



European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macao



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In Memoriam - Baroness Thatcher

Condolences by European Council President Van Rompuy

"On behalf of the European Union I would like to send my sincere condolences to the family and to the people and the government of the United Kingdom." [➤ More](#)

Condolences by European Commission President Barroso

"Let me, on behalf of myself and the European Commission, say that I was deeply saddened to hear the news of the death of Baroness Thatcher. I would like to convey my deepest regrets to the Government and people of the United Kingdom." [➤ More](#)

Condolences by European Parliament President Schulz

"Margaret Thatcher marked British and European political life. My thoughts are with her family and friends." [➤ More](#)

EU-Highlights



"Croatia ready to join the EU", speech by EU Commissioner Füle

Croatia is generally meeting the requirements for all negotiation chapters and will be ready for European Union membership in July [➤ More](#)

"Safeguarding media freedom and pluralism"

Speech by Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Agenda [➤ More](#)

The European Commission launched two public consultations on media freedom and pluralism and audiovisual media regulator independence open until 14th June 2013. [➤ More](#)



EU exalts entrepreneurship: Skype, Spotify and Angry Birds creators advise EU on first stage of "Startup Europe" campaign

The EU Commission is creating a platform for star entrepreneurs to share their stories of success and frustration, to inspire young Europeans and leaders to the potential of entrepreneurial careers. [➤ More](#)

Public consultation on the implementation of the Schengen Area Visa Code

The Commission is reviewing the procedures for issuing these visas and would like to hear your views on your experience. The idea is to modernise the policy and your input via this public consultation will help us to make the right changes. [➤ More](#)

Erasmus Mundus Funding 2013 - Call for Proposals

Deadline for submission of applications under both Action 2 and Action 3: 15th April 2013 [➤ More](#)

EU-Economic News



Statement by the European Commission on Portugal

European Commission MEMO Brussels, 7 April 2013 The European Commission welcomes that, following the decision of the Portuguese Constitutional Court on the 2013 state budget, the Portuguese Government has confirmed its commitment to the adjustment programme, including its fiscal targets and timeline. [➤ More](#)



Statement on Cyprus by Olli Rehn European Commission Vice-President and Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund

The European Commission and the International Monetary Fund stand by Cyprus and the Cypriot people in helping to restore financial stability, fiscal sustainability and growth to the country and its people. [➤ More](#)

February 2013 Euro area unemployment rate at 12.0% EU27 at 10.9% [➤ More](#)



EU-Japan: forging closer cooperation in disaster management

EU-Japan are setting up a framework for cooperation in a broad spectrum of disaster risk reduction topics, including major natural and man-made disasters related to water. The cooperation will cover preparedness and response to mega-disasters and the integration of climate change adaptation into disaster management policy.

[➤ More](#)

EU and Japan in talks for a Free Trade Agreement

The EU and Japan officially launched the negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The aim is for a comprehensive agreement in goods, services and investment eliminating tariffs, non-tariff barriers and covering other trade-related issues, such as public procurement, regulatory issues, competition, and sustainable development. [➤ More](#)

Joint statement by the European Commission President, José Manuel Barroso, European Council President, Herman Van Rompuy, and the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe [➤ More](#)





"Let's Clean up Europe!" speech by Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Environment

"Since my first day as Commissioner in charge of the environment, I have been actively campaigning in favour of litter prevention. I see a litter-free environment as important for our health and for our wellbeing." [➤ More](#)

Climate action: Designing the 2015 Global Climate Change Agreement

The European Commission adopted a consultative paper that launches a public debate on how best to design a new international agreement to combat climate change. [➤ More](#)

Commission moves forward on climate and energy towards 2030

The European Commission took the first step towards developing a 2030 framework for EU climate change and energy policies. [➤ More](#)

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