



## EFC Update

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I would like to start by wishing you a happy New Year and saying that I hope you have all enjoyed a relaxing break over the past few weeks. 2010 already promises to be an exciting year, and I am heartened by the positive responses we have been receiving from organisations wishing to organise events at [Foundation Week](#). Entitled 'Foundation Week: Foundations' Work', the week aims to connect foundations with the public, European Union policy and decision makers, and other stakeholders so that each can learn from the other about matters affecting Europe and its citizens.

A wide variety of activities, from debates about the role of foundations in society to cultural activities and exhibitions showcasing the impact of foundations' work, are scheduled to take place. During the first three days, some 30-40 free public debates will discuss topics as diverse as safeguarding biodiversity; developing global sustainability criteria; religious plurality and its implications for social cohesion; and challenges to peace and security.

Running throughout the week, and open to all visitors, will be a series of exhibitions, films and cultural activities illustrating the full range of foundations' work. Highlights include Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's exhibition on the life and work of Charles Darwin; a basketball demo by physically impaired players (supported by Fundación ONCE) and a documentary screening space. Several of the EFC consortia and groups are planning to host stands/exhibits in the area, and space is still available for those interested!

## THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT

**Commissioner-designate announces plans to work on the European Foundation Statute**

### Communications & Research

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[Effect to focus on foundations and the EU institutions](#)  
[Take the Foundation Center survey on the earthquake in Haiti](#)

### EU Affairs & Advocacy

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[Support our campaign for a better representation of civil society in EU consultative body](#)  
[EFC gets ready for the 2011 European Year on Volunteering. Do you want to get involved?](#)  
[EFC sets recommendations for new EU financial rules](#)  
[What's on the agenda of the EU Spanish Presidency?](#)  
[European Institute for Gender Equality opens its doors](#)  
[EU Affairs Monthly Roundup - January 2010](#)

### Legal & Fiscal matters

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[New Research on Tax and Regulatory Policy in Ireland](#)  
[Strategic meeting on VAT and public benefit organisations](#)  
['VAT package' came into force on 1 January 2010](#)  
[Commission recommends simpler procedure for cross-border withholding tax relief](#)  
[Germany about to introduce tax deductibility of cross-border donations](#)

### Networking & Collaborations

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[European HIV/AIDS Funders Group will host a meeting](#)

### EFC Member & Partner News

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[EFC welcomes 2 new Members and 2 new Associates on board](#)  
[ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit](#)

Gerry Salole

EFC Chief Executive

Stefan Batory Foundation has a new Executive Director  
Ford invests \$80 million in U.S. workers  
Adessium Foundation is the main feature of Alliance  
eBulletin

## **Foundation Week 2010**

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2010 Foundation Week: Schedule and AGA and  
Conference programme  
Foundation Week to take foundations' work to wider  
audience

## **Philanthropy News Roundup**

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Economic downturn boosts volunteering in the US  
Council on Foundations will host Family Philanthropy  
conference  
Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship: calls for  
application