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Weekly Bulletin 171
09 March 2010

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stockholm Network Webinar: "Are Your Medicines Safe?" - Tomorrow

Wednesday 10th March 2010, 2pm GMT (Q&A from 3pm)

The Stockholm Network is hosting a free online webinar that will explore the problem that substandard drugs present to public health. The webinar will feature presentations from an expert panel and will include a live question and answer session.

Participants will include:

- Peter Pitts, President of the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest;
- Gustavo de Freitas Morais, Partner of Danneman Siemsen and Professor of Law at Getúlio Vargas Foundation;
- Dr Meir Pugatch, Director of Research of the Stockholm Network and Senior Lecturer at the University of Haifa;
- Dr David Torstensson, Senior Researcher of the Stockholm Network.

To sign-up to the webinar, please visit:

<http://www.stockholm-network.webcastglobal.com/>

For more details about the webinar, please visit:

www.tinyurl.com/SNwebinar

If you are unable to participate in the webinar, videos of the presentations are available in advance through the Stockholm Network website at the following address:

<http://tinyurl.com/SNWebinarPresentations>.

You may send questions in beforehand by emailing safemedicines@stockholm-network.org, your questions will be put to the speakers during the live Q&A and the answers will be emailed back to you.

"Europe: A priority for the next Government?"

Open Europe and Business for New Europe are hosting an evening debate entitled "Europe: A priority for the next Government?" that will discuss what the European priorities should be for the next government. The event will be held in the Boothroyd Room of Portcullis House in London (Victoria Embankment SW1A 2LW).

Speaking at the event will be Chris Bryant, UK Europe minister; Timothy Kirkhope, Conservative Party European Parliament leader; Edward Davey, Liberal Democrat shadow foreign secretary; and John Peet (chair), Europe editor of *the Economist*.

The event takes place on Wednesday 17 March at 6:15-7.30pm, however guests should allow 15 minutes for entering Portcullis House security.

Places are limited. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Sarah Hodges at: shodges@openeurope.org.uk or Tel: 0207 197 2333.

NETWORK PUBLICATIONS

The Voluntary City: Choice, Community and Civil Society

By David T. Beito, Peter Gordon and Alexander Tabarrok (Istituto Bruno Leoni)

Subject: Public services

The belief that only the government can provide basic services and

PUBLIC EVENTS

9 March 2010

London, United Kingdom (The Ideas Space)

Evening event: "Anti-Semitism in England"
By [Policy Exchange](#)

Speakers:

- Anthony Julius
- Charles Moore

RSVP: events@policyexchange.org.uk

10 March 2010 (2pm)

Online

www.stockholm-network.webcastglobal.com

Webinar: "Are Your Medicines Safe?"
By [Stockholm Network](#)

Speakers:

- Peter Pitts
- Gustavo de Freitas Morais
- Dr Meir Pugatch
- Dr David Torstensson

Info: www.tinyurl.com/SNWebinar

11 March 2010 (6pm)

Milan, Italy (Libreria Egea)

Book presentation: *Analisi economica del diritto pubblico*
By [Istituto Bruno Leoni](#)

Speakers:

- Michele Abbrescia
- Francesco Denozza
- Giulio Napolitano
- Antonio Pilati
- Michele Polo

RSVP: egea.press@unibocconi.it

11 March 2010 (6.30pm)

London, United Kingdom (57 Tufton Street)

CRCE discussion: "Russia, Poland, Ukraine and the others. Some more general lessons from the current crisis"

By [Centre for Research Into Post-Communist Economies](#)

Speakers:

- Tomasz Mickiewicz
- Philip Hanson

RSVP: crce@trident-net.co.uk

15 March 2010 (7.30pm)

Milan, Italy (Hotel dei Cavalieri)

Dinner debate: "Expo 2015: will the government intervention be able to help the private initiative?"

By [The Adam Smith Society](#)

Speakers:

- Gianni Riotta
- Carlo Secchi
- Lucio Stanca

RSVP: info@adamsmith.it

17 March 2010 (6pm)

London, United Kingdom (Portcullis House)

utilities is the bedrock of the statist persuasion. The notion that civil society and the market, the free interplay of offer and demand, the meeting of needs and possible responses, can play the purportedly unique role of the government, is deemed to be nothing short of a heresy.

With the Italian translation of *The Voluntary City: Choice, Community and Civil Society*, Istituto Bruno Leoni aims to investigate this issue. As Vito Tanzi writes in the new Introduction, "We have lived in a world in which the role of the state has been so overwhelming that we have come to think of that role as natural. But this book may encourage us to look outside the box."

The several essays that make up *The Voluntary City* explore several case studies of private and voluntary provision of public goods in different geographical and historical settings. This empirical approach succeeds to challenge the most common theoretical counters to the notion of private provision of public goods, such as the classic "free rider" problem, and the attendant notions of "jointness of supply" and "impossibility of exclusion."

Faced with a crumbling infrastructure and the worsening quality of public services, the Italian public can certainly profit from this original and stimulating perspective.

For more information, please visit:
<http://tinyurl.com/SNWB063>

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

Evening debate: "Europe: A priority for the next government?"
By [Open Europe](#) and [Business for New Europe](#)

- Speakers:
- Chris Bryant MP
 - Timothy Kirkhope MEP
 - Edward Davey MP
 - John Peet

RSVP: shodges@openeurope.org.uk

22 March 2010 (6pm)

Milan, Italy (Libreria Egea)

Book presentation: *Il sacco del Nord*
By [Istituto Bruno Leoni](#)

- Speakers:
- Piero Ostellino
 - Carlo Scarpa
 - Alberto Mingardi

RSVP: eventi@brunoleoni.it

25 March 2010 (2-3.30pm)

Brussels, Belgium (University Foundation)

Panel debate: "The AIFM Directive: Striking the right balance between protection and growth?"
By [Open Europe](#)

- Speakers:
- Gunnar Hökmark
 - Othmar Karas
 - Karel Lannoo
 - Mats Persson

RSVP: pieter@openeurope.org.uk

29 March 2010

Paris, France

Panel Discussion: "Le numérique menace-t-il les industries culturelles et les médias"
By [Institut Montaigne](#)

- Speakers:
- Eric Boustouller
 - Jean-Marie Colombani
 - Frank Esser
 - Frédéric Martel
 - Nicolas de Tavernost
 - François Rachline

Info@ www.institutmontaigne.org

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS

EU COMMISSIONER WARNS ABOUT FAILURE IN CLIMATE DEAL

Climate talks in Brussels last week have indicated that a worldwide legally binding environmental agreement is unlikely in the next few years.

In December 2011, the conference of parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, nicknamed "COP 17", will meet in South Africa.

Yet, this week the EU Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hegegaard said that she was sceptical that a global deal could be reached.

Mrs Hegegaard believes the agreement will not be reached until a climate conference is held in one of the "basic" countries: Brazil,

HEALTH AND WELFARE NEWS

SIMULTANEOUS KIDNEY TRANSPLANT SUCCESS

The UK's first ever three-way kidney transplant has been considered a success three months after the surgeries took place.

On 4 December 2009, six people went into surgery in three different hospitals to donate or receive a kidney from someone they had never met. A Scottish husband, English wife and English sister wanted to donate kidneys, but all three were not a compatible match for their respective loved ones.

Thanks to a new law change in 2006, the Human Tissue Authority was able to set up the transplant arrangements that matched the three people in need of a kidney transplant with each other's partners.

IP AND COMPETITION NEWS

APPLE SUING HTC FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENTS

Apple is suing Taiwanese-based company, HTC, citing over twenty copyright infringements involving "the iPhone's user interface, underlying architecture and hardware".

HTC, who uses both Microsoft's Windows Mobile and Google's Android operating systems, introduced a phone which had a "pinch-to-zoom" function similar to the iPhone.

While this is only one of many copyright infringements Apple is suing over, it is believed that the release of this phone in February is what sparked the lawsuit.

Apple filed the suit in US courts in Delaware, as well as with the US

South Africa, India and China, which are the four most influential developing nations.

This week's EU Climate Action committee did create an agenda that is to be completed before Cop 17 takes place. A Spanish-based proposal was supported by most foreign ministers to allow the EU's General Affairs Council take an "executive committee role" in climate control.

The EU plans include more research in alternative forms of energy and low carbon emission technology, the creation of a "fast-track" climate fund for developing countries, and research to combat the loss of industries in the EU to countries with less strict climate legislation.

Connie Hegegaard has begun at "good-will climate tour" of the world and intends to visit China, Brazil and the USA in hopes of convincing more nations to side the EU on climate policy before Cop 17 in South Africa.

The surgeries all took place on the same day at the same time in two hospitals in London and one in Edinburgh. Vassilios Papalois, a renal surgeon at Hammersmith hospital in London, hopes that the success of this transplant will promote more pairing of transplants in strangers.

In the US kidney transplant surgeries are being done with twelve pairs at once, which Dr. Papalois says is "something to aspire to." Lynsey Thakrar, 30, whose husband was born with a kidney disease says the decision to donate her kidney to a stranger "was a little odd" but because her husband was receiving a kidney from a stranger as well, it was an easy decision.

According to the Human Tissue Authority, over 1000 living kidney donations occur each year in the UK. In the last three years, less than 70 of these operations have been four-person kidney "swaps" by random strangers and only one other six-person donation surgery has occurred since December.

International Trade Commission (ITC) which has the ability to stop imports of products into the US.

A recent study has shown that when companies file lawsuits both in US district courts and with the ITC, they are about 50% more likely to win with the ITC than with the US courts, which could stop the import of new HTC models.

In a written statement, Apple's chief executive, Steve Jobs stated, "We think competition is healthy, but competitors should create their own original technology, not steal ours."

The lawsuit came as a surprise to both HTC and the technology community. HTC noted that it had not even received a formal notice from Apple before it announced the lawsuit publically.

John Siracusa, a journalist at Ars Technica who followed Apple for years, criticized Apple saying, "I don't fault Apple for acquiring patents. They have to, for defensive purposes, given the current laws. But using them offensively sucks."

To receive the energy and environment bi-monthly newsletter *Climate of Opinion*, please email: david@stockholm-network.org

To receive the health and welfare bi-monthly newsletter *Gesundheit!*, please email: paulh@stockholm-network.org

To receive the intellectual property and competition bi-monthly newsletter *Know IP*, please email: rachel@stockholm-network.org

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