Dear Reader,

With increasing numbers of migrants fleeing conflict and persecution and many dying at the EU’s external borders, one of the primary policy challenges for the EU is to deliver a common asylum and immigration policy that is fit for purpose. Central to this debate is how the EU can provide safe and regular migration channels for those seeking international protection to reach its territory and how it can improve the way in which those people are treated on arrival.

Evidence-based policy-making is of course critical to all LIBE’s work. That is why we commissioned two recent studies from the Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs. The first explores new approaches and alternative access routes to asylum procedures for people seeking international protection. The second looks at whether humanitarian visas might provide a workable legal entry channel for international protection seekers and whether the upcoming Visa Code reform offers the opportunity to lay down a new EU approach to this. Both studies make a valuable contribution to a debate that already features prominently in the LIBE committee and beyond and is likely to remain central over the coming months.

Claude Moraes, MEP
Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Asylum and migration: getting EU policy right

Focus

Forthcoming Publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publication date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUDG</td>
<td>Success stories: the use of the EU Solidarity Fund</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DACP</td>
<td>ACP-EU relations after 2020</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON</td>
<td>Enhancing the legitimacy of EMU Governance</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBE</td>
<td>Cross border parental child abduction</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRI</td>
<td>Comparative analysis of risk management tools supported by the 2014 Farm Bill and the CAP 2014-2020</td>
<td>January 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Link to the studies: [www.europarl.europa.eu/studies](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/studies)

Forthcoming Event

The situation of women in the Gulf States

Study presentation
1 Dec. 2014 - 15.00 - JAN 6Q2

Fact Sheets on the EU

The Fact Sheets provide an overview of European integration and of the European Parliament’s contribution to that process. They cover six main themes:

- how the European Union works;
- citizens’ Europe;
- the internal market;
- the economic and monetary union;
- sectoral policies; and
- the EU’s external relations.

The online version is reviewed and updated regularly throughout the year.

All Fact Sheets: [www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets)

Contacts

Policy Department A - Economic and Scientific Policy
ECON - ENVI - EMPL - IMCO - ITRE
poldep-economy-science@ep.europa.eu

Policy Department B - Structural and Cohesion Policies
AGRI - CULT - PECH - REGI - TRAN
poldep-cohesion@ep.europa.eu

Policy Department C - Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs
AFCO - FEMM - JURI - LIBE - PETI
poldep-citizens@ep.europa.eu

Policy Department D - Budgetary Affairs
BUDG - CONT
poldep-budg@ep.europa.eu

Policy Department - External Policies
AFET - DEVE - DROI - INTA - SEDE
poldep-expo@ep.europa.eu

DG IPOL & DG EXPO Policy Departments
European Parliament
Published in cooperation with the Unit for Coordination of Editorial and Communication Activities
PE 536.387
November 2014
New approaches, alternative avenues and means of access to asylum procedures for persons seeking international protection

This study examines the workings of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), in order to assess the need for new approaches to ensure protection for people seeking it in the EU, including joint processing of asylum applications and distribution of asylum seekers. Rather than advocating further complexity to the CEAS, the study proposes a focus on front-line reception and streamlined refugee status determination to mitigate the asylum challenges facing Member States and guarantee the rights of asylum seekers and refugees according to the EU acquis and international legal standards.

The Russian-Ukrainian gas deal: Taking the bite out of winter?

The Russian-Ukrainian agreement, signed on 31 October thanks to the efforts of the EU Commission, should prevent a winter gas crisis like the ones of 2006 and 2009. Prices and conditions have been settled but a number of long term problems remain unresolved. Ukraine’s national reserves and the IMF will pay for gas, but a contribution from the EU cannot be ruled out. Part of the agreement is secret and its sustainability is questionable. The EU’s energy security will remain hostage of Russian-Ukrainian tensions unless another supply route is found.

Horizon 2020: Key Enabling Technologies (KETs), booster for European leadership in the manufacturing sector

Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) are crucial for the competitiveness and renewal of European manufacturing. This study, prepared at the request of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), examines the nature of KETs, the drivers and barriers to KETs deployment. It includes an assessment of the current KETs situation in the EU in a global perspective. A broad overview of European policies and financing instruments precedes an in-depth assessment of the role of KETs in Horizon 2020. The analysis continues with a look at the contribution of KETs to growth, their impact on employment and the skills requirements for KETs.

Long-term impact of larger sustainable aquaculture

The EU recognises aquaculture as an important contributor to the EU food basket and this study provides insights into the economic and ecological implications of increased EU aquaculture. Current production, classified by technology and by sector, is transposed into forecasts up to 2030 that identify the main future technologies, trends and sectoral challenges. An ecological impact assessment matrix is used to compare production systems. Feed requirements are presented with observations on how these might impact EU fisheries. Public support and policy considerations are discussed.

How do Member States handle contributions to the EU budget in their national budgets?

This report reviews the various ways in which the Member States of the European Union handle the collection of revenues for the EU budget, as well as the classification and treatment of EU expenditures. The study finds a substantial diversity in these practices among the Member States and calls for a full harmonisation of the accounting procedures. It concludes with some options for transforming the Gross National Income resource into a ‘genuine’ resource for the EU and assesses the potential of a real VAT resource.

Join the Policy Departments’ Network

Policy Departments provide in-house and external expertise to support EP committees and other parliamentary bodies in shaping legislation and exercising democratic scrutiny over EU policies.

If you wish to receive this monthly publication, please send an email to ep-policydepartments@ep.europa.eu

Disclaimer: The items contained herein are drafted by the policy departments of the European Parliament and are provided for general information purposes only. The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament.