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## **The EU Newsletter No. 196**

17<sup>th</sup> November

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

- The EU Delegation and Embassies of the EU Member-States held an education fair in Almaty and Astana
- Final conference of the EU project "The role of volunteering in the development of civil initiatives" will be held in Semey
- Autumn economic forecast 2011-13: Growth at a standstill
- Libya: additional EU support for humanitarian mine clearance actions
- EU High Representative Catherine Ashton visits Tripoli and opens European Union Delegation

### **The EU Delegation and Embassies of the EU Member-States held education fairs in Almaty and Astana**

On 12 November in Almaty and on 15 November in Astana, the EU Delegation to the Republic of Kazakhstan together with the Embassies of the EU Member-States held education fairs "Study in Europe". Education fairs have been conducted in Kazakhstan for the third year in a row to provide Kazakhstani students and faculty members with information about opportunities to study at higher educational establishments in Europe. In the framework of these fairs, 14 EU Member-States (Czech Republic, Germany, France, Poland, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Slovakia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and the United Kingdom) through their embassies jointly with the EU Delegation in Kazakhstan presented a variety of education-related informational materials. In addition, the most popular programmes for getting education in Europe were presented to those who attended the fair. [Press-release](#)

### **Final conference of the EU project "The role of volunteering in the development of civil initiatives" will be held in Semey**

On 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2011 public association "The centre of creativity for children and youth "Istok" holds a national practical conference "The role of volunteering in the development of civil initiatives". This conference represents the final stage of the EU project "The support to children with disabilities" and is directed on summarizing of two-year Project, with the state and budgetary institutions on development of the system of city volunteer organizations and of the promotion of the volunteering as a tool of mobilization of a civil society.

The project is funded by the European Union in the amount of 48, 447 EURO Through the EU project we managed to carry out the work on the development of volunteer movement in the city to teach young workers in academic institutions to be compassionate, merciful, in order to help people in need and for positive changes in the society" – says Lyudmila Mikhailova, the leader of the "Support" project. [Press-release](#)

### **Autumn economic forecast 2011-13: Growth at a standstill**

Brussels, 10 November 2011 - The recovery of the EU economy has stopped. Sharply deteriorated confidence is affecting investment and consumption, weakening global growth is holding back exports, and urgent fiscal consolidation is weighing on domestic demand. GDP in the EU is now projected to stagnate until well into 2012. Growth for the whole of 2012 is forecast at about ½%. By 2013, a return to slow growth of about 1½% is expected. No real improvements are projected for labour markets, and unemployment is forecast to remain at the current high level of around 9½%. Inflation is set to return below 2% over the coming quarters. Fiscal consolidation is forecast to progress with public deficits set to decline to just above 3% by 2013 under an assumption of unchanged policies. [Full text](#)

### **Libya: additional EU support for humanitarian mine clearance actions**

In view of the increased need for the rapid clearance of unexploded ordnances and booby traps in battleground areas in Libya, the European Commission has announced that it is to provide additional funding of €500,000.

Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response stated: *"One of the major threats to civilians remains the residues of war. Despite the cessation of the fighting, unexploded ammunition and mines are still claiming victims, especially children. This additional funding will assist the Libyan people to reduce the risk of fatalities and injury"*. [Press-release](#)

### **EU High Representative Catherine Ashton visits Tripoli and opens European Union Delegation**

Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Commission Vice-President, will visit Tripoli today, to officially inaugurate the new Delegation of the European Union in Libya. She will meet the Chairman of the National Transitional Council, Mustafa Abdul Jalil, newly appointed Prime Minister, Abdurrahim al-Keib, and Ian Martin, the head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya. She will also speak at the first Libyan Women's Rights Forum.

"I am delighted to visit Tripoli to express the EU's continued support to the Libyan people's efforts to build a new Libya based on the rule of law, democracy and human rights," Catherine Ashton said. "Opening a fully fledged EU Delegation in Tripoli underlines the EU's commitment to our close relationship with the Libyan people, both during the political transition and in the long term. I will meet representatives of civil society organisations at the Women's Rights Forum. The EU is already supporting civil society in Libya, in particular women and young people, who have a major role to play in shaping Libya's future." [Press-release](#)

## **RECENT STATEMENTS**

[Statement by President Barroso on the conclusion of a bilateral agreement between Georgia and Russia on Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization](#)

[Statement by President Barroso and President Van Rompuy on the designation of Lucas Papademos as Prime Minister of Greece](#)

[Main results of the EU Council on economic and financial affairs](#)

[Main results of the EU Council on foreign affairs](#)

[Interview of President Barroso with BBC Today programme](#)