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Europe Talk

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Latest News

EU Help for Japan

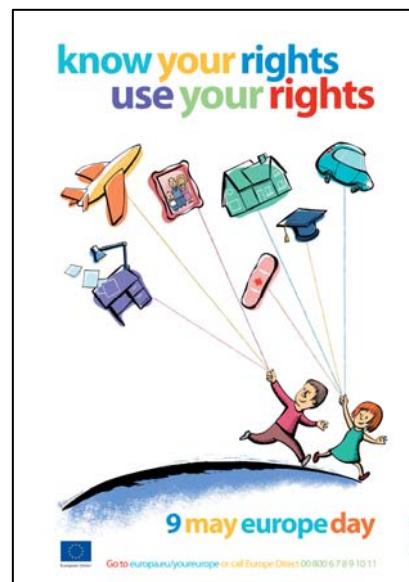
The EU has been offering a lot of help to Japan, in response to the tsunami and earthquakes which have struck the country. The European Union has sent relief supplies and food parcels to help the affected people. For example, on the 23rd March, 70 tonnes of relief items were sent by the EU, as well as aid workers.

Europe Day

9th May 2011

The 9th May represents the start of the European Union. Robert Schuman, the French foreign minister at the time, presented a proposal on the 9th May 1950, for an organized Europe. This became known as the “Schuman Declaration”, and is now often credited as being the beginning of the European Union we recognize today. Now, this is celebrated as Europe Day, a day which focuses on activities to connect citizens of the European Union all around the continent.

This year it is focused on knowing your rights and using them. By following the link <http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope>, you can discover all the things you need to know to make life, travel and work easier in the EU. It also provides helpful advice on vehicles, residence, education, health, family and shopping in the European Union too, making the website useful for both business and social needs.



Why not celebrate Europe Day by travelling to a country in the European Union?

You could celebrate Europe Day your own way by visiting one of the famous sites the EU countries have to offer. You could book a trip to Paris to see the Eiffel tower, take a tour around the Colosseum in Italy, or just stay in the UK and visit one of London’s many historic sites. Why not take a trip this May to celebrate?

this issue

This month’s newsletter was written by Katie Laws, who did her work experience with Leeds Libraries and Europe Direct Leeds in March 2011.



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Don't Miss Out Hot Topics in Europe this month

France bans the burqa

WebNews Monthly Picks



We like these links...

Eurovision 2011

<http://www.eurovision.tv>

UK students urged to
go Dutch

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-11012095>

You can still take part
in the Reading
Challenge:

<http://twit.mx/Rdtn>

Eurovision Song Contest

Who will win it this year?

It's almost May again... Meaning it won't be long until the Eurovision song contest begins!

This year, we're hoping to change the past, and with the UK's song "I Can" being sang by pop group "Blue", we may be on the road to success. For 3 years in the early 2000's, Blue was Britain's major pop export, so it comes as no surprise that they've had 40 number one hits around Europe. With Blue being so well known across the EU, it is therefore perfectly possible, that this year we could see the United Kingdom win the contest, for the first time in 14 years. The UK has won the Eurovision five times before, including the time it drew with Spain, the Netherlands and France in 1969. So why not once again?

The competition is being held in Düsseldorf, Germany, after their competitor Lena Meyer-Landrut won the contest in 2010, with her song "Satellite". Düsseldorf is a beautiful city in the EU, and will be the perfect destination for this huge EU event, which has been running since the early year of 1956.

With 43 nations applying, the competition is going to be tough, and we will have to watch closely to discover how each country will fare this time round. On the 10th of May the first Semi-Final takes place, and the second closely follows on the 12th. The final event will take place and be broadcasted live by the BBC on the 14th May. Until then, every country in the European Union will have to wait with baited breath to find out what will happen next, but one thing is sure, it is going to be very close...

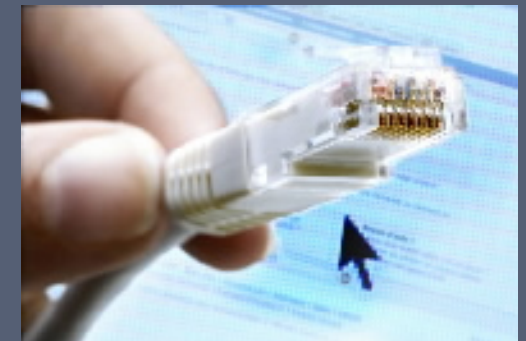
To find out more about this year's Eurovision, and to have a chance to hear all the entries, visit <http://www.eurovision.tv>



This Month's Q&A

Q Would it be a good idea to take a degree abroad?

A: With many British universities upping their prices to £9000 a year, many students will be opting to pack up their lives in the UK and travel abroad to take their degrees. Abroad, it can be considerably cheaper, meaning much less debt. For example in the Dutch town Maastricht, fees are only around £1,500 a year. As many universities in the EU offer the



chance to take courses taught in English, travelling abroad can be a preferable option.