

EurActiv.com strengthens coverage on Future EU ahead of 21-22 June Summit

The EU looks ahead to a decisive Summit on institutional reform in Brussels on 21-22 June. With the direction of EU reforms remaining open, EurActiv, the independent policy portal on EU affairs, intensifies and gives more substance to its coverage.

In revamped sections on 'Future EU' and 'EU Debates and Opinion', EurActiv will underline the importance of upcoming policy issues, such as institutional reform, future budget negotiations and programmes ahead of the European Parliament elections in 2009, thus merging the existing sections 'Future EU' and 'Agenda 2004-09'.

The sections can be accessed free of charge at the following addresses:

- www.euractiv.com/en/future-eu
- www.euractiv.com/en/opinion

This new focus is made possible thanks to the support of public opinion expert TNS and the EU project 'Speak up Europe'.

Debates held at national level have shown that citizens want to be more engaged in shaping the EU's future, and are also demanding more information about EU affairs.

Jo Leinen, MEP and president of the European Parliament's Constitutional Affairs Committee told EurActiv.com: "*The citizen dialogue on Europe needs to go beyond the Constitutional Treaty and cover all main issues concerning the EU. EurActiv is a catalyst and a translator of information and ideas and provides continuous objective and well-informed coverage. The EU needs EurActiv more than ever. The importance of European media is increasing for our European citizens, but also for the European communication policy.*"

Leendert de Voogd, managing director at TNS opinion said: "*As one of the world's largest polling companies, TNS is happy to be associated with EurActiv. Through our management of Eurobarometer surveys on behalf of the European Commission, we allow the voice of the public to be heard. We aim to shed light on citizens' views and encourage dialogue with the institutions especially in the run up to European elections in 2009.*"

With the support of EurActiv, the European Movement is organising an EU briefing on 29 June in Berlin, which will look at the achievements of the German EU Presidency, as well as the challenges ahead for the Portuguese and Slovene presidencies (see: <http://www.europeanmovement.org>).

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Note to the editor:

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