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**EURACTIV  
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## **EurActiv network launches sections on EU presidencies and EP elections**

With a direct presence in 9 capitals including Paris, Prague and Brussels, EurActiv is in a unique position to monitor policies and developments ahead of Presidencies and elections.

New sections on 'EU priorities and debates' have been opened up across our whole network, to work the start of a new period of reflection on the EU's future.

The current EU presidency and the next presidential Trio (France, Czech Republic and Sweden) have to deal with the ratification of the Lisbon treaty and the European elections, as well as an upcoming revision of Europe's financial perspectives.

In that context, EurActiv's project centres around 2 objectives:

- to involve all European stakeholders (companies, trade unions, NGOs, local authorities, think tanks and associations...) and national media in the debate on EU future common policies, and;
- to highlight the continuity and foster exchanges among EU presidencies : Slovenian, French, Czech and Swedish.

### Editorial coverage, physical and online interactivity

EurActiv will use various information and communication tools and involve its entire network.

- Notably, a thorough and multilingual **EDITORIAL COVERAGE** of EU priorities and opinions will be developed in dedicated sections on all EurActiv portals:  
[EU Priorities and Opinion](#) on EurActiv.com,  
[Priorités de l'UE](#) on EurActiv.fr – with a focus on the **French Presidency**, and  
[České předsednictví](#) on EurActiv.cz – with a focus on the **Czech Presidency**, to name but a few.
- This coverage will be fuelled by **THEMATIC WORKSHOPS AND PUBLIC CONFERENCES**, gathering representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament, national MPs, and other relevant stakeholders (reserved to EurActiv partners).
- A conference at the European Parliament in **Brussels** on "2009 elections stakes and programmes" and another one, in **Paris**, on the continuity between the French EU presidency and the others are in the planning.
- EurActiv's **blog platform** – [Blogactiv.eu](#) – offers the opportunity to get actively involved in current debates on the future of the European Union.
- The European Commission's DG Communication project '**Pilot information Networks**' (working title) is an experimental 20-month project led by a consortium, consisting of Mostra (consortium leader) and EurActiv. Strongly supported by **Commissioner Wallström**, it will help facilitate the exchanges between European and national parliamentarians, while at the same time offering a public area for citizens and stakeholders to observe and contribute to the debate.

### Comments by organisers and Presidencies:

**Christophe Leclercq**, publisher, EurActiv.com

*« En six mois, une présidence ne peut pas à elle seule assurer la relance politique de l'UE. Les présidences slovène, française, tchèque et suédoise devront travailler main dans la main et mettre en place des **instruments pérennes de participation et de décentralisation** du débat européen. Avec ce projet EurActiv apporte sa pierre à ces objectifs et accueille volontiers d'autres partenaires.*

**Nathalie Lhayani**, publisher, EurActiv France

*« Avec ce projet nous voulons contribuer à européaniser le débat sur l'avenir de l'Europe qui sera lancé en France en amont de la Présidence française de l'Union européenne. »*

This project has received support from top officials from the current and upcoming EU presidency holders:

A successful cooperation exists between the Slovenian government and EurActiv during the country's EU presidency including reports, interviews and a [blog](#) from Growth Minister Žiga Turk on [Blogactiv.eu](#). As a consequence, **Gregor Krajc**, Deputy Head of the Slovenian Government Office for European Affairs, said:

*"Coordination is what the EU is all about, especially as regards the new Lisbon Treaty. Implementation of the Treaty is a prime example of common coordination among current and future presidencies in order to adopt necessary measures in the agreed timeframe. We can only support the role of EurActiv and similar initiatives to give us a hand and stimulate public debate about the benefits brought to our citizens by the new Treaty. We are encouraging others to follow this example."*

**Jean-Pierre Jouyet**, French State secretary for EU affairs, participated in the presentation of results from EurActiv France's survey "Attentes et propositions pour la Présidence française de l'Union européenne" on December 4<sup>th</sup>: There, he stated:

*« C'est une première que les acteurs représentant la société civile dans sa diversité (monde de l'entreprise, syndicats, organisations non – gouvernementales, collectivités locales, organismes de promotion de l'Europe...) réfléchissent en amont à leurs attentes pour la présidence française de l'Union européenne. Je voudrais saluer l'initiative d'EurActiv, notamment en France. Nous avons besoin de vous ! » .*

**Alexandr Vondra**, Czech Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EU affairs, echoed this opinion:

*EurActiv's multilingual coverage represents a good opportunity for EU citizens to easily access information about Europe and I am therefore glad that the Czech version of EurActiv offers information about the upcoming Czech Presidency of the EU, including aspects of the cooperation with our French and Swedish partners: We are all in the same boat.*

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#### **Note to the editor:**

EurActiv.com is the network of independent portals on EU Affairs, counting **505,000** unique visitors together with the Web2.0 platform Blogactiv.eu (CIM certified figures – November 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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