

# EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO MALAYSIA

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## EU-MALAYSIA NEWS



### LUCKY TWO 'FIND EUROPE IN MALAYSIA' FOR TICKETS TO PARIS

When we invited Malaysians to search for European icons or reminders in Malaysia, we never thought that we would receive 116 entries which highlighted everything from stunning heritage buildings, an Eiffel tower in Johor, and even pastries sold in a kopitiam! Prizes were awarded in two categories – Judges' Choice and Most Popular, with the winners taking home flight tickets to Paris, a compact camera and the opportunity to study Spanish or German.

The competition was held in celebration of the EU Delegation's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Malaysia and Europe Day, which falls on 9 May. [► More](#)

*Photo: Most Popular category winner Lum Thien Chow received more than 1000 Facebook 'Likes' for his shot of an idyllic cottage in Fraser's Hill.*

### STATEMENT BY EU HIGH REPRESENTATIVE ASHTON ON THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTIONS IN MALAYSIA

HRVP Ashton congratulated Malaysians for their peaceful and enthusiastic participation in the 13<sup>th</sup> General Elections. However, she also took note of concerns regarding electoral irregularities and looked forward to investigations by the Election Commission. [► More](#)

### MARIE CURIE ACTIONS: BIDS FOR €227 MILLION IN RESEARCH NOW OPEN

Marie Curie individual fellowships support the mobility of researchers within and beyond Europe - as well as helping to attract the best foreign researchers to work in the EU. The fund will be awarded to some 1,000 experienced researchers. Deadline for applications is 14 August. [► More](#)



### THE EU DELEGATION IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!

'Like' us at [www.facebook.com/EUinMalaysia](http://www.facebook.com/EUinMalaysia) for more on the latest European events and projects taking place in Malaysia as well as news from the EU and our partner organisations.

## NEWS FROM EU INSTITUTIONS

### EUROPE DAY CELEBRATIONS WORLDWIDE

Sixty-three years ago, on 9 May 1950, the then French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman made the first move towards the creation of what we now know as the European Union (EU). In commemoration of Europe Day, an [EU Open Doors Day](#) was held in Brussels along with various other activities by [EU Delegations across the globe](#).

### INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA (17 MAY)

Around 80 countries still criminalise consenting adult same-sex relations, including through capital punishment in 7 countries. The EU campaigns tirelessly for the respect of human rights, irrespective of sexual orientation and gender identity.

In a statement, EU High Representative Catherine Ashton further encouraged support and the strengthening of efforts related to the groundbreaking UN Human Rights Council Resolution 17/19 June 2011 on the principle of non-discrimination against sexual orientation and gender identity. [► More](#)

*Photo: UN staff in Kosovo commemorating the day. © UNDP*



### 17 EU-FUNDED FILMS SCREENED AT THE CANNES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The films, including seven in competition for the prestigious Palme d'Or, are supported by the EU's MEDIA programme for cinema. [► More](#)

### ENERGY AND TAX FRAUD EVASION AMONG PRIORITIES FOR MAY EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING (22 MAY)

In particular, EU leaders discussed how to improve the efficiency of tax collection and best tackle tax evasion and fraud with the aim of strengthening Member States' fiscal stance and deepening the internal market. [► More](#)

### ANOTHER €65 MILLION EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN AID FOR SYRIA

With more intense fighting in Syria and just three months after pledging €100 million at the Kuwait donors' conference, the EU is stepping up its effort to fund aid agencies because of the scale of the emergency. The additional funding will be spent inside Syria, to assist the more than four million people who have been forced to flee their homes, and some 1.4 million refugees in neighbouring countries. [► More](#)

## ECONOMIC NEWS



### SPRING FORECAST: SLOWLY RECOVERING FROM A PROTRACTED RECESSION

External demand is projected to support the gradual recovery of the EU economy, although the annual GDP has been forecast to contract by 0.1% in the EU and by 0.4% in the Eurozone. Unemployment is also expected to stabilize around 11% - 12% by 2014. Fiscal deficits are set to continue falling in 2013 to 3.4% of GDP in the EU and 2.9% in the Eurozone. [➤ More](#)

*Photo: Vice President Olli Rehn presenting the Spring 2013 forecast*

### COUNCIL ADOPTS NEW "TWO-PACK" RULES ON ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

[➤ More](#)

### THE CULTURAL EXCEPTION IS NOT UP FOR NEGOTIATION

Referring to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Agreement, Trade Commissioner Karel de Gucht asserted that culture was not a commodity and that the EU will maintain this long-held position during negotiations to protect its unique cultural section while ensuring that European audiovisual and media businesses could secure a strong future. [➤ More](#)

### THE EUROPEAN BUSINESS SUMMIT 2013

At the Summit in Brussels, President Van Rompuy told the audience: *"I've said it already and I'll say it again: there are four "keys" to unlock our way to recovery. Four keys that we need to use simultaneously. First: preserving financial stability. Second: improving the resilience of our economies, through sound public finances – focused on structural efforts – and improved competitiveness. Third key: fighting unemployment and supporting growth in the near term. And fourth: strengthening our economic and monetary union. Working on all four, making sure we don't neglect any it's the only way forward."* [➤ More](#)

### EURO AREA INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS SURPLUS €22.9 BILLION IN MARCH 2013

This was compared to the €6.9 billion surplus in March 2012. [➤ More](#)

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT: MULTIPLE RETURNS TO NATURE, SOCIETY AND PEOPLE

The European Commission recently adopted a new strategy for encouraging the use of green infrastructure. Green infrastructure is often cheaper and more durable than alternatives provided through conventional civil engineering. Biodiversity-rich parks, green spaces and fresh air corridors can for example mitigate the negative effects of summer heat waves. In addition to the health and environmental benefits, green infrastructure also brings multiple social benefits: it creates jobs and makes cities more appealing places to live and work. And it allows for wildlife to thrive, even in an urban context. [➤ More](#)



*Photo: Green infrastructure can be an integral part of urban areas*

### GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN THE EU DECREASED BY 2% IN 2012

*"The good news is that emissions declined again in 2012. The bad news is that the supply-demand imbalance has further worsened in large part due to a record use of international credits. At the start of phase 3, we see a surplus of almost two billion allowances. These facts underline the need for the European Parliament and Council to act swiftly on back-loading,"* said Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard. [➤ More](#)

## EU RESOURCES

### EU-MALAYSIA PUBLICATIONS

The EU Delegation annually publishes various material which gives an overview of the cooperation between the EU and Malaysia. Latest publications include the 2013 EU-Malaysia Key Facts Leaflet, Trade & Investment 2012 Booklet, Cooperation 2012 Booklet and the Study in Europe Guide for Malaysian Students. To obtain a copy, please contact [delegation-malaysia-press@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:delegation-malaysia-press@eeas.europa.eu)

### NEWSLETTERS from the EU Institutions by subject

Be it Agriculture, Business, Youth, Environment, Science or Legal Issues, you can have an insight in all.

**Find out more:** [IRISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU \(January – June 2013\)](#)  
[European External Action Service](#) | [Lisbon Treaty](#)

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