

Brussels ★

## Nick Blow opens own consultancy

Nick Blow, a well-known Brussels lobbyist, has set up a new consultancy called Strategis Communications. He left the director position at Cabinet Steward to pursue his own venture. Mr Blow has 15 years of experience in European Affairs. He advises clients on broad EU strategy, legislative lobbying campaigns and EU aspects of corporate communications. Mr Blow has a particularly strong network and reputation in the European Parliament where he worked for five years as an adviser to a UK MEP. He intends to initially focus on providing intelligence, strategic advice and legislative lobbying, as well as different related services.



Nick Blow

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## Mobility of workers has positive impact on economy



After having supported the mobility of students, teachers and researchers, the European Commission wants to encourage mobility of workers. In February, the European Commission published a report on worker's mobility from the eight member states in Central and Eastern Europe. At present, 12 member states of the EU15 maintain restrictions on the free circulation of workers: citizens from the eight member states of Central and Eastern Europe need at least to apply for a work per-

mit to work in the old member states, the exceptions being UK, Ireland and Sweden. The report revealed that mobility has a mainly positive impact on member states' labour markets and economies. Restrictions on mobility are a transitional arrangement on a 2-3-2 formula, meaning that it has to be revised several times and can exist for a maximum of seven years. Spain and Finland will probably lift labour movement restrictions on 1 May 2006. Belgium, Portugal and Greece are also considering a less restrictive policy.

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## The Fry Group

The well known tax and financial planning company The Fry Group has opened an office in Brussels. From the Regus Business Centre, Schuman they will offer their complete array of services and advice.

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## Settled in

The Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical and Healthcare IT Industries (COCIR) has been welcomed to their new premises in Brussels and can be found at the Diamant Building, Boulevard A. Reyers 80, 1030 Brussels.

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## The Commission publishes latest Eurobarometer

Every six months the Commission publishes the Standard Eurobarometer – a report examining views of the Member States' citizens on various aspects of the European Union. In January the results of the autumn 2005

survey were made public. It reveals that the three main indicators covering the general attitude towards the EU – the support for EU membership (50%), the perceived benefits of the membership (52%) and the image of the EU (44%) – have declined slightly since Spring 2005 (-4 points, -3, -3, respectively). A parallel tendency can be also observed in the level of trust if the European Commission (46%) and the European Parliament (51%), each slightly down. However public opinion

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## EAS officially inaugurated

The European Administrative School (EAS), which celebrated its official inauguration on 10 February 2006, is a cross institutional initiative which aims at collaboration among the institutions in the area of training. Chaired by Roger Grass, Registrar of the European Court of Justice and Chairman of the Management Board, the inauguration event was opened



by Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, Vice-President of the European Parliament, who in her speech underlined the importance of creating a common civil servant spirit for all European institutions. At the event, Jean-François Manzoni, Professor of Leadership and Organizational Development at the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), gave a lecture on management methods. The event was closed by Siim Kallas, Commissioner for Administrative Affairs.

on the whole remains positive and European citizens continue to be broadly in favour of the further construction of the European Union. This edition of Eurobarometer was carried out by the TNS Opinion & Social, a consortium created between Taylor Nelson Sofres and EOS Gallup Europe. In February the consortium led by the Gallup Organization was also selected by the Commission to run its Flash Eurobarometer opinion polls during the next four years.