

Dear all

Find some weekly news below.

Feel free to use them for your own newsletters!

Kind regards,

Regula

68% of citizens believe that their vote in the European elections 2009 will not change anything

Eurobarometer published an interesting report on EU citizens' awareness and opinion about the European elections 2009. It includes among many others the following results:

- 75% of the respondents did not know the year of the next European elections
- 16% of respondents knew that the European elections will take place in 2009, that is 6% more than six months ago
- 46% of respondents said they were interested in the European elections against 51% who say they were not interested
- 30% of respondents say that they will definitely vote, while 14% say that they will definitely not vote
- Asked about the reasons for not voting 60% said they did not know enough about the European Parliament's role and 68% feel that their vote will not change anything

Find lots of other interesting results and differentiation of the above responses on the basis of gender, age and education in the Eurobarometer report

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_299_en.pdf

Council not willing to work with European Parliament on common lobbying regulation

The European Parliament before summer decided to set up an inter-institutional working group composed of representatives from the European Parliament, the European Commission and member states to develop a common system of registering lobbyists. In reply to a letter by the European Parliament's president Hans-Gert Pöttering, the Council has now refused to participate in the joint working group implying that the Council is less concerned by the issue. This statement was judged unacceptable by Monica Frassoni, leader of the Greens in the European Parliament and transparency campaigner.

Read an article on <http://www.theparliament.com/latestnews/news-article/newsarticle/call-for-joint-eu-action-on-lobbyists-suffers-setback/>

The Lisbon Treaty – a Culture Action Europe perspective

Culture Action Europe, Civil Society Contact Group member, in its latest newsletter discusses the perspectives of the Lisbon Treaty after the No in Ireland. The article includes an analysis of the most important changes the Lisbon Treaty would bring for the cultural sector. Among them are:

- decision making in culture would be treated under Qualified Majority Voting (QMV) as opposed to the current unanimous vote.
- The section named “Categories and areas of the Union’s competence” lists various areas in which the EU can take action: culture is one of them.
- Article 167 strengthens the role of the European Parliament in the decision process concerning cultural matters.
- Article 256 a, §2 on the Economic and Social Committee, for the first time mentions cultural organisations as part of civil society.

Read the entire article on <http://www.cultureactioneurope.org/newsletter/culture-action-europe-newsletter-2-full-version?lang=en>

Financing of Irish campaign against Lisbon Treaty under scrutiny

After allegations saying that the Irish campaign against the Lisbon Treaty received funding from US agencies, the European Parliament Conference of Presidents this week asked the European Parliament delegation to the US to discuss with the US Congress these accusations. The Irish Standards in Public Office Commission (SIPO) will investigate also the legality of a 200'000 Euro loan by Irish No-campaigner Declan Ganley to the Libertas campaign group.

Read more about the two issues on <http://euobserver.com/18/26815> and <http://www.euractiv.com/en/future-eu/parliament-investigate-funding-irish-camp/article-175775>

Building a world safe for difference – photo and video competition

The Club of Madrid calls for your photo or video expressing your idea of shared societies, social cohesion, coexistence and a world safe for differences. Three prizes (2x750 Euro, 1x 500 Euro) will be awarded and the works may be used in future Club of Madrid publications. The winners will be invited to participate in the First Global Forum on Leadership for Shared Societies (Rotterdam, November 12-14th). Deadline is October 15th.

For more information go to <http://www.thesharedsocietiesproject.clubmadrid.org/first-vision-challenge/>

Regula Heggli

Coordinator
EU Civil Society Contact Group
c/o Social Platform
18 Square de Meeûs
B-1050 Brussels
T +32 2 511 17 11
F +32 2 511 19 09
coordinator@act4europe.org
www.act4europe.org

The EU Civil Society Contact Group brings together eight large European NGO platforms in the following fields: culture (culture action europe), development (CONCORD), environment (Green 10), human rights (HRDN), lifelong learning (EUCIS-LLL), public health (EPHA), social (Social Platform) and women (EWL). Together we work to develop the dialogue between civil society organisations and the EU institutions as an essential part of strengthening participatory democracy.