



## 11 – 19 January: European Parliament to hear designate Commissioners

Following the unveiling of the new European Commission line up on 27 November, each Commissioner designate is to face a three-hour Q & A session with Members of the European Parliament. The purpose is for the Parliament to assess if each Commissioner-designate is generally competent, independent and committed to the European interest. Parliament will also evaluate his or her knowledge of their portfolio and communication skills. Hearings will take place from 11 to 19 January, following receipt of written answers from each designate. A final parliamentary vote is expected on 26 January. The Commission cannot take office before it has been approved by the European Parliament.

More information at: [http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_designate\\_2009-2014/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_designate_2009-2014/index_en.htm)

## 21 January: Launch of the European year for combating poverty and social exclusion

The Spanish Presidency of the EU will host the opening conference of the European year for combating poverty and social exclusion in Madrid. 80 million Europeans now live below the poverty line, a figure that is estimated to increase dramatically due to the consequences of the economic crisis. In 2010, the EU and its Member States will renew their commitment to social inclusion and a more cohesive society through a variety of initiatives.

More information at:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=637>

## 8 February: Conference on International Developments in Accounting and Auditing

The European Commission is to host a conference on international developments in Accounting and Auditing in Brussels. It will bring together policy makers, regulators and businesses. Topics to be discussed are the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as well as the challenges encountered in moving towards global standards on auditing.

More information at: [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/accounting/conference\\_20100208\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/accounting/conference_20100208_en.htm)

## 15 – 18 March: e-Health Ministerial Conference and e-Health week

The European Commission and the Spanish EU Presidency are to hold the annual EU conference on electronic health services - known as 'e-Health' - in Barcelona. This year's theme, 'e-Health for Sustainable Healthcare Delivery: global challenges through local actions', acknowledges pressing issues related to a rapidly ageing European society. Longer life expectancy and the consequent increase of chronic diseases are posing serious challenges to the sustainability of global national health systems. The conference will present how and why e-Health can make the difference in facing such a global challenge.

More information at:  
<http://www.ehealthweek2010.org/ehealth-ministerial-conference>

### Info

To find out more on these and other EU-events, please consult the EU calendar on <http://europa.eu/eucalendar/>

