



PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 30 June 2003

“Renaissance Europa” & “CrossLingual East” network launched by Convention leaders and diplomats

EurActiv, the leading Internet portal on EU policies, inaugurated its “CrossLingual East” Network of Policy Portals in Central Europe at a public event in Brussels on 25 June at the Residence Palace in Brussels. It also presented a new printed Special Edition, highlighting a dozen key interviews with 6 Commissioners, leaders of industry federations and representatives of NGOs on challenges and opportunities of the renewed Europe.

The “CrossLingual East” project connects EurActiv’s portal to a number of Central and Eastern European policy portals, including in Slovenia, Bulgaria and Slovakia. Under the partnership, the portal partners translate EurActiv’s content into their respective languages and publish it on their local websites. In addition to this content transfer, EurActiv advises its Central European partners on how to make their portals economically sustainable while preserving editorial independence. The “CrossLingual East” project is funded under the EU’s eContent programme.

Institutional Reforms **Commissioner Michel Barnier** held the keynote speech of this event. He underlined the importance of EurActiv’s information services in helping to build bridges to the citizens. Speaking of an extension of the EU project rather than a Renaissance, the Commissioner stressed the need for Europe to tackle two main issues: the diminishing population in Europe and the technological challenges.

Polish Ambassador to the European Union, Marek Grela spoke optimistically about the upcoming enlargement. He linked this Renaissance to the awakening of the people in Central and Eastern Europe and stated that Europe now has a clear vision. He also pointed to the need for information services such as EurActiv’s to bring Europe closer to its citizens.

Slovenian Member of the Convention's Presidium Alojz Peterle stressed that the excellent cooperation on the draft Constitutional Treaty shows that European nations want a common future. The final agreement is also a proof that accession countries want to take an active and constructive part in the European project.

EurActiv’s Publisher, Christophe Leclercq, said that the event “highlighted EurActiv’s achievements in providing EU policy information. As the leading independent online media on EU policies, EurActiv will continue to support the goals spelled the debate triggered in our Renaissance Special Edition by key stakeholders”.

Links:

- [EurActiv news on this event](#)
 - [Strategy](#)
 - [CrossLingual](#)
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For more information, call

Willy De Backer, Editor, at +32 2 223.58.14 or email editor@euractiv.com

Christophe Leclercq, Publisher, at +32 2 223.58.13 or email publisher@euractiv.com

The EurActiv website is available via www.euractiv.com

Note to the editor:

EurActiv.com is the leading private sector portal on EU affairs. With more than one million page views per month, the site is an important working instrument for the majority of EU Actors (EU Actors are institutions, industry federations, NGOs, think tanks, the press and other organisations) involved in defining or influencing EU policies.

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