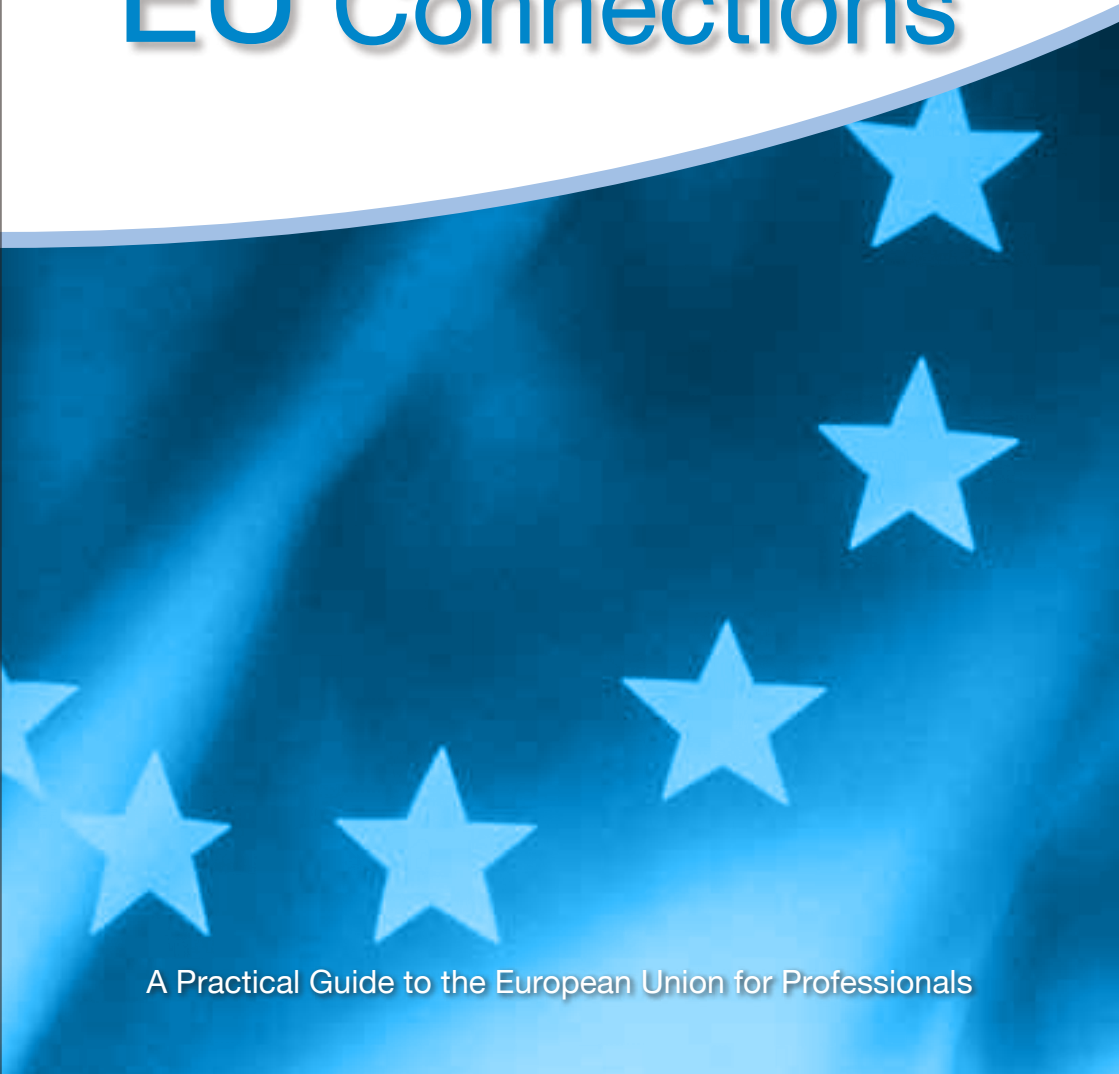




EU Connections



A Practical Guide to the European Union for Professionals

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I. EU – A General Glance

The European Union is a unique economic and political partnership between 27 European countries.

It has delivered half a century of peace, stability, and prosperity, helped raise living standards, launched a single European currency, and is progressively building a single Europe-wide market in which people, goods, services, and capital move among Member States as freely as within one country.

The EU actively promotes human rights and democracy and has the most ambitious emission reduction targets for fighting climate change in the world. Thanks to the abolition of border controls between EU countries, it is now possible for people to travel freely within most of the EU. It has also become much easier to live and work in another EU country.

The EU has a population of 500 million people. It is the largest economy in the world, as well as the largest trading entity, investment destination and market in the world. The EU is also today a crucial player in international affairs, on all issues of global interest.

To find out more general information about the EU:

Facts and Figures

EU Basic figures: http://europa.eu/about-eu/facts-figures/living/index_en.htm

Basic data on EU economy: http://europa.eu/about-eu/facts-figures/economy/index_en.htm

Access to basic EU statistics: http://europa.eu/documentation/statistics-polls/index_en.htm

EU Elements

EU symbols: http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/symbols/index_en.htm

EU Member States: http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index_en.htm

EU History: http://europa.eu/about-eu/eu-history/index_en.htm

EU Main Policies

http://europa.eu/pol/index_en.htm

EU Institutions

The EU functions through the interactions and decision making of its institutions. In general, the EU's broad priorities are set by the European Council, which brings together national and EU-level leaders, and the national governments also defend their own countries' interests in the Council of the European Union. European citizens are represented by directly elected MEPs in the European Parliament. The interests of the EU as a whole are promoted by the European Commission, which is also the EU's executive branch. The European External Action Service manages the EU's foreign and security policy.

You may find general information regarding the institutions **here**:

http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/index_en.htm

For the websites of each institution, you may visit:

European Parliament: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>

European Council: <http://www.european-council.europa.eu/home-page.aspx?lang=en>

Council of the European Union: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/homepage.aspx?lang=en>

European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

European External Action Service: http://eeas.europa.eu/index_en.htm

European Court of Justice: <http://curia.europa.eu/>

European Central Bank: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/home/html/index.en.html>

II. EU in Taiwan

EETO

The EU has solid overall relations with Taiwan. Taiwan and the EU have a healthy trade and economic relationship - Taiwan being the EU's 4th largest trading partner in Asia and the EU being Taiwan's fourth largest market. The EU is also Taiwan's largest source of foreign investment.

Exchanges also take place in sectors such as research and technology, information society, education and culture, fisheries, environment, climate change, intellectual property rights and standards and norms.

Consultations between the EU and Taiwan are held every year to discuss issues of concern for both sides. The European Economic and Trade Office (EETO) was established in 2003 as the EU's office in Taiwan. 16 member states of the European Union have also established offices in Taipei.

Website: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/taiwan/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/euintaiwan>

e-mail: admin-taiwan@eeas.europa.eu

Address: Suite 1603, 333 Keelung Road Section 1, Taipei

Tel: 02-2757 7211

Fax: 02-2757 7209

European Union Centre in Taiwan

In 2009, the European Union Centre in Taiwan (EUTW) was established by a consortium of seven Taiwanese universities, with funding provided by the European Union. Its main office is located on the campus of National Taiwan University. The EUTW aims to:

1. Become the domestic platform for exchanges and cooperation for the study of the EU and EU policy and the interface for international exchange for the Taiwan European Union research communities.

2. Promote advanced research on the EU and EU policies.
3. Facilitate the academia and civil society interactions between the EU and Taiwan for the enhancement of mutual understanding.
4. Advance the comprehension of EU policies by the Taiwanese population.
5. Participate actively in joint activities with other EU Centres established across Asia and the globe.

The contact information of the EUTW is as below:

Address: No.21, Xuzhou Rd., Taipei 10055, Taiwan

Tel: 02-3343 3621

Fax: 02-3343 3623

e-mail: ntueutw@ntu.edu.tw

Website: <http://www.eutw.org.tw/index-e.php>

EU Info Centres in Taiwan

There are two EU Info Centres (EUi) in Taiwan. One is located in Tamkang University's Chueh-Sheng Memorial Library, and the other is located in the National Central Library. These EUi provide not only the EU's official documentation but also a variety of books, periodicals and journals related to European research.

The contact information of the Centres can be found below:

Tamkang EUi

E-mail: sunny@mail.tku.edu.tw

Address: European Union Info, Tamkang University Chueh-Sheng Memorial Library, 151 Ying-Chuang Rd. Tamsui, New Taipei City 25137

Tel: 02-2621 5656 ext.2483

Fax: 02-2623 5140

Website: <http://eui.lib.tku.edu.tw/main.php>

National Central Library EUi

Address: 20 Zhongshan South Road, Taipei

Website: <http://eui.ncl.edu.tw/en/source.htm>

European Chamber of Commerce Taipei

The European Chamber of Commerce Taipei (ECCT) is the principal organisation in Taiwan representing companies with European business interests. The ECCT and the EETO maintain a close working relationship. With more than 400 member companies, jointly making up the largest group of foreign investors in Taiwan, the ECCT has a strong voice and legitimacy to represent the European business viewpoint.

The ECCT's contact information can be found below:

Address: 11F, 285 Zhongxiao East Road, Section 4, Taipei, Taiwan.

Tel: 02-2740 0236

Fax: 02-2772 0530

Website: www.ecct.com.tw

British Chamber of Commerce in Taipei

Address: 26F, 9-11, Songgao Rd., Xinyi District, Taipei City 110

Tel: 02-2720 1919

Fax: 02-2120 9200

e-mail: info@bcctaipei.com

Website: <http://www.bcctaipei.com/>

France Taiwan Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Address: 2F, 307, Tun Hwa North Road, Taipei 10583

Tel: 02-2514 7959

Fax: 02-2514 7522

e-mail: service@ccift.org.tw

Website: www.ccift.org.tw

Taipei European School (TES)

The TES has a total enrolment of 1,250 students from over 50 countries. The school has attracted regional and worldwide attention with its unique model for integrating German, British, French, and High School sections in terms of their curricula, administration, finance, buildings and facilities. It not only serves as an excellent educational institution, but also as a social focus for the European community in Taipei.

The contact information for the TES can be found below:

Website: <http://www.taipeieuropeanschool.com/>

Primary Campus

Address: 727 Wenlin Road, Taipei 11159

Tel: 02-8145 9007

Fax: 02-2832 5058

Secondary Campus

Address: 31 Jianye Road, Taipei 11193

Tel: 02-8145 9007

Fax: 02-2862 1458



III. Practical info for Journalists

Directly accessing first-hand sources from the EU Institutions is the best way to get your facts straight and correct.

All EU Institutions offer a lot of on-line news and background information for journalists. They all have on-line press rooms, where you will find press releases, can subscribe free of charge to news alerts and newsletters, and can find contact details of press officers and spokespeople etc.

The EU on-line press room

http://europa.eu/press_room/index_en.htm

The EU Press Room is a common News Room where you will find news from several EU Institutions (Commission, Council, European Central Bank etc.). You can also subscribe to e-mail news alerts. On this page, you will find:

- the latest EU press releases and a database where you can search through press releases since 1985
- a calendar of up-coming events
- links to the specialised press services of all the EU Institutions

Search the News Database

<http://europa.eu/rapid/>

The "Rapid" press release database, with European Commission press releases and a selection of other EU Institutions press releases since 1985, offers a full-text search service. Be aware, though, that press releases from other Institutions apart from the Commission might take a few weeks to be added to the database: if you are looking for a very recent declaration from the Council, for example, it will be best to go directly to the Council's website (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/>).

How to search: just enter the time range of your search, your chosen criteria in the "Text" field, and click "Search". For example, a search with "Taiwan" in the text field will provide results including speeches by Commissioners, declarations from the High Representative for Foreign Affairs, debates and resolutions from the European Parliament etc... You can then download the entire document.

EU Publications

All EU publications can be accessed directly from this on-line bookshop
<http://bookshop.europa.eu/>

The Audiovisual Services

<http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/index.cfm?sitelang=en>

The Audiovisual Service offers video, photo and sound coverage of European news. It also provides assistance for journalists wishing to cover EU subjects.

All sources here offer photos free of copyright charge for EU-related information and education purposes, provided the source is duly credited. For any other use, prior clearance must be obtained from **the Central Audiovisual Library of the European Commission:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/2010/copyright/index.cfm?sitelang=en&pagesection=copyright&page=copyright>

Council of the European Union Press Room:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/press?lang=en>

European Parliament Press Room:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/>

Europe by Satellite (EbS)

<http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/ebs/schedule.cfm>

Europe by Satellite (EbS) broadcasts a daily service of EU-related video news, documentaries, reports and live coverage both by satellite and on-line, several hours a day. The coverage is fully available on-line.

European Journalists Professional Organizations and Training Centres

The Association of European Journalists *<http://www.aej.org/>*

The European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) (regional organisation of the International Federation of Journalists) *<http://europe.ifj.org>*

The European Union of Science Journalists' Associations
<http://www.eusja.org>

The European Journalism Training Association *<http://www.ejta.eu/>*

Journalists @ Your Service *<http://www.brusselsreporter.org/>*

European Journalism Centre *<http://www.ejc.nl/>*

EU for Journalists *<http://www.eu4journalists.com/>*

IV. Economy and the Euro

Economy

Operating as a single market, the EU is the biggest economy and trading power in the world ahead of the US and China. The EU promotes economic growth while making it environmentally and socially sustainable. The EU's GDP reached more than EUR 12,000 billion in 2010 – it is the world's largest economy. With 7% of the world's population, the EU's external trade accounts for around 20% of global exports and imports. The EU is the world's biggest exporter and the second-biggest importer.

Faced with a public debt crisis in recent years, the EU has adopted tough new rules to improve the management of government budgets across the Union, and it has boosted solidarity instruments to help Member States faced with difficulties. In order to sustain its continued economic development, the EU has also adopted a Europe 2020 blueprint, which is the EU's growth strategy for the coming decade. It has set ambitious objectives in terms of employment, R&D innovation, climate change and energy policy, education and the reduction of poverty and social exclusion.

For more info about the EU economy, visit the website of the **Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN)**:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/economy_finance/index_en.htm

On Europe 2020: *http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm*

The Euro

The history of Euro can be traced back to 1991 when the Maastricht Treaty was adopted. The Treaty launched a single currency in Europe, later named Euro in 1995. The Euro was then introduced to the world accounting system in 1999 and its notes and coins started to be circulated in 2002. Nowadays the Euro is used in 17 Member States of the EU and is also the second largest reserve currency in the world.

The initial purpose of creating the single currency was to minimize exchange rate fluctuation and to improve financial stability in the European region. It worked well and the Euro has been fully adopted by European economic operators and consumers, as well as by world markets. Nevertheless, the conditions set at the beginning for good budgetary management have not been fully met by all Member States, which led to a sovereign debt crisis in certain countries. Decisions made since to tackle the crisis enable the Eurozone to upgrade very significantly the fiscal and economic coordination and supervision of its Member States. This also opens a new phase in the history of the Euro.

For more information, visit:

the European Central Bank: <http://www.ecb.int/>

Eurozone Governance: <http://www.european-council.europa.eu/eurozone-governance>

the Euro's webpage: http://ec.europa.eu/euro/index_en.html

EU Economic Regulation

The drafting and enforcement of EU economic regulations is led by a number of different departments known as Directorates-General, or DGs. Each DG is responsible for a particular policy area. In the following list, DGs are split into two groupings: sectoral policy DGs and cross-sector DGs.

Main sectoral policy DGs

For agriculture and rural development policy, please visit **DG AGRI's website:**

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/agriculture/index_en.htm

For energy policy, please go to **DG ENER's page:**

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy/index_en.htm

For environment policy, information can be found at **DG ENV's page:**

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/environment/index_en.htm

For policy on information society and media, please go to **DG INFSO's website:**

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/information_society/index_en.htm

For maritime affairs and fisheries, please go to **DG MARE's website:**

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/maritimeaffairs_fisheries/index_en.htm

For information on mobility and transport, please visit **DG MOVE's page:**

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/index_en.htm

For research and innovation policy, information can be found at **DG RTD's website:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=dg>

For policy on health and consumer, information can be found at **DG SANCO's website:**

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/index_en.htm

Cross-sector DGs

For taxation and customs policy, please go to **DG TAXUD's website:**

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/index_en.htm

For EU internal market and services, please visit **DG MARKT's page:**

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/internal_market/index_en.htm

For information on enterprise and industry, please visit **DG ENTR's website:**

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/index_en.htm

For competition policy, please go to **DG COMP's page:**

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/competition/index_en.htm

V. Trade

Trade policy is managed at the EU level – so only the EU, and not individual member states, can legislate on trade matters and conclude international trade agreements. The scope of EU's exclusive powers covers not just trade in goods, but also services, commercial aspects of intellectual property, and foreign direct investment. The EU has exclusive powers in some other areas which may also be relevant for trade policy, such as transport, capital movements, etc.

The European Commission is the main actor by initiating and negotiating in trade matters, including trade agreements. It also speaks for the EU in the WTO and other trade related international fora. The Commission negotiates with the trading partners on behalf of the EU. It does this, working closely with the Member States in the Council and keeping the European Parliament fully informed. The Commission must request an authorisation (a "mandate") from the Council, that is from the member states, to negotiate a trade agreement with a trading partner. While the negotiations are going on, the Commission reports regularly to member states in the Council as well as to the European Parliament. Once the Commission has completed the negotiations, it presents the deal to the Council and the European Parliament. They are the ones to formally agree the outcome and prepare the way for signature and ratification of the deal.

The Directorate-General for Trade develops and implements the EU's trade policy. The main objectives are:

- Create a global system for fair and open trade
- Access markets for European companies, their workers and investors
- Make sure others play by the rules
- Ensure trade is a force for sustainable development

More on EU trade policy on **DG Trade's website**: <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/>

For more information on EU-Taiwan trade and investment flows please check out **EETO's Factfile** http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/taiwan/more_info/publications/

For trade statistics please check out this webpage <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/statistics/> or visit the European Statistical Office, **Eurostat website**: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/>

For queries on market access rules, on import and export tariffs, and more please visit the **customs and tax on-line databases** http://ec.europa.eu/ecip/information_resources/databases/index_en.htm

TARIC contains up to date **information in import tariffs** http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/dds2/taric/taric_consultation.jsp?Lang=en

The "Taxes in Europe" database is the European Commission's on-line information tool covering the **main taxes in force in the EU Member States** http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/gen_info/info_docs/tax_inventory/index_en.htm

If you look for more information on investing in the EU lease check out **EETO's publication with information to all 27 member states**: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/taiwan/documents/eu_taiwan/trade_regulation_events/2012_invest_in_eu.pdf

VI. EU Foreign Policy

The European Union's foreign and security policy is more and more integrated. It now covers a much larger number of subjects than a few years ago and its outreach is global and not only limited to the close neighbourhood of Europe. The EU is famous for its "soft power". It is, for example, the most influential player on development assistance, providing 50% of the world's total aid to developing countries. But it is now much more than just a soft power. Europe also leads on difficult global and regional issues, such as nuclear proliferation crisis, and intervenes in emergency situations with civilian and military operations in several countries and regions, for example to fight against piracy in the Gulf of Aden or to train police forces in Afghanistan.

The EU has drastically improved its foreign policy tools. It now has a High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, and a full diplomatic system called the European External Action Service (EEAS), headquartered in Brussels and deploying a network of 138 delegations and offices in the world, including the European Economic and Trade Office in Taipei.

The EU's presence in Asia is growing, thanks to the strong economic links between the two regions (Europe is Asia's largest trading partner and foreign investor, while Asia has become the fastest growing market for Europe), but also because the EU's global scale means that it has stakes in all security questions in Asia.

To follow the EU's Foreign policy, visit the website of the **European External Action Service**:

<http://eeas.europa.eu/>

and **follow its Facebook page**

<http://www.facebook.com/EuropeanExternalActionService> and Twitter account

http://twitter.com/eu_eeas

Most delegations of the European Union in third countries have websites: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/web_en.htm

The EU's decision-making body in foreign policy is the Council of the European Union, in particular the "**Foreign Affairs Council**". Its work can be followed at: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/policies/council-configurations/foreign-affairs?lang=en>

On the EU's development policy, visit the **website of EuropeAid**: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm

Europe is also a major provider of emergency humanitarian assistance. This is covered by the **EU's Humanitarian Office**: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm



VII. Human Rights

Human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights are the values on which the European Union is founded. Embedded in the Treaty on European Union, they have been reinforced by the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

These values also apply to the EU's foreign policy: Europe helps as much as possible to protect universal values across the world, through agreements, dialogues, cooperation projects, and also thanks to funding from the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

An overview of the **EU's Human rights policy and more in-depth information can be found at:**

http://europa.eu/pol/rights/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/index_en.htm

The **EU's Human Rights policy across the world is summarized here:**

http://eeas.europa.eu/human_rights/index_en.htm

The EU also, in particular, promotes the **abolition of the death penalty worldwide**. On this specific issue, you can refer to:

http://eeas.europa.eu/human_rights/adp/index_en.htm



VIII. Climate change and Energy

Combating climate change is a top priority for the EU which has adopted an ambitious set of goals and policy tools to achieve this objective. It has approved an integrated approach to climate and energy policy - the so-called 20-20-20 targets (http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/package/index_en.htm) - that aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, promote the use of renewable energies (20% of energy consumption coming from "renewables") and improve energy efficiency by 20%. The EU is on track to achieve its emissions targets by 2020. It is now leading the transition to a low carbon and resource-efficient economy.

The EU relies on a wide range of tools, from legally binding regulations (like the European Emission Trading Scheme) to policy documents setting out recommendations (like the low-carbon Roadmap 2050 for instance - http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/roadmap/index_en.htm). It is also spearheading efforts by the international community to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions in international climate change negotiations as well as mobilizing its financial resources to help combat the effects of climate change in other countries.

Lastly, the EU is responsible for the good functioning of the internal energy market including in areas like the security of energy supplies or nuclear energy. It also provides financial support for research activities on these topics, including for non-EU research institutions.

To find out more about the EU's policies and actions:

General information:

DG CLIMA: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/clima/mission/index_en.htm

DG ENERGY: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/index_en.htm

On the EU Emissions Trading Scheme:

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/ets/index_en.htm

On the EU's international action in the field of climate change:

Climate change international discussions:

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/index_en.htm

EU's external assistance to adapt to climate change consequences:

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/index_en.htm

On Energy related issues:

Energy security in Europe: *http://ec.europa.eu/energy/security/index_en.htm*

Nuclear energy and safety: *http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/index_en.htm*

Euratom Supply Agency: *<http://ec.europa.eu/euratom/index.html>*

Renewable energy: *http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/index_en.htm*

Energy efficiency: *http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/index_en.htm*

European Energy Agency: *<http://www.eea.europa.eu/>*

On energy research and innovation

On low carbon technologies and research:

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/lowcarbon/index_en.htm

Technology and innovation for energy:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/index_en.htm

On Energy legislation and statistics

Summaries of relevant legislation in the field of energy:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/doc/energy_legislation_by_policy_areas.pdf

Statistics on energy:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/publications/statistics/statistics_en.htm

IX. Environment Protection

The EU has some of the world's highest environmental standards, developed over decades. Its main priorities today are: **protecting endangered species and habitats and using natural resources more efficiently** – goals that also help the economy by fostering innovation and enterprise.

The Directorate-General for Environment proposes and implements policies that ensure a high level of environmental protection in the European Union and that preserve the quality of life of EU citizens.

The EU environmental actions focus on two main objectives:

- Preservation of Biodiversity:
The EU has a strategy to stop the decline of endangered species and habitats by 2020. The centrepiece of this strategy is **Natura 2000**, a network of 26 000 protected natural areas covering almost 20% of the EU's land mass.
- Use of resources: water, air and waste: the EU has among the most ambitious standards and regulations worldwide on these issues.

The funding of environmental actions is ensured by the **LIFE program**, a financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU. Since 1992, LIFE has co-financed some 3506 projects, contributing approximately €2.5 billion to the protection of the environment.

General information:

DG ENVIRONMENT: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/environment/index_en.htm

Environmental policy: http://europa.eu/pol/env/index_en.htm

On Natura 2000: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm

On LIFE programme: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/index.htm>

X. EU's Research and Innovation policy

The EU is a global leader in research and technology developments. These are considered as key elements to respond to Europe's needs in terms of jobs and competitiveness as well as to maintain leadership in the global knowledge economy. Supporting research and innovation is at the core of the EU's economic development strategy for this decade.

The 7th Framework Program is the EU's main financial instrument for funding collaborative research projects inside and outside Europe. It is the largest of its kind in the world with a total budget of over 50 billion EUR for the period 2007 to 2013 (and about 7 billion EUR for 2012 only). To find out more **general information about the FP7**: http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/index_en.cfm?pg=understanding.

FP7 welcomes international collaboration between researchers around the world through a system of open calls for proposals on virtually any kind of research topic. These calls are not only open to academics from universities but also to researchers from the private sector. The main source of information to understand how to join a project and learn more about current or upcoming calls for proposals is the **Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS)**: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html

Taiwanese researchers interested to search for **FP7 calls and to participate can also consult the following website**: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/home>

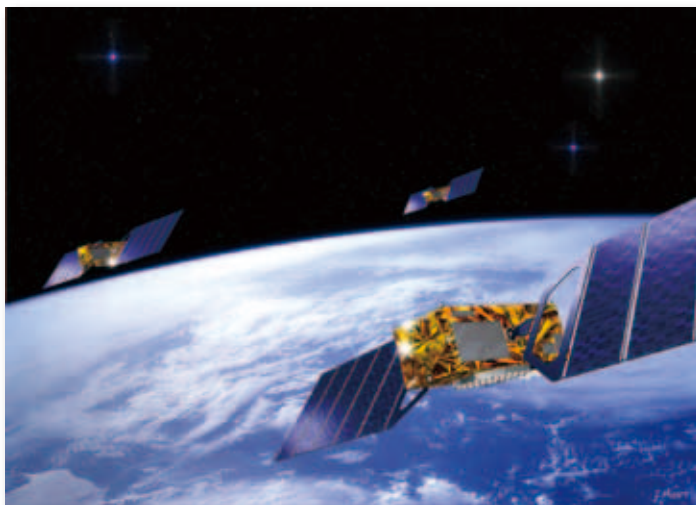
The FP7 program will end in 2013 and will be completely overhauled to become Horizon 2020 with an increased budget of 80 billion EUR for the period 2014 to 2020. More about **Horizon 2020**: http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm

Of special interest to researchers at any level of their career are the **Marie Curie fellowships** (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/how.htm>) for researchers moving both from and to Europe as well as the European Research Council (ERC) grants (<http://erc.europa.eu>), which can enable researchers across the world to enhance their careers in Europe.

Since research and innovation is a cross-cutting issue, most of the European Commission's DGs are responsible for activities in the field of science and technology. The most important ones are:

DG for Research and Innovation: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?lg=en>

DG Information Society and Media: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/information_society/index_en.htm



XI. Education

Europe has around 4000 higher education institutions, with over 19 million students and 1.5 million teachers and staff. Many European universities are among the best in the world.

Every year, the European Education Fair in Taiwan is organised by the British Council, Campus France, German Academic Exchange and Netherland Education Support Office, together with the EETO. It is the largest education fair in Taiwan, and it offers a great amount of information to prospective students thinking of studying in Europe. The Fair usually takes place in October or November of each year. For more information and news updates about the Fair and about education opportunities in Europe, visit the **EEFT's official website** at: <http://www.eef-taiwan.org.tw/>

Erasmus Mundus Master and Doctorate Courses

Erasmus Mundus is a cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education that aims to promote dialogue and understanding between people and cultures through cooperation with non EU countries.

The Erasmus Mundus Programme offers more than 130 master courses and over 30 doctorate courses. These courses offer students of all ages and around the world, the opportunities to study in more than one European countries and universities. The programme also provides scholarships to students

The list of all Erasmus Mundus Master courses can be found here: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/results_compendia/selected_projects_action_1_master_courses_en.php

List of Erasmus Mundus Doctorate courses can be found here:
http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/results_compendia/selected_projects_action_1_joint_doctorates_en.php

For **basic information about applying for an Erasmus Mundus course**, you may visit our website: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/taiwan/travel_eu/education/application/application.htm

There is an Erasmus Mundus Association in Taiwan. The association is composed of many Taiwanese Erasmus Mundus alumni. The association has a Facebook page in which prospective students may ask questions, and alumni can share their experiences. You may find their page by searching 'Erasmus Mundus Taiwan' on Facebook or simply going to this web address: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/EMTaiwan/>



XII. Social Policy

Social policy is at the heart of the European model of balanced and sustainable economic development. There is actually not one single way of putting this common principle into application: each Member State of the EU has its own traditions and methods in social policy. As a result, the EU is the richest source of experience and best practice in this field worldwide.

The EU, at its level, provides a platform in the area of employment policy, social affairs and inclusion for:

- coordinating and monitoring national policies
- promoting the sharing of best practices in fields like employment, poverty and social exclusion and pensions
- making laws and monitoring their implementation in areas like rights at work and coordination of social security schemes.

To know more about social policy in Europe, visit the website of the **Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion** at <http://ec.europa.eu/social/home.jsp?langId=en>

You can in particular, through this site, subscribe to news alerts about the EU's social policy and to the quarterly "Social Agenda".

Summaries of **EU-wide legislations in this area** can be found at http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/employment_and_social_policy/index_en.htm

To follow the work of the decision-making bodies on these issues, go to the following pages:

for the **Council of the European Union**: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/policies/council-configurations/employment,-social-policy,-health-and-consumer-affairs.aspx?lang=en>

for the **European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs**: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/EMPL/home.html>

XIII. Health and Consumer Protection

Public Health

EU health policy gives everyone the right to the same high standards of healthcare and access to quality healthcare. To this effect, the EU has a mandate to complement national action conducted by its member states. This consists mainly of:

- protecting people from health threats and disease
- promoting healthy lifestyles
- helping national authorities in the EU cooperate on health issues.

As health problems are not limited to individual countries, the EU works in close cooperation with international partners such as the World Health Organisation, and with bilateral partners, including Taiwan.

For an overview of the EU's health policy:

http://europa.eu/pol/health/index_en.htm

For further information, please go to the webpage of **DG Health and Consumers**:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm

The **health-EU portal** provides an easy access to topics for the citizens:

http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/index_en.htm

For further information on **executive agency for health and consumers**, please visit the following page:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/>

Consumer Protection

Through its consumer policy, the EU aims at protecting the health, safety and economic well-being of consumers. It promotes their rights to information and education, helps safeguard their interests and encourages them to set up self-help consumer associations. It also provides high level of protection and enforces protection rules effectively so as to build up consumers' confidence in cross-border transactions.

For an overview of the EU's **consumer policy**:

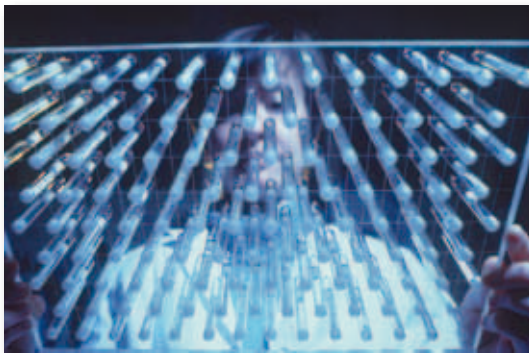
http://europa.eu/pol/cons/index_en.htm

For further **information on consumer affairs**, please go to the following page:

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/index_en.htm

For more specific **information on food safety**, please visit the following website:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/index_en.htm



XIV. Travelling in the EU

Europe is an easy region to visit, especially since the adoption of the Schengen visa waiver in 2011 in favour of Taiwanese passport holders. Modern means of transportation let you to travel between diverse European regions or countries in the shortest time possible. This allows you to visit different landscapes, experience different cultures and taste different cuisines all in a short span of time.

To help you do that, the EU has established websites dedicated to giving advice on travelling in its 27 member countries. Whether you are on holiday or on business, you will find practical advice and helpful tips on a wealth of subjects, from what documents you need, to getting healthcare and using your mobile phone. **The site may be accessed here:** http://europa.eu/travel/index_en.htm

You may also visit the site below, if you would like to **research a bit more on different destinations within Europe:** <http://www.visiteurope.com/Home?lang=en-CA>

Taiwanese passport holders no longer need a visa to visit the EU for trips less than three months. However, if you still have questions regarding the visa waiver program, you may visit our **FAQ site on the matter:**

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/taiwan/travel_eu/visa/index_en.htm



XV. Rules and Regulations

The EU level laws cover a wide range of areas. You can find all legal documents in the EUR-Lex database that provides free access to European Union law and other public documents. **The website is available in the 23 official languages of the European Union:** <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

An overview of major European Union policies can be found here: http://ec.europa.eu/policies/index_en.htm

In the process of formulating European policies and regulations, there is a broad public consultation allowing all parties interested, inside and outside of the EU, to voice their position. **The public consultation window is an integral part of this process.** http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations/index_en.htm



XVI. EU Member States Offices in Taiwan

Representative Offices

There are 16 EU member states representative offices in Taipei. Their contact information and websites (where available) can be found below.

Austrian Office Taipei

10F, 167 Dunhua N. Rd, Taipei

Tel: 02-8175 3283

Fax: 02-2514 9980

e-mail: taipei-ot@bmeia.gv.at

Website: <http://www.bmeia.gv.at/taipeh>

Belgian Office, Taipei

Room 601, 131 Minsheng E. Rd, Sec 3, Taipei

Tel: 02-2715 1215

Fax: 02-2712 6258

e-mail: bta@ms1.hinet.net

Website: <http://www.beltrade.org.tw/>

British Trade and Cultural Office

26F, 9-11, Songgao Rd., Xinyi District, Taipei City 110

Tel: 02-8758 2088

Fax: 02-8758 2050

e-mail: info@btco.org.tw

Website: <http://ukintaiwan.fco.gov.uk/>

Czech Economic and Cultural Office Taipei

Suite B, 7F., No.200, Sec. 1, Keelung Rd., Xinyi District, Taipei City 110

Tel: 02-2722 5100

Fax: 02-2722 1270

e-mail: cekktaip@ms63.hinet.net

Website: <http://www.mzv.cz/taipei>

Trade Commission of Denmark, Taipei

Room 1207, 205 Dunhua N Rd, Taipei

Tel: 02-2718 2101

Fax: 02-2718 2141

e-mail: tpehkt@um.dk

Website: <http://www.tcdnet.org.tw/>

Finland Trade Centre, Taipei

Room 1511, 15F, 333 Keelung Rd, Sec 1, Taipei

Tel: 02-2722 0764

Fax: 02-2725 1517

e-mail: taipei@finpro.fi

French Bureau in Taipei

Room 1003, 10F, 205 Dunhua N Rd, Taipei

Tel: 02-3518 5151

Fax: 02-3518 5190

e-mail: taipei-ift.afe@diplomatie.gouv.fr

Website: <http://www.france-taipei.org/>

German Institute in Taipei

33F., No. 7, Xinyi Road, Sec.5, 11049 Taipei (Taipei 101-Tower)

Tel: 02-8722 2800

Fax: 02-8101 6282

e-mail: info@taipei.diplo.de

Website: <http://www.taipei.diplo.de/Vertretung/taipei/zh-tw/Startseite.html>

Hungarian Trade Office

3F., No.97, Jingye 1st Rd., Zhongshan District, Taipei

Tel: 02-8501 1200

Fax: 02-8501 1161

e-mail: hutroff@ms24.hinet.net

Website: <http://www.hungary.org.tw/>

Italian Economic, Trade & Cultural Promotion Office

Room 1808, 18F, 333 Keelung Rd, Sec 1, Taipei

Tel: 02-2345 0320

Fax: 02-2757 6260

e-mail: visti.taipei@esteri.it

Website: <http://www.italy.org.tw/>

Luxembourg Trade and Investment Office

No.5, Chi-Yen Road, Lane 201, Alley 8, Beitou, 11242 Taipei

Tel: 02-2891 6647

Fax: 02-2894 8314

e-mail: luxtrade@luxtrade.org.tw

Website: <http://www.investinluxembourg.tw/>

Netherlands Trade and Investment Office

Room B, 5F, 133 Minsheng E Rd, Sec 3, Taipei

Tel: 02-2713 5760

Fax: 02-2713 0194

e-mail: ntio@ntio.org.tw

Website: <http://www.ntio.org.tw/>

Slovak Economic and Cultural Office

Room 1203, 12F, 333 Keelung Rd, Sec 1, Taipei

Tel: 02-8780 3231

Fax: 02-2723 5096

e-mail: seco.taipei@mzv.sk

Website: <http://www.mzv.sk/taipei>

Spanish Chamber of Commerce

10F-B1, 49 Minsheng E. Rd, Sec. 3, Taipei

Tel: 02-2518 4905

Fax: 02-2518 4891

e-mail: ofc.taipei@maec.es

Swedish Trade Council, Taipei Office

Room 1101, 11F, 333 Keelung Rd, Sec 1, Taipei

Tel: 02-2757 6573

Fax: 02-2757 6723

e-mail: taipei@swedishtrade.se

Website: <http://www.swedishtrade.se/sv/vara-kontor/asien/taiwan/in-english/>

Warsaw (Poland) Trade Office

TWTC/ITB Suites 1601-1602

No. 333, Sec. 1, Keelung Rd., Taipei

Tel: 02-7718 3300

Fax: 02-7718 3310

e-mail: warsaw.office@msa.hinet.net

Website: <http://poland.com.tw/>



Functional offices of EU member states in Taiwan

Other than the representative offices, there are also offices from EU member states which deal specifically with matters such as trade, investment or education. Their contact information can be found below

Trade and investment

Austrian Trade Delegation in Taipei

Tel: 02-2715 5220

e-mail: taipei@advantageaustria.org

Website: <http://www.austria.org.tw/>

French Trade Commission (Mission économique Ubifrance de Taipei)

Suite 1008,10F, No. 333, Section 1, Keelung Road, Taipei 110 Taiwan

Tel: 02-2757 7080

Fax: 02-2757 7090

e-mail: taipei@ubifrance.fr

German Trade Office

International Trade Bldg.

19F-9, No. 333, Keelung Rd., Sec. 1, Taipei 11012, Taiwan

Tel: 02-8758 5800

Fax: 02-8758 5833

e-mail: Info@taiwan.ahk.de

Website: <http://www.taiwan.ahk.de/>

Education

British Council

26F, 9-11, Songgao Rd., Xinyi District, Taipei City 110

Tel: 02-8722 1000

Fax: 02-8786 0985

e-mail: educationuk@britishcouncil.org.tw

Website: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/taiwan.htm>

Campus France:

Website: <http://www.taiwan.campusfrance.org/>

German Academic Exchange Service DAAD

11F, 20 Heping West Road Section 1, Taipei

Tel: 02-2367 7871

e-mail: info@daad.org.tw

Website: <http://www.daad.org.tw/>

Netherlands Education Support Office Taipei

Room D, 7th floor, No.133, Minsheng E. Road, Section 3, Taipei, Taiwan

Tel: 02-8770 7621

Fax: 02-2716 0775

e-mail: nesotpe@neso-taipei.org.tw

Website: <http://www.neso-taipei.org.tw>

Culture

Goethe Institut Taipei

12F, 20 Heping West Road Section 1, Taipei

Tel: 02-2365 7294

Fax: 02-2368 7542

e-mail: info@taipei.goethe.org

Website: <http://www.goethe.de/ins/cn/tai/cnindex.htm>





European Economic and Trade Office

Suite 1603, 16F, 333, Keelung Road section 1, Taipei 110

Tel: +886 2 2757-7211 • Fax: +886 2 2757-7209

E-mail: admin-taiwan@ec.europa.eu

Website: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/taiwan/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/euintaiwan