



Europe Direct Information Centre Outer Hebrides

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€urozone

€1 = £0.88

€1 = \$1.16

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Europe Direct Information Centre – Outer Hebrides opening hours are from 0900 to 1300 each weekday

CELEBRATION EVENTS FOR EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

The Modern Languages Department of the Nicolson Institute, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis invited the EDIC Manager to celebrate [European Day of Languages 2017](#) alongside secondary two pupils.

The pupils were informed about the importance of learning languages and to cover the whole year group three separate workshops were held. The pupil learning topics included European food; European languages; famous European people; and, European Union flags.

The pupils were all actively engaged during the presentation and in the workshops which were intended to have both a fun and educational element.

European resource packs were distributed to all the pupils and European gift bags to their teachers. One of the winning teams are pictured with their packs.

The packs included such resources as European maps; Let's explore Europe; Languages take you Further; and, EDIC promotional items.



MAJOR STEP FORWARD FOR REMOTE ISLAND WIND



Pentland Road Windfarm under construction

In 2015, the UK Government stopped all incentives for Onshore Wind. Because the cost of new Grid connections to the islands has to be recovered from the handful of generators who connect to these links, the island Transmission Charge facing these generators will be several times higher than the Scottish Mainland Transmission Charge.

Without incentive, in the form of a 'Contract for Difference' Price Guarantee, these island schemes are not viable. Following extensive lobbying, the UK Government has now announced that Onshore Wind projects in the remote islands of Scotland will be allowed to compete in the next competitive 'Contract for Difference' auction for Less Established Technologies, scheduled for Spring 2019.

Up to £557 million of support will be available through these auctions. Scottish Secretary, David Mundell MP, stated: "This UK Government investment is vital in realising the potential of Less Established Technologies, as well as providing Scottish jobs in the projects supported. [Clean growth is at the heart of the Industrial Strategy](#) and the UK Government is determined to unlock opportunities across the UK, while cutting Carbon emissions as [Europe moves towards a low Carbon future](#)". If island generators are successful at auction, almost 1GW of clean, green energy will be connected to the National Grid when the new island links are energised in 2023.

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JOINT LETTER FROM EU AND UK TO WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION

The Permanent Representatives of the European Union and the United Kingdom have recently written a joint [letter](#) to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). [The UK's withdrawal from the EU](#) has implications beyond the EU and the UK's bilateral relationship. The EU and the UK acknowledge the need for clarity and predictability towards their trading partners in the multilateral trading system. The EU and the UK therefore wish to set out their intentions with regard to the implications of the UK withdrawal from the EU within the WTO. This is Image © TBI Magazine without prejudice to the future bilateral relationship between the EU and the UK, and to the position the EU and UK may take on other trade-related matters in the future. [The next Article 50](#) negotiations meeting of the two teams headed by Michel Barnier, the European Commission's Chief Negotiator, and David Davis, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union will take place on 9 and 10 November 2017.



SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) constitute 99% of companies in the EU. They provide two thirds of private sector jobs, and contribute to more than half of the total added value created by businesses in the EU. Various action programmes have been adopted to support SMEs, such as the Small Business Act, Horizon 2020 and the COSME programme. Their aim is to increase the competitiveness of SMEs through research and innovation, and to provide better access to finance for SMEs.



Image © Fintechist

Please see the European Parliament Think Tank [factsheet](#) for more information.

EUROPEAN EQUAL PAY DAY

Gender equality, including equal pay for men and women, is one of the EU's founding values. But it is still far from a reality. For the past years, the [gender pay gap](#) has basically refused to budge.

The average hourly pay of women in Europe is 16.3% lower than that of men. European Equal Pay Day, which fell on 3 November this year, marks the moment when women effectively stop getting paid compared to their male colleagues, with almost two months of the year remaining. This means that women work for two months a year for free in comparison to their male colleagues.

The magnitude and impact factors of the gender pay gap in EU countries are described in this [report](#).

The European Commission wants to lead the way to fight this injustice. In a few weeks, it will present an Action Plan to Tackle the Gender Pay Gap, which will step up ongoing actions and present new measures.

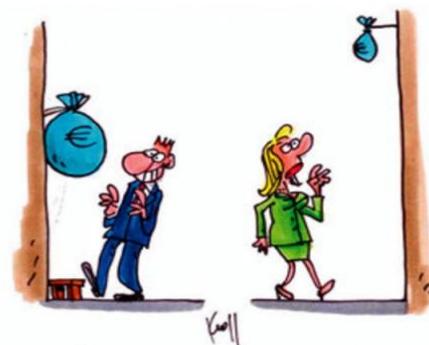


Image © European Union

EUROPEAN COMMISSION LAUNCHES WORK PROGRAMME



Image © European Union

Every year, the European Commission adopts a plan of action for the next twelve months. The Commission Work Programme informs citizens, its institutional partners and its staff how it will turn its political priorities into concrete action. Generally, the Work Programme is adopted in October. The 2018 Work Programme is the fourth to be presented by the Juncker Commission since it took office in 2014. The to-do list for 2018 includes 26 key initiatives to complete the Commission's 10 priority areas before the end of its mandate: see the [factsheet](#) and [key documents](#) as well as the Commission's [66 pending priority proposals](#).

INFORMATION EVENT

Skills Development Scotland have organised a Careers Convention to be held in Sir E Scott School, Tarbert, Harris at the end of November 2017. EDIC Outer Hebrides has been invited to take part alongside other exhibitors. EU information will be shared on [studying](#); [working](#); [volunteering](#); [apprenticeships](#); [training](#); [job mobility](#) and the [European Solidarity Corps](#). Students, their parents and carers, and the wider community will attend