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# Europe Talk

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## Latest News

### Headline

Did you know that the United Kingdom has a higher proportion of its children living in workless households than any other European Union country?

Read more about poverty at The Poverty Site:  
<http://www.poverty.org.uk/18/index.shtml#g5>

## Facing barriers when trading within the EU?

How the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) can help

Over half of the UK's trade is with the European Union (EU) and, generally, it is easier to trade in Europe than with other parts of the world. Opportunities to take advantage of EU markets have increased further thanks to the recently implemented Services Directive which makes it easier to sell services in other EU countries. It does so by reducing and simplifying formalities that service providers need to comply with. Public bodies are required to put online all the information and transactions that companies need to go through to get licences to sell their services anywhere in the EU. To find the right national or regional portal, go to [www.eu-go.eu](http://www.eu-go.eu) and for applications within the UK, to [www.businesslink.gov.uk/ukwelcomes](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/ukwelcomes)

Sometimes, however, things do not run smoothly. Legal and regulatory hurdles can pose big obstacles to UK businesses trading within the Single Market but help is at hand from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Its EU Market Access Unit works with national authorities across the European Economic Area (EEA) - 27 EU member states as well as Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, to seek solutions wherever it can. In the event of a misapplication of European law, the team does this through SOLVIT, a free, informal problem-solving network set up by the European Commission with centres located in the EEA. Where the problem arises not as a result of the misapplication of European law but due to other national practices contrary to the spirit of the Single Market, the Unit works to resolve the issue with its contacts in the embassies and in other administrations. Some of the areas it has achieved success in include facilitating market access for goods and services, tax refunds and recognition of professional qualifications. Further information can be found at: [www.bis.gov.uk/eumarketaccess](http://www.bis.gov.uk/eumarketaccess) and the team can be contacted on [solvit@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:solvit@bis.gsi.gov.uk).

A business guide, "[How to tackle regulatory barriers when doing business abroad](#)", produced by BIS outlines the services that it, along with UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), offers to aid UK exporters and importers and also sets out how it can help UK firms overcome specific legal and regulatory barriers when trading globally, for example, technical regulations, unfair subsidies, onerous customs procedures and restriction on access to raw materials. It contains real-life examples of some of the businesses that have received this help. Further copies can be obtained from [ruchi.nanda@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ruchi.nanda@bis.gsi.gov.uk).

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Latest News

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Hot Topics & WebNews

Q&A



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## Don't Miss Out Hot Topics in Europe this month

Youth  
(Un)Employment  
The Euro  
EU Working Time  
Directive

## WebNews Monthly Picks



### We like these links...

European Year for  
Combating Poverty  
and Social Exclusion:  
<http://www.2010again.stpoverty.eu/?langid=en>

The EU Working Time  
Directive:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=706&langId=en&intPageId=205>

## Youth on the Move

More support for young people's movement and mobility

## Youth On the Move

Next month the European Commission will launch 'Youth on the Move', an initiative aimed at promoting the mobility of students and trainees and to improve the employment situation of young people.

Part of the Commission's contribution to Europe 2020, 'Youth on the Move' is meant to encourage all European Union countries to work together to give young people in Europe better opportunities to make the best of their skills. The programme is looking to improve the performance and international attractiveness of Europe's universities and to raise the overall quality of all levels of education and training in the EU.

Europe 2020 is the EU's reform strategy for the coming decade. Its goal is to develop an economy that is based on knowledge and innovation. Young people have an important role to play in this but they need more support in order to unleash their full potential. 'Youth on the Move' provides this support by contributing to better education, training and access to labour market.

Commissioners Androulla Vassiliou and László Andor will hold a press conference dedicated to 'Youth on the Move' on September 15.

On September 17, Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou will be hosting a web streamed public debate on 'Youth on the Move' – the Commission's flagship initiative on promoting learning mobility and improving young people's skills and job perspectives.

The Commissioner will respond to questions from both members of a live audience and the public, via the web.

For more information about this event go to [http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_2010-2014/vassiliou/events/debate\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/vassiliou/events/debate_en.htm)

## This Month's Q&A

**Q I hear you run a language exchange programme for adults?**

A: That's true! You can find all the relevant information at [http://europedirectleeds.org.uk/?page\\_id=1277](http://europedirectleeds.org.uk/?page_id=1277)

We want to help adult language learners to practice their new language skills.

This can be between two native speakers or as part of a group that



brings together native speakers and learners.

We are also exploring online exchange sites at the moment, so we can recommend some to you.