



Business Support on Your Doorstep

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## EU NEWS

### European Council's adopted Europe 2020 strategy

European leaders meeting in Brussels on 17 June 2010 adopted Europe 2020, a new 10-year strategy for jobs and growth which will promote the delivery of structural reforms. The Member states will, over the coming months, discuss how specific policies can be mobilised to unlock the growth potential of the European Union, starting with innovation and energy policies. Investment in research and development could be raised to 3% of GDP.

The European leaders believe that the necessary reforms of the regulation of financial services must be completed urgently.

The European Council also agreed that member states should set up levies on financial institutions to ensure fair burden-sharing in the event of a crisis. At the forthcoming G20 summit in Toronto, the EU will propose introducing such schemes at a worldwide level.

EU leaders stated that Iceland meets the political criteria for joining the EU and decided that membership talks should be opened. As regards the enlargement of the eurozone, Estonia fulfils all convergence requirements and should be ready to adopt the common currency on 1 January 2011.

European Council's Conclusions and press conference

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showFocus.aspx?id=1&focusId=493&lang=en>


Europe 2020 strategy on the European Commission's website

[http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/index_en.htm)

### European Council's decided to open accession negotiation with Iceland

A decisive step in Iceland's bid to join the EU has been taken on 17 June 2010 with the decision by the European Council to open accession negotiations with the country, which applied for EU membership in July 2009. The Council's decision follows the European Commission's Opinion of February 2010 recommending the opening of accession negotiations. On the basis of the Commission opinion, EU Member States concluded unanimously that Iceland meets the political criteria for membership but that it will have to address existing obligations under the European Economic Area (EEA), and areas of weakness, including financial services, during accession negotiations.

As the next step prior to the opening of negotiations, the Commission will prepare a Negotiating Framework which lays down the general guidelines for the accession negotiations and indicates the reforms Iceland must undertake to join the EU. Negotiations are aimed at the full adoption, implementation and enforcement of the body of EU law, the *acquis*. As with all candidates, negotiations are based on the country's own merits, and their pace will depend on Iceland's progress in meeting the requirements set out in the Negotiating Framework. The Commission will provide all necessary technical support to facilitate the process of negotiations between Iceland and the EU Member States.



The EU and Iceland on DG Enlargement website  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/potential-candidates/iceland/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/potential-candidates/iceland/index_en.htm)  
DG External Relations website  
[http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/iceland/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/iceland/index_en.htm)

### **Report forecasts shortages of 14 critical mineral raw materials**

Raw materials are an essential part of both high-tech products and every-day consumer products, such as mobile phones, thin layer photovoltaics, lithium-ion batteries, fibre optic cable, and synthetic fuels, among others. But their availability is increasingly under pressure according to a report published by an expert group chaired by the European Commission. The growing demand for raw materials is driven by the growth of developing economies and new emerging technologies.

The expert group considers that 14 raw mineral materials are critical for the European Union, out of 41 minerals and metals analysed: Antimony, Beryllium, Cobalt, Fluorspar, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Indium, Magnesium, Niobium, PGMs (Platinum Group Metals), Rare earths, Tantalum and Tungsten. Forecasts indicate that demand might more than triple for a series of critical raw materials by 2030 compared with the 2006 level.

For the critical raw materials, their high supply risk is mainly due to the fact that a high share of the worldwide production mainly comes from a handful of countries: China (antimony, fluorspar, gallium, germanium, graphite, indium, magnesium, rare earths, tungsten), Russia (PGM), the Democratic Republic of Congo (cobalt, tantalum) and Brazil (niobium and tantalum).

To overcome the current problems, the expert group recommends:

- updating the list of EU critical raw materials every 5 years and enlarge the scope for criticality assessment;
- policy actions to improve access to primary resources and to make recycling of raw materials or raw material-containing products more efficient;
- encouraging substitution of certain raw materials, notably by promoting research on substitutes for critical raw materials;
- improving the overall material efficiency of critical raw materials.

The results of the report will be used for the drafting of a forthcoming communication on strategies to ensure access to raw materials which the Commission will publish in autumn 2010.

Report of the Ad-hoc Working Group on defining critical raw materials  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/raw-materials/critical/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/raw-materials/critical/index_en.htm)

## **European Commission and US agree to cooperate on civil aviation research and development**

The Commission and the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have officially concluded negotiations for the establishment of a Memorandum of cooperation in civil aviation research and development. The negotiating parties initialled the Memorandum and a first technical Annex promoting interoperability between their respective air traffic management (ATM) modernisation programmes: SESAR and NextGen.

The Memorandum will enable the EU and the US to jointly pursue their common objective to develop and deploy greener and more efficient air transport systems through a legally binding cooperation framework, based on commonly agreed reciprocity principles. Under the Memorandum the two parties will be able to address through cooperative activities any research and development issues in civil aviation such as: safety, security, environment, performance, alternative fuels, aircraft design, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), sub-orbital airplanes, satellite-based communications and related ATM applications, etc.

The simultaneous agreement on the first technical Annex of the Memorandum dedicated to SESAR-NextGen cooperation constitutes a major achievement for ensuring effective interoperability of the two ATM systems. For the EU side, the activities launched under this Annex will be carried out by the SESAR Joint Undertaking ensuring an optimal coordination of European ATM modernisation activities and the direct involvement of EU aviation industry.

The Commission will now propose the text for formal adoption then present it to the Council and the European Parliament for approval of its signature, in view of its entry into force in early 2011.

More information in the press release IP/10/761 of 18 June 2010 in the RAPID database  
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/761&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Co-operation between the EU and the USA in mobility and transport  
[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/international/bilateral\\_cooperation/usa\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/international/bilateral_cooperation/usa_en.htm)

## **EACI NEWS**

### **Business Panel Consultation on the Working Time Directive**

A new business panel consultation related to the Working Time Directive has just been launched. This consultation is linked to SME feedback activities and it is open to all Network Partners.

The online version of the questionnaire in IPM will be available under the short name of "WTD". The deadline for uploading the results is 27 August 2010.

Queries can be sent to the following functional mailbox: [entr-listening-tools@ec.europa.eu](mailto:entr-listening-tools@ec.europa.eu) with a copy to the SME Feedback FirstClass public conference.



Further supporting documents and information is available on the intranet under Business Services → SME Feedback subsection.

All relevant information and further instructions on how to participate can be found in a message entitled ' Business panel on the Working Time Directive', which was posted on 22 June 2010 in the FirstClass 'Circular Notes' public conference.

## MEETINGS, FAIRS & EVENTS

### European Cluster Conference 2010, Brussels – 29 September and 30 October 2010

This high-level event will address the role of world-class clusters in renewing European industry in light of the Europe 2020 Strategy. It will gather key policy-makers from the European Commission, Member States, regional authorities and high-level speakers from academia and industry to discuss how better policies can be formulated to make full use of the economic potential of excellent clusters.

Queries can be sent to the following functional mailbox:  
[ecc2010-contact@proinno-europe.eu](mailto:ecc2010-contact@proinno-europe.eu)

For more information and registration  
<http://www.proinno-europe.eu/clusterconference2010/>

The list of the events advertised in the EU and Services Bulletin is not exhaustive. Therefore, you are kindly invited to visit the events page in the intranet (<http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/src/events/viewevents.cfm>) or the Enterprise Europe Network public website.

## PUBLICATIONS

### European Commission's short papers on Regional Innovation Governance

The European Commission's Regional Policy department has produced the latest in its series of short papers on regional research and indicators. This paper tackles the concept of regional innovation, examining 14 regions throughout Europe to understand how Managing Authorities, main regional stakeholders and academics/evaluators approach regional governance of innovation on the ground. The varied approaches represented in the case studies demonstrate complementarities between the European Structural Funds and national/regional funds for innovation, but also show that there is further room to improve the effectiveness of Structural Fund support to regional innovation.

Short Paper on Regional Innovation Governance  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/focus/2010\\_02\\_innovation\\_governance.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/focus/2010_02_innovation_governance.pdf)

### **Leaflet on REACH legislation for exporters in the EU**

This useful leaflet 'REACH ME' explains what an exporter company in the EU should do when exporting chemical substances and mixtures in any of the 27 EU countries or Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, which are part of the European Economic Area (EEA). It also gives the timelines of the registration procedures and useful information sources.

It is available in French, English and Spanish and can be downloaded free of charge from the EU Bookshop website

[http://bookshop.europa.eu/is-bin/INTERSHOP.enfinity/WFS/EU-Bookshop-Site/en\\_GB/-/EUR/ViewPublication-Start?PublicationKey=KH7809599&CatalogCategoryID=PcKABstUuUAAAEjflYY4e5K](http://bookshop.europa.eu/is-bin/INTERSHOP.enfinity/WFS/EU-Bookshop-Site/en_GB/-/EUR/ViewPublication-Start?PublicationKey=KH7809599&CatalogCategoryID=PcKABstUuUAAAEjflYY4e5K)

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **'SCIENTIX', the portal on science and education**

'Scientix' – 'the community for science education in Europe' – is a new website recently set up with funding from the Science in Society Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme. The website is managed by the European Schoolnet (EUN), a network of 31 European education ministries.

The purpose of the website is to help scientists, students, teachers, researchers and policymakers share materials, resources and experiences, including the findings of EU and national research projects. Scientix will give access to teaching materials, research results and policy documents from European science education projects financed by the European Union and by various national initiatives.

Scientix website is available in six languages: German, English, Spanish, French, Italian and Polish

<http://www.scientix.eu/web/guest;jsessionid=2BAB24158DC96F0C35E8C90176F5D3FA>

### **'WIPO GOLD', the Global IP Reference Resource**

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) has recently launched 'WIPO GOLD', an on-line global intellectual property (IP) reference resource allowing for quick and easy access to a broad collection of searchable IP data. It contains databases on: technology, brands, domain names, designs, statistics, WIPO standards, IP classification systems and IP laws and treaties.

'WIPO Gold' is one of the tools aimed at facilitating the free flow of IP information globally, and improving access to and use of IP information. It is a free to use.

Direct link to WIPO Gold

<http://www.wipo.int/wipogold/en/>



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