

Newsletter

Focus

European External Action Service review process: make sure it remains truly "European"



Dear Reader,

Our neighbourhood is in turmoil and this takes a lot of our attention. Clearly, the EU can be an influential player only if its European External Action Service (the EEAS) is going to be effective in bringing all our policies together to serve our interests and defend our values.

As you know we are currently reviewing the way in which the EEAS operates. The European Parliament, and my committee in particular, has played an active role in this review and made several suggestions on how to improve the Service and guarantee that it fulfils its crucial role. To gain better insight into the work of the EEAS, we commissioned two external studies from DG EXPO's Policy Department, one on the geographic and gender balance of EEAS staff, and a second on the overall effectiveness of the Service. These studies have provided food for thought for the report which myself and Roberto Gualtieri have prepared on the EEAS review process. Our main objective is to strengthen the service, increase its convening capacity, ensure that it is politically accountable to the Parliament and that it remains truly "European" and does not become a vehicle for re-nationalising EU competences.

Elmar Brok
 Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

FORTHCOMING STUDIES

Committee	Title	Publication date
AFET	Sectarian violence in Iraq	October 2013
BUDG	The income of fully self-financed agencies and the EU budget	October 2013
FEMM	Overview of the worldwide best practices for rape prevention and for assisting women victims of rape	October 2013
ITRE	The consequences of REACH for SMEs	October 2013
REGI	How can regional policies tackle demographic challenges?	November 2013

Link to the studies: www.europarl.europa.eu/studies

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Women in fisheries: a European perspective

PECH

Note presentation
 14 October 2013 - 16:25 to 16:40 - JAN 6Q2

EU trade relations with South Caucasus and Moldova

INTA

Workshop
 5 November 2013 - 10:00 to 12:30 - ASP 1G2

Transfats

ENVI

Workshop
 5 November 2013

Judicial training and independence of the judiciary

JURI

LIBE

Workshop
 28 November 2013 - 09:00 to 12:30 - ASP 3E2

More workshops



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SELECTION OF NEW STUDIES

Beyond 2015: reconciling development and climate change goals

Policy Department on External Policies

September 2013



After 15 years as the central international reference for fighting poverty and promoting development, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) will expire in 2015. The international community is seeking a new global development framework through two parallel tracks: the MDG review — led by the UN Secretary General — and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) process launched by the Rio+20 conference. Unfortunately there have been very few concrete proposals for accomplishing the integration in a practical manner.



Towards the negotiation and adoption of the Stockholm Programme's successor for the period 2015-19

Policy Department on Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs

August 2013



The midterm evaluation of the Stockholm programme which set the EU priorities for the area of justice, freedom and security for the period 2010-14, shows that its implementation is affected by several shortcomings, despite practical achievements. This calls into question the Unions' capability to guarantee the rule of law and to face future crises. The Stockholm's review underlines the challenges ahead of the next programme in the area of freedom, security and justice, at various levels: political, institutional and technical. A new programme for the next five years will be adopted soon and then succeed to the previous Tampere, The Hague and Stockholm programmes. The study was presented at a LIBE meeting on 18 September 2013.



From shadow to formal economy: levelling the playing field in the Single Market

Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policy

June 2013



The size of the shadow economy in the EU was estimated at EUR 2.35 trillion for 2012. This represents a threat to the Single Market, leads to substantial budgetary losses, puts considerable pressure on legitimate businesses, and risks stunting the growth of Europe's formal economy.

A substantial roll-back of the shadow economy would ensure better protection for consumers, businesses in the formal economy, and employees, would help level the playing field in the Single Market, and could raise up to EUR 285 billion annually in additional revenue.



Financial engineering instruments in cohesion policy

Policy Department on Structural and Cohesion Policies

May 2013



This study provides an overview of the current situation as well as of the advantages and the challenges linked to the use of Financial Engineering Instruments (FEIs) in cohesion policy. Based on this 'easy-to-read' guide to FEIs and the lessons learned so far, the study presents recommendations on how to improve the use of innovative financial instruments in the future.



The implications of EIB and EBRD co-financing for the EU budget - Follow up

Policy Department on Budgetary Affairs

March 2013



This study is a follow up to the 2011 study commissioned by the Committee on Budgets "The implications of EIB and EBRD co-financing for the EU budget". It explores how the recommendations made in that earlier study have been taken up by the actors within the EU institutions, evaluates how far changes have been implemented which are in line with the proposals contained within that report and reflects on how visible EP studies are in general. It finds that although visibility needs to be improved, this study has had a clear policy impact nevertheless.

