

Dossiers coming up for discussion in the European Commission

06 September to 03 October 2010

- **Tuesday 7 September 2010:** President Barroso will deliver the first ever State of the Union Address
- **Tuesday 7 September 2010:** OECD and European Commission present 2010 education report
- **Wednesday 15 September 2010:** Youth on the Move: initiative to support young people's access to the job market through better education, training and mobility
- **Wednesday 15 September 2010:** European Commission will propose measures on derivatives, Credit Default Swaps and short selling to restore confidence in financial markets
- **Wednesday 15 September 2010:** Neelie Kroes to outline the EU's actions on innovation in digital solutions to help the elderly
- **Thursday 16 – Wednesday 22 September 2010:** European Mobility Week – 'Travel Smarter, Live Better'
- **Monday 20 – Wednesday 22 September 2010:** High Level Meeting on Millennium Development Goals in New York
- **Monday 20 - Tuesday 21 September 2010:** European Commission is organising a public hearing on the review of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MIFID)
- **Monday 27 - Wednesday 29 September 2010:** ICT 2010 - Digitally Driven: Europe's biggest forum for research and innovation in Information and Communication Technologies

Tuesday 7 September 2010: President Barroso will deliver the first ever State of the Union Address

The news:

The President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso will deliver the first "State of the Union Address 2010" on Tuesday, 7 September 2010 at the European Parliament at 9 o'clock.

The background:

During his second mandate, the President has agreed with the European Parliament to give a yearly address on the State of the Union. This has been incorporated into the Framework Agreement that has been agreed with the European Parliament. President Barroso will give an assessment of where the Union stands and outline the political challenges for the next 12 months.

The event:

9h00: President Barroso will deliver the first "State of the Union Address 2010" at the European Parliament in Strasbourg

Tuesday 7 September 2010: OECD and European Commission present 2010 education report

The news:

The OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) will launch its 2010 'Education at a Glance' report at a joint briefing with the European Commission in Brussels. The report, containing a wealth of statistical data covering 35 OECD member and candidate countries, focuses, among other issues, on levels of investment and results in education.

The background:

The 35 OECD member and candidate countries include 21 EU countries (all EU Member states except Bulgaria, Cyprus, Malta, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania). In addition, it highlights data from other major countries including Brazil and China.

The report will be presented by Barbara Ischinger, Director for Education for the OECD, and Pierre Mairesse, Director for Lifelong Learning and the Europe 2020 strategy at the Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture. The report gathers data compiled the OECD together with UNESCO and Eurostat, based on input including the Teaching and Learning International Study (TALIS).

The event:

12h30: On-the-record technical briefing in the Berlaymont press room, Brussels

Wednesday 15 September 2010: Youth on the Move: initiative to support young people's access to the job market through better education, training and mobility

The news:

The 'Youth on the Move' initiative will promote the mobility and employment prospects of young people. It will define what needs to be done at EU level to unleash the potential of young people to achieve smart, inclusive and sustainable growth in the EU.

Among other things, it will encourage actions to tackle the high level of early school leaving, promote apprenticeship-type vocational training, get more people into higher education and back a more user-friendly system for benchmarking universities. A dedicated Youth on the Move website will provide a one-stop-shop for access to information on EU mobility and learning opportunities and the Commission will propose a Youth on the Move card to promote study or training abroad.

In terms of employment, a new EU job mobility scheme – 'Your first EURES job' – will be created to encourage young people to work abroad and the European Microfinance Facility will support potential young entrepreneurs. The Commission will also encourage Member States to take concrete action to boost youth employment, in particular through Youth Guarantees to ensure young people are in a job or further education within four months of leaving school.

The background:

The Commission's Youth on the Move proposal is a flagship initiative in the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, inclusive and sustainable growth.

The event:

Commission adopts Communication on 'Youth on the Move'.

Press Conference by Commissioners Androulla Vassiliou and László Andor.

Commissioner Vassiliou will participate in a live webstreamed debate on Youth on the Move on 17 September (15:00 – 16:00). This event is open to the media.

Wednesday 15 September 2010: European Commission will propose measures on derivatives, Credit Default Swaps and short selling to restore confidence in financial markets

The news:

In further response to the financial crisis, the European Commission is due to adopt a number of key legislative proposals on 15 September. The aim is to restore confidence in financial markets by improving transparency on derivatives trading in the EU. The proposals will also contain measures on short selling and Credit Default Swaps (CDS). The legislative package will feature:

- A proposal on **derivatives**: A derivative is a financial contract between two parties linked to the future value or status of the underlying to which it refers (e.g. the development of interest rates or of a currency value, or the possible bankruptcy of a debtor). While derivatives play an important role in the economy, they are associated with certain risks that have aggravated the recent financial crisis for example. The Commission is now coming forward with a proposal to ensure that derivatives trading becomes more safe, sound and efficient.
- A proposal on **short selling** and **CDS**: Short selling is the sale of a security that the seller does not own, with the intention of buying back an identical security at a later point in time in order to be able to deliver the security. Meanwhile, CDS are derivatives which are often regarded as a form of insurance against the risk of credit default of a corporate or government (or sovereign) bond. While they bring liquidity to the markets, they also entail certain risks that were illustrated during the recent debt crisis. The Commission is to come forward with a proposal that will set common standards in the EU on short selling activities and CDS trading. The measures are to bring more transparency to financial markets, while giving more powers to financial supervisors in the EU.

The background:

The recent market turbulence has confirmed for the Commission the need to advance swiftly to complete the necessary reforms to ensure the soundness and stability of the financial system at the European and global level. In its Communication of 2 June 2010, "Regulating Financial Services for Sustainable Growth" (see [IP/10/656](#)); the Commission committed itself to table the remaining proposals for financial reform in the next six to nine months. The package adopted for 15 September now further responds to this commitment.

The event:

Press conference with Internal Market and Services Commissioner Michel Barnier in the Berlaymont press room (time to be confirmed)

Technical briefing (time and date to be confirmed)

Wednesday 15 September 2010: Neelie Kroes to outline the EU's actions on innovation in digital solutions to help the elderly

The news:

European Commission Vice-President for the Digital Agenda, Neelie Kroes, will outline Europe's actions and next steps for Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to help the elderly at a forum in Odense, Denmark, on 15 September 2010. This is one of the key objectives of the Digital Agenda for Europe, the European Commission's action plan to maximise the benefits of ICTs for job creation, sustainability and social inclusion.

Helping the elderly stay independent for longer and lead an active, high-quality life is one of the biggest challenges for Europe. The EU's 60-plus population is increasing by about 2 million a year and our 80-plus population is expected to double by 2020. With more retired people and less workers in the care sector, the pressure is on to find effective solutions to support elderly people and their community, to increase the efficiency of the care systems and to promote a flourishing EU industry for independent and active "ageing" products and services.

The background:

Tackling demographic ageing is a priority for the European Commission. That is why the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7), which runs from 2007 to 2013, has allocated about €400 million to research ICT for Independent Living and Inclusion. The Commission's strategy on "ICT for Ageing Well" supports investments in digital solutions for elderly people and carers. The aim is to provide ICT solutions suited to their needs, allowing elderly to live independently in their own living environment, as well as to stimulate the large scale uptake of proven ICT solutions for ageing across Europe.

The event:

The AAL 2010 Forum, 15-17 September 2010, Odense (Denmark)

The event is organised by the Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL JP) for applied research, a programme of 23 European countries supported by the European Commission to develop ICT-based solutions for elderly people. With more than 800 participants expected and over 30 exhibitors, the Forum will provide users, entrepreneurs, service providers, ICT industry, scientists and policy makers with the opportunity to discuss key issues like:

- How can ICT-related improvements to their quality of life be brought to the largest number of elderly people and their community?
- How can ICT for Ageing Well help to ensure the sustainability of social and health care by improving efficiency and reducing costs?
- How can market opportunities be maximised for Europe's AAL industry and service providers to create a true Single Market for AAL solutions?

Key-note speakers include: Neelie Kroes, European Commission Vice-President for the Digital Agenda; Claus Hjort Frederiksen, Danish Minister of Finance, Meglena Kuneva former EU Consumer Commissioner and inventor and futurist Ray Kurzweil.

A **press conference** with Neelie Kroes at the Odense conference centre will precede the opening of the AAL Forum on 15 September at 12.00.

An **exhibition** will showcase **AAL technologies in real-life settings** with projects supported by the AAL JP, such as service robots and smart home settings providing a safe daily living environment for the elderly. Next to the exhibition, the **Innovation World** (Stadium Arena Fyn, Odense) will let visitors experience different welfare technologies, e.g. take a walk in a "smart" apartment, consult the doctor from home via interactive media and relax in an "intelligent" bed.

In connection with the AAL 2010 Forum, the first AAL Investment Forum will run from 14th to 15th September in Odense. The event will give participants the opportunity to discuss market and investment issues related to the so-called "silver economy" and to listen to success stories from businesses.

Where

Odense Congress Centre - Ørbækvej 350

DK-5220 Odense SØ - Denmark

Programme

AAL Forum: www.aalforum.eu/page/programme-1

AAL Investment Forum: www.aal-invest.eu/page/investment-forum-programme

Media registration

AAL Forum: www.aalforum.eu/page/invited-guests

Thursday 16 – Wednesday 22 September 2010: European Mobility Week – 'Travel Smarter, Live Better'

The news:

More than 200 million people across Europe and beyond are expected to take part in European Mobility Week, the largest global event dedicated to sustainable urban travel, from 16-22 September 2010.

This year's theme, 'Travel Smarter, Live Better', recognises the detrimental effects that urban transport trends have on citizens' health. The aim is to encourage local authorities to promote sustainable travel – walking, cycling and public transport – and highlight their positive impact on public health.

The background:

European Mobility Week started in 2002 and aims to encourage citizens to change their travel behaviour and shift towards more sustainable modes of transport. Each year local authorities all over Europe and across the world organise activities and launch permanent measures which will continue long after the week is over.

The week culminates in Car Free Day, officially designated as 22 September, when participating towns and cities set aside areas solely for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport.

European Mobility Week is coordinated by three non-governmental organisations specialising in urban environmental issues: Eurocities, Energie-Cités and Climate Alliance. The European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment provides financial support and organises the annual European Mobility Week Awards for the best programme of activities and measures.

Monday 20 – Wednesday 22 September 2010: High Level Meeting on Millennium Development Goals in New York

The news:

World leaders will gather in New York to negotiate the way forward in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, the main goal being to eradicate extreme poverty. Commission President José Manuel Barroso, Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs and Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response Kristalina Georgieva will attend the High Level Meeting. The EU is firmly committed to support the achievement of the MDGs globally by 2015. This is still possible, if all partners demonstrate strong political commitment, implement necessary policy changes and take concrete action. Progress has been uneven across the MDGs and across regions, as well as between and within countries. Good progress has been made on some MDGs, such as access to primary education. Others (e.g., child and maternal mortality, sanitation) remain off track and should now be prioritised. Efforts should focus on regions and countries that lag behind the most. Countries in situations of conflict and fragility need special attention. And from the developing countries' side it is about more ownership and leadership, notably by incorporating the MDGs into national development strategies.

The EU remains convinced that the MDGs are interlinked, mutually dependent and reinforcing and therefore require a holistic, rights-based approach which takes into account local contexts. The European

position is that MDGs are interdependent with human rights, gender equality, democracy, good governance, development, peace and security, as well as climate and energy.

The background:

The eight Millennium Development Goals adopted by world leaders in 2000 and set to be achieved by 2015, set quantitative benchmarks for, among other things, the reduction of poverty and hunger, child and maternal mortality and the fight against HIV/AIDS as well as other diseases. They further formulate goals for primary education, employment, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

As part of MDGs, the EU has committed to increase spending on official development assistance (ODA) to 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015. Since 2000, Europe has doubled its aid to developing countries. In 2009, the EU aid level was €49bn. This corresponds to 0.42% of EU GNI. While the EU remains the most generous global donor, providing more than half of development aid, it missed the collective EU intermediate target of 0,56% ODA/GNI for 2010.

On 21 April the European Commission adopted an ambitious twelve-point plan for EU action to speed up progress on the Millennium Development Goals. The document was broadly welcomed by the Foreign Ministers Council in June.

The event:

Technical briefing in the Berlaymont Press Room (date and time to be confirmed)

Press conferences and briefings in New York (date and time to be confirmed)

- EbS will accompany President Barroso, Commissioner Piebalgs and Commissioner Georgieva to New York

Monday 20 - Tuesday 21 September 2010: European Commission is organising a public hearing on the review of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MIFID)

The news:

On 20-21 September 2010, the European Commission will organise a public hearing on the review of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive 2004/39/EC (MiFID). The public hearing will provide an opportunity for the Commission to get input about the way forward for the ongoing review of MIFID. It will bring together senior policy makers, regulators, industry experts and academics.

The conference will feature keynote addresses and panel discussions and takes place over 2 days:

Day 1: Five panels on the main issues in the ongoing review of MiFID:

- Derivative market reform and increasing trading on organised platforms,
- Ensuring transparency and efficiency are balanced in the trading of financial instruments,
- Changes in market structure and competition between trading venues,
- Investor protection after the crisis,
- Improving market data consolidation.

Day 2: Four panels specifically on commodity and exotic derivatives:

- The outlook for commodity markets today,
- Global regulatory perspectives as regards commodity derivatives,
- Ensuring the interests of users and producers of commodities,
- The road ahead in EU energy and emission allowance markets.

Keynote speakers include:

- Michel Barnier – Commissioner for Internal Market and Services
- **Dacian Cioloş – Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development**

- Sharon Bowles MEP - Chair of the European Parliament Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee in the European Parliament.

The background:

The MiFID sets out a comprehensive regulatory regime for investment services and financial markets in Europe. It contains measures to at strengthen investor protection, eliminate barriers to cross-border trading, enhance competition in the EU securities industry and, ultimately, encourage the integration of EU capital markets.

Two years after the implementation of the MiFID in the EU, a number of objectives have been met. The common rules introduced by MiFID have made the cross-border provision of services smoother while increasing protection to clients. The emergence of new trading systems (Multilateral trading facilities or MTF and systematic internalisers) has increased competition and abolished monopolies of traditional stock exchanges. This has also allowed the decrease of trading costs.

The initial political objectives still remain valid; however, there is certainly room for improvement and modifications. A review is also necessary in order to address specific weaknesses and flaws of financial markets emerged as a result of the crisis.

The legislative proposal to review MIFID is expected in the beginning of 2011.

The event:

High-level conference at the European Commission premises, Charlemagne building, Salle de Gasperi, 170 Rue de la Loi, Brussels from 8.30-17.00. Attendance is free, prior registration needed by using this link: <http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=mifid>

Source: European Commission