

EurActiv launches section

“EU Debates & Opinion” in parallel to Plan D initiatives

EurActiv.com, the independent policy portal on EU affairs, has renamed its Opinion & Governance section to “EU Debates & Opinion”. The new section will reflect the growing importance of participatory debates as the EU tries to encourage citizens to shape the future of Europe, along the lines of Commissioner Wallström’s “Plan D” initiative for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate.

The German EU Presidency hopes to break the Constitutional deadlock at a summit in June and the Berlin declaration only a week ago underlined the will shared by most EU leaders to reform institutions in time for the 2009 European elections.

The new section can be accessed free-of-charge at the following address:
<http://www.euractiv.com/en/opinion>

Pat Cox, President of the European Movement and former President of the European Parliament (2002-2004) said: “At a time when past achievement and current freedoms are so easily discounted by public opinion we cannot take future public consent for granted. It must be earned. I welcome the launch by the news portal www.euractiv.com of their new section “EU Debate & Opinion” and I hope it will help rebuilding a consensus on the modernisation of Europe fit for our time.”

The new policy section on the EurActiv website was made possible thanks to the “Speak Up Europe” project led by the European Movement. This project and five others were selected by the Commission’s Directorate General for Communication after a competitive call for proposals.

Julian Oliver, Secretary General of Fondation EurActiv explained: “The plan D ‘*citizens Europe*’ projects are moving ahead. We will highlight their first findings in the run-up to the June ‘*EU Summit*’, with Pat Cox as spokesman”

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Note to the editor:

EurActiv.com is the independent portal on EU Affairs. With more than **225,000** unique monthly visitors (CIM certified figures – January 2007) and **475,000** unique visitors to the cross-lingual network (CIM certified figures – January 2007), the portal is an important working instrument for the majority of EU Actors (institutions, industry federations, NGO's, think tanks, the press and others) involved in defining or influencing EU policies.

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