



MONTHLY
JOURNAL FROM
EUROPE DIRECT
LEEDS

Europe Talk

www.europedirectleeds.org.uk



ISSUE
35
FEBRUARY
2012

20 Years of the Maastricht Treaty

On 7 February 1992, members of the European Community signed the Treaty of the European Union in Maastricht, Netherlands. It came into effect in 1993.

The so-called Maastricht Treaty (together with Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union; also known as Treaty of Rome (1958)) forms the basis of the European Union. Since coming into effect in 1993 it has been amended by the Treaty of Lisbon, which came into force in 2009.

It outlined the three pillars of the EU: economic relations (European Community), common foreign and security policy, as well as justice and home affairs. It was central in the movement towards deeper European integration.

The treaty also marks the beginning of the Economic and Monetary Union, which would lead to the creation of the Euro.

You can see the full text of the Maastricht Treaty at <http://www.eurotreaties.com/maastrichtec.pdf>.

Other important treaties are the Treaty of Amsterdam (1997) and the Treaty of Nice (2001).

Latest News

Website survey

We would like to know more about your interaction with our website <http://europedirectleeds.org.uk> and what we can improve.

Please let us know what you think at <http://europedirectleeds.org.uk/?p=4535>.

The survey will close on Sunday 19 February, so make sure you get your views heard!

If you miss the deadline, you can still let us know what you think via the usual channels of email, twitter and Facebook of course.



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Don't Miss Out Hot Topics in Europe this month

Greece
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WebNews Monthly Picks



We like these links...

InSafe

<http://www.saferinternet.org>

Google: Stay safe online – Good to know

<http://www.google.co.uk/goodtoknow/>

Summaries of EU legislation: everything you want to know about European legislation

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/index_en.htm

Be safer online

Digital Inclusion is a big topic for the EU at the moment. Vice-President of the European Commission Neelie Kroes is responsible for the Digital Agenda. You can find out more about her work at http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda/index_en.htm. Here you can also see how digital EU countries are and find information about internet usage, e-government, etc.

For example:

“The UK shows high online availability of public services for both citizens and enterprises; respectively at 97% and 100%. Usage by citizens is also relatively high, at 48% of the population. However, the use of eGovernment by businesses, at 67%, remains low when compared with other Member States.” (on e-government)

“80% of the UK population are regular and frequent Internet users and the UK also records some of the highest take-up rates for various Internet services. All rates are above the EU average, including for eCommerce. In particular, ordering goods or services for private use, at 67% of the population, exceeds the EU average by 27 percentage points. Cross-border eCommerce (at 10.4%) is above EU-average (8.8%).” (on internet usage)

Below are some links to help you and your family be safer online. These links can also be useful when teaching students about safety online.

BBC: CBBC: Stay safe - aimed at children: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/topics/stay-safe>

Directgov: Internet safety - aimed at parents: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Yourchildshealthandsafety/Internetsafety/index.htm>

Directgov: Staying safe online - aimed at young people: http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/CrimeAndJustice/KeepingSafe/DG_10027670

Insafe - European network of awareness centres promoting safe, responsible use of the internet and mobile devices to young people: <http://www.saferinternet.org/web/guest/home>