



## PRESS RELEASE

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Brussels, 24 June 2003

### **“Europa Renaissance”: what comes next after the Convention? EurActiv event on 25 June: new brochure launch and new network in the East**

EurActiv, the leading Internet portal on EU policies, will host an event and a reception in Brussels on 25 June to mark the launch of its print Special Edition entitled “Europa Renaissance 2003”. Two Convention Praesidium members plus representatives of the diplomatic and press corps will inaugurate EurActiv’s Network of Policy Portals in Central Europe.

The event’s keynote speakers include:

- **Mr Michel Barnier**, Commissioner for Regional Policy and Institutional Reform, and member of the EU Convention’s Praesidium,
- **Mr Marek Grela**, Poland’s Ambassador to the European Union,
- **Mr Alojz Peterle**, Slovenian observer MEP and member of the EU Convention’s Praesidium,
- **Mr Aidan White**, General Secretary of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ).

EurActiv’s Editor, Willy De Backer, said: *“We are proud to announce the publication of our third annual Special Edition. This brochure contains interviews with leading EU stakeholders (from institutions, businesses and NGOs) on how enlargement will change EU policies and what the IGC should bring. The contributors present original ideas on how to change the policy processes in order to move key reforms forward.”* Some 5,000 leading policy-makers in Brussels and in the national capitals will receive copies of the publication.

Under the “CrossLingual East” Network of Policy Portals co-sponsored by the Commission’s eContent Programme, EurActiv offers localised policy content via franchised partner websites in the accession countries. The project already involves eight Central and Eastern European media, specialised in EU policies, including Bruxinfo (Hungary), Integrace (Czech Republic), Unia & Polska (Poland), Abhaber (Turkey) and Club Europa (Romania). EurActiv’s new franchise partners will be introduced at the event. They include EON/Telemach (Slovenia), iEuropa/Zoznam (Slovakia) and Dnevnik European Perspectives (Bulgaria).

EurActiv’s Publisher Christophe Leclercq said: *“Our expansion strategy meets a real demand for greater information in the new Member States. We expect our partnerships in Central and Eastern Europe to facilitate the free flow of information and policy positions across borders and across languages”.*

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## PRESS INVITATION AND OPERATIONAL NOTES

**Attendance:** Only by invitation to:

- "friends of EurActiv",
- journalists accredited to the press services of the European Institutions.

**Venue:** Residence Palace (Rue de la Loi 155, 1040 Brussels), Room Polak and Atrium (downstairs).

**Logistics:**

- everything is on the record
- room well suited for photo and camera
- translation English/French
- most speeches will be available next day on EurActiv.com

**Date:** Wednesday, 25 June 2003, at 18:30, followed by a cocktail at 20:00.

**Photo opportunity** with speakers, surrounded by EurActiv management in yellow suits and staff in Renaissance period costumes, at the beginning of the conference (actual time: 18:50) and during the cocktail. EurActiv can also provide pictures, in different definitions: [webmaster@euractiv.com](mailto:webmaster@euractiv.com).

**Short interview** with keynote speakers during cocktail as possible

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**Note to the editor:**

EurActiv.com is the leading private sector portal on EU Affairs. With more than 950,000 page views per month, the free site is an important working instrument for the majority of *EU Actors* (EU Actors are institutions, industry federations, NGOs, think tanks, the press and other organisations) involved in defining or influencing EU policies.

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