

French President Sarkozy's visit to Ireland

French President Sarkozy in its role as chair of the European Council on Monday this week travelled to Dublin to discuss options following the Irish rejection of the Lisbon treaty. According to euobserver Sarkozy has proposed to the Irish prime minister Brian Cowen, Ireland to hold a second referendum on the same day as the elections for the European Parliament next June. Sarkozy seems to expect the treaty being adopted in a second referendum if

- it involves a guarantee that one Commissioner for each member state would be kept
- non –legally-binding declarations e.g. on abortions would be added to the Treaty

According to euractiv Sarkozy in Ireland denied ever having asked the Irish to vote again. Sarkozy also met the opposition leaders, representatives from various No-campaign groups and some campaigners from the yes side.

Italy's senate unanimously supported the Lisbon treaty on Wednesday July 23. The lower house is expected to ratify it next week. Sweden and the Czech Republic will to vote on the text after the summer break.

Find the Irish government press release on

<http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/index.asp?locID=584&docID=3972>

Read articles on Sarkozy's visit to Ireland on <http://euobserver.com/9/26522/?rk=1> and <http://www.euractiv.com/en/future-eu/sarkozy-denies-asking-second-irish-vote/article-174393>

Read about Italy's ratification on <http://euobserver.com/9/26533/?rk=1>

Barroso ready for second term as Commission president

European Commission president Barroso in an interview said that if he had to decide now about a second term, he would be ready to stand. Should the Lisbon Treaty come into force before the new Commission is set up in autumn 2009, the results of the European elections need to be taken into account when proposing and deciding on a Commission president.

Read more on <http://euobserver.com/843/26513>

Access to documents: Court authorises access to legal advice given to the Council – Turco case

"The transparency of the legislative process and the strengthening of the democratic rights of European citizens are capable of constituting an overriding public interest which justifies the disclosure of legal advice (...). The Court takes the view that disclosure of documents containing the advice of an institution's legal service on legal questions arising when legislative initiatives are being debated increases transparency and strengthens the democratic right of European citizens to scrutinise the information which has formed the basis of a legislative act." (Court press release)

Find the Courts press release on

<http://curia.europa.eu/en/actu/communiques/cp08/aff/cp080043en.pdf>

Find the judgment on

<http://curia.europa.eu/jurisp/cgi-bin/form.pl?lang=EN&Submit=rechercher&numaff=C-39/05>

Right balance between public access to document and data protection needs to be secured, says data protection supervisor

In his opinion on the Commission's proposal aimed at reviewing the rules on public access to documents the European data protection supervisor says, that "he feels that the substance of the proposed amendment (on protection of personal data) fails to provide the appropriate answer concerning the "delicate interaction between public access and data protection". He outlines the following points

- insufficient balance between the fundamental rights at stake: the Commission "approach may respect the right to data protection, but not the right to public access"
- failure to reflect the European Court case law
- lack of practical viability

Read the press release on

http://www.edps.europa.eu/EDPSWEB/webdav/site/mySite/shared/Documents/EDPS/PressNews/Press/2008/EDPS-2008-08-EN_Transparency.pdf

Find the opinion on

http://www.edps.europa.eu/EDPSWEB/webdav/site/mySite/shared/Documents/Consultation/Opinions/2008/08-06-30_access_documents_EN.pdf

Civil dialogue in the EU member states

The European Think Tank Pour La Solidarité in its latest newsletter presents the outcomes of the project "Fostering Civil Dialogue in Europe – Mutual Learning between Civil Society Organisations from Older, Recent and New Member States".

Have a look at

- [Recommendations to foster Civil Dialogue](#)
- [European guide to Civil Dialogue](#)
- the [minutes](#) of the conference "How to foster Civil Dialogue in Europe?", May 15th 2008

Find information about the legal framework for non-profit organisations in the EU member states and a mapping of national agreements between governments and the non-profit sector on

http://www.cedag-eu.org/cedag/index.php?page=austria-3&hl=en_US

Final texts of the Agora on climate change

Available on

<http://forum.agora.europarl.europa.eu/jiveforums/category.jspa?categoryID=25>