



EFC Update

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I was heartened to see that cross-border philanthropy is an area in which the EU is taking increasing interest, as was demonstrated last week at a one-day conference on the topic in Brussels. Speaking at the event, European Commission Vice-President Barrot underlined the importance of philanthropy as a vital economic and social activity and the need to review EU-level actions to lift the administrative and legal hurdles that are currently hindering cross-border work and cooperation.

One such action under consideration is the European Foundation Statute (EFS). Good news came last month with the publication of the outcome of the public consultation, which confirmed the Statute as the most cost-effective policy option for addressing cross-border barriers and thereby stimulating foundations' activities across Europe. Although the outcome shows progress, the EFS campaign does not end there. In 2010, we will continue our advocacy work to keep the Statute on the Commission's agenda – the matter will also be at the centre of discussions during the Foundation Week in Brussels.

This month has also seen the EFC join the [Twitter](#) revolution- under the username The_EFC. As with our other social networking tools (you can also find us on [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)) our aim is to keep you as up to date as possible with news from the EFC. We are also using Twitter to remain abreast of the latest goings on from *your* organisation- so please get in touch if we are not "following" you already!

All that remains is for me to wish you all the very best for the festive season, and I look forward to seeing many of you in 2010.

Gerry Salole
EFC Chief Executive

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT

[European Foundation Statute must be on Commission agenda](#)

[Benchmarking & Capacity Building](#)

[New at GrantCraft: Why & How Funders Work Together](#)

[Venture Philanthropy Knowledge Centre launched](#)

[Last call for applications and nominations for the International Fellowship Programme](#)

[Communications & Research](#)

[Building the relationship between civil society and the media: how you can get involved!](#)

[Alliance magazine December 2009](#)

[EU Affairs & Advocacy](#)

[When cooperation works: overcoming security concerns about NPOs at EU level](#)

[EESC Starts Discussing the European Foundation Statute](#)

[Have Your Say on the Future of the EU!](#)

[Promoting CSOs Participation at EU Level: 2010 Civil Society Day and EESC Renewal Campaign](#)

[European Commission's President Presents his New Team](#)

[EU Affairs Monthly Roundup - December 2009](#)

[Legal & Fiscal matters](#)

[France about to remove discrimination of foreign based charities](#)

[Member States have to exclude non-taxable persons from VAT grouping rules](#)

[Networking & Collaborations](#)

[Save the Date: Filling the Gaps or Shaping the Agenda?](#)

[GEF 2009 Scholarship News](#)

[Save the Date: EFC Children and Youth Funders Group Meeting](#)

[Survey on North American and European views of immigration](#)

[EFC Member & Partner News](#)

[Bertelsmann Foundation starts program to promote trans-Atlantic legislative cooperation](#)

[Call for nominations for KBF International Development Prize](#)

[Erste Group, ERSTE Foundation and the Center for Economic Development Foundation launch micro lending operation in Romania](#)

[Ford funds US public education system](#)

[Italian Foundations give 11 million euros for Abruzzo](#)

[Jacobs Foundation awards two prizes for productive youth development](#)

[King Baudouin Foundation launches S4WB.eu - unique scholarship database for the Western Balkans](#)

[NEF published reports on Religion and Democracy](#)

[Porsche family auctions watch collection for oncology research](#)

[Soros pledges \\$50m for new global economic think tank](#)

[Engaging philanthropy to promote gender equality and women's empowerment](#)

Foundation Week 2010

[Exhibition space available during Foundation Week](#)

Philanthropy News Roundup

[UK government launches 'Ambassador\(s\) for Philanthropy' website](#)

[Philanthropic response to climate change is 'inadequate', says report](#)

[New report on UK Philanthropy published](#)

[Frey Chair for Family Foundations and Philanthropy](#)

[Philanthropy and politics](#)