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Latest News

Essay Competition

Europe Direct Leeds and the European Information Association are running a student essay competition on the theme 'Communicating Europe: Is the EU getting through to you?'

Closing date is 11 January - we're offering a prize of £200 for the winning entry. For more details, go to the European Information Association website at www.eia.org.uk

Climate Change Act now!

From 7-18 December, the United Nations Climate Change Conference is taking place in Copenhagen.

To help you get into the swing of things and give you some background information, we have compiled a list of web links that you might find useful:

Homepage of the Copenhagen Climate Conference: <http://en.cop15.dk/>

European Commission - Environment - Climate Change: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/future_action.htm

European Climate Action: http://ec.europa.eu/climateaction/index_en.htm

European Blogging Competition about Climate Change: <http://climatechange.thinkaboutit.eu/think2/>

Council Conclusions on EU position for the Copenhagen Climate Conference: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/envir/110634.pdf

European Commission: Environment: Climate Change http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/home_en.htm

European Environment Agency: Climate Change <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate>

European Environment Agency: Climate Change Policies <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate/policy-context>

Europa: Tackling Climate Change: http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/environment/tackling_climate_change/index_en.htm

You control climate change: <http://www.climatechange.eu.com/>

this issue

Latest News

Topic

Hot Topics & WebNews

Q&A



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Don't Miss Out Hot Topics in Europe this month

Lisbon Treaty

Climate Change

Energy efficiency

WebNews Monthly Picks



We like these links...

50 Years EU

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvRznNKYI08>

20th anniversary of democratic change in Central and Eastern Europe

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhS55x8J7pw>

LeCamping

<http://www.lecamping.tv/>

YOU control climate change!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRyarGSeDFk>

Enter our climate change competition

<http://europedirectleeds.org.uk/?p=1282>

Keeping It Local: Food, Bacchus, and Europe

The EU's Protected Geographical Origin schemes

Have you ever been munching away happily on some Double Gloucester, enjoying a reverie about tinkling cowbells, Morris dancers, and burbling brooks in Gloucestershire, only to read the label and find it was made in Milton Keynes? It's happened to me, and it made me feel a bit cheated!

Now, though, makers of foods and wines that are traditionally associated with a particular place (usually by having the place as part of the name of the food) can register under the Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) or Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) scheme. These schemes are now part of EU law; if you successfully register a product, then that product has to be made in a particular place. For example, Swaledale cheese has been registered under the PDO scheme; so, if you want to make Swaledale cheese, you have to use milk from cows that live in Swaledale (which is one of the Yorkshire Dales). The cheese must also have a number of defined characteristics, e.g. a maximum moisture of 48% and a "soft open texture".

Melton Mowbray pork pies, Camembert, Parma ham, and champagne are all registered under EU schemes (Champagne is a region of France – to be called champagne, it has to be made within that region). Italy has more food products registered or in the application process than any other EU country, followed by France and Spain. The UK currently has 50 food products registered or under consideration. You can view all the food products at the DOOR database (<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/quality/door/>); you can search by country, keyword, or date of submission.



Wines and spirits have their own database, called E-Bacchus (<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/wine/e-bacchus/>). Bacchus is the Roman name for the Greek god Dionysus, who was associated with wine, parties, drunkenness, mystic ecstasy, and orgies. Not surprisingly, France has by far the most wines and spirits registered, followed by Italy.

For more info on PDO and PGI, go to the EU's Agriculture and Rural Development quality site at <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/quality/>.

This Month's Q&A

Q: The Lisbon Treaty has been ratified, what happens next?

A: The treaty is set to become law on 1 December. The main points of it are:

- new post of President of the European Council, replacing the current system of rotating EU presidencies
- a smaller European Commission from 2014
- new powers for the European Commission, Parliament and Court of Justice

The treaty preserves the main substance of the constitution.



Find more information here:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/6901353.stm> and http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/index_en.htm