

# ***EU population passes 500m Mark***

Danuta Hübner Ph. D. on Tuesday, 27 July 2010

New EU statistics show that the union's population is now more than 500m, with around 1.4m more people living in the bloc than a year ago.

Ireland and Lithuania have the highest rates of emigration.

However, Ireland also has one of the highest birth rates, along with Britain and France. Germany and Austria have the lowest.

Eurostat - the Luxembourg-based statistics agency - said more than 5m children were born across the EU last year.

The EU's population, as of 1 January 2010, was logged at 501.1 million, compared to 499.7 million one year earlier, with 900,000 immigrants entering the bloc and a natural increase of 500,000, the Eurostat agency said.

More than five million children were born in 2009 across the EU, with the highest birth rates recorded in Ireland, Britain and France, and the lowest in Germany and Austria.

Eurostat said that in 'relative terms,' those countries with the largest net inflows were Luxembourg, Sweden, Slovenia, Italy and Belgium.

By comparison with leading rivals on the global stage, China's population will near 1.4 billion by 2015, according to media reports there this month, while India, last logged in 2001 at just over a billion, is currently struggling to complete its new census.