



EU BULLETIN • ISSUE 12 / July 2013

## EU Updates



### **Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the latest events in Egypt**

"The events in Egypt over the past few days, in particular the confrontations which have resulted in so many deaths and injuries, are a cause of grave concern to all Europeans, and make even more urgent our call for an immediate end to the violence." [➤ More](#)

### **High Representative Catherine Ashton at the ASEAN Regional Forum in Brunei**

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission Catherine Ashton is in Brunei on 1 July to represent the EU at the 20th Ministerial meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). [➤ More](#)

### **Eurogroup Statement on Greece (08/07/2013)**

The Eurogroup has been informed on the outcome of the third review mission under the second macroeconomic adjustment programme for Greece and welcomes the staff-level agreement between Greece and the Troika on the updated policy conditionality underlying the programme. [➤ More](#)

### **Number of Erasmus (EU's scholarship programme) students tops 3 million**

Figures released on 8 July reveal that more than 3 million students have benefitted from EU Erasmus grants since the exchange scheme's launch in 1987. [➤ More](#)



## Croatia joins the European Union



### **Croatia becomes 28th EU member state**

Croatia became the latest country to join the European Union. It is the first country to join since 2007 and the second former Yugoslav state to become a member after Slovenia joined in 2004. [➤ More](#)

- **Speech by European Council President Herman Van Rompuy**  
[➤ More](#)
- **European Parliament President Martin Schulz** [➤ More](#)
- **"A great day for Europe and Croatia" - EP welcomes the EU's newest member state:** [➤ More](#)



### **Vincent Piket, Head of EU Office to Hong Kong and Macao's interview with RTHK on Croatia's EU accession** [sound clip](#) [➤ More](#)

To celebrate Croatia's accession to the EU, the EU Head of Office to Hong Kong and Macao Vincent Piket and Honorary Consul of Croatia Sir Gordon Wu hosted a cocktail reception which was attended by over 70 people from the diplomatic corps, government, academia, media and chambers of commerce.



**Speech by Commissioner Olli Rehn on *Moving Europe out of the crisis*:** "I would like to begin with an expression, which I believe has been coined by the Bundesbank, and that is the word Stabilitätskultur, stability culture."

[➤ More](#)

**Statement by European Council President Herman Van Rompuy on Youth Employment:**

The conference here in Berlin was in line with the conclusions of the European Council meeting last week in Brussels. A Council that was likewise – almost fully – devoted to the fight against youth unemployment.

[➤ More](#)

**The EU's free trade agreements – where are we?**

Over the next two years, 90% of world demand will be generated outside the EU. That is why it is a key priority for the EU to open up more market opportunities for European business by negotiating new Free Trade Agreements with key countries. [➤ More](#)

**Latvia to adopt euro on 1 January 2014**

The Council has on 9 July adopted a decision allowing Latvia to adopt the euro as its currency as of 1 January 2014. This decision will extend the euro area to 18 member states, and gives Latvia almost six months to prepare for the changeover. [➤ More](#)

**EU Challenges Russian "Recycling" Fee in WTO**

The EU supports and encourages all countries to take appropriate environmental measures, including those that deal with end-of life vehicles. [➤ More](#)

## EU-Cyber Security

**Statement by the spokespersons of European Council President Herman Van Rompuy on the press reports of US surveillance of EU premises:**

"The President of the European Council is very concerned by the press reports with allegations of U.S. surveillance of EU premises abroad and in Brussels." [➤ More](#)



- **Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton:** [➤ More](#)
- **Speech by Commissioner Reding:** [➤ More](#)
- **Parliament to launch in-depth inquiry into US surveillance programmes:** [➤ More](#)

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