not only has a positive effect on economic growth and the development of the employment market, but is also beneficial for every individual,' says Mr Rürup.

Further information:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN\\_NEWS\\_PRES&ACTION=D&DOC=9&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=1169717018761&RCN=26935](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS_PRES&ACTION=D&DOC=9&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=1169717018761&RCN=26935)

## Other EU Policies and funding programmes supporting the Lisbon Strategy

## ❖ Employment and social affairs

### 20 January 2007 – Employment Ministers call for good and fair work

Employment and Social Affairs Ministers from the EU countries, together with those from EFTA countries Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Iceland and Norway and from candidate countries Turkey and Croatia, promoted "Good Work" at an informal meeting in Berlin on 18-20 January. "Good Work", one of the German Presidency's themes highlighted for discussion, places the emphasis on workers' rights such as fair wages, social protection and ways to combine work and private life.

Further information:

[http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/download\\_docs/Januar/informalBMAS0118/en050\\_background.pdf](http://www.eu2007.de/en/News/download_docs/Januar/informalBMAS0118/en050_background.pdf)

### 30 January 2007 – Launch of the European Year of equal opportunities for all

The 2007 European Year for Equal Opportunities for All (EYEO) kicked off in Berlin at the first ever Equality Summit. It also launched its new website and published the results of an EU survey on anti-discrimination. The survey - carried out in preparation for the European Year - reveals that over half of Europeans (51%) think that not enough is being done to fight discrimination in their country and a large majority of respondents also feel that discrimination is widespread (64%). Overall, the results confirm that Europeans are ready for change, with a broad majority in favour of adopting measures to promote equal opportunities for all in the field of employment.



2007 — European Year of Equal Opportunities for All



The new EYEO website will be an important communication tool throughout the Year, providing up-to-date information on activities in which citizens can participate, acting as a source of inspiration for various activities and fostering networks. To ensure the Year's long-term impact, the EU's new programme for employment and solidarity

called PROGRESS - to fund activities from 2007-2013 - will take up some of the best ideas generated during the European Year. New approaches, new ideas and a new impetus from the Year will help advance the EU's efforts in the field of equality and non-discrimination.

Further information: <http://equality2007.europa.eu>

## ❖ Information society

### **16 January 2007 – Study finds open source key to European ICT competitiveness**

A new study on the economic impact of Free/Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS) on the European information and communication technologies (ICT) sector has found that it could increase Europe's competitiveness.

'Given Europe's historically lower ability to create new software businesses compared to the US, due to restricted venture capital and risk tolerance, the high share of European FLOSS developers provides a unique opportunity to create new software businesses and reach towards the Lisbon goals of making Europe the most competitive knowledge economy by 2010,' states the report, which was requested by the European Commission's Enterprise DG.

The report also says that increasing the use of FLOSS could provide a way for Europe to compensate for low ICT investment as a share of gross domestic product. The paper suggests that Europe is in a good position to increase its €22 billion investment in FLOSS (compared to 36 billion in the US), considering that 63% of all FLOSS developers are resident in the European Union, while only 20% are in the US and Canada.

The European Commission has taken steps towards encouraging the development of FLOSS in the EU. In October 2006, it granted €3 million to the SQO-OSS22 project for testing the quality of FLOSS, and also extended its open source web portal, the Open Source observatory, to develop interoperability between applications.

Further information: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/doc/2006-11-20-flossimpact.pdf>

### **25 January 2007 – Over 400% growth for creative content online, predicts Commission study**

Revenue from online content will reach €8.3 billion by 2010 in Europe, a growth of over 400% in five years, says a new study for the European Commission. Thanks to the spread of broadband, the roll-out of advanced mobile networks, and the massive adoption of digital devices, the study shows that mass market online content distribution is becoming a reality, creating unique opportunities for Europe.

This new study on 'Interactive Content and Convergence: Implications for the information Society' assessed the potential of the emerging creative content online market. It found that although the market is growing steadily, technological, economic and legal challenges – notably intellectual property rights and interoperability – need to be addressed for Europe to have faster market uptake. The study found that Europe trails the US' lead in developing interactive fixed broadband services, and Japan and Korea's in mobile services.

While some of the obstacles are global – lack of connectivity, piracy – others are due to Europe's market and legal framework. These may significantly slow down growth and competitiveness. As the market matures, evolving business practises will remove some obstacles but others may require measures from industry and EU legislation to provide legal certainty for consumers, content providers and the hardware industry.

The study will be an important input for the Commission's proposals on 'Content Online in Europe's Single Market' that may be presented in the second half of 2007.

Further information: [http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/eeurope/i2010/studies/index\\_en.htm#interactive](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/i2010/studies/index_en.htm#interactive)

## ❖ Regional policy

### **25 January 2007 – EU cohesion policy can help address the challenges of demographic change**

Regional policy Commissioner, Danuta Hübner, opened the conference “Regions for Economic Change: Regional policy responses to demographic challenges” in Brussels.

Along with Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Commissioner Vladimír Špidla, the President of the Committee of the Regions, Michel Delebarre, and European Economic and Social Committee President, Dimitris Dimitriadis, Danuta Hübner emphasised that EU's cohesion policy is well adapted to many of the challenges of demographic change because it encourages all relevant partners to design and implement policies, through medium-term strategic plans within a stable financial framework. This policy allows regions to respond to population change through policies which are tailored to their specific needs.

The conference brought together national, regional and local policy makers, expert advisers and those responsible for designing and implementing the next generation of Structural Funds programmes and members of civil society and the academic and business communities. It aimed to give participants insights into the challenges posed by demographic change and the opportunities being created and exchange experience on successful strategies and practices for helping society, labour markets, businesses, public services and infrastructures adapt to demographic change.

Further information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/demographicchallenge\\_jan07/home\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/demographicchallenge_jan07/home_en.cfm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/index_en.cfm)

## ❖ Competition

### **8 January 2007 – Commission report highlights benefits to Member States of block exemption Regulations for State aid**

The European Commission has published an evaluation report of the first five years of operation of the block exemption Regulations for state aid. The report concludes that the experience has been largely successful. Member States have been able to take more than 1600 state aid measures without prior notification to the Commission to support investment, and research and development (R&D) activities of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) as well as to boost employment and training. Based on the experience gained and as envisaged in the State Aid Action Plan, the Commission intends to build on these benefits, simplify and re-group the existing block exemption Regulations into one general Regulation and to widen its scope to include in particular certain types of environmental aid. As of 1 January 2007, a new block exemption Regulation for regional investment aid and new rules for aid for the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products have also come into force.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/9&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **10 January 2007 – Commission energy sector inquiry confirms serious competition problems**

The European Commission has published its final report on the energy sector competition inquiry, concluding that consumers and businesses are losing out because of inefficient and expensive gas and electricity markets. Particular problems include high levels of market concentration; vertical integration of supply, generation and infrastructure leading to a lack of equal access to, and insufficient investment in infrastructure; and, possible collusion between incumbent operators to share markets. To tackle these problems, the Commission will pursue follow up action in individual cases under the competition rules (anti-trust, merger control and state aids) and act to improve the regulatory framework for energy liberalisation.

Key issues relating to market structure and the regulatory environment will also have to be addressed in parallel to enforcement in individual cases. The sector inquiry has identified numerous general deficiencies in the regulatory framework for electricity and gas markets that have been taken into account by Commission's review of regulatory measures for the internal market in gas and electricity.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/26&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## ❖ Enterprises

### **Call for proposals**

Under the new Framework Programme for Competitiveness and Innovation (CIP), the Enterprise and Industry DG launched a call for proposals to create a single network supporting business and innovation in Europe.

The aim of this call is to implement a single network providing integrated services in support of business and innovation in Europe. Building on the strengths and achievements of the current Euro Info Centres and the Innovation Relay Centres, the new network aims to enhance the competitiveness and innovation capacity of European companies, in particular SMEs.

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/funding/grants/themes\\_2006/eic\\_irc/calls\\_prop\\_2006\\_eic\\_irc\\_d2.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/funding/grants/themes_2006/eic_irc/calls_prop_2006_eic_irc_d2.htm)

### **24 January 2007 – EU Action Programme starts cutting unnecessary administrative burdens**

The Commission further steps up its efforts to reduce unnecessary burdens on businesses. A new Action Programme demonstrates in concrete terms the way in which the Commission intends to work with Member States to cut administrative burdens on businesses by a quarter by 2012. The Programme focuses on information obligations in thirteen selected priority areas including company law, employment relations, taxation/VAT, statistics, agriculture and transport. Its aims are to measure the cost of the administrative burden in these key sectors and identify information obligations for which proposals will subsequently be adopted to remove unnecessary burdens. In addition, the Commission has already identified ten concrete reduction measures, for unprecedented fast track action which could be decided upon at the March Spring Council. These measures alone could in one fell swoop, reduce the burdens on businesses by 1.3 billion euro on an annual basis.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/regulation/better\\_regulation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/regulation/better_regulation/index_en.htm)

### **A guide to SME Policy**

DG Enterprise of the European Commission just published an online Guide for SMEs detailing facts and figures and European policy in favor of SMEs

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/smes/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/smes/index_en.htm)

## ❖ Internal Market

### **15 January 2007 – Perceptions on the Single Market**

Recent Eurobarometer surveys and the results of a public hearing on future Single Market policy and serve as important inputs to the European Commission's ongoing review of the Single Market.

The Citizens survey main findings show that EU citizens are, in general, satisfied with the possibilities that the Single Market offers and perceive the effect on competition (67 %), range (73 %) and quality (58 %) of products as positive. However, less than half of citizens of every Member State feel informed about their Single Market rights, and EU information services on the Single Market are not known to 7 out of 10 citizens.

The public hearing led to a number of constructive suggestions to the Commission:

- make consultations more user-friendly;
- continue the regulatory effort according to Better Regulation principles;
- at national level, consider creating Internal Market guides for national authorities;

- prioritise communication.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/strategy/index\\_en.htm#hearing](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/strategy/index_en.htm#hearing)

## ❖ Environment

### **16 January 2007 – Commission decides on national allocation plans for CO2 emissions trading**

The European Commission took decisions on two more national plans (Belgium and The Netherlands) for allocating CO2 emission allowances for the 2008-2012 trading period of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). The Commission accepted both national plans on condition that certain changes are made, including a reduction in the total number of emission allowances proposed. The cleared annual allocation for Belgium is 58.5 million tonnes of CO2 allowances and for the Netherlands 85.8 million tonnes. The two plans and the 10 decided on in November 2006 together account for half of all allowances allocated in the first trading period from 2005 to 2007. The Emissions Trading Scheme ensures that greenhouse gas emissions from the energy and industry sectors covered are cut at least cost to the economy, thus helping the EU and its Member States to meet their emission commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. The Commission is proceeding with infringement procedures against Denmark and Hungary for not submitting their NAPs yet. The deadline was 30 June 2006.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/51&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

## ❖ Health

### **30 January 2007 – Commission adopts Green paper on tobacco-free Europe**

The European Commission has adopted a Green Paper, entitled "Towards a Europe free from tobacco smoke: policy options at EU level", to launch a broad public consultation on the best way to promote smoke-free environments in the European Union. The Green Paper examines the health and economic burdens associated with passive smoking, public support for smoking bans, and the measures taken so far at national and EU level. The advantages and disadvantages of measures of different scope are analysed, including a total ban on smoking in all enclosed public places and exemptions of different types. Finally, the Commission seeks views on which policy option would be most appropriate to achieve smoke-free environments: no change from the status quo, voluntary measures, coordination and exchange of best practices between Member States, a Commission or Council Recommendation or binding EU legislation.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/109&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

## ❖ Transport

### **24 January 2007 – Commission proposes a landmark regulatory package for airports**

The European Commission has adopted an "airport package" consisting of three key initiatives: a proposal for a directive on airport charges, a communication on airport capacity, efficiency and safety in Europe and a report on the implementation of the groundhandling directive. The package focuses on the role of airports in the further development and competitiveness of the European internal aviation market and will mark the future of airport regulation in Europe by ensuring regulatory convergence between Member States.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air\\_portal/airports/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air_portal/airports/index_en.htm)

### **31 January 2007 – Commission launches green paper on urban transport**

The debate on the Green Paper on Urban Transport has started with a major stakeholders conference in Brussels on Urban Transport: Problems, Solutions and Responsibilities. The conference was organised in the context of the EU Sustainable Energy Week. High level representatives from European cities and from the European Institutions presented the expectations of local authorities from the Green Paper and addressed the added value of actions at the European level.

In order to collect the different views, a number of technical workshops and a final conference in June 2007 will be organised. An internet consultation will be launched soon.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/118&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## ❖ **Agriculture**

### **24 January 2007 – Fruit and vegetable reform to raise competitiveness**

The European Commission proposed wide-ranging reforms to the Common Market Organisation for fruit and vegetables to bring this sector into closer line with the rest of the reformed Common Agricultural Policy. The proposals aim to improve the competitiveness and market orientation of the F&V sector, reduce income fluctuations resulting from crises, increase consumption, enhance environmental protection and, where possible, simplify the rules and reduce the administrative burden. The reform would encourage more growers to join Producer Organisations; offer POs a wider range of tools for crisis management; integrate the F&V sector into the Single Payment Scheme; require a minimum level of spending on environmental measures; higher EU funding of organic production and promotional measures; and abolish export subsidies for F&V. The Commission hopes that the Council and Parliament will approve the reform, which will be budget neutral, before the middle of 2007, allowing it to enter into force in 2008.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/capreform/fruitveg/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/capreform/fruitveg/index_en.htm)

## ❖ **Energy**

### **8 January 2007 – Eurobarometer reveals Europeans' support for research into new energy technologies**

A Eurobarometer opinion survey on energy technologies published by the European Commission shows that 60% of EU citizens think that energy research should be a priority for the European Union. The report also shows that Europeans are highly positive about renewable energies. In the future Europeans expect the use of fossil fuels to drop, to be replaced by renewable energy. The Commission has also published a scientific report which looks at energy consumption up to 2050. It examines several future scenarios, including a strong carbon constraint regime and development of hydrogen as an energy carrier. Both scenarios, which show a rising role for renewable and nuclear energy in Europe's future, rely on advances in technologies such as carbon capture & storage, low energy buildings, low emission cars and hydrogen production from renewable and nuclear sources.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/3&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

### **10 January 2007 - Commission proposes an integrated energy and climate change package to cut emissions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

The European Commission recently proposed a comprehensive package of measures to **establish a new Energy Policy for Europe** to combat climate change and boost the EU's energy security and competitiveness. The package of proposals set a series of targets on greenhouse gas emissions and



renewable energy and aim to create a complete internal market for energy and strengthen effective regulation. The Commission believes that when an international agreement is reached on the post-2012 framework this should lead to a 30% cut in emissions from developed countries by 2020. To further underline its commitment the Commission proposes that the European Union commits now to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% by 2020, in particular through energy measures.

The package proposed by the Commission seeks to provide solutions to these challenges based on three central pillars: A true Internal Energy Market, Accelerating the shift to low carbon energy and Energy efficiency.

The European Union will develop effective solidarity mechanisms to deal with any energy supply crisis and actively develop a common external energy policy to increasingly "speak with one voice" with third countries. It will endeavour to develop real energy partnerships with suppliers based on transparency, predictability and reciprocity.

The Commission will seek endorsement of the energy and climate change proposals during the Spring European Council and will come forward with legislation in light of these discussions.

Further information: [http://europa.eu/press\\_room/presspacks/energy/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/press_room/presspacks/energy/index_en.htm)

## ❖ Culture

### **January 2007 – Commission proposes that 2008 be “European year of intercultural dialogue”**

This idea had initially been put forward by the European Commissioner with responsibility for culture, Ján Figel, during his hearing before the European Parliament in September 2004. With an overall budget of € 10 million, the European Year will draw on the wealth and diversity of a series of specific projects to be implemented during 2008 through programmes and other Community actions. Culture, education, youth, sport and citizenship will be the main areas concerned.

The European Commission is launching a "Call for ideas" for promoting intercultural dialogue in Europe. This process will enable the Commission to define guidelines for future calls for proposals, which will be published in 2007, in the framework of the Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/dialogue/call\\_idea\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/dialogue/call_idea_en.html)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/culture/portal/events/current/dialogue2008\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/portal/events/current/dialogue2008_en.htm)

## ❖ External relations – Enlargement

### **8 January 2007 – President Barroso meets President Bush at the White House**

The meeting focused on energy security, climate change, the Middle East, trade and economic relations as well as the Doha Development Round, and a range of global challenges to which the US and the EU have an interest in a joint response. This is President Barroso's second bilateral visit to the White House. President Bush visited the European Commission at its Berlaymont headquarters in Brussels on 22 February 2005.

The US is putting most of its climate-change efforts towards technology development. It invests \$29 billion in climate-related science and technology programmes.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/7&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### **18 January 2007 – Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner in China for new Partnership and Co-operation Agreement**

Energy security and climate change are priorities for the EU in 2007. Neither can be effectively addressed without China. The EU and China are developing important co operation in these fields: the Climate Change

Partnership is a positive step, which could lead to further joint initiatives; EU and China are co operating on a Near Zero Emissions Coal Project sharing important technology on carbon capture and storage; and there is a lot to gain by aligning both giants' positions as major consumers of energy, particularly on the issue of energy security. As the EU begins its new dedicated dialogue on Africa, energy security and sustainable development were also high on the agenda.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/china/intro/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/china/intro/index.htm)

## Research, Innovation, Training and Competitiveness related EU events

### ❖ Announcements

#### **29 January – 4 February 2007, Brussels – First EU Sustainable Energy Week**

A dedicated event on the current and next Intelligent Energy – Europe programmes will form part of the First EU Sustainable Energy Week, which under the heading "Take a week to change tomorrow!" will take place in Brussels from 29 January to 2 February 2007. Initiated by the European Commission in the framework of its Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign, this week will feature a series of major EU and international events covering a variety of European sustainable energy themes. (Among which "[Changing systems and habits](#)", 2<sup>nd</sup> February)

Further information: [www.eusew.eu](http://www.eusew.eu)

#### **10 February 2007, Namur, Belgium – Conférence et débat "Les sciences déclinées au féminin pour un avenir européen"**

This conference seeks to raise awareness on the career possibilities for women in science.

Further information: <http://www.bep.be/news/detail.asp?newsId=12>

#### **12 February 2007, Paris, France – Colloque CNRS : Sciences et Société en mutation**

Further information : <http://www.cnrs.fr/colloques/sciences-societe>

#### **12 and 19 February 2007, Brussels – Information days on Lifelong Learning Programme**

The new Life Long Learning Programme runs for the period 2007-2013 and is the successor to the current Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and eLearning programmes. The 2007 funding opportunities under this programme have been launched on the 20th of December 2006.

The participants in the Info Days will get to know more about the policy orientations that determine the Programme, about the Programme's contents, and about administrative and financial aspects. Various sessions and workshops, and key speakers will highlight the news and changes since the previous programmes.

These Info Days are dedicated to the parts of programmes that are managed at European level. The national Agencies in all countries are organising specific Info Days for decentralised actions.

Further information: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/static/en/llp/infodays\\_en.htm](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/static/en/llp/infodays_en.htm)

#### **14-17 February 2007, Lyon, France – Ecobatir, le salon des techniques constructives et du développement durable**

Further information : [www.ecobatir-expo.com](http://www.ecobatir-expo.com)

**15 February 2007, Brussels – European Commission conference: Scientific publishing in the European Research Area**

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/page\\_en.cfm?id=3459](http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/page_en.cfm?id=3459)

**15-16 February 2007 – Conference on scientific publishing in the digital age**

The aim of the conference will be to discuss and provide policy options for scientific publishing under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and in the European Research Area (ERA). Hosted by the European Commission, the conference is targeted at stakeholders concerned with access, dissemination and preservation issues in connection with scientific publication and data. Keynote speakers at the event will include Commissioner for Science and Research Janez Potocnik and the Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Vivian Reding.

Further information: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/page\\_en.cfm?id=3459](http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/page_en.cfm?id=3459)

**15-18 February 2007, Udine, Italy – InnovAction 2007**

The fair will present national and international cases studies of successful innovations, as well as the economic outlook for innovation in Europe and world wide. Guest speakers include, among others, Jean-Claude Trichet, President, European Central Bank, and Italy's Minister for University and Research Fabio Mussi. The programme will also include workshops, seminars, forums and interactive laboratories, as well as a meeting point between the supply of innovation and the demand for innovative ideas.

Further information: [www.innovactionfair.com](http://www.innovactionfair.com)

**16 February 2007, Ljubljana, Slovenia – Women in ICT**

The aim of the workshop to raise awareness of the importance and relevance of gender in ICT research. The workshop is being organised by the 'Central European Centre for Women and Youth in Science' (CEC-WYS). Funded under the Sixth Framework Programme, the centre aims to empower women and young scientists in Central Europe, and to contribute to achieving gender equality in research and development (R&D).

Further information: <http://kt.ijs.si/dunja/cec-wys/WomenInICT2007.htm>

**21-23 February 2007, Berlin, Germany – 2<sup>nd</sup> annual CELTIC Event 2007: Facing the Challenges of Ubiquitous ICT**

CELTIC is a [EUREKA](#) cluster programme, which initiates and runs privately and publicly funded R&D projects in the field of telecommunications. CELTIC projects are focusing at telecoms networks, applications, and services looking at a complete system approach.

The main objective of the event is to show the current status, the available achievements of the running CELTIC projects. Furthermore, the event provides an excellent opportunity to show the state-of-the art of the telecommunications development towards integrated next-generation telecommunications and multimedia systems for seamless use across mobile and fixed networks.

Further information: [Event website](#)

<http://www.celtic-initiative.org/Events/Celtic-Event07-Berlin/welcome.asp>

**27 February 2007, Noordwijk, The Netherlands – European Space Agency conference: Space options for the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

This conference follows on from the 1st Impact of Space on Society conference held as a stand-alone International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) event held in Budapest in March 2005 and is intended to gather experts interested in this broad, complex and international topic at a time when the world is celebrating not only the 50th anniversary of spaceflight, but also the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical/Polar Year.

Further information: <http://www.congrex.nl/06a12>

**27 February – 2 March 2007, Wels, Austria – World sustainable energy days**

The World Sustainable Energy Days, the largest annual conference in the field of sustainable energy use in Europe, will once again offer a unique combination of events:

- European Pellets Conference

- European Energy Efficiency Conference
- Conference "Energy Future 2030"
- Seminar "Rural development and sustainable energy"
- Technical site visits.

In 2006, more than 930 decision-makers and experts from 56 countries participated in the World Sustainable Energy Days conference

Further information: [World sustainable energy days 2007](http://www.wsed.at/wsed/index.php?id=217&L=1)  
<http://www.wsed.at/wsed/index.php?id=217&L=1>

**7 March 2007, Ljubljana, Slovenia – FP7 knowledge for energy policy making**

Organised by Slovenia Programme Committee, University of Ljubljana and the EC's Directorate-General for Research. Further information soon available.

**9 Mars 2007, Stockholm, Sweden – Science Forum 2007 – “Frontiers in influenza research”**

The sixth Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Science Forum in Sweden presents the latest influenza research by distinguished researchers from Japan and Sweden.

Further information: <http://www.jsps-sto.com/>

**14 March 2007, Vienna, Austria – Viennano’07: Micro- and nano-technology conference**

Further information: <http://www.oetg.at/nano07>

**15-16 March 2007, Brussels, Belgium – 5<sup>th</sup> European Business Summit – “Road to perform: Europe is our business”**

The European Business Summit is the meeting place among high-level decision-makers, key politicians, CEOs, business people, researchers and journalists in Europe. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the EU, the EBS will hold a special edition that will take place on 15 & 16 March 2007 in Brussels.

With the theme “Reform to Perform: Europe is our Business”, EBS wants to play an active role in three Ds: Dialogue, Dynamism and Delivery. The challenge is to exchange views and to move Europe forward from declarations to Delivery. Delivery on the promised and necessary reforms. Reform to Perform for a more Dynamic European Union, today and in the next 50 years.

Further information: [www.ebsummit.org](http://www.ebsummit.org)

**26-27 March 2007, Berlin, Germany – Security research conference**

The event will present the current state of security research in the EU and its Member States and look at new possibilities for Europe in the fight against international terrorism and other threats. The objective of the conference is also to communicate the topics and aims of the new security research programme within the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), and to discuss security research in relation to other activities and objectives, such as technology, society and competitiveness.

Further information: <http://www.src07.de>

**16 April 2007, Berlin, Germany – eHealth week Berlin 2007**

Further information: <http://www.ehealth2007.org>

**7-11 May 2007, Berlin, Germany – 15<sup>th</sup> European biomass conference and exhibition**

This event will, in particular, be an excellent forum for the presentation of the latest innovative global strategies, technologies, projects and efficient practice rules for energy and environment in the Biomass field. Over 1000 participants from around the world are expected to attend and learn about the latest breakthroughs in the field. The Exhibition taking place concurrently with the Conference will feature the foremost companies and state-of-the-art products in the Biomass industry.

Further information: [Biomass conference website](http://www.conference-biomass.com/Biomass_2007/welcome.asp)  
[http://www.conference-biomass.com/Biomass\\_2007/welcome.asp](http://www.conference-biomass.com/Biomass_2007/welcome.asp)

**8-10 May 2007, Växjö, Sweden - Sustainable Regions and Municipalities 2007**

The implementation of EU policies and directives in the field of energy and transport is often linked with great possibilities and opportunities. Nevertheless, it is also associated with difficulties arising from administrative, legal, technical and practical obstacles. This is a common problem for many local and regional European authorities.

The purpose of this conference is to give local and regional representatives an opportunity to discuss this practical work with other European regions and cities to obtain new ideas and inspiration on how to work towards sustainable regions and municipalities.

Further information:

[http://www.transporteko-so.se/pages/cgi-bin/PUB\\_View\\_File.exe?pageld=167&versionId=1&linkId=1&objId=11&objType=2](http://www.transporteko-so.se/pages/cgi-bin/PUB_View_File.exe?pageld=167&versionId=1&linkId=1&objId=11&objType=2)

**8-10 May 2007, Leipzig, Germany - 'Sustainable Neighbourhood - from Lisbon to Leipzig through Research (L2L)' Conference**

The aim of the conference is to position sustainability research as an engine for European competitiveness within the Lisbon Agenda. The organisers are inviting proposals for oral presentations and posters for all areas. The deadline for submitting abstracts is 22 December 2006.

Further information: [Call for presentations](#), [CORDIS website](#)

[http://www.fona.de/de/3\\_akteure/forum\\_2007/pdf/L2L\\_Call.pdf](http://www.fona.de/de/3_akteure/forum_2007/pdf/L2L_Call.pdf)

**11-12 May 2007, Bamberg, Germany – Japan-Germany symposium “A universal challenge: climate change”**

Information available at: <http://www.jsps-bonn.de/>

**24-25 May 2007, Shannon, Ireland – Innovative Regions in Europe plenary conference**

The Innovating Regions in Europe (IRE) network invites European regions to apply for the IRE Award for Best European Innovation Scheme, which aims to distinguish successful measures related to regional innovation policies. The Award will be presented to the best innovation scheme identified at the 5th IRE Plenary Conference in May 2007. The deadline for submitting application forms to the IRE Secretariat is 15 February 2007.

Further information: <http://www.innovating-regions.org/schemes/index.cfm>

**7-9 June 2007, Paris, France – 3<sup>e</sup> Salon Européen de la Recherche et de l’Innovation**

The European Research & Innovation Exhibition brings together over four days the major French and European players in scientific, entrepreneurial and institutional circles:

○ Industrial and service companies ○ Innovative SMEs/SMLs ○ Start-ups ○ Funding agencies ○ Publicly funded research organisations ○ Private research laboratories ○ Universities and elite colleges ○ Technology centres and regional authorities ○ Centres of excellence ○ Institutional players, federations, French and European non-profit associations ○ International and European Representatives.

Further information: <http://www.european-research-exhibition.com/index.php>

**19 June 2007, Düsseldorf, Germany – EuroNanoForum 2007**

The EuroNanoForum 2007 will be established as the foremost European congress for the transfer of nanotechnology from research into industrial production processes, products and applications. It brings together excellent scientists with leading researchers and managers from industry.

Further information: <http://www.euronanoforum2007.de>

**3 September 2007, Milano, Italy - 22nd European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition**

Further information: <http://www.photovoltaiac-conference.com>

**17-21 September 2007, Sophia-Antipolis, France – “Smart Event”**

With 478 worldwide participants from 277 organisations in 2006, it hosts 4 events:

"e-Smart", the leading smart card industry conference (Sept. 19-21, 2007)

"**World e-ID**", dedicated to the electronic ID management and applications (Sept. 19-21, 2007) - View the ["World e-ID" 2007 Call for papers](#)

"**Smart University**", educational program in smart card, ID and Aml technologies, designed and delivered by high level academics (Sept. 17-20, 2007)

"**Amlid**", conference dedicated to Ambient Intelligence Developments (Sept. 17-19, 2007)

As a whole, the Smart Event is endorsed by over 35 worldwide organizations. Over 650 participants are expected to attend the 2007 edition.

Further information: deadline for [call for papers](#) for e-Smart conference: 2006-12-31

<http://www.strategiestm.com/conferences/esmart/07/calls.htm>

**26 September 2007, Lille, France – EuroBIO 2007, 11e édition du Carrefour européen des biotechnologies**

The 4 main aspects that make this event unique – conferences, a trade exhibition, a business convention and a recruitment drive – make it possible to bring together partners from the worlds of Research, Industry and Finance. All aspects of the subject will be represented, from the “health sector” applications for biotechnology (pharmacy, diagnosis) to the fields in which biotechnology provides technological solutions and product applications (cosmetics, chemistry, the environment, the food industry...).

Further information: <http://www.eurobio-event.com>

**11-15 November 2007, Rome, Italy - 20th World Energy Congress “The energy future in an interdependent world”**

The deadline for submission of papers and posters for the 20th World Energy Congress will expire on December 31 2006.

The preparation of what is worldly recognized to be the top event in the energy industry is advancing and registrations increasing. After the Executive Assembly in Tallinn, more events and meetings have raised interest in the World Energy Congress, and we are expecting a large participation attracting upwards of **5000 delegates**, including WEC members, leaders of the energy industry and international organizations, governments representatives and regulators, academics, the media, sponsors and individuals interested in sustainable energy development.

Further information: [www.rome2007.it](http://www.rome2007.it)

❖ **List of calls for proposals launched by the European Commission this month**

*(FP7 calls: 22 December 2006)*

Political area	Call title	Deadline for submission
Education and Culture	EAC 70/05 Erasmus Mundus Culture 2007-2013	2007-02-28
	multi-annual cooperation projects cooperation measures	2007-02-28
	LIFELONG LEARNING (Jean Monnet, Comenius, Erasmus, Grundtvig, Leonardo da Vinci, transversal programme)	2007-02-28
	Youth in Action	2007-02-01
Cooperation Office – EuropeAid	ASIA Invest II	2007-03-09
Enterprises, Industry, Social Affairs	Information, Consultation and Participation of representatives of undertakings	2007-03-12
	Information and training measures for workers' organisations	2007-04-30
	Industrial Relations and Social Dialogue	2007-03-01
	Competitiveness and Innovation Programme - Services in support of business and innovation	2007-04-02
	PHARE - Human Resources Development and Promotion of Employment in Bulgaria	2007-02-12
	PHARE - Improving infrastructure, access to education and training, SME support and environmental protection in Romania	2007-03-30
	Neighbourhood Programme Romania – Moldova 2004 - 2006	2007-03-12
Information society	e-Ten 2006/1	2009-05-19
	Call for independent experts for e-Content plus and Safer Internet programme 2005-2008	2009-06-30
	Stockholm Challenge Award 2008 (ICT for better living conditions)	2007-12-31
Regional policy	Competition of doctoral theses Local and regional authorities in the European Union	2007-05-07

Political area	Call title	Deadline for submission	Theme	Budget
7 <sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research and Development: COOPERATION	<b>Support European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research</b>	2007-03-30		
	<b>Call for individuals to establish database of FP7 experts</b>	2013-07-31		
	<b>FP7- AERONAUTICS and AIR TRANSPORT (AAT) - 2007- RTD-1</b>	2007-05-03	Transports (including aeronautics)	€ 153 480 000
	<b>FP7- AERONAUTICS and AIR TRANSPORT (AAT) - 2007- TREN-1</b>	2007-05-03	Transports (including aeronautics)	€ 4 000 000
	<b>Energy Call Part 1</b> FP7-ENERGY-2007-1-RTD	2007-05-03	Energy	€ 109 300 000
	<b>Energy Call Part 2</b> FP7-ENERGY-2007-2-TREN	2007-05-03	Energy	€ 128 000 000
	<b>FP7-ENV-2007-1</b>	2007-05-02	Environment (including climate change)	€ 200 000 000
	<b>ERA-NET / ERA-NET Plus Call 2007</b>	2007-07-31	All FP7 themes	€ 28 900 000
	<b>Coordination and cooperation in context of ERA</b>	2007-05-31	FP7 General Activities	€ 200 000
	<b>FP7-HEALTH-2007-A</b>	2007-04-19	Health	€ 628 000 000
	<b>ICT Call 1</b> FP7-ICT-2007-1	2007-05-08	Information and Communication Technologies	€ 1 019 000 000
	<b>FET Open scheme (future and emerging technologies)</b> FP7-ICT-2007-C	2008-12-31	Information and Communication Technologies	€ 0
	<b>Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology General Call 1</b> FP7-KBBE-2007-1	2007-05-02	Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology	€ 192 090 000
	<b>Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies</b> FP7-NMP-2007-CSA-1	2007-06-05	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	€ 15 000 000

Political area	Call title	Deadline for submission	Theme	Budget
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research and Development: COOPERATION</b>	<b>Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies</b> FP7-NMP-2007-LARGE-1	2007-05-04	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	€ 200 000 000
	<b>Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies</b> FP7-NMP-2007-SMALL-1	2007-05-04	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	€ 105 723 000
	<b>Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies</b> FP7-NMP-2007-SME-1	2007-05-04	Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies	€ 75 000 000
	<b>Security Research Call 1</b> FP7-SEC-2007-1	2007-05-31	Security	€ 80 300 000
	<b>Space Call 1</b> FP7-SPACE -2007-1	2007-06-19	Space	€ 34 500 000
	<b>Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities</b> FP7-SSH-2007-1	2007-05-10 and 2007-11-29	Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities	€ 58 500 000
	<b>FP7-SUSTAINABLE SURFACE TRANSPORT (SST)-2007-RTD-1</b>	2007-05-03	Transports (including aeronautics)	€ 153 480 000
	<b>FP7-SUSTAINABLE SURFACE TRANSPORT (SST) -2007-TREN-1</b>	2007-05-03	Transports (including aeronautics)	€ 60 000 000
	<b>FP7-TRANSPORT (TPT)-2007-RTD-1</b>	2007-05-03	Transports (including aeronautics)	€ 12 000 000
<b>FP7: IDEAS</b>	<b>Call for proposals for ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant</b> ERC-2007-StG	2007-04-25 and 2007-09-17	European Research Council	€ 289 500 000
<b>FP7: PEOPLE</b>	<b>Marie Curie Initial Training Networks</b> FP7-PEOPLE-2007-1-1-ITN	2007-05-07 and 2007-09-25	People	€ 240 000 000
	<b>European Reintegration Grants</b> FP7-PEOPLE-2007-2-2-ERG	2007-04-25 and 2007-10-17	People	€ 9 500 000
	<b>International Reintegration Grants</b> FP7-PEOPLE-2007-4-3-IRG	2007-04-25 and 2007-10-17	People	€ 14 500 000
	<b>Researchers' night</b> FP7-PEOPLE-2007-5-1-1-NIGHT	2007-04-03	People	€ 3 000 000
	<b>Marie Curie Awards</b> FP7-PEOPLE-2007-5-2-AWARDS	2007-04-26	People	€ 250 000

Political area	Call title	Deadline for submission	Theme	Budget
<b>FP7: CAPACITIES</b>	<b>Activities of International Cooperation INCO-NET</b> FP7-INCO-2007-1	2007-05-02	Activities of International Cooperation	€ 17 000 000
	<b>Trans-national co-operation among NCPs</b> FP7-INCO-2007-4	2007-05-02	Activities of International Cooperation	€ 370 000
	<b>FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2007-1</b>	2007-05-02	Research Infrastructures	€ 164 400 000
	<b>Regions of Knowledge: Analysis, mentoring and integration of research actors</b> FP7-REGIONS-2007-1	2007-04-24	Regions of Knowledge	€ 8 800 000
	<b>Regions of Knowledge: Facilitating the emergence of new clusters and mutual information</b> FP7-REGIONS-2007-2	2007-04-24	Regions of Knowledge	€ 800 000
	<b>Regions of Knowledge: Trans-national co-operation among NCPs</b> FP7-REGIONS-2007-3	2007-04-24	Regions of Knowledge	€ 400 000
	<b>Research Potential: Unlocking and developing the research potential in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions</b> FP7-REGPOT-2007-1	2007-04-24	Research Potential	€ 23 500 000
	<b>Research Potential: Providing evaluation facilities for research organisation in the EU's convergence regions and outermost regions</b> FP7-REGPOT-2007-2	2007-04-24	Research Potential	€ 1 000 000
	<b>Research Potential: International Co-operation</b> FP7-REGPOT-2007-3	2007-04-24	Research Potential	€ 8 000 000
	<b>Research Potential: Trans-national co-operation among NCPs</b> FP7-REGPOT-2007-4	2007-04-24	Research Potential	€ 500 000
	<b>Science in Society</b> FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2007-1	2007-05-23	Science in Society	€ 21 798 000
	<b>Research for SMEs Call 1</b> FP7-SME-2007-1	2007-09-04	Research for the Benefit of SMEs	€ 100 000 000
	<b>Research for SME Associations Call 1</b> FP7-SME-2007-2	2007-06-01 and 2007-11-28	Research for the Benefit of SMEs	€ 10 000 000
	<b>Coordination and Support Actions Call 1</b> FP7-SME-2007-3	2007-05-10	Research for the Benefit of SMEs	€ 2 000 000
<b>FP7: EURATOM</b>	<b>Nuclear Fission and Radiation Protection</b> FP7-Fission-2007	2007-05-02	Nuclear Fission and Radiation Protection	€ 48 650 000

❖ **List of open consultations**

Title and description	Political activity	Targeted Group	Closing date
<b>Public consultation on the revision of the EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) Regulation EC No 761 2001</b>	Environment	Stakeholders	<b>2007/02/26</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/consultation_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/consultation_en.htm</a>			
<b>Units of measurement</b>	Enterprise	Stakeholders	<b>2007/03/01</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/prepack/unitmeas/uni_ms_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/prepack/unitmeas/uni_ms_en.htm</a>			
<b>Public consultation on the revision of the EU Ecolabel Regulation EC No 1980/2000</b>	Environment	Stakeholders	<b>2007/03/02</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/consultation_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/consultation_en.htm</a>			
<b>Additional options to combat illegal logging</b>	Environment / Development	Stakeholders	<b>2007/03/05</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=IllegalLogOptions">http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=IllegalLogOptions</a>			
<b>Consultation on the initiatives envisaged by the Commission to improve the fight of the European Community against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing</b>	Fisheries	Stakeholders	<b>2007/03/12</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/governance/consultations/consultation_150107_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/governance/consultations/consultation_150107_en.htm</a>			
<b>GLOBAL EUROPE - Europe's trade defence instruments in a changing global economy - A Green Paper for public consultation</b>	Trade	Stakeholders	<b>2007/03/31</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/respectrules/anti_dumping/comu061206_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/respectrules/anti_dumping/comu061206_en.htm</a>			
<b>European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training</b>	Education	Stakeholders	<b>2007/03/31</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/education/ecvt/index_en.html">http://ec.europa.eu/education/ecvt/index_en.html</a>			
<b>Green Paper: "Modernising labour law to meet the challenges of the 21st century"</b>	Employment & social affairs	Stakeholders	<b>2007/03/31</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=labourlaw&amp;lang=en">http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=labourlaw&amp;lang=en</a>			
<b>GALILEO Green Paper on Satellite Navigation Applications</b>	Energy and transport, aerospace	Stakeholders	<b>2007/04/06</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/galileo/green-paper/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/galileo/green-paper/index_en.htm</a>			
<b>A Maritime Policy for the European Union</b>	Maritime policy	public	<b>2007/06/30</b>
<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy_en.html">http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy_en.html</a>			

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### Trainings' news and offers on new EU funding programmes.

#### ❖ Training News



##### - The 2007 Catalogue of training courses On-Line (available in FR and EN)

The catalogue presents all of our training formula, the content of courses and any practical information you would need to choose your training courses.

You can consult or download it in FR or EN from our new website from now on.

There will be a possibility to register on-line for all modules of our catalogue from our revamped website

#### ❖ Next sessions planned in Brussels (given in English or French)

\* **“FP7: The Seventh Framework Programme: How to anticipate your participation and raise your chance of success?”** Presentation of the new priorities and orientations.”

Available date:

- **21<sup>st</sup> February 2007** : Course in English

\* **“How to write a successful proposal under FP7?”** – tips and methodology to set up a qualitative project to be more positively assessed and properly fill in the application form with a view to enhance your chances of success.

Available dates :

- **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2007** : Course in English
- **23<sup>rd</sup> March 2007** : Course in English

\* **“Legal and financial aspects of European contracts for Research.”**

Available dates:

- **23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007** : Course in English

\* **“Mobility of Researchers – Marie Curie actions”**

Available dates:

- **13th February 2007:** Course in English
- **14<sup>th</sup> March 2007** : Course in English
- If you would be interested in attending a **course in French, please register on our [waiting list](#)**

\* **“Structural funds: How to adopt and integrated funding strategy and present a valuable project ?”**

Available dates:

- **20<sup>th</sup> March 2007** : Course in English

\* **“EU Journey” – Discover EU institutions and mechanisms whilst acquiring knowledge on FP7.**

A Two-day training which combined the module on FP 7 (how to anticipate your participation and raise your chances of success under FP 7) with visits of the European institutions and meeting with officials.

Available dates:

- **21st/22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007:** Course in English

*To register or to consult our training sessions planned during the second semester, go on “Calendar of sessions” in the training department’s page of our website. <http://www.interfaceurope.net/news.php?p=news&lang=fr>  
You can also register on-line from February 15<sup>th</sup> on.*

## ❖ Next sessions planned in Paris

\* “Le 7<sup>ème</sup> programme cadre de recherche de l’Union européenne : Comment anticiper et augmenter vos chances de succès ? – Présentation détaillée des nouvelles orientations et opportunités - Au delà de la lecture des textes, adoptez une démarche stratégique, clé de votre succès pour le 7<sup>ème</sup> PCRD.

• Dates disponibles/available dates : 14<sup>th</sup> February 2007, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007 – Course in French

\* “Le montage de projets européens de recherche”. The module will focus on a methodology especially designed to set-up a RTDI project and write a successful application under FP7.

• Dates disponibles/available dates : 15<sup>th</sup> February 2007, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007 – Course in French

\* “Les aspects juridiques et financiers d’un contrat de financement communautaire – Module d’approfondissement.

• Dates disponibles/available dates : 16<sup>th</sup> February 2007, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007 – Course in French

To register or to consult our training sessions planned during the second semester, go on Calendar of sessions in the training department’s page of our website: [www.interfaceeurope.eu](http://www.interfaceeurope.eu) Quick access and registration on line : click on “training sessions” You can also register on-line from February 15<sup>th</sup> on.

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