



MONTHLY  
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# Europe Talk

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## Latest News UK opts out...

from the European Working Time Directive. This enables UK workers to work more than 48 hours a week. The UK has argued that this flexibility boosts the economy.

Unions counter that the UK has the longest working hours of any country in Europe, leading to more workplace accidents and hindering rather than increasing productivity.

## Looking forward to refurbishment

Thanks to the European Commission Europe Direct Leeds will get a makeover this summer. Keep your eyes open for a refreshed European area in the Central Library's Information Centre.

## Celebrate the Environment!

5 June is World Environment Day

Europe Direct Leeds are looking forward to celebrating World Environment Day on 5 June. That day they will also be launching a competition in partnership with Leeds City Council, Education Leeds, Sustainable Schools Leeds and the Leeds City Museum.



**your climate.  
your call.**

**Creative schools competition**  
**What does climate change mean to you?**

**Launch date is 5 June 2009.**

The competition is open to students in years 3 to 9, and can involve visual, written and spoken word creations.

For all the information you need visit <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/europedirect>.

**The competition closes on 18 December 2009.**



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

The Economic & Financial Crisis  
Regional Development Policy  
Health and Patient Safety  
The Environment

## WebNews Monthly Picks



### We like these links...

European Election: Results  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2009/results/default.htm>

Health –EU. The Public Health  
Portal of the European Union  
<http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu/>

European Young Journalist Award  
<http://www.eujournalist-award.eu/your-award-2009.html>

Grants of the European Union  
[http://ec.europa.eu/grants/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/grants/index_en.htm)

## European Elections

The citizens of the European Union have decided.

About 43% of European citizens voted in this year's European Elections at the beginning of June.

736 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have been elected for a five-year term. They will form the new European Parliament, meeting for the first time on 14 July in Strasbourg. They will form transnational political groups and then elect a President as well as 14 Vice-Presidents who will serve for two and a half years.

Political group	Number of seats	Score in %
EPP	264	35.9
PES	161	21.9
ALDE	80	10.9
GREENS/EFA	53	7.2
UEN	35	4.8
GUE/NGL	32	4.3
IND/DEM	18	2.4
Others	93	12.6

Source: [http://www.elections2009-results.eu/en/index\\_en\\_txt.html](http://www.elections2009-results.eu/en/index_en_txt.html)

For more detailed information on the 2009 election results please visit <http://www.elections2009-results.eu/>

To find out who are the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) for each country please visit <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/members/public/geoSearch.do?language=en>



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## This Month's Q&A

**Q: I want to move abroad after finishing my degree.**

A: If you have decided on a career path or a specific country you could try finding a job straight away. The European Job Mobility Portal EURES (<http://ec.europa.eu/eures>) will be useful to you, as are newspapers and websites from the area you want to move to.

Another option could be volunteer work. This will help you find out if you would enjoy living abroad.

You can find a link to European Volunteering Opportunities for people under 30 years on



<http://www.eurodesk.org.uk/Volunteer/Default.aspx?pid=17>

Further there are agencies that specialise in the organisation of gap years.