



In this edition

JOIN General Assembly elects new chairwoman

Between 8-9 May, the Johanniter International Annual General Assembly Meeting took place in Budapest. Members from over ten different countries and Brussels Secreteriat joined the event. The main items on the agenda were the election of the new Board and the approval of the new JOIN logo. [Page 1](#)

No agreement on Working Time Directive

Differences between Council and EP concerning the opt-out in the Working Time Directive lead to the failure of the negotiations. This is the first case since the Treaty of Nice which revised the mode of negotiation between the EU institutions. [Page 4](#)

New roaming tariffs from July 2009

From July 2009, the tariffs for incoming and outgoing calls from mobile phones in foreign European countries will decrease step by step until 2011. [Page 5](#)

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JOIN News

Annual General Assembly 2009 in Budapest elects new chairwoman and approves new logo

Sabine Hekking, the President of the Dutch “Johanniter Hulpverlening” is the first woman to chair Johanniter International. In her acceptance speech, Mrs. Hekking emphasised the diversity in capabilities of the various member organisations and highlighted them as a special strength for international cooperation and mutual support. “Although every member has their own background and own capabilities, our common goal is to support people in need of help,” Hekking pointed out after having taken over the leadership from her predecessor Hans-Peter von Kirchbach at the tenth Annual General Assembly Meeting in Budapest. “Because all members have their own capabilities and specialities, it is very important that within JOIN we support each other, share ideas, and keep each other informed about current and future projects.”

Another important item was the adoption of the new JOIN logo, which is already in the header of this current newsletter:



Additionally, the “St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade of Cyprus” have been confirmed as 16th member of Johanniter International. The Cypriot organisation is primarily operating in the fields of first aid training and the training of professionals in home care and childcare.



EYV 2011: Commission's proposal expected for 28 May

Presumably on 28 May, the European Commission will announce its proposal for the European Year of Volunteering 2011. It will contain statements concerning the budget, implementation and expected impacts, such as added value in the European context. Previously, in a [seminar](#) discussing the roadmap for EYV 2011, the Alliance put forward its positions on these issues. Within a framework given by EU, organisations on the local level should be enabled to promote their own events so that EYV 2011 will be a bottom-up event. This asks for a sufficient budget to succeed and achieve public attention.

JOIN Members News



St John Ambulance Priory of England and The Islands

New ways of funding: England plays bingo – online

www.sjabingo.com will offer bingo fans and SJA supporters the opportunity to support and raise much-needed funds for the charity - while taking part in easy, fun and exciting games where they can win great prizes. St John Ambulance will receive 25% of revenue generated from players who have chosen to support them. Funds raised will enable the charity to work towards its vision that no one suffers from a lack of trained first aiders.



Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V.

11th emergency symposium in Hannover

500 participants from all over Germany joined the annual convention addressed to professionals who had the opportunity to inform themselves on the future and possible cooperation of European rescue services. This year's focus was on the psycho-social treatment of children and teenagers in emergency cases. More details [here](#) (in German only).

New portal for projects is online

Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe now use the internet to demonstrate the diversity of its projects even more so than previously. Central to this new

[online-portal](#) is an interactive map to show website visitors where to find interesting JUH-projects in their surrounding area. With a short description of the project and its funding need, everyone can use the attached contact information to fund the project of interest.

First Annual Meeting of Johanniter International Assistance

On 14-16 April the Johanniter International Assistance had its first Annual Meeting in Berlin. The aim of the event was to support the lively exchange of the staff and to run workshops on issues such as project implementation, personnel, public relations, finance, security and logistics. In addition, the staff from the offices in Afghanistan, DRC, Djibouti, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sudan and Zimbabwe presented their work in this field. Also attending were representatives from the Order of St John and the JOIN office in Brussels, who presented their work and illustrated their cooperation with the Johanniter International Assistance.

Johanniterorden supports campaign to honour volunteerism

Together with the Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth the Johanniterorden supports the campaign "Geben gibt" which promotes the recognition of voluntary engagement.



Until 31 August citizens can nominate projects and volunteers who spend time,

money or knowledge in their engagement. At the end of the year the winners in each category will be honoured.



St John Cymru Wales

Lifesaving DVD launched

St John Cymru Wales, the country's leading first aid charity, launched a Young Lifesaver DVD to encourage young people in Wales between the



ages 7 to 16 to learn vital first aid skills. The DVD has been produced by young people for young people, and includes the

most up-to-date lifesaving techniques, encompassing all the very latest changes in first aid and

is bilingual. Featuring advice on how to cope with accidents both in the home and at play, the DVD also teaches how young people can avoid becoming involved in an accident.

Biker Boys raise funds for St John Wales

A team of bikers has committed to travelling 3,500 miles around Britain and France within seven days to raise money for St John Cymru Wales. The start to this tour will be on 27 June but in the run-up to it the drivers have to raise their 'entry fee' of at least £ 1,000. Therefore they travel in advance through different cities campaigning for St John and raising money.



St John Eye Hospital

The Guild Fashion Show – a great success!

A 'Fashion Show', organised by Guild member, Denise Magauran, was held on Wednesday, 8 April, in the wonderful Royal College of Medicine. The event celebrated the gorgeous clothing range by designer Beatrice von Tresckow and raised substantial funding for our charity. St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital would like to thank The Guild for their hard work in realising this event and for raising so much money! Find photos from the wonderful evening [here](#).

Charity Challenge to Jerusalem Hospital

With Charity Challenge, a British adventure travel company specialising exclusively in the organisation, leadership and administration of inspirational fundraising expeditions, adventure-seeking tourists have the opportunity to visit great places and to raise funds for the St John Eye Hospital all in one. To be allowed to hike either along the Great Wall of China or through the Holy Land, participants have to find a giver, who provides the funding for the distance walked. Get more information [online](#) or by [mail](#).



Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Austria

Presentation of search and rescue dogs in Vienna

On the International Day of the Search and Rescue Dog on 26 April, Johanniter Austria presented its dogs in Vienna. On this day, the dogs of the Austrian St John demonstrated how they practice for their assignments. In Vienna, the St



John Search and Rescue Dogs Group showed how the dogs search for missing or injured persons. Young and old followed

the presentation with great interest. Even in times of high tech, the efficient nose of a dog cannot be replaced by a machine. Under ideal circumstances, a well-trained search and rescue dog can sense a smell at a distance of 100m. Thus, search and rescue dogs are irreplaceable in disaster operations abroad as well as during the search of missing or injured persons at home.



Joannici Dzieło Pomocy

Johannici approved as charitable

Being accepted as a charitable non-profit organisation by the responsible authority in Warsaw, it has allowed for tax paying citizens to fund JDP with 1% of their income tax. In Poland, the law on income tax permits its citizens to fund charitable organisations. Having additional funds from next year on, JDP have the ability to provide medical help more effectively and professionally. With this extra financial help services like first aid, ambulance and rescue services, medical service and civil protection can be developed.



Johannita Segítő Szolgálat

Former Johanniter castle in Syria under Hungarian colours

With the first archaeological excavation and reconstruction in Syria in this millennium, a testimony of the Order of St John is being revealed. [Margat Castle](#) in Syria, the mightiest of all castles in this region, is being explored by an expert team under the guidance of Balázs Major with state-of-

the-art technical equipment. With this the Hungarian scientist makes his dream of discovering traces of St John crusaders come true. Having heard of the excavation, the Hungarian association of the Order of St John helped to raise funds for it in order to promote public awareness for the history and current activities of the Order.



St John worldwide

St John Australia glows in the dark

On the occasion of the F1-Grand Prix Australia, St John launched the 'Light For Life' campaign, which is built around recognising the work they do. For \$4 people can buy a glowstick, a fun symbolic device to show their support for St John. The glowsticks were particularly relevant this year as the race moved to a twilight format, where light sticks added a bit of fun and spectacle. This year St John aims to raise an additional \$2 million to improve the services they offer - to recruit, train and equip 300 new recruits, as well as replace some ageing critical equipment.

St John Ambulance Canada celebrates National Volunteer Week

Each year more than 22,000 St John Ambulance volunteers provide more than two million service hours to communities across Canada. From the widely-loved therapy dog visitations and youth programs, to the ever-present public service teams of emergency responders, St John Ambulance volunteers are ready to help. When a natural or human disaster strikes, St John Ambulance's uniformed First Responders are there with advanced first aid and life-saving skills, experience and leadership. When companionship is needed, St John Ambulance therapy dog handlers and their dogs offer warmth and compassion.

St. John New Zealand: Over 300 patients treated at Hamilton 400

This is a decrease from the 373 patients treated at the same event in 2008. St John Event Commander Mike Pudney said the majority of patients treated this year were spectators with minor medical complaints such as blisters and head-

aches. Around 70 St John staff members were involved each day of the event, the majority of which were volunteers from across New Zealand. Four St John medical units operated from strategic locations around the track and several ambulances were located inside the event. St John had five doctors and three nurses working alongside them each day, to reduce the amount of patients that needed to be transported to hospital. The Hamilton ambulance station is located beside the V8 track, so St John ambulances operated out of the fire station, Hamilton West police station, and Chartwell ambulance station for the duration of the races.

Health and Social Affairs in Europe

No agreement on Working Time Directive

The European Parliament and the Council could not find a compromise on three crucial points: the opt-out, on-call time and multiple contracts. This is the first time that no agreement could be reached at the conciliation stage since the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty which significantly extended the scope of the codecision procedure. Since there is no agreement, the current directive remains into force, though the Commission can draft a new proposal from scratch. Such new legislation would need to take into account the rulings of the European Court of Justice regarding on-call time.

MEPs back higher taxes to cut smoking

The European Parliament backed a minimum tax of €1.28 per pack of 20 cigarettes within 3 years in an effort to reduce smoking across Europe through higher prices. The House also backed a call for taxes to rise to €1.50 per pack by 2014. At present, tax on cigarettes varies widely from the equivalent of 75 cents in Lithuania to €5 in the UK. Around 1 in 3 adults across the EU either smoke or use tobacco on a regular basis. It is up to EU Finance Ministers as to whether they follow the Parliament's lead. The European Commission believes that higher taxes on cigarettes could reduce consumption by 10% over the next five years. Between 2002 and 2006 consumption of cigarettes in EU decreased by 13% - a fall most marked in the West of the continent.

EP puts raising food prices in spotlight

In particular the focus will be on the role of large supermarkets and the amount they pay farmers. At present, shoppers can pay up to 5 times the cost of some items of food compared to the price at the farm gate. In the late 1950s, farmers received half the retail price of food - this has now slumped to 7% in the UK and 18% in France. The Parliament's [report](#) on food prices notes that large retailers can sometimes abuse their position and distort competition to the detriment of shopper and farmers alike. In particular, they are concerned about the effect of supermarket price wars on farm wages. It also notes the fact that many dare not complain for fear the supermarket will buy goods elsewhere.

Health experts clamour for limitation of alcohol advertising

Evidence from 13 studies amongst more than 38,000 young people demonstrates that alcohol advertising affects uptake of drinking and also encourages heavier drinking. To counteract this undesirable trend, European health experts ask for a limitation of alcohol advertising.

Improvement of cross-border healthcare

The European Parliament approved plans to give Europeans the right to seek healthcare abroad more easily and be reimbursed for the costs. MEPs also want patients to be properly informed about their rights when they are treated outside their home Member State. The general aim of the draft directive on cross-border healthcare is to ensure that there are no obstacles to patients who seek treatment in an EU Member State other than their own. It also clarifies the right for patients to be reimbursed after treatment in another Member State. These rights have been confirmed in the European Court of Justice rulings but are not yet included in EU legislation. The directive also aims to ensure high-quality, safe and efficient healthcare and to establish healthcare co-operation mechanisms among Member States. Currently, only 1% of healthcare budgets are spent on cross-border healthcare. However, in certain circumstances, it can be beneficial to receive healthcare in another EU country, notably in border regions where the nearest healthcare facility may be in another country, or when there is more expertise available, or a particular care or treatment can be provided faster. Click [here](#) to view the text adopted by EP.

Humanitarian and Development Aid

Johanniter International Assistance still active in South Darfur

After many organisations like Doctors without Borders, CARE and other international relief organisations had to leave Sudan, the Johanniter International Assistance is still active in South Darfur providing humanitarian aid. Huge supply gaps are mostly expected in the refugee camps: "Hundreds of thousands have fled to refugee camps in South Darfur alone. On a daily basis, relief organisations are providing the refugees with drinking water, food and medical supplies. From now on this support cannot be guaranteed," said Johanniter Programme Coordinator Stephan Titze. The Johanniter International Assistance is looking at the possibility to take over the expelled organisations' projects to fill the gaps in the short run.

European Commission provides additional €35 million

"The European Commission has allocated €35 million in humanitarian aid to assist vulnerable people most affected by armed conflict and natural disasters in Afghanistan. Beneficiaries also include Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran. The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan has worsened over the last years due to the progressive deterioration of the security situation as well as several years of drought and other natural disasters such as extreme cold spells." Find the complete press release [here](#).

Other EU Policy News

New roaming tariffs from July 2009

From July 2009, tariffs for text messages, roaming calls and data roaming will decrease. The EP voted to reduce the cost of a text message to € 0,11, incoming calls will cost € 0,43, outgoing calls € 0,19. For the next two years, the tariffs will further decrease step by step (2010: € 0,39/0,15; 2011: € 0,35/0,11). Likewise data roaming: From 01.07.2009 the maximum tariff for a mb data transfer is € 1,00 (2010: € 0,80; 2011: € 0,50). From then the roaming tariffs have to be calculated on a per-second basis, but the providers have the possibility to charge a base rate, which will approximately relate to the use of 30 seconds.

Payment transactions in Europe: Joint declaration of Commission and ECB on SEPA Direct Debit Scheme

The European Commission and the European Central Bank (ECB) have issued a joint statement providing further clarification so as to encourage the European Payments Council (EPC) to launch the SEPA Direct Debit Scheme (SDD) on 1 November 2009. In particular, the Commission makes clear that a general per transaction multi-lateral interchange fee (MIF) for direct debit transactions does not seem justified for efficiency reasons and therefore does not appear compatible with EU antitrust rules. The Commission and the ECB also noted that the forthcoming approval of the revised regulation on cross-border payments will provide a three-year transitional regime for the SDD business model. Find the declaration [here](#) and further information on SEPA [here](#).

Green light to further liberalisation of EU electricity and gas markets

EP has adopted the Council Presidency compromise and reached therefore a further strengthening of consumer rights. The agreement contains five main aspects such as separating supply and production from transmission network operations, improving consumer rights, guaranteeing universal service of electricity and protecting vulnerable consumers.

Lessons from the crisis I: Tougher control of rating agencies

As a consequence of the financial crisis the EU puts rating agencies under stronger control in the future. Opaque and highly complex asset ratings led to the severe situation on international financial markets. Agencies are now facing strong commitments concerning their ratings: An increased integrity, quality and transparency is required to get a licence to publish its ratings in Europe.

Lessons from the crisis II: EU tightens rules for banks

To improve the risk management and avoid future repetition of the current banking crisis, with bank failures putting pressure on other banks and leaving the whole financial system at risk, the European Institutions approved a catalogue with several measures and elements of this catalogue are increasing control on border crossing financial institutes, higher regulation of large exposure

regimes and tougher supervision of derivative trades. Find more information [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Elections for the European Parliament 2009

From 4-7 June, 375 million people from 27 countries will have their chance to vote in the European Parliament elections. The people they elect will be elected until 2014 and will play a major role in Europe's political future. As put forth in the Treaty of Nice, the Parliament will be reduced to 736 members. For further information visit the [Parliaments website](#) or a campaigns [website](#), which engages young people to attend the elections.

Past Events

European Parliament Conference: A Roadmap for 2011 as European Year of Volunteering

On 16 April, MEP Marian Harkin, Elspeth Attwooll (both ALDE) and Gisela Kallenbach (Greens) were invited to a conference on the next steps towards the EYV 2011. In three panels, the actual state of affairs, examples of best practice and recommendations for the further roadmap were given and discussed. On behalf of the [Alliance of EYV2011](#), Markus Held, of the European Volunteer Centre (CEV) put forward next steps that are necessary to undertake to make the EYV 2011 a successful event. Find the recommendations more detailed in our [JOIN News](#).

Publications

Structural Funds Manual

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) released a manual on structural funds on EU level. Building on case studies and practical tips, it focused on how NGOs can be a critical voice in the development of structural funds and on the opportunities to use them for social inclusion projects. It also provides guidance on how to view the next structural funds round (2014-2020). Find the manual as pdf [here](#).