

LISBON TREATY – THE IRISH, THEY SAY YES!

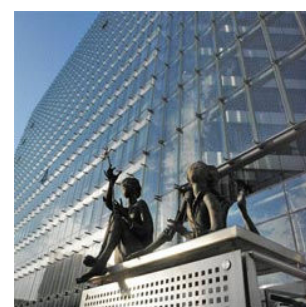


On 2 October 2009, the citizens of Ireland voted in a second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty, with results showing that 67.1% voted in favour of the Treaty and 32.9% voted against it, an increase of 20% for the "Yes" campaign. The Polish President, Lech Kaczyński, who was waiting for the result of the Irish vote, is expected to give his approval on the Lisbon Treaty in the coming days. The main pressure from the other EU Member States is now on Czech President, Václav Klaus, to ratify the Treaty, although Klaus claims to be waiting for a ruling on a constitutional complaint from 17 senators against the Treaty. This will be followed

by an EU summit in Brussels on 29 October 2009. The Lisbon Treaty give national parliament more power and strengthens the idea of 'territorial cohesion', which is broadly about balanced economic development.

BARROSO RETAINS COMMISSION PRESIDENCY

The European Parliament, meeting in Strasbourg, re-elected Jose Manuel Barroso as President of the European Commission. Mr. Barroso, who was the only candidate, will serve until 2014. He received support from the 27 Heads of State of the EU Member States in July 2009, but the MEPs had the final say in his re-election, voting with 382 in favour, 219 against and 117 abstentions. Mr. Barroso's programme for his five-year term includes: amending the Posted Workers Directive; 'improving' social policy; a new charter for equal pay for women and men; and the creation of new commissioners' portfolios (justice, civil rights and minorities, home affairs security and immigration, and climate change).



EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions



UK NOMINATIONS TO COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

On 17 September 2009, the English nominations to the new Committee of the Regions (CoR) for the period 2010-2014 were presented to the Local Government Association (LGA), which is responsible for nominating 30 English CoR seats. The list will be adopted in Brussels before the end of the year. New members will take their seats in January 2010. The main nominee for Greater Manchester is Cllr Neil Swannick (Manchester CC). Cllr Flo Clucas, from Merseyside will be the other permanent member from the North West of England.

OLDHAM SHORTLISTED FOR PUBLIC SECTOR AWARD



Oldham Partnership, which brings together the council, police, health services, local businesses, and voluntary and community organisations, to improve the way of life in Oldham, has been short-listed for a European Public Sector Award (EPSA). It is one of 28 organisations from over 300 entries from 27 countries to have been nominated. Under Theme III: New Forms of Partnership Working, Oldham has noted such achievements as a significant reduction in teenage pregnancies and youth unemployment, as well as increased support for people to access education, training and independent living. Award-winners will be announced in Maastricht (Netherlands) on 4-6 November 2009.

BUILDING NEW URBAN IDENTITIES



NeT-TOPIC

The Salford City Council and Urban Vision, partners in NeT-TOPIC (a thematic network within URBACT II, a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development) are organising an international seminar on 21 October 2009. The seminar, under the title "Building New Urban Identities: From Monofunctional to Multifunctional Cities", focuses on the development and consolidation of identity for cities on the periphery of major urban centres. NeT-TOPIC considers the common physical, social and economic challenges faced by the 8 peripheral cities involved in the network and how effective planning and regeneration can provide them with a clear identity (by attracting investment and improving social conditions).

OTHER OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – ERASMUS PROGRAMME WITH LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Call for projects developing partnerships between EU and Latin American higher education institutions. Total budget is €12.7m. **Deadline: 15 October 2009.**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – EUROPE FOR CITIZENS - ACTIVE CIVIL SOCIETY FOR EUROPE (ACTION 2)

Call for proposals to bridge the gap between citizens and the EU, based on four actions: active citizens for Europe (town twinning, citizens' projects and support measures); active civil society in Europe; Together for Europe (high visibility events, studies, surveys etc.); Active European Remembrance (preservation of the main sites and archives etc.). Total budget is €8.2 million. **Deadline: 15 October 2009.**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – LIFE + (2007-2013)

Call for proposals for the European financial instrument for the environment, to provide support for the development and implementation of Community environmental policy and legislation. Projects are in the areas of LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity; LIFE+ Environmental Policy and Governance; LIFE+ Information and Communication. Total budget is €250 million. **Deadline: 15 October 2009.**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – YOUTH IN ACTION

Call for proposals under the EU Programme for young people aged 15-28. It aims to inspire a sense of active citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in shaping the Union's future. Calls under actions 1 (Youth for Europe), 2 (European Voluntary Service); 3.1 (Cooperation with the neighbouring countries of the EU); 4.3 (Training and networking of those active in youth work and youth organisations); 5.1 (meetings of young people and those responsible for youth policy). **Deadline: 1 November 2009.**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – SAFER INTERNET PROGRAMME

Call for projects to develop a safer internet based on four actions: ensuring public awareness; fighting illegal content and tackling harmful online conduct; promoting a safer online environment and establishing a knowledge base. **Deadline: 19 November 2009.**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – YOUTH IN ACTION

The call aims to support various partnerships (transnational youth exchanges, national or transnational youth initiatives, European voluntary service, training and networking) between the European Commission and those organisations which aim to develop their long-term actions and programmes in the field of non-formal learning and youth. The call is open to local or regional bodies and non-profit organisations active at European. Total budget is €1.2m. **Deadline: 1 December 2009.**

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