

**THURSDAY, 09 SEPTEMBER, 2010**

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### **[Applications for EU globalisation fund increase six-fold](#)**

The European Union granted EUR 52.3 million from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) in 2009 to help some 11 000 workers dismissed in eight countries, according to a report adopted by the European Commission today. The third annual report on the activities of the EGF shows a six-fold increase in applications from Member States for funding to support workers dismissed as a result of globalisation and the economic crisis.

### **[Marie Curie Actions: Record number of applications for EU research grants](#)**

Nearly 5 000 researchers have applied for EU-funded Marie Curie fellowship grants this year, an increase of 20% on last year and 70% on 2008. Around 800 fellowships worth a total of €150 million will be granted to researchers working on projects of up to three years in another country. For the first time, a funding category is available for researchers who want to restart their career after a break.

### **[Biodiversity: Powering up local authorities around the globe](#)**

How can local authorities save money while boosting economies, enhancing quality of life and generating employment? By factoring ecosystem services into policy-making, according to a new report. The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for Local and Regional Policy Makers report shows local policy makers how to improve their understanding of the value and services provided by natural capital like woodlands, parks and waterways, and to reap benefits in local policy areas such as urban management, spatial planning and protected areas management.

European Commissioner for the Environment Janez Potočnik said: "Local and regional planning authorities wield enormous power, and can be a tremendous force for good. This report showcases numerous examples of the successful integration of biodiversity-friendly thinking into local planning decisions around the world, with detailed benefits for local citizens. In many cases, it's a roadmap to environmental success."

TEEB Study Leader Pavan Sukhdev said: "Nature's multiple and complex values have direct economic impacts on human well-being and public spending at a local and well as national level. By focusing on the various benefits from nature we can see the direct and indirect ways that we depend on the natural environment and this insight can substantially support local policy and public management. We urge local authorities to read this report and recognize the benefits provided by nature and the economic dimension of their local natural capital."

Mainstreaming biodiversity at ground level in Europe...

The new report, entitled TEEB for Local and Regional Policy Makers, prepared by The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative hosted and supported by the United Nations Environment Programme, highlights how much cities depend on nature, and illustrates how ecosystem services can provide cost-effective solutions to municipal services. The study shows how Rome, for example, is reaping the benefits of 5,000 ha of green public areas, and how local authorities in Wales are improving citizens' health by increased provision of green spaces. Among the recommendations are payment schemes for ecosystem services, guidelines for rewarding good stewardship of local natural capital, certification and labelling.

## **EU revises laws to better protect animals used in scientific experiments**

*The European Parliament has voted to revise legislation on animals used for scientific purposes. The revised legislation, first proposed by the European Commission in 2008, will strengthen the protection of animals still needed for research and safety testing. The new directive will also play a significant role in minimising the number of animals used in experiments, and require alternatives to be used where possible, whilst ensuring a level playing field for EU industry and enhancing the quality of research conducted in the EU.*

European Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik said: "Today's vote ends a long negotiation process, which has shown how sensitive and important the issues at stake are. However, everyone agreed that it is vital to improve the situation for animals still needed in scientific research and safety testing, whilst maintaining a high standard of research and improving the focus on finding alternative methods to animal testing. The European Union will soon have the highest standards of experimental animal welfare in the world."

### Better standards

Through the revision of Directive 86/609/EEC the Commission has sought to strengthen EU legislation on the protection of animals used for experimental purposes. Among the most significant changes which will ensure this are the requirement to perform ethical evaluations prior to authorisation of projects using animals and the upgrading of housing and care standards.

The new Directive covers animals used in education and training and basic research. It covers all live non-human vertebrate animals plus certain other species likely to experience pain. The use of non-human primates is subject to restrictions, and the new Directive also introduces a ban on the use of great apes in scientific procedures. Only when survival of the species itself is at stake, or in the case of an unexpected outbreak of a life-threatening or debilitating disease in human beings, can a Member State exceptionally be granted permission for their use.

## **Standing Committee of the Food Chain and Animal Health : support to the eradication of rabies in Italy and discussion on the West Nile Fever situation**

Yesterday, the Standing Committee of Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) concluded a two-day meeting in Brussels during which four main topics were discussed in particular: West Nile virus infection in the European Union, co-financing of the eradication of rabies in Italy, poultry meat transit to and from Russia and animal welfare inspections in the laying hen sector.

## **Digital Agenda: Commission consults on re-use of public sector data**

The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the EU Directive on the re-use of public sector information (PSI). PSI covers all sorts of data generated by public sector bodies - e.g. maps, meteorological, legal, traffic, financial and economic information - that can be re-used by anyone else in innovative products such as car navigation systems, weather forecasts, and travel information applications ("apps") that can be downloaded on smart phones. Public data that is reused (for free or for a fee) generates an estimated market turnover of at least € 27 billion in the EU every year, according to a 2006 study . Contributions to this consultation will feed into the review of the PSI

Directive, part of the [Digital Agenda for Europe](#) that aims to contribute to the EU goals of increasing competitiveness, innovation and job creation. The consultation will run until 30 November 2010.

### **Commission clears acquisition by CD&R Fund VIII and Goldman Sachs of joint control of HGI**

The European Commission has granted clearance under the EU Merger Regulation to the acquisition by Clayton, Dubilier & Rice Fund VIII, L.P. ("CD&R Fund VIII", Cayman Islands) and The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. ("Goldman Sachs", United States of America) of joint control of Harrington Group, Inc. ("HGI", United States of America) by way of purchase of shares. CD&R Fund VIII is a private equity fund and Goldman Sachs is a bank holding company and global investment banking, securities and investment management firm. HGI is a mail-order, home-site provider of specialty medical products serving chronic disease patients, mainly in the United States of America. The operation was examined under the simplified merger review procedure.

### **More than 500 statistical tables on the EU**

How have the changes in our society affected marriage rates and the proportion of births outside marriage over the last twenty years? How much does government spend as a proportion of GDP, and how is this spending split between social protection, health and education? What are the recent developments in lifelong learning? The answers to these questions and to many more can be found in the 14th edition of the Eurostat yearbook, published by Eurostat. Europe in figures – Eurostat yearbook 2010 presents a comprehensive selection of the available statistical data at Eurostat, together with explanatory text. The yearbook may be viewed as an introduction to EU statistics and provides guidance to the vast range of data freely available from the Eurostat website and its online databases. There are linked data codes below each table in the PDF version of the publication, leading directly to the relevant tables on the website. The yearbook shows how key indicators have developed in the EU27, the euro area and the Member States. Data for the Candidate countries, the EFTA countries, the US and Japan are also included when available.

### **OTHER INFORMATION :**

- [Statement on Irish financial sector – en rediffusion](#)
- [Message of congratulation by President Barroso to Ms Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia](#)
- [Memo Questions and answers on the new directive for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes](#)
- [Speech by Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn ' Oceans for Tomorrow', Commission Info Day for Potential Research Projects on Oceans and Seas, Brussels](#)
- [Speech by Commissioner Damanaki ' Oceans for Tomorrow', meeting between Commissioners Geoghegan-Quinn and Damanaki and the European Marine and Maritime Science Community, Brussels](#)
- [Speech by Commissioner Potočnik at Belgian Presidency Conference: "Biodiversity in a Changing World", Brussels](#)

