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The EU Newsletter No. 187

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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.

- Statement by the High Representative following the London Conference on Libya
- European support to Japan's humanitarian needs boosted by Euro 10 million
- EU Project presents National Strategy and Action Plan for municipal solid waste management
- European Commission report tracks progress in enforcing fundamental rights in the EU
- A new space policy for Europe: Independence, competitiveness and citizen's quality of life

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 7 April 2011 – EU-Central Asia Ministerial meeting – Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- 29 April 2011 - Deadline for submission of applications under all three Actions of Erasmus Mundus programme
- April: Lectures of Ambassadors of Sweden, Hungary, and the UK scheduled at the Gumilyov Eurasian National University in Astana, Kazakhstan

Statement by the High Representative following the London Conference on Libya

On 29 March Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, made a statement, saying, in particular: "I am very encouraged by the progress we made today in London. The meeting confirmed that the international community is united in its determination to implement swiftly UNSCRs 1970 and 1973 (2011) and that Colonel Gaddafi and his regime have completely lost legitimacy. We also reaffirmed our commitment to work together to assist a democratic transition in Libya. Above all, we have stressed that the future lies in the hands of the Libyan people. [...] To help with the political process and coordinate international support, the meeting today has agreed to establish an international contact group with the participation of the EU and key organizations like the United Nations, African Union and Arab League. [...] Together with key partners I will continue to work for a solution to the crisis which responds to the legitimate demands of the Libyan people, fostering dialogue and assisting a new Libya to build a prosperous and democratic future."

For more information: [Full text](#)

European support to Japan's humanitarian needs boosted by Euro 10 million

The European Commission has just adopted a new humanitarian funding decision of Euro 10 million, to help the Japanese population cope with the massive consequences of the twin disaster. This boosts the European Union's (Member States and Commission) aid to earthquake and tsunami-stricken Japan to more than Euro 15 million. The new funding will provide assistance to more than 30,000 people, who live in temporary shelters and rely on aid for food, water, blankets and mattresses and other immediate provisions.

This Euro 10 million decision will allow the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to distribute relief items to evacuees and other people in need

in Japan, in partnership with the Japanese Red Cross Society. The European aid will target some 8,000 families in the affected provinces of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima. For more information: [Press release](#)

EU Project presents National Strategy and Action Plan for municipal solid waste management

On 29 March 2011, a press conference to introduce the final results of a 6-month European Union funded project "Developing a National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan in the Republic of Kazakhstan" was held in Astana. The project is undertaken in partnership with the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

Major outputs from the European Union funded project are:

- A proposed national strategy and action plan for municipal solids wastes management. The strategy proposes good practice for the collection of municipal solid waste and its disposal to sanitary landfill sites, and recommends that a strategic appraisal of materials recovery and recycling is made with the objective of determining the real potential for its cost-effective application in Kazakhstan.
- Guidance on municipal solids wastes management planning at Regional Oblast and District level. This details the procedures for comparing alternative options and determining optimum landfill locations.
- A workshop that introduced the national strategy and planning guidance to Regional Oblasts, providing the opportunity for dialogue on planning and regulatory issues.
- To gauge the interest of the international community in providing assistance to the Republic of Kazakhstan in implementing the proposed strategy, a roundtable meeting between the government, international financial institutions and bilateral/multi-lateral providers of technical assistance was held on the morning of 29 March 2011.

The European Union financed the project to the tune of 0.2 million Euros. The project was implemented by Euronet Consulting.

For more information: [Press release](#)

European Commission report tracks progress in enforcing fundamental rights in the EU

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights has now been legally binding for over a year – primarily on the EU institutions (European Parliament, Council and the European Commission) when preparing new European laws, but also on national authorities if they are implementing EU law. As part of its efforts to make fundamental rights a reality for citizens in the EU, the European Commission is reporting for the first time on how the Charter is being applied.

The Annual Report on the application of the Charter shows that fundamental rights are relevant across a wide range of policies – from data protection to immigration and asylum – and that public interest in the Charter runs high. However, the report also highlights that the Charter is frequently misunderstood. In 2010, the Commission received more than 4,000 letters from the general public regarding fundamental rights. Approximately three quarters of these concerned cases outside the remit of EU law.

This report is a first step in addressing these challenges, clarifying where the Charter applies and where it does not. The report should help citizens determine where they need to turn when they believe that their fundamental rights have been violated by an EU institution or a national authority. "To make the Charter work in practice, people need to know their rights and how to apply them so that justice can be done," said Vice-President Viviane Reding, the EU's Justice Commissioner.

For more information: [Press release](#)

A new space policy for Europe: Independence, competitiveness and citizen's quality of life

Improving the safety and daily lives of European citizens thanks to radio navigation, guiding tractors by satellite for high-yield crops, optimizing response to humanitarian crisis... This is not science fiction but just a few examples of innovations related to space technologies developed today. This crucial role of space is reflected in the European Commission

communication presented yesterday as a first step of an integrated Space Policy to be developed with the new legal basis provided by the Lisbon Treaty. The new Communication aims at reinforcing Europe's space infrastructure and calls for increasing support for research to increase European technological non-dependence, foster cross-fertilisation between the space sector and other industry sectors, and boost innovation as a driver of European competitiveness.

Vice-President Antonio Tajani, responsible for Industry and Entrepreneurship, said: "Space is strategic for Europe's independence, job creation and competitiveness. Space activities create high-skilled jobs, innovation, new commercial opportunities, and improve citizens' well-being and security. This is why we need to reinforce European space policy to best exploit its social and economic opportunities for industry and SMEs. In order to achieve our goals, Europe needs to keep an independent access to space."

For more information: [Press release](#)

RECENT SPEECHES

[Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission: Statement by the High Representative on presidential elections in Kazakhstan - Brussels, 5 April 2011](#)

[Kristalina Georgieva, European Union Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response: Statement on the growing humanitarian crisis in Côte d'Ivoire - Brussels, 4 April 2011](#)

[Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission: Statement on the situation in Cote d'Ivoire - Brussels, 1 April 2011](#)

[Statement by the spokesperson of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission Catherine Ashton on the attack against the UN office in Mazar, Afghanistan - Brussels, 1 April 2011](#)