

# highlights



6-10 february '12



## Future of Roaming

The Roaming Regulation imposing price caps on roaming calls, SMS and data expires mid-2012. The EU therefore urgently needs to replace it with a new one, endorsing further reduction in prices for EU consumers. In this context, the EPP Group is hosting a hearing on Wednesday with the main stakeholders and experts. This hearing aims to debate important aspects in shaping the future Regulation, such as the price caps' impact on raising EU competitiveness and structural measures to ensure the sustainable long-term solution for EU citizens.

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## Enhancing Youth Volunteering

Volunteering, as a highest expression of active commitment and support, is an important pillar of our democratic and pluralistic societies. Therefore, it is important to keep developing a culture of participation and active citizenship in Europe, especially among youth. Volunteers must be given better access, encouragement and conditions to exercise their volunteering activities. To address these standing issues, EPP Group Spokesman on Culture and draftsman of the Report 'The European Year of Volunteering 2011', Marco Scurria, will host an EPP Group Hearing on

Thursday morning on developing new active EU citizenship through enhanced youth voluntary work.

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## Developing the tourism sector

Constituting 5% of GDP and employing 8 million people (mostly in small and medium-sized companies (SMEs), the tourism sector is of major economic importance for growth and jobs in the EU. Therefore, in shaping a new EU Tourism Strategy, the main concern for the EPP Group is to make tourism more attractive for all, initially by improving accessibility of destinations, accommodation and information. This includes travellers with special needs. To ensure a comprehensive solution, Carlo Fianza is organising a Hearing on Thursday to learn the positions of all the parties involved. The event will feature the European Commission Vice-President Antonio Tajani.

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## EU Iceland accession

One of the latest candidate countries for accession, Iceland, is well on its way to joining the European Union due to its membership in the European Economic Area and the Schengen Space, but also due to an excellently-prepared Icelandic negotiation team. This is the main message of the Iceland 2011 Progress Report, according to the European

Parliament's Rapporteur on Iceland Cristian Preda. The Foreign Affairs Committee will adopt its position on Monday afternoon.

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### other events

#### EPP Group Conference

9 February, 09.00-12.30 (JAN 6Q1)

EU-Azerbaijan: New Horizons for the Partnership

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## press conferences

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Friday @ 11.00 hrs: Pre-session briefing