

THE PARLIAMENT

POLITICS, POLICY AND PEOPLE **MAGAZINE**

ISSUE 455 • 15 MAY 2017 • WWW.THEPARLIAMENTMAGAZINE.EU

Twitter @PARLIMAG



**EUROPEAN
BUSINESS
SUMMIT
PREVIEW**

**WHAT'S IN
A LABEL?**
THE GREAT ALCOHOL
LABELLING DEBATE

**KARMENU
VELLA**

“Green Week will show
how traditional blue collar
jobs can become part of
a green transition”

#EUGREENWEEK
LOOKING AHEAD TO EUROPE'S KEY
ENVIRONMENT POLICY EVENT

INSIDE
FOOD WASTE
NATO SUMMIT
EU MARITIME DAY
PLANT HEALTH
5 QUESTIONS WITH... DANUTA HÜBNER





In 2018 PRACE will organise
the fifth edition of its Scientific
and Industrial Conference –
PRACEdays18



**HPC for Innovation: When
Science Meets Industry**
29–31 May 2018
Ljubljana, Slovenia

The conference will bring together
experts from academia and industry
who will present their advancements in
Science and Engineering supported by
High Performance Computing.

**PRACEdays18 is hosted by the
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.**



Photo: Tomo Jeseničnik

PRACEdays18 is the central event of the European
HPC Summit Week 2018, organised by the EXDCI
Project, from 28 May to 1 June 2018.

Univerza v Ljubljani



The Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe (PRACE) is an international non-profit association with its seat in Brussels. The PRACE Research Infrastructure provides a persistent world-class high performance computing service for scientists and researchers from academia and industry in Europe. The computer systems and their operations accessible through PRACE are provided and funded by 5 PRACE members (BSC representing Spain, CINECA representing Italy, CSCS representing Switzerland, GCS representing Germany and GENCI representing France). The Implementation Phase of PRACE receives funding from the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement RI-312763 and from the EU's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme (2014-2020) under grant agreements 653838 and 730913.

www.prace-ri.eu

Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe



ON THE
WEBSITE



ECJ to rule on whether
EU Commission must
respond to 'Stop TTIP' ECI



Brexit could have serious
impact on maritime regions



What future for UK citizens
living in the EU, and EU
citizens living in the UK?



EU must better communicate
its success stories



Nato chief: EU must
complement alliance,
not compete with it

Cover photo by Natalie Hill

CONTENTS

Issue 455 / 15.05.17

NEWS ROUNDUP

06 / NEWS IN BRIEF

09 / BLUE ECONOMY

István Ujhelyi: EU coastal
regions need more support

10 / CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Merja Kyllönen on how it
applies to ports

12 / EUROPEAN STEEL DAY

How the EU steel sector is
embracing industry 4.0

14 / TOUGH TIMES AHEAD

Eva Kaili: Nato members
must work together

16 / NATO SUMMIT

Talking to Jiří Šedivý

18 / BREXIT EXCHANGE

Boxing clever with
Jonathan Powell

20 / FOOD WASTE

MEP comment



21 / ALL-ENCOMPASSING

Biljana Borzan: No single
law can tackle food waste

INTERVIEW

24 / KARMENU VELLA

On green jobs, blue growth
and Brexit



24



16

42

GREEN WEEK

31 / GREEN DISRUPTION

Jean Lambert: Green jobs
could change the way we
live, we must embrace them

34 / PLANT HEALTH

...must not become a 'Cin-
derella' issue, says Anthea
McIntyre

THOUGHTLEADER sponsored by
Euphresco

36 / PROTECTING PLANTS

Viorica Dăncilă reflects on
key questions

ALCOHOL LABELS

39 / RIGHT TO KNOW

Vytenis Andriukaitis:
Consumers have a right to
know what they drink

42 / DELAYING TACTIC

Renate Sommer: Asking
industry to self-regulate is
inefficient

44 / TIME FOR RULES

Self-regulation has failed,
writes Lynn Boylan
THOUGHTLEADER sponsored by
The Brewers of Europe

46 / BEST FOR CONSUMERS

Glenis Willmott: No reason
to treat alcohol differently
than other drinks

47 / TMI?

Christopher Snowden:
Alcohol labelling issue
not as simple as it seems

EBS

50 / WHAT'S NEXT?

European Business Summit Direc-
tor Arnaud Thysen on what to
expect from this year's debates

52 / JOIN THE DEBATE

This year's EBS is an opportunity
to take part in stimulating discus-
sions on the future of Europe

54 / 5 QUESTIONS WITH...
DANUTA HÜBNER

Interconnecting Forests, Science and People

125th Anniversary Congress

International Union of Forest Research Organizations

IUFRO

Interconnecting Forests,
Science and People

125th Anniversary
Congress 2017

18-22 September 2017
Freiburg, Germany

<http://iufro2017.com/>
#IUFRO2017



For 125 years the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) has been the leading platform for global forest research collaboration and the dissemination of scientific knowledge to stakeholders and decision makers.

The 125th Anniversary Congress will now offer a unique opportunity to present innovative research and highlight the crucial role of forests and forest science in addressing the challenges of sustainable development. The focus will be on globally pressing questions such as:

- How can the role of forests for people's livelihoods and quality of life be improved, and what contribution could forest restoration make?
- How can forests play a greater role in carbon sequestering and simultaneously become more resilient to climatic changes?
- What role can forests play in the emerging bio-economy, and how can their true value be recognized?
- How can biodiversity loss and biological invasions be effectively addressed?
- How do trees, soil and water interact in forest ecosystems, and what role can forests play in enhancing the provision of freshwater?

IUFRO is a non-profit, non-governmental and non-discriminatory organization open to all individuals and organizations dedicated to forest and forest products research. Currently it unites over 15,000 scientists in 125 countries: www.iufro.org

International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Marxergasse 2, 1030 Vienna, Austria

Tel.: +43-1-877 0151-17 * Fax: +43-1-877 0151-50

Website: <http://www.iufro.org> * Email: office@iufro.org

EUROPEAN
BUSINESS
SUMMIT

2017
Brussels

#EBS2017

22 & 23 MAY 2017

WHAT'S NEXT FOR EUROPE ?

JOIN THE DEBATE

REGISTER ON EBSUMMIT.EU

ENGAGE WITH EXPERTS IN EUROPE'S #1 DEBATING AND NETWORKING PLATFORM!



THE PARLIAMENT
POLITICS, POLICY AND PEOPLE MAGAZINE

EDITORIAL

General editorial enquiries
Tel: +32 (0)2 741 8221
newsdesk@dods.eu

Managing Editor
Brian Johnson
Tel: +32 (0)2 741 8221
brian.johnson@dods.eu

Commissioning Editor
Rajnish Singh
Tel: +32 (0)2 741 8225
rajnish.singh@dods.eu

Newsdesk team
Julie Levy-Abegnoli
Tel: +32 (0)2 741 8219
julie.levy-abegnoli@dods.eu

Martin Banks
Tel: +32 (0)2 741 8229
Martin.banks@dods.eu

7th Floor, Rue du Trône 60,
Brussels 1050

PRODUCTION

Head of production
John Levers
Tel: +44 (0)20 7593 5705

Design
Matt Tittley
Max Dubiel
Antonello Sticca

ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP SALES

Grant Hewston
Tel: +44 (0)20 7593 5547
grant.hewston@dods.eu

Sandra Fernandez
Tel: +44 (0)20 7593 5545
sandra.fernandez@dods.eu

Product Portfolio Manager
Rob Ellis
Tel: +44 (0)20 7593 5646
Rob.ellis@dods.co.uk

The Parliament Magazine would like to thank MEPs, their staff and members of the EU institutions for their support, advice and contributions.

Subscriptions
Tel: +44 (0)207 593 5510
dods@escosubs.co.uk
Dods Group Subscriptions
c/o ESCo, Trinity House,
Sculpins Lane, Wethersfield,
Braintree, CM7 4AY

Annual subscription price: €120
www.theparliamentmagazine.eu

MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS AND MARKETING

marketing@dods.co.uk



© Dods 2017
Reproduction in whole or part of any article is prohibited without prior written consent. Articles written by contributors do not necessarily reflect the views of the organisation

LONDON CALLING



I am heading to London this week, to take part in an all-new, Europe-wide forum that promises to offer an 'intelligent' exchange of views on the thorny issue of Brexit. It's difficult to know whether that's a gentle gibe against the excesses of the Daily Mail, or simply a reflection of the UK's current negotiating style, but either way it's an improvement. The 'Brexit Exchange' forum promises to be led by business, listened to by politicians, focused on promoting dialogue and intent on bringing people together to get the best outcome for Britain and the 'rump EU' 27.

It is the brainchild of Jonathan Powell, diplomat and former chief of staff to UK Prime Minister Tony Blair. Powell hopes the initiative will provide a 'neutral platform' for promoting the voice of business. Interviewed by our UK colleagues, Powell argued that government, whether the UK or the EU 27, "can look after its part, but what you need is a bottom-up approach, something that builds from the needs of business up to the negotiations". From his office in the heart of Westminster, ironically a stone's throw from Europe House, the EU's headquarters in London, Powell suggested that, "It's incredibly important to business and to the country that the agreement doesn't lead to a complete disjunction in regulation."

Without such information exchange, negotiators on both sides of the channel risk losing their way as the talks unfold. "I think the real danger of this negotiation is things are done by mistake. The people doing the negotiation don't actually understand how the auto industry works, how the pharma industry works. They make mistakes, and that's where this forum can contribute." With guest speakers drawn from business organisations from across the EU, the forum kicks off in London on 18 May at the Leadenhall Building. The event is being produced by our parent group, Dods, in conjunction with Sans Frontieres Associates and Crossing Borders Ltd. Get more information or register to attend at www.brexit-exchange.com. Head to pages 18-19 to find out why Jonathan Powell thinks Mike Tyson can teach us all a thing or two about negotiating. ★

Brian Johnson

Managing editor



NEWS IN BRIEF



FACTS BEFORE ARGUMENTS

PROVIDING NUTRITIONAL AND HEALTH INFORMATION ON ALCOHOL LABELS IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH CONSUMERS AND INDUSTRY, SAYS JOSÉ INÁCIO FARIA

Europe has not had an alcohol strategy since 2012, which is why in 2015, Parliament adopted a resolution on alcohol strategy – on which I was co-rapporteur – to immediately put forward a strategy to help member states combat alcohol abuse. Labelling was one of the central issues discussed and voted. I defended all aspects concerning labelling, whether related to ingredients, nutritional content, calorie content or warnings about the dangers of consumption by minors or drinking while pregnant. However, in the end we failed to allow consumers to make an informed choice about products



they purchase. I believe consumers have the right to know which ingredients are present in their alcoholic beverages. They should be allowed to make informed choices about products they purchase. Labelling of foodstuffs, including ingredients, allows consumers to be alert for any harmful or problematic substances

and, through the provision of nutritional information such as calories, allow better diet monitoring. Every alcoholic product should have a clear and understandable separated label, with a complete list of ingredients and nutritional information as well as details of its health impacts and use pictograms with health information, as used in cigarette packets★

José Inácio Faria (EPP, PT) is a member of Parliament's environment, public health and food safety committee



PM+: ETS

POLICYMAKERS MUST PRIORITISE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS ARGUES EUROMETAUX AND METALS INDUSTRY SECTOR LEADERS IN JOINT EDITORIAL

ETS impacts two interconnected types of energy-intensive industry, carbon-intensive industries that must buy ETS allowances – a direct cost, and electricity-intensive ones that mainly face higher electricity prices – an indirect cost. Our main plea is that negotiators avoid punitive actions against sectors facing indirect costs. Declining aid-levels would put the non-ferrous metals industry and others in a critical position, without

gain for Europe. Despite claims to the contrary, degressive compensation is not effective for encouraging producers to shift to a cleaner energy mix. European installations cannot influence their power mix, and face indirect costs even in countries like Norway where electricity is almost 100 per cent renewable. Reducing our financial margins would not change that situation. The ETS is inspired by an audacious vision for tackling climate change in Europe, and its one our industry fully supports. The challenge is to turn this vision into a practical reality that works for business too. We want to be your partners, and we're ready to move forward. ★





MOVERS AND SHAKERS

KEEP TRACK OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS WITH OUR MOVERS AND SHAKERS COLUMN

Big news for the European Commission this week, as the new Bulgarian government nominated the EPP group deputy **Mariya Gabriel** as the country's new Commissioner. In a letter to Commission President **Jean-Claude**

Juncker, Prime Minister **Boyko**

Borissov put forward the Bulgarian MEP, following a telephone conversation on 5

May. As we went to press, Juncker was due to hold an interview with Gabriel to determine her suitability to replace former Commission Vice-President **Kristalina Georgieva**, who resigned last year to become CEO of the World Bank. Gabriel will then exchange views with her possibly-soon-to-be former MEP colleagues. Again as we went to press, she had yet to be assigned a portfolio. Mariya Gabriel has been an MEP since 2009 and a Vice-Chair of the EPP group since 2014. Just like Georgieva, she is passionate about development issues and won an MEP Award in 2016 for her work on migration and highlighting the important role women have to play in peacebuilding and development. She also won an MEP Award for her work on gender equality in 2013.

Irish MEP **Liadh Ní Riada** was appointed as GUE/NGL's Brexit rapporteur on fisheries.

Emmanuel Macron was elected President of France, beating far-right MEP **Marine Le Pen** with over 66 per cent of the vote. At 39, the former economy minister is France's youngest president since Napoleon. **François Hollande** officially passed on the reins of power to Macron on 14 May.



France is now gearing up for parliamentary elections. EPP group MEP **Constance Le Grip** is running in Hauts-de-Seine, while GUE/NGL's **Jean-Luc Mélenchon** – who came fourth in the presidential election – will run in Marseille.

Meanwhile, several British MEPs have announced they are running in next month's UK general election. Conservative deputy **Vicky Ford** – Chair of the influential internal market committee – hopes to win a seat in Chelmsford, while her colleague **Andrew Lewer** is running in Northampton South. S&D group member **Anneliese Dodds** will contest in Oxford East. Her colleague



Siôn Simon, who ran in regional elections, failed to get elected in the West Midlands. Other MEPs running are: **Ian Duncan**, **Gerard Batten**, **Paul Nuttall**, **Tim Aker**, **Bill Etheridge**, **Roger Helmer**, **Mike Hookem**, **Molly Scott Cato** and **Afzal Khan**.

In national governments news, Austria's Vice Chancellor **Reinhold Mitterlehner** has resigned, putting the coalition government into question. Czech Prime Minister **Bohuslav Sobotka** also announced his resignation, but then changed his mind. Bulgaria has a new government under **Boyko Borissov**. Croatia seems to have avoided snap elections for the time being while Malta has not, and will head to the polls on 3 June. ★



PEOPLE

Dods People is a comprehensive

online service that provides you with unparalleled access to both the political representatives and public affairs professionals across the European Union.



IN BRIEF

HOUSE OF EUROPEAN HISTORY OPENS

The long-awaited House of European History opened its doors earlier this month. The museum, located in the Eastman Building in Brussels'



Leopold Park, focuses on recent European history. It is an ambitious project that the European Parliament first announced in 2007. The Commission is thought to have contributed €800,000 to the cost while Parliament originally earmarked €31m to renovate and extend the Eastman building, a former dental institute, and over €21m for the permanent exhibition.

EU MIGRATION POLICY

According to the latest Eurobarometer poll, 73 per cent of respondents want the EU to do more to manage the migration crisis. 58 per cent said the EU's actions on migration are inadequate, eight per cent less than last year. The survey was conducted among 27,901 people from all EU countries last March.



RACISM ON THE RISE?

A hearing in Parliament organised by the European network against racism was told that some EU governments have made it clear that irregular and Muslim migrants are unwelcome. Denmark, Hungary and Sweden have launched official adverts either at home or abroad to make it as obvious as possible that certain migrants are not welcome. Support for far-right parties and groups in several countries is growing and they are setting the tone of the debate on immigration, it was said. ★



TWEETFEED

**@ANAGOMESMEP**

Ana Gomes MEP

#Portugal's singer Salvador trying to save Europe @Eurovision with plea to save #refugees! SOS #Refugees!

**@MANFREDWEBER**

Manfred Weber MEP

A very well-respected @EPPGroup MEP, a committed European, @GabrielMariya will be a strong voice for #Bulgaria in the @EU_Commission

**@GUENGL**

GUE/NGL in the EP

'Development should not be subdued to the economic interest of corporations, development must be for the people' @JPimentaLopes #CFKenEuropa

**@VESTAGER**

Commissioner Margrethe Vestager

Globalisation is not new but is changing fast - a positive force for change but is also brings challenges. Action!

**@MDLABAJOVA**

Martina Dlabajova MEP

By 2020, 90% of jobs in the EU will necessitate #digital skills. Nearly 50% of the population doesn't have them. Education needs to change!



NAUGHTY CORNER

THIS WEEK, MALTESE PRIME MINISTER JOSEPH MUSCAT FINDS HIMSELF IN THE NAUGHTY CORNER FOLLOWING A STRING OF ALLEGATIONS

Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat was asked to appear this week before Parliament's Panama Papers inquiry committee, but has declined. He said he would have no problem facing MEPs, but only after the committee has completed its work.

The Panama Papers scandal began last year with the leak of 11.5 million documents from the offshore law firm Mossack Fonseca.

Malta's EU Council presidency, which began in January, has subsequently been rocked by a series of allegations of money laundering and kickbacks. The direct allegations

against Muscat, which he denies, are the subject of a judicial inquiry opened last month at the Prime Minister's own request.

Muscat has, most recently, faced fresh allegations that a third Panamanian offshore company belongs to his wife. Having an offshore company is not illegal but it is often associated with money laundering schemes.

He denies all the allegations, including that an aide took bribes to secure Maltese passports for wealthy Russians.

Earlier this month, Muscat called a snap election for 3 June, nine months before the end of his term. Asked this week by the Maltese press why he would not face the PANA committee on 18 May if he had nothing to hide, Muscat said he would wait until all the facts were in hand. ★



PM+: UNIVERSITIES

ROLF TARRACH OUTLINES WHAT THE FUTURE OF EUROPE COULD LOOK LIKE FROM THE UNIVERSITIES PERSPECTIVE

A true discussion on the future of Europe needs to take civil society into account. Civil society is not an appendage to the institutions; it is a vital, independent partner. It facilitates concrete dialogue and citizen integration within the unique framework that the EU provides. Universities have benefited immensely from European integration; making it possible to work together through a multilateral framework for research collaboration thanks to the research framework programmes and a common model for student mobility

thanks to Erasmus. However, carrying on at the present level is not sufficient: existing programmes are critically under-funded and the European research area under-prioritised. This low level of ambition is not enough for the university sector. If we want an inclusive, prosperous and competitive Europe, the EU needs to give research, education, and innovation a clear role and mission. Universities should be able to develop their own European agenda while the institutions act as rule makers and facilitators for a bottom-up approach.

We want to do much more together, but we need to be able to do so on our own terms. ★

Rolf Tarrach is president of the European University Association (EUA)



A sustainable blue economy can boost Europe's tourism

EU coastal regions attract a huge number of tourists each year but they need more support to unlock the full potential of the blue economy, says **István Ujhelyi**



István Ujhelyi (S&D, HU) is a Vice-Chair of Parliament's transport and tourism committee

The importance of coastal and maritime tourism is crucial these days. Five years ago, the Commission issued a so-called 'blue strategy', entitled, 'The blue economy can be a driver for welfare and prosperity'. This statement turned out to be entirely correct: after the long economic and social crises, European economies can once again create jobs and economic growth. The situation is fragile, but there have been many achievements over the past few years. The EU's coastal areas are among the most visited destinations across the continent. They employ 3.2 million people while in 2013, the tourism sector generated €183bn in gross production.

Parliament's tourism task force examined how to diversify fishery policies through tourism and has prepared an opinion covering this topic. We need coherent and common strategies – such as the European tourism for blue growth and smart government strategies – that EU institutions can subsequently fulfil, together with the various stakeholders, business, member states and civil society. We welcome EU maritime ministers' signed declaration, which gives an additional boost to the sustainable development of key sectors including tourism, aquaculture, ocean energy and biotechnology.

Industry suffers from a lack of professionals with the right skills and competences, as the maritime sector is increasingly exploring green solutions. Therefore, we must support industry, education and public players to identify the problems and the possible solutions.

The sector also needs more – and structured – investment. EFSI funds should serve to get support for regional cooperation.

Europe needs concrete actions and initiatives wherever the blue economy can be channelled. The creation of the European Capital of Tourism award can be a driving force for boosting local and regional tourism – similarly to the European Capital of Culture programme. Currently €2.5m have been earmarked by Parliament and the Commission for the next three years for this initiative

under a preparatory action.

The title would be awarded by an independent jury each year to those cities and landscapes that present the best solutions in the tourism industry. If the idea was strongly promoted, it could become one of the tourism industry's most distinguished awards, with wide recognition and positive economic and social impact bringing about sustainable regional development. I really hope that European coastal regions will be among the awarded destinations. ★

“Industry suffers from a lack of professionals with the right skills and competences, as the maritime sector is increasingly exploring green solutions. Therefore, we must support industry, education and public players to identify the problems and the possible solutions”



Can the EU's circular economy apply to ports?

It makes perfect sense for ports to go circular, says **Merja Kyllönen**, but this will take legislative perseverance



Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL, FI) is a member of Parliament's transport and tourism committee

Parliament is currently working on legislative proposals related to safety rules and standards for passenger ships, registration of persons sailing on board these ships, inspection systems of ro-ro ferries and high speed passenger crafts, and professional qualifications for inland waterways.

Additionally, there have been many discussions here in Brussels lately on the environmental aspects of maritime transport. I was extremely happy to notice that some of Europe's biggest ports – Antwerp, Hamburg and Rotterdam, for example – have been introducing initiatives related to the circular economy.

These initiatives are not only very important, they also make sense. Ports serve as 'matchmakers' and crossing-points for all kinds of waste and industrial flows and act as logisti-

cal hubs for the import and export of waste materials, which is why they are ideal places to further develop the circular economy. Ports also accommodate industries that are active in the treatment, collection and shipment of waste and stimulate the emergence of innovation circles.

The core of the circular economy lies in ecosystems, combining different companies and industries. Therefore, the presence of industrial clusters in ports help to facilitate the circular and more sustainable use of waste and resources because they offer the benefit of existing synergies between industries.

What should be done to advance the circular economy in ports? First, it is crucial to recognise the value of waste and residual products. Waste has to be seen as a resource and a raw material. Of course, this should be done without harming public health and the environment.

The EU should also promote innovations and help to create a stable investment climate for businesses in the circular economy by harmonising waste legislation and safety require-

ments and reducing regulatory inconsistencies.

The transition to a circular economy is a lengthy process that will require legislative perseverance, as well as some level of predictability and consistency from European institutions

so that industry and, in this case, ports, can make long-term investments.

But no pain, no gain: the benefits of the circular economy go well beyond the costs of investing in it. Going circular means contributing to our climate and environmental goals while thinking rationally about the economics behind our actions.

Already there are industrial symbioses: what used to be waste for one industry is now a product and raw-material for another.

We can and should recover materials and especially minerals that are becoming scarce more efficiently and put them back into production instead of shipping them to landfills, where they traditionally have been and to some extent still are polluting our soils. The possibilities are huge but so are the expectations for new products and job creation. ★

“Ports act as logistical hubs for the import and export of waste materials, which is why they are ideal places to further develop the circular economy”



TURNING OCEAN'S THREATS INTO OPPORTUNITIES

The increasing appearance of alien seaweeds has been causing paramount economic and ecological problems. These threats can, however, be seen as unexploited opportunities taking into account their raw industrial uses and the presence of compounds with great potential for food, feed, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries. While generating value and contributing for the economy, the extraction of these algae from the ocean may be included in effective and sustainable management practices, contributing to the marine ecosystem equilibrium or even site restoration.

The Iberian Northwest coast is also a region under the threat of invasive seaweeds, and despite having a vast diversity of seaweeds, these are clearly unexplored facing the global economical revenue they may present. EU Regulation 1143/2014 addresses the invasive alien species problem in a comprehensive manner, protecting native biodiversity and ecosystem services, and minimizing and mitigating human health or economic impacts that these organisms may represent, foreseeing three types of interventions: prevention, early detection and rapid eradication, and management - the same that AMALIA cares to address.

The AMALIA - Algae-to-Market Lab IdeAs project, co-funded by the European Union under the Blue Labs mechanism and lead by the Polytechnic of Leiria in Portugal, counts on the participation of higher education institutions, research units, companies and local development associations, and aims to value algae from the northwest of the Iberian peninsula and create innovative food products, feeds with the potential to stimulate the immune system of fish and shrimp, extracts for cosmetics and new drugs for the pharmaceutical industry.

While the overall aim is blue sky and long-term result wise (mostly when considering pharma), by adding-value to these marine resources, we can create smart shortcuts to generate new "short-developing time products" driven by a blue biotech refinery approach. AMALIA will produce food, feed and cosmetics ready to go to the market in a line with the consortium approach "From the Sea to Society", and the EU's initiative and Atlantic Action Plan to achieve the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive Blue Growth.

Knowing that marine molecules with high biotechnological potential may only have relevance when sustainable industrial scale production is assured, marine invaders may provide enough low value biomass, while its extraction may be faced as a contingency plan for its eradication.

Additionally, to monitor these seaweeds, advanced engineering and imaging solutions are being integrated into an underwater system providing real-time information on the appearance of algae - enabling algae collection by the industry before they impose major damage in the marine environment. This upgradable and adaptable system will also allow for a myriad of other underwater uses.

This multidisciplinary approach with industrial, R&D and community partners with a strong link to graduate and undergraduate students in a research based learning ecosystem, will enable the development of sensors and their integration into an early-warning tool for invasive species detection and ocean management, while enhancing the use of these resources for new added value products and solutions, contributing to alien marine species irradiation while enforcing EU's blue growth strategy.



Challenges and opportunities

Anything is possible as Europe's steel sector embraces industry 4.0 innovation, but unfair global competition must be addressed, reports **Martin Banks**

Society would find it difficult to exist without it but steel and the 300,000 jobs in Europe that the industry supports is facing some “severe” challenges. That was the key message to emerge from a high-level conference, organised by the European Steel Association (EUROFER), the Brussels-based association that represents the sector at EU level. The ‘European Steel Day’ conference on 10 May, at the Concert Noble in the EU district, brought together over 400 people, including industry representatives, EU policymakers and other stakeholders. The twin themes were low carbon steelmaking and digitalisation. But other key issues, including trade and the EU’s Emissions Trading System (ETS) were also highlighted, along with the contribution the industry makes to Europe’s competitiveness.

Some of these were touched on by Axel Eggert, EUROFER’s director general who told the packed Brussels audience that steel was the “engine for new, cutting edge technologies.” Eggert said, “Those who believe that the industry is the ‘old industry’, with outdated structures and unattractive jobs, have no idea how far away that perception is from the reality.” Every year, “several new types of steel are invented” in Europe, he declared. 3D printing with steel powder is increasing and the re-use of carbon dioxide from the steelmaking process to produce new products is being developed in Europe. But, while the potential for further development is

“enormous”, he cautioned that the industry currently faces “a lot of problems”, including “unfair” trade and EU legislation.

A recurring theme was the need, not least at EU level, to support - and provide the right conditions - to allow the steel sector to prosper and unlock its “enormous” potential. This was a message repeatedly stressed by EUROFER’s president Geert Van Poelvoorde who made an impassioned plea for more support at EU level against “unfair” trade practices in his

“Those who believe that the industry is the ‘old industry’, with outdated structures and unattractive jobs, have no idea how far away that perception is from the reality”

Axel Eggert

sector. This was something, he said, that Europe’s steelmakers were “feeling the effect of” on their businesses. Van Poelvoorde cited the continuing issue of Chinese overcapacity, saying, “Chinese products keep flooding the markets, which in turn forces other countries to export and dump their steel in large volumes.” One example of this, he told the conference, is the case of hot-rolled coil imports into the EU from Russia, Ukraine, Serbia, Iran and Brazil. The European Commission

must decide by 7 October whether to impose five-year duties against these five countries. “Despite there being clear evidence that the conditions of dumping, injury and causality have been met, the commission took the very disappointing decision last month not to impose any provisional anti-dumping measures.” He repeated the comment and directed it towards Elzbieta Bienkowska, the EU commissioner for internal market, industry, entrepreneurship and SMEs, who was among the invited speakers. “This decision,” he argued, “was taken citing the EU’s ‘union interest’ which means the technical, detailed evidence gathered by the commission’s investigating team, which proved dumping, has been overruled in favour of a practical decision with no transparency or counter-evidence.” The EU, he said, must reconsider its approach and impose final measures which are “effective” in stopping “real dumping.”

Another issue of concern and “much controversy” for the sector, he told the audience, is the current draft of the EU’s ETS, which Van Poelvoorde said “does not adequately recognise the work we are doing.” It also fails to recognise the specific nature of the steel industry and, additionally, “is not the way to reach the EU’s ultimate goal of lowering CO₂ emissions while keeping a competitive industrial base in Europe.”

In her keynote address, Bienkowska sought to deal with these and other pressing issues facing the steel sector, one that boasts an annual turnover



“Despite there being clear evidence that the conditions of dumping, injury and causality have been met, the commission took the very disappointing decision not to impose any provisional anti-dumping measures”

Geert Van Poelvoorde

of some €170bn and produces 160m tonnes of steel per year. Reminding the audience that she hails from a steel region in Poland, Bienkowska said the challenges and perceived threats facing the sector should also be seen as “opportunities.” On ETS she said, “I know that this issue is a problem for some here today but I believe this will provide the right incentives to drive low carbon innovation in the steel industry.” Her comments were partly echoed by Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker who, in a video message,

voiced optimism that a sector that had faced “very serious challenges” could thrive and prosper in the future. In a personal reference to his youth, he told the audience that his late father was a steel worker and that he was raised in a steel community. “The steel plants we see today are nothing like the ones my father worked in but the industry is as important now as then.” With the audience reminded that steel imports last year rose to 24 per cent,

up from a 17 per cent historical high, he said the commission “would not hesitate” to take action against unfair practices. “We will continue to support and defend the industry and will act against those who seek to distort the market.” The steel sector is a “jewel in the crown” of European industry beamed Juncker, who added, “It is very special to me and I will always defend it against those who do not play by the rules.” ★



Tough times ahead

Nato members face numerous challenges, and the only way to tackle them is to work together, writes

Eva Kaili



Eva Kaili (S&D, EL) is Chair of Parliament's delegation for relations with the Nato parliamentary assembly

On 25 May, the leaders of the Nato member states will gather for the first time since the US elections.

The first appearance of an American president before his counterparts is always very interesting, as it is indicative of potential policy changes – even more so this time, as the world faces multiple crises.

The fight against terrorism will

likely be at the heart of discussions. The allies need to address one of the biggest threats to citizens' safety, which has manifested itself with multiple terror attacks across European

in the last year. A common approach, focusing on intelligence sharing and effective preventive counter-terrorism steps, will be essential. As an additional measure, the front against ISIS in the Middle East needs to be strengthened, with better coordination among the allies. There are two main priorities when it comes to the ongoing fight in the Middle East against the so-called Islamic State: stopping any economic activities that,


directly or indirectly, benefit ISIS, and supporting the regional groups that fight against it, away from regional geopolitical games.

Another issue that has been on the

Alliance's agenda for years is Russia's influence and fears over potential interference. Nato allies ought to be constructive and explore all options, going even further than investing significantly in cyber defence. At the same time it is important to re-

start the channels of communication with Russia, as there are multiple global crises that require a lot of attention. Establishing and maintaining open channels of communication

“Heads of state will have to address the challenges arising from more complex and unconventional forms of warfare, most notably hybrid threats and cyberattacks”



“We will need to live up to our commitments and increase defence spending”

would not be a compromise or a sign of weakness from the part of the alliance. The will to find a solution to the problems that affect our citizens should not be interpreted as an intention to water down international law, but on the contrary, as a way to manage crises more efficiently before they escalate. This requires communication among the global powers.

Moreover, the heads of state will have to address the challenges arising from more complex and unconventional forms of warfare, most notably hybrid threats and cyberattacks. History has multiple examples of attempts to use asymmetries that exploit an opponent's weaknesses, leading to complex situations involving regular/irregular and conventional/unconventional tactics. But in recent years, cyber options have made these challenges even more dangerous. It is important to find a way to protect

critical infrastructure and services from hybrid threats and cyberattacks. Such a task would require the coordination of all the member states.

Another issue that has been at the forefront of Nato discussions over the last years is the increase of defence spending to two per cent of the national GDP. Over the last decade we have been relying on the US for our defence, however it is fair to argue that the rest of the allies need to fulfil the commitments made in 2014 in Wales, and reach the agreed two percent target. It will become significantly easier to confront the existing challenges and threats with a better arsenal, and the only way of doing so is by recognising that safety and security need some investment. This has been pointed out by US President Donald Trump, as well as his predecessors and the Nato Secretary General on numerous occasions – it is

a reality Nato members must confront.

At the same time a plethora of new crises that have arisen. Most notably, Turkey's aggressive rhetoric and the violations taking place in the Aegean Sea, along with the countless prosecutions after the coup, has led to the freezing of its EU accession process. Turkey is an important international actor and it is crucial that it remains dedicated to democracy and willing to cooperate with its allies. In addition, Nato has been instrumental in helping the EU deal with the migration crisis, by sharing intelligence and having military presence in the region. As the crisis is far from over, and with the lives of thousands of refugees at stake, we need to effectively address the human trafficking network that exists in the region. The alliance's help can be pivotal.

Another crisis is external interference in election procedures, which has raised concerns over the last months. Both the French and US elections are said to have been targets of cyberattacks with candidates' emails leaking to the public. The extent to which the procedures have been affected is yet to be proven, but the fact is that Nato is, by definition, an alliance of democracies and it needs to be able to provide the tools to safeguard democratic procedures. Should such tools be developed, even other activities, such as ISIS's crowdfunding campaigns, could be efficiently addressed. That brings us again back to the need for more investment in our capacities and the necessity of a holistic response to hybrid and cyber threats.

Despite these crises, I remain optimistic. I think that the multiple challenges we face will enable Nato allies to recognise the gravity of the situation and provide a response to the questions that are being raised. We will need to live up to our commitments and increase defence spending. The EU will need to play an important part in this procedure, making sure that any potential effort for a stronger EU defence will complement Nato. ★

Russia and terrorism are key security concerns

Jiří Šedivý tells Rajnish Singh that the fight against terrorism is the Czech Republic's top issue at the upcoming Nato summit



Jiří Šedivý is the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to Nato

WHAT DOES NATO MEMBERSHIP MEAN FOR THE CZECH REPUBLIC, AND WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST SECURITY CONCERNS?

Joining Nato in the late 1990s was a very important step in the democratic transformation of our country after the fall of communism. Membership has not only meant having a defence guarantee under Article 5, but also a place at one of the most important strategic 'tables' in the world, so gaining political influence. Membership also provides access to military know-how which is very important for modernising and improving capabilities. As a newer member of the alliance, who has contributed towards missions in the Balkans and Afghanistan, we now have partial responsibility for wider global security outside of Europe. I firmly believe Nato as a military deterrence works, as no military power will seriously consider attacking a member. However, the alliance faces many threats, including a revisionist Russia, which is of great concerns for Eastern members, and the growing danger of international terrorism.

WHAT WOULD THE CZECH REPUBLIC LIKE TO SEE COME OUT OF THE NATO SUMMIT IN MAY?

Firstly the summit will send a strong message of reassurance concerning the importance of the transatlantic alliance for all sides. In view of the growing threat of terrorism as seen from the southern flank of Europe, mainly the whole of North Africa and the Middle East, the alliance is now seeking ways to increase its capabilities to fight terrorism, which will be another important message. This will be the primary issue President Miloš Zeman will deliver at the meeting.

For years he has been saying we should do more against terrorism and directly fight ISIS.

Also, the US now expects European allies to provide an adequate contribution towards the defence burden. It was agreed two years ago that all members should aim to spend two per cent of their GDP by 2024/2025, on security and defence. There is also a requirement to invest 20 per cent of the defence budget into modernisation.

IS IT REALISTIC TO EXPECT ALL MEMBERS OF NATO TO CONTRIBUTE 2 PER CENT OF THEIR GDP GIVEN THAT EUROPE IS CURRENTLY FACING ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CHALLENGES?

Yes there are challenges, but at the same time Europe is no longer in a situation of economic stagnation as it was a couple of years ago. However, I am not sure all members will hit the two per cent figure in the next eight to 10 years. It's not only about the target figure but how money can effectively be used to invest in capabilities, and how members can contribute towards missions. As Secretary General of Nato, Jens Stoltenberg stresses it's about cash, capabilities and contributions. The

Czech Republic is currently preparing its own roadmap of how to reach the two per cent target. However, the period in which we need to achieve this spans the length of two government terms, and it's impossible to guarantee a successive government will keep to the pledge. Currently, the Czech Republic is enjoying good economic conditions, we have three per cent economic growth and unemployment is below five per cent. But of course this can change.

GIVEN TRUMP HAS PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED NATO AS OBSOLETE, DO YOU BELIEVE HE ACTUALLY BELIEVES IN THE TRANSATLANTIC ALLIANCE?

You should ask him that, but from what we have heard recently from



Washington, it seems to me that that he has been changing his view on Nato. He has stated he no longer thinks Nato is obsolete. Therefore I think he has been on a learning curve and more importantly he has surrounded himself with people who know what Nato stands for, especially US defence secretary James Mattis. He was a former US army general and Nato's Supreme Allied Commander, who served in Afghanistan. He knows the alliance very well, both its strengths and weaknesses. I am sure President Trump will be very strong in putting forward his expectations that allies should be honouring their pledges. However we have been hearing for years, US concerns about greater burden sharing, almost right from the beginning when Nato was established.

WITH THE EU ALSO PUSHING FOR CLOSER DEFENCE COOPERATION, DO YOU BELIEVE THIS CREATES DUPLICATION AND USES UP

VALUABLE RESOURCES OR CAN IT ENHANCE EUROPEAN AND CZECH SECURITY?

I must say I am not concerned about duplication, we should keep in mind that 22 Nato members are also members of the EU. With Brexit, EU defence will change, as the UK provided up to 25 per cent of the EU military budget. The UK is also very important in terms of providing military intelligence. Therefore, fundamental lessons have been learnt in terms of what is currently missing and what should be strengthened, such as structures to plan and conduct EU military missions. It's obvious in this area the EU should have more autonomy, which would also be beneficial for Nato. Since military hardware is built mostly in member states, if we can have more efficient cooperation in the area of defence industry and innovation, this will be good for national capabilities and also for the 22 EU or soon to be 21 EU members of Nato. ★



“The US now expects European allies to provide an adequate contribution towards the defence burden.”



IN BRIEF

PRESIDENT TRUMP NEEDS TO GIVE AN UNCONDITIONAL COMMITMENT TO NATO

Nato is adapting to the new security situation it faces, with Russia behaving as a strategic adversary to the west that is threatening our partners like Ukraine and seeking to undermine trust in our western institutions.

From this mini-summit I would specifically like to see two things:

Firstly, for Trump to give an unconditional commitment to Article 5, that states an attack on one ally is an attack on all. Secondly, allies should show strong ambition towards increasing their defence spending. In 2014, all 28 leaders subscribed to spending two per cent of GDP on defence by 2024. Today, only five allies meet the target, but the direction of travel is moving the right way with defence spending increasing - by US\$10bn in the last year alone. At this summit, allies can show real ambition to reach the target. For those countries reluctant to significantly expand their own armed forces, one option could be for them to make contributions towards central structures, which are under resourced. For example, they could invest in a trust fund to provide more joint actions such as strengthening counter terror operations: an area where we all know Trump would like to see a stronger Nato role. One way of achieving this would be to deploy a substantial mission to Iraq to train and educate the local forces fighting ISIS and other terrorist groups on the ground. We have seen how efficient it is to improve the capability of local forces in the fight against terrorism and Nato can play a stronger role here. ★



Anders Fogh Rasmussen was Nato Secretary General from 2009-2014



BOXING CLEVER

Jonathan Powell hopes to use his experience to secure a Brexit deal that works for business. **John Ashmore** reports

What British Prime Minister Theresa May would give to have a negotiator with Jonathan Powell's experience. As Tony Blair's chief of staff from May 1997 all the way through to his departure a decade later, Powell has been at the heart of deals on the transfer of Hong Kong to China, the Irish/UK Good Friday Agreement and countless EU summits. But none of them comes close to the Brexit negotiations, which he describes as "the most complex, the most difficult, the most technically challenging" he's ever seen.

To assist in making things that little bit easier, Powell has helped establish Brexit Exchange, a pan-European project to bring the voice of business and industry closer to the negotiations. Along with his co-chair, former German finance minister Steffen Kamper, Powell hopes to use Brexit Exchange as a 'neutral platform' to promote the voice of business. "Government can look after its part but what you need is a bottom-up approach, something that builds from the needs of business up to the negotiations. Without this sort of information exchange, Powell argues, bureaucrats risk making fatal errors as the talks unwind.

"I think the real danger of this negotiation is things are done by mistake because the people doing the negotiation don't actually understand how the auto industry works, how the pharma

industry works. They make mistakes, and that's where this can contribute."

Businesses themselves also need to prepare themselves for the changes that Brexit will bring, he argues. "Different sectors are in different stages of preparation – it's clear for example that the financial services sector is zooming ahead and they're already talking about moving people out of London to be on the safe side. But quite a lot of the other sectors in Britain and perhaps particularly in Europe aren't really prepared for this, this isn't very high up their agenda and they're suddenly going to be surprised by it when the negotiations start properly in the autumn after the German elections." When it comes

down to the work of negotiating, Powell reckons bureaucrats and politicians could do worse than heed the words of boxer Mike Tyson. Tyson said 'everyone has a plan when they go in to fight – but it disappears as soon as they get punched in the mouth'. "That's the problem, as soon as Theresa May engages, her strategy is going to collapse, so she needs to be flexible, she needs to be ready to compromise."

So what advice does Powell offer to the beleaguered British negotiators? "The first thing they need is to

really get some European expertise in from outside...I would sort of be bringing back some of the old lags who really have done these sort of negotiations in the past to beef up the UK

"I think the real danger of this negotiation is things are done by mistake because the people doing the negotiation don't actually understand how the auto industry works, how the pharma industry works. They make mistakes, and that's where [Brexit Exchange] can contribute"

team. Secondly, I would really try and work out what my bottom lines are. In negotiating sort of jargon, academics talk about BATNA - Best Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement - and they really need to think through what that is. It's all very well people saying no agreement is fine - it isn't. It would be absolutely catastrophic and that's one of the things that business will tell you if you talk to them."

As for the substance of the negotiations, Powell is particularly concerned about the future of Northern Ireland. The question, then, is whether to bring in customs checks on the border, or between the island of Ireland and the British Isles. "The basis of the Good Friday Agreement was people in the North could be Irish, could be British, could be both and were free to have their identity. If you start breaking that up by making the border mean something, it's very hard to get backwards and forwards across it, then that will undermine the whole basis of the Good Friday Agreement."

One of the strangest effects of the Brexit vote, he adds, might be to make Unionists reconsider the idea of a united Ireland if it means they can stay in the EU. "What you seem to have now in the North - and I wouldn't exaggerate it - is a feeling among many Unionists, middle-class Unionists in particular, who voted against Brexit, that actually when they come to look at this now maybe it's not such a great idea for their economic interests to stay out of the Republic of Ireland if the Republic of Ireland is going to be in the EU and the Single Market and they'd be out. "By the Good Friday Agreement we closed down the idea of a united Ireland at least for a generation and now Brexit's opened it up. We tried to make Northern Ireland boring and the trouble with Brexit is it's going to make it interesting again." ★

Brexit Exchange will be launched on 18 May, at the Leadenhall Building in central London. For more information visit www.brexit-exchange.com



Reducing food waste: A common responsibility

The urgency to reduce food waste is such that MEPs were able to put their political differences aside to try and find solutions

More than just a trendy concept – one that is somewhat abstract to most of us – ‘circular economy’ actually covers many different aspects that have a direct impact on our daily lives. They say one man’s trash is another man’s treasure, and this is basically what the circular economy is all about, including when it pertains to food. Food waste is something we have all been guilty of at one point or another, and MEPs have set out to address this growing problem. As Angélique Delahaye, Parliament’s EPP group shadow rapporteur on the dossier, points out, “One third of food destined for human consumption is wasted, while millions still suffer

from malnutrition, and the problem is worsening as the world population grows.”

In her role as shadow rapporteur, the French MEP says she “insisted on the need to take into account the entire supply chain, from producers to consumers. We must all be actors in this fight – most waste ends up in our bins. It is therefore essential to provide consumers with better information – we must ensure they fully understand the dates indicated on food packaging.”

Delahaye also suggests encouraging shops to donate any unsold food, through “a decrease – or perhaps eliminating – VAT on these products, and agreements between economic actors and NGOs.” She adds, “In this report I also worked on establishing a legislative framework against unfair commercial practices and adapting distribution and consumption patterns to the characteristics of different

products.” The EPP group deputy highlights that, “We must rethink our relationship with food and start considering it as a common good that we must protect. There is a lot of work left to do but it is worth it and I am proud to commit to this fight.”

Mark Demesmaeker, Parliament’s ECR group shadow rapporteur on the dossier, says, “Combating food waste is an essential part of the transition to a circular economy, in which prevention of waste and preserving valuable resources through reuse and recycling are key. I support the resolution that reconfirms our ambition already laid down in the waste package, notably to reduce food waste by 50 per cent by 2030, based on a common measurement methodology, and by bringing the cascading principle into practice with a specific food waste hierarchy. To achieve this, we call for a European action plan that involves all relevant policy areas.”

The Belgian deputy adds, “I am particularly pleased that the text emphasises the importance of involving all stakeholders throughout the agro-food chain, and the role of regional and local authorities in order to tailor measures, which I believe, is of paramount importance.”

In Flanders, he explains, the wheels are already in motion. “Flanders, the nation I represent in the European Parliament, has already developed

an action plan to reduce food waste by 15 per cent by 2020, indeed involving the whole chain of stakeholders from farm to fork. Various initiatives to raise awareness and prevent food waste are emerging: Horeca



“One third of food destined for human consumption is wasted”

Angélique Delahaye



goal: the reduction of approximately 89 million tonnes of food wasted per year in the EU.”

She explains, “In September 2015, the EU signed the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development, including the sustainable development goal (SDG) 12.3, which calls for a 50 per cent reduction in food waste. Whereas its endorsement is an important signal, we put the cart before the horse by committing to a precise target without having a common definition or methodology to create reliable and comparable data. Our report will speed up the process and bring us closer to reach the goal.”

Müller adds, “Although food waste happens at every stage of the food chain, measures to tackle two specific issues are most promising to have a meaningful impact. First, according to the FUSIONS study, consumers cause approximately 53 per cent of food waste. Therefore, I am quite pleased that the report extensively addresses consumer information and education, also exploring the use of modern media and technology to reach the people.

“Second, food donations must be facilitated. Having a long-time background in regional politics, I know first-hand that there is a high level of willingness among local businesses to donate unsold food rather than dispose it. However, often enough framework conditions hardly allow that. The report acknowledges the important role to play by regional actors as well as their readiness to act. This is not only reflected by outlining necessary improvements of the legal framework, but also by solutions for a better institutional support for local stakeholder cooperation.”

Concluding, the German deputy notes, “As is so often the case, the issue of food waste can only be solved if the relevant actors are understood as part of the solution. By taking an incentivising rather than punishing approach in this report, we are on the right track.” ★

Vlaanderen has launched a Chef’s Charter to combat food waste, event organisers can get tips and tricks for cutting food waste via ‘groeneVENTs-can’, online platforms and apps like ‘schenkingsbeurs’ and ‘Rekub’ facilitate food donation, and there is abundant information for consumers to combat waste at home. So-called ‘ugly’ fruits and vegetables find their way back to the shops. Moreover, federal Minister of Finance and fellow N-VA party member Van Overtveldt has extended the zero VAT rate for donating unsold food from recognised food banks to recognised food aid and social organisations.”

Demesmaeker also highlights the

importance of “mandatory separate collection and recycling of biowaste and the encouragement of home composting. A recent visit to Ecowerf, a biowaste composting installation in Leuven together with a delegation from the Parliament, demonstrated the enormous opportunities to preserve valuable resources once more.”

Meanwhile, ALDE group shadow rapporteur Ulrike Müller points out that, “At the European Parliament, we often have fierce debates with contrasting views of the political groups. On the contrary, the preparation of this

report on food waste proves its ability to cooperate beyond political borders to achieve a common (and urgent)

“Flanders has already developed an action plan to reduce food waste by 15 per cent by 2020”

Mark Demesmaeker

Food waste: An all-encompassing problem

Food waste occurs across the entire supply and consumption chain, therefore no single regulation will be able to solve the problem, writes **Biljana Borzan**



Biljana Borzan (S&D, HR) is Parliament's rapporteur on resource efficiency: reducing food waste, improving food safety

The EU, as one of the richest and most prosperous communities in the world, has a moral and political obligation to reduce the huge quantities of food wasted every year. Wasted food and food loss also entails wasted water, soil, working hours, electricity, gasoline and other valuable and often limited resources.

The production and disposal of EU food waste leads to the emission of 170 million tonnes of CO₂ and consumes 261 million tonnes of resources. Experts argue that reducing food waste at consumer level in developed countries by 30 per cent could save roughly 400,000 km² of cropland by 2030.

According to the estimates by the FUSIONS project, 89 million

tonnes of food are wasted annually in the EU. The sectors contributing the most to food waste are households, with 53 per cent, and processing, with 19 per cent. Food service sector produces 12 per cent, primary production 10 per cent and wholesale-retail five per cent.

As rapporteur my intention was to produce an encompassing document that will address the problem of food waste along the entire supply and consumption chain and explore political and practical means and ways to reduce it. Maintaining and improving food safety is and will be a red line.

The report won the unanimous support of Parliament's environment committee, which does not happen often. This shows that there is a lot of political will to tackle the issue of food waste in all the parliamentary groups. It addresses issues such as the need for a common definition and methodology of food waste. We believe the Commission should evaluate

the potential impact on food waste when conducting impact assessments on new relevant legislative proposals.

The report reiterates the Court of Auditors' opinion that the EU does not combat food waste effectively, and that existing initiatives and policies could be used more effectively to address the problem of food waste. It also reiterates that the Commission's level of ambition in tackling food waste has decreased over the years.

As estimates show that 53 per cent of food waste occurs in households, consumer education is a critical area where a concerted effort is needed. According to Eurobarometer, over three quarters of Europeans think that the individual consumer is one of the actors involved in the prevention of food waste. Less than half of Europeans know the difference between 'use by' and 'best before' expiry dates.

There is food waste at every stage of the supply and consumption chain. That means there is no single, silver

bullet regulation that the EU can enforce that would solve the problem. We need a coordinated policy response at EU and member state level that takes into account policies regarding waste, food safety and information, but also aspects of economic, research and innovation, environment, agriculture, education and social policy. ★



“Wasted food and food loss also entails wasted water, soil, working hours, electricity, gasoline and other valuable and often limited resources”



Euro Coop represents 19 national organisations of consumer co-operatives, primarily engaged in food retail. Through their network of 36,000 outlets, our members serve 32 million consumer-members daily, employ 500.000 citizens, and combine for an annual turnover of € 79 billion.

Less food waste? We did it! The co-operative way, of course!

For several years now the issue of food waste is making headlines, and rightly so, as it exposes one of the most patent **inefficiencies** of the food production and consumption system. **One-third of the food produced** for human consumption is either **lost or wasted**. A blatant nonsense from an ethical and commercial viewpoint.

The need to co-operate!

As consumer co-operatives, we believe the solution to such a vast societal issue requires **synergies between public and private partners**, who must first understand each other in order to tackle supply chain inefficiencies with the appropriate regulatory framework.

Then what?

Setting realistic targets is a first step in the right direction. We welcome the recent Parliament support for a **50% food waste reduction** compared to 2014 levels, and anticipate a prompt translation into **stringent implementation** rules on national level. Euro Coop also calls for a review of the regulations on **food donations** – it *must* be cheaper to donate food than to bin it! – and for an end to the confusion between “best-before”, “sell-by” and “eat by” labels.

And the supply chain?

Things have progressed in recent years and **consumer co-operatives have definitely starred the change** with *avant-garde* measures which have now become mainstream, e.g. **selling imperfectly looking fruits and veggies, partnerships with food banks, developing a harmonised price reduction strategy for goods approaching the best before date**. Co-operation along the supply chain has created a lot of shared technical knowledge, especially in “smart packaging”.



So, what is the co-operative edge?

The co-operative business model places the person first, and not capital. It is a people-centred model where the members are the business owners. Co-operative enterprises abide to co-operative values and principles, which are enshrined in their *raison d'être*, such as **concern for the community** and **members' education**. Hence, we do not tackle food waste because it's fashionable or for the flashy CSR strategy, but because our members (owners) want us to and because we believe that educating and informing the consumer-members is key to eliminating this phenomenon.

In a few words

Consumer co-operatives bring **a different spin to retail** by **delivering social benefits while maintaining economic viability**. Sounds like the best of the two worlds? It simply is! Tackling food waste requires **more recognition** at societal, political, and legislative level, and, **more co-operation** amongst them!

Hey, do you know that we are 60 years old? Yup, we are as old as the EU! In spite of the first grey hair, we are in the mood to celebrate! Please join us at the Albert Hall premises in Brussels on 26 & 27 September 2017!

More info & registration available at: www.eurocoop.coop



For further information:

t: +32 2 285 00 70
e: tivanov@eurocoop.coop
t: @EuroCoopTeam
f: @EuroCoopTeam
www.eurocoop.coop

Towards a greener future



European environment, maritime affairs and fisheries Commissioner **Karmenu Vella** on what to expect from this year's EU Green Week activities, the importance of the blue economy and the job potential of acting green

T HIS YEAR'S EU GREEN WEEK CONFERENCE WILL FOCUS ON CREATING GREEN JOBS. WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT FOR THE EU'S

LONG TERM ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS?

First of all EU Green Week is more than just a conference; it is a week of engagement, activities and debates across Europe which allow main actors and networks to exchange and promote experiences. What better way to engage than by highlighting the job potential of acting green? The EU has made big commitments on fighting climate change and on promoting the circular economy.

These pledges should be seen as creators of opportunity. High environmental standards can create new business opportunities and new green jobs. With this year's Green Week we will focus on making sure we have the right skills to deliver on those pledges. Take for example

the building sector: an architect may design the perfect eco-house, but the building work will still be carried out by tradespeople like joiners, electricians and plumbers.

And, the environmental technologies built into the house will need professional maintenance. Green Week will showcase examples of how these skills needs are being met. It will show how traditional blue collar jobs can become part of a green transition, such as through Ireland's QualiBuild programme.

This was set up in 2013 to help it meet the EU 2020 energy efficiency target, and to train the green builders of the future. People with green skills are a key element in the transition to a more sustainable economy.

IN THE MAIN CONFERENCE YOU WILL BE DISCUSSING THE CREATION OF GREEN JOBS IN RELATION TO

WATER, MARITIME AND CITIES. HOW WILL THESE JOBS BE CREATED?

With the transition towards a circular and low-carbon economy, new sectors are emerging. Companies come up with new business models, expand their markets and find ways to better use resources. This has a profound impact on employment. New jobs are created, or the nature of existing jobs changes. Let's take the example of water: high European standards for drinking water, bathing water and waste water treatment have helped a strong EU water industry emerge.

The two global leaders are EU-based and have a combined turnover of €20bn. By seizing new market opportunities, Europe can increasingly position itself as a global market leader in water-related innovation and technology. If the growth rate of the water industry increases by one per cent, this can create between 10,000 →



**“Green Week
will show how
traditional
blue collar jobs
can become
part of a green
transition”**



and 20,000 new jobs. Public authorities and governments need to provide direction, incentives and leadership, so that enterprises can make the right investments in change, and we fully use the potential strengths in eco-industries and eco-innovation.

THIS YEAR WILL BE THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF EU MARITIME DAY. WHY DO YOU BELIEVE IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE A SPECIAL DAY TO HIGHLIGHT MARITIME ISSUES?

European Maritime Day (EMD) was launched a decade ago to raise awareness about maritime affairs and support the EU's efforts to develop an integrated maritime policy. Over time, it has become a fixture on the agenda of Europe's maritime community as it offers learning and networking opportunities very much appreciated by stakeholders who gather from every corner of Europe and beyond, every year in a new European host city.

The EU is committed to turning the challenges facing the maritime world into opportunities. In 2007, we launched a vision for a more integrated approach to maritime affairs that has since grown into a coherent set of interrelated policies.

From maritime spatial planning to the fight against illegal fishing; from ocean mapping to marine science; from habitat conservation to regional strategies, to investing in harnessing the full potential of the blue economy, these EU initiatives have proven to be transformative.

The participation of Europe's maritime stakeholders to the EMD and other regular meetings, events and fora, has been critical to provide valuable input and will continue to be so in the future as we further strengthen our policies and tackle new challenges.

THE TOPIC OF THIS YEAR'S EMD IS THE FUTURE OF THE SEAS. WHERE DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EU AND WHERE ARE THE CHALLENGES? ESPECIALLY GIVEN

THAT ONE OF EUROPE'S MARITIME COUNTRIES, THE UK, IS LEAVING THE EU? WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A BRITISH CITY – POOLE – PLAYING HOST TO THIS YEAR'S EMD?

Seas and oceans are among the most precious resources on our planet and important drivers for Europe's economy. The output of the world's blue economy is currently worth €1.3 trillion. The OECD predicts that, by 2030, it could more than double and that many ocean-based industries could outperform the global economy as a whole. This presents a tremendous opportunity that Europe is ready to seize.

Much of the potential of the blue economy will be driven by new technologies, products, services and business models. In fact, many of them developed to provide solutions to important ocean challenges such as over-fishing, climate change, ocean acidification or marine pollution.

Sustainability is another key driver for innovation and represents a global market opportunity. Europe's researchers and entrepreneurs are already leading the way in fields such as offshore renewable energy or green shipping. For example, Europe currently hosts as much as 52 per cent of all tidal stream developers and 60 per cent of all wave energy developers in the world.

As for the challenges presented by Brexit and the choice of a British town to host this year's EMD, Poole, due to its large natural harbour and its maritime heritage, is surely an appropriate location for European Maritime Day.

The choice of Poole was made back in 2008, when the EMD was first launched. Since then our partners in Poole have been enthusiastic and committed to work with us on making this EMD a success regardless of current political circumstances.

Having said this, my joy at being in the UK will of course be tinged with unhappiness. It's sad to see a trusted partner and key ally decide to disembark our common ship. I personally

“By seizing new market opportunities, Europe can increasingly position itself as a global market leader in water-related innovation and technology”



regret this. But we have to respect this choice. Our challenge now is to build a new and constructive relationship between the European Union and the UK. One in which the UK remains a close partner and a good neighbour.

On many issues, such as the future of our oceans, we continue to share the same interests and the same concerns. Problems like marine litter, ocean acidification or climate change will only get worse unless we act decisively and cohesively. National solutions are not sufficient to tackle complex global problems. And the EU is good at forging synergies with its partners to face common challenges united.

Last year, the EU adopted a joint communication on international ocean governance presenting to international partners 50 concrete actions for safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed oceans.

If we want to leave a healthy ocean to our kids and grandkids, we need to commit to radical change and we need the help of the business community to succeed. This will be one of the focuses of this year's European Maritime Day and I strongly believe that, with the private sector on our side, we can take our battle for healthy oceans and a striving blue economy to the next level.

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE THERE IS A NEED FOR NEW PROPOSALS TO INTEGRATE MARITIME POLICY, AND WHY NOW?

An integrated maritime policy allows us to see the full picture and efficiently coordinate our actions across sectors as diverse as fisheries and aquaculture, offshore energy, ports, shipping and shipbuilding, maritime technology, marine research, maritime surveillance, maritime and coastal tourism and employment and development of coastal regions.

Let me just give you a few examples to illustrate my point: We have introduced legislation to create a common framework for maritime spatial planning (MSP) in Europe. MSP aims at →



making sure our waters are managed more coherently and different users of ocean resources interlock – not interblock – with each other. It also promotes new synergies between sectors such as wind parks, fishing and aquaculture, or shipping and tourism.

By 2021, all of our member states will have a maritime spatial plan in place for their waters. This will increase stability, predictability and transparency and attract investments in the maritime sector, while contributing to the protection of the marine environment.

Progress has also been made in transport, where we have approved an action plan to create a European maritime transport space without barriers, which facilitates transport between EU ports harmonising and simplifying administrative procedures in

“If we want to leave a healthy ocean to our kids and grandkids, we need to commit to radical change and we need the help of the business community to succeed”

short sea shipping. This would improve the efficiency and competitiveness of intra-EU maritime transport.

We have contributed to enhance maritime safety and security by setting up the common information sharing environment (CISE), while the European marine observation and data network improves public access to marine data.

And we are major contributors to ocean research: we spend €260m a year on marine research, which – among others – helps to monitor the achievement of good environmental status for all EU waters by 2020.

This ambition is enshrined in the European marine strategy framework directive adopted in 2008 and embeds an ecosystems approach to the management of all human activities with an impact on the marine environment.

Thanks to our integrated approach to maritime affairs, we moved past a highly inefficient compartmentalisation of maritime sectors and we are now on track to streamline the management of our waters and increase not only the profitability but also the sustainability of sea-based activities. ★

The catalyst in speeding up the arrival of greener everyday products to our lives:

the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU)

Have you thought of the possibility of having your coffee cup actually made of coffee grounds; or the tyres of your car made of dandelions? The BBI JU is working towards that direction! The BBI JU was part of the Bioeconomy strategy developed by the European Commission in 2012. It became a reality in 2014 and represents the largest industrial and economic cooperation endeavour financially ever undertaken in Europe in the area of bio-based industries with a total budget of € 3.7 billion. It is considered to be one of the most forward looking Public Private Partnership (PPPs) initiatives under **Horizon 2020** and demonstrates the circular economy in action.

This year's EU Green Week's theme of 'Green jobs for a greener future' focusing on how EU environmental policies are creating green jobs and contributing to economic, sustainable and socially responsible growth in the EU is very much sync with BBI JU's vision. Our vision is a **competitive, innovative and sustainable Europe** leading the transition towards a post-petroleum society while decoupling economic growth from resource depletion and negative environmental impacts.

Everyone benefits from a strong European bio-based industrial sector. Reducing Europe's dependency on fossil-based products will help the European Union



meet its climate change targets, and lead to greener and more environmentally-friendly growth. More concretely, bio-based industries are capable of delivering greener everyday products that are comparable or superior to fossil-based products by their superior performance, advanced properties, availability, and in answering citizens' environmental concerns. These new products should reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce Europe's dependency on imported fossil-based raw materials.

Learning to use and re-use precious resources in a sustainable way means BBI JU's projects will develop the potential of currently underused raw materials as an example of circularity. The development of the bio-based sector will bring along benefits from rural (re)development, which creates new economic activity and jobs, and stimulates wealth creation for those involved. By creating new value chains for primary production actors like farmers, additional business revenues will support the move to a bio-based economy.

European citizens will have access to **innovative, greener products** which have a neutral or even positive

impact on their environment, with the added benefits of securing European jobs and ensuring investment follows knowledge-based capital, developed in Europe and remaining in Europe.

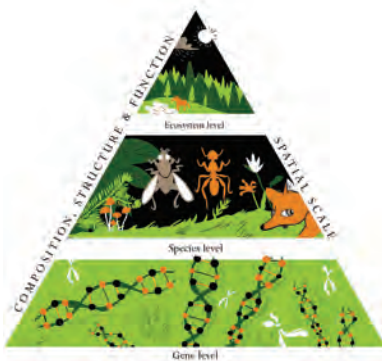
Our citizens' concerns around food security, bio-diversity and zero waste as well as extracting and reusing underutilized raw materials are at the heart of BBI JU's values and philosophy. The bio-based industries are perfect examples of the **circular economy in action**. Greener products will pave the way for the creation of green jobs and BBI JU is already investing in order to exploit their full potential for the benefit of the whole EU society.

More information:
www.bbi-europe.eu/
Twitter: @BBI2020



GENETIC PROTECTION OF FORESTS

Current climate changes are occurring at a fast rate; the temperature in several regions in Europe might change on average 1.8 to 4 degrees within the next 100 years, the precipitation regimes shall change and extreme weather events shall be more frequent than so far. Considering the life-span of a forest tree is from 80 to several hundred years, the existing forest trees may reach their plasticity limits fast, and later shall not be able to adapt to the changing climates. The current understanding of the biology of different tree species has led to several simulations, all of which predict drastic changes of forest existence, cover and composition.



However most of the existing simulations do not consider the existing and, if possible, augmented genetic diversity within populations of forest trees at their whole range of growth. Genetic diversity is the basic requirement which allows the evolution, a gradual adaptation of future generations of forests to the changing climates. In a diverse young forest, some individuals whose plasticity is greater than that of the others might exist and survive, and with selected measures for genetic protection of forests the decrease of diversity and existence of future forests anticipated by simulations might become less drastic.

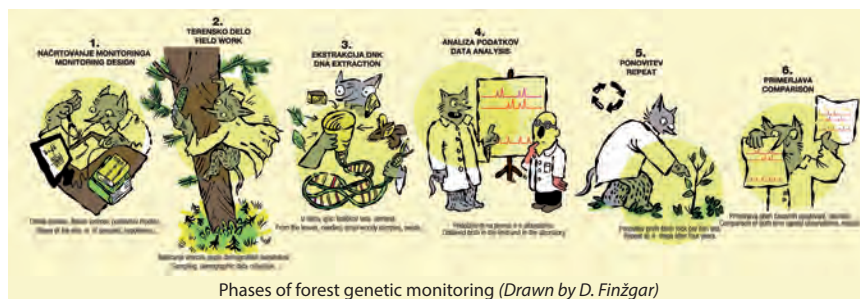
Biotic diversity at all levels, from the within-species (genetic), through species to communities, ecosystems and landscapes, supports the adaptability and resilience of forest ecosystems to fast climate changes (Drawn by D. Finžgar)



Photos: © Boris Rantala, Slovenian Forest Service and Domen Finžgar, SFI

The measures for genetic protection of forests include:

- * Supporting natural regeneration of forests (when enough seed trees are available),
- * Supporting of regeneration with co-planting and co-sowing of a high number of forest tree species, choice of which depends on the appropriateness to the site conditions today and in the future,
- * Use of adequate forest reproductive material (FRM) of a high genetic diversity, which can be achieved through:
 - i. defining the minimum number of trees for cross-pollination (effective population size) and from which the seeds should be collected in appropriate distances from each other;
 - ii. collection of seeds in mast years, since the exchange of genetic material is contributed in these years by most possible trees - parents;
 - iii. professionally designed and controlled mixing of different seed lots,
- * Development and implementation of innovative systems for production of seeds and seedlings,
- * Establishment and assessment of provenance tests for testing the provenances for mixing and transfer of FRM,
- * Along with all the proposed measures it is necessary to monitor the effects and impacts of adaptive forest management with the goal of genetic protection of forests - do they lead to good survival, growth and an enlarged genetic diversity within spatially and temporally delineated populations of forest trees? This can be done through forest genetic monitoring, which can show negative changes of diminished genetic diversity before these become visible through decline of the forest stand,
- * Since forest genetic resources do not know country borders the conservation of forest genetic diversity can be successful if forest genetic monitoring (FGM) is implemented at the local, national, regional and European level.



Phases of forest genetic monitoring (Drawn by D. Finžgar)

The best chance to meet the **LIFEGENMON project** team (LIFE for European Forest Genetic Monitoring System), aiming at developing and implementing FGM, will be at the **IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress in September 2017 in Freiburg, Germany**, in the session 45 - Forest policy and biodiversity strategy: The relevance of forest genetic resources, within Theme 4: Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Biological Invasions.

Prof. dr. Hojka Kraigher, LIFEGENMON coordinator,
Slovenian Forestry Institute (SFI); hojka.kraigher@gozdis.si;

More information at:

www.lifegenmon.si • info@lifegenmon.si • facebook.com/LIFEGENMON • twitter.com/LIFEGENMON • linkedin.com/company/LIFEGENMON



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND FOOD



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AND SPATIAL PLANNING

Green disruption

Green jobs could change the way we live, and the world we live in – what are we waiting for, asks **Jean Lambert**



Jean Lambert (Greens/EFA, UK) is rapporteur on the Green Employment Initiative: Tapping into the job creation potential of the green economy

Over the past centuries, we have irreversibly changed the delicate balance of our planet by living beyond our ecological means. Today many of the earth's resources are scarce – clean water, fresh air, our mineral resources. Communities are being devastated by mining and logging, and species are becoming critically endangered due to hunting and deforestation. We also face the threats of climate change and are already seeing its impact.

For Greens, the wellbeing of the

economy and the environment go hand-in-hand. We believe that our best chance of building lasting, decent employment prospects for future generations is to create jobs that are consistent with sustainable development.

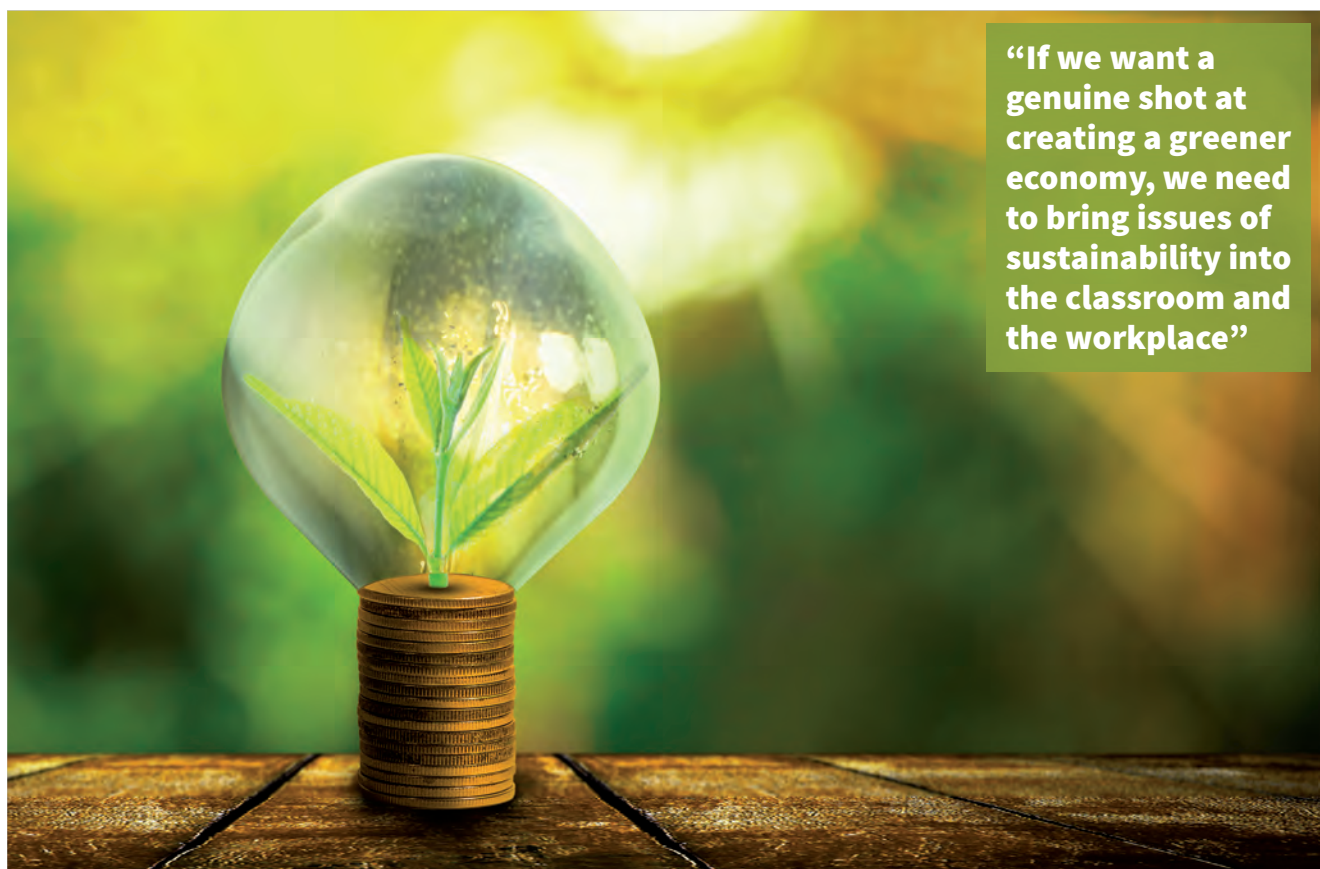
Now is the perfect time for this transformation to get underway. Everywhere we look, the world of work is being disrupted. Traditional industries are in decline, the workforce is becoming increasingly automated, and for many people a 'job for life' is a distant memory.

This poses challenges, but it also offers an opportunity we simply can't afford to miss. It's well documented that a shift to a green economy will, on balance, have a positive impact

on employment. Back in 2012, the European Commission claimed that up to 20 million jobs could be created in the green economy by 2020. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has agreed – 'greening' the economy could generate up to 60 million additional jobs globally over the next two decades.

Seizing this momentum could help to radically improve the way we live, and the world we live in. It would also be fully in line with the new sustainable development goals which cover EU countries. However, it is beset by a fundamental problem – right now we simply don't have the skills we need to grasp this opportunity.

If we want a genuine shot at creating a greener economy, we need to bring issues of sustainability into the classroom and the workplace. We should think carefully about how states can update their curricula, encouraging students – and young girls in particular – to develop STEM (science, technology, engineering and



“If we want a genuine shot at creating a greener economy, we need to bring issues of sustainability into the classroom and the workplace”

maths) and IT skills. According to the NUS, 60 per cent of first-year university students surveyed are interested in learning more about sustainability, regardless of their course of study. We need to capitalise on this positive movement. The Commission's 'new skills agenda' has introduced a blueprint for sectoral cooperation on skills, with the commitment to include green technologies and renewable energies in its second wave of implementation this year – its only specific commitment in this area.

An engaged workforce is also critical to the success of this project. We want to see a 'just' transition to 'green' jobs, which are defined by the ILO as those that "help reduce negative environmental impact ultimately leading to environmentally, economically and socially sustainable enterprises and economies". Importantly, these must also be decent jobs – offering good pay and long-term prospects. In order for this to be a success, we'll have to refocus our priorities. Just because you work in recycling doesn't

mean your job is rubbish. It means you're on the frontline, providing an essential service for your community and your planet. This attitude should extend through supply chains, out of major cities and into rural and former industrial areas.

In June 2015, I helped to raise these issues and many more in the European Parliament through my role as rapporteur on the 'Green Employment Initiative: Tapping into the job creation potential of the green economy'. Cross-party MEPs voted in favour of the resolution, which sent a strong signal to the European Commission – it's time for coordinated action.

However, change is still not happening fast enough. In December 2015 the Commission adopted a revised circular economy proposal, injecting funds into measures to minimise the generation of waste and create 580,000 jobs in the process. It has recently acknowledged the importance of keeping up this momentum into 2017 and beyond, to make the circular economy a reality with benefit for all Europeans.

The EU has also been funding various local projects to help 'green' the economy at local level, including helping small businesses in my constituency of London to clean up their operations. But in reality, we're barely scratching the surface of what needs to be done to truly safeguard our people and planet.

It is currently EU Green Week, an annual opportunity to debate European environmental policy. This year, the focus is on green jobs. It's the perfect chance for the Commission and member states to reflect on our proposals and act on them. I am calling for fresh thinking, genuine policy coherence, ambitious goals, binding targets and detailed outlines on how these will be achieved. This cannot be a niche sector – we need fundamental change across our economy and the world of work.

We need an economy that is fit for the world we live in. There's no time to waste. ★



“Just because you work in recycling doesn't mean your job is rubbish. It means you're on the frontline, providing an essential service for your community and your planet”

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM WITH HUNTING?



Ron Thomson (President, The True Green Alliance)

Joseph Shoko (Director of Wildlife, Ministry of Water, Climate, and Environment of Zimbabwe)

Shane Mahoney (President and CEO of Conservation Visions)

Catherine Bearder (MEP)

Willy Pabst (owner of Sango in the Save Valley Conservancy)

Alexander Schwab (Author)

Moderator: Sebastian Winkler (Senior Associate, Earthmind)



Find the debate on the CIC Video Channel
<https://goo.gl/d703z7>

Plant health must not become a ‘Cinderella’ issue

We need to prioritise plant health, and not just in a crisis, argues **Anthea McIntyre**



Anthea McIntyre (ECR, UK) was Parliament’s rapporteur on protective measures against pests of plants

Politicians have a tendency to make plant health a Cinderella issue. Too often they pay the subject little attention - until a major disease outbreak sweeps across the continent, dominates the news and shakes them out of their complacency. Then they take action. But it can often be too late to prevent huge devastation to the landscape, to biodiversity and to many people’s livelihoods. For me the issue of plant health needs to be a permanent priority. That is true just as much when disease is in abeyance as when destructive pests are on the rampage and grabbing the headlines.

Staying ahead of damaging plant pests requires eternal vigilance at every level. Growers, gardeners, foresters and farmers all need to be on the lookout in the field for the first signs of disease. The authorities responsible for screening imports and exports need to be efficient, diligent, well-staffed and resourceful. At the top of the pyramid, government, legislators and policymakers must give the issue the prominence and priority it deserves, permanently and without waiting

for the next crisis.

That is why I believe it is most timely for the Parliament Magazine to highlight the topic again now. It is also why I was proud, last October, to steer a comprehensive set of measures to boost plant health through the European Parliament. This legislation offers robust and rigorous checks against the spread of disease without over-burdening commercial growers or traders with needless obstacles. It sets out new basic standards to ensure that EU countries work together to address plant pests and diseases. These include mandatory surveillance for high risk pests and better use of the plant passport system.

As far as I am concerned, these

standards will become even more important, not less, after the UK leaves the EU. I am a grower myself on a small scale in the UK and I saw with concern how colleagues further south in Europe were hit by the recent spread of the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*, which devastated olive groves. My country is not blessed with many olive trees, but we are just as susceptible to any potential weaknesses in our plant health defences. We saw this with the sickening spread of Ash Die-back and the damage it did to our woodlands.

There are many other pests that will cause the same havoc with other plants and products if we let them. The Oak Processionary Moth *Thaumetopoea processionea*, remains a potential menace in my country to our deciduous trees. Its caterpillars will strip the leaves from oak trees

and neighbouring species, laying waste to vast tracts of rare, ancient woodland.

As its name suggests it will destroy one tree, then the next, then the next. The caterpillars are also a danger to human health if their hairs come into contact with skin or are inhaled. The moth’s range has been expanding northwards from southern Europe, presumably in response to climate change. It is now firmly established in northern France and the Netherlands, and has been reported in southern Sweden. More recently, colonies of larvae have been found in parts of London. The UK already has robust controls in place but approaches vary widely from



“This legislation offers robust and rigorous checks against the spread of disease without over-burdening commercial growers or traders with needless obstacles”

country to country. As a continent we are only as strong as the weakest link.

The latest major outbreak of plant disease in Europe has been devastating for olives and olive-growers - but the next could hit pears or plums, parsnips or potatoes. I noted at the time the legislation was approved that pests and diseases do not respect national borders. That is why it is so important to have EU-wide rules to protect our agriculture, horticulture and forestry through a proportionate and risk-based approach that provides for quicker decision-making, faster action and better cooperation between member states. I said it was in the UK's interest that the EU should have effective systems in place, both before and after we leave. This is just as true today.

As part of our groundwork for the legislation, we visited plant health institutions and learnt about a range of operations across Europe. The evidence we received suggested a wide fluctuation in the effectiveness and efficiency of various agents. That has to be worrying when you accept the weakest-link principle. And that is why legislation was needed. I was hugely impressed when we visited the UK Animal and Plant Health Agency's screening sheds at Heathrow airport, and not only by the thoroughness of their routine inspection regime. The agents there also conducted intelligence-led searches and used their common sense and nous to hone in on potentially risky consignments. This typifies the high standards that apply in the UK - and those standards will continue to apply after Brexit.

So it is hugely important that the rest of the EU should keep up their own controls. After all, 22 miles of the Channel is not far by sea, air or rail. Britain will continue to be a good neighbour to mainland Europe over plant health - and we will be relying on the EU to reciprocate, for the sake of all our continent's plant life, our biodiversity, our growers and our mutual prosperity. ★

This Thought Leader is sponsored by Euphresco

WE SHOULDN'T TAKE PLANT HEALTH ISSUES FOR GRANTED, WARNS **BALDISSERA GIOVANI**

THE PARLIAMENT MAGAZINE'S

THOUGHT LEADER

It's easy to take plants for granted; yet they are vitally important to us in ways we rarely think about. They provide nutrition, shape our living environment and influence our culture. They are also economically important; creating many of the products that shape modern life. Many activities of modern life, such as global trade and individual behaviour, are increasing threats to our biosecurity by providing opportunities to introduce and spread new plant pests. The recent emergency caused by the introduction of the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa* into Europe highlights the economic, political and social impact that a plant pest can have. A dilemma arises about how to best protect plant health while facilitating trade; phytosanitary measures provide the tools to assess the risks posed by a pest, prevent introduction, support early detection and facilitate effective mitigation. Research provides the scientific and technical information to justify these measures. The Euphresco (European Phytosanitary Research Cooperation) network has been working since 2006 to consolidate Europe's phytosanitary research area and has expanded into a global network to facilitate cooperation among countries with similar problems or are the source of new pests.

At Euphresco we provide a framework for the joint production, sharing and implementation of plant health knowledge. Our recent Euphresco Strategic Research Agenda sets the transnational plant health research priorities to be addressed over the next decade. The document was published shortly after the EU's rules on protective measures against pests and plants came into force, replacing legisla-

tion that had been in place since 1977. The new regulation focuses on preventing the entry and spread of pests within the EU. These risks must be assessed on the basis of the biology and epidemiology of pests as well as on the main drivers, such as increasing global trade and the movement of plants and plant products, increasing and changing trade pathways and climate change. Front-line plant

“The recent emergency caused by the introduction of the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa* into Europe highlights the economic, political and social impact that a plant pest can have”

health professionals will apply the new rules while research should provide them with the knowledge and tools to improve inspection and surveillance and deliver more effective pest eradication, containment and control. The phytosanitary sector is under intense pressure from the growth of global trade, therefore responsibility for protecting plant health must be shared between governments, commercial growers, companies, NGOs land-owners and the public.

Our Research Agenda sets a framework for dialogue between policymakers and stakeholders to support better coordination on plant health research, cross-sectoral collaboration and learning. EU member states will play a major role in addressing the agenda's priorities; synergies and collaboration with the European Commission and the European Food Safety Authority are an essential component of this dialogue.

Dr Baldissera Giovani is Euphresco coordinator at the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)

Protective measures

Six months on from parliament's adoption of the plant protection report, shadow rapporteur **Viorica Dăncilă** reflect on some key questions



Viorica Dăncilă (RO) was Parliament's S&D group shadow rapporteur on protective measures against pests of plants

DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS REGARDING PLANT HEALTH MEASURES FROM THE UK'S EXIT FROM THE EU?

We are at the beginning of the Brexit negotiations and this is one of the issues that must be tackled over the next two years. The UK is very important within the EU's animal and plant health safety system with many EU reference laboratories located in Britain. The UK's Animal & Plant Health Agency is a key partner and I hope that the UK will continue to be an integral part of the vital scientific network that protects us. In this field, international cooperation is a must. We can't do research, nor can we protect our national borders through isolation. Pest and diseases don't stop at borders, especially in a world of strong international trade in plants and plant material and global travellers. We need an integrated approach for all of Europe regardless of EU membership.

WHERE, IN YOUR OPINION, IS THE EU'S WEAKEST LINK WHEN IT COMES TO A POTENTIAL PLANT PEST OUTBREAK?

The EU system is, in general, excellent in keeping us and our plants safe. Nevertheless, outbreaks

like the *Xylella Fastidiosa* olive epidemic in the south of Italy, ash die-back disease, the oak processionary moth and the Asian longhorn beetle further north, are proof that we need to remain vigilant on preventing new pests or disease threats entering Europe. That's why the EU adopted the new legislation last year, to further increase the level of protection while still maintaining an open and business friendly import regime. Geographically speaking, of course southern Europe is more exposed to new pests due to its climate but no region in Europe is safe. That is why we must pay particular attention at Europe's major trade entry points.

HOW WELL PREPARED, DO YOU THINK, THE EU IS AGAINST A POTENTIAL NEW OUTBREAK?

It is difficult to be fully protected, but we have never been better prepared than we are now.

The new plant health legislation will further increase this level of protection through adapting quarantine measures, improving the rapid alert system and better informing travellers of the risk of bringing uncontrolled plants with them. Tractability will also be much improved with the new EU Plant Passport. As I mentioned, we are never fully safe from new outbreaks but we have equipped ourselves with robust legislation and an advanced control system backed by a thriving research community. ★

"Pest and diseases don't stop at borders, especially in a world of strong international trade in plants and plant material and global travellers. We need an integrated approach for all of Europe regardless of EU membership"

Green week 2017 programme

MONDAY: GREEN JOBS IN OUR COUNTRYSIDE

Official Opening event in Malta

TUESDAY: GREEN JOBS AND WATER

15:00 - 18:00

EU Green Jobs Summit, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Brussels

- Opening session: Is Europe ready for green employment?
- TEDx session: The green scene – a world of sustainable employment

18:30 - 20:00

Green Awards ceremony in Brussels

WEDNESDAY: WORKING FOR A GREENER FUTURE

09:30 - 18:00

EU Green Jobs Summit, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Brussels

- Session 1.1: Contribution of EU nature policy to creating green jobs
- Session 1.2 : Green jobs – current definition and future profiles
- Session 2.1: Blue Jobs in the Ocean Energy Sector
- Session 2.2: Investment as a driver of Green Jobs
- Plenary session: Green jobs for the future

THURSDAY: GREEN 'BLUE JOBS' FOR OCEANS

09:30 - 12:30

High-level event on 'Skills needs in an evolving maritime green economy', Crowne Plaza Hotel, Brussels
First panel discussion: A strengthened industry-education cooperation for a greener blue economy

- Setting the scene and policy initiatives on skills: Bernhard Friess, Director, DG MARE
- Blue Careers projects: a green example: Martina Rossi, AS-SESS project coordinator
- The New Skills Agenda and the Blueprint for sectoral skills cooperation: Detlef Eckert, Director, DG EMPL
- Sector Skills Alliance: action plan for Innovative European Aquaculture VET and harmonised qualifications: John B. Stav, Norwegian University for Science and Technology (NTNU)

SECOND PANEL DISCUSSION:

Moving towards green: at the crossroads between challenges and opportunities

- Green Jobs in the Blue Economy: a bottom-up study: Sam Taylor, Head of London Office, Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd
- The regional approach: Emilio María Dolores Pedrero, Head of Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Regional Ministry for Water, Deep-sea minerals: jobs and skills related to exploration, mining and environmental impact: Nicholas Arndt, European Geosciences Union
- The perspective of the future generation of young blue professionals: Antoine Erwes, BlueGen
- How ocean literacy support the awareness raising of blue careers: Francesca Santoro, Programme Specialist, IOC, UNESCO

FRIDAY: GREEN JOBS IN YOUR CITIES

10:30 - 12:00

Green Week 2017 - Closing Event

13:00 - 15:00

European Green Capital & European Green Leaf awards ceremony in Essen

For more information,
visit www.eugreenweek.eu ★

EU Green Week is your annual opportunity to debate and discuss European environmental policy. Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment, this key event in the environment policy calendar attracts policymakers, leading environmentalists, stakeholders and other interested parties from across Europe and the globe.

EU Green Week 2017 will take place from 29 May to 2 June with the theme of 'Green jobs for a greener future'. It will focus on how EU environmental policies are creating green jobs and contributing to economic, sustainable and socially responsible growth in the EU. It will also highlight the demand for new types of green skills in many professional sectors.

In addition to a high level conference in Brussels, the programme will also feature a series of partner events and actions taking place across Europe. As well as being invited to take part in person, stakeholders and the general public are encouraged to become 'virtually' involved by participating in a wide range of on-line and social media activities.

Engage with EU policy makers through TheParliamentMagazine.eu

Ensure your message is seen by our readers

Banner
Advertising

PM+ Partner
Content

Banner
Advertising

Stakeholder
Reports



TheParliamentMagazine.eu offers an ideal platform to:

- build your company's profile
- highlight your work
- showcase your projects and promote your contributions

We provide an excellent arena for policy stakeholders or those managing EU funded projects to present their work, communicate messages, or disseminate results to senior policy makers.

For more information email info@dods.eu

Get in touch
today!



Consumers have the right to know what they drink

Listing nutritional information on alcohol labels will help consumers make healthier choices, writes **Vytenis Andriukaitis**



Vytenis Andriukaitis is European health and food safety Commissioner

Alcohol production and consumption is part of European culture. There is probably no other place on earth where so many types of alcoholic products are available: from local craft beers to Grand Cru wines, from Scottish whiskies to liqueurs in all colours and flavours, thousands of products are available which also constitute a significant economic sector for EU producers who export their products around the world.

But Europeans also drink too much overall, approximately twice as much as the rest of the world,

with an average annual intake of 10 litres of alcohol per adult. Wide variations exist between member states' drinking habits. Alcohol abuse has a major negative impact on people's health and in the overall rise of chronic diseases. Countless scientific studies regularly show that even moderate drinking increases the long-term risk of certain heart conditions, liver diseases and cancers.

Preventing alcohol abuse and addressing the harm that it causes is primarily a national responsibility. Most of the measures to tackle alcohol – for example on minimum drinking age, prices, where and at what time alcohol can be sold – are fully in the hands of the member states. National measures and initiatives are complemented by EU actions focusing on the dissemination of best practices or funding via the health

programme of projects and joint actions to prevent alcohol abuse and address the harm that it causes.

Another issue related to alcoholic beverages is the question of their labelling. The European Commission adopted on 13 March 2017 a report on the mandatory labelling of the list of ingredients and the nutrition declaration for alcoholic beverages. While nutrition labelling can play a certain role in the promotion of more moderate alcohol con-

sumption, the issue of the labelling in the report has been mainly examined from the consumer information angle, but also its possible impact on healthier choices.

The question of whether alcohol should be labelled like any other product has been discussed for many years, in particular during the preparation and adoption of the

“When it comes to alcoholic beverages, there are no objective grounds that justify the absence of a list of ingredients and nutritional information”

2011 regulation on food information to consumers. While the regulation confirmed the exemption of labelling for alcoholic beverages containing more than 1.2 per cent alcohol per volume, it also asked the Commission to adopt a report on the matter.

This report sends a strong message to industry: that consumers have the right to be fully informed about what they drink and that when it comes to alcoholic beverages, there are no objective grounds that justify the absence of a list of ingredients and nutritional information.

The report also recognises that the list of ingredients and nutritional information are key information that helps consumers to make more informed and healthier choices. However, consumers are not necessarily aware of the generally various ingredients used in the production process of alcoholic beverages and of their nutritional value.

But this important document also stresses that we are not starting from scratch. Over recent years, a number of initiatives have been taken either by the industry or some EU countries to provide further information to consumers. Ireland has for example notified a draft bill to the Commission on nutritional information, and several countries impose the presence of a list of ingredients on alcoholic drinks.

In fact, as outlined in the Commission's report, a growing number of alcohol producers in the EU have voluntarily adopted such measures. For example, many brands of beer on the EU market provide nutrition information, either on the label or via quick-response code-driven applications. And from this spring, products from a certain multinational company will provide consumers with the full nutrition declaration per serving and

“Over recent years, a number of initiatives have been taken either by the industry or some EU countries to provide further information to consumers”



per 100 ml on the labels of the beverages in its portfolio.

This demonstrates the growing awareness of the

sector as regards consumer expectations and the willingness from some sectors/companies to provide some responses to consumers' expectations to know what they are drinking.

I believe that this is a path worth pursuing, and I welcome that the report calls upon industry to develop, within a year, a self-regulatory concerted proposal aiming to provide the information in question. I understand that it will involve a lot of work in a short timeframe, and that concerns or even reluctance among some groups remain. We must, however, build on these recent achievements. I therefore

encourage those companies that have shown a positive attitude towards such expectations to lead the way for the more sceptical ones. A proposal from the entire sector involving smaller-scale enterprises, by spring 2018, would be a strong signal for consumers.

In a year from now, the Commission expects to receive this proposal. Should we consider this approach unsatisfactory, we would then launch an impact assessment to review other options.

In conclusion, I want to stress that as the European health Commissioner and as a former doctor, protecting consumers' health should be a key priority for public and private actors. I call on the industry to do its part of the work and I look forward to receiving their contribution next year. ★

INGREDIENTS & NUTRITION: What and how to communicate?

In March, the Commission invited the alcoholic beverage sector to come up - in one year - with a proposal to provide information to consumers on ingredients and nutrition. It's a tricky issue, as the Commission knows well, with many quite different positions and concerns within the sector, not to mention the views of other stakeholders.

The 12 month deadline to arrive at a cross industry self-regulatory proposal that will satisfy all parties seems tight, but we are already working hard to try to find smart, innovative solutions adapted to modern 21st century consumers.

It is worth clarifying one point from the start: it is not generally understood that the production, labelling and presentation of all spirits produced in the EU are already strictly defined according to traditional methods of production in EU law (Regulation 110, from 2008). Wines, too, are also highly regulated, while beers are not. This means, for example, that any whisk(e)y produced must have been matured for at least three years in wooden casks, and that only water and plain caramel (for colouring) may be added to the final distillate. Minimum strengths for every spirit have been set and are respected – 40% for whiskies, but 37.5% for vodkas, rums, etc. In other words, for spirits, there are already strict laws concerning their manufacture, their composition, their taste, their strength, and their presentation to consumers.

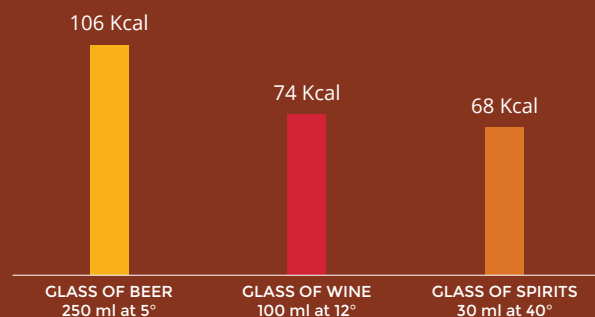
In this way, unbeknownst to themselves, consumers have already been protected concerning the favourite spirits that they buy and consume.

Information on calories must be useful and fair for consumers and producers, not deceptive or misleading. We strongly believe calorie information for alcohol products should be given per serving of alcohol and not per 100ml. Comparing 100ml of spirit to 100ml of beer makes no sense to anyone – it represents approximately 3 times a normal measure of the spirit, and less than half of a smaller serving of beer. A fair comparison? Clearly not. It would be like comparing half a tonne of Skoda to half a tonne of Maserati. Showing calories per serve is also the only way to be consistent with the messages about responsible drinking which we have been promoting for decades.



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CONFUSION & REALITY

If you wanted to show consumers how many calories are in their actual drinks, you would show them per glass, not per 100 ml...



100 ml as a reference point for alcohol beverages would make no sense, would be deceptive, and would confuse rather than clarify

www.responsibledrinking.eu

We want to improve the way consumers access meaningful and fair information to enable them to make informed decisions about what they drink.

Paul Skehan
Director General*
spiritsEUROPE

**in his capacity as permanent representative of Skehan sprl*



Commission report: Yet another delaying tactic

By asking the alcohol industry to come up with ways to regulate itself, the Commission is making things very easy for itself – but not for innovative micro-enterprises, writes **Renate Sommer**



Renate Sommer (EPP, DE) is a member of Parliament's environment, public health and food safety committee

The nutrition and ingredients labelling of alcoholic beverages was one of the key issues during the negotiations on the regulation on food information to consumers. The Commission and Council wanted to exempt all alcoholic beverages except alcopops, which are not defined. No agreement could be reached as to whether only mixtures of spirits with soft drinks should be considered as alcopops, or any mixtures of alcohol with non-alcoholic beverages. Parliament's negotiators simply could

not understand why such a niche product should bear complete labelling, while the rules would not apply to any other alcoholic beverage.

What about consumer information? The second conflict was linked to nutrition labelling. The labelling per 100ml as foreseen for non-alcoholic beverages might work for beer and wine, but could be misleading for spirits. Furthermore, it makes no sense to label the non-existing salt and fat content on alcoholic beverages. The negotiations stalled. In order to cut this Gordian knot, we eventually agreed to exempt alcoholic beverages from nutrition and ingredients labelling, and asked the Commission to present a report on possible labelling approaches, as well as a definition of 'alcopops', three years after the regulation came into force. This report was published more than two years too late. And I was stunned. The Commission has made things very easy for itself, by declaring that a definition for alcopops is unnecessary and demanding the alcohol sector to come up with a harmonised self-regulatory labelling approach in one year's time.

In general, I strongly support

self-regulatory approaches. Sectorial campaigns such as "Don't drink and Drive", "Drinking in Moderation" and the "Beer Pledge" show that alcohol producers have already come a long way with self-regulation. However, the Commission report is too short-sighted and trivial. The alcohol sector is multifaceted and it could be very difficult to find a common approach in just one year. Furthermore, has the Commission forgotten about the many SMEs? Micro-enterprises, especially, might not be organised in associations, and might not even have heard about the Commission's report. Should they be excluded from work being done on a self-regulatory approach?

Regarding the nutritional value, which nutrients should be covered? Or would it be sufficient to label merely the energy content? Would it be enough to label average nutritional values for the different sorts of beers, wines and spirits? It is clear that laboratory analyses are costly, as is printing new labels over and over again. This would be a competitive disadvantage for micro enterprises, which in recent years have been flourishing and innovating – craft breweries, for example. Is innovation unimportant? Or would off-label information be sufficient? And what about the spirits' "100ml-problem"? By the way – has anyone thought about intellectual properties regarding some recipes?

After all, the Commission is asking the industry to draft its own "law" without any guidelines. This is risky for producers. All their previous efforts will be in vain if the Commission considers the requested proposal to be unsatisfactory. To me, the Commission's report seems to be yet another delaying tactic and the attempt to leave industry holding the baby. ★





DIAGEO'S COMMITMENT TO BETTER CONSUMER INFORMATION

Consumers around the world are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. We believe food and drink producers have a responsibility to support that goal by empowering people to make informed choices about what and how they consume by providing comprehensive product information.

When it comes to alcohol, consumers also have the right to know what is in their drinks. As the world's leading spirits and beer producer, Diageo supports that view and committed in March 2015 to provide alcohol content and nutrition information per serve on pack on a global scale, thus becoming the first beverage alcohol producer to do so on a voluntary basis. We spoke to over 1500 people around the world to understand consumers' needs and what they want to see on the labels. Of all the information that could be included on a limited space, alcohol content and nutritional facts per serve, along with brand information, were the most helpful. Therefore we developed a set of easily understandable icons, which allow consumers to see at a glance what is in their drink.

We believe that information on labels is the best and fastest way to inform consumers on what they are drinking. We believe in providing this information per serve, as the 100ml only is misleading and doesn't represent the reality of what is in a drink (we are nevertheless

providing the information also per 100ml in markets where this is legally required). The information per serve also allows for better comparison between the different categories of alcohol beverages, and reinforces the fact that alcohol is alcohol.

Our redesigned labels are being implemented progressively on all of our global brands. We started with iconic Johnnie Walker Red Label, the best-selling Scotch whisky in the world, which has been revamped to include the new labels and which is now available since early April in most European markets. More brands will follow, aiming ultimately at covering our entire portfolio, including all the new products that we are developing.

In addition to the limited space on our labels, we also provide information to consumers through our global responsible drinking website, DRINKIQ.com, which includes nutrition, calorie and alcohol content information for all of our brands and useful tools such as a simple to use 'Drinks Calculator' to help people calculate and track their alcohol and calorie intake. It also provides responsible drinking tips and advice on how food, age, size and gender affects how the body processes alcohol.

Diageo's purpose is celebrating life. With this labelling initiative, we are taking another step to help consumers celebrate life in an informed, balanced way. Better information leads to better choices, and better choices can lead to better lifestyle, and less alcohol misuse.

DIAGEO

Tinkering around the edges

Self-regulation has failed and it's time for real legislative reform on alcohol labelling, says **Lynn Boylan**



Lynn Boylan (IE) is Parliament's GUE/NGL group shadow rapporteur on spirit drinks: definition, presentation and labelling

The European Commission has recently embarked on updating the regulation relating to spirit drinks, its labelling and geographical indications. The rationale behind this legislative update is to align it with the treaty of the functioning of the EU and to harmonise the geographical indicator procedure with the quality schemes applied to other agricultural products.

While this is all worthy of consideration it would serve the Commission better to pursue reforming the more substantive issues around alcohol labelling. The exemption of ingredients and nutritional information for products containing alcohol of 1.2 per cent or more is untenable.

In September 2011, 53 countries including EU member states, endorsed the World Health Organisation's European action plan to reduce the harmful use of alcohol 2012–2020. This included a call for alcohol products to be subject to the same kinds of labelling as other food products.

In 2015, the European Parliament called for the mandatory labelling of calorific content on alcoholic beverages. Finally on 13 March 2017, the Commission produced

its own report which stated that “it has not identified objective grounds that would justify the absence of information on ingredients and nutrition information on alcoholic beverages”.

However, rather than begin the process of legislating or at the very minimum carry out an impact assessment, it has instead called on the industry to bring forward, within one year, a self-regulatory proposal aimed at providing information on ingredients and nutrition of all alcoholic beverages.

This is the same industry that has had to be dragged kicking and screaming to the concept that consumers have the same right to know what is in their alcoholic beverage as they do with every other food and drink product.

Studies in the UK have shown that up to 10 per cent of an adult's daily calorie intake can be made up from alcohol. We have a growing obesity problem in the EU and yet few consumers know that half a litre of beer can contain as many calories as a bar of chocolate. Alcopops – which are particularly popular among young adults – can contain as much as 21 grams of sugar.

Mandatory nutritional labelling is not a silver bullet to reducing alcohol consumption in the EU, but it is part of the tool kit if we are serious about tackling excessive alcohol consumption. It is estimated that alcohol abuse costs the EU approximately €150bn annually and is the third leading cause of premature death and disease. The problem is getting worse, not better.

The alcohol industry had an opportunity to step up to the plate when it came to self-regulation in its approach to alcohol advertising. In January of this year, a report published in the scientific journal *Addiction* outlined the failure of the alcohol industry's self-regulation. It said that, “Taken together, the findings suggest that the current self-regulatory systems that govern alcohol marketing practices are not meeting their intended goal of protecting vulnerable populations.” It also noted that many companies do not comply with their own voluntary codes. Leaked emails from 2016 also showed how industry has used self-regulation as a way to deflect public calls for regulation and has instead exploited its willingness to



“Why are we entrusting the manufacturers of harmful products to decide on what information about that product should be made available to the consumer?”

engage in 'voluntary pledges' as PR exercises.

Why are we entrusting the manufacturers of harmful products to decide on what information about that product should be made available to the consumer? The industry suggests off-label information for alcohol. Seriously? Do they honestly believe that consumers have the time to look up online the ingredients on each bottle of alcohol they want to buy? Self-regulation has failed and the Commission should not delay the inevitable. The only way that the EU will get the sufficient labelling of alcohol products that is in the interests of consumers is to legislate for it.

"If we think that the industry is going to self-regulate against its own best interests in changing consumer behaviour we are fooling ourselves"

Of course, we need education and awareness programmes around alcohol abuse. Of course, we need a change in habits towards our alcohol consumption, but if we think that the industry is going to self-regulate against its own best interests in changing consumer behaviour we are fooling ourselves.

The Commission should stop with the foot dragging. We cannot afford to wait a year for the industry to come forward with a proposal that we know will fail to meet the mark. The patchy efforts of the various drinks industries show that there is a grudging acceptance that alcohol labelling must conform to other food labels. The current file on spirit labelling is only tinkering around the edges. Those of us who are really interested in alcohol labelling that serves the public health interests will not stop pushing for real legislative reform.★

This Thought Leader is sponsored
by The Brewers of Europe

**MEETING CONSUMER DEMANDS
ARE A MUST, NOT JUST NICE
TO HAVE, ARGUES PIERRE-
OLIVIER BERGERON**



THE PARLIAMENT MAGAZINE'S

THOUGHT LEADER

When almost nine out of ten European consumers call for the list of ingredients and nutritional values of alcoholic drinks to be provided, as revealed by the 2016 GfK survey of 9000 adults in nine EU countries, there is an onus on all concerned economic operators to take such clear expectations seriously and to meet them diligently.

"We are now encouraged to sit down together with other sectors following the Commission's call to develop a voluntary solution that applies to all alcoholic beverages"

The Brewers of Europe promotes the positive role played by beer and the brewing sector in Europe and advocates the creation of the right conditions to allow brewers to continue to freely, cost-effectively and responsibly brew and market beer across Europe. This is why since 2015 Europe's brewers have been voluntarily rolling out ingredients listing and nutrition information across Europe, following the rules that apply to non-alcoholic drinks. Today I can proudly confirm that by the end of this year, over 60 per cent of the beer hitting shelves across Europe will carry this information, on labels and also via online platforms, meeting the needs of today's consumers.

In this context, The Brewers of Europe welcomes the European Commission's 13 March report - that recognises the leading role taken by the brewing sector - and the clear statement that there is no objective justification for the absence of ingredients and nutrition information on alcoholic beverages or a differentiated

treatment for some alcoholic beverages.

It is a common feature of human nature that boldness encounters objections and standing out from the crowd exposes you to criticism. The Brewers of Europe has been challenged on the accuracy of respecting EU law, in particular over our use of the legally established reference measure of 100 ml for providing nutrition values. This has been applied to all beverages across Europe for decades and is very well understood by consumers as a means of comparing drinks on a like-for-like basis. To note that portion information can also be provided in addition. Critics also argue that smaller operators will be disadvantaged due to the extra analysis costs involved, despite assurances that average values will be permitted and the fact that modern technologies can overcome many hindrances at a reasonable cost if any.

"Today I can proudly confirm that by the end of this year, over 60 per cent of the beer hitting shelves across Europe will carry this (ingredients and nutrition) information"

We are now encouraged to sit down together with other sectors following the Commission's call to develop a voluntary solution that applies to all alcoholic beverages.

We are encouraging fellow colleagues to follow our lead as it is clear that consumers can only be empowered to take informed decisions on how different foods and beverages fit within their diet and lifestyle if there is a legal and level playing field of comparable information.

Pierre-Olivier Bergeron is Secretary General of The Brewers of Europe

Labelling should be about what's best for consumers

When it comes to labelling, there is no reason to treat alcohol differently from other drinks, argues **Glenis Willmott**



Glenis Willmott (S&D, UK) is a member of Parliament's environment, public health and food safety committee

March saw the publication of the Commission's long-awaited report on the labelling of alcoholic drinks, which are currently exempt from the labelling requirements that apply to all other food and drink under EU law.

I'm yet to hear a compelling justification for this exemption and have long campaigned for these rules to be extended to alcohol. As a minimum I'd like to see calories labelled on alcoholic drinks.

Europe is the heaviest drinking region in the world, with alcohol the third biggest cause of preventable death and disease. Alcohol-related harm costs the EU economy €155.8bn a year. Per gram, alcohol is second only to fat in terms of number of calories, with a large glass of wine containing the same number of calories as a slice of cake and a pint of lager the same as a large slice of pizza. Most people are unaware of just how many calories are in alcohol and with research showing that most adults consume more calories from alcohol than they do from soft drinks. It makes no sense to say that the calories should be labelled in a can of coke but not in a can of beer.

Calorie labelling for alcohol would enable consumers to make informed and healthier decisions.

The Commission's report states plainly what I've been arguing for several years: that there is no reason to treat alcohol differently from other drinks. The report also highlights that there is growing consumer demand for more information, with almost 50 per cent saying they would like to see calories labelled on alcohol.

Nevertheless, the report concludes by inviting the alcohol industry to draw up a proposal for self-regulation within the next year. The Commission will review this proposal and may consider other options, including regulation, if it isn't good enough.

I'm concerned that the Commission's conclusion is just kicking this issue into the long grass; we've already waited over two years for this report and now we may have to wait even longer before we see alcohol finally subject to the same rules as other food and drink. In the absence of EU regulation, there is also a risk that member states will introduce their own, leading to a patchwork of

legislation that will only fragment the single market. Indeed the report highlights that several member states have already introduced additional labelling requirements.

I'm not optimistic about the industry's ability to self-regulate. To their credit, the Brewers of Europe launched a pledge in 2015, committing to provide nutrition information on beers. However, while some spirits producers have provided full information on-label, the sector as a whole prefers the idea of providing calorie information online and would like to give calories per measure, rather than per 100ml which is more comparable. The wine sector is also only willing to provide information online on a common website. This has to be about what's best for consumers and that shouldn't mean putting the burden on the consumer to go online to find out how many calories are in their drink.

We'll have to wait to see what the industry comes up with over the next year but I hope that they will take this opportunity to put consumers first and provide information to help them make informed and healthier decisions. ★

"We've already waited over two years for this report and now we may have to wait even longer before we see alcohol finally subject to the same rules as other food and drink"



Information overload?

Alcohol labelling is not as simple as it seems and health campaigners should be wary of unintended consequences, writes **Christopher Snowden**



Christopher Snowden

is head of lifestyle economics at the Institute of Economic Affairs

As someone who works for a free market economic think tank I find it difficult to argue against calorie labelling on alcohol products. Consumer ignorance is a form of market failure and if there is evidence of widespread ignorance about important facts, it can justify government action. In my view, nutritional information on food and drink meets this criteria. The information should be unobtrusive and not resemble a 'warning', but it should be there for those who are interested.

The case of calorie labelling on alcohol, which the European Commission is currently looking into, raises interesting questions about how much information should be mandated by the state and how much should be sought out by the consumer. The packaging of any product is private property and the government needs a compelling reason to commandeer it. Some people in the drinks industry have pointed out that nutritional information is readily available online (including on their own websites). Further health information is available on television, in newspapers, schools, doctors' surgeries and many other places.

While it is true that people have ways of educating themselves without the government plastering information on every piece of packaging, the same argument could be used to oppose any form of product labelling. There are certain basic facts that it is reasonable to expect a manufacturer to provide, if only to make their →



customers' lives easier. On the other hand, the mere fact that information is accurate and neutral (as calorie counts are) is not sufficient reason to mandate it on every wine bottle. If every piece of accurate information was written on a product's packaging it would require a very small font to fit it all on.

We must ask ourselves what we want to achieve through labelling.

by other means. In most cases, however, the case for warning labels fails to meet at least one of these criteria.

On a practical level, consumers who are given too many warnings might get 'warning blindness' and decide to ignore them all. This seems to be happening in California where a vast number of products are labelled with the warning that they 'contain chemicals known to cause cancer and birth

less risks are put into context, there is a likelihood that consumers will make personal trade-offs based on an exaggerated perception of the hazards, which is to say they will consume less than would be optimal for them.

A genuinely informative health warning on alcohol might explain that 11 million adults in my home country of the United Kingdom drink at a 'risky' level and that there are 9000 alcohol-related deaths a year, meaning that risky drinkers have a 0.08 per cent chance of dying of an alcohol-related cause each year. If given this information, most consumers might conclude that a 'risky' level of drinking is not very risky at all. For that reason, such a warning is never likely to be implemented despite being accurate and arguably useful.

But we are getting ahead of ourselves. The question for now is about nutritional information and, from an economist's perspective, this is unproblematic. The information is neutral, accurate and potentially useful to many people. More survey evidence is needed but I suspect that it would correct an information asymmetry (i.e. manufacturers know how many calories their products contain but most consumers do not) and the cost of implementation is, I assume, quite low.

It is possible that some people would get less pleasure from drinking if they knew how many calories they are consuming, but that would be a rational response and is no reason for inaction. Ironically, the strongest objections to calorie labelling for alcohol do not relate to economics but to health. There are plausible concerns that it will cause weight-conscious drinkers to skip meals and that the market will move away from beer and wine in favour of (lower calorie) spirits. These, too, could be rational responses, but they are not necessarily healthy ones.

The issue is not as simple as it seems and health campaigners should be wary of unintended consequences. ★



“When health warnings are ubiquitous, consumers find it difficult to distinguish between serious risks and minor hazards”

The goal is - or should be - to provide consumers with enough information to make a rational choice according to their preferences. It is possible that more information could lead to greater consumption of a product, although this is not the intention of the 'public health' groups that are currently lobbying for alcohol labelling. They would like to go much further and place cigarette-style health warnings on alcohol, such as 'Alcohol Causes Cancer', with the express purpose of deterring people from drinking.

An argument could be made for some form of health warning if there was good evidence that (a) many people are misinformed about certain risks, (b) those risks are meaningful and well-proven, (c) the warnings would make a difference to patterns of behaviour, and (d) it is not possible to effectively transmit the information

defects'. When health warnings are ubiquitous, consumers find it difficult to distinguish between serious risks and minor hazards. 'Smoking causes lung cancer' and 'Alcohol causes breast cancer' are both evidence-based claims insofar as they reflect an increased risk of contracting the diseases according to epidemiological research, but the risk from drinking is very small compared to the risk from smoking. Smoking causes around 70 per cent of lung cancer cases whereas drinking causes only around six per cent of breast cancer cases, and the evidence for the former is more robust than for the latter. Un-

European business summit: Agora agenda

MONDAY, 22 MAY 2017

10:30-11:00

What are the next steps for better economic governance in the eurozone?

11:15-12:15

Money for nothing: The basic income debate

12:30 - 13:30

European economic diplomacy: A new tool to compete in a global world?

13:45-14:45

Between free trade and protectionism – which way is the EU going?

15:00 - 16:00

How can Europe foster its start-up and scale-up potential?

16:15-17:15

Fake news

17:00-18:30:

Plenary session: A new narrative for Europe

TUESDAY, 23 MAY 2017

09:30-10:45

Plenary Session: Business contribution to energy challenges

10:45-11:30

Is Europe imploding?

12:00-13:00

US-EU relations in the Trump era: Risks and opportunities

14:15-15:15

How will Europe look in 2019?

15:30-16:30

The future of the European economy and Europe

16:30-17:30

Plenary session: Europe in a new world – strategy to thrive

For a more detailed agenda, visit www.ebsummit.eu ★

Who's behind ebs 2017

The European Business Summit (EBS) is an organisation that creates one of the largest networking and debating events in Brussels. We describe ourselves as a key player in bringing business and politics together and our aim is to stimulate thinking on European issues that span political, social and environmental challenges. Through its events and publications, EBS delivers an inspired and informed contribution to policy-making in Europe.

EBS, under the provision of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is supported by the FEB (Federation of Enterprises in Belgium) and BUSINESSEUROPE. The EBS is also proud to acknowledge the high patronage of His Majesty the King of the Belgians.



What's next for Europe?

This year's European Business Summit is well placed to provide a platform for debate between EU stakeholders, explains **Arnaud Thyssen**



Arnaud Thyssen is Director General of the European Business Summit

Today, more than ever before, there are questions being asked of the European Union's policies and whether its institutions are sufficiently adapted to manage current challenges and foster new strategies. Indeed, the challenges that Europe is facing are unprecedented. The consequences of the 2008 financial crisis, terrorist attacks, international turmoil, migration flows and Brexit are just some of the developments affecting our continent.

This year we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the European Community. The anniversary provided the opportunity to reflect not only on the achievements of the European Union but also on the path to be taken in the future; a future that the EU can only embrace through working hand-in-hand with the driving forces of its economy: the business community. Europe's companies are indeed part of the solution and play a central role in generating growth and jobs. Historic moments such as these contain all the ingredients for a paradigm shift within the EU and in the politics of Europe in general. Therefore an open and constructive dialogue on Europe's strengths and weaknesses

as well as the rapid and unpredictable pace at which our world is evolving is essential to paving the way to a better future for its citizens.

Providing a vital contribution to this ongoing dialogue, the European Business Summit is uniquely positioned to foster cooperation and interaction between the business community, political authorities, universities, think tanks and research centres of the Businesses association. With a 17-year legacy of working with businesses and policy-makers, EBS is well placed to play its role as a unique platform of debate and collaboration between all the stakeholders of the economy.

With this in mind as the driving-

“Today, more than ever before, there are questions being asked of the European Union's policies and whether its institutions are sufficiently adapted to manage current challenges and foster new strategies”

force behind the shaping of the summit, over the years, EBS has increased its scope accordingly by enlarging its range of stakeholders and establishing a long-term dialogue with them. Today, EBS is not only a two-day main annual Summit but also comprises additional 1-day events on relevant industry topics throughout the year with 'Think Digital', Energy Policy Summit, (co-organisers), 'Back from Davos', 'Europe Defence Summit' and others to come.

This is also reflected in the structure of the EBS 2017 programme which will see a number of roundtables and conferences organised in co-operation with key partners,



bringing their specialisation, network and authority on board. Among the roundtables present in this year's EBS programme, I would like to underline in particular the 'European Dialogue on skills and migration' launched at the initiative of the European Commission's DG Home and the 'Sustainable Development goals Conference' set up by CSR Europe. With eight roundtables, EBS will expand upon the ability to facilitate interaction between the business sector, EU/national policy-makers and the research community by focusing on in-depth analysis and recommendations.

The networking village will see a number of interactive debates and innovative presentations, supported by numerous institutions and organisations. Thanks to the experts promoted by the European Research Council and DG Research, new ideas and technological solutions will be shared with the audience. Many other speakers will engage in promoting new models and ideas aimed at improving the governance and efficiency of the EU.



This year's European Business Summit will be held at the prestigious Egmont Palace in Brussels

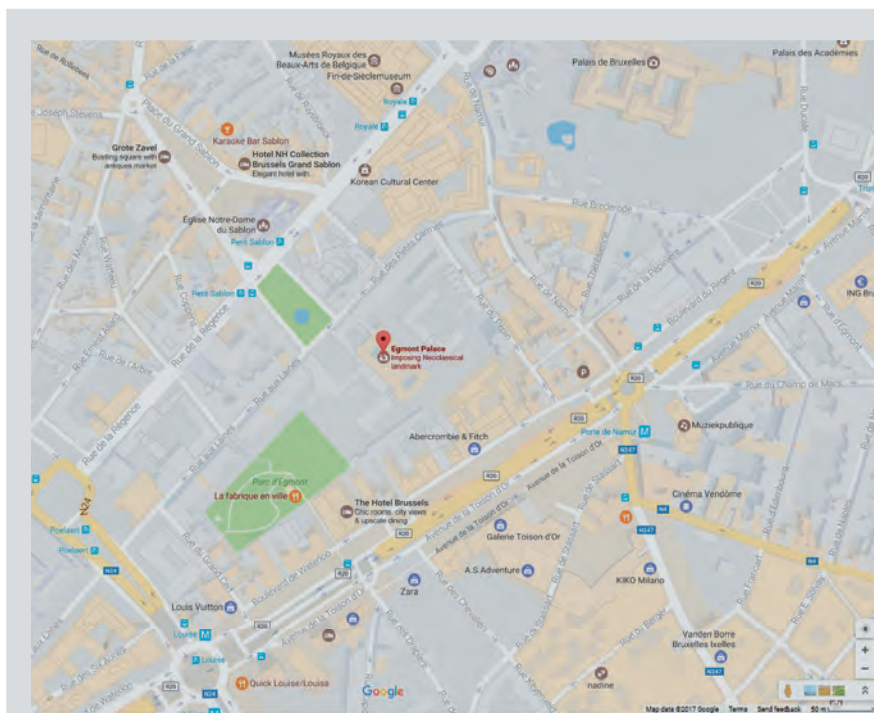
At this year's summit you will also find a study conducted by our main knowledge partner, the McKinsey Global Institute, entitled, "European Business: Strengthening Recovery,

Overcoming Uncertainty". Responding to the need for active and pragmatic collaboration between different players in society, the report provides answers from European business leaders on the most recent questions raised by the Commission within its five scenarios on the future of Europe.

I have no doubt that the debates at the European Business Summit will contribute to finding the path the EU should follow in the future. Only with strong foundations and a resilient economy will the European Union and its Member States be in the position to provide credible answers to citizens' concerns about the future and help ensure the EU economy can continue to grow and create jobs, despite growing global political uncertainty.

Finally, I would like to thank our Strategic partner Tata Consulting Services, as well as all other institutional and business partners, for helping us to make EBS 2017 a pivotal and influential summit. I wish you an inspiring time during the Summit. ★

"Among the roundtables present in this year's EBS programme, I would like to underline in particular the 'European Dialogue on skills and migration' launched at the initiative of the European Commission's DG Home"



Practical information

The European Business Summit is held at the prestigious Egmont Palace off Place du Petit Sablon, in Brussels. Registration desks will open from 09:30 on 22 May and from 08:30 on 23 May.

Getting there

By public transport
Nearest metro stop: Porte de Namur (2, 6)
Nearest tram and bus stop: Petit Sablon (93, 92, 95, 27)

Parking

There are two car parks close to the Egmont Palace:
Interparking "Sablon-Poelaert" (Place Poelaert)
Open 07:00 – 00:00
and "2 Portes" (Boulevard de Waterloo, 2a)
Open 06:30 – 02:00

Join the debate

This year's European Business Summit is an opportunity to take part in stimulating debates on the future of Europe

Current and future concerns facing Europe's business community will come under the spotlight at a high profile event later this month. These and many other questions are due to be debated at this year's European Business

Summit (EBS) in Brussels.

Other pressing matters up for discussion at the showpiece get-together of the great and good from the business world include cyber security and whether the EU energy union is able to address Europe's key energy

challenges.

Participants at the two-day event (22-23 May) at the city's prestigious Egmont Palace will be joined by several keynote speakers, including German finance minister Wolfgang Schäuble, European Commission Vice-President Jyrki Katainen, BusinessEurope President Emma Marcegaglia, European Parliament President Antonio Tajani and BusinessEurope Director General Markus J. Beyrer. Over the years, EBS has grown to become the largest debating and networking platform in Europe and this year's summit will be 17th edition since its inception. Some 200 high-level speakers, including 10 Commissioners, international CEOs, MEPs and civil society representatives will meet to debate the role the business community can play in shaping the future of Europe.

Jobs and skills, energy, digitalisa-



tion, European security, Brexit, migration are on the EBS agenda. Other key issues such as trade and investment liberalisation, key competitiveness drivers for businesses, will also be the subject of debate.

Held annually in Brussels, the 2016 edition of EBS attracted 2400 delegates, including eight European Commissioners and the presidents of the European Commission, Parliament and Council. With representation from over 250 companies, the summit later this month is designed to provide an engaging exchange of ideas and perspectives.

In recent years, Europe has navigated unprecedented challenges posed by the financial crisis, regional conflicts, refugee crises, a changing political landscape and most recently,

“Some 200 high-level speakers, including 10 Commissioners, international CEOs, MEPs and civil society representatives will meet to debate the role the business community can play in shaping the future of Europe”

Brexit. Questions have also been raised about the effectiveness of the EU institutions and their capacity to adapt. The 2017 summit, themed around ‘What’s next for Europe’, will address these and other challenges and seek to find solutions.

Amit Bajaj, CEO Europe at Tata Consultancy Services, commented, “This year, Europe will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome where the European Economic Community was first established. In recent decades the region has seen tremendous growth and prosperity, driven in large part by a progressive and innovative business community. As we look forward there are undoubted challenges ahead but also many opportunities. Probably the single largest opportunity is digital economy where the European Commission estimates growth of €415bn a year if steps can be taken to support digital business.”

The two days are split into various sessions including, on day one, a debate called ‘Protecting our individual freedom’. This session, featuring Philippe De Backer, the Belgian state secretary for social fraud and privacy, aims to show how security is a “central component of business continuity and citizens’ trust.” Another session, also on the first day, will debate Europe’s trade strategy and new foreign policy agendas such as the so-called ‘America First’ and ‘Global Britain’.

Many argue that such modern-day trends underline the necessity for the future EU27 to forge a new geopolitical and trade strategy. With the US moving closer towards protectionism and Asia increasingly taking centre-stage in the international trade market, the argument is that Europe needs to position itself in this new world order. One question the EBS will try to answer is how policymakers and business leaders can strategically coordinate to establish a European trade strategy to generate new market opportunities for businesses.

One of the highlights of day two of

the summit promises to be a session on skills and migration. Over the last few years a rising number of migrants from third-countries have come to Europe and this roundtable will focus on how to mobilise employers for the integration of recently arrived migrants, and in particular refugees. Dimitris Avramopoulos, the European commissioner for migration, home affairs and citizenship, and Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for employment, social affairs and skills, are among the participants in this dialogue.

As recent events have highlighted, the Trump administration in the US brings with it a lot of uncertainties – and opportunities – and another session will focus on current and future EU/US relations. Daniel Gros, director of the Brussels-based think tank, Centre for European Policy Studies, and Nicholas Hodac, governmental programs executive at IBM Europe, are among the speakers.

The future of industry in the EU will be the focus of a separate session chaired by Alexander Afre, director of industrial affairs at BusinessEurope, the Brussels-based organisation that represents the business community at EU level. BusinessEurope president Emma Marcegaglia added, “EBS 2017 will debate how to bring the EU forward after the victory of a pro-European French president, what new narrative to boost support for the EU and what must Europe do to strive in a new world”.

Other speakers at this year’s summit will include Pierre Moscovici, the Commissioner for economic and financial affairs, Commission first Vice-President Frans Timmermans and Jean-Pierre Clamadieu, CEO of Solvay. The EBS event was founded by the Federation of Enterprises in Belgium and started out as a small gathering in the lobby of a hotel. An EBS spokesman said, “With 2200 participants and 200 speakers the 2017 edition promises to be as stimulating as ever.” ★

5

Questions with... *Danuta Hübner*



at different ways of living and at cultures or people. Sometimes I also read for fun, to relax – crime stories, for example. I hope those don't inspire or influence me.

4. WHAT ONE ITEM WOULD YOU SAVE FROM YOUR HOUSE OR APARTMENT/ HOUSE IF IT WAS ON FIRE?

This question is about testing the limits of your rationality under stress. Therefore basics like my phone, my wallet, my passport – those I would take as a rational person. But the rest, I imagine, would be a matter of accident. I would take what was closest to me, whatever was at hand and that I could grab the fastest. Well, there would not be much time to think rationally at that moment. I would probably take some me-

mentos that are important and have some sentimental value for my personal history, from my childhood. Perhaps one or two pieces of clothing that I especially like and cannot leave even a house on fire without.



5. WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR FREE TIME TO RELAX AND UNWIND?

Reading, of course. Watching movies. But also skiing, swimming, biking and walking – pretty standard stuff. The nature of my work is such that I am always among people, which is great. But sometimes I just need some solitude, just to think about issues. Therefore I treasure every moment I can have just for myself, walking free against the wind in some empty place, unrecognised by anybody. ★

Danuta Hübner (EPP, PL) is Chair of Parliament's constitutional affairs committee

1. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR POLITICAL/LEADERSHIP STYLE IN THREE WORDS?

Consensual. Open. Future-oriented.

2. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU HAVE PERSONALLY ACHIEVED OR DONE THAT WOULD SURPRISE PEOPLE?

Probably the fact that I transferred pretty fast from purely academic work to politics. For many years, I was a professor and a researcher, with no direct contact with politics. Those who knew me back then were probably quite surprised that I was able to adapt to working in the public sphere with relative ease. Actually, it was a surprise for me too.

3. WHAT WAS THE MOST INSPIRATIONAL AND INFLUENTIAL BOOK YOU HAVE READ AND WHY?

This is an easy question to answer only for those who have read just one book in their life. For those of us who read books the same way we eat breakfast or drink coffee, it's pretty much impossible to choose a single book. Every book I read leaves an indelible mark in my mind, sometimes in my heart. One book on its own doesn't inspire or influence me, rather it's the cumulative effect of all the books I read that changes the way I look at the world,



INEXPENSIVE BUT ESSENTIAL

Calling for a better European Supply of Essential Cancer Medicines

Many European countries currently face shortages of inexpensive, essential medicines that are crucial for the treatment of cancer patients. Such shortages, including medicines on the World Health Organization's Essential Medicines List, are catastrophic for patient care and the ability of oncologists to effectively treat patients. Strikingly, a report from the European Association for Hospital Pharmacists showed that in 2014, 45% of European pharmacies experienced weekly shortages. Considering that the second most commonly reported medicines shortages are in cancer, a disease with a growing prevalence, this challenge presents an increasing threat to patient care in Europe. The European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO), the leading European professional organisation for medical oncology with over 15,000 members from 130 countries, has also tackled this issue in its "European Consortium Study on the availability, out-of-pocket costs and accessibility of anti-neoplastic medicines in Europe", and so has the European Parliament in the recently voted INI Report on "EU Options for Improving Access to Medicines". Thus, given the importance of this issue MEPs Alojz Peterle, Lieve Wierinck and Françoise Grossetête, will host an event, in collaboration with ESMO, to launch a new report by the Economist Intelligence Unit & ESMO proposing concrete actions to deal with these shortages of inexpensive, essential cancer medicines. Together with MEPs Mr. Peterle, Ms. Wierinck and Ms. Grossetête, ESMO looks forward to welcoming Members of the European Parliament to an engaging debate on this important topic.

CO-CHAIRS

Alojz Peterle MEP
Lieve Wierinck MEP
Françoise Grossetête MEP

17 MAY | 16:00 - 18:00
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT STRASBOURG
ROOM N3.5



European Parliament



Give Hope

When millions of Syrian refugees felt forgotten, the world responded. That glimmer of hope is keeping them going.

But this winter, many more still urgently need our help.

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency providing food assistance to some 80 million people in 80 countries.



Join us
on Facebook



follow us
@WFP

Your donation to the World Food Programme could make a huge difference by providing Syrian refugees with vital food vouchers to buy food.

No refugee should go hungry.

PLEASE MAKE A DONATION TODAY.
wfp.org/Syria

THANK YOU.



World Food Programme

wfp.org

ONE FUTURE #ZEROHUNGER