

Focus

Fair trade on a level playing field



Dear Reader,

The European economy is one of the most international. Free trade is essential to the EU. Parliament emphasises that trade should also be fair, and respecting the environment and living and working standards of people around the world.

Investors should respect the laws of the state in which they invest. Under pressure of Parliament, the EU has made important reforms of the dispute settlement mechanism in investment protection. International Court systems will be included in new trade agreements, which will be more transparent and permanent than the current ad hoc tribunals.

Policy Department EXPO's recent study on International Court Systems provides the INTA Committee with a comparison of the latest EU trade agreements as regards dispute settlement in investment protection.

*Bernd Lange, MEP
Chair of the Committee on International Trade*

In pursuit of an international investment court

Policy Department for External Relations

July 2017



Comparing investment dispute settlement in recent EU trade agreements provides a tool to evaluate reform and can be a source of inspiration for a multilateral investment court.

The study requested by the INTA committee compares key investment protection concepts and dispute settlement mechanisms in three concluded EU Free Trade Agreements: Singapore (2014), CETA (2016) and Vietnam (2016) and evaluates them in the light of the Court of Justice of the EU and the European Court of Human Rights.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The joint Africa-EU strategy DEVE

Study presentation
20 Nov 2017 - 15.00

Planning cross-border succession: easy or challenging task? JURI

Workshop
21 Nov 2017 - 15.00 to 15.45 - PHS 4B1

Limits and potential of the public health programme ENVI

Workshop
22 Nov 2017 - 10.00 to 12.00 - ASP 1E2

Young farmers - policy implementation after the 2013 CAP reform AGRI

Study presentation
23 Nov 2017 - 09.00 to 10.00 - PHS 3C50

The implications of Brexit on the Irish border AFCO

Workshop
28 Nov 2017

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Smart Single Market regulation in professional services

Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies

September 2017



Regulation of professional services is a significant policy issue for the Single Market, but objectives of recent reform recommendations need to be articulated more clearly. In its Communication on reform recommendations, the EC has shown the relevance of policy action on professional services for European labour markets and EU strategies. This briefing uses the smart Single Market regulation concept - developed in earlier research for the IMCO committee - to assess the development of policy for professional services regulation.



Decarbonisation of EU transport

Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies

September 2017



Very significant GHG reductions are still necessary in the transport sector to meet EU medium and long-term climate targets. The TRAN study takes stock of the contribution of the different transport modes to greenhouse gas emissions. It assesses, quantitatively and qualitatively, the impact of the different strategies and solutions currently implemented in the EU and around the world to reduce these GHG emissions from transport.



Governance model of EU Justice and Home Affairs Agencies

Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs

October 2017



An inter-parliamentary scrutiny mechanism – if effectively designed – has the potential to become a generalisable oversight model for JHA agencies more broadly. This study, commissioned by the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee, examines the governance structures of EU JHA agencies. It maps across-the-board agencies' relationships to the main institutional actors in terms of core reporting and scrutiny mechanisms.



The next MFF and its duration

Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs

October 2017



The analysis study focuses on the characteristic features of the MFF and on how to implement the EU budget more effectively in the future. The BUDG analysis concentrates on 3 possible options in connection with the duration of the next MFF. The main advantages and disadvantages of 5 year, 7 year and 10 (5+5) year scenarios are examined from the point of view of predictability (stability) and responsiveness (flexibility).



FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

BUDG	The next MFF and its flexibility	Nov 2017
INTA	Trade and economic relations between the EU and Gulf countries	Nov 2017
REGI	Public private partnerships and cohesion policy	Nov 2017
EMPL	Coordination of social security systems in Europe	Dec 2017
LIBE	EU policies and laws on persons suspected of terrorism-related crimes	Dec 2017

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