

9 MAY
EUROPE DAY



**European Elections
22 – 25 May 2014**

The Report of the Secretary General

Activities of the OCEAN Secretariat
from October 2013 to May 2014

OCEAN Board Meeting

9 May 2014

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Should an academic study of the shipsupply sector be carried out?

EU Presidencies in 2014/5

Discussion:

- What priorities for OCEAN in 2014?
- What action for OCEAN's 40th anniversary?

Changes to the OCEAN Secretariat



UECBV has hired Katrina Walsh as a trainee.

She is assisting Arne in attending meetings and drafting the minutes.



Europe Day 2014

- Europe Day held on 9th May every year celebrates **peace and unity in Europe**.
- The date marks the anniversary of the historical '**Schuman declaration**'.
- At a speech in Paris in 1950, Robert Schuman, the then French foreign minister, set out his **idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe, which would make war between Europe's nations unthinkable**.
- His vision was to create a **European institution** that would pool and manage coal and steel production.
- A treaty creating such a body was signed just a year later. **Schuman's proposal is considered to be the beginning of what is now the European Union**.



European Elections – why do they matter?



- The European Parliament will be elected on 22nd-25th May 2014, for its next 5-year term.
- It will **legislate jointly** on EU policy with the Council of the EU.
- As the only EU body directly elected by EU voters, the Parliament represents the EU's 500 million inhabitants.



European Parliament

The only directly- elected EU body. Represents the EU's 500 million inhabitants.
 Plays a key role in electing the president of the European Commission.
 Shares power over EU budget and legislation with Council of the European Union.

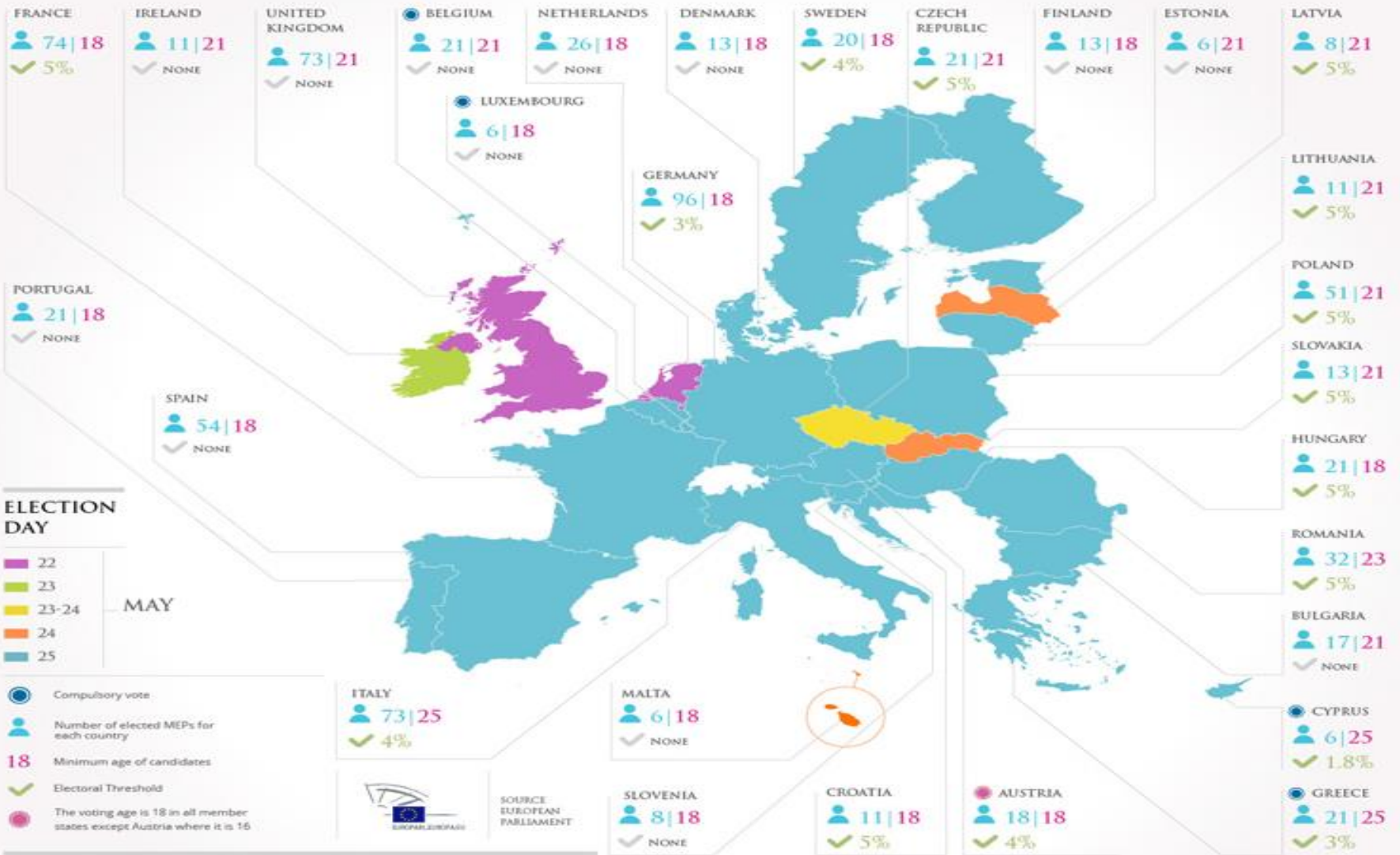
Seats per country in 2014

21	17	21	13	96	6	11	21	54	74	11	73	6	8	11	6	21	6	26	18	51	21	32	8	13	13	20	73
BELGIUM	BULGARIA	CZECH REPUBLIC	DENMARK	GERMANY	ESTONIA	IRELAND	GREECE	SPAIN	FRANCE	CROATIA	ITALY	CYPRUS	LATVIA	LITHUANIA	LUXEMBOURG	HUNGARY	MALTA	NETHERLANDS	AUSTRIA	POLAND	PORTUGAL	ROMANIA	SLOVENIA	SLOVAKIA	FINLAND	SWEDEN	UNITED KINGDOM

Following the accession of Croatia, the EP currently has 766 MEPs. In line with the Lisbon Treaty, 751 MEPs will be elected in May 2014.

751 MEPs

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2014



DEADLINE REGISTRATION TO ELECTION REGISTER



Elections of the President of the European Commission and the new European Commission



#1

The European political parties select their candidates for the presidency of the European Commission

Electoral campaign

FEBRUARY - MARCH



#2

Europeans elect the new European Parliament

22-25 MAY 2014



#3

The president of the European Council consults with the European Parliament on a possible candidate for the presidency of the Commission, taking into account the result of the European elections

Following the consultations, the president of the European Council proposes a candidate to the European Council.

The European Council decides on its proposal for a candidate (by qualified majority)

JUNE



#4

Election of the Commission President by the European Parliament by a majority of its component members (at least 376)

JULY



#5

The member states propose the commissioners-designate in close cooperation with the new president of the Commission

Hearings of the commissioners-designate by the EP committees

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER



#6

Vote by the European Parliament on the new Commission (by a majority of the vote cast)



#7

Inauguration of the new European Commission in front of the EP

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

European Parliament and the impact for the shippupply industry



- The Lisbon Treaty gives the European Parliament new law-making powers.
- It now decides on the vast majority of the EU legislation.
- Over 40 new fields came under the procedure for co-decision by Parliament and the Council of Ministers, including customs, veterinary policy and trade policy.
- Parliament has the last say on the EU budget and elects the President of the EU Commission.
- Lobbying efforts MUST include MEPs to be effective.
- Lobbying efforts in 2010 with Graham Watson MEP in the European Parliament.
- Possibility to seek own initiative repor

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
& the Lisbon Treaty

New EP: more power, more responsibility

Post-election efforts: Presentation of OCEAN to new MEPs/EU Com.



- OCEAN will identify relevant new Members of the European Parliament, the political groups and composition of the committees/new commissioners and their cabinet.
- We propose to communicate this through the OCEAN Newsletter and a special report/guide for shippsupply on the new European Parliament.
- We propose to aim to schedule meetings with MEPs in the context of the next OCEAN Board meeting in Brussels, to introduce OCEAN.
- We propose to aim to schedule meetings with the new EU Commissioner for customs and taxation so that OCEAN can make its voice well known to the Executive.
- What “up-to-date” documents on shippsupply are there to present to MEPs / EU Commission?



WHO
ARE
YOU?

On-going lobbying initiatives

Union Customs Code – E-customs – TCG – EP

- Participation at 'standard' Trade Contact Group (TCG) meetings
- Participation at extraordinary TCG meetings for the UCC
- Participation in electronic customs meetings
- DG TAXUD – VAT Group of experts (no meeting)
- DG SANCO – AG on veterinary issues
- DG TREN – Group for land transport/SAGMAS (no meeting)
- Contact with MEPs (EP Com.Envi.)
- Continuous update of Board & WG members on progress with the Union Customs Code and E-Customs initiatives.



VAT – No news



Study

- In 2011, the EU Commission presented a first study on the future of VAT on passenger means of transport.
- A further long-term study is currently being carried out. Report not to be published before 2015.

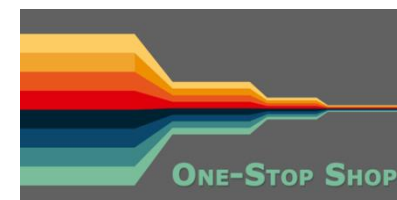


VAT Export Group

- We continue to monitor the VAT Expert Group.
- The next call for applications is planned for the first half of 2014.

New VAT rules for 2015

- A mini One Stop Shop comes into force on 1st January 2015.
- Only applies to companies supplying telecommunication services, television and radio broadcasting services and electronically supplied services.



Union Customs Code



- The Union Customs Code entered into force on 1st November 2013.
- OCEAN held a Working Group Skype meeting on UCC in December 2013 on the strategy for OCEAN.
- Intensive work is carried out between the EU and Member States within 1st February – 31st December 2014:
 - Implementing Acts
 - Delegated Acts
- Opportunity for OCEAN members to influence continues.
- OCEAN WG and OCEAN Board asked to provide comments.
- UCC was discussed at yesterday's working group.



Veterinary



- Intensive work is carried by the EU institutions: the European Parliament and the Council of ministers (MS) **on official controls Regulation.**
- Opportunities to influence continues at the level of the Council, if need.
- **Crucial step will be the implementing Acts and Delegated Acts (in 2015).**
- Labelling/Food information to consumers: clarifications were requested.



OCEAN
European Ship Suppliers Organization



Updating & coordinating members

- Update webpage
- Monthly Newsletter
- Updates on approved warehouses for shipsuppliers for veterinary purposes
- E-mail, telephone enquiries
- Management and Coordination of
 - Working Group on Customs & Taxation
 - Working Group on Veterinary Affairs(no meeting, yet/Next:Oct-Nov.?)



OCEAN Website

- OCEAN webpage dates back from 2010.
- Is it a good tool for shipsupply?
- Modern websites look very different now and have other features.
- Is it time for an update?





Outlook 2014 /2016

- Should an academic study on the shipsupply sector be carried out?
- EU Presidencies in 2014/5
- *Discussion:*
 - What priorities for OCEAN in 2014?
 - What action for OCEAN's 40th anniversary?



Should an academic study of the ship supply sector be carried out?

- An academic study of “*what is shippersupply?*” and “*what is the customs & VAT treatment?*” has never been carried out.
- Such a study could be used for lobbying purposes, at national and European level.
- This way, the fundamental principles of ship supply will be easier to be explained and re-explained again and again.
- It should be linked to a University or Institute.
 - Is shippersupply export or (re-)export? Why or why not?
 - What customs procedures are used with ship suppliers?
 - What simplifications / authorisations are used?
 - What is the VAT treatment for shippersupply?



Future EU Presidencies



- Italy (July-December 2014)
- Latvia (January-June 2015)
- Luxembourg (July-December 2015)

- The OCEAN Secretariat propose to engage with these Presidencies as they are keen to achieve tangible progress on various dossiers.
- OCEAN could contact them with the aim to suggest to tackle key issues facing the shippupply industry during their presidency.
- Officials are keen to meet with European Organisations during their Presidency.
- We recommend “tying” OCEAN Board meetings to the Presidency country wherever possible, with the aim to make the EU Presidency part of the OCEAN Board meeting.





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