



# NEWSLETTER



*to enable talented young people to achieve their aspirations, using links across Europe between commercial and academic organisations*

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**Malta**

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## News from over-seas

I am one of the lucky people who had an opportunity to participate in Leonardo da Vinci programme. I am in Barcelona now (finally) :). My job experience has started in April and I will be here for at least 3 or 6 months. Barcelona is great!!! the weather, beach people and my host company are wonderful. From the first day, the company, Ms Barcelona, was dealing with all my needs and problems, thanks to Sandra Lund. I started to work since my first day and I am working on a project now which keeps me busy and I learn many things. I also take Spanish classes apart from my work as I am absolute beginner in Spanish. This will help me to proceed quickly in Spanish. The host company also provided me free Spanish lessons for a week which was a great start and I loved it. From now I know this experience will add value to me and my CV. I

recommend to everybody to come to Barcelona and have that experience. I also want to thank to The United Euro Bridge for their help. Ilker Beyaz



## EU growth – slower but resilient

**Slower economic growth and higher inflation expected in the face of persisting financial turmoil and global cooling.**

The Commission's spring economic forecast sees **economic growth** in the EU decelerating from 2.8% in 2007 to **2.0% in 2008 and 1.8% in 2009**. The trend for the eurozone will be similar, but at a slightly

lower level of growth (1.5% in 2009). This slower growth should be seen in the context of the marked **slowdown in global activity**, with the US on the brink of recession, continued turbulence in the financial markets and soaring



commodity prices. But the EU economy should hold up relatively well in the face of these external shocks, due to **sound fundamentals**. Following rapid increases in food and energy prices, **inflation is expected to rise briefly to 3.6% this year** (compared with 2.4% in 2007), before returning to 2.4% in 2009. Again, the eurozone should follow this pattern, albeit at a level some 0.3pp. lower. The labour market is also likely to feel the pinch, but **3 million new jobs are expected in 2008-09** on top of the 7.5 million already created in 2006-07. Unemployment should bottom out at 6.8% in the EU this year (7.2% in the eurozone). Following several years of fiscal consolidation by EU governments, **budget deficits** are projected to increase somewhat overall in the forecast period - to 1.2% of GDP in the EU and 1.0% in the eurozone (in 2008). For 2009, based on a no-policy-change assumption, the deficit should broadly stabilise.

## Europe the world and humanity

Organised by the Slovenian Ministry of Culture with the support of the European Commission, an international conference on





"Europe, the world and humanity in the 21st century: Dialogue between cultures – dialogue in culture" was held from 10 to 12 April 2008 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. [Click here](#)

## Help to decide..

### ...how Europe should tackle cultural diversity

Until 16 May, you can respond online to a key paper on intercultural dialogue produced by the Rainbow Platform.



Not only are your comments welcome – you can also rewrite the recommendations and add your own. Just log on to the site <http://rainbowplatform.labforculture.org>

## Intercultural Cities



### project launched in Liverpool

On 1-3 May over 200 city officials, community workers, activists, academics and students gathered in Liverpool, 2008 European Capital of Culture, to discuss intercultural approaches in local policy-making. Do diverse cities really have an advantage over culturally homogeneous ones and what can they do to benefit from this advantage? Has multiculturalism failed and what is interculturalism actually about? How can the different cultures present in European cities be encouraged to interact, mix and hybridise to generate a richer common culture? What is the right balance between emphasising difference and celebrating common values? How can media, official political discourse and community actions help create a pluralistic city identity? How can we breed intercultural leadership and innovation? How can we bridge the gap between the insights of the thinkers with the practicality of the doers? Comedia and EUCLID, are accessible at <http://interculturalcities.wordpress.com/>

## 40 years of Customs Union



On 1 July 2008, the European Union (EU) will celebrate 40

years of its Customs Union. On 1 July 1968, the European Customs Union was launched by six countries. In today's enlarged EU, 27 national customs administrations are acting as one to protect people's health and security and facilitate trade. The EU Commissioner in charge of the Customs Union and taxation, László Kovács, explains it to you in more detail (click on the picture). We show it to you this year on this special website (see also [Midday Express](#)). Enjoy your visit!

### Customs and product safety

Further co-operation between Customs and Market Surveillance authorities will increase



the protection of European citizens from imported unsafe products. Customs and Market Surveillance authorities from 32 countries have agreed to strengthen co-operation during a

seminar in Austria financed by the European Commission. See the [press release](#) and the seminar's [conclusions](#).

### The European Customs Union on display on 7 June 2008 in Brussels



Experience 40 years of European Customs Union in Brussels' Berlaymont building, Rond-Point Schuman on 7 June 2008! The Customs Union will be on display at the European

Commission's Open Day 2008 on the stand of Directorate General 'Taxation and Customs Union'. And customs officers will also show their skills to the public outside the building. Everybody is welcome!

### Did you know that...

There are no limits on what you can buy and take with you when you travel between EU countries, as long as the





products purchased are for personal use. And if you enter the EU from a non-EU country, goods having no commercial character in your personal luggage can be imported free of customs duties, VAT and excise duties within certain limits.

**Drug precursors** Producers of illicit drugs such as ecstasy or amphetamines need otherwise innocuous 'precursor' chemicals to manufacture their dangerous products. The EU's seizures in 2006 for just two key precursors for making synthetic drugs are equivalent to the production of more than € 2,5 billion of drugs at today's street values. Find out more in text, figures and pictures...



## This month is about Malta....

Every month the United Euro Bridge will issue a newsletter customised to a different European Country. If you like to contribute with the editing, email us: [info@unitedeurobridge.org](mailto:info@unitedeurobridge.org)

## Natural beauties of Malta



Around the coast from Qawra lies the busy resort of Bugibba and St. Pauls Bay. Bugibba has a lively nightlife a casino, numerous shopping possibilities, plus bars and restaurants available on every corner. St Paul's Bay extends further north, offering a quieter existence, however the area also offers every conceivable water sport. This of course is not quite how St Paul experienced Malta when he was reportedly shipwrecked in AD60! Malta's warm clear and tideless waters offer a wealth of diving opportunities to beginner and expert divers alike. After a flight of just over 3 and a half hours, divers can experience crystal clear deep blue waters with unbelievable submarine topography, fish life and wrecks, the numbers of



which have increased following the Maltese government's Artificial Reef Programme. English is widely spoken, meaning there are plenty of English speaking instructors and getting by is easy.. The knights of St. John built the beautiful old Fortress City of Valletta in the 16th century. Meander through its quaint streets where one will find fine palaces, some important museums and churches, and the magnificent St. John's Co-Cathedral – a treat for lovers of fine art. Enter the gardens of the Upper Baracca for breathtaking views of the Grand Harbour. A busy city by day, by night a peaceful retreat of cafés, wine bars and lovely restaurants.



## Famous Maltese People

**Mario Philip Azzopardi** (born 1950 in Malta, and former resident of Canada), is a television and film director and writer. He has worked on such shows as *The Outer Limits*, *Stargate SG-1* (including its two-hour pilot), and *Stargate Atlantis*. In 1971, while working with the Atturi Theatre Group, he directed *Gagga* presumed to be the first full-length feature filmed entirely in Maltese. The film was transferred to digital format and enhanced, being re-released in Malta in March 2007. Azzopardi left his native Malta for Canada in 1978, following a dispute with local censors and theatre authorities who, in 1977, had cancelled his play, *Sulari Fuq Strada Stretta*, on the grounds that it was too offensive. On his return to Malta in the late 1990s, he spearheaded the creation of Maltese Falcon Productions plc., a state-backed film fund which was intended to promote the creation of a local film industry.





Azzopardi was educated at St Aloysius' College, and the Royal University of Malta.

## Interesting facts about Malta

Malta's major resources are limestone, a favourable geographic location, and a productive labour force. Malta produces only about 20% of its food needs, has limited fresh water supplies, and has no domestic energy sources. The economy is dependent on foreign trade, manufacturing (especially electronics and textiles), and tourism. Malta is privatizing state-controlled firms and liberalizing markets in order to prepare for membership in the European Union. The island remains fairly divided politically, however, over the question of joining the EU. Continued sluggishness in the global economy is holding back exports, tourism, and overall growth.



## And now for the Palate

### Stuffed Globe Artichokes

- 4 artichokes
- 75g anchovy fillets
- crushed garlic
- 150g fresh breadcrumbs
- 50g olives
- oil and vinegar
- parsley
- salt and pepper

#### Method

1. Chop the anchovy fillets, garlic, olives and parsley and mix with the breadcrumbs. Add the oil and vinegar and work into a dry paste. Season.
2. Wash the artichokes and fill between the leaves with this mixture.
3. Place the artichokes upright in a small saucepan. Half cover them with water



and add some oil. Cover with a lid, bring to boil and simmer for 1 hour. Serve hot.

### Spagetti biz-zalza tal-Qarnit (Spaghetti with octopus sauce)

- 1kg Octopus - 224g onions - 168g peas - 224g tomatoes - 112g black olives - 250ml red wine - 674g spaghetti - 84g tomato paste - herbs - mint - lemon zest - olive oil salt and pepper



Peel and slice the onions. Cut the octopus into even sized pieces, fry in a little oil and water. Add the tomato paste and herbs, continue cooking for about 20 minutes. Prepare the tomato *concasse*, by peeling the tomatoes and chopping them finely, add to the onions. Strain the octopus but save the liquid. Slice the olives and lemon zest. Add all remaining ingredients to the first mixture and simmer for a while. Add the octopus liquid and simmer for another 15 minutes. Cook spaghetti for not more than 7 minutes or till it is *al dente*

## Anything to share? Anything to advertise?

Are you looking for something or someone? You could advertise anything you like in YOUR newsletter, please send your contributions to:

[admin@unitedeurobridge.org](mailto:admin@unitedeurobridge.org)



The information in this newsletter is, to our knowledge, correct at the time of issue.