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Weekly Bulletin 189
13 July 2010

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stockholm Network *Eye on Europe* 20

This summer's *Eye on Europe* invites Dr Brian Hindley, senior fellow of the European Centre for International Political Economy, to give some analysis and even some tentative answers about what may happen in the wake of Greece's sovereign debt crisis and the knock-on effects on the rest of the EU. In a related vein, we also review *Aftershock*, the new book by Philippe Legrain, which looks at what needs to be done in the aftermath of the financial crisis if we are to try to prevent it all happening again.

In a useful new feature in this issue, we bring together for the first time in one place a summary of the political context of all 27 EU member states including who is in power and when are the next elections due to take place? And in our analysis piece we look at recent elections in detail to see what impact they may have.

Our think tank profiles include the Hayek Institute in Moscow, the Adam Smith Society in Milan and the Ludwig von Mises Institute in Warsaw. Last but by no means least we highlight two topical policy issues which are prominent on the Stockholm Network's research agenda in 2010 – our spotlight looks at the increasingly politicised debate in Europe over standards and standardisation, while we also preview our forthcoming work on risk-sharing agreements as a possible new method of increasing access to the latest healthcare treatments and technologies.

To download this publication (from Wednesday 14th July), please visit: <http://www.stockholm-network.org/Publications>

Weekly Bulletin Summer break

The Bulletin will take a summer holiday from today and will return, new and improved, from September.

NETWORK PUBLICATIONS

CSJ Green Paper on the Family

By Centre for Social Justice
Subject: Prisons

This new report from the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) calls for radical shake-up of Britain's broken criminal justice and addiction treatment systems. The report, which also calls for root and branch reform of our fatalistic addiction treatment system, highlights a catalogue of failure in key areas such as policing, prisons, drug and alcohol addiction and courts and sentencing.

And it says that with the country mired in debt, Britain cannot afford a situation where crime by ex-prisoners alone costs society at least £11 billion a year and where the bill to taxpayers for public order and safety has risen by nearly 50 per cent in real terms over the last decade.

According to the report, only 4 per cent of Britain's 200,000 drug addicts emerge drug-free from treatment; public confidence in the criminal justice system is low; almost half of all offenders beginning community sentences are reconvicted within two years; and reoffending rates among ex-prisoners are as high as 60 per cent.

Big changes designed to give the police greater powers and responsibilities and to sweep away central Whitehall targets in favour of local management of much of the criminal justice system are proposed in the report.

For more information, please visit:

PUBLIC EVENTS

20 July 2010 (5.30pm)

London, United Kingdom (55 Tufton Street)

"Google and privacy"
By [Big Brother Watch](#)

Speakers:

- Robert Halfon MP
- Simon Davies
- Paulo Balboni
- Alex Deane
- Sarah Hunter

RSVP: alex.deane@bigbrotherwatch.org.uk

20 July 2010 (6pm)

London, United Kingdom (The Ideas Space)

"Protecting reputations or strengthening freedom of speech: How should we reform our libel laws?"
By [Policy Exchange](#)

Speakers:

- Dominic Grieve QC MP
- Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC
- Jo Glanville
- Joanne Cash
- Nigel Tait
- Professor Alastair Mullis

RSVP: events@policyexchange.org.uk

8-10 September 2010

London, United Kingdom (Millbank Media Centre)

"2010 European Resource Bank Meeting"
By [TaxPayers' Alliance](#)

Speakers:

- Pierre Garello
- Alberto Mingardi
- Douglas Murray
- Grover Norquist
- Tom Palmer
- Allister Heath
- Pierre Bessard
- Carlo Stagnaro
- Alphonse Crespo
- Plus others

Info: www.europeanresourcebank.com

<http://tinyurl.com/37vvzua>

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

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT NEWS

LOWER CAP FOR THIRD EU EMISSIONS TRADING PHASE SET

The European Commission has announced the new emission cap for industrial companies covered by the EU emission trading scheme (ETS).

EU ETS is the largest multi-national, emissions trading scheme in the world and currently covers over 11,000 industrial installations and power plants, which are collectively responsible for close to half of the EU's emissions of CO₂ and 40 percent of its total greenhouse gas emissions.

The new cap, set at just under 1,927 billion EU allowance (EUA) carbon credits, is 2.4 percent lower than previously and will be in place for the start of the third trading phase in 2013.

The cap will then be lowered annually by 1.74 percent leading to a calculated reduction of around 35 million EUA per year.

But these targets are likely to be revised in September, in order to take into account the extension of the scheme post-2012. New sectors such as aviation, aluminium and gases like nitrous oxide are set to be included in the third phase.

The cap could also be changed if the EU decides to implement its promised emissions reduction target of 30 percent below 1990 levels by 2020.

The third phase runs until 2020, at which point it has been predicted that the price of EUAs through the EU ETS could reach between €40 and €50. Currently, EUAs are being traded on the carbon market at around €14 and €15.

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

HEALTH AND WELFARE NEWS

HEALTH SECRETARY ANNOUNCES NEW HEALTH PLANS

Andrew Lansley, the UK health secretary, has announced plans to "liberate" the National Health Service (NHS).

Under the plans, general practitioners (GPs) will have control of an £80bn healthcare budget, which they will use to pay for services on behalf of their patients. Currently, the government allocates funding to primary care trusts (PCTs), which then pay for patients in their areas to receive care in hospitals.

The coalition government hopes that the plans will reduce bureaucracy in the system, reducing management costs by nearly a half within four years. Public bodies that "do not need to exist" will be axed if they do not fulfil new criteria. It is expected that some 150 PCTs and strategic health authorities will be scrapped.

In addition, all hospitals will be expected to receive foundation status, allowing for more independence, by 2013. There will also be a relaxing of the rules that cap the income a trust can receive from outside of the NHS.

Mr Lansley said that previous "investment has not been matched by reform. So we will reform the NHS to use those resources more effectively for the benefit of patients".

Andy Burnham, the shadow health secretary, described the changes as a "giant political experiment". Adding that Mr Lansley was "demoralising NHS staff at just the time he needs them at their motivated best".

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

IP AND COMPETITION NEWS

SMART PHONE COMPANIES SET FOR MAJOR PATENT BATTLE

Six major manufacturers of smartphones are set to be sued for breaching the patent on wireless email technology.

The charge is being made by NTP Inc., which was successful in a similar case against Blackberry maker Research In Motion (RIM), which resulted in a \$600 million settlement in 2006.

NTP was founded in 1992 by inventor Tom Campana and lawyer Don Stout as a holding company for Campana's invention in wireless e-mail technology. The technology was never commercialised and Campana himself died in 2004.

But, since then Stout has been working to rigorously defend the company's patents, with lawsuits also being filed against three major mobile service providers in 2007.

In response to the NTP settlement with the Canadian company RIM, the US Patent and Trademark Office decided to re-examine NTP's patents and ultimately upheld three out of ten of them.

This has prompted NTP's case against smartphone manufacturers Apple, Google, HTC, Microsoft, Motorola and LG Electronics to be filed this week.

Stout, now the company's president, said "we hope we can resolve these cases without having to go to trial". Experts have warned that NTP may find a more difficult legal environment than in 2006.

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

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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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