



Focus

Implementation of the EU budget: discharge



Dear Reader,

The prime task of the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) is the preparation of EP's decisions on how the Commission and other European institutions have implemented EU annual budgets.

The 2013 discharge report highlights several weaknesses: reporting by Member States on the implementation of EU funds was not always reliable, management and control systems in Member States were only partially

effective. The Parliament is of the opinion that the Commission should not tolerate breaches of the principle of sound financial management and has called for sanctions against incorrect or false Member State reporting.

Whilst granting discharge to the Commission, Parliament at the same time considered that it cannot politically ensure that the control procedures under shared management give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of transactions in the areas of agriculture, rural development, regional and social policy. These policy areas represent 75% of the Union's budget. Furthermore Parliament postponed the discharge to the Council for the fourth time.

CONT's work is based on information from the Court of Auditors and other institutions and bodies but Members can also rely on the Policy Departments for expertise.

*Ingeborg Gräßle, MEP
Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control*

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Committee	Title	Publication date
ECON	The EU's role in international economic fora	May 2015
INTA	Trade and economic relations with China 2015	May 2015
AFCO	Best regulatory practices - perspectives from the EU and the US	June 2015
CONT	EU funds for the migration policies: analysis of efficiency	June 2015
PECH	Pelagic fisheries and the canning industry in Outermost Regions	July 2015

SUPPORTING ANALYSES

Access all Studies, In-depth analyses, Briefings and At a glance notes produced by the Policy Departments.

All publications: www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Extent of farmland grabbing in the EU Study presentation **AGRI**
26 May 2015 - 9.00 to 12.30 - PHS 01A002

Advance tax rulings: state of play Workshop **TAXE**
2 June 2015 - 15.00 to 18.00

The Paediatric Regulation: Are children still missing out on potentially life-saving treatments? Workshop **ENVI**
16 June 2015 - 12.30 to 15.00

Civil judicial experts in the EU Workshop **JURI**
17 June 2015 - 9.00 to 12.30 - ASP 1G2

Dual-use goods export controls Workshop **INTA**
17 June 2015 - 10.00 to 12.30 - ASP 1E2

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HIGHLIGHTS

Financing the EU budget: what does academic world tell us?

Policy Department on Budgetary Affairs

April 2015



Academic research provides numerous analyses of the best options to reform the current system of own resources and to bring back the GNI resource to its initial balancing role. The European Parliament's position advocating a reform of the current revenue system and more genuine own resources to finance the EU budget appears to be strongly backed by academic research. There is a broad consensus that the current system to feed the EU budget is no longer viable.



Access to documents in international trade negotiations

Policy Department on External Policies

April 2015



The study provides an overview on the rules guaranteeing access to information in international trade negotiations both in the EU and in selected third countries. It is difficult to strengthen parliamentary oversight of the EU's trade policies without clear and predictable rules and procedures for the EP to access information from the EC and the Council. The purpose of the study is to evaluate the existing arrangements on access to information by the EP.



EU mapping: overview of IMCO-related legislation

Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policy

March 2015



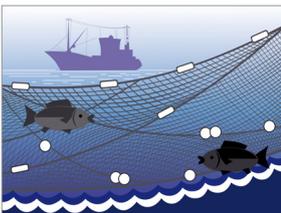
An overview of core legislation in the area of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, presented in graphical form for ease of use. The objective of this publication is to offer the reader an at-a-glance understanding of the 'legislative landscape' that frames the work of the IMCO Committee. For each of the various policy areas in its remit, a set of graphical charts describes the most relevant existing EU legislation and adjacent rules in the field.



The future of the almadraba sector

Policy Department on Structural and Cohesion Policies

April 2015



Bluefin tuna is one of the most important fish species in terms of value and source of employment in the EU. This paper looks at the future of almadraba sector - traditional tuna fishing methods in the EU. Eastern Bluefin Tuna trap set ("Almadraba") harvesting is currently only practiced in Italy, Morocco, Portugal and Spain, though such fishing method was widely used throughout the Mediterranean Sea.



Gender policy papers

Policy Department on Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs

February-March-April 2015 - This QR code is valid until 9 June 2015



The situation of gender equality and women's rights in [Germany](#), [France](#), [Poland](#) (update), [Sweden](#) and [Slovenia](#) is examined and evaluated. The papers provide an overview of the gender-equality legislation and policies in EU Member States, focussing on the recent developments and achievements. Gender equality in decision-making, in employment, reconciliation of private and professional life, gender-based violence, gender stereotypes and SRHRs are examined.



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