

EU-27 WATCH



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On the project

Due to the new treaty provisions of the Lisbon Treaty and the economic crises the enlarged EU of 27 member states is on the search for a new *modus operandi* while also continuing membership talks with candidate countries. The EU-27 Watch project is mapping out discourses on these and more issues in European policies all over Europe. Research institutes from all 27 member states and the four candidate countries give overviews on the discourses in their respective countries.

The reports focus on a **reporting period from December 2009 until May 2010**. This survey was conducted on the basis of a questionnaire that has been elaborated in March and April 2010. Most of the 31 reports were delivered in May 2010. This issue and all previous issues are available on the EU-27 Watch website: www.EU-27Watch.org.

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EU-27 Watch | Chronology

(between June 2009 and May 2010)

- 1-12 June 2009** Bonn Climate Change Talks.
- 4-7 June 2009** Elections to the European Parliament are held.
- 18-19 June 2009** European Council meeting in Brussels:
- postponed crucial decisions on financing the fight against climate change in developing countries until their October meeting.
 - Nomination of the President of the Commission Mr Barroso as President of the European Commission for the period 2009-2010.
 - The financial crisis has clearly demonstrated the need to improve the regulation and supervision of financial institutions, both in Europe and globally.
- 28 June 2009** Parliamentary Elections in Albania are held. The Democratic Party wins the election over the Socialist Party.
- 1 July 2009** Sweden takes over the council presidency:
- Priorities: economic recovery and climate change
- 11-14 July 2009** First bilateral climate talks between EU and China:
- the EU insists that China needs to commit to the 15-30 percent target if Europeans are to upgrade their objective of slashing emissions to 20 percent below 1990 levels in Copenhagen in December.
- 8-10 July 2009** The 2009 G8 Summit is held in L'Aquila, Italy:
- The G8 countries commit to limiting global warming to 2°C and reducing their greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050.
- 16 July 2009** Iceland applies to join the EU.
- 23 July 2009** Sweden urges the United States on Thursday to move faster in tackling climate change ahead of a major environmental summit in Copenhagen later that year.
- 29 July 2009** Parliamentary elections are held in the Republic of Moldova. The Moldovan Communist Party (CPRM) receives 48 seats, the remaining four parties form the coalition called the Alliance for European Integration (AEI) having a total of 53 seats. The AEI forms the new government coalition.
- 10 September 2009** European Commission opens negotiations with Turkey upon accession to the Energy Community.
- 16 September 2009** Mr Barroso gets the nod from European parliament for another five years.
- 29 September 2009** Slovenia unblocks Croatia's accession negotiations, which had remained stalled for months over a border dispute.
- 3 October 2009** Irish voters endorse the Lisbon Treaty on their return to the ballot box.
- 14 October 2009** The commission's annual report on countries aspiring to EU membership says Croatia has entered the final stage of accession negotiations.
- 23 October 2009** Ireland ratifies the Treaty of Lisbon.
- 29-30 October 2009** European Council meeting in Brussels:
- The climate is changing faster than expected and the risks this poses

can already be seen.

- The Copenhagen agreement needs to include provisions on the 2°C objective and the ambitious emission reduction commitments by developed countries.
- The European Council calls for rapid progress to be made on the strengthening of the regulatory framework for the prevention, management and resolution of financial crises and on the development of a comprehensive EU-wide framework for closer policy coordination on financial stability

3 November 2009	Václav Klaus (the Czech president) signs the Lisbon Treaty.
4 November 2009	Croatia and Slovenia agree on border issue.
13 November 2009	The Treaty of Lisbon is ratified in Czech Republic.
19 November 2009	Herman Van Rompuy is the first president of the European Council, Cathrine Ashton will become the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union.
30 November 2009	The Council of the European Union decides to lift the visa requirement for entry to the Schengen Area for citizens of Montenegro, Macedonia and Serbia, starting on 19 December 2009.
1 December 2009	The Treaty of Lisbon enters into force.
03 December 2009	EU-Ukraine Summit in Kyiv.
7-19 December 2009	The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (COP 15): <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The so-called Copenhagen accord "recognises" the scientific case for keeping temperature rises to no more than 2C but does not contain commitments to emissions reductions to achieve that goal.
08 December 2009	Debt crisis: Greece's credit rating is downgraded from A- to BBB+. It marked the first time in 10 years that the country has seen its rating pushed below an A grade.
09 December 2009	The 8th Euromed Trade Ministerial Conference is held in Brussels. Ministers stress their support to the commitment taken at the G-20 summits to avoid any new protectionist measures, which are counter-productive to the current economic and financial challenges faced by the Euro-Mediterranean region.
10-11 December 2009	European Council meeting in Brussels: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Copenhagen Conference constitutes a historic opportunity for the international community to act together in response to the challenge of climate change. European leaders pledge a total of 7.2 billion Euros over the next three years to help poorer nations cope with global warming, hoping to boost support for an agreement in Copenhagen.- The Copenhagen Agreement should include provisions on immediate action, starting in 2010.- To tackle the crisis, the EU and its Member States implement a wide range of extraordinary measures including the European Economic Recovery Plan from December 2008.
18 December 2009	Ukraine and Moldova to accede to the Energy Community upon amendments of their gas laws. Accession will be effective when and if these countries solve the remaining gaps and make their gas laws comply with the EU acquis requirements and complete their respective ratification procedures.
22 December 2009	Serbia submits its application for EU membership.

1 January 2010	Spain takes over the council presidency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spain assumes the rotating presidency of the European Union at the start of the year, promising to make the Lisbon treaty its top priority.
18 January 2010	Outcomes of the Swedish EU Presidency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate Change: The Presidency's objective was to ensure that the EU continues to take responsibility for combating climate change and to act in unison at the COP15. - Economic Crisis: Better and increased financial supervision, end to inappropriate bonus culture, new European rules on capital adequacy, finance policy exit strategy, a new growth strategy for the EU in 2020. - Enlargement: The objective of the Presidency was to secure continued progress. Agreement between Croatia and Slovenia, Turkey's negotiations are continuing, applications being assessed, interim agreement with Serbia.
7 February 2010	Victor Yanukovich wins the presidential election over Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.
9 February 2010	President Barroso's new team wins backing from parliament.
12 February 2010	Nord Stream pipelines get final approval.
24 February 2010	European Commission: Iceland is deemed ready for EU membership talks.
2 March 2010	EU strengthens the ENP: Increased funding for the period 2011-2013 (over 5.7 billion Euros). EU neighbours will receive more than 2 billion Euros in 2013, compared with 1.6 billion Euros in 2010.
3 March 2010	Europe 2020: Commission sets out a 10-year strategy for reviving the European economy, casting a vision of 'smart, sustainable, inclusive' growth rooted in greater coordination of national and European policy.
3 March 2010	Greece unveils a 4.8 billion Euro austerity programme targeted at civil servants, the rich and the church in a move designed to secure European help in tackling its crippling debt burden.
4 March 2010	43 gas and electricity projects to split 2.3 billion Euros, the most the EU has ever spent on energy infrastructure in a single package.
4 March 2010	The Union for the Mediterranean is launched in Barcelona. Presentation of the new Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, Ahmad Masadeh.
20 March 2010	First ever Balkan summit (boycotted by Serbia) in order to promote the region's integration into the EU.
22 March 2010	New EU energy commissioner Günther Oettinger makes promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy one of his top priorities.
30 March 2010	The Serbian parliament passes resolution apologising for the 1995 massacre by Bosnian Serbs in the town of Srebrenica.
8 April 2010	Kyrgyz opposition claims power after violent coup. 65 people are killed in violent protests that forced the president to flee the capital.
8 April 2010	US President Obama and President Medvedev sign a nuclear disarmament treaty ("New START") in Prague.
9 April 2010	Nord Stream: Construction of the Nord Stream natural gas pipeline has started in the Swedish Exclusive Economic Zone of the Baltic Sea.

- 10 April 2010** Polish President Lech Kachinsky and 95 members of his delegation die in a plane crash on the way to Russia for a commemoration of the Katyn massacre.
- 11 April 2010** Parliamentary elections in Hungary: Fidesz (Centre-Right party) wins 53 percent of the votes, Jobbik (far Right party) 17 percent, behind the ruling Socialists who take 19 percent. The election results will not be final until a second round to be held on April 25.
- 15 April 2010** On an official visit in Sarajevo, Croatian President Ivo Josipovic apologises for crimes committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the 1990s.
- 18 April 2010** Northern Cyprus poll: Turkish Cypriot politician Dervis Eroglu has swept to victory in presidential elections, winning 50.38 percent of the vote unofficial final results show. Mr Eroglu's main rival, incumbent leader Mehmet Ali Talat, won 42.85 percent of the vote. The development is seen by many as a blow for talks to reunify the divided island and a setback for Turkey's EU bid.
- 19 April 2010** Zagreb closes the free movement of goods policy chapter of its EU membership negotiations and passes the halfway mark in the road to accession, with 18 out of 35 chapters now provisionally closed.
- 25 April 2010** Second round of the parliamentary election in Hungary: the rightist Fidesz-KDNP coalition wins a constitutional majority in the National Assembly.
- 26 April 2010** Council of the European Union: Foreign ministers reach a political agreement on the proposal for the establishment of the European External Action Service, the EEAS. It will serve as a diplomatic service for the EU, including Union delegations in third countries. The agreement will form the basis for consultations with the European Parliament to make the new service operational as soon as possible.
- 27 April 2010** The Ukrainian parliament ratifies the agreement with Russia that extends Russia's military base in Ukraine for 25 years. In exchange the price for Russian gas will be reduced by 30 percent over ten years. It is a controversial agreement and there was tumult in the parliament during the vote.
- 27 April 2010** Debt crisis: Portugal's credit rating is downgraded from AA to AA-.
- 28 April 2010** Debt crisis: Spain's credit rating is downgraded from AA+ to AA.
- 02 May 2010** Euro zone seals 110 billion Euro rescue plan for Greece: Finance ministers decide that Athens will receive 80 billion Euros in bilateral loans in three years spanning until 2012. 30 billion will come from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- 07 May 2010** Turkey's parliament approves a bill introduced by the ruling AK Party to reform the constitution. The principal points of the reforms are overhauling the Constitutional Court and restructuring the Supreme Board of Judges and Prosecutors.
- 09 May 2010** The European Union decides to set up a massive economic defence mechanism. Its total volume will be up to 500 billion Euros, with a further 220 billion available from the IMF. This agreement protects weaker Eurozone nations from market speculation and assure the Eurozone's stability.
- 12 May 2010** After 13 years in opposition, the UK's Conservative Party returns to office heading the first coalition government the country has known since World War II. David Cameron becomes prime minister in a coalition with the Liberal Democrats.

- 14 May 2010** Albania: Street protests are escalating against the government of Sali Berisha. Approximately 10,000 people take part in another demonstration of the opposition Social Democratic Party (PS) in Tirana. A growing political crisis may affect the assessment of Albania's motion for EU membership.
- 19 May 2010** Hungary, the largest investor in Montenegro, is supporting the country's accession to the European Union. The integration of the Western Balkans into the EU is a top priority of the Hungarian government and its EU Presidency in early 2011.
- 22 May 2010** Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu is elected as leader of the main Turkish opposition CHP party. He said he supported Turkey's ambition to join the EU and asked Brussels to give a date for Turkish accession.
- 27 May 2010** The European Commission adopts proposals to enable citizens of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina to travel with biometric passports to the Schengen countries without requiring visas. Both countries have to fulfil outstanding requirements.
- 31 May – 1 June 2010** EU-Russia Summit issues: the global financial crisis, climate change, energy security, Partnership for Modernisation, economy and prospects for visa-free travel.
- 02 June 2010** Western Balkan Summit: "The Western Balkans region is the top priority for the external policy of the European Union", EU Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle said. The summit brought no countable results and diplomats are sceptical about the substance.
- 07 June 2010** Slovenia narrowly approves a border arbitration deal with Croatia in a referendum on 6 June. The border dispute was the main obstacle to Croatia's EU membership. The vote makes Croatian membership in 2012 possible.
- 07 June 2010** Azerbaijan and Turkey sign a deal to ship 11 billion cubic metres of Azeri gas to Turkey per year. The EU's planned Nabucco pipeline also benefits from this deal, because some of the gas may be pumped into the pipeline. Shipments should start in 2017.
- 08. June 2010** EU finance ministers reach a broad agreement on a controversial plan to review each others' national budgets, together with earlier sanctions for member states that break the bloc's fiscal rules.