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歐盟通訊

EU NEWSLETTER



2 歐盟在亞洲的自由貿易協議
The EU's Free Trade Agreements in Asia

5 歐盟未來前景
The Future of the European Union

7 REACH 安全標準更高，產業挑戰更大
REACH Safer substances - a challenge for industries

10 廢止死刑
Abolition of the death penalty

12 西班牙 格拉納達
Spain - Granada

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歐盟在亞洲的自由貿易協議

根據2006年10月制定的歐洲全球策略，歐盟貿易委員曼德森（Peter Mandelson）推動多項新雙邊貿易協議，藉由開放世界貿易組織未涉及的投資等產業，一方面提高歐盟在新興市場的角色，另一方面彌補世貿多邊架構的不足，將為歐盟企業帶來新機會，也促進歐洲就業市場與經濟發展。

2007年4月，歐盟理事會與印度、南韓及東南亞國協展開自由貿易協議談判，由歐洲委員會代表成員國與三國協商，曼德森表示：「若世貿杜哈回合談判能夠成功，再加上這三份協議，將為歐盟企業拓展新市場，亦將刺激全球貿易」，曼德森同時指出，與南韓在五月份啟動談判後，象徵歐盟「更加關注亞洲地區」。

選擇合作夥伴

上述自由貿易協議的經濟標準包括市場潛力（如經濟規模、經濟成長）以及阻礙歐盟出口利益的保護政策（關稅及非關稅壁壘），歐盟也考量這些國家與歐盟競爭者的談判進程，以及對於歐盟市場及經濟的可能衝擊，基於以上準則，故將東協、南韓與印度列入優先名單，三國皆有諸多保護政策與龐大市場潛力。

協定內容一切皆以競爭力為目標，涵蓋範野極具企圖且全面，希望達成最高標準的貿易自由化，包括開放各項服務與投資，亦期望加強對智慧財產權的保護。

益處何在

歐洲委員會委託執行的獨立研究顯示，在「歐洲全球架構」下所提出的新型雙邊貿易協議，確能帶來經濟利益，由法國國際經濟研究中心及哥本哈根經濟研究中心的初步分析結果可見，歐盟與印度、東南亞國協及南韓分別簽署自由貿易協議後，將促進彼此貿易，亦有助於全球貿易，尤其對服務業影響為最。

這份報告依據實際開放情況進行研究，結果指出：

- 貿易協議將提高歐盟出口，至東協增加24.2%，至印度增加56.8%，至南韓增加47.8%，三份協定共為歐盟帶來420億歐元的獲利。
- 由於三項自由貿易協議涵蓋層面包括服務業與投資，較世界貿易組織更進一步，假若杜哈回合談判能成功落幕，這三項協議也能為歐盟提高40%的利益。
- 因為研究方法的限制，此份研究無法觸及非關稅壁壘，但歐盟企業實際運作時，確實經常面臨非關稅壁壘的阻礙，未來的自由貿易協議也將處理相關議題，若能消弭非關稅壁壘，將對歐盟大有助益，尤其又以貨物及服務自由化影響為最。

除以上數據外，研究指出貿易協議亦將帶來以下潛在利益：

- 歐盟所獲的最大利益：提供東協之企業服務（增加79億歐元）、出口至印度之工業及製造業產品（增加51億歐元）、提供南韓之企業服務（增加42億歐元）。
- 貿易夥伴所獲的最大利益：東協出口至歐盟之企業服務（增加14億歐元）、印度出口至歐盟之紡織品與成衣（增加36億歐元）、南韓出口至歐盟之車輛（增加52億歐元）。



南韓經驗

歐盟與南韓均相當關注杜哈回合發展，因為其中所能提供的貿易利益遠超過任何一件雙邊協議，歐盟與南韓的自由貿易協議只是補強杜哈回合的功能，並非取而代之。今年五月，歐盟貿易委員曼德森已與韓國貿易部長金鉉宗展開談判。

- 歐盟目標極高，只要南韓願意承諾提供全面零關稅優惠予歐盟出口商，南韓出口商在歐盟亦能享有同等待遇，如此立場在歐盟雙邊自由貿易談判史無前例。
- 歐盟將積極進入南韓市場成長快速的重點產業，包括汽車、製造業與企業服務。
- 歐盟為投資者至南韓開發新市場，包括移除各項投資限制，這對歐盟至關重要，因為這已超過世貿目前談判領域，歐盟是南韓最大外來投資來源，去年45%的南韓直接外來投資源於歐盟，總金額達50億美元。
- 歐盟聚焦於非關稅壁壘與南韓各項國內繁冗規範，有時這些規定造成的阻礙更甚關稅。

The EU's Free Trade Agreements in Asia

As part of the Global Europe strategy set out in October 2006, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson has launched a new generation of bilateral trade agreements that will boost the EU's presence in growing emerging markets and complement the multilateral WTO system by pushing liberalisation in key areas like investment not currently covered by WTO rules. They will provide new opportunities for EU companies, and help generate jobs and growth in Europe.

In April 2007, the Council of the European Union adopted negotiating mandates for Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with India, South Korea and ASEAN. The European Commission negotiates these FTAs on behalf of EU Member States. As Peter Mandelson noted: "Combined with a successful conclusion to the Doha Round, these agreements will open new markets to EU businesses and give a valuable boost to global trade." Launching the negotiations in May 2007 with Korea, Mandelson said this represented the EU "turning towards a stronger focus on Asia".



Choosing partners

The key economic criteria for these FTAs are market potential (economic size and growth) and the level of protection against EU exports (tariffs and non-tariff barriers). The EU also takes account of negotiations by potential partners with EU competitors and the likely impact this will have on EU markets and economies. Based on these criteria, ASEAN, Korea and India emerge as priorities. They combine high levels of protection with a large market potential.

In terms of content, the FTAs are comprehensive and ambitious in coverage, aiming for the highest possible degree of trade liberalisation including far-reaching liberalisation of services and investment. They also seek stronger protection for intellectual property rights.



Peter Mandelson (Commissioner for Trade) meets a delegation of ASEAN ministers. From left: Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng (Brunei), Tan Sri Musa Hitam (Malaysia), S. Jayakumar (Singapore), Ali Alatas (Indonesia)

Benefits

Independent research commissioned by the European Commission has illustrated the likely economic benefits of the new generation of bilateral trade agreements proposed by the European Commission under the Global Europe Framework. The initial results of this analysis, undertaken by CEPII and Copenhagen Economics, confirm the Commission's view that the new EU FTAs with India, ASEAN and South Korea will create significant new trade for all sides and give a valuable boost to global trade, especially in services.

The studies, based on realistic liberalisation outcomes, suggest:

- The agreements will boost EU exports to ASEAN by 24.2%, to India by 56.8% and to Korea by 47.8%. The three deals combined could increase total EU exports by €42 billion.
- By going beyond what is possible in the WTO, particularly in areas such as services and investment, the three FTAs could add as much as 40% to the benefits expected from a successful Doha Round for the EU.
- Further gains are also expected from the liberalisation of non-tariff barriers, which cannot be captured by such studies due to methodological difficulties, but which account for a large part of the actual obstacles faced by EU companies and will be properly dealt with in upcoming FTAs. The liberalisation of goods and services will yield big new gains as well.

In addition to the figures quoted above, the studies foresee further major gains:

- for the EU: business services to ASEAN (up by 7.9 billion euros); industrial and manufactured goods to India (up by 5.1 billion euros); business services to Korea (up by 4.2 billion euros).
- for EU partners: business services from ASEAN (up by 14 billion euros); textiles and clothing from India (up by 3.6 billion euros); vehicles from Korea (up by 5.2 billion euros).

The case of Korea

The joint focus and priority of both Korea and the EU is rightly on the Doha round — which will deliver trade benefits to both Korea and the EU that no single bilateral agreement can match. An EU-Korean FTA will be a complement to an ambitious Doha Agreement, not an alternative to it. EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson launched negotiations with Korean Trade Minister Kim Hyun-chong in May 2007.

- The EU has set the bar high by offering 100% tariff-free market access for Korean exporters to the EU market if Korea makes a similarly ambitious offer. The EU has never before taken such an ambitious position in bilateral free trade negotiations.
- In return, the EU is looking for much wider access to the growing Korean market in key areas like automobiles, manufactured goods, and business services.
- The EU seeks greater access for EU investors in Korea, including the removal of restrictions on EU investment. This is a crucial area for Europe, where no WTO disciplines currently exist. The EU is the biggest investor in Korea: 45% of foreign direct investment in Korea came from the EU last year (US\$ 5 billion).
- The EU wants a new focus on non-tariff barriers and behind-the-border issues in Korea — the current regulations are unnecessarily complicated and burdensome, and may in some cases present greater obstacles than tariffs.



歐盟未來前景

今年六月歐盟高峰會達成共識為何？

歐盟27個成員國同意贊成「成員國政府會議」，負責確定改革條約的最終細節，不過，最後的內容還須要談判來訂定。

條約全文亦採共識決嗎？

所有歐盟的基本條約都必須經一致決通過。

改革條約如何生效？何時生效？

各界期盼能在今年底完成條文修正，讓27國能在2009年6月的歐洲議會選舉前完成批准。

改革條約能否讓決策過程更加民主？

確實如此，改革條約批准生效後，將更清楚劃分歐盟與各成員國的權力分際，讓民眾更明白其間權責，除少數情況外，歐洲議會與歐盟理事會將採共同決策制；在改革條約中，未來將有逾40項領域實施條件多數決，遵行雙重多數決原則，因此自2014年後，歐盟決策皆有55%以上的成員與65%以上的人民背書。



歐洲委員會有何改變？

改革條約再度確立歐洲委員會的角色與責任，自2014年起，委員會規模將會縮小，不再是各國各派一人，未來委員人數占會員國總數的三分之二，委員將由各成員國輪流出任，任期五年。

歐盟高峰會主席角色又有何改變？

這項職位角色與美國或法國總統不同，基本上是歐盟高峰會的主席，任期將由過去的六個月延長為兩年半，得連任一次，主席未來並無新增權力，只是讓高峰會的走向與策略更加一致，高峰會下轄各領域的理事會主席則維持每六個月由各成員國輪值。

改革條約出現後，歐洲在世界舞台上的聲音會更嘹亮嗎？

當然這將是其中一項成果，未來各項既有條約的對外關係條款將全部整合在改革條約中，不僅省去許多麻煩，也將使歐盟政策更趨一致，也為歐盟對外事務立下共同原則與目標，諸如民主、法治、普世人權與基本自由、尊重人性尊嚴、平等團結等。

改革條約將任命一位外交事務暨安全政策高級代表，這項職務將有雙重身份，既為高級代表，亦同時是歐洲委員會副主席，高級代表也將擔任一般事務暨對外關係理事會主席，歐盟理事會秘書處、歐洲委員會與各成員國外交單位亦將組織歐盟對外事務處，共同協助高級代表。

The Future of the European Union

What did the European Summit in June 2007 agree?

The 27 EU Members agreed on a clear and precise mandate for an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to finalise the details of a Reform Treaty. Political agreement was reached on the main parameters for the final deal. This is a mandate, however, not the final text of the Treaty.

Do all Member states have to agree unanimously on the final treaty?

All changes to the founding treaties can only be made by unanimity.

How and when will a Reform Treaty enter into force?

It is hoped that agreement can be reached on a text before the end of 2007 so that the ratification process can be completed in all 27 countries before the European Parliament elections in June 2009.

Will a Reform Treaty make the decision-making process more democratic?

Yes. If ratified, the Reform Treaty will establish a clearer distribution of powers between the European Union and the Member States, which will make it easier for citizens to understand “who does what”. It will generalise (albeit with some exceptions) the “co-decision” procedure under which the directly elected European Parliament and the Council, comprising national ministers, jointly decide EU legislation. The Reform Treaty will contain more than 40 new areas to be decided by qualified majority voting. Qualified majority voting will be based on the principle of “double majority”. This means that, after 2014, decisions will need the support of 55% of Member States representing 65% of the EU’s population.



What changes will there be to the Commission?

The role and responsibilities of the Commission will be reaffirmed by the Reform Treaty. From 2014, however, the Commission will be reduced in size. There will no longer be a Commissioner from each Member State, although two-thirds the Member States must be represented. Commissioners will be selected to serve five-year terms under a system of equal rotation among Member States.

What will be the role of the President of the European Council?

This is not a Presidential role like in the US and France. It essentially involves chairing the European Council. The new President will be appointed to serve for two and a half years, renewable once, instead of just six months as at present. There are no new powers, just greater coherence and consistency in managing the Council’s priorities and its overall strategic approach and direction. The six-monthly rotation between Member States will continue for the presidency of the individual Councils of Ministers.

Will Europe’s voice in the world be stronger with a Reform Treaty?

Yes, this will undoubtedly be one of the major benefits. Most of the external relations provisions in the existing treaties will be regrouped under a single Title in the Reform Treaty. This will improve their readability and increase the coherence of the action taken by the European Union in this field. Common principles and objectives will also be set out for the Union’s external action: democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, and the principles of equality and solidarity.

The Reform Treaty will establish a High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, a new institutional player with “two hats”, meaning that he/she will at the same time be Vice-President of the Commission. The High Representative will also chair the General Affairs and External Relations Council. He/she will be assisted by a joint service, the European External Action Service (EEAS), which will comprise officials from the Council, the Commission and the diplomatic services of the Member States.

REACH安全標準更高，產業挑戰更大

REACH
2007年6月1日生效
歐盟新化學品政策的準則
取代並更新歐盟既有40項化學品相關法規
本地產製或外來進口品皆需登記

經過歐盟立法機關、產業人士與各界長達三年的論辯交涉，全球最進步的化學品安全法規已於2007年6月生效，「化學品登記、鑑定、核准暨限制法」（簡稱為REACH）將規範各種危險與大量的化學物質，以保障人體健康與自然環境，一方面要求產業界確保各項化學物質的安全，亦鼓勵企業開發危險性更低的物質與技術。

隨著REACH於6月1日實施，歐洲化學品局亦於赫爾辛基成立，將自2008年6月起正式運作，管理化學品製造商與進口商所登記的資料，主要工作項目包括登記手續辦理、鑑定藥劑，以及向歐洲委員會提供科學與技術建言，供核准及限制參考。

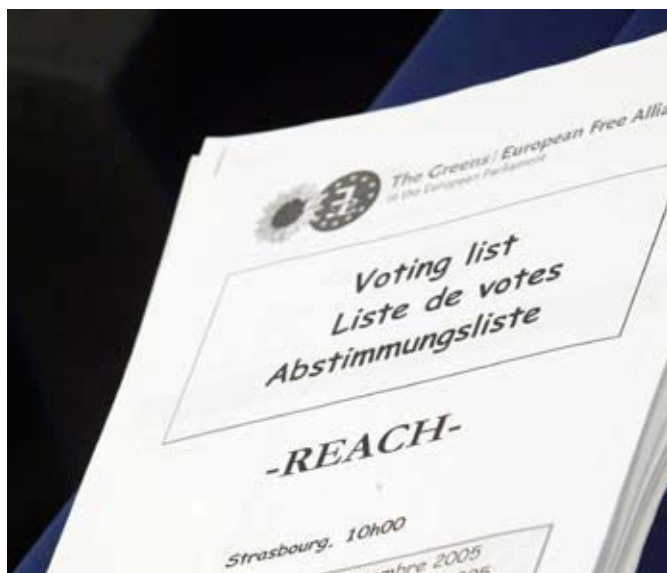
2008年6月至2018年5月為過渡期，歐盟對本地使用與進口的化學品規範將逐步緊縮，例如至2010年11月，製造商或進口商每年若生產或進口單一物質1000噸以上，就必須向歐盟登記，除此之外，每年生產或進口致癌物質、造成有機體突變物質或列為有害生殖功能物質1噸以上，或是對水生動植物極有害物質100噸以上，皆必須向歐盟登記，自2008年6月起，任何總重1噸以上的新物質在上市前也得向歐盟登記。

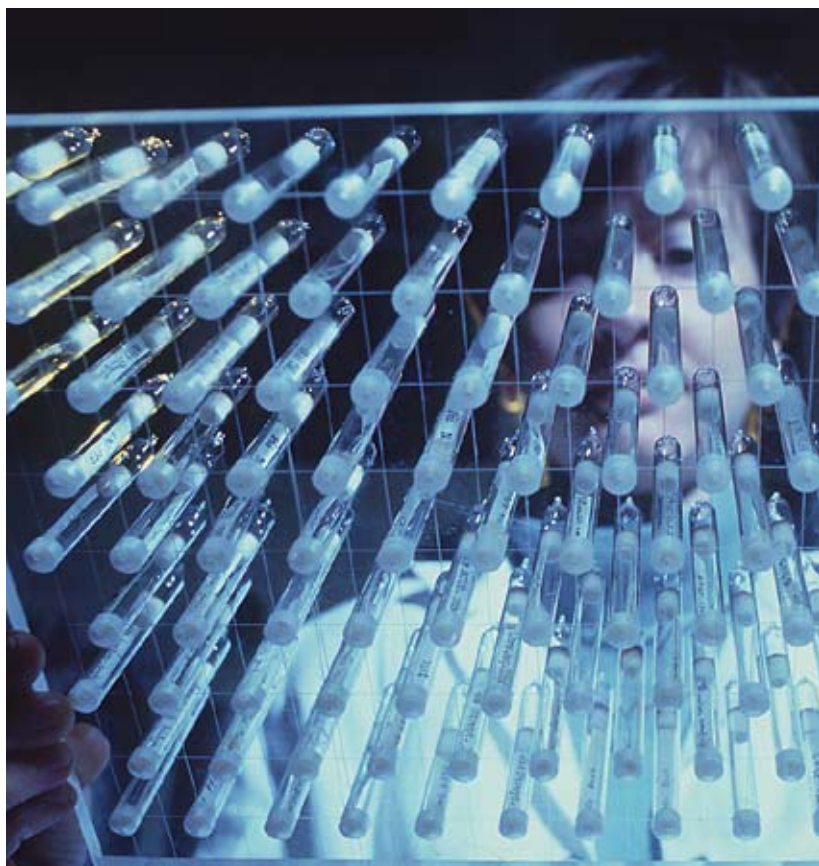
資料採集

生產商與進口商必須備齊化學品屬性、安全使用以不影響人體或環境方式等資料，若未在期限內提報，該化學品便禁止在歐盟產製、進口與上市。

2018年以後，所有總重達1噸的化學品皆需登記，不過REACH所規範的程序仍將持續修正，未來希望能取代上述極危險的有毒物質，以及危及生育能力、長存體內、或是影響荷爾蒙分泌的物質，先進的企業會產製對人體及環境更加有益的物質與技術，以增進歐盟化學業的競爭力。歐洲委員會與歐洲化學品局亦將推廣取代有害物質檢驗的舊有方式，希望降低動物實驗的需求，並減少不必要成本。

工業用戶、專業人士、零售商、勞工與消費者等下游使用者會因REACH獲益，新法要求安全資訊必須在上下游產業間流通，鼓勵民眾選用不含有害化學物質的安全產品，消費者亦有權詢問供應商產品內容物質及安全使用方式，供應商必須於45天內回覆。





改變心態

歐盟未來的主要挑戰，在於如何提升小企業等各級產業對新法的重視，企業對製造的化學物質或產品應背負更多責任，而不該讓政府單位承擔。

為協助產業與政府機構達到REACH的要求，歐洲委員會已訂定技術指南與資訊科技工具，未來將公布於歐洲化學品局架設的網站上，亦將隨著業務進展與運作而增修，未來也將設有REACH的服務平台，各成員國亦將協助提升企業安全意識。

REACH必須再經過長時間努力，才能獲得顯著成效，之後將首先關注歐洲市場多數產品缺乏化學物質危險性訊息問題，以及民眾在產品使用知識不足等課題。

本文摘錄自秘書長環境通訊文章「歐洲人的環境問題」。

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/efe/index_en.htm

REACH

Safer substances: a challenge for industry

REACH
entered into force on 1 June 2007
is the cornerstone of a new European chemicals policy
replaces and modernises around 40 EU laws on chemicals
provides for registration of substances made/imported in the EU

The world's most advanced chemicals safety law came into force in June 2007, after three years of debate between European lawmakers, industry and others. REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) will improve human health and the environment by focusing on chemical substances used or imported in high volumes and those that are of greatest concern. While challenging industry to prove the safety of chemicals, it will also encourage companies to develop less dangerous substances and technologies.

The REACH clock started ticking on 1 June, with the launch of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki. The new body will be operational from June 2008 and will store the registration information supplied by producers or importers of chemical substances. Its main tasks include managing the registration process, evaluating dossiers and providing the European Commission with scientific and technical advice for authorisation and restriction procedures.

From June 2008 until May 2018, the rules on chemicals used and imported in the European Union will gradually tighten. By November 2010, for example, manufacturers and importers of chemicals must register substances they make or import in quantities of 1 000 tonnes or more per year. They will also have to register carcinogens, mutagens and substances toxic to reproduction where the quantities are one tonne/year or above and substances classified as very toxic to aquatic organisms where the amounts are 100 tonnes or more. New substances in amounts of one tonne or more must be registered before placement on the market from June 2008.

Data gathering

Manufacturers and importers will have to gather data on the properties of these chemicals and how to handle them safely without harming health or the environment. If they fail to do so by a specific deadline, the substance will be banned from being produced, imported or placed on the EU market.

All quantities of one tonne or more must be registered by 2018, but the REACH process will continue to evolve after that. The emphasis will be on the substitution of substances of very high concern (e.g. carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic chemicals) and those that reduce fertility, are persistent and bio-accumulative, or disturb our hormone system. Progressive companies will develop more health-friendly and environmentally friendly substances or technologies — enhancing the competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry. The Commission and



the Agency will also promote alternative methods for assessing the hazards of substances, potentially reducing the need for animal tests and avoiding unnecessary costs.

The 'downstream users' — industrial and professional users — as well as retailers, workers and consumers will also benefit from REACH. The new legislation calls for information to be passed down the supply chain, which will encourage people to demand safer alternatives to certain chemical substances. Consumers will also be entitled to ask their suppliers whether any (and if so which) highly dangerous substances are contained in products they sell and how to use these products safely — the supplier must reply within 45 days.



The challenge here is to raise awareness of the new law within industry, especially among small businesses. Companies must take more responsibility for the chemicals they produce or those contained in their products, rather than leaving this job to the public authorities.

The Commission has developed technical guidance and IT tools for industry and authorities on meeting their REACH obligations. They will be published on a website managed by the European Chemicals Agency. This advice will grow once the Agency is up and running and will be accompanied by a REACH Helpdesk. Member States will also play a role in raising awareness.

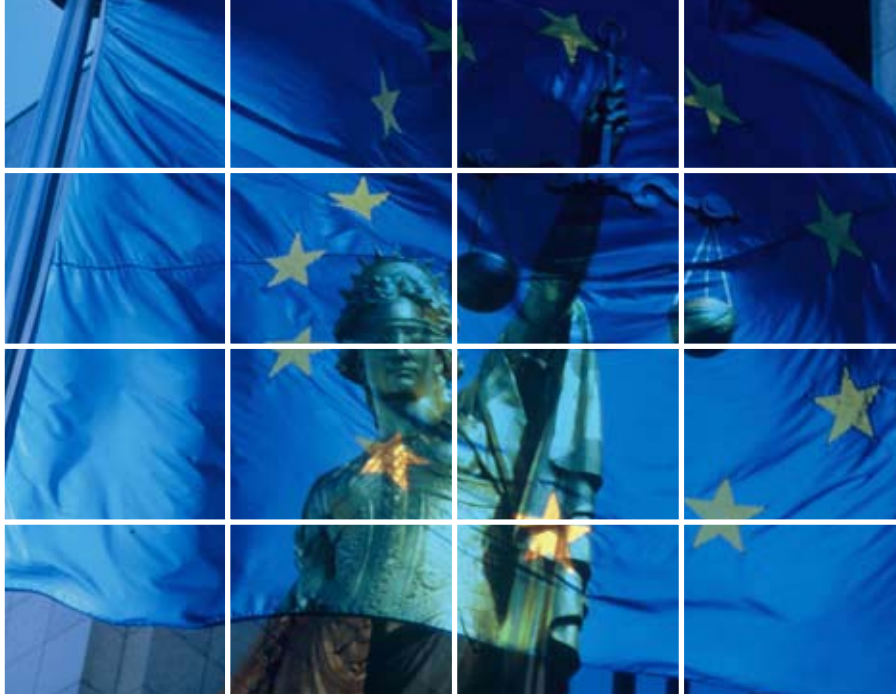
The REACH process has a long way to go before its impact becomes noticeable. But it will immediately start addressing the lack of information on the intrinsic dangers of most chemical substances on the European market, as well as the lack of knowledge on the risks run by people who use them.

Extract from an article in DG Environment's Newsletter "Environment for Europeans"

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/efe/index_en.htm

廢止死刑

歐盟反對在任何情況下執行死刑，與第三國往來時亦秉持一貫態度，無論參與國際人權論壇或與他國交流，歐盟皆堅守立場，並支持各種推動廢止死刑的計畫，包括促進政府與社會討論死刑對降低犯罪率的成效等，在歐盟共同外交與安全政策內，亦努力追求全球廢除死刑的終極目標。



2007年2月1日至3日，歐盟輪值主席於巴黎第三屆反對死刑大會聲明節錄

歐盟長期明確支持廢除死刑，死刑為殘忍且不人道之刑罰，故歐盟未來將持續反對以任何方式、任何情況執行死刑。

除此之外，死刑並未達到實際嚇阻犯罪之功能，此一殘酷且不人道之刑罰剝奪人類生命，也讓司法誤判的過錯永難彌補，歐盟深信廢止死刑後，能夠提升人性尊嚴與人權發展。

近年來，全球各地在廢止死刑方面已有長足進展，歐盟樂見此項趨勢持續不墜。

歐盟亦欣見菲律賓與摩爾多瓦已於2006年廢除死刑，諸多國家亦朝著相同方向邁進。

儘管情況有所改善，廢除死刑目標距成功尚距離遙遠，雖然案例總數下滑，然而死刑在許多國家仍相當頻繁。

各國絕不能以反恐做為恢復或實施死刑的理由，唯有嚴格遵行國際法與尊重人權，才是打擊恐怖主義最有效之良方。

反對死刑不因區域或文化有別，而是全球對人權與尊嚴的共同承諾。

歐盟於此呼籲各國政府全面廢除死刑，並以即刻暫停死刑執行做為第一步。

支持台灣的廢除死刑運動

國際人權聯盟獲歐洲委員會資助，與其他非政府組織合作推廣廢除死刑，呼籲個政府當局公布廢除死刑之時程，並即刻宣布暫停執行死刑。

2005年9月，國際人權聯盟與台灣廢除死刑推動聯盟合作，派出小組至台灣收集相關資訊，小組成員與官員見面，亦拜會總統陳水扁先生，關切台灣廢除死刑進程停滯不前、刑法體系與囚禁死刑犯等現況，並於2006年6月在台灣發表「台灣死刑報告」，獲廣大媒體注意，並使社會再度開始討論死刑存續。



Abolition of the death penalty

The EU is opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances and systematically upholds this position in its relations with third countries. It is a high-profile policy pursued by the EU in international human rights fora and in dialogue with all countries, regardless of the nature of the EU's relationship with them. Support for the abolition of the death penalty also includes projects intended to reduce its use, for example by promoting debate at government and civil society level on its ineffectiveness in reducing crime.

Extracts of the declaration by the EU Presidency on the occasion of the Third World Congress against the Death Penalty, Paris 1 - 3 February 2007

The EU is at the forefront of abolitionist efforts around the world and will continue to oppose the death penalty in all cases and under all circumstances because it considers the death penalty to be a cruel and inhuman punishment.

Furthermore, the death penalty provides no added value in terms of deterrence. Any miscarriage or failure of justice is irreversible, when, in a cruel and inhumane way, the punishment deprives one of his or her right to life. The EU is therefore convinced that the abolition of the death penalty contributes to the enhancement of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights.

Considerable progress has been made in global endeavours to abolish the death penalty over recent years, and the European Union is pleased to note that this positive trend towards universal abolition is continuing.

Most recently, the European Union welcomed the abolition of the death penalty in the Philippines and Moldova in 2006 and positive developments towards its complete abolition in many other countries.

Despite this progress, the fight against the death penalty is far from being won. Indeed, death sentences and executions remain all too frequent in many countries, even where there is a declining trend.

The fight against terrorism can never be a reason or justification for introducing or restoring the death penalty. Terrorism can be combated most effectively by adhering strictly to international law and respecting human rights.

Opposition to the death penalty is not defined by regional or cultural borders, but is embedded within a global commitment to human rights and dignity.

The European Union therefore calls on the governments of all countries which still retain the death penalty to work towards the abolition of the death penalty under all circumstances. As a first step towards this goal, the EU calls on the governments concerned to introduce a moratorium on the death penalty with immediate effect.



Supporting the abolitionist movement in Taiwan

Through a project funded by the European Commission, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) is working with NGOs towards the full abolition of the death penalty, calling on the authorities of several targeted partners to make a public commitment to a timetable for abolition and to adopt a moratorium on executions with immediate effect.

In September 2005, in collaboration with the Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty (TAEDP), the FIDH sent a fact-finding mission to Taiwan. The mission delegates met with the authorities, including President Chen Shui-bian, to raise their concerns about the lack of progress towards abolition, the administration of criminal justice, and the conditions of detention for prisoners on death row. The report "Death Penalty in Taiwan: Towards Abolition", presented in Taiwan in June 2006, received extensive press coverage and helped revive the debate on abolition.

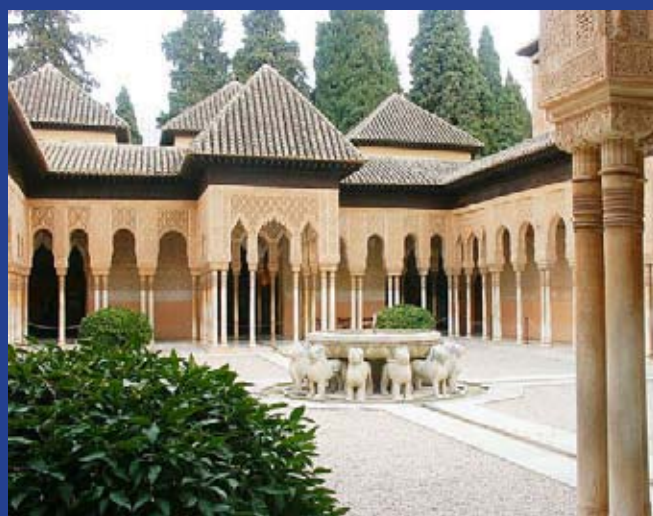
Spain - Granada 西班牙 格拉納達

大約在西元718年，阿拉伯入侵西班牙，擊敗了哥德時期最後的羅德里戈王，此後800年間，基督教徒逐步收復伊比利半島，而格拉納達便是當時摩爾人的最後一塊據點。

格拉納達位於西班牙南部，或許是因為阿拉伯神秘氛圍仍縈繞不散，或許是因為小巷蜿蜒，或許是因為住家的花園與內院裡，栽植了橙樹、檸檬、石榴，還有噴泉裝飾，故探索這城市恍如一場冒險。能夠欣賞此地美景極其幸福，正如當地人所言：「女子，請施捨盲者，因在格拉納達，悲慘莫過於無法得見的人生。」

格拉納達位於大雪山山腳，知名的阿爾罕布拉宮便座落於其中一座小山，遊人如織，這是過去摩爾王朝所興建的王宮，雕飾金碧輝煌，奢華且具亞洲風味，當時的君王常誇耀此處如人間天堂，遊客在此不僅走入歷史，更可見景色如詩，又揉合西班牙民族的浪漫情懷，讓人不禁讚嘆阿爾罕布拉宮的美麗，無數瑰麗的傳說與傳統，以及無論頌揚愛情、戰火、騎士精神的阿拉伯語或西班牙語歌舞，皆與這東方樣式建築有關。

漫步格拉納達的歷史城區，品嚐隨飲品附送的小食，是種對味蕾的寵愛，格拉納達已張開雙臂，要迎接與滿足遠道而來的訪客。



Around the year AD 718, the Arab invaders sealed the fate of Spain by defeating Don Rodrigo, the last of its Visigoth kings. In the 800 years following that momentous event, the Peninsula was gradually recovered bit by bit by the Christian princes, until only the powerful kingdom of Granada remained under the dominion of the Moors.

The city of Granada lies deep in the south of Spain. Discovering this city is an adventure, perhaps because of the Arab mystery that still surrounds it, perhaps on account of the narrow streets and the houses with their gardens and interior courts, adorned with orange, lemon, and pomegranate trees and watered by fountains. It has always been considered a privilege to visit the city, as demonstrated by the popular saying: "Nothing in life is worse than being blind in Granada".

The city nestles at the foot of the Sierra Nevada. On top of one of the surrounding hills is the Alhambra, Spain's most visited monument. The Alhambra was the royal abode of the Moorish kings, where, surrounded by the splendours and refinements of Oriental luxury, they held dominion over what they vaunted as paradise on earth. To the traveller with a sense for the historical and poetical, the Alhambra is inseparably intertwined with the story of romantic Spain. So many legends and traditions, true and mythical, so many songs and ballads about love, war and chivalry, both Arab and Spanish, are associated with this splendid monument!

Walking around Granada's historical old quarter and tasting the tapas, usually offered free when ordering a drink, is an experience not to be missed. Granada is indeed a city that welcomes visitors with open arms and offers them all they can possibly wish for.

Text and pictures courtesy of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce, Taipei



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