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The EU Newsletter No. 192

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Welcome to the EU Newsletter. This Newsletter will keep you abreast of all important developments in the EU and its relations with Kazakhstan.

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The EU's INOGATE Programme participates in the KAZENERGY Eurasia Forum VI and organises Information Event

Co-organised by the Ministry of Oil and Gas, the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies and the INOGATE Technical Secretariat, the **INOGATE Information Event** was held successfully today, following INOGATE's participation in the "KAZENERGY Eurasian Forum VI – Kazakhstan: 20 Years of Stable Growth, New Horizons for Investment and Cooperation" organised on 4-5 October.

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence, the Deputy Minister of Oil and Gas of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr Berik Tolumbayev, in his keynote address, emphasised the importance of collaborating with the EU and stated that Kazakhstan will continue to take an active role in further strengthening this energy cooperation. The Head of Trade Section of the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan Mr Mushtag Hussain, highlighted that '2011 also marks the fifteenth anniversary of the INOGATE programme for energy policy cooperation, in which Kazakhstan has been a participant since its inception. Not only that, it is also the fifth anniversary of the Astana Ministerial Conference of 2006, an event of fundamental importance for the entire INOGATE Programme.' [Press-release](#)

The EU project on Development and Implementation of Trade Policies and Regulations opens a workshop on trade negotiation skills

The EU-funded project "Development and Implementation of Trade Policies and Regulations" (DITP) starts today a five-day workshop on trade negotiations skills in the premises of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade in response to beneficiaries' request. This workshop will be delivered by Mr. Collins-Williams, a former senior negotiator for Canada. Officials from the Ministry of Economic Development and

Trade, the Center for Trade Policy Development and the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan are among the participants. [Press-release](#)

President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, welcomes today's agreement on the economic legislative package

"I welcome today's vote in the European Parliament on a package of six legislative proposals on economic governance.

The so-called "six-pack" will strengthen economic governance in the EU – and more specifically in the euro area – as part of the EU's response to the current turmoil on sovereign debt markets. The work of the Task force on economic governance that I had the honour to chair paved the way to this fundamental agreement. [Full text](#)

Parliament supports Palestine's "legitimate" bid for statehood

Parliament called Palestine's bid for statehood "legitimate" in a resolution passed on Thursday, and said that a solution should be found within a year. MEPs believe, however, that Palestinian statehood should result from negotiations, during the current UN General Assembly session.

"The right of Palestinians to self-determination and to have their own state is unquestionable, as is the right of Israel to exist within safe borders", says the resolution, adopted by a show of hands. [Full text](#)

Euro area unemployment rate at 10.0% EU27 at 9.5%

The **euro area** (EA17) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.0% in August 2011, unchanged compared with July. It was 10.2% in August 2010. The EU27 unemployment rate was 9.5% in August 2011, unchanged compared with July. It was 9.6% in August 2010.

Eurostat estimates that 22.785 million men and women in the EU27, of whom 15.739 million were in the euro area, were unemployed in August 2011. Compared with July 2011, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 62 000 in the **EU27** and by 38 000 in the euro area. Compared with August 2010, unemployment fell by 300 000 in the EU27 and by 215 000 in the euro area.

These figures are published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

Among the Member States, the lowest unemployment rates were recorded in **Austria** (3.7%), the **Netherlands** (4.4%) and **Luxembourg** (4.9%), and the highest in **Spain** (21.2%), **Greece** (16.7% in the second quarter of 2011) and **Latvia** (16.2% in the second quarter of 2011). [Full text](#)

SMEs: Commission report notes economic climate threatens performance; SME Week 3-9 October

The European Commission presented its 2010 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) report "Are EU SMEs recovering from the crisis?" - including surveys on each EU Member State (the SBA Fact Sheets) - on the occasion of the SME Week taking place throughout Europe from 3–9 October.

The report confirms that SMEs remain the EU's economic backbone. In 2010, there were almost 20.8 million SMEs in the EU non-financial business economy of which 19.2 million were micro-firms with less than 10 employees. Altogether SMEs provided more than two-thirds (87.5 million) of all employment opportunities in the private sector in the EU and 58.4% of the total gross value-added, compared to the 43 000 large businesses representing only the 0.2% of the EU enterprises.

The number of SMEs is expected to rise by 0.9% in 2011 and their gross value-added by 3.9%. The number of SMEs' employees are expected to increase by 0.4% after a two year slump. However, the crisis is not over and SMEs still have to operate in an uncertain economic climate. [Press-release](#)

RECENT SPEECHES

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[Statement by High Representative Catherine Ashton at the Annual Follow-up Meeting on the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation](#)

[Commissioner Rehn comments on the new rules for EU economic governance](#)