

News in the EU

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EU Air Safety List

The European Commission has recently updated the list of air carriers subject to operating bans or restrictions within the European Union, known as the 'EU Air Safety List'. This decision has been made by a unanimous vote of the Air Safety Committee, representing 27 EU Member states as well as Croatia, Norway, Iceland and Switzerland.

The EU Air Safety List is in constant review to make sure all air carriers, operating in the European Union are safe. To see the list, please visit: www.ec.europa.eu/transport/air-ban/.



European Public Procurement

A new legislation has been proposed by the European Commission to give European companies the same opportunities to the same benefits as global market competitors have in Europe. It has become clear that European companies can only bid to supply goods or services in certain countries, whereas companies from anywhere in the world can bid on the majority of contracts presented by public authorities across the EU.

The Commission is proposing that public authorities can choose to exclude tenderers from non-EU countries if the contract is worth more than €5 million and when a large share of the goods or services concerned are not covered by international agreements.

For more information, please visit: www.ec.europa.eu/news/economy.

Cybersafety

It has become clear that more and more threats to online safety have been made and around 1 million people are victims of computer crime everyday. These crimes include identity theft, credit card scams, sexual exploitation of children etc. These crimes often go unnoticed and unpunished. Around 600,000 Facebook accounts need blocking everyday due to hacking attempts. Plans have been discussed by the European Commission and The European Cybercrime Centre to warn EU countries of safety threats as well as alert them to the weaknesses in their online defences. They will also provide support and advice during investigations by using information from the public domain, industry, the police and academia to assist the investigations.

As the European Cybercrime Centre is a pan-European organisation, threats to security are passed on quickly across the countries in the EU to avoid the threats to internet safety to be linked to other EU countries.



For more information, please visit: www.ec.europa.eu.

ACTA

ACTA is an international trade agreement between countries, established to tackle large-scale Intellectual Property Rights violations. With this legislation Europe's ideas and innovations will be protected, which will in turn protect European jobs.

This doesn't mean that with the enforcement of ACTA the internet, private laptops or smart phones will be monitored or checked at borders and doesn't directly affect individual citizens. With ACTA, both data protection and protection of intellectual property are recognised as one of the fundamental rights of an EU citizen by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

For more information, please visit: www.ec.europa.eu/trade/tackling-unfair-trade/acta.

Registering a car in another EU country

Each year citizens and companies have to move 3.5 million vehicles from one country in the EU to another as well as register them in that country according to the national legislation. It has become obvious that the process is not as clear and simple as it seems. The procedure is lengthy and complicated and takes up to 5 weeks and costs €400 on average to complete the process, due to the variety of rules and conflicting requirements in different member states. Due to this the European Commission is acting upon shortening the administrative process as well as making it less expensive and saving citizens and businesses around € 1.5 billion per year.

For more information, please visit: www.ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/single-market-goods/motor-vehicle-registration/.

What has Europe Direct Wrexham been up to?

Workshops with Year 10 in St Joseph's High School

Between the months of January and June, Europe Direct Wrexham has been holding workshops with Year 10 pupils in St Joseph's High School.

As this particular year group has already benefitted from Europe Direct session about Europe and the EU last year, these sessions included a refresher session on the same topic.

Year 10 pupils had to get creative and decorate a plain, cotton, shopper bag with acrylic paints in a European theme to show how much they have learnt about Europe and the EU from the sessions provided.

To inspire them, they were given European publications which contain many images and facts about Europe and the EU.



Circus Skills at Gwersyllt Resource Centre -

Europe Direct attended a busy event at the Gwersyllt Resource Centre in April. Children took part in making Easter crafts and practicing their circus skills. The event was very well attended and Europe Direct Wrexham information stand was very busy, which gave great opportunity to make parents aware of the vast amount of children's literature available from Europe Direct to aid children in learning about Europe and the EU in their school studies - free of charge!

European Day at Darland High School

Europe Direct Wrexham was invited to hold a full day of European workshops at Darland High School. The workshop involved an interactive presentation about Europe and the EU followed by a group quiz with prizes. Pupils also had the chance to win extra prizes at the end of the session by naming flags from different European countries.

Year 10 pupils also had the chance to visit other workshops such as further education advice from a representative from John Moores University, Liverpool, an Architect as well as Siân Coathup from WJEC.

Rhosnesni High School - We are the World!

Europe Direct Wrexham has recently been invited to attend a full day of activities at Rhosnesni High school. The centre delivered workshops to year 7 pupils consisting of a presentation on Europe and the EU and a quiz with prizes for the winning team.

Throughout the session the pupils also had the chance to earn points for their teams by answering - questions about Europe and the EU. -



Other workshops during the day included Thai cooking, - Falconry, Samba, African Drumming and Japanese - Origami. -

Bookstart Celebration Day at Tŷ Mawr

Europe Direct Wrexham attended a 20th anniversary celebration of Bookstart, an initiative to get children involved in reading books from an early age. To celebrate, local children's librarians organised a day of fun activities at Tŷ Mawr Country Park where children under five years old were able to make party hats and party bags, listen to some stories, and celebrate the Bookstart bear's 20th Birthday.



Europe Direct Wrexham was on hand to speak to the parents and offer

them free European publications such as storybooks, colouring books and sticker books free of charge for kids to enjoy when at home. Other information provided included information about travelling in Europe and citizen's rights across the EU.



Llangollen International Eisteddfod 2012

Europe Direct Wrexham in collaboration with Europe Direct Llangollen and Enterprise Europe Network attended the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen. The European Commission/Europe Direct stand consisted of an adult



Routes into Languages - Wales, Europe and the World 2012

Europe Direct Wrexham and Europe Direct Llangollen attended a Routes into Languages event where young people from across North Wales were invited to attend a Language Day at Bangor University. Routes into Languages initiative organised a Language information day where young people were informed about ways in which they can learn languages and how they can use these languages in establishing their career in the future. Europe Direct centres discussed the opportunities available through the 'Erasmus for all' programme in the EU.



seating area where people could take the weight off their feet and have a read of European publications. Children could attempt European

quizzes, designing flags, and playing a magnetic flag game as well as pick up free European sticker books, storybooks and maps.



Yale Refresher Fair

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) in Yale College Wrexham organised a 'Refresher' day for the staff within the college in July. Here they were reminded of organisations and services that are available to them to aid them in delivering



lectures. Organisations which attended - Victim support, CAIS, AVOW, Public Health Wales, EBSCO Welsh Government and many more. Europe Direct was present with a variety of publications which would aid tutors in delivering the Welsh Bacallaureate qualification within the college.

Future Events

- European Day of Languages 2012 - September
- Europe Day 2012 - What's in it for us? - October
- Ignite Your Business - October
- Europe Day Pub Quiz - September
- European year for Active Ageing and Solidarity Between Ages Fair - August/September

Your rights as an EU Citizen

An EU citizen is someone who holds the nationality of any EU country. EU Citizenship is additional and does not replace it. As EU citizens we have many rights which are listed below. A citizen of the European Union is entitled to certain rights which other people in other places in the world are perhaps not.

Right to Free Movement

One of the most visible advantages of EU citizenship is the right to free movement across the European Union. Over 10 million EU citizens take advantage of this right for work and business related travels, tourism, studying or living purpose.

Family Life & Education

You have the right to reconcile family life and professional life as well as have the right to obtain education for yourself and your family.

Living

Every EU citizen has the right to reside in another EU country for a period of up to three months without any conditions or formalities. After three months you must meet some conditions:

- have comprehensive sickness insurance cover
- ensure you have sufficient resources for yourself and not to become a burden on the host EU country's social assistance system during your residence

After 5 years of continuous legal residence in the host EU country, you are entitled to reside there on a permanent basis.

Vote & Candidate

Every EU citizen has the right to vote or stand as candidate in elections for the European Parliament and in municipal elections held in the country you reside in.

Protection

As an EU citizen you have the right to protection by the diplomatic or consular authorities of any EU country in a country outside of the EU.

Petitions

EU citizens have the right to petition the European Parliament as well as apply to the Ombudsman and to write to any of the EU institutional bodies.

Shopping

As an EU participant you have the right to buy goods online in any European country to widen your choice and look at online markets beyond your own country.

Non-discrimination rights

The European Union ensures that all who live in the member states have basic non discriminatory rights which covers not only nationality but also gender, race, religion, age and sexual orientation.

Health care & social security

EU citizens have the right to health care and social security when residing in other EU member states, however, depending on your employment situation.

For more information on your rights as an EU citizen please visit www.europa.eu/youreurope; or contact Europe Direct Wrexham to request your free copy of 'Your Rights as an EU Citizen - Freedom to Move and Live in Europe'. Contact details are on page 6.

Kids' Corner

The European Commission has developed a new and improved version of a kids' corner website, where children can learn more about Europe.

Here children will have hours of fun finding out about different countries in Europe, their flags and history as well as learning about the

Eurozone and children's rights across the EU by playing the huge variety of interactive games and quizzes.

This website is great for homework assignments as well as for learning about European topics or just for fun!

For more information, please visit: www.europa.eu/kids-corner.



ECHO - European Community Humanitarian Office

Today, the EU is the world's biggest humanitarian aid donor, providing 50% of aid worldwide. European Community Humanitarian Office was created in 1992 as an expression of the European Union's solidarity with people around the world and it eventually became a Directorate-General (DG) in the European Commission in 2004. In 2010 Kristalina Georgieva was appointed the first dedicated Commissioner for internal cooperation, humanitarian aid and crisis response.

The European Commission publishes an annual report which reviews where operations were carried out and to which events ECHO has responded.

This year ECHO celebrates 20 years of helping people in need all around the world. By visiting their website you can see year by year where ECHO has helped in the past.

You can find out more about work of ECHO as well as opportunities to volunteer for the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps by visiting: www.ec.europa.eu/echo/.

European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

The EESC contributes to strengthening the democratic legitimacy and effectiveness of the European Union. It enables civil societies and other organisations to express their views at the European level. This ensures that legislations proposed by the European Union are linked in with the social and civic circumstances at ground level in the EU and in this way assists the European Parliament, European Commission and the Council to secure consensus of serving the general interest in decision making.



European Economic and Social Committee

The EESC was set up in 1957 by the Rome Treaties to involve economic and social interest groups, to establish an institutional machinery to advise the European Commission and the Council of Ministers on European Union issues.

The European Economic and Social Committee consists of 334 members who represent the social and economic groups in Europe and are nominated by national governments and then appointed by the Council of the European Union on a 5-year, renewable term of office.

For more information, please visit: www.eesc.europa.eu/.

eYou Guide

This is a European Commission guide to using the internet safely and lawfully. It also features information about your rights online.

It offers a vast range of valuable information about topics such as blogging, consumer advice, terms and conditions while purchasing online. Other topics include social networking, downloading various content online and file sharing, protecting minors, credit card use online and much more.

For more information, please visit: www.ec.europa.eu/information_society/eyouguide/.

Eurostat



Eurostat is the official statistical office of the European Union. It is situated in Luxembourg and its main task is to provide the EU with statistical data to enable comparison between member states.

It was established in 1953 to meet the demands of statistical data for the European Coal and Steel Community. When in the European Community was founded in 1958, Eurostat expanded and started to deliver statistics to the European Commission and other EU institutions and it then became a Directorate-General (DG) of the European Commission. With statistics, EU institutions are able to analyse and implement community policies.

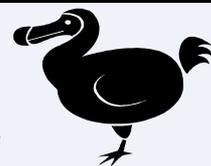
Now, Eurostat offers a wide range of comparable statistical data on many different topics to governments, businesses, education sector and the general public to use in daily life and work. Statistical data is also published on the Eurostat website which can be accessed by anyone.

For more information, please visit: www.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu.

The highest bridge in the world is the Millau Viaduct in France, which is 245 meters tall.



The Dodo, a flightless bird which once lived on an island in the Indian Ocean, was driven to extinction by European Colonists.



Democracy was introduced by Athens - this invention has spread around the whole world.

"Airbus" is a European Aerospace Company that produces more than half of the world's jet airliners. Different parts of the plane are made in several different EU countries.

Railways were invented in England by George Stephenson, who introduced the first passenger train in 1825. His locomotive was called "The Rocket". It reached speeds of more than 40 km/h, which was really fast for those days. Today's trains reach speeds up to 330km/h.

Italians invented the eyeglasses.



The languages which are spoken in Europe mostly belong to three language groups: Germanic, Slavic & Romance.

The Olympic Games were invented by the Greeks.



Did you know? Facts about Europe and the European Union

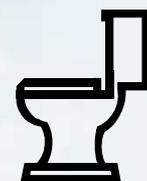
The Romans gave us good, straight roads, strong bridges, new building materials like cement & concrete and great writers like Cicero and Virgil.

In 1612, Europeans invented the thermoscope, a precursor to a thermometer, invented by Santorio Santorio (Italy), Gabriel Fahrenheit (Germany) & Andreas Celsius (Sweden).



Penicillin was invented in Europe by Sir Alexander Flemming (Scotland), Howard Florey (Australia) & Ernst Boris Chain (Germany).

Sir John Harrington (England) invented the flushing toilet, Alexander Cummings (Scotland) had the first patent on the design of a flushing toilet.



Karl von Drais (Germany) invented the "Laufmaschine" - running machine, an early type of bicycle.



Questions about the EU? Europe Direct can help!



If you are looking for advice on moving to another EU country, living abroad or on any EU topic, why not visit your nearest Europe Direct Centre to find out more Information? Alternatively you can call Europe Direct helpline in the Europe Direct

Contact centre on **00 800 67 89 10 11**.

You can call this number free from most phones during weekdays (9:00-18:00 CET) from anywhere in the EU, in any official EU language.



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