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STOCKHOLM NETWORK

Connecting think tanks, creating ideas

WEEKLY BULLETIN

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Once more unto the breach” - *Public Finance*

In this *Public Finance* article, Helen Disney, chief executive of the Stockholm Network, discusses the last round of party conferences before we approach next year’s general election. She argues that, with all eyes now on David Cameron’s party as it appears to be the government in waiting, the Conservative Party’s 2009 conference will be significant for shaping the party’s manifesto and the ideas that will take centre stage during the election campaign.

Public Finance is a magazine for public sector managers, keeping public servants up to date with the latest information that affects their work, it is also available online at www.publicfinance.co.uk.

To view this article, please visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/SNWB012>

“Discussing the Governance of Health Technology Assessment Systems” - The First Canadian Healthcare Conference

The Stockholm Network publication *Theory versus Practice: Discussing the Governance of Health Technology Assessment Systems* is featured in an article on the thefirstcanadianhealthcareconference.ca website. This website is designed to showcase the work of professionals, businesses and other organisations in healthcare, across Canada, and beyond.

To view this article, please visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/SNWB014>

To view the publication (now also available in German), please visit:

<http://www.stockholm-network.org/Publications>

Stockholm Network Facebook page

The Stockholm Network has launched a fan page on Facebook that will be keeping people up-to-date with developments in and around the network.

For more information, please visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/SNWB015>

The Financial Crisis and Globalization - The Way Forward (European Enterprise Institute)

The European Enterprise Institute (EEI) is hosting a breakfast seminar on Wednesday 14th October (8.30-10.30am) in Brussels, Belgium (Residence Palace, Rue de la Loi 155). The event is entitled “The Financial Crisis and Globalization - The Way Forward” and will feature André Sapir, senior fellow at the Brussels-based think-tank Bruegel and Professor of Economics at Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). Sapir is also a former economic adviser to the president of the European Commission and the author of the Sapir Report.

Also speaking at the event will be: Gunnar Hökmark MEP, former vice president of the EPP-ED Group and former secretary-general of the Swedish Moderate Party; Stefan Karlsson, economist and author of the EEI Brief on globalization; and Fredrik Segerfeldt, a fellow of the EEI and author of numerous books and reports on global development issues.

Breakfast will be served from 8:15. To RSVP, please contact eei.liaison.brussels@gmail.com before 12th of October.

NETWORK PUBLICATIONS

The EU’s AIFM Directive: Likely impact and best way forward

By Open Europe, United Kingdom

Subject: Economics, Europe

“Open Europe has published the most comprehensive study to date on the likely impact of the EU’s proposed Alternative Investment Fund Managers (AIFM) Directive. The study is based on two surveys of BVCA members (private equity managers) and AIMA members (hedge fund managers), which Open Europe carried out during August 2009. In total, the survey respondents manage over €545 billion worth of assets worldwide.

The study finds that the hedge fund and private equity sectors contributed around €9 billion (£7.9 billion) in tax revenues to the EU economy in 2008. This is enough to fund almost all the subsidies that France receives every year from the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy. €6.1 billion (£5.3 billion) of this amount was raised in the UK - enough to pay for over 200,000 nurses

PUBLIC EVENTS

09 October 2009 (9am-2pm)

London, United Kingdom (Nomura International)

“What future for the EU?”

Hosted by [Business for New Europe](#)

Speaker:

- Giuliano Amato
- Catherine Ashton
- Charles Grant
- David Heathcoat-Amory
- Oliver Kamm
- Lord Kerr
- Lord Mandelson
- Anand Menon
- John Peet
- Roland Rudd
- David Willetts MP

RSVP: events@cer.org.uk

12 October 2009 (6pm)

Milan, Italy (Piazza Castello 23)

“Is Free Banking a Feasible Solution?”

Hosted by [Istituto Bruno Leoni](#)

Speaker:

- Kevin Dowd

RSVP: eventi@brunoleoni.it

13 October 2009 (2.30-5pm)

Brussels, Belgium (Hotel Euroflat)

“The Future of the Doha Round and the World Trade Organisation”

Hosted by [ECIPE](#)

Speaker:

- Roderick Abbott
- Stuart Harbinson
- Valentin Zahrt

RSVP: info@ecipe.org

14 October 2009 (8.30-10.30am)

Brussels, Belgium (Residence Palace)

“The Financial Crisis and Globalization - The Way Forward”

Hosted by [European Enterprise Institute](#)

Speaker:

- Andre Sapir
- Fredrik Segerfeldt
- Stefan Karlsson
- Gunnar Hökmark

RSVP: eei.liaison.brussels@gmail.com

26 October 2009 (7.30pm)

Milan, Italy (Hotel dei Cavalieri)

“Take it or leave it: let’s go public or private?”

Hosted by [Adam Smith Society](#)

Speaker:

- Alessandro Binello
- Salvatore Bragantini
- Anna Gervasoni
- Stefano Micossi
- Alessandro De Nicola

RSVP: info@adamsmith.it

28 October 2009

Paris, France

“Institut Montaigne Panel Discussion: Prison: ce qui doit changer”

Hosted by [Institut Montaigne](#)

Speaker:

- Jean-Marie Bockel
- Jean-Marie Delarue
- Pierre-Olivier Sur
- François Rachline

RSVP: inscription@institutmontaigne.org

or 165,000 teachers. The tax revenues generated over two years by AIFMs in the UK could pay for the entire 2012 London Olympics”.

For more information on this publication, please visit:
<http://tinyurl.com/SNWB010>

The Doha Round: “Death-Defying Agenda” or “Don’t Do it Again”?

By European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE), Belgium
Subject: Trade

“Almost eight years after the launch of the WTO's Doha Round, negotiations remain mired in a swamp of detail, with many participants unwilling or unable to make the hard decisions which would bring the Round to a conclusion. G20 leaders renewed at the Pittsburgh summit the call to successfully end the Doha Round, but it remains to be seen if the new call will be more successful than previous G20 declarations.

In a new study, Stuart Harbinson takes stock of the Doha Round and examines why WTO members have failed to successfully conclude the Round. Harbinson sets out the main issues for a conclusion of the Round - and for the future agenda of the WTO.”

For more information on this publication, please visit:
<http://tinyurl.com/SNWB011>

Private Money. The Path to Monetary Stability

By Istituto Bruno Leoni (IBL), Italy
Subject: Economics

“Drawing from a wealth of historical evidence, Kevin Dowd, professor of Financial Risk Management at the University of Nottingham Business School, investigates how central banking and the monopoly issue of currency by government have politicised and greatly destabilised the monetary system and how the change to fiat money has destroyed the mechanism by which price stability was earlier secured.

Assuming that public officials and politicians cannot, with the best of intentions, act in the public interest, Dowd argues that monetary stability can be achieved through a competitive banking system that requires complete financial deregulation, the abolition of central banks, and a re-definition of the monetary standard in terms of a general commodity index.”

For more information on this publication, please visit:
<http://www.brunoleoni.it>

To view more publications from Stockholm Network member think tanks, please visit our Think Tank Library at: <http://www.stockholm-network.org/Think-Tank-Library>

10 November 2009 (9am-3pm)

London, United Kingdom (London Stock Exchange)

"A New Government Agenda"
Hosted by [Reform](#)

Speaker:

- Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP
- Rt Hon John McFall MP
- Dr Vince Cable MP
- Douglas Carswell MP
- Ruth Richardson
- Hector Sants
- Amyas Morse
- Mark Lovell
- Zenna Atkins
- Xavier Rolet
- Michael Izza
- Peter Riddell
- Polly Toynbee
- Guido Fawkes

Info: <http://tinyurl.com/SNWB007>

NEWS STORIES		
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS	HEALTH AND WELFARE NEWS	IP AND COMPETITION NEWS
Britons still reluctant to fly less to cut carbon emissions A Loughborough University study in the UK has found that fewer than one in five people are trying to cut the number of flights they take to reduce their carbon footprint. The study shows that while 88 per cent of participants were willing to reduce energy consumption at home throughout the year, only 26 per cent were willing to give up flying for the next 12 months. Dr Tim Ryley of Loughborough University commented that the number of people willing to curb their flying habits remained small, adding that “it is cost and not environmental consequences that deter people from flying more often”. The UK government is planning to change air passenger duty later in the year to take account of distance. Those flying on short-haul flights will see a rise by £1 in air passenger duty to £11 in November, while passengers on long-haul flights to the US will be charged £60 and passengers to Australia £85 by 2010. However, this recent study suggests that a rise in air passenger duty will not deter the majority of British travellers from flying. Joss Garman of Greenpeace said that the lack of affordable, low-carbon means of transport meant it “isn’t surprising” that people still want to fly.	Muscle and back pain costs European economies €240 billion a year A study released by UK-based organisation The Work Foundation has shown that musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) account for nearly half of all absences from work and 60 per cent of work incapacity in the EU. Studying 25 European countries, The Work Foundation found that over 40 million European workers suffer from chronic musculoskeletal pain, with an annual cost to the European Union countries of 0.5 to two per cent of GDP. The study identifies MSDs as having clear, negative impacts on the EU workforce: up to 40 per cent of EU workers have to give up work because of their condition and 9.5 million working days were lost in one year in the UK alone. The managing director of The Work Foundation, Stephen Bevan, said that policy-makers should consider how labour productivity in businesses is being “undermined” by MSDs. The report suggests that wider socio-economic costs, such as work productivity, should be included in the financial and medical assessments for treating MSDs. Tatiana Quadrello of The Work Foundation added that their findings have enabled them to start calculating an “early intervention premium”, as early detection and intervention in such cases could reduce the	Competition Commission introduces test to prevent “Tesco towns” The Competition Commission in the UK has formally recommended a test to make it harder for dominant supermarket chains to open new stores. The “competition test” would ban supermarkets with a strong local presence from expanding, which the Commission says will make it easier for rivals to set up shop and improve choice for consumers. Peter Freeman, chairman of the Commission, said the test would help “bring in competition where it is lacking and stop individual retailers consolidating strong positions in local areas to the detriment of consumers”. The Competition Commission first proposed the test in April 2008 after a two-year inquiry into the grocery sector. The retailer Tesco launched an appeal in March against what it called a penalty for success, but while the Competition Appeals Tribunal told the Commission to give more consideration to the side effects of the test, it did not rule against the need for the test itself. A spokesperson for Tesco said the Government should “think carefully” about intervening in such a competitive industry and deterring investment “in these difficult economic times”, while Asda and Sainsbury, Tesco’s rival grocery chains, supported the introduction of the test. Tesco is the dominant supermarket in more than 70 per cent of the UK’s 121 postcode areas.

The government's committee on climate change warned last month that if the growth in aviation continued, emissions from the industry would increase to 15 to 20 per cent of all CO2 produced by 2050.

If you would like to read more in-depth discussions on issues related to energy and the environment, please subscribe to the bi-monthly newsletter *Climate of Opinion*.

To do so please email:
david@stockholm-network.org

burden on government health and disability budgets.

If you would like to read more in-depth discussions on issues related to health and welfare, please subscribe to the bi-monthly newsletter *Gesundheit!*

To do so please email:
paulh@stockholm-network.org

The Commission has passed its recommendation on to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

If you would like to read more in-depth discussions on issues related to intellectual property and competition, please subscribe to the bi-monthly newsletter *Know IP*.

To do so please email:
rachel@stockholm-network.org

If you wish to unsubscribe from this e-mail list, please e-mail paulh@stockholm-network.org. Apologies if you have received it inadvertently.

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of its authors and do not necessarily represent the corporate view of the Stockholm Network or those of its member think tanks.

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