



Tanja Leppik-Bork
Research Associate

Tel.: 030-889134-0
Fax: 030-889134-99

Press release

tanja.leppik-bork@iep-berlin.de
www.iep-berlin.de

The EU in 2009 – a reassuring outlook even in times of crisis?

Current issue **EU-27 Watch No. 8** is now available for download

In the year of the European Parliament elections, the European Union is facing major challenges: Internationally, in times of the financial and economic crisis, the EU is more than ever needed as a strong 'global player', whereas internally, the unsure future of the Lisbon Treaty 'weakens' the ambitious integration process. The country reports of the 27 member states, as well as those of Croatia and Turkey, outline a European Union that – despite the times of crisis – shows some leadership skills and effective decision-making. The year 2009 also affords major opportunities such as a potential redefinition of transatlantic relations.

The current issue of EU-27 Watch covers the following issues and developments:

- the future of the EU after the Irish 'No',
- priorities for the transatlantic relations after President Bush,
- the EU response to the financial crisis and the challenges of global governance,
- the evaluation of the French Presidency and expectations for the Czech Presidency,
- prospects for ENP and enlargement after 'Georgia',
- other current issues of high salience in the member states.

A short introduction ("The EU in 2009 – a reassuring outlook even in times of crisis?") summarises major trends and findings, among others considering the future of the Lisbon Treaty, the response to the financial crisis and an evaluation of the French Presidency.

EU-27 Watch (formerly EU-25/27 Watch) is an English Internet publication by the Institute for European Politics (IEP) in Berlin, published biannually by the EU-supported network of excellence EU-CONSENT. Authors from 29 renowned research institutes in the 27 member states as well as from Croatia and Turkey offer a unique range of national political debates on European topics from Lisbon to Bucharest and from London to Athens.

The EU-27 Watch country reports are based on a questionnaire developed by the participating research institutes. Thus, EU-27 Watch provides a full comparative picture of debates on European integration and current developments in European politics in all member states and two candidate states. The 282 pages study is available for download on the webpage of the Institute for European Politics:

<http://www.iep-berlin.de/index.php?id=702>

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