

NEWSLETTERS

SPRING ISSUE 21st March 2010



2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

Experts against poverty: a CLENAD International charity initiative

What can we do as END / SNE in this the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion? More than you think!

Did you know that despite having a GDP of double the Belgian average, Brussels also has an unemployment rate of around 20%? If not, you have probably noticed the gap between the comfortable and the poor in Brussels. The CLENAD committee hopes that together we can use 2010 to give something back to the Brussels community. We propose to nominate two Brussels-based charities that experts will be encouraged to donate to. This donation could be equal to one daily allowance, for example?
What next?

1. Please look out for an email we will send in April with the easy instructions on how to participate, we will give you the bank details of the charity for you to donate directly. All you will have to do is take five minutes to complete a bank transfer

2. If you want to help mobilise support for this initiative in your national section – please email ryan-gordon.heath@ec.europa.eu

For more information in all languages about other efforts to combat poverty visit: www.2010againstopoverty.eu



DIRE STRAITS FOR SNEs AT DG RTD

Some of us may remember the intense General Assembly held in December 2008 in the presence of former DG ADMIN about the problems many SNEs encounter at DG RTD when it comes to their mandate renewal. At that time the CLENAD international committee had busy days in helping those that, at short notice, were informed that they could no longer be seconded. That was presumably a consequence of a draft guideline that greatly limited the tasks SNEs are allowed to perform. That Guideline eventually become official and SNE numbers at RTD are still sinking. Although it may seem illogical that the EU research domain reduces its number of experts, it is also true that the new status defines the role of SNEs more on policy than on management. It therefore make sense that their number at RTD reduces, as this is an extremely management task-oriented DG. Is it good or bad? It's a fact. Now it will be up to the Member States and the new Commission to understand whether this is detrimental or not to the EU.

SNEs trend at DG RTD

June 2008	117	(draft new rules circulating)
July 2009	76	(official publication of the new rules)
January 2010	67	

2010 - THE NEW EU - A PROGRAM FOR SNES

With the new start of 2010, and a new Commission, these are busy times for us in CLENAD. There are a number of initiatives, new and old which will be keeping us occupied throughout the coming year. Firstly our charity drive, in which we will be encouraging each SNE to contribute to a chosen charity. See the article in this newsletter for more details. Secondly, we all know about life in Brussels, but what happens when the dream ends and you head back home? Are you rewarded for the knowledge and skills you have acquired during your time here, or are you put into a small room and forgotten about? We know the treatment differs amongst Member States and home administrations and, inspired by the actions on the Italian national desk, we will be starting work on encouraging the adoption of a set of guidelines on recognising the potential of SNEs on their return home. This will be high on our agenda. In addition, we are starting to explore how we, as CLENAD can make your lives here a little easier. For instance, we know how arbitrary it can be in choosing a *mutualité*, but are some more suited to SNEs than others?

With all this and much more in the pipeline, along with our ongoing work concerning RTDs treatment of SNEs, the social events, your queries, etc. This will be a busy year!

Matthew Snoding
Matthew Snoding
President CLENAD International

DID YOU KNOW?

■ There is a "small ads" intranet website:

www.cc.cec/home/life/ads_en.html

■ You can get help for your English http://ec.europa.eu/translation/language_aids/english_en.htm

There are two useful tools there - both in the top section - the Fight the Fog booklet, and the English Style Guide.





INTERVIEW with:
José Maria MONCADA, CLENAD SPAIN

José Maria Moncada is a National Expert Seconded from the Spanish Treasury (Ministry of Finance, Madrid) to the DG Internal Market and Services (Directorate Financial Services Policy, in the Asset management Unit). Originally from Pamplona (Navarra, Spain), he has been in Brussels at the Commission since November 2007 and president of CLENAD Spain since December 2008.

José, thank you for accepting our invitation for an interview. Lisbon Treaty and financial crisis... Spain takes over the EU Presidency in challenging times. Indeed. The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty requires delicate coordination with the new EU president Van Rompuy and the EU foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton. I think the Spanish government has taken the delicate task of adjusting the institutional machine envisaged in the Lisbon Treaty very seriously. In addition, we are going through the most important economic crisis since the Great Depression. Hundreds of companies closed down, millions of jobs have been lost and some Member States face financial difficulties. Indeed, these are very serious challenges. **What are the priorities of the Spanish Presidency?** President Zapatero made them clear last January in Strasbourg. The Presidency wants to promote investment in new technologies, infrastructure, training and development of alternative energy. There is a very promising project for promoting the growth of electric cars. The social agenda of the Presidency includes the promotion of gender equality. The Spanish government is proud to be a model in this regard, with an equal number of women and men in the Cabinet. **You are working in the regulation of financial services in the Internal Market. Busy time, isn't it?** Absolutely, but also very interesting. It is clear that improved supervision and adequate regulation for the financial sector are vital to avoid future crisis and to help restore confidence in the market. We are working to give a new shape to the financial supervision architecture in the EU and we are setting up new rules for financial entities and practices that so far were unregulated. It is very encouraging to see that our new Commissioner, Mr. Barnier, is determined to lead this process with fresh ideas and new proposals. **You're the Head of the Spanish SNEs at the Clenad. What do you expect from the work of Clenad?** I think Clenad has an important task in maintaining the good image that SNEs have in the Institutions. The expertise we SNEs bring from our national administrations is much appreciated in the Institutions. With Matt (ed: Matthew Snoding Clenad International President), we have managed to confront delicate issues, like the situation of SNEs in DG Research, which is still an open issue. We also plan to launch a fundraising project to help local charities (ed: this issue). I also want to take the opportunity to pay tribute to my predecessor, Paquita Gonzalo Puebla, who did a great job as previous Head of the Spanish SNEs in the Clenad Bureau.

"The main objective is to achieve economic recovery and to make the EU more competitive, with a new model of growth focused on green industries".

Would you like to contribute to the next issue?
Please contact us!! www.clenad.eu

In this issue:

Giuseppe Aristei EEA, Domenico De Martinis ENV, Ryan Heath INFOS, Matthew Snoding TAXUD. Interview with José M. Moncada MARKT.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL EVENTS

SAILING with the Commission Club the Cercle Nautique des Communautés Européennes **CNCE**. The season starts soon!! www.sailcnce.eu

FOOTBALL the SCHUMAN TROPHY is a football tournament but importantly is also an important charity initiative. The tournament takes place at the end of May/beginning of June. Check for more info!!

www.schumantrophy.eu

NOT JUST BRUXELLES

Copenhagen: If somebody asks what you know about Copenhagen you might just say « the little mermaid » of course, or « COP15 ». But there is a lot more. Copenhagen has a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere: people calmly walking to work or to school, or biking or waiting for very frequent busses and trains without any apparent stress. What about cars than? You don't really need them. At least, this is the opinion of the Danish government, who decided to discourage their use through high taxation and restricting parking policy. Results: very little traffic congestion, very little noise and good air quality in the streets. There is absolutely no comparison between rush hours in Copenhagen and, for instance, in Brussels. More in general, the Danish lifestyle looks healthy: wake up very early in the morning, you might step into joggers before 7 am and, by the way, the fitness centre and public swimming pool open at around 6.00 am! People sit in the office at 8.00, work continuously! for 7h30 with half an hour lunch break. Results: at 16.00 p.m. the average citizen of Copenhagen focuses on their own life out of work: family, friends, culture. Sounds attractive doesn't it? Be careful, there are also minuses. The wind for example can be very strong and nasty, giving the impression that it likes to blow always against the direction you're biking in. Also, you had better have a good job here, because life is expensive. And please be productive, very little chatting and coffee breaks! This said, as everywhere, not all jobs allows you to be out at four p.m., but this is another story J.

