

# EUROPE TODAY



**SUCCESSFUL  
COMMUNICATIONS**

# Editorial

## Dear Reader,

we would like to thank all of you for your positive feedback on the past issue of EUROPE TODAY.

The European Academy for Taxes, Economics & Law is an educational network for knowledge regarding the latest developments in Europe. We aim at meeting your current information needs. Our events provide the latest information with high practical relevance for authorities on the European, national, regional and local level, and for private companies all across Europe. Attending an event offers you the opportunity to become part of an European expert's network and to develop long-term contacts on a business level that facilitate your day to day work. We have developed this newsletter to strengthen your business network.

We are aware that it is a challenge to provide you with all the latest information and EUROPE TODAY does not claim to know everything concerning every authority, branch of industry or working field. However, we do believe that knowledge grows if you share it.

This is why the idea of this newsletter is to share experiences and knowledge: EUROPE TODAY intends to be your voice and your tool to communicate with others.

We kindly invite all of you to contribute to this newsletter by sending us essays, articles, press releases, book recommendations or interesting links to new guidelines. And of course, we would very much appreciate if you could forward this publication to your colleagues thereby extending the network for all.

We welcome your comments or suggestions at the following address:

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Yours,



Christine Döbler  
*Editor in chief*

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# Book Recommendations

## Competition Law

by Richard Whish (Author)

Richard Whish's authoritative treatment of the area is matched by a lively and easy-to-follow writing style, making this book an indispensable resource for undergraduate and postgraduate law and economics students, as well as for practitioners and officials involved in competition law.

Explaining the economic context within which competition law operates in the UK, EC and internationally, Whish looks at the constituent parts of the law and analyses how they affect particularly commercial phenomena. Key aspects are examined in detail, including mergers, horizontal and vertical agreements, the Abuse of Dominance, Intellectual Property and the obligations of Member States under the EC. The book also scrutinizes fundamental Acts and Articles - Competition Act 1998; Enterprise Act 2002; Articles 81 and 82 - providing readers with context, consequences and an overview of how these are applied in practice. This book is essential reading for students, practitioners and officials seeking a respected, reliable, intelligent and critical approach to competition law.

This edition contains new text on the EC Merger Regulation and the Technology Transfer Regulation of 2004, reflects upon the Commission's discussion paper on Article 82, provides a wider picture of the EC Modernization Regulation. Additionally, it offers a fuller discussion of UK market investigation and merger control now that the Enterprise Act has been in force for four years

**OUP Oxford, 6 edition, August 2008, Paperback: 1006 pages, ISBN-10: 0199289387, ISBN-13: 978-0199289387**

## Law and Practice of EU External Relations: Salient Features of a Changing Landscape (Hardcover)

by Alan Dashwood (Author), Marc Maresceau (Author)

Expanding European Union activity on the international scene has led to development of the legal concepts, principles and rules that govern it. External relations law and practice have also been affected by events within the EU. This volume takes stock of the recent developments in the external relations law and practice of the EC/EU and investigates the increasing interaction between these different fields of Union competence. The first part of this book addresses issues that are broadly constitutional or institutional in character. The second part deals with various aspects of substantive external relations considered in a geographical or geo-political perspective. The third part selects two specific substantive law areas - intellectual property law and environment law - as examples which illustrate the specific relationship between domestic policy and external relations. Expanding EU activity on the international scene has led to changes in the legal concepts, principles and rules that govern it. This volume assesses the recent developments in the external relations law and practice of the EC/EU and investigates the increasing interaction between these fields of Union competence.

**Cambridge University Press 1 edition, October 2008, Hardcover: 512 pages, ISBN-13: 978-0521899239**

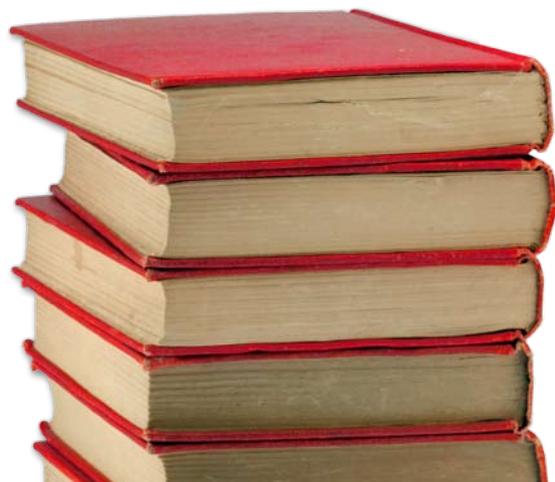
## Restructuring Work And Employment In Europe

by Bernard Gazier, Professor of Economics, Centre d'Economie de la Sorbonne, University of Paris 1 and CNRS and Frédéric Bruggeman, Consultant, Amnyos, CNRS, France (Editors)

This comprehensive study on downsizing in Europe is underpinned by cross-national interdisciplinary empirical research on restructuring management in five European countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. It includes systematic national comparative overviews, and transversal analyses of more than 30 in-depth case studies, taking into account a broad range of perspectives across professional human resources managers, unions' representatives, local and national civil servants, social workers and physicians. The authors examine strategic choices and practices in national and local contexts, showing that the practice of restructuring is not as heterogeneous as many previous studies have indicated or predicted. Systematic policy proposals for better economic and social management of restructuring are prescribed.

Contributors: R. Beaujolin-Bellet, O. Bergström, F. Bruggeman, G. Dalon, A. Diedrich, B. Gazier, D. Jeske, T. Kieselbach, M. Knuth, G. Luton, S. Moore, G. Mühge, F. Naedenoen, D. Paucard, M. Petrovski, F. Pichault, G. Thomson, C.E. Triomphe

**Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd, 2008 Hardcover: 424 pages, ISBN 978 1 84720 569 8**



# European News

## New Commission Report European Trade in a Changing Global Economy

A new report by the European Commission has assessed the competitiveness of the European Union in the global economy at the end of a decade of rapid economic change. Since the mid-1990s, there has been a major redistribution of market share between emerging and developed countries and among developed countries themselves. In this highly competitive environment, the EU has broadly maintained its world market share, while the US and Japan have lost ground. The EU remains the world's biggest exporter of manufactured goods, and dominates markets for high-quality products. The report warns, however, that the EU must focus on investment in its high-technology manufacturing and continue to improve its market share in the fast growing economies of Asia. The report reinforces the economic arguments behind the launch of the European Commission's Global Europe trade policy framework in 2006.

## EU Maritime Policy: Year Marked by Achievements

This month marks the first anniversary of the Integrated Maritime Policy. The last year has seen new initiatives in areas as border surveillance, sustainable tourism, maritime transport strategy, climate change, marine and maritime research strategy, or maritime governance. The Commission plans to launch new policy initiatives in the coming months.

A Roadmap on Maritime Spatial Planning will be adopted shortly, and work on tools for better maritime surveillance will be tested through a number of pilot projects. Several studies are also underway which will feed directly into integrated maritime policy, such as that on maritime clusters as interfaces between industry and their key partners. Upcoming activities will include a strategy for the Arctic region, a Communication on offshore wind energy, an initiative on climate change adaptation, a strategy for maritime transport over the next decade and the creation of a European Space for Maritime Transport without barriers.

Regional implementation is also crucial to the integrated approach, as witness not only the forthcoming Arctic Strategy, but also the Baltic Sea Region strategy being prepared

by DG Regional Policy and the consultation launched by DG MARE on how to apply the Integrated Maritime Policy to the Mediterranean.

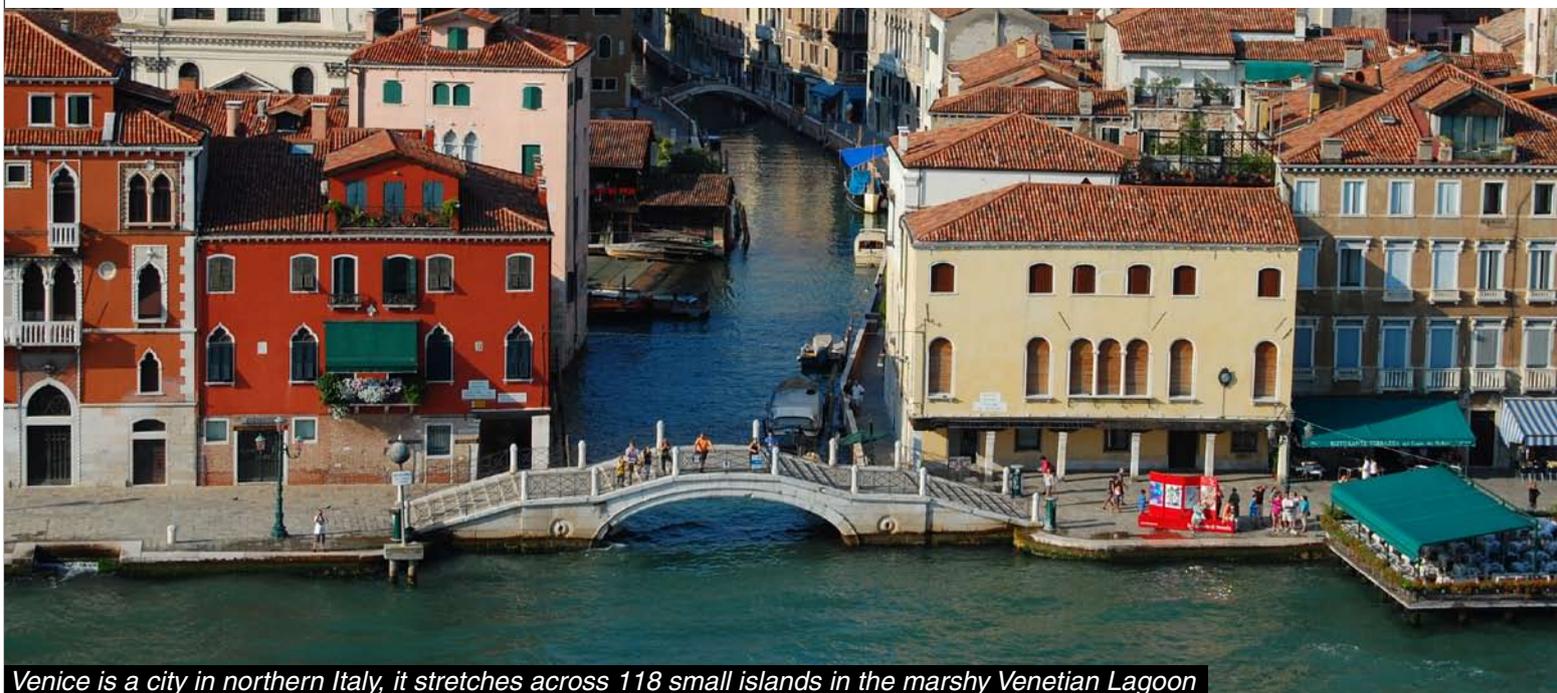
The Commission has started to build up structured dialogue relations with US, Canada, Japan, China, Australia, Norway and will endeavour to include maritime policy issues also in its partnership with Mediterranean and Black Sea countries under the European Neighbourhood Policy. In parallel, the Commission has started to review its policy with respect to the United Nations and specialised international organisations in the maritime area and assess the contribution which effective multilateral cooperation can make to enhancing maritime security and safety for fishermen and merchant vessel crews, the preservation of marine biodiversity and to establishing better global maritime governance.



Learn more about latest developments in the European fisheries sector at the European conference:

**„European Fisheries Fund: Priority Axis 4“ Practical Approaches and First Experiences**

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008, Berlin, Germany



Venice is a city in northern Italy, it stretches across 118 small islands in the marshy Venetian Lagoon

## European News

### Commission Selects 143 out of 700 Projects for LIFE+ funding

Under the first call for the LIFE+ programme the European Commission received over 700 proposals from public or private bodies from all EU Member States and has approved funding for 143 projects. Overall, the selected projects represent a total investment of €367 million, of which the EU will provide €186 million. LIFE+ is the new European financial instrument with a total budget of €2143 million for the period 2007-2013. During this period, the Commission will launch one call for LIFE+ project proposals per year. Of the 264 proposals received for LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity, the Commission selected 58 projects. They represent a total investment of €165 million, of which the EU will provide over €94 million.

Of the 325 proposals received for LIFE+ Environment Policy & Governance projects, the Commission selected 74 projects. The winning projects represent a total investment of €185 million of which the EU will provide €84 million. Projects targeting waste and natural resources (29 projects) account for the largest share of EU funding (approximately €26 million). Climate change is the second most targeted priority area with 22 projects (approximately €24 million). A further 24 projects deal with various issues including water, urban environment, soil, noise, forests, chemicals, air and environment and health. Of the 118 proposals received in the field of LIFE+ Information and Communication, the Commission selected 11 projects in Spain, France, Finland, Italy, Malta, Sweden and the United Kingdom. They represent a total investment of €16 million of which the EU will provide €8 million.



How to increase the efficiency of the Application will be the key issue at the European conference:

**„EU Funding for Environmental Projects“ LIFE+, Structural Funds, FP7 and INTERREG**

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

### EU Solidarity Fund: Commission proposes € 7.6 Million Aid for Cyprus

The European Commission today proposes to grant € 7.6 million in aid from the European Union Solidarity Fund to help Cyprus meet emergency costs resulting from damage caused by an exceptionally severe drought. The aid will mainly help reimburse costs of emergency measures such as the transport of water from Greece. The cumulative effect of the drought in Cyprus led to serious consequences for living conditions, the economy and the natural environment, as well as a massive reduction in water levels on the island. By April 2008, its water reserves were near to depletion, resulting in a severely damaging environmental and socio-economic impact. The Cypriot authorities applied for finan-

cial assistance from the EU Solidarity Fund to help them respond to the damage, equivalent to an estimated 1.25% of the country's gross national income.

In principle, payments from the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) are limited to finance emergency operations undertaken by the public authorities to alleviate non-insurable damages such as putting infrastructures back in operation and providing provisional accommodation. Private damage and income losses may not be compensated. In order to grant the Solidarity Fund aid to Cyprus, the Commission will ask the European Parliament and Council, as the EU's Budget Authority, to adopt what is called an amending budget. The Commission and Cyprus will then jointly sign an agreement setting out the conditions for implementing the aid.



# European News

## EU Institutions will Communicate in Partnership

In the European Parliament a political declaration was signed which aims at encouraging cooperation among the EU institutions and Member States on communication about Europe. The declaration, entitled „Communicating Europe in Partnership“, was signed by Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Vice-President of the European Parliament, the French Minister of State Jean-Pierre Jouyet, on behalf of the Council of the EU and Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the European Commission. The reason is that all institutions are aware that communication is a key element in the way to convince public opinion of the benefits of the European Union.

Against the backdrop of a generally low level of knowledge of European citizens about the European Union, this declaration underlines that EU-institutions and Member States attach the utmost importance to communicating effectively with their citizens about Europe. According to the objectives of the political declaration, citizens should be provided, in a language they understand, with adequate and objective information on the EU's issues and policies, which takes into account their expectations.

With this political declaration the institutions and the Member States have decided to develop synergies in order to address the communication challenge together. They have agreed on a pragmatic partnership approach based on the annual selection of joint communication priorities and practical cooperation between the communication departments of Member States and Institutions. The Commission has been requested to report back on the implementation of the agreement at the end of each year.



Learn more at the advanced workshop:

### **Communication Plans for EU Funds**

8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008, Berlin, Germany

## FP7: Call for Proposals under 2009 Work Programme

The calls for proposals under the 2009 Capacities work programme is now given in the Official Journal of the European Union. The 7th Framework Programme of the European Community for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (2007 to 2013) is now launched. Proposals are invited for the following calls. Call deadlines and budgets are given in the call texts, which are published on the CORDIS website. Capacities Specific Programme Research potential.

Information on the modalities of the calls, the work programme, and the guidance for applicants on how to submit is available through the CORDIS website here:



The Call:

### **Unlocking and developing the Research Potential of research entities established in the EU's Convergence Regions and Outermost regions**



The Call:

### **International Cooperation**



European conference:

### **Financing Innovative Small and Medium Sized Enterprises**

24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008, Berlin, Germany



# Upcoming Events

## November 2008

K-67

European conference:  
**EU Funding for  
 Environmental Projects**  
 03<sup>rd</sup> - 04<sup>th</sup> November 2008,  
 Frankfurt am Main

The environmental focus in the current programming period is provided by such funding instruments as LIFE+, INTERREG, CIP, FP 7 and Structural Funds. Furthermore, significant changes have been introduced by newly adopted regulations for the programming period 2007-2013 concerning the most relevant EU funding programmes.

2<sup>nd</sup> European conference:  
**Cohesion Fund 2007-2013**  
 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008, Berlin

The European Commission estimates that cohesion instruments could boost growth in the new Member States as well as in Spain, Greece and Portugal by 6% on average thereby creating two million new jobs. By reforming cohesion policies in the present programming period, structural actions are better targeted at the EU's strategic priorities (Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas) as well as following a more decentralised approach.

+ Additional workshop  
 Cost-Benefit Analysis

Cost-benefit analysis is one of the crucial tools of successful project appraisals. Due to this fact we offer you a workshop on cost-benefit analysis on the third day of the conference. Based on practical examples from the British Government and the European Commission (DG Regio), our two experienced speakers show ways of how to perform cost-benefit analysis applicable to your projects.

K-65 / S-129

K-70

European conference:  
**Financing Innovative Small and  
 Medium Sized Enterprises**  
 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008, Berlin

Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) constitute the basis of the European economy. They play a remarkable role for regional adjustment to the economic globalisation and for innovation, economic growth and employment within the EU. Thus they contribute substantially towards the fulfilment of the Lisbon Agenda.

S-98

Practical workshop:  
**EU Funds combined with PPP  
 Projects**  
 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008, Berlin

In search for the suitable financing of projects of public interest it is important to find the balance between public grants and private finance. Public Private Partnerships have demonstrated a great capacity in providing public services. The Commission of the European Union, longtime resistant to cofinance PPP projects, now encourages a wider use of PPP structures within the European Union.



[More events in English language](#)



[More events in German language](#)

## March 2009

K-71

4<sup>th</sup> European Annual Symposium:  
**EU Funds 2009  
 Management, Monitoring and  
 Financial Control: ERDF, ESF,  
 CF, EAFRD, EFF**  
 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009, Berlin

The "4<sup>th</sup> European Annual Symposium: EU Funds 2009" addresses the key issues of the sound management of EU Funds. Besides strategic discussions, there will be enough room for lectures addressing the working level in the Member States concerning evaluation, monitoring and financial control.

„Great event with hundreds of colleagues from all across Europe and all institutions involved.“

Auditor, Financial Audit Service, Ministry of  
 Finance, The Netherlands

# There is so Much More to Successful Communication than Issuing Media Releases

by Clare Morgan

Successful communication – including that of a Structural Fund Programme – depends on so much more than the issue of media releases. The careful and deliberate approach to communication is vital to long-term success. In the case of the Objective One Programme for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly this has included the following set of activities:

**Methodology** – the approach of the Objective One Partnership has always been to work through the media rather than buying advertorial. Although challenging at times it does mean that the result – the story of the delivery and the impact of the Programme being run through third party media (Newspapers, radio, TV, etc) rather than paid for advertisements - is much more likely to be credible to the general public.

Establishing the brand values for the Programme – ie the purpose, the behaviour and therefore the organising principles that the Programme wants to be known for. In the case of the Objective One Programme these were identified as investment in economic regeneration for the long term, across all four funds (ERDF, ESF, EAGGF, FIG) and being open, factual and timely about programme performance.

„The careful and deliberate approach to communication is vital to long-term success.“

Establishing the key messages for the Programme – these have provided the bedrock for communication over the lifetime of the Programme – both the context in which to celebrate success and the framework in which to manage and respond to negativity and failure. The value of these core messages were strengthened though working with Partners in their development, helping ensure their ownership, and thereby helping reinforce their use across the Partnership.

In a similar reciprocal manner the Partnership Office helps reinforce the message of Partners, where appropriate to the mission of the Programme, by offering quotes and briefing for the media releases of those Partners.

**Presentation of the Programme** – rather than present the delivery and impact of the Programme by fund or the structure of the Single Programming Document we have organised the projects into 10 different groups that are more easily understandable for our various audience who are more interested in evidence of delivery and impact than the technicalities of the European Programme. Important though these are, they are not key to communication aside from ensuring that the role of the different funds and of the European Union are highlighted. By the end of the programme we had over 850 projects classified into 10 clusters – each project only appearing once.

We have also used these clusters to monitor and review our work with the media. We have classified all the media coverage – positive / negative / neutral – and as a result monitor how the Programme is being perceived at any one time and adjust the

## ABOUT CLARE MORGAN

*Clare Morgan is Media Relations Manager, Partnership Office for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, United Kingdom. She has an extensive background in journalism ranging from newspaper to television. She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations and has experience in public sector public relations.*

[www.objectiveone.com](http://www.objectiveone.com)  
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Learn more at the advanced workshop:  
**Communication Plans for EU Funds**  
 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008, Berlin, Germany

communication output of the Partnership Office eg to ensure that all parts of the Programme are receiving appropriate coverage and where there has been negative coverage to provide explanatory briefings and stories. In addition we have also produced media releases on the integration of the cross cutting themes into projects and therefore monitored the media coverage of the environment and equal opportunities issues in the Programme. This monitoring has allowed us to focus and refocus the communication activity of the Partnership Office depending on the needs of the Programme.

As well as issuing our releases to the media every week we also email them, together with relevant media releases from partner organisations to people within the partnership – thereby ensuring the maximum visibility of Programme activity.

to be continued on page 9

# There is so Much More to Successful Communication than Issuing Media Releases

by Clare Morgan

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Publications – as well as working extensively with the media the Partnership Office has also produced its own publications about the Programme – initially these were about the ambitions for the Programme but as the Programme delivery matured they became more focused on the stories of individual people and businesses. With that came many requests to be featured in the publications – providing us with a wider choice of stories from which to choose and a validation of their value in communicating the Programme.

Good Quality Photographs – as the proverb says ‘a picture is worth a 1000 words’. Good quality photographs have been a vital ingredient to much of our communication work including press releases, publications, the website and presentations.

Celebration Events – events to celebrate the success of individuals and organisations in the delivery of the Programme are important communication activities in themselves and can also offer the platform for media coverage as well.

Our website – all of our communication activity has been brought together on our website – project an-

nouncements, press releases and publications. In the later stages of the programme we have been able to add to this material by adding case studies for individual people and businesses - illustrating the direct impact of the Programme. We have also added details of awards won by Programme projects, reports commissioned by the Programme and examples of the delivery of the cross cutting themes. We intend to freeze the website as a corporate memory of the Programme and all its economic activity – the regeneration footprint left by the Programme.

Did this communication activity result in a trusted message? – The answer to this important question is best summed up in feedback from an evaluation study that was done on the communication activity of the Partnership Office where one of the professionals in the media summed up the consensus view as:

**‘We might not like what you tell us but we do believe that you are telling us the truth.’**

Much of the communication outputs of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Objective One Partnership Office can be viewed on the website [www.objectiveone.com](http://www.objectiveone.com)

The role of the Objective One Partnership Office for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly 2000-2006

The Partnership Office was set up with Objective One Technical Assistance funding and 13 different match funders to undertake a number of distinct activities on behalf of the Partnership for the life time of the Programme – it is not a legal entity in its own right. Its key tasks were to act as:

- Public portal for the Programme – freephone number
- Link with the private sector
- Strategic partnerships
- Expertise on the environment and equal opportunities cross cutting themes
- Communication of the Programme

# Environmental Project Financing for European SMEs

by Ingrid Ciabatti

The EU Financial Perspective 2007-2013 has opened new possibilities for environmental project financing to SMEs. These funding opportunities are either directly targeted towards the environment – it is the case of the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+) - or integrated into other major funding areas:

- Regional policy (Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund);
- Rural development (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development);
- Fisheries (European Fisheries Fund);
- Transport (Marco Polo II Programme);
- Research (7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme FP7);
- Enterprise (Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme - CIP).

This list is not exhaustive: according to the features of the environmental project, other funding possibilities for SMEs are available through:

- external financing instruments;
- education and training programmes;
- loan financing.

It is therefore important to assess the funding possibilities for environmental projects in the different policy areas and instruments. Co-funding is the general rule: the support of the EU usually consists of subsidies which only cover part of the costs of a project.

Among the different assistance schemes available to SMEs, the next paragraphs address three thematic funding opportunities designed and implemented by the EC: FP7, LIFE+ and CIP.

## FP7

The 7th Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities aims to contribute to the Union becoming the world's leading research area. FP7 pays special attention to the SMEs through its different Specific Programmes:

- "Cooperation" (total budget: €32.4 billion) supports collaborative research across Europe and other partner countries through projects realised by trans-national

consortia of industry and academia in ten key thematic areas, which include:

1. "Environment (including Climate Change)", with a total budget of €1890 million;
  2. "Energy" (€2350 million). At least 15% of the funding available under "Cooperation" goes to SMEs.
- "Ideas" (€7.5 billion) supports investigator-driven "frontier" research carried out across all fields by individual teams (either national or trans-national) in competition at European level. Just like any other organisation, research teams from SMEs can compete on the basis of excellence.
  - "People" (€4.7 billion) supports actions for researcher mobility and career development. These actions are open to all areas of research and technological development and can be freely chosen. SME participation is strongly encouraged through the "Industry-academia partnerships and pathways" (IAPP) scheme.
  - "Capacities" (€4.1 billion) provides financial support aimed at SMEs or SME associations in need of outsourcing research to research services providers through 2 distinct schemes: "Research for SMEs" and "Research for SME Associations". Both schemes follow a bottom-up approach, meaning that they can be carried out in the entire field of science and technology.

## LIFE+ Programme

LIFE+ provides specific support for developing and implementing the Community environmental policy and legislation. It is divided into three strands:

- Nature and Biodiversity;
- Environment Policy and Governance;
- Information and Communication;

with a total budget is of €2.1 billion. SMEs registered in the EU are eligible participants.

LIFE+ aims to bridge the gap between research and development results and widespread implementation, and to improve innovative solutions with a public dimension. The proposals should be driven by the desire to seek environmental solutions or measures with a public dimension or which are aimed

at whole sector rather than individual enterprises.

## CIP

CIP aims to contribute to the Lisbon strategy for Growth and Jobs:

- by supporting the improvement of the business environment;
- by enhancing competitiveness of European companies, particularly SMEs; in the framework of a sustainable development.

For what concerns environment and energy, the CIP comprises:

- an Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP), with an eco-innovation part, to which circa €430 million has been allocated. Support is given to market-oriented activities related to the take up of environmental technologies and eco-innovative activities by enterprises, as well as promotion of new or integrated approaches to eco-innovation, such as environmental management, environmentally friendly design of products, processes and services;
- an Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE), with a budget of €727 million. IEE includes actions to increase the uptake and demand for energy efficiency, to promote renewable energy sources and energy diversification, and to stimulate the diversification of fuels and energy efficiency in transport.

## Conclusions

Given the wide range of EU support programmes open to SMEs, each company can find a suitable funding option for its environmental project.



Further information is available on the European portal for SMEs



Ingrid Ciabatti is speaker at the European conference:

**Financing Innovative Small and Medium Sized Enterprises**

24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008, Berlin, Germany

## Personnel

### COMPOSITION OF THE CHAMBERS AND ATTACHMENT OF THE JUDGES TO CHAMBERS

For the period from 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2011, the Tribunal elected as Presidents of Chambers Judges **H. KANNINEN** and **S. GERVASONI** and **P. MAHONEY** President of the Tribunal. The Tribunal attached the Judges to the Chambers as follows:

#### First Chamber

S. GERVASONI, President of Chamber, H. KREPPPEL and H. TAGARAS, Judges,

#### Second Chamber

H. KANNINEN, President of Chamber, I. BORUTA and S. VAN RAEPENBUSCH, Judges,

#### Third Chamber

P. MAHONEY, President of the Tribunal. In the Third Chamber, the President will sit, alternately, either with Judges I. BORUTA and H. TAGARAS or with Judges H. KREPPPEL and S. VAN RAEPENBUSCH, subject always to connections between cases.



#### MARIO SEPI

EESC elects Mario Sepi as new President for the 2008-2010 mandate. The new President is Mr Mario Sepi, Italy,

from the EESC's Employees' Group. As the newly elected President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Mr. Sepi declared „rights and solidarity to guide globalisation“ as the key theme of his mandate. Mr. Sepi, who became an EESC member in 1995, has a long background as an active trade unionist, both in Italy and at the European level. One of his key opinions for the Committee concerned trends, structures and the institutional mechanisms of the international capital markets. He has also written important opinions on competition policy, European industrial policy and monetary union and the Lisbon strategy. The main priorities of his presidency will be the new Lisbon strategy after 2010 and affirming the rules of the new European Treaty, which proposes more rights and more

participation for civil society. The key element of Mr Sepi's programme is to consolidate the European social model also as a tool for competitiveness. The result of the vote: yes: 177, no: 2, abstentions: 7.



#### IRINI PARI

Irini PARI, Greece, from the EESC's employers' group, is now one of the two new EESC's Vice-Presidents and will be responsible for communication. She has been a member of the EESC since 1998. She is a former vice-president of the Employers Group and a former member of the Social Section of the Committee, always supporting European integration and consensus building. Ms PARI has been the Permanent Delegate of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises in Brussels since 1995 and a member of the European Social Dialogue Committee. She has worked as an advisor to the European Commission, for both the Secretariat-General and the Directorate-General for Competition. Born in Kinshasa, Ms PARI is married with two children. She studied Political Science and International Relations at the University of Panteion in Athens and European Studies at the Institut d'Etudes Européennes at the ULB in Brussels. The result of the vote: yes: 178, no: 0, abstentions: 8.



#### SEPPO KALLIO

Seppo KALLIO, Finland from the Committee's Various Interests Group, is one of the two new Vice Presidents and

will be responsible for budgetary matters. He has been a member of the EESC since 1995. He is president of the EESC's Farmers' Category. In Finland, he is Director for International Affairs of the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest owners (MTK). He has been a member of the Finnish Governmental Development Policy Committee since 2004, Political Secretary to the Finnish Minister of Agriculture and Forestry (1991-1994) and also Vice-President of the European Movement in Finland. He was

Vice-President (1986-1991) of the Finnish Committee for Economic Development Policy. Born in Koski, Finland, Mr Kallio is married with two children. He studied Agricultural Economics at Helsinki University. The result of the vote: yes: 177, no: 5, abstentions 6.

#### BARONESS CATHERINE MARGARET ASHTON OF UPHOLLAND

has been appointed member of the Commission for the period from 6 October 2008 to 31 October 2009, following the resignation of Mr. Peter MANDELSON.

#### LÉON KIRSCH

Head of Division, Structural Funds – Financial Audit, European Court of Auditors

Léon Kirsch has worked in different positions for the European Court of Auditors since 1978. He has worked for the Member's Cabinet and as an Auditor. After six years being Head of Division in charge of the audit of own resources, he was responsible for agricultural expenditure for eight years. Since September 2008 he is in charge of auditing Structural Funds. Léon Kirsch is a frequent speaker at international conferences and seminars. Furthermore, he has been Lecturer and Professor at University Centre in Luxembourg for many years.



Léon Kirsch is speaker at the 4<sup>th</sup> European Annual Symposium:

**EU Funds 2009**

16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009, Berlin, Germany

#### VACANCY NOTICE

### EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS POST OF SECRETARY GENERAL

The European Court of Auditors offers the position of Secretary General of the European Court of Auditors. The Secretary General is the most senior manager in the Court and is accountable directly to the Court.



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