

Press review: 3rd of September, 2010

Washington foresees EU decay. Meanwhile, Croatia is preparing for a referendum on EU membership. Elsewhere, Turkey's opposition protests over constitutional amendments. In addition, Nigeria supports credible elections in the country, while the EU gives additional fund to AU peacekeeping mission in Somalia.

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EU Affairs

The European Union is dying

Renationalisation of politics, a painful economic slump, hasty enlargement, populism- some of the reasons why insiders in Washington believe the EU is a thing of the past. According to an article in Washingtonpost, the European Union is 'slowly and steadily dying.' The article claims that Europe's decline is partly economic -due to the financial crisis, high national debts and uncertain health of the continent's banks. But the most serious malady, according to the source, is the 'renationalization of political life, with countries clawing back the sovereignty they once willingly sacrificed in pursuit of a collective ideal'.

Many Europeans now wonder what the union is delivering for them, and they ask whether it is worth the trouble. If these trends continue, they could compromise one of the most significant and unlikely accomplishments of the 20th century: an integrated Europe, at peace with itself, seeking to project power as a cohesive whole. The result would be individual nations consigned to geopolitical irrelevance - and a United States bereft of a partner willing or able to shoulder global burdens, the edition predicts.

<http://www.presseurop.eu/en/content/article/329141-european-union-dying>

Enlargement, European Neighbourhood

Croatia prepares for referendum on EU membership

Croatia is doing its best to meet the last criteria in order to conclude the marathon accession talks for EU membership. Yet, the question is still in the air whether its own citizens really want to join the Union. According to the results of Eurobarometer survey, only 26 percent of Croatian citizens are of the opinion that their country's membership in the EU would be 'a good thing.' Croatian scepticism is second only to Iceland, the latest candidate country that started accession talks recently.

The Croatian government, helped by the European Commission and some EU member states, is working on a public campaign to explain the benefits of Croatia's EU membership. In the end, Croatians will be asked to approve it, in a legally binding referendum. After the latest constitutional changes, aimed partly at facilitating Croatia's entry into the EU, it will be sufficient if more than half of those who take part in the referendum vote in favour. Previously, the constitutional quorum required for approval was 50 percent plus one of all registered voters - close to impossible to achieve in Croatia. Most of Croatia's relevant political forces, both in government and in opposition, support EU membership and even consider it as a top national priority.

<http://waz.euobserver.com/887/30722>

Turkish opposition steps up referendum campaign

Turkey's main opposition party CHP has detailed its hostility to the constitutional amendments proposed by the ruling party, which will be voted upon in a referendum on 12 September. CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu renewed his call on all 'democrats' in Turkey to vote against the constitutional amendments in a letter circulated to the Brussels. In his letter, Kılıçdaroğlu warns of growing "authoritarianism" under the AKP government, growing telephone tapping by the authorities, investigations aimed at silencing opponents and pressure on the media, which are creating a 'society of fear.'

Asked to comment on the Turkish referendum, Angela Filote, spokesperson for Enlargement Commissioner Štefan Füle, said the final say belonged to Turkish voters. "The Commission does not intend to interfere in the campaign. We will obviously respect the outcome of the referendum and continue to work with all actors in Turkey towards further necessary reforms," she said. Filote explained that when the Commission received the draft reform package, it described it as a step in the right direction as it addressed a number of long-standing priorities which the EU has identified over the years in its Progress Reports and Accession Partnerships.

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/turkish-opposition-steps-referendum-campaign-news-497394>

Development

Credible elections in Nigeria will foster political stability

Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan has said the government is aware of the great importance of successful elections to the future stability of Nigeria and will do everything possible to ensure that the 2011 polls are credible, free and fair. He made the assurance during an audience with the new European Union Ambassador and Head of Delegation to Nigeria, Mr. David Macrae.

Goodluck Jonathan said his administration would give the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) all the support it requires to conduct elections that meet global standards of acceptability next year. 'The elections are very important and your concerns are genuine. Nigeria is very important globally because of its huge population, amongst other factors. A stable Nigeria will foster stability in West Africa and the rest of Africa. Successful elections next year will help us achieve greater political stability and we will appreciate further assistance from the EU for the elections,' he told Mr. Macrae. The President said Nigeria would welcome more assistance from the EU and other development partners to assure the electoral success.

<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/nigeria:-credible-elections-in-nigeria-will-foster-political-stability-2010090355484.html>

European Union gives 47m euro for AU mission in Somalia

The European Union has given an additional grant of 47 million euro to the African Union (AU) to finance its peacekeeping operations in Somalia. The EU said the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) had demonstrated its importance in the creation of minimal security conditions required for dialogue and reconciliation in Somalia.

AMISOM, which is composed of Ugandan and Burundian troops, has as a mandate to ensure the protection of the federal transitional institutions in Mogadishu, to help in implementing the national security and stabilisation plan, and to facilitate humanitarian operations. The grant will make it possible for the salaries of the peacekeeping troops and the civilian personnel of the mission to be paid, in addition to meeting the medical and transportation costs of the troops. Therefore, peacekeeping operations could be maintained.

<http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/european-union-gives-47m-euros-for-au-mission-in-somalia-2010090355483.html>

Current Calls for proposals:

Dear Member, please find the on-going Calls for Proposals below.

1. **Kenya**, Non State Actors in Development Action in partner countries – deadline for submission of **concept notes: 13 September 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282039800422&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130380>

2. **Croatia**, IPA Info 2009 Civil Society EU Info – deadline for submission of proposals: **15 September 2010.**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282038450582&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130345>

3. **Croatia**, Building Capacities of CSOs for implementing Innovative Social Service Delivery Programmes in the Areas of Special State Concern – deadline for submission of proposals: **21 September 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282214268224&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=2&aoref=130189>

4. **Indonesia**, Aid to Uprooted People – deadline for submission of proposals: **29 September 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282039675373&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130206>

5. **Egypt**, Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development Actions in partner countries – deadline for submission of **concept notes: 30 September 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282041406724&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130352>

6. **Namibia**, European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights (EIDHR): Country-Based Support Schemes (CBSS) Namibia – deadline for submission of **concept notes: 18th October 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282040746158&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130432>

7. 'Websites', European Parliament, Directorate Communication, Call for Proposals 2011 – deadline for submission of proposals: **18 October 2010**

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/tenders/subventions_call_proposal_2011.htm

8. **Georgia**, Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development – deadline for submission of **concept notes**: **1 November 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1283426494648&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aoet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130519>

9. **Republic of Moldova**, Non-state actors and local authorities in development. Non-state actors – In-country interventions – deadline for submission of proposals: **3 November 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282040119118&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aoet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130382>

10. The EU partnership for peace programme- deadline for submission of proposals: **22 November 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282124487930&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aoet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130462>

11. **Estonia/Latvia/Russia**, European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), Cross Border Cooperation programme Estonia/Latvia/Russia 2007-2013 - Call for Proposals Num 1; deadline for submission of proposals: **29 November 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282559819872&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aoet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=1&aoref=130499>

http://estlatrus.eu/uploaded_files/1st%20CALL/00_Guidelines%20for%20Grant%20Applicants.pdf

11. **Turkey**, Civil Society Dialogue – II: Micro Grant Scheme - deadline for submission of proposals: **30 November 2010**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1282212136984&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=AS&aoet=36538&ccnt=7573876&debpub=&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=50&page=2&aoref=129804>