



# Europe Direct Information Centre Outer Hebrides

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## €urozone

€1 = £0.91

€1 = \$1.19

Source:

The European Central Bank, as of 06 September 2017



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Europe Direct Information Centre – Outer Hebrides opening hours are from 0900 to 1300 each weekday

## STATE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ADDRESS 2017

The [State of the European Union](#) is an annual speech delivered each September by the President of the European Commission before the Members of the European Parliament.

On 13 September 2017, President Juncker, will deliver his State of the Union address at the European Parliament.

The speech comes against the backdrop of a changing political and economic landscape, and the EU response to ensure a secure, prosperous and inclusive future of Europe.

The State of the Union address traditionally kick-starts the dialogue with European Parliament and Council, as foreseen in the Lisbon Treaty, to prepare the Commission Work Programme for 2018.

The Commission has been actively engaging with communities around Europe to gauge their views on their priorities for Europe looking ahead. This dialogue continues and will help to inspire the President's speech.

President Jean-Claude Juncker: "I will outline my vision in September but in reality Europe's future will be of your design. It is you writing the history books of tomorrow. Let's create this new chapter together on 13 September."

On 25 March, the leaders of the European Union came together in Rome to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, reflecting on past achievements and debating what our shared future could and should look like.

The [White Paper on the Future of Europe](#) presented by the European Commission in March sets out possible paths for the future of Europe by proposing [5 scenarios](#) for the way forward:

1. "Those Who Want More Do More": the EU27 proceeds as today but willing Member States could work closer together in specific areas
2. "Doing Less More Efficiently": focus on delivering more and faster in selected policy areas, while doing less in others
3. "Carrying On": the EU27 focuses on delivering on its positive reform agenda
4. "Doing Much More Together": Member States decide to share more power, resources and decision-making across the board
5. "Nothing but the Single Market": the EU27 is gradually re-centred on the single market.

A series of [five reflection papers](#) were subsequently published to open the discussion on the issues that will most affect our future. The work will continue to enable the development of a plan in time for the European Parliament elections in June 2019. To help shape the future of Europe you can provide your feedback [here](#).



President Juncker pictured. Image © European Union

## NEGOTIATING DOCUMENTS ON BREXIT AND ARTICLE 50 NEGOTIATIONS

Documents published as part of the European Union's approach to transparency on Article 50 negotiations with the UK can be viewed [here](#). The EU is represented by Michel Barnier, as Chief Negotiator for the 27 EU countries. Information about the Article 50 process and negotiations for a new partnership with the EU by UK Government's Department for Exiting the European Union, and David Davis' closing remarks at the end of the third round of EU exit negotiations in Brussels can be viewed [here](#). Michel Barnier's closing remarks [here](#). A European Parliament website: [Brexit Steering Group](#) is now available. The next round of talks commence on 18 September 2017.



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## EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK (EU-OSHA)



Image © European Union

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) was founded in 1994 and is based in Bilbao, Spain. The mission of the agency has been to make workplaces in Europe safer and healthier, and as a result, more productive by promoting a culture of risk prevention.

EU-OSHA raises awareness of occupational safety and health, and of the importance, for employers, employees and society, of good management of workplace risks.

The agency provides reliable and relevant information and user friendly tools, shares good practices, and networks with organisations across Europe to improve working conditions.

This short new [flyer](#) contains more information on EU-OSHA's activities.

## ERASMUS+ DISSEMINATION EVENT

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Sgoil an Taobh Siar and Comunn na Gàidhlig have been involved in a minority languages (Gaelic; Occitan and Gaelige) Erasmus project with counterparts from France and Ireland, for the last three years and held their dissemination event on 30 August 2017 at Lews Castle College.

Local partners have made friends and forged partnerships in France and Ireland through seminars, study visits and staff and pupil exchanges, and the project has allowed partners to compare and exchange different regional teaching approaches as well as the resources developed by the different institutions and associations.

The aim of the project was to develop and replicate good practice which may be inter-changeable in the teaching of any regional language. One of the outcomes of the project has been the publication of a book – Gael-Òc - which reflects the life, language and culture of the regions which respective partners represent. Acair, Comunn na Gàidhlig and staff and pupils at Sgoil an Taobh Siar have been instrumental in bringing this book to fruition. Please see [here](#) for further information.



Pupils at Sgoil an Taobh Siar receive their copies of the book - Gael-Òc

## EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

“Young people across the EU should have the opportunity to volunteer or work for a good cause”, said Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker during his State of the Union address in September 2016. This would allow them to express their solidarity, develop skills and gain experience. This [factsheet](#) presents the latest state of play of this important initiative. How does the European Solidarity Corps work? Who can take part? What does it involve? These and other questions are answered in the 'Spotlight on the European Solidarity Corps' factsheet. The short, easy-to-read publication is part of a news series entitled 'Spotlight on...' focussing on topics of interest to citizens.



Image © European Union

## INFORMATION EVENTS

Our next events (specific) will take place alongside the Modern Languages Department of the Nicolson Institute Stornoway, and a local Primary School where the [European Day of Languages](#) will be celebrated. The [World Economic Forum advises on the many benefits](#) to knowing more than one language. For example, it has been shown that aging adults who speak more than one language have less likelihood of developing dementia.