List of publications from the EP Think Tank

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank

Search criteria used to generate the list:

Sort Sort by relevance
Word(s) "Cybersecurity"

289 result(s)

Creation date: 27-05-2019
## The new European cybersecurity competence centre and network

**Publication type**: Briefing  
**Date**: 16-04-2019  
**Author**: Maria Del Mar NEGREIRO ACHIAGA  
**Policy area**: Internal Market and Customs Union | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Industry

**Summary**: On 13 September 2017, the Commission adopted a cybersecurity package containing a series of initiatives to further improve EU cyber-resilience, deterrence and defence. A year later, the Commission presented a proposal for the creation of a European cybersecurity competence centre with a related network of national coordination centres. The initiative aims to improve and strengthen the EU’s cybersecurity capacity, by stimulating the European technological and industrial cybersecurity ecosystem as well as coordinating and pooling necessary resources in Europe. The competence centre is supposed to become the main body that would manage EU financial resources dedicated to cybersecurity research under the two proposed programmes – Digital Europe and Horizon Europe – within the next multiannual financial framework, for 2021-2027. Within the European Parliament, the file was assigned to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). The report was adopted on 19 February 2019 in ITRE committee and voted by Parliament during the March I 2019 plenary. Although trilogue negotiations took place in March 2019, given the short timeframe until the end of the term no agreement could be reached. It is thus expected that Parliament will confirm its position at first reading during the April II plenary.

Briefing  
EN

## ENISA and a new cybersecurity act

**Publication type**: Briefing  
**Date**: 26-02-2019  
**Author**: Maria Del Mar NEGREIRO ACHIAGA  
**Policy area**: Internal Market and Customs Union | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Industry

**Summary**: On 13 September 2017, the Commission adopted a cybersecurity package containing a series of initiatives to further improve EU cyber-resilience, deterrence and defence. As part of these, the Commission tabled a legislative proposal to strengthen the EU Agency for Network Information Security (ENISA). Following the adoption of the Network Information Security Directive in 2016, ENISA is expected to play a broader role in the EU’s cybersecurity landscape but is constrained by its current mandate and resources. The Commission presented a permanent mandate for the agency, to ensure that ENISA can not only provide expert advice, as has been the case until now, but can also perform operational tasks. The proposal also envisages the creation of the first voluntary EU cybersecurity certification framework for ICT products, where ENISA will also play an important role. Within the European Parliament, the Industry, Research and Energy Committee adopted its report on the proposal in July. A agreement was reached with the Council during the fifth trilogue meeting, on 10 December 2018, and this was approved by ITRE committee on 14 January. The vote in plenary on this text is scheduled in March 2019. Third edition. The ‘EU Legislation in Progress’ briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure. Please note this document has been designed for on-line viewing.

Briefing  
EN

## ENISA and new EU Cybersecurity Act

**Publication type**: At a Glance  
**Date**: 06-03-2019  
**Author**: Maria Del Mar NEGREIRO ACHIAGA  
**Policy area**: Internal Market and Customs Union | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Industry

**Summary**: The European Commission proposed to increase EU resilience and response to cyber-attacks via a permanent mandate and an enhanced role for the EU Agency for Network Information Security (ENISA), the EU cybersecurity agency. It also envisages creating the first EU cybersecurity certification framework for ICT products and services, where ENISA will play an important role. The European Parliament's Industry, Research and Energy Committee (ITRE) adopted its report on 10 July 2018, as well as a mandate to enter into interinstitutional negotiations. The Council adopted its mandate on 8 June 2018. During the fifth trilogue meeting on 10 December 2018 an agreement was reached. It is due to be voted by Parliament in plenary during March.

At a Glance  
ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, PL

## Digitising Industry (Industry 4.0) and Cybersecurity

**Publication type**: Briefing  
**Date**: 18-10-2017  
**Author**: Miklos Laszlo GYORFFI  
**Policy area**: Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Industry

**Summary**: The digitalisation of manufacturing industry, i.e. employing in depth digital technologies for the performance of good production raises additional cybersecurity questions. Currently EU policy developments do provide framework of possibly covering these needs.
Contributing to Growth: European Digital Single - Market Delivering improved rights for citizens and businesses

Publication type  Study
Date  15-05-2019
External author  Prof. Alexandre de STREEL, University of Namur and CERRE (Centre on Regulation in Europe)
Christian HOCEPIED, University of Namur
With the assistance of Michael LOGNOUL and Zorana ROSIC, University of Namur
Summary  This study reviews all the rules adopted during the 8th Parliamentary legislature (2014-2019) to strengthen the Digital Single Market. On that basis, the report analyses the rights and obligations as well as the institutions and procedures created or improved in the main policy fields of the Digital Single Market (e-commerce and online platforms, e-government, data and AI, cybersecurity, consumer protection and electronic communications networks and services). Finally, the report identifies remaining gaps and possible actions for the forthcoming Parliament’s legislature.
This study has been prepared for the IMCO Committee at the request of the Policy Department A of the European Parliament.
Study  EN

Cybersecurity in the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP): Challenges and risks for the EU

Publication type  Study
Date  16-05-2017
External author  EPRS, DG; Panagiotis Trimintzios, Georgios Chatzichristos, Silvia Portesi, Prokopios Drogkaris, Lauri Palkmets, Dimitra Liveri and Andrea Dufkova.
Policy area  Security and Defence
Keyword  computer crime | third country | public-private partnership | European security | international organisation | EU Member State | drone | powers of the institutions (EU) | EU-NATO cooperation | EU institution | common security and defence policy | Internet | private sector | updating of skills | NATO
Summary  This report is the result of a study conducted by the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) for the European Parliament’s Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Panel with the aim of identifying risks, challenges and opportunities for cyber-defence in the context of the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). Acceptance of cyber as an independent domain calls for the investigation of its integration with the EU’s current and future policies and capabilities. ENISA analysed the related literature and work on cybersecurity, including its own publications, to form the basis for this study. In addition, a number of stakeholders, experts and practitioners, from academia, EU institutions and international organisations, were consulted in order to ensure the study is well-founded and comprehensive. The study revolves around three thematic areas, namely: policies, capacity building, and the integration of cyber in the CSDP missions, with the last one being the main focus of the study. For each thematic area, we compile a set of policy options, covering different levels, starting from the EU’s political/strategic level and progressing down to the operational and even tactical/technical levels of the CSDP’s supporting mechanisms. These policy options are summarised in a separate options briefing document accompanying this study.
Study  EN
Annex  EN
Annex II  FR
Annex III  DE

Establishing a cybersecurity competence centre and a network of national coordination centres

Publication type  Briefing
Date  19-02-2019
Author  Vadim KONONENKO
Policy area  Consumer Protection | Security and Defence | Industry
Summary  The Commission describes logically the significance of cyberdefence and the potential for improvement in this field for the EU. However, the impact assessment accompanying the proposal does not appear to have fully followed the requirements of the better regulation guidelines particularly as no open public consultation was conducted. The impact assessment presents a limited range of options as a result of a number of parameters that were pre-set from the outset and which could have constrained the scope of the impact assessment.
Briefing  EN
**EU Cybersecurity Agency and cybersecurity certification**

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 20-12-2017  
Author: Katharina EISELE  
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Internal Market and Customs Union | Industry  
Keyword: information network | impact study | computer crime | transmission network | operation of the Institutions | European Network and Information Security Agency | data protection  
Summary: This note seeks to provide an initial analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the European Commission's impact assessment (IA) accompanying the above proposal, which is the main part of the 'Cybersecurity package', submitted on 13 September 2017 and referred to Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). As announced in the State of the Union Address 2017 and the Commission's communication on Europe's Cyber Resilience System and Cybersecurity Industry, the initiative aims to reform the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA or 'Agency') in order to enhance its supporting functions for Member States in achieving cybersecurity resilience and to acknowledge the Agency's responsibilities under the new directive on security of network and information systems (NIS Directive). In addition, the proposal establishes a voluntary European cybersecurity certification framework to promote such certification schemes for specific information and communication technology (ICT) products and services, and to allow for mutual recognition of certificates so as to avoid further market fragmentation.

**Cybersecurity in the European Union and Beyond: Exploring the Threats and Policy Responses**

Publication type: Study  
Date: 28-10-2015  
External author: Nicole van der Meulen, Eun A. Jo and Stefan Soesanto (RAND Europe)  
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Security and Defence  
Keyword: computer crime | Internet | police cooperation | United States | Europol | fight against crime | impact of information technology | European Network and Information Security Agency | data protection  
Summary: This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee. It sets out to develop a better understanding of the main cybersecurity threats and existing cybersecurity capabilities in the European Union and the United States. The study further examines transnational cooperation and explores perceptions of the effectiveness of the EU response, pinpointing remaining challenges and suggesting avenues for improvement.

**Cybersecurity [What Think Tanks are thinking]**

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 26-10-2018  
Author: Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI  
Policy area: Security and Defence  
Keyword: computer crime | disinformation | Internet | European security | Russia | data transmission | data protection  
Summary: Cybersecurity was back in the spotlight earlier in October, when several Western countries issued a coordinated denunciation of Russia, accusing it of running a global hacking campaign. Moscow denied the allegations. On 4 October, the UK and the Netherlands accused Moscow of sending agents to The Hague to hack into the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, while the United States indicted suspected Russian agents for conspiring to hack computers and steal data to delegitimise international anti-doping organisations. They were also accused of trying to hack into Westinghouse Electric, a nuclear power company. Russia and other countries had earlier been accused of cyber-espionage, proliferation of fake news, and misuse of social media in some election campaigns. Cybersecurity can be defined as the protection of computer systems and mobile devices from theft and damage to their hardware, software or information, as well as from disruption or misdirection of the services they provide. This note offers links to reports and commentaries from major international think-tanks and research institutes on cybersecurity and related issues. More reports on the topic can be found in a previous edition of 'What Think Tanks are thinking', published in April 2018.
Digital Europe programme: Funding digital transformation beyond 2020

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 11-02-2019
Author: Marcin SCZEPANSKI
Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union, Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council
Keyword: computer crime, digital single market, information security, digitisation, digital literacy, EU programme, data processing, impact study, artificial intelligence, distribution of EU funding, innovation, information technology applications, digital technology, proposal (EU)
Summary: In the framework of the next long-term EU budget for 2021-2027, the Commission is proposing a new, €9.2 billion programme to build up digital capacity and infrastructure and support a digital single market. It will operate mainly through coordinated and strategic co-investments with the Member States in the areas of advanced computing and data, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity, their uptake and optimal use in the private and public sectors and boosting advanced digital skills. The programme aims to help European societies and businesses to make the most of the ongoing digital transformation. The Commission sees the potential for efficiency gains in exploring complementarities and synergies with other planned programmes such as Horizon Europe, the Connecting Europe Facility and the European Regional Development and Cohesion Funds. The European Parliament adopted amendments on 13 December 2018 and referred the file back to the ITRE committee for interinstitutional negotiations. The Council reached a partial general approach, which excludes budgetary and horizontal issues, in December 2018. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.
A digital revolution is transforming the world as we know it at unprecedented speed. Digital technologies have changed the way businesses operate, how people connect and exchange information, and how they interact with the public and private sectors. European businesses and citizens alike need an adequate policy framework and appropriate skills and infrastructures to capture the enormous value created by the digital economy and make a success of digital transformation. The European Union plays an active role in shaping the digital economy, with cross-policy initiatives that range from boosting investment to reforming EU laws, to non-legislative actions to improve Member States’ coordination and exchange of best practices. The 2014-2019 parliamentary term has seen a number of initiatives in the areas of digitalisation of industry and public services, investment in digital infrastructure and services, research programmes, cybersecurity, e-commerce, copyright and data protection legislation. There is a growing awareness among EU citizens that digital technologies play an important role in their everyday lives. In a 2017 survey, two-thirds of Europeans said that these technologies have a positive impact on society, the economy and their own lives. However, they also bring new challenges. A majority of respondents felt that the EU, Member States’ authorities and companies need to take action to address the impacts of these technologies. The European Union will increase its support for digital transformation in the coming years, as illustrated by the recent proposal for the Digital Europe programme (for 2021-2027) – which would be the first ever funding programme dedicated solely to supporting digital transformation in the EU. Further EU action will doubtless be needed, notably to increase infrastructure investment, boost innovation, foster digital champions and businesses digitalisation, reduce existing digital divides, remove remaining barriers in the digital single market and ensure an adequate legal and regulatory framework in the areas of advanced computing and data, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. The European Parliament, as co-legislator, is closely involved in shaping the policy framework that will help citizens and businesses fully exploit the potential of digital technologies.
Perspectives on transatlantic cooperation: Cybersecurity and cybercrime - Building more resilient and prosperous transatlantic societies

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 11-07-2016
Author: Patryk PAWLAK
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Summary: Internet-based platforms are increasingly used for delivery of services, basic governance functions or communication. As such, open and secure access to the Internet constitutes a significant element in generating growth, prosperity and citizens' empowerment on both sides of the Atlantic. However, this potential is increasingly undermined by digital risks and vulnerabilities in cyberspace: online fraud, attacks on critical infrastructure or the use of new technologies by terrorist networks. According to several studies, Europe and the United States can still reap tremendous benefits from digitisation but, in order to secure the potential gains, they need to strengthen transatlantic cooperation in building more resilient systems and societies, as well as deliver on their commitment to enhancing ties between regulatory, law enforcement, policy and civil society actors. This briefing forms part of a broader research project on the perspectives on transatlantic cooperation in the US election year, requested by the Chair of the European Parliament’s delegation for relations with the United States.

Briefing: EN

A new era in EU-China relations: more wide-ranging strategic cooperation?

Publication type: Study
Date: 19-07-2018
Author: Anna SAARELA
Policy area: International Trade
Keyword: trade by country | political situation | investment abroad | environmental policy | foreign policy | extra-EU trade | human rights | China | foreign investment | EU relations | economic cooperation | trade policy | geopolitics | economic situation

Summary: China is an important strategic partner for the EU, despite fundamental divergences in some areas, mostly related to state intervention and fundamental human rights. The partnership offers mutually beneficial cooperation and dialogue in areas ranging from investment and trade to human rights and cybersecurity. China is navigating in new directions, guided by Xi Jinping’s ‘Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era’. Despite President Xi’s repeated avowals that ‘the market will have a decisive role’, public ownership remains the mainstay of the Chinese economy, whereas profound reforms would be needed to tackle the root causes of overcapacity in various industrial sectors. Xi’s ‘Belt and Road Initiative’, now also included in the Constitution, is the flagship international connectivity and infrastructure programme dominated by Chinese state-owned companies. Overall, China’s crucial, but complex transition towards more sustainable growth would eventually benefit both, China and the world as a whole. Global economic interdependence, however, makes certain spill-over effects of China’s rebalancing unavoidable.

China plays a pivotal role in global governance and the rules-based international order, and this comes with responsibilities. Beijing has begun to shift away from the narrow pursuit of national aims towards a more assertive foreign and security policy, and increased financial, economic and security cooperation with a global outreach. China is also facing domestic concerns, such as lifting millions of people out of poverty and reducing ever-growing income inequalities, deterioration in the situation of human rights and freedoms as well as endemic corruption.

Study: DE, EN, FR

EYE event - Cyber-attacks: Not just a phantom menace

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 16-05-2018
Author: Naja BENTZEN | Sofija VORONOVA
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Security and Defence

Summary: Some 96% of young people (and 70 % of citizens) in Europe use the internet every day. The young communicate, play, shop, learn and work online. While offering a galaxy of opportunities, the digital environment also has a dark side. Cybercrime knows no borders and cyber-attacks can take on various forms, targeting all kinds of things, ranging from our devices and wallets, to our way of life. How can we make our digital society more resilient and our cybersecurity stronger? How does the EU help us reinforce our cyber-preparedness and response?

At a Glance: EN

Contribution to growth. The European Digital Single Market. Delivering economic benefits for citizens and businesses

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-01-2019
External author: J. Scott Marcus, Dr Georgios Petropoulos, Dr Timothy Yeung
Keyword: consumer protection | trade by country | political situation | investment abroad | environmental policy | foreign policy | extra-EU trade | human rights | EU relations | economic cooperation | trade policy | geopolitics | economic situation

Summary: Numerous legislative measures have been initiated or enacted in support of the overall achievement of a Digital Single Market (DSM). This in-depth analysis provides a brief stock-taking of what has been achieved in economic terms, of what remains to be done, and of candidate initiatives for the next legislative term. The study was prepared by Policy Department A on the request of European Parliament’s Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

Study: EN, PL
Europe’s two trillion euro dividend: Mapping the Cost of Non-Europe, 2019-24

Summary
This study brings together work in progress on a long-term project to identify and analyse the ‘cost of non-Europe’ in a number of policy fields. This concept, first pioneered by the European Parliament in the 1980s, is used here to quantify the potential efficiency gains in today’s European economy through pursuing a series of policy initiatives recently advocated by the Parliament – from a wider and deeper digital single market to more systematic coordination of national and European defence policies or increased cooperation to fight corporate tax avoidance. The benefits are measured principally in additional GDP generated or more rational use of public resources. The latest analysis suggests that there are potential gains to the European economy (EU-28) of over 2,200 billion euro that could be achieved, if the policies advocated by the Parliament in a series of specific areas were to be adopted by the Union’s institutions and then fully implemented over the ten-year period from 2019 to 2029. This would be, in effect, a ‘two trillion euro dividend’, representing a boost of some 14 per cent of total EU GDP (itself 15.3 trillion euro in 2017). The study is intended to make a contribution to the on-going discussion about the European Union’s policy priorities over the coming five-year institutional cycle, from 2019 to 2024.

European Defence Fund: Multiannual financial framework 2021-2027

Summary
In June 2018, the European Commission presented a legislative proposal on a European Defence Fund, including a budget allocation of €13 billion in current prices for the 2021 to 2027 period. The proposal aims to streamline and simplify the current legislation by integrating the Preparatory Action on Defence Research (research window) and the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (as one part of the capability window) into a single fund. The main aims of the fund are to foster the competitiveness and innovativeness of European defence and to contribute to the EU's strategic autonomy. In this regard, the fund would support collaborative industrial projects; co-finance the costs of prototype development; encourage the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises; and promote projects in the framework of permanent structured cooperation. Synergies are expected with other EU initiatives in the field of cybersecurity, maritime transport, border management, Horizon Europe, the space programme and the European Peace Facility.

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date

Summary
The role of the European Council – to ‘provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development’ and to define its ‘general political directions and priorities’ – has evolved rapidly over the last decade. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament’s in-house research service and think tank, has been monitoring and analysing the European Council’s delivery on commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview of European Council conclusions is a new, updated and more comprehensive edition of the Rolling Check-List, which has been published regularly by the European Council Oversight Unit since 2014. It distinguishes between four types of European Council conclusions (commitments, reviews, endorsements and statements) and indicates the follow-up given to calls for action made by EU leaders. It also offers an introductory analysis of each policy area, highlighting the background to the main orientations given by the European Council, as well as the follow-up to them and the future challenges.
A renewed industrial policy strategy

Published on: 09-11-2017
Author: Marcin SZCZEPANSKI
Policy area: Industry

Summary: EU industry seems to be on a solid path to recovery from the crisis, with growth in both employment and value added. Industry creates jobs across the economy and is responsible for the bulk of investment in private research and development. In the same way as in other developed parts of the world, European industry is undergoing a transformation based not least on increased convergence between traditional industries and the digital sector. This change is bringing both opportunities and challenges. In order to maintain the global competitiveness of European industry, many current shortcomings, such as insufficient investment levels, widening productivity and innovation gaps, and skills shortages, must be addressed. Many of these issues have been emphasised before: in the aftermath of the recent crisis the EU sought to boost the reindustrialisation of Europe in order to stimulate jobs and growth. The European Commission under Jean-Claude Juncker has made this one of its top priorities and, after a series of related initiatives such as the investment plan and the circular economy package, in September 2017 it announced a renewed industrial policy strategy. This strategy takes a holistic approach, combining both existing and new horizontal and sector-specific initiatives, and sets out actions to be launched by early 2018. The newly proposed initiatives concern cybersecurity, free flow of non-personal data, trade and foreign investment, raw materials and public procurement. Upcoming proposals will concern the circular economy, the intellectual property rights framework, sustainable finance, mobility and skills. The reaction from stakeholders has been mixed: while many have welcomed the strategy in general, particularly its holistic approach and the involvement of multiple stakeholders, others have criticised it as lacking clear new objectives and actions and a long-term vision.

---

Robots in healthcare: a solution or a problem?

Published on: 15-03-2019
Author: Andrei MOARCAS, Milieu Consulting
External author: Rosa CASTRO, Milieu Consulting
Zrinjka DOLIC, Milieu Consulting

Summary: This report summarises the presentations and discussions of a workshop on the use of robots and AI in healthcare, held at the European Parliament in Brussels on Tuesday 19 February 2019. The aim of the workshop was to provide background information and advice for Members of the ENVI Committee on the status and prospects of applying robotic and artificial intelligence (AI) based technologies in healthcare. The first part of the workshop focused on the practical application of AI and robots in healthcare, while the second part examined the ethical implications and responsibilities of AI and robotic based technologies in healthcare.

---

Cybersecurity and cyberdefence: EU Solidarity and Mutual Defence Clauses

Published on: 05-06-2015
Author: Patryk PAWLAK
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary: Faced with an increasing number of complex crises with a trans-border dimension, the European Union has invested significant energy and resources in strengthening its crisis- and disaster-management capabilities. To that effect, the Treaty of Lisbon equipped the Union with two provisions aimed at improving the EU’s response to natural or man-made disasters (the Solidarity Clause) and military aggression against an EU Member State (the Mutual Defence Clause). For some time, both clauses remained purely theoretical concepts, without clear rules regarding their activation or procedures once either of the two is invoked by a Member State. In 2014, after many months of discussion, the Member States agreed on arrangements for the implementation of the ‘Solidarity Clause’. The ‘Mutual Defence Clause’ has yet to see similar progress. Whether backed by procedures or not, so far the Member States have been reluctant to make use of either of the two provisions. Many areas of human activity are increasingly dependent on information technology. At the same time, over the past year some major media outlets and companies – including Sony and TV5 Monde – have become victims of cyber-attacks. Consequently, policy-makers are increasingly preoccupied about the risk of cyber-attacks with disastrous consequences for critical national infrastructure. Given the interconnectedness between the Member States and their inherent limitations to tackle a complex disaster provoked by a cyber-attack alone, there is some debate about the likelihood of the Solidarity and Mutual Defence Clauses eventually being invoked. The European Parliament has addressed these issues on three different occasions but its role once any of the clauses is activated remains to be defined.

---

Source: © European Union, 2019 - EP
The role of the European Council in internal security policy

Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, April II 2019

The Juncker Commission's ten priorities: An end-of-term assessment
A governance framework for algorithmic accountability and transparency

Publication type: Study
Date: 04-04-2019
External author: DG, EPRS
Summary: Transparency and accountability are both tools to promote fair algorithmic decisions by providing the foundations for obtaining recourse to meaningful explanation, correction, or ways to ascertain faults that could bring about compensatory processes. The study develops policy options for the governance of algorithmic transparency and accountability, based on an analysis of the social, technical and regulatory challenges posed by algorithmic systems. Based on an extensive review and analysis of existing proposals for governance of algorithmic systems, the authors propose a set of four policy options each of which addresses a different aspect of algorithmic transparency and accountability. 1. Awareness raising: education, watchdogs and whistleblowers. 2. Accountability in public sector use of algorithmic decision-making. 3. Regulatory oversight and Legal liability. 4. Global coordination for algorithmic governance.

Study EN
Annex I EN

Competition issues in the area of Financial Technology (FinTech)

Publication type: Study
Date: 09-07-2018
External author: Alberto FRAILE CARMONA, Iclaves S.L.; Agustín GONZÁLEZ-QUEL LOMBARDO, Iclaves S.L.; Rafael RIVERA PASTOR, Iclaves S.L.; Carlota TARÍN QUIROS, Iclaves S.L.; Juan Pablo VILLAR GARCÍA, Iclaves S.L.; David RAMOS MUNOZ, Universidad Carlos III; Luis CASTEJÓN MARTIN, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
Policy area: Forward Planning | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword: financial supervision | freedom to provide services | financial institution | financial policy | innovation | start-up | venture capital | financial services
Summary: The increasing number of FinTech services provided by newcomer start-ups, traditional financial institutions and big tech companies can bring new competition challenges to the playing field. Some factors can result in anticompetitive behaviours, namely the network effects derived from the use of online platforms, the access to customer data, standardisation, interoperability and the use of algorithms. Combined with a service-by-service analysis, the study provides both, descriptive analysis and normative tools to anticipate and manage anticompetitive behaviours as they occur. This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the ECON Committee.

Study EN
Executive summary ES, DE, FR, IT

Disinformation and propaganda – impact on the functioning of the rule of law in the EU and its Member States

Publication type: Study
Date: 28-02-2019
External author: Judit BAYER (scientific coordinator, editor), Budapest Business School Natalija BITIUKOVA, Independent consultant Petra BARD, Central European University Judit SZAKÁCS, Center for Media, Data and Society at the Central European University Alberto ALEMANNO, HEC Paris Erik USZKIEWICZ, Hungarian Europe Society
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Summary: This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs and requested by the European Parliament’s Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, assesses the impact of disinformation and strategic political propaganda disseminated through online social media sites. It examines effects on the functioning of the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights in the EU and its Member States. The study formulates recommendations on how to tackle this threat to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. It specifically addresses the role of social media platform providers in this regard.

Study EN
Executive summary DE, FR, IT, PL
Foreign policy and defence challenges [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Publication type Briefing
Date 18-01-2019
Author Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI
Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword United States | United Kingdom | EU migration policy | think tank | Russia | Ukraine | common foreign and security policy | withdrawal from the EU | EU-NATO cooperation | foreign policy | China
Summary The European Union will face increasingly serious foreign policy and defence challenges in 2019. The current Administration in the United States seems to be abandoning its traditional role of 'benign protector' of the rules-based international order. Russia, according to many analysts, continues to try to undermine the democratic process in many Western countries, and China’s foreign policy is becoming more and more assertive, notably in the economic field. Furthermore, migration, Brexit and cybersecurity, as well as a lack of EU unity on certain issues, also feature amongst key challenges. This note offers links to recent selected commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on EU foreign and defence policies. Links to more reports on President Donald Trump’s policies, Russia, EU-China relations and NATO are available in previous items in this series, published last year.

Cyber diplomacy: EU dialogue with third countries

Publication type Briefing
Date 29-06-2015
Author Patryk PAWLAK
Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Keyword computer crime | international security | Internet | United States | South Korea | the EU's international role | fight against crime | India | Japan | data protection | China
Summary The current global debates about the role of governments in internet governance and the application of international law in cyberspace will have significant impact on the future of the internet. With a view to shaping their outcome, the EU is focusing on a number of priority areas: protecting the digital economy, reducing cybercrime, enhancing international stability, protecting the free and open internet, and capacity-building in third countries.

The need for closer engagement with key international partners, as a way towards promoting the EU's political, economic and strategic interests was recognised in the EU Cybersecurity Strategy of 2013, and the Council Conclusions on Cyber Diplomacy adopted in February 2015. The EU is pursuing this objective through cyber dialogues with China, India, Japan, South Korea and the United States, as well as other consultation venues where cyber issues are among the agenda items.

With internet and new communications technologies becoming an integral component of everyday life, the European Parliament plays a crucial role in ensuring that internet and digital technologies strengthen, rather than undermine, human development. It can do so through legislation and agenda-setting, parliamentary diplomacy and capacity building, awareness raising and its budgetary powers.

European Council conclusions - A rolling check-list of commitments to date

Publication type Study
Date 12-12-2018
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL
Keyword single market | digital single market | area of freedom, security and justice | common foreign and security policy | EU energy policy | development policy | European Council | climate change policy | competitiveness | EU migration policy | economic policy | Schengen Agreement | international trade | summit meeting | EU employment policy
Summary The role of the European Council – to ‘provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development’ and to define its ‘general political directions and priorities’ – has evolved rapidly over the last decade. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament’s in-house research service and think-tank, has been monitoring and analysing the European Council’s delivery on commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview of European Council conclusions is a new, updated and more comprehensive edition of the Rolling Check-List which has been published regularly by the European Council Oversight Unit since 2014. It is designed to review the degree of progress in achieving the goals that the European Council has set itself and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.
Countering hybrid threats: EU-NATO cooperation

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 02-03-2017
Author: Patryk PAWLAK

Policy area: Security and Defence

Keyword: computer crime | third country | European security | industrial hazard | mutual assistance | man-made disaster | common foreign and security policy | threat to national security | transport safety | public safety | military cooperation | NATO | health risk

Summary: The concept of hybrid threat has gained traction in relation to Russia’s actions in Ukraine and the ISIL/Da’esh campaigns going far beyond Syria and Iraq. Faced with this constantly evolving challenge, the European Union and NATO have taken several steps to strengthen their respective capabilities and pursue common objectives through closer cooperation. The EU-NATO joint declaration adopted in July 2016 in the margins of the Warsaw NATO Summit represents a clear step forward in this regard. The document outlines new areas for practical cooperation, in particular with regard to hybrid threats, building resilience in cybersecurity, and strategic communications. The Council conclusions of 6 December 2016 stressed that the implementation of the joint declaration is a key political priority for the EU. It welcomed the progress achieved in advancing EU-NATO relations, including implementing and operationalising parallel procedures and playbooks for interaction in countering hybrid threats. With a view to ensuring further progress, the Council endorsed a common set of proposals focused on better coordination, situational awareness, strategic communication, crisis response, and bolstering resilience. The North Atlantic Council endorsed the same set of measures. Reports on implementation, including possible suggestions for future cooperation, should be provided on a biannual basis from the end of June 2017. This is an updated edition of an At a Glance note published in June 2015.

Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, March I 2019

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 15-03-2019
Author: CLARE FERGUSON | KATARZYNA SOCHACKA

Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary: Highlights of the March I plenary session included debates on Brexit, preparation of the European Council meeting of 21-22 March 2019, and the latest debate on the Future of Europe, with Peter Pellegrini, Slovakia’s Prime Minister. Parliament also held debates on a proposed European human rights violations sanctions regime; the situation in Venezuela and Nicaragua; opening EU-US trade negotiations; climate change; gender balance in nominations to EU economic and monetary affairs bodies; and on the urgency to establish an EU blacklist of third countries with weak regimes on anti-money-laundering and countering terrorist financing. Finally, Parliament adopted first-reading positions on three further proposed funding programmes for the 2021-2027 period. A number of Brexit-preparedness measures were also adopted.

Regulating disinformation with artificial intelligence

Publication type: Study
Date: 13-03-2019
External author: DG, EPRS


Summary: In this study, we examine the consequences of the increasingly prevalent use of artificial intelligence (AI) disinformation initiatives upon freedom of expression, pluralism and the functioning of a democratic polity. The study examines the trade-offs in using automated technology to limit the spread of disinformation online. It presents (self-regulatory to legislative) options to regulate automated content recognition (ACR) technologies in this context. Special attention is paid to the opportunities for the European Union as a whole to take the lead in setting the framework for designing these technologies in a way that enhances accountability and transparency and respects free speech. The present project reviews some of the key academic and policy ideas on technology and disinformation and highlights their relevance to European policy.

5G in the EU and Chinese telecoms suppliers

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 08-04-2019
Author: Gisela GRIEGER

Policy area: Research Policy | Foreign Affairs | Industry

Summary: The spectrum auctions of fifth-generation (5G) mobile telecoms networks planned in 17 EU Member States for 2019 or 2020 have sparked a highly politicised debate in the EU about whether the use of Chinese 5G equipment in critical EU infrastructure poses a threat to security. While Australia, Japan, and New Zealand have followed the United States (US) in imposing a (partial) ban on Chinese telecom vendors, EU Member States appear to privilege EU-coordinated national risk-mitigating measures over a ban.
Armaments standardisation can be expanded and enhanced. Sharing and remotely piloted aircraft systems. It makes recommendations on how EU approaches to armaments cooperation, this study analyses the standardisation approaches taken by the EU in relation to maritime information technologies on the other, is increasingly blurred. In this context, and in relation to recent developments on EU defence civilian sector. The line drawn between defence equipment and capabilities on the one hand, and civilian products and is that many more technologies and components integrated into military systems are sourced and/or produced in the decades to enhance armaments standardisation in Europe. Yet the nature of the contemporary global defence market of improving interoperability within and between European armed forces and a process that can enhance the operational effectiveness of Europe’s militaries. Both the EU and NATO have taken measures over many years and decades to enhance armaments standardisation in Europe. Yet the nature of the contemporary global defence market is that many more technologies and components integrated into military systems are sourced and/or produced in the civilian sector. The line drawn between defence equipment and capabilities on the one hand, and civilian products and technologies on the other, is increasingly blurred. In this context, and in relation to recent developments on EU defence cooperation, this study analyses the standardisation approaches taken by the EU in relation to maritime information sharing and remotely piloted aircraft systems. It makes recommendations on how EU approaches to armaments standardisation can be expanded and enhanced.
Faced with a growing international terrorist threat, the European Union (EU) is playing an ever more ambitious role in counter-terrorism. Even though primary responsibility for combating crime and ensuring security lies with the Member States, the EU provides cooperation, coordination and (to some extent) harmonisation tools as well as financial support to address this borderless phenomenon. Moreover, the assumption that there is a connection between development and stability, as well as between internal and external security, has come to shape EU action beyond its own borders. EU spending in the area of counter-terrorism has increased over the years and is set to grow in the future, to allow for better cooperation between national law enforcement authorities and enhanced support by the EU bodies in charge of security, such as Europol and eu-LISA. Financing for cooperation with third countries has also increased, including through the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace. The many new rules and instruments that have been adopted since 2014 range from harmonising definitions of terrorist offences and sanctions, and sharing information and data, to protecting borders, countering terrorist financing, and regulating firearms. To evaluate the efficiency of the existing tools and identify gaps and possible ways forward, the European Parliament set up a Special Committee on Terrorism (TERR), which delivered its report in November 2018. TERR made extensive recommendations for immediate or longer term actions aiming to prevent terrorism, combat its root causes, protect EU citizens and assist victims in the best possible way. In line with these recommendations, future EU counter-terrorism action will most probably focus on addressing existing and new threats, countering radicalisation – including by preventing the spread of terrorist propaganda online – and enhancing the resilience of critical infrastructure. Foreseeable developments also include increased information sharing, with planned interoperability between EU security- and border-related databases, as well as investigation and prosecution of terrorist crimes at EU level, through the proposed extension of the mandate of the recently established European Public Prosecutor's Office.
Ten issues to watch in 2019

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 08-01-2019
Author: Etienne BASSOT

Policy area:

Keyword:
- digital single market | European security | digitisation | sustainable mobility | marine pollution | electric vehicle | Africa | European election | marine environment | big data | artificial intelligence | EU budget | international trade | common fisheries policy | European Parliament

Summary:
This is the third edition of an annual EPRS publication designed to identify and frame some of the key issues and policy areas that are likely to feature prominently on the political agenda of the European Union over the coming year. The topics analysed are the outlook for a new European Parliament and new European Commission, the way forward for the soon-to-be EU-27, the future financing of the Union, the process of digital transformation, artificial intelligence and collective intelligence, internal security, trade wars, Africa, electric mobility, and the oceans.

In-Depth Analysis: DE, EN, FR

Digitalisation in railway transport: A lever to improve rail competitiveness

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 20-02-2019
Author: Damiano SCORDAMAGLIA

Policy area:
- Transport | Industry

Summary:
Since the 1990s, digitalisation has been advancing at speed across all industrial sectors, public entities and society at large; and railways are no exception. Digital technologies already govern rail customers' expectations, ticket reservation and purchasing habits, operators' information and payments systems, but experts believe these technologies have much more to offer the sector. Digitalisation is key to industry competitiveness and has therefore become an EU priority. The EU has been forging a cross-policy approach and programmes to ensure a solid policy framework, finance research and infrastructure, develop standards and connectivity, and use data effectively. This should enable rail actors to capture digitalisation's potential, improve their efficiency and serve their customers better. The European Parliament has been contributing to this policy. Rail companies have already implemented a vast array of new services and applications using digital technologies, be it for providing more information and leisure services on board, improving the monitoring of their assets or automating more operations. The changes introduced by digitalisation in rail transport are perceived by many stakeholders as an opportunity – owing to the benefits it can offer – but also as a challenge. Indeed, it will require a change of mindsets and business models. Rail digitalisation will also require financial investment and a strategy to tackle cyber threats. Addressing these challenges will allow digitalisation to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of the railway sector.

Briefing: EN

Competition issues in the Area of Financial Technology (FinTech): Study presentation

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 04-04-2019
External author: David RAMOS MUÑOZ, Juan Pablo VILLAR GARCÍA, et al.
Policy area:
- Forward Planning | Financial and Banking Issues

Summary:
The study presented in this event deals with the new competition challenges brought about by the increasing number of FinTech services, which are provided by newcomer start-ups, traditional financial institutions and big tech companies. Namely, network effects derived from the use of online-platforms, the use of customer data, algorithms, standardisation and interoperability can result in anticompetitive behaviour. The analysis takes a service-by-service approach to provide both, a descriptive breakdown and normative tools to anticipate and manage anticompetitive behaviours as they occur.

This presentation was prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the ECON Committee.

In-Depth Analysis: EN
**Peace and Security in 2018: Overview of EU action and outlook for the future**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 14-05-2018  
**Author** Eleni LAZAROU  
**Policy area** Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence  
**Keyword** the EU's international role | peacekeeping | development aid | democracy | distribution of EU funding | EU-NATO cooperation | international relations | civil society | geopolitics | EU institution | common security and defence policy  
**Summary** This is the first EU Peace and Security Outlook, produced by the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS). The series is designed to analyse and explain the contribution of the European Union to the promotion of peace and security internationally through its various external policies. The study provides an overview of the issues and current state of play. It looks first at the concept of peace and the changing nature of the geopolitical environment. It then focuses on the centrality of the promotion of peace and security in the EU's external action and proceeds to an analysis of the practical pursuit of these principles in three main areas of EU policy: development, democracy support, and security and defence. It concludes with an outlook to the future. A parallel study, published separately, focuses specifically on EU peacebuilding efforts in the Western Balkans. The studies have been drafted with a view to their presentation at the Normandy World Peace Forum, in June 2018.

**Multimedia** EN

**Cyber diplomacy: Confidence-building measures**

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 28-10-2015  
**Author** Patryk PAWLAK  
**Policy area** Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Global Governance | Security and Defence  
**Keyword** computer crime | European security | organised crime | fight against crime | virtual community | digital evidence | diplomatic relations | international relations | ASEAN | threat to national security | OSCE | UN Secretary-General | terrorism | surveillance | data protection  
**Summary** The growing importance of internet-enabled platforms for delivery of government, financial, and public services makes them one of the key priorities for national security. Over recent years, state, state-sponsored and non-state actors (i.e. terrorist organisations, organised crime groups) alike have resorted to intrusive techniques to gain the economic, political or security upper hand over their competitors and adversaries. The evolving landscape of threats, and challenges linked to attribution of attacks to specific perpetrators, have further increased the risks of misunderstanding and misperception of operations in cyberspace. Against this background, a number of international and regional organisations in Europe, Asia and Latin America have embarked on the process of developing confidence-building measures in cyberspace, with a focus on improving communication and information exchange, transparency and verification, cooperation and restraint measures. While these are welcome, there is growing concern that the nascent global 'cyber stability regime' may be undermined by diverging concepts, methods and measures elaborated within these diverse frameworks. The European Union has embraced the peaceful development of cyberspace as one of its key priorities in the EU Cybersecurity Strategy. It contributes actively to the ongoing debates about norms, provides support to regional confidence-building processes, and pursues the objective of a stable, safe and secure cyberspace by providing funding for capacity building in partner countries.

**Briefing** EN
European Council Conclusions - A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date

Publication type: Study
Date: 26-10-2017
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN
Keyword: activity report | European Council | EU policy | competitiveness | economic policy | area of freedom, security and justice | regulatory policy | international trade | EU energy policy | EU employment policy
Summary: The European Council’s role – to ‘provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development’ and to define its ‘general political directions and priorities’ - has developed rapidly over the past seven years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament's in-house research service and think-tank, has been monitoring and analysing the European Council's delivery of the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a regularly updated Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council has set itself since January 2010 and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.

Study EN

The ubiquitous digital single market

Publication type: EU Fact Sheets
Date: 01-11-2017
Author: Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI
Policy area: Research Policy | Internal Market and Customs Union
Keyword: single market | electronic commerce | data-processing law | consumer protection | information technology | data transmission | digital technology | electronic government
Summary: The digital single market is one of the most promising and challenging areas of progress, creating potential efficiency gains of EUR 415 billion. It opens up new opportunities to boost the economy through e-commerce, while at the same time facilitating administrative and financial compliance for businesses and empowering customers through e-government. Market and government services developed within the digital single market are evolving from fixed to mobile platforms and becoming increasingly ubiquitous, offering access to information and content anytime, anywhere and on any device (ubiquitous commerce and ubiquitous government). These advances call for a regulatory framework that is conducive to the development of cloud computing, borderless mobile data connectivity and simplified access to information and content, while safeguarding privacy, personal data, cybersecurity and net neutrality.

EU Fact Sheets BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, HR, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV

Implementation of European Council conclusions in Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) since the Lisbon Treaty: European Council Briefing

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 15-01-2016
Author: Suzana Elena ANGHEL
Policy area: Development and Humanitarian Aid | Security and Defence | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council
Keyword: European Council | European security | military research | the EU's international role | European defence policy | arms industry | EU Member State | defence expenditure | UNO | NATO | common security and defence policy
Summary: Three relatively recent European Councils - in December 2012, December 2013 and June 2015 - have considered security and defence issues, with Heads of State or Government emphasising the need to strengthen defence cooperation in Europe. Progress was made on certain issues, such as cybersecurity and maritime security, but more needs to be done to address new security threats, develop greater capabilities and foster growth in both the defence industry and the defence market. This Briefing assesses the different commitments the European Council has made in respect to the CSDP since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, considers to which extent they have been fulfilled, and identifies future challenges to implementation.

Briefing EN
European Deterrence Initiative: the transatlantic security guarantee

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 09-07-2018
Author: Tania LATICI

Policy area: Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword: transatlantic relations | European defence policy | Crimea question | military base | EU Member State | Russia | NATO | fund (EU) | military cooperation | occupied territory | EU-NATO cooperation

Summary: The illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia in March 2014 marked a crucial moment for European, transatlantic and international security. Acting like a wake-up call, this event redefined strategic and security considerations in individual EU Member States, in the United States and in international organisations such as the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). Russia's increasingly assertive military posture is unsettling for its European neighbours. Four years ago, in June 2014, US President Obama announced what was to become a key security guarantee from America to Europe. The European Reassurance Initiative, as it was called during the first half of its existence, is a military programme supporting the activities of the US military and its allies in Europe. In 2017, it was renamed the European Deterrence Initiative (EDI) to reflect the shift in the international security environment characterised by a prioritisation of deterrence. Activities under the EDI include training of forces, multinational military exercises and development of military equipment and capabilities. They all take place under the umbrella of Operation Atlantic Resolve (OAR) whose core mission is to enhance deterrence. Despite recent turmoil in transatlantic relations, the budget for building up defences in central and eastern Europe through the EDI has seen major increases; even under the Trump administration. The EDI has deepened security and defence cooperation between the US and the main beneficiaries of OAR, namely Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania. The US European Command, which coordinates all EDI and OAR activities, is working to forge enhanced interoperability between different countries' military forces through joint training, staff exchanges and exercises. The Command's leadership also recognises the cyber domain as a pressing area where integration is needed, although the EDI budget for 2019 makes no mention of it. The recent proliferation of EU defence initiatives and the revamp of EU-NATO relations should also contribute to EDI's core mission: to establish a strong deterrence posture able to meet today's security challenges.

Cryptocurrencies and blockchain

Publication type: Study
Date: 05-07-2018
External author: Prof. Dr. Robby HOUBEN and Alexander SNYERS, University of Antwerp, Research Group Business & Law, Belgium

Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword: computer crime | international currency | fight against crime | tax evasion | EU Member State | issuing of currency | electronic money | financial services | threat to national security | money laundering | virtual currency | electronic banking | terrorism

Summary: More and more regulators are worrying about criminals who are increasingly using cryptocurrencies for illegitimate activities like money laundering, terrorist financing and tax evasion. The problem is significant: even though the full scale of misuse of virtual currencies is unknown, its market value has been reported to exceed EUR 7 billion worldwide. This paper prepared by Policy Department A elaborates on this phenomenon from a legal perspective, focusing on the use of cryptocurrencies for financial crime, money laundering and tax evasion. It contains policy recommendations for future EU standards.

Unlocking the potential of the EU Treaties: An article-by-article analysis of the scope for action

Publication type: Study
Date: 07-01-2019
Author: Etienne BASSOT

Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts
Keyword: European treaties | European security | EU military mission | EU civilian mission | area of freedom, security and justice | terrorism | common foreign and security policy | euro area | data protection | fraud against the EU

Summary: Public opinion often expresses the view that the European Union should do more to improve the lives of citizens in various policy areas. OAR lack of convergence among EU Member States on the desired changes, not to mention likely hurdles in the ratification process, as well as other factors make any significant reform of the EU Treaties unlikely in the near term. This study identifies and analyses 34 policy areas where there may be the potential to do more under the existing legal bases provided by the Treaties without recourse to any amendment or updating of those texts. It looks at currently unused or under-used legal bases in the Treaties with a view to their contributing more effectively to the EU policy process.
EP-EUI Roundtable on Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in Europe

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-09-2018
Author: Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI
External author: Luis Carlos Matos
Keyword: disinformation | digital single market | political propaganda | artificial intelligence | research and development | data protection
Summary: Proceedings summarise the EP-EUI roundtable on the Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in Europe. The roundtable with academics from European University Institute involved MEP Róża THUN (Chair of the Digital Single Market Working Group of the Committee for the Internal Market and Consumer Protection), MEP Mary DELVAUX (MEP), Mr Riccardo RIBERA D’ALCALA, Director-General of DG IPOL, European Parliament, Ms Catelijne MULLER (European Economic and Social Committee), and Dr Cecile HUET, the Deputy Head of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Unit in DG CNECT.
This document was prepared by Policy Department A in the framework of scientific cooperation between European Parliament and European University Institute.

Outcome of European Council meeting of 19-20 October 2017 and the European Council (Article 50)
meeting of 20 October 2017

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 27-10-2017
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Susanna TENHUNEN
Keyword: governance | Catalonia | political asylum | digital single market | European security | United Kingdom | EU Member State | EU energy policy | international relations | European Council | European defence policy | EU migration policy | withdrawal from the EU
Summary: The principal result of the European Council meeting of 19-20 October 2017 was the endorsement of the 'Leaders' Agenda' setting out the main issues and work-plan for the European Council up to June 2019. EU leaders also agreed on changes to the working methods of the European Council itself, including a more 'political approach' to its discussions, enabling more direct engagement on politically sensitive issues, more 'rigorous follow-up' to European Council meetings and decisions, and an increase in the frequency of meetings, if needed. The EU Heads of State or Government also took stock of progress in the implementation of EU migration policy, recognising the significant contribution made by Italy in the Central Mediterranean and committing to ensure sufficient funding to stem the flow of illegal migrants from Africa. They adopted detailed conclusions on Digital Europe, including on cybersecurity and e-Government, before welcoming the significant progress in preparing Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in defence. EU leaders also discussed developments in North Korea (DPRK), as well as the situation in Iran and in Turkey. EU-27 leaders met on 20 October in a separate formal European Council (Article 50), without the United Kingdom, to discuss the latest developments in the latter's withdrawal negotiations. While postponing the decision on starting the second phase of negotiations on the EU's future relations with the UK, due to insufficient progress made to date, EU-27 leaders called for further work to consolidate the convergence of EU-UK views and to be able to move to the second phase of negotiations as soon as possible. They will reassess the state of progress in the negotiations at the next meeting of the European Council (Article 50), in December 2017.

The digital economy in the EU [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 19-05-2017
Author: Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI
Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union
Keyword: computer crime | digital single market | European security | telecommunications policy | data collection | digital divide | open data | economic reform | data processing | economic growth | updating of skills | think tank | digital technology
Summary: The digital revolution is reshaping the European Union's economy, from financial services and telecoms to creative industries and the way workers are employed. While posing certain threats, such as cyber-attacks, new technologies offer vast opportunities, provided that people acquire the right skill-sets to underpin their use. Seeking to tap the full potential of digitalisation, the European Commission is pushing ahead with its Digital Single Market Strategy. On 10 May, it presented a mid-term review of this strategy, calling for swift approval of proposals already presented and outlining further actions on online platforms, the data economy and cybersecurity. This note offers links to recent studies and reports from major international think tanks and research institutes on problems and opportunities relating to digitalisation.
Technological innovation for humanitarian aid and assistance

Publication type: Study
Date: 07-05-2019
External author: DG, EPRS

Policy area: Forward Planning | Development and Humanitarian Aid

Summary: Technological innovation in humanitarian assistance can play a role in addressing the challenges in the humanitarian sector, including preventing and reducing human suffering during crises. The field of humanitarian technological innovation is fast moving, dynamic and emergent in nature. The objective of this study is to analyse the impact of these innovations as transformative tools for both people in need as well as humanitarian relief providers. The report provides an overview of the current state-of-play and developments with regard to ICT-related innovation in humanitarian assistance. Based on concerns, opportunities and benefits identified, the study provides a set of policy options to further technological innovation in humanitarian assistance.

Study
Annex I

Risk-preparedness in the electricity sector

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 08-02-2019
Author: Gregor ERBACH

Policy area: Energy
Keyword: energy grid | security of supply | electricity supply | energy cooperation | electrical energy | EU law | energy crisis

Summary: On 30 November 2016, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation on risk-preparedness in the electricity sector. This proposal addresses shortcomings in the existing legislation, notably a lack of regional coordination, and differing national rules and procedures. It would replace the existing legislation, and establish common rules on crisis prevention and crisis management in the electricity sector. Regional interdependencies would be taken into account in the preparation of national risk-preparedness plans and in managing crisis situations. The proposed regulation would enhance transparency by requiring an ex-post evaluation of crisis situations. In the European Parliament, the proposal was referred to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), which adopted its report in February 2018. In November 2018, Council and Parliament reached an agreement in trilogue negotiations. The ITRE committee approved the text on 23 January 2019 and it needs now to be voted in plenary.

Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure. Please note this document has been designed for on-line viewing.

Briefing

Ten issues to watch in 2018

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 08-01-2018
Author: Etienne BASSOT

Keyword: computer crime | United Kingdom | migration | international relations | North Korea | European election | EU strategy | social inequality | terrorism | EU budget | youth policy | withdrawal from the EU | euro area | data protection | European Parliament

Summary: This is the second edition of an annual EPRS publication designed to identify key issues and policy areas that are likely to feature prominently on the political agenda of the European Union over the coming year. Topics presented include: the implications for the EU of the terrorism threat, the North Korean issue, the security challenges posed by disinformation, fake news and cyber-crime, the ongoing migration crisis and rising inequalities. Other important policy areas covered are youth empowerment, the EU budget, the future of the euro area, the European elections in 2019 and, last but not least, Brexit.

In-Depth Analysis
Workshop on “Free Flow of Data - a Cornerstone of the Digital Single Market”

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-09-2018

External author: Dr Simon Forge, SCF Associates
Dr Kristina Irion, University of Amsterdam
Ms Zlatina Nikolova, Counsellor, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union
Ms Agnes Courades Allebeck, Swedish National Board of Trade
Mr Bertrand Deprez, Digital Europe
Mr Christian Borggreen, CCIA
Ms Danielle Jacobs, INTUG
Mr Lenard Koschwitz, Allied for Startups
Ms Gabriella Cattaneo, IDC - European Government Consulting


Keyword: digital single market | EU Member State | exchange of information | data transmission | public consultation | data protection | data processing

Summary: This report summarises discussion which took place at the workshop “Free Flow of Data - A Cornerstone of the Digital Single Market”. The free flow of data is a complex issue with the potential to strongly influence the EU economy. With the aim of discussing the main challenges related to this topic and the recently proposed draft regulation of the European Commission, the workshop was hosted by Ms Anna Maria CORAZZA BILDT (MEP), Vice-President of the IMCO Committee in the European Parliament.

This document was prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

Study EN

International Agreements in Progress: The EU-Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) - A framework to promote shared values

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 22-01-2019
Author: Enrico D’AMBROGIO

Policy area: Foreign Affairs | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council

Summary: The EU and Japan share the same basic values, including on democracy, market economy, human rights, human dignity, freedom, equality, and the rule of law. Against a background of increasingly assertive neighbours, they are also putting emphasis on security issues. The EU has adopted a Global Strategy placing security and defence as a key strategic priority, and conclusions on ‘enhanced EU security cooperation in and with Asia’. Japan has reformed its security policy, aiming at becoming a ‘proactive contributor for peace’. In order to enhance their relations, in July 2018 the EU and Japan signed a binding Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) – to come into force following ratification by all Member States – along with an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), negotiated in parallel. The SPA represents a framework strengthening the overall partnership, by promoting political and sectoral cooperation and joint actions in more than 40 areas of common interest. Once in force, the EU-Japan strategic partnership will become more operational. The agreement will facilitate joint EU-Japan efforts to promote shared values such as human rights and rule of law, a rules-based international system, and peace and stability across the world. It will allow EU-Japan security cooperation to reach its full potential. Second edition. The 'International Agreements in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the process, from initial discussions through to ratification.

Briefing EN, SL

Contribution to Growth: Legal Aspects of Protecting European Consumers

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-04-2019

External author: Aneta WIEWIÓROWSKA-DOMAGALSKA


Summary: This study contains an analysis of the legal aspects of protecting European consumers, advanced during the 7th and 8th legislative period of the European Parliament (2009 - 2019). It examines policy developments in the area of consumer protection and (digital) single market, and identifies new substantive rights offered to EU consumers.

This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

Study EN
Free flow of non-personal data in the European Union

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 13-02-2018
Author: HUBERT DALLI

Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union
Keyword: data-processing law | digital single market | access to information | protection of communications | exchange of information | impact study | Internet | big data | cloud computing | cross-frontier data flow | digital technology | information storage and retrieval | data protection | information storage | proposal (EU)

Summary: This note seeks to provide an initial analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the European Commission’s impact assessment (IA) accompanying the above Commission proposal (the proposal), submitted on 13 September 2017 and referred to Parliament’s Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO). The creation of a connected digital single market is one of the ten priorities identified by Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in his political guidelines for the Commission at the start of his mandate. In its digital single market strategy (DSM), the Commission stated that ‘Any unnecessary restrictions regarding the location of data within the EU should both be removed and prevented’ and committed to proposing an initiative to tackle restrictions on the free movement of data and unjustified restrictions on the location of data for storage or processing purposes. The challenges to the data economy are also specifically discussed in the 2017 communication on building a European data economy, which recognises that ‘unjustified restrictions on the free movement of data are likely to constrain the development of the EU data economy [and] impair the freedom to provide services and the freedom of establishment stipulated in the Treaty’. The aim of the proposal is to remove geographical restrictions on the storage of non-personal data in the internal market and to facilitate switching between cloud service providers and the porting of data. It is meant to complement the 2016 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which provides a single set of rules for the protection of personal data and provides the basis for the free flow of such data. Thus, for the purposes of the proposal, data is defined as ‘data other than personal data as referred to in the GDPR. The Commission seeks to build upon the existing applicable legal framework that regulates the internal market for data services (E-commerce Directive, Services Directive, Transparency Directive), and pursues a high level of cybersecurity in the EU (NIS Directive), while at the same time remaining consistent with the existing provisions.

Briefing
EN

Cyber violence and hate speech online against women

Publication type: Study
Date: 16-08-2018
External author: Adriane VAN DER WILK, Monika NATTER, ÖSB Consulting GmbH

Policy area: Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity
Keyword: electronic commerce | computer crime | Internet | public awareness campaign | social media | data collection | child protection | psychological harassment | data protection | gender equality

Summary: This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the FEMM Committee, looks into the phenomenon of cyber violence and hate speech online against women in the EU. After reviewing existing definitions of the different forms of cyber violence, the study assesses the root causes and impact of online violence on women. It continues by analysing and mapping the prevalence, victims and perpetrators. The document ends with an outline of the existing legal framework and recommendations for action within the EU remit.

Study
EN

Outlook for the meetings of EU Heads of State or Government, 17-18 October 2018

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 16-10-2018
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: computer crime | political asylum | European security | Economic and Monetary Union | transatlantic relations | EU-NATO cooperation | Internet | European Council | EU migration policy | terrorism | fund (EU) | euro area | summit meeting

Summary: As has become the norm with European Council meetings, EU Heads of State or Government will convene on 17 and 18 October 2018 in different formats with varying compositions and levels of formality: a regular meeting of the European Council, and an enlarged Euro Summit of 27 Member States on 18 October, preceded by a European Council (Article 50) meeting on the 17 October over dinner. The agenda of the European Council meeting focuses on migration and internal security. Specific foreign policy issues might also be addressed at this meeting. The Euro Summit will discuss the state of play of negotiations on the deepening of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), with a view to the next Euro Summit in December. However, the priority issue for Heads of State or Government will be Brexit. At the European Council (Article 50) meeting, EU-27 leaders are expected to discuss the progress that has been achieved in the negotiations so far, and possibly call for an extraordinary summit in November 2018.

Briefing
EN
Why artificial intelligence matters

This briefing explains why AI matters by reviewing some of the key opportunities and challenges it presents, but it does so with reference to the functionality and readiness of the technology. The first section focuses on the opportunities and challenges presented by today's AI while the second explores longer-term speculative opportunities and challenges that are contingent upon future developments that may never happen.

Industrial production, both globally and in the EU, is undergoing a radical digital transformation. New advanced manufacturing techniques rely primarily on innovative digital technologies, which cannot work in isolation, but are based on connected ecosystems delivering collective technological breakthroughs. All of these new technologies essentially rest on an interconnected ‘smart world’, where objects, machines, people and the environment are increasingly closely interlinked. The timely and harmonised adoption of technical standards is likely to play a pivotal role in this context. Standards can facilitate the ongoing digitalisation of industry by promoting compatibility and interoperability between products and processes; they can also transfer information between economic agents or machines, while guaranteeing minimum levels of quality and safety. Crucially, standards can also become accelerators of change, by promoting innovation and the uptake of new digital technologies. The EU has long recognised this key role of standards in the overall efforts to remove barriers and unlock the growth potential of the economy. Yet, progress in new technologies around the world is accelerating exponentially, and the development of new standards in the field is increasingly taking place outside Europe. This trend could undermine the EU’s future comparative advantage and weaken the competitiveness of European industry in the long term. It therefore calls for a coordinated effort to develop European technology standards that are not only more responsive to policy needs but are also agile, open, more strongly linked to research and innovation, and importantly, better joined up.
Polarisation and the use of technology in political campaigns and communication

Publication type  Study
Date  07-03-2019
External author  DG, EPRS
Summary  This report offers a comprehensive overview of the relationship between technology, democracy and the polarisation of public discourse. Technology is inherently political, and the ways in which it is designed and used have ongoing implications for participation, deliberation, and democracy. Algorithms, automation, big data analytics and artificial intelligence are becoming increasingly embedded in everyday life in democratic societies; this report provides an in-depth analysis of the technological affordances that enhance and undermine political decision-making, both now and in the future. To conclude, we formulate principles and policy options for fostering a better relationship between digital technology and public life.

Road safety in the EU

Publication type  Briefing
Date  26-02-2019
Author  Ariane DEBYSER
Policy area  Transport
Summary  Between 1991 and 2017, and especially after 2000, the EU witnessed substantial improvements in terms of road safety, whether measured in terms of fatalities, accidents or injuries. Over a shorter period, between 2001 and 2010, the number of deaths on EU roads decreased by 43 %, and by around another 20 % since 2010. The most recent figures, however, show that progress in reducing the fatality rate is stagnating, and that specific road users or demographic groups are not witnessing the same improvements as the rest of the population. Road safety is a shared competence, implying that many measures are primarily dealt with by Member States. However, the EU, in line with Article 91(c) TFEU, has significantly developed the acquis in this area, with the Commission adopting several policy frameworks on road safety. In 2003, the EU set itself a target in terms of reducing road fatalities, and regularly monitors progress towards this goal. In June 2017, the Council endorsed the Valletta Declaration, which reasserted commitments and targets in the area of road safety. In May 2018, within the context of the third and last ‘mobility package’, the Commission presented a common framework for road safety for the 2021-2030 period, recalling the EU’s long-term goal of moving as close as possible to zero fatalities in road transport by 2050 (‘Vision Zero’). The European Parliament has adopted numerous resolutions regarding or covering road safety, calling notably for more detailed and measurable targets, more account taken of vulnerable users as well as of the safety challenges emerging from the development of connected and automated mobility. This is an updated edition of a Briefing published in November 2016: PE 593.542.

Fintech (financial technology) and the European Union: State of play and outlook

Publication type  Briefing
Date  12-02-2019
Author  Cemal KARAKAS | CARLA STAMEGNA
Policy area  Financial and Banking Issues
Summary  The financial technology (fintech) sector encompasses firms that use technology-based systems either to provide financial services and products directly, or to make the financial system more efficient. Fintech is a rapidly growing sector: in the first half of 2018, investment in fintech companies in Europe alone reached US$26 billion. The fintech sector brings rewards including innovation and job creation, but also challenges, such as data and consumer protection issues, and the risk of exacerbating financial volatility or cybercrime. To tackle these multi-disciplinary challenges, policy- and lawmakers in the European Union (EU) have adopted and announced several initiatives, for instance on intra-EU payment services, data protection, crowdfunding and regulatory sandboxes. This briefing outlines current and upcoming fintech-related laws at EU level. It follows on from a March 2017 EPRS briefing that focused, inter alia, on the evolution, scope and economic prospects of fintech.
Transatlantic Digital Economy and Data Protection: State-of-Play and Future Implications for the EU's External Policies

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-07-2016

External author: Peter CHASE, Sudha DAVID-WILP and Tim RIDOUT
Policy area: Public international law | International Trade | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Global Governance | Employment | Internal Market and Customs Union | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs | Industry
Keyword: electronic commerce | Internet | United States | protection of privacy | impact of information technology | free-trade agreement | cross-frontier data flow | trade relations | personal data | data protection | agreement (EU)

Summary: The internet has created a new global nervous system affecting all aspects of European society, politics and business; this will accelerate as we enter the era of the digitisation of everything. This digital transformation has enormous implications for the transatlantic relationship, especially in light of the differences that have developed concerning the appropriate balance between personal data protection, economic growth and national security. This study details how digital and data issues will be handled in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership; explains how this intersects with the new EU-US Privacy Shield Agreement and the broader implications of the judgment on Safe Harbour; and explores key issues in transatlantic law enforcement cooperation before highlighting a few broader foreign policy issues and laying forth some recommendations for the EU institutions.

Public Security Exception in the Area of non-personal Data in the European Union

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 16-04-2018

External author: Dr. Kristina Irion
Keyword: computer crime | data-processing law | digital single market | access to information | EU Member State | protection of communications | exchange of information | EU law | Internet | cross-frontier data flow | digital technology | information storage and retrieval | data protection | information storage

Summary: In order to avoid conflict with the freedom to conduct a business and the freedom of contract the wording of article 4(1) should be amended and be addressed to the Member States;
- The proposal underplays that information security has a legal dimension to it, notoriously so because member states’ national security activities operate outside the scope of EU law;
- The principle aversion against locality that emanates from the proposal may not be fully aligned with state-of-the-art technology where multiple data mirrors geographically distribute a dataset. For example, one local mirror is advisable for business continuity in the event of a disruption of transmission infrastructure;
- Not all non-personal data is created equal; from the stream of non-personal data that is for example generated in the Internet of Things (IoT) data necessary to control real world devises should in addition be locally accessible;
- Withouht contradicting the philosophy behind the free flow of non-personal data proposal this briefing presents examples for interventions that should be justifyable on grounds of public policy or the protection of health and life of humans, animals or plants.

Legal Frameworks for Hacking by Law Enforcement: Identification, Evaluation and Comparison of Practices

Publication type: Study
Date: 06-04-2017

External author: Mirja GUTHEIL, Quentin LIGER, Aurélie HEETMAN, James EAGER, Max CRAWFORD, Optimity Advisors
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Forward Planning
Keyword: national sovereignty | Internet | protection of privacy | information technology | EU office or agency | data collection | EU Member State | powers of the institutions (EU) | personal data | mobile communication | digital technology | data protection

Summary: This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee, presents concrete policy proposals on the use of hacking techniques by law enforcement. These proposals are driven by a comparative examination of the legal frameworks for hacking by law enforcement across six EU Member States and three non-EU countries, in combination with analyses of the international and EU-level debates on the topic and the EU legal basis for intervention in the field.
'Global Trends to 2035' Geo-politics and international power

Publication type Study
Date 20-09-2017
Author Leopold SCHMERTZING

Policy area Social Policy | Regional Development | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword third country | automation | developing countries | social media | multilateral relations | environmental policy | refugee | conflict prevention | international relations | natural disaster | Internet | information highway | strategic defence | adaptation to climate change | geopolitics

Summary This study considers eight economic, societal, and political global trends that will shape the world to 2035, namely an ageing population, fragile globalisation, a technological revolution, climate change, shifting power relations, new areas of state competition, politics of the information age and ecological threats. It first examines how they may affect some of the fundamental assumptions of the international system. Then it considers four scenarios based on two factors: an unstable or stable Europe and world. Finally, it presents policy options for the EU to address the challenges created by these trends.

Study EN

US-Russia relations: Reaching the point of no return?

Publication type Briefing
Date 03-10-2018
Author Martin RUSSSELL

Policy area Foreign Affairs
Keyword arms policy | United States | Ukraine | international relations | Central and Eastern Europe | presidential election | economic sanctions | human rights | foreign investment | development aid | Russia | NATO | occupied territory | cold war

Summary In August 2018, Russia's embassy in Washington claimed that US-Russia relations were moving towards irreversible breakdown. Long-standing bilateral tensions have been aggravated in recent years by Russia's aggression against Ukraine, sanctions, and accusations of Russian meddling in the 2016 US presidential elections. Initially, Donald Trump's electoral victory raised hopes in Russia that tensions could ease. But while Trump often appears to share Russian wishes to move from confrontation to a more transactional relationship, a rift has opened up between him and the rest of the US political establishment, which insists that the differences between the two countries are too fundamental to be easily set aside. Growing hostility towards Russia has led to harsher rhetoric and increasingly draconian sanctions. Alongside these more recent developments, US-Russia relations have been complicated for many years by fundamental foreign policy differences. The US sees itself as a global leader and champion of liberal values. For its part, Russia resents what it perceives as US hegemony and unwarranted interference in other countries' internal affairs. Russia is far from being a military equal to the US. Nevertheless, Moscow's nuclear arsenal makes it a potentially formidable adversary. A series of arms-control agreements aims to contain the threat of an arms race or even conflict between the two sides. However, deteriorating relations are making such arrangements look increasingly precarious. Compared to political and security issues, economic ties play only a minor role in US-Russia relations. Bilateral trade and investment have suffered from tensions and are likely to remain limited, not least due to sanctions.

Briefing EN

The Juncker Commission's ten priorities: State of play in early 2018

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 26-01-2018
Author Etienne BASSOT | WOLFGANG HILLER

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Keyword single market | digital single market | Economic and Monetary Union | the EU's international role | EU Member State | area of freedom, security and justice | EU growth strategy | EU industrial policy | European Commission | climate change policy | EU migration policy | operation of the Institutions | trade policy | globalisation | EU employment policy

Summary This publication provides an up-to-date overview and analysis of the state of play in the delivery by the European Commission of the various legislative and other political initiatives flowing from the ten priorities asserted by its President, Jean-Claude Juncker, at the time of his election by the European Parliament in July 2014. This in-depth analysis draws on a wide range of EPRS publications, and it updates a previous edition, The Europe Commission at mid-term – State of play of President Juncker's ten priorities, published in July 2017. It has been compiled and edited by Isabelle Gaudeul-Ehrhart, with contributions and support from across the Members' Research Service and the Directorate for Impact Assessment and European Added Value of EPRS, in particular from the following policy analysts: Piotr Bakowski, Angelos Delivorias, Gregor Erbach, Roderick Harte, Elena Lazarou, Tambiama Madiega, Nora Milotay, Shara Monteleone, Anita Orav, Christian Scheinert, Andrej Stuchlik, Marcin Szczepanski, Laura Tilindyte and Sofija Voronova. The graphics have been prepared by Giulio Sabbati, and are derived from the on line 'Legislative Train Schedule' application, launched by Parliament to track progress on the Commission's legislative proposals.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR
The Law Enforcement Challenges of Cybercrime: Are We Really Playing Catch-Up?

Summary

Following a declaration made by seven EU Member States in March 2017, the European Commission adopted a proposal to establish a joint undertaking for high-performance computing (HPC) under Article 187 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) on 11 January 2018. The proposed regulation would establish the joint undertaking for the period to 31 December 2026, and provide it with €486 million in EU funds from the Horizon 2020 and Connecting Europe Facility programmes as well as an equivalent contribution from the participating countries. The joint undertaking would be charged with the joint procurement of two pre-exascale supercomputers for the Union. It would also implement an HPC research and innovation programme to support the European HPC ecosystem in developing technologies to reach exascale performance by 2022-2023. Within the European Parliament, the Industry Committee adopted its report on 19 June 2018. It is expected that Parliament will adopt its opinion during the July 2018 plenary session. Second edition, based on an original briefing by Vincent Reillon. The ‘EU Legislation in Progress’ briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

The Scientific Advice Mechanism

Summary

After abolishing the post of Chief Scientific Officer in November 2014, the President of the European Commission announced the creation of the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) in March 2015. The main component of the SAM is the High-level Group (HLG) of seven prominent scientists charged with providing the Commission with independent scientific advice on specific policy issues, either at the request of the Commission or pro-actively. The HLG is expected to work effectively with existing advisory bodies such as the Joint Research Centre, national academies and the wider scientific community. The HLG is assisted by a dedicated SAM secretariat located within the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. The members of the HLG were appointed in November 2015 and began work in January 2016, focusing on two topics: the CO2 emissions of light duty vehicles, and cybersecurity. They also issued an exploratory note on glyphosate in June 2016. In July 2016 two additional requests for advice were presented to the HLG: for support for the forthcoming evaluation of pesticides legislation and for an explanatory note on new animal and plant breeding techniques. In order to harvest the full potential of national academies to provide scientific advice at European level, the Commission has supported the establishment of a European platform led by European networks of academies. The Science Advice for Policy by the European Academies (SAPEA) platform is expected to enter into operation in October 2016 with a grant of €6 million provided for four years under the Horizon 2020 framework programme for research.

The Law Enforcement Challenges of Cybercrime: Are We Really Playing Catch-Up?
European Artificial Intelligence (AI) leadership, the path for an integrated vision

Publication type: Study  
Date: 14-09-2018  
External author: Laura DELPONTE  
Policy area: Research Policy | Forward Planning | Social Policy | Employment | Industry  
Keyword: regulation (EU) | digital single market | third country | EU Member State | artificial intelligence | research and development | small and medium-sized enterprises | code of conduct  
Summary: As a general-purpose technology Artificial Intelligence (AI) is expected to bring about far-reaching effects on business and society. Worldwide, governments have launched ambitious programmes to support the development of AI-based technologies and achieve technology leadership. Against this background, this study was commissioned by the Policy Department A upon request of the ITRE Committee to feed into the general debate on how Europe could seize the opportunity of progress made in AI.

Study EN

Research for CULT Committee - Digital Skills in the 21st century

Publication type: Study  
Date: 10-09-2018  
External author: Justina Vaikutytė-Paškauskė, Justina Vaičiukynaitė, Donatas Pocius  
Policy area: Culture | Education  
Summary: This study aims to provide Members of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education with information, analysis and recommendations on digital skills in the 21st century and an adequate EU policy response to contemporary challenges as set out in the Digital Education Action Plan and accompanying Staff Working Document. Based on literature review and policy mapping, the study identifies potential blind spots in the field of digital skills and competences that are not addressed by the Action Plan and other existing initiatives at EU level.

Study EN

The Juncker Commission's ten priorities: State of play in autumn 2018

Publication type: Study  
Date: 07-09-2018  
Author: Etienne BASSOT | WOLFGANG HILLER  
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law  
Keyword: drawing up of the EU budget | digital single market | Internet | Economic and Monetary Union | digitisation | the EU's international role | climate change policy | EU migration policy | area of freedom, security and justice | EU growth strategy | European Commission | EU energy policy  
Summary: As the European Commission approaches the last full year of its five-year mandate, this publication provides an up-to-date overview of the state of play in the delivery of the various legislative and other political initiatives flowing from the ten priorities defined by the Commission's President, Jean-Claude Juncker, on taking office in 2014. The paper is intended both to assess the progress towards the targets that the Commission has set itself, and to identify areas in which difficulties have been, or are being, encountered, as the EU institutions prepare for the 2019 European Parliament elections. The analysis – part of an on-going series throughout the Commission's five-year term – finds that, so far, 89 per cent of the proposals envisaged by the Commission have been tabled, and 40 per cent have been adopted. Of the 49 per cent proposed but not yet adopted, around two-thirds are progressing well through the EU legislative process.

Study DE, EN, FR

Cyber Security Strategy for the Energy Sector

Publication type: Study  
Date: 05-12-2016  
External author: David Healey (Analysys Mason Limited), Sacha Meckler (nalysys Mason Ltd.), Usen Antia (nalysys Mason Ltd.) and Edward Cottle (nalysys Mason Ltd.)  
Policy area: Research Policy | Forward Planning | Energy | Industry  
Keyword: threat to national security | standardisation | computer crime | public-private partnership | energy industry | European cooperation | European security | exchange of information | Ukraine | harmonisation of standards | digital technology  
Summary: This study is provided by the Policy Directorate at the request of the ITRE Committee. The EU energy infrastructure is transitioning into a decentralised, digitalised smart energy system. Already, energy operations are increasingly becoming the target of cyber-attacks with potentially catastrophic consequences. Development of energy specific cyber security solutions and defensive practices are therefore essential. Urgent action is required, including empowering a coordination body, to promote sharing of incident information, development of best practice and relevant standards.

Study EN
The current Prime Minister, Viorica Dancila (PSD), in office since January 2018. Romania is a semi-presidential republic, with Klaus Iohannis as President in office since November 2014, and the Social Democratic Party (PSD) heads the current governmental alliance with the centre-right Liberal-Democrat Alliance (ALDE). Romania will hold the EU Council Presidency from January to July 2019. Its Presidency comes at the end of the European Parliament’s current legislative term, with European elections taking place on 23-26 May 2019. This is the first time that Romania holds the EU Council Presidency since joining the European Union on 1 January 2007.

The principal aim of the EU’s regional policy, also known as cohesion policy, is to address the territorial, social and economic imbalances that exist between the different regions of the EU. Regional policy covers all regions and cities of the European Union, helping to support job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development, and to improve citizens’ quality of life. To achieve these goals and address the diverse development needs in all EU regions, €351.8 billion – almost one third of the total EU budget – has been set aside for cohesion policy for the 2014-2020 period. This financial support is distributed through two main funds: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF). Together with the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), they make up the European structural and investment (ESI) funds, which provide support that can make a real difference to the lives of people in the EU’s regions. With the current programming period (2014-2020) drawing to a close, work is now under way on planning the cohesion policy priorities for the next programming period (2021-2027). During its 2014-2019 term the European Parliament has been called upon numerous times to adopt new legislative acts, amend older rules and to provide opinions on many topics relating to the EU’s regional policy. Within the European Parliament, the Committee on Regional Policy is responsible for the Union’s regional development and cohesion policy, as set out in the Treaties. In anticipation of its expected withdrawal from the EU, the UK, until now a net contributor to the EU budget, will no longer contribute to the post-2020 EU budget, which means that the EU will have fewer resources to allocate to its policies in the future, including cohesion policy. The European Parliament has, however, strongly advocated maintaining the level of funding for cohesion policy at its current level or even increasing it.

The European Council’s role – to ‘provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development’ and to define its ‘general political directions and priorities’ - has developed rapidly over the past seven years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament’s in-house research service and think-tank, has been monitoring and analysing the European Council’s delivery of the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a regularly updated Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council has set itself since January 2010 and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.

The European Union’s regional policy, also known as cohesion policy, is one of the Union’s most important instruments to address territorial, social and economic imbalances in European regions. Regional policy seeks to make a difference to the lives of people in the EU’s regions and to support EU citizens’ quality of life. It addresses the territorial, social and economic imbalances that exist in the EU’s regions and aims to ensure that all regions can participate fully in the European Union, helping to support job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth and sustainable development. The principal aim of the EU’s regional policy is to address territorial, social and economic imbalances that exist in all EU regions. Since joining the European Union on 1 January 2007, Romania has a bicameral legislature. The Parliament consists of the Senate (the upper house) having 137 seats and the Chamber of Deputies (the lower house) with 332 seats. The members of both houses are elected by direct, popular vote on the basis of proportional representation to serve four-year terms. The executive branch of the Government is the Chamber of Deputies (the lower house) with 332 seats. The members of both houses are elected by direct, popular vote on the basis of proportional representation to serve four-year terms.

The European Parliament’s in-house research service and think-tank, the European Council’s delivery of the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a regularly updated Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council has set itself since January 2010 and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.

Priority dossiers under the Romanian EU Council Presidency

Romania will hold the EU Council Presidency from January to July 2019. Its Presidency comes at the end of the European Parliament’s current legislative term, with European elections taking place on 23-26 May 2019. This is the first time that Romania holds the EU Council Presidency since joining the European Union on 1 January 2007. Romania has a bicameral legislature. The Parliament consists of the Senate (the upper house) having 137 seats and the Chamber of Deputies (the lower house) with 332 seats. The members of both houses are elected by direct, popular vote on the basis of proportional representation to serve four-year terms. The executive branch of the Government is the Chamber of Deputies (the lower house) with 332 seats. The members of both houses are elected by direct, popular vote on the basis of proportional representation to serve four-year terms. The executive branch of the Government is the Chamber of Deputies (the lower house) with 332 seats. The members of both houses are elected by direct, popular vote on the basis of proportional representation to serve four-year terms.
Economic and Budgetary Outlook for the European Union 2018

Study
Publication type: Study
Date: 11-01-2018
Author: Marcin SZCZEPANSKI | Alessandro D’ALFONSO | Angelos DELIVORIAS
Policy area: Budget | Budgetary Control | Economics and Monetary Issues | Industry
Keyword: single market | digital single market | macroeconomics | economic policy | EU budget | short-term forecast | capital market | multiannual financial framework | EU statistics
Summary: This study provides an overview of the economic and budgetary outlook for the European Union (EU) in 2018 and beyond. It summarises the main economic indicators in the EU and euro area, and their two-year trends. Economic projections point to robust growth, easing in the future, and falling unemployment. Risks are broadly balanced, but both internal and external challenges persist and may weaken economic recovery. A special 'economic focus' aims to provide a bird's eye view of industry and industrial policy in Europe, and provides an overview of various recent EU-level initiatives. Industry, which is particularly important for generating growth and which provides one in five jobs in the EU, is on a positive path with growing value added, output and employment. The study also explains the annual EU Budget, provides an overview of its main headings for 2018, and sets out the wider budgetary framework – the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) – currently covering the years 2014 to 2020. Amounting to €160.1 billion, the 2018 EU Budget focuses on priorities such as promoting sustainable growth, creating employment, especially for young people, and addressing migration and security challenges. While representing only some 1 % of the area's gross national income, the EU Budget has features that increase its overall impact, including the significant share of resources devoted to investment. The debate on the future of the EU Budget, which gained momentum in 2017, should lead to proposals for a post-2020 MFF and reform of the EU’s financing system, which the European Commission is expected to table in May 2018.

Study in focus: Competition issues in the Area of Financial Technology (FinTech)
Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 22-11-2018
Author: Stephanie HONNEFELDER | PABLO DELGADO CUBILLO
Policy area: Forward Planning | Agriculture and Rural Development | Financial and Banking Issues
Summary: This note summarises the main points presented in the study on Competition issues in the Area of Financial Technology (FinTech).

Research and innovation in the EU: Evolution, achievements, challenges
Publication type: Briefing
Date: 21-11-2018
Author: Cemal KARAKAS
Policy area: Research Policy
Keyword: Framework Programme for Research and Development | EU research policy | public consultation | EU budget | EU statistics
Summary: Research and innovation have become indispensable elements in many areas of our daily lives, including health and wellbeing (e.g. radiotherapy, vaccinations), the search for a sustainable environment (e.g. weather forecasts, solar energy), safety and security (e.g. tsunami alerts, biometric border control) and end-user products (e.g. smart phones, e-cars). Despite the correlation between research, development, innovation and competitiveness, when it comes to international comparisons, most Member States lag behind the 'Barcelona target' to invest 3 % of national gross domestic product (GDP) in scientific research and innovation. Better coordination of transnational research activities and the completion of the European Research Area (ERA) could benefit the EU economy by an extra €16 billion per year. The instruments, governance and scope of the framework programmes (FP) for research have changed dramatically over time. These changes include the development of public-public and public-private partnerships, the establishment of the European Research Council (ERC) and the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT), and the introduction of specific instruments for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as individual mobility grants. To date, the current FP, Horizon 2020, has supported over 18 000 projects with more than €31 billion in funding. Nevertheless, Horizon 2020 has shortcomings, including complex procedures, a high administrative burden, a lack of flexibility when it comes to reacting to unforeseen circumstances, and insufficient synergies with other EU funds and public interventions and/or private finance.
Industry 4.0

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-02-2016
External author: Jan SMIT (Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services LLP), Stephan KREUTZER (Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services LLP), Carolin MOELLER (Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services LLP) and Malin CARLBERG (Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services LLP)

Policy area: Research Policy | Forward Planning | Industry
Keyword: quality standard | public-private partnership | industrial development | EU industrial policy | Internet | modernisation of industry | industrial investment | impact of information technology | updating of skills | job creation | innovation | harmonisation of standards | communications industry | digital technology | intellectual property

Summary: This study, prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the ITRE committee, analyses the Industry 4.0 Initiative which encompasses the digitalisation of production processes based on devices autonomously communicating with each other along the value chain. It considers the potential of the initiative and business paradigm changes and impacts of this transformation. The study assesses the rationale for public intervention and outlines measures that could be adopted to increase the gains and limit the threats from Industry 4.0.

Outcome of the meetings of EU Heads of State or Government, 17-18 October 2018

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 19-10-2018
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Keyword: political asylum | European Council | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | European security | United Kingdom | EU migration policy | Eurogroup (euro area) | common foreign and security policy | withdrawal from the EU | summit meeting

Summary: The European Council (Article 50) meeting of 17 October 2018 made neither made progress towards finalising a withdrawal agreement nor decide on holding an extraordinary summit on Brexit. At the European Council meeting of 18 October 2018, EU leaders stressed the need to cooperate with countries of origin and transit as well as fighting people smuggling-networks. On internal security they adopted conclusions regarding many of the new threats the EU is facing, including cyber-attacks, disinformation campaigns, and terrorism. Additionally they addressed a number of external relations related issues, such as EU-Africa relations, the upcoming EU League of Arab States meeting and Climate change.

Connecting Europe Facility 2021-2027: Financing key EU infrastructure networks

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 08-04-2019
Author: Marketa PAPE

Policy area: Budget | Transport | Energy | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council
Keyword: energy grid | impact study | project of common interest | transmission network | EU financial instrument | transport network | structural policy | sustainable development | EU programme | investment | trans-European network | proposal (EU)

Summary: The EU supports the development of high-performing, sustainable and interconnected trans-European networks in the areas of transport, energy and digital infrastructure. The trans-European networks policy was consolidated in 2013, and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) set up as a dedicated financing instrument to channel EU funding into the development of infrastructure networks, help eliminate market failures and attract further investment from the public and private sectors. Following a mid-term evaluation, which confirmed the CEF programme’s capacity to bring significant EU added value, the European Commission proposed to renew the programme under the next long term EU budget. The Transport Council of 3 December 2018 agreed a partial general approach on the proposal, excluding financial and horizontal issues, which are still under discussion as part of the EU budget for 2021-2027. The European Parliament adopted its negotiating position on 12 December 2018. Interinstitutional negotiations (trilogues) concluded on 8 March with a partial provisional agreement on the architecture of the future programme. Having been endorsed by Coreper and jointly by the Parliament’s TRAN and ITRE committees, the agreement is due to be voted at first reading by Parliament in April. The remaining issues will have to be agreed at second reading. Third edition. The ‘EU Legislation in Progress’ briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.
The underlying causes of the digital gender gap and possible solutions for enhanced digital inclusion of women and girls

Publication type Study
Date 15-02-2018
External author MS KONSTANTINA DAVAKI
Policy area Intellectual Property Law | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity
Keyword computer crime | labour market | digitisation | updating of skills | information technology | digital divide | digital technology | gender equality | information technology profession
Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the FEMM Committee, attempts to reveal the links between the different factors (access, skills, socio-economic and cultural), which prevent women from having equal access to digital technology. It then suggests ways of dealing with online and offline inequalities to the effect of closing the digital gender gap and improving women’s and girls’ digital inclusion and future technology-related career paths.

Data and Security Breaches and Cyber-Security Strategies in the EU and its International Counterparts

Publication type Study
Date 12-09-2013
External author Neil Robinson (RAND), Veronika Horvath (RAND), Jonathan Cave (RAND), Arnold P. Roosendaal (TNO) and Marieke Klaver (as reviewer) (TNO)
Policy area Consumer Protection | Industry
Keyword threat to national security | Internet | protection of privacy | transmission network | data collection | personal data | legal basis | data protection | information storage | computer piracy
Summary This long briefing provides an overview of the definition of security incidents and breaches and an analysis of their scale and trends. We summarise the current EU-level efforts to address network and information security, review some of the provisions of the Commission’s 2013 proposals for a Network and Information Security Directive and offer recommendations. We have some potentially major concerns including the relationship of incident notification achieving the outcomes of the directive, potential for overlapping regulation and definitions of covered entities. We also suggest that it would be helpful to clarify what kind of incidents the Directive is aimed to address.

Artificial intelligence in transport: Current and future developments, opportunities and challenges

Publication type Briefing
Date 27-03-2019
Author Maria Niestadt
Policy area Research Policy | Transport
Summary Artificial intelligence is changing the transport sector. From helping cars, trains, ships and aeroplanes to function autonomously, to making traffic flows smoother, it is already applied in numerous transport fields. Beyond making our lives easier, it can help to make all transport modes safer, cleaner, smarter and more efficient. Artificial intelligence-led autonomous transport could for instance help to reduce the human errors that are involved in many traffic accidents. However, with these opportunities come real challenges, including unintended consequences and misuse such as cyber-attacks and biased decisions about transport. There are also ramifications for employment, and ethical questions regarding liability for the decisions taken by artificial intelligence in the place of humans. The EU is taking steps to adapt its regulatory framework to these developments, so that it supports innovation while at the same time ensuring respect for fundamental values and rights. The measures already taken include general strategies on artificial intelligence and rules that support the technologies enabling the application of artificial intelligence in transport. In addition, the EU provides financial support, in particular for research.
Free flow of non-personal data in the European Union

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 26-09-2018
Author: Maria Del Mar NEGREIRO ACHIAGA
Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council
Keyword: ordinary legislative procedure | digital single market | Internet | data-processing law | access to information | protection of communications | exchange of information | cross-frontier data flow | digital technology | information storage and retrieval | data protection | information storage
Summary: One of the 16 key elements of the Commission’s digital single market strategy, presented in 2015, was a legislative proposal to facilitate the free flow of non-personal data. Although this proposal was not made during 2016, whilst the Commission gathered more supporting evidence, the mid-term review of the digital single market in 2017 identified the data economy as one of the top three priority areas for action in the second half of the strategy’s implementation. The European data economy could grow 18-fold, with favourable policy and legislative conditions in place, representing 4% of EU GDP by 2020. On 13 September 2017, the Commission tabled a proposal for a regulation aimed at removing obstacles to the free movement of non-personal data across borders. It focuses on removing the geographical restrictions on data storage in the internal market, a move long demanded by stakeholders. In addition, the Commission proposes self-regulation to facilitate switching cloud-service-providers for professional users. Other, less widely agreed aspects, such as access rights and liability are left for future proposals. Within the European Parliament the IMCO committee adopted its report on 4 June along with a mandate to enter into interinstitutional negotiations with the Council. On 19 June a political agreement was reached in trilogue. Parliament is due to vote on this text, in plenary in October 2018. Third edition. The ‘EU Legislation in Progress’ briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure. Please note this document has been designed for on-line viewing.

Brexit: Understanding the withdrawal agreement and political declaration

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 20-03-2019
Author: Carmen-Cristina CIRLIG
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Summary: In November 2018, the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK) endorsed, at leaders’ level, an agreement that would ensure an orderly UK withdrawal from the EU on 30 March 2019, as well as a political declaration setting out the main parameters of the future EU-UK relationship. The withdrawal agreement is an extensive legal document aiming, among other things, to preserve the essential rights of UK nationals living in the EU-27 and EU citizens living in the UK, to ensure that all financial commitments vis-à-vis the EU undertaken while the UK was a Member State are respected; and to conclude in an orderly manner ongoing processes in various areas (e.g. circulation of goods already on the market and ongoing judicial procedures). Importantly, the agreement establishes a 21-month transition period, extendable once, to help businesses and citizens to adapt to the new circumstances, and the EU and UK to negotiate their future partnership agreements. During this time, the UK will be treated as a Member State, but without any EU decision-making and representation rights. Furthermore, one of the agreement’s three protocols, the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland contains a legally operational ‘backstop’, aiming to avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland in the future. It has long been the most contested aspect of the withdrawal deal. The political declaration, by contrast, is a non-binding text, providing the basis for future EU-UK economic and security cooperation, taking into account both sides’ red lines and principles. With just days to go to the Brexit deadline, the procedures to approve the withdrawal deal have still not been finalised, due to continuing opposition within the UK Parliament. While extending the Article 50 negotiating period now appears highly likely, all scenarios are still possible, including the UK leaving the EU without a deal at the end of March 2019.

Internal market for electricity

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 14-03-2019
Author: Gregor ERBACH
Policy area: Energy | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Industry
Keyword: security of supply | electricity supply | single market | energy cooperation | electrical energy | energy policy | renewable energy | Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators
Summary: On 30 November 2016, the European Commission presented a legislative proposal for a regulation on the internal market for electricity, as part of a comprehensive legislative package on the energy union. The proposed regulation is aimed at making the electricity market fit for more flexibility, decarbonisation and innovation, by providing for undistorted market signals. It sets out rules for electricity trading within different time frames, and clarifies the responsibilities of market actors. It defines principles for assessing capacity needs at regional and European level and proposes design principles for market-based capacity mechanisms with cross-border participation. It introduces regional operational centres for handling-system operation and a European entity for distribution system operators. The Council adopted its general approach in December 2017. In the European Parliament, the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) adopted its report in February 2018. A provisional trilogue agreement was reached on 19 December 2018. Parliament is expected to vote on the agreement during the March II 2019 plenary session. Third edition. The ‘EU Legislation in Progress’ briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure. Please note this document has been designed for on-line viewing.
Artificial Intelligence ante portas: Legal & ethical reflections

Publication type Briefing
Date 14-03-2019
Author Michail KRITIKOS

Summary This briefing provides accessible introductions to some of the major legal, regulatory and ethical debates surrounding the deployment and use of AI systems. It focuses on the challenges that the sui generis features of AI may pose on the current legal framework and argues that as AI systems become more autonomous, a doctrinal paradigm swift may be needed. Given the foreseeable pervasiveness of AI, the briefing poses the question about how this new technology should be defined and classified in legal and ethical terms. By providing an analysis of the key legal initiatives in this field in Europe, the briefing aims to equip the reader with the understanding they need to engage in clear-headed reflection about AI’s legal and socio-ethical challenges, and meaningful debates about how the current EU acquis may need to be adjusted to the new technological realities.

Digital technology in elections: Efficiency versus credibility?

Publication type Briefing
Date 10-09-2018
Author Martin RUSSELL | Ionel ZAMFIR
Policy area Foreign Affairs
Keyword cost analysis | Internet | digitisation | Estonia | organisation of elections | identity document | personal data | testing | data protection

Summary Digital technology brings greater efficiency in many walks of life, and elections are no exception. Online databases hugely facilitate the task of creating and managing accurate and up-to-date electoral rolls. In less developed countries, whose citizens often lack reliable identity documents, biometric technology can help to identify voters, thus preventing fraud in the form of multiple voting. However, for some aspects of election management, digitalisation is more controversial. Electronic voting machines count votes quickly and accurately. First used in the United States, they have spread to several Latin American and Asian countries. However, the intangible nature of digital processes makes detecting tampering more difficult; as a result, most European countries are sticking to tried-and-trusted conventional paper ballots. Even more controversial is the idea of internet voting. On the one hand, allowing citizens the convenience of casting their vote online without the need to visit polling stations could help to reverse a worrying decline in voter turnout across the world. On the other hand, current technology does not allow internet voting systems to be fully secured against hackers, a major concern given the growing sophistication of cyber-attacks (for example, from Russia). To date, only Estonia gives all voters the option of online voting in national elections.

Parliament’s guidelines for the 2020 EU budget: Section III – European Commission

Publication type At a Glance
Date 11-03-2019
Author Sidonia Elżbieta Jędrzejewska
Policy area Budget

Summary The European Parliament launches the discussion on the forthcoming year’s budget for the European Union with the agreement of its guidelines. The 2020 budget will be the last one under the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF, 2014-2020). The guidelines, as adopted by the Committee on Budgets, outline the Parliament’s priorities: investing in innovation, sustainable development, citizens’ protection and security. Moreover, the proposed guidelines highlight the necessity to mitigate the budgetary consequences of Brexit and the need to recycle the unspent commitments for research. The Parliament is expected to adopt its guidelines during the March I plenary session.
European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (11th edition)

Publication type: Study
Date: 10-03-2017
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN
Keyword: single market | digital single market | social policy | area of freedom, security and justice | common foreign and security policy | international relations | development policy | European Council | climate change policy | competitiveness | energy policy | economic policy | international trade | tax harmonisation | EU employment policy
Summary: The European Council's role - to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' - has developed rapidly over the past seven years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament's in-house research service and think-tank, has been monitoring and analysing the European Council's delivery of the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a regularly updated Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council has set itself since January 2010 and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.

Study EN

Countering hybrid threats: EU and the Western Balkans case

Publication type: Study
Date: 06-09-2018
External author: Isabelle FACON, Nicolas MAZZUCCHI, Jean-Jacques PATRY
Policy area: Security and Defence
Keyword: energy supply | European neighbourhood policy | disinformation | enlargement of the Union | political propaganda | information warfare | Western Balkans | foreign policy | security of supply | public opinion | post-communism | Russia | NATO | geopolitics
Summary: The aim of the workshop, held on 26 February 2018, was to assess and discuss the EU's approach to hybrid threats in its neighbourhood using the Western Balkans as a case study, in the context of the extensive use of propaganda by Russia and its meddling into several elections and in the aftermath of the 2014 events in Ukraine and the Russian annexation of Crimea. The first speaker, Jean-Jacques Patry, presented the concept of hybrid threat at various levels and the EU approach and measures to tackle it, particularly in the Western Balkans. The second speaker, Nicolas Mazzucchi, delivered a presentation on Russia's declining influence in the Western Balkans (on behalf of Isabelle Facon, who authored the briefing but could not attend the workshop) and added some of his own analysis on energy and cyber issues. The presentations were followed by a debate with members of the Security and Defence Committee of the European Parliament.

Study EN

Special Reports of the European Court of Auditors - A Rolling Check-list of recent findings

Publication type: Study
Date: 28-02-2019
Author: Gabriella ZANA-SZABO | RONNIE JOHANNES KORVER
Summary: This rolling checklist presents an overview of the European Court of Auditors' (ECA) special reports, concentrating on those relevant for the 2017 discharge procedure. It strives to link the research topics of the special reports to the relevant debates and positions within the European Parliament, including the working documents of the Committee on Budgetary Control, the work of the specialised parliamentary committees, plenary resolutions and individual questions by Members.

Study EN
Evaluation in the European Commission - Rolling Check-List and State of Play

Publication type: Study
Date: 29-11-2017
Author: Lorna SCHREFFLER


Keyword: evaluation method | operation of the Institutions | administrative transparency | European Commission | EU programme | EU law

Summary: This paper aims to provide an overview of planned and ongoing evaluations of EU legislation and spending programmes carried out by each European Commission directorate-general (DG). The general overview and state of play on the public availability of evaluations is completed by a rolling check-list comprising on-going and planned evaluations on the basis of information disclosed by the Commission in various sources (DGs' management plans and annual activity reports, the Single Evaluation Plans for 2016 and 2017, roadmaps published since July 2015) and the information available in individual DGs. The annexes to this paper contain an overview of, and links to, the DGs' management plans for 2017 (Annex I); and a list of, and direct links to, the evaluations published between 2015 and 20 October 2017 in various sources (Annexes II and III). Finally, Annex IV covers the Commission staff working documents related to evaluation published on EUR-Lex and in the Register of Commission Documents up to October 2017.

Study EN

Cyber-security [What Think Tank are thinking]

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 03-02-2017
Author: Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI

Policy area: Security and Defence

Keyword: threat to national security | computer crime | Internet | election | energy site | transmission network | think tank | terrorism | Russia | data protection | industrial espionage

Summary: Allegations of interference in the US electoral campaign in 2016 through cyber espionage and leaks have put the spotlight on cyber-security and cybercrime, not only for ensuring financial or strategic advantages, but increasingly as means of pursuing political aims. As digital technologies grow in importance, the clear view among analysts is that cyber-crime is becoming a major threat to governments, businesses and societies as a whole. This note offers links to reports and commentaries from some major international think tanks and research institutes on cyber-security and related issues.

Briefing EN

EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Security and defence

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 22-02-2019
Author: Eleni LAZAROU

Policy area: Security and Defence

Summary: Security and defence policy in the European Union is predominantly a competence of the Member States. At the same time, a common security and defence policy, which could progressively lead to a European defence union, is enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty. Since 2016, there has been significant progress in that direction, with several initiatives in the area of security and defence having been proposed and initiated under the current mandate of the Commission and the European Parliament. The idea that the European Union should deliver in the area of security and defence has become more and more popular with EU citizens. The crises in the EU’s eastern and southern neighbourhoods, such as the occupation of Crimea and conflicts in the Middle East, have created an environment of insecurity in which the EU is called upon to do more. Following the Council decision of 2013 and particularly since the launch of the EU global strategy in 2016, the EU had been working to respond to these needs predominantly by implementing in full the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty. In recent years, it has begun the implementation of ambitious initiatives in the area of security and defence, such as permanent structured cooperation (PESCO), the European defence action plan including a new defence fund to finance research and development of EU military capabilities, closer and more efficient cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a plan to facilitate military mobility within and across the EU, and a revision of the financing of its civilian and military missions and operations to make them more effective. These new initiatives are illustrated in the relevant proposals in the new multiannual financial framework (2021-2027) and the accompanying off-budget instruments. Given EU leaders’ current support for further initiatives in EU security and defence policy, important debates are likely to take place in future on the possible progressive framing of a European defence union.

Briefing DE, EN, FR
Multimedia EN
European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (10th edition)

Publication type: Study  
Date: 13-12-2016  
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN


Keyword: single market | digital single market | social policy | area of freedom, security and justice | common foreign and security policy | international relations | development policy | European Council | climate change policy | competitiveness | energy policy | economic policy | international trade | tax harmonisation | EU employment policy

Summary: The European Council's role - to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' - has developed rapidly over the past seven years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament's in-house research service and think-tank, has been monitoring and analysing the European Council's delivery of the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a regularly updated Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council has set itself since January 2010 and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.

Study EN

Harmful internet use - Part II: Impact on culture and society

Publication type: Study  
Date: 31-01-2019  
External author: DG, EPRS

Policy area: Culture | Social Policy | Public Health | Education

Summary: It is increasingly recognised that the internet, in spite of all its benefits to society, can also be correlated with significant harms to individuals and society. Some of these harms have been studied extensively, particularly harms to privacy, harms associated with security and cybercrime, and harms resulting from digital divides. This report covers less studied but equally important harms: harms associated with internet use that concern the health, well-being of individuals, and the impact on social structures and institutions. The Part II of the study address the harms of the internet at society level. The harms that are revised are among others: harms to cognitive development, information overload, harmful effects on knowledge and belief and harms to social relationships. The ultimate aim of the study is to develop concrete policy options to be considered by the EU Institutions and Member States, to mitigate harmful effects of the internet for European citizens.

Study EN  
Annex I EN

Banking Union Essential Terms: Technical Abbreviations & Glossary (EN/DE/FR)

Publication type: Study  
Date: 06-07-2018  
External author: Bernd HEIMBÜCHEL, Ute HEIMBÜCHEL, Urs LENDERMANN

Policy area: Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword: financial supervision | supervisory power | financial derivative | EU office or agency | EU Member State | international agreement | regulatory policy | EU banking union | risk management | financial legislation | banking supervision | capital market

Summary: This abbreviation list and tri-lingual glossary (English, German and French, see disclaimer) lists and explains relevant terms frequently used in the area of documents related to the Banking Union, more specifically in relation to the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM), the Single Resolution Mechanism (SRM) and the application of the Capital Requirements Directive (CRD IV) and the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR). The glossary and list of abbreviations may be updated and extended in order to take account of new developments and needs. This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the ECON Committee.

Study EN
Current and Emerging Trends in Disruptive Technologies: Implications for the Present and Future of EU's Trade Policy

Publication type: Study
Date: 20-09-2017

External author: Mira BURRI, senior lecturer, University of Lucerne, Switzerland


Keyword: common commercial policy | digitisation | trade restriction | trade relations | technological change | data processing | electronic commerce | World Trade Organisation | Internet | impact of information technology | trade agreement (EU) | cross-frontier data flow | digital technology | provision of services | globalisation

Summary: Digital technologies, taken as a broad generic category of technological inventions and applications, fall under a rare kind of ‘disruptive technologies’ that can radically change existing economic sectors, enable new modes of work, production and consumption and trigger broader societal transformations. To make apt policy decisions, there is a distinct need to understand what these technologies and their effects actually are and how they may develop over time. This study attends to this need in particular with regard to the implications of digital technologies for EU’s external trade policies. It accentuates the critical importance of data and cross-border data flows for the emergent digital economy and underscores the need to appropriately address them with a calibrated and more proactive positioning of the EU in international trade venues.

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (9th edition)

Publication type: Study
Date: 18-10-2016

Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN


Keyword: single market | digital single market | social policy | area of freedom, security and justice | common foreign and security policy | international relations | development policy | European Council | climate change policy | competitiveness | energy policy | economic policy | international trade | tax harmonisation | EU employment policy

Summary: The European Council's role - to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' - has developed rapidly over the past seven years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament's in-house research service and think-tank, has been monitoring and analysing the European Council's delivery of the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a regularly updated Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council has set itself since January 2010 and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.

Situation of fundamental rights in the EU in 2017

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 10-01-2019

Author: Rosamund SHREEVES | Martina PRPIC

Policy area: Human Rights

Summary: 2017 was a year during which the EU saw both progress and setbacks in fundamental rights protection. For example, while the adoption of the European Pillar of Social Rights was a further step towards more equality, setbacks were encountered in the area of the independence of the judiciary, the work of civil society organisations and women's rights. The Commission, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and the Parliament regularly monitor the situation of fundamental rights in the EU. A LIBE committee report on the situation of fundamental rights in 2017 is scheduled for debate in plenary during January.

At a Glance EN
EU-US cooperation in Justice and Home Affairs – an overview

Publication type Briefing
Date 06-04-2016
Author Carmen-Cristina CIRLIG
Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Foreign Affairs
Keyword computer crime | border control | United States | migration | powers of the EP | area of freedom, security and justice | international agreement | extremism | exchange of information | European Union | EU relations | terrorism | data protection | cooperation in home affairs
Summary The United States is the key partner of the European Union in the area of justice and home affairs (JHA), including in the fight against terrorism. While formal cooperation on JHA issues between the US and the EU goes back to the 1995 New Transatlantic Agenda, it is since 2001 in particular that cooperation has intensified. Today, and for the period up until 2020, the key areas of transatlantic efforts in the JHA field are personal data protection, counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism, migration and border controls, tracing of firearms and explosives, money laundering and terrorism financing, cybercrime, drugs and information exchange. Regular dialogues at all levels, extensive operational cooperation and a series of legal agreements demonstrate the development of the transatlantic partnership on JHA.

Virtual currencies and terrorist financing: assessing the risks and evaluating responses

Publication type Study
Date 04-06-2018
External author Tom KEATINGE, David CARLISLE, Florence KEEN
Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Forward Planning
Keyword threat to national security | computer crime | money laundering | EU police cooperation | fight against crime | electronic banking | virtual currency | terrorism financing | payment system | capital movement | financial legislation | financial services
Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the TERR Committee, explores the terrorist financing (TF) risks of virtual currencies (VCs), including cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin. It describes the features of VCs that present TF risks, and reviews the open source literature on terrorist use of virtual currencies to understand the current state and likely future manifestation of the risk. It then reviews the regulatory and law enforcement response in the EU and beyond, assessing the effectiveness of measures taken to date. Finally, it provides recommendations for EU policymakers and other relevant stakeholders for ensuring the TF risks of VCs are adequately mitigated.

Implementation of the Treaty provisions concerning enhanced cooperation

Publication type Study
Date 20-12-2018
Author IVANA KIENDL KRISTO
Summary This study examines the existing (and planned) instances of enhanced cooperation (EnC), their institutional set up and state of play. Our analysis is at this point of time limited to the one EnC case with sufficient implementation record (EnC in divorce law, applied for more than six years to date). The remaining cases either began very recently (PESCO in late 2017); are in the preparatory stages (EPPO); are set to start in the near future (2019 for EnC in property regime rules); have not as yet entered into force (EnC in unitary patent protection awaiting ratification of the UPC Agreement by DE); or are yet to be agreed upon (FTT).
European Digital Guarantee
Publication type Study
Date 15-11-2016
External author Michał BIENIAS (Traple, Konarski, Podrecki i wspólncy), Piotr KWIATKOWSKI (University of Osnabruck), Hans SCHULTZE-NOLKE (University of Osnabruck), Anne-Katrin SUILMANN (University of Osnabruck) and Aneta WIEWIOROWSKA-DOMAGALSKA (University of Osnabruck)
Keyword single market | guarantee | consumer protection | EU Member State | digital evidence | discrimination on the basis of nationality
Summary The study analyses the inconveniences of paper receipts and guarantees that are lost or fade away. The collected evidence indicates that missing paper documents may result in problems for consumers in the enforcement of their rights. The study assesses e-receipt solutions already existing on the market and evaluates whether the regulation of such schemes could contribute to the Single Market. Some guidelines are given concerning a possible regulation of e-receipt schemes, including the impact of other fields of the EU law.
This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the IMCO Committee.
Study EN

Surveillance and Censorship: The Impact of Technologies on Human Rights
Publication type Study
Date 16-04-2015
External author Ben WAGNER, Joanna BRONOWICKA, Cathleen BERGER and Thomas BEHRNDT (Centre for Internet and Human Rights, European University Viadrina, Germany)
Policy area Social Policy | Democracy | Human Rights
Keyword third country | control of communications | freedom of expression | protection of privacy | the EU's international role | freedom of assembly | freedom of religious beliefs | social rights | international human rights law | Wassenaar arrangement | Internet | extra-territoriality | information society | OSCE | impact of information technology | Council of Europe
Summary As human lives transition online, so do human rights. The main challenge for the European Union and other actors is to transition all human rights to the digital sphere. This report argues that the human rights-based approach can be helpful in focusing discussions about security on individuals rather than states. It provides an overview of countries and companies that pose risks to human rights in the digital sphere. It lists the most relevant international laws and standards, technical standards, business guidelines, Internet principles and policy initiatives that have been crucial in transitioning the human rights regime to the digital sphere. It also analyses the impact of recent EU actions related to Internet and human rights issues. It concludes that different elements of EU strategic policy on human rights and digital policy need be better integrated and coordinated to ensure that technologies have a positive impact on human rights. The report concludes that EU should promote digital rights in national legislation of the third countries, but also in its own digital strategies.
Study EN

The productivity riddle: Supporting long-term economic growth in the EU
Publication type Briefing
Date 03-12-2018
Author Marcin SZCZEPAŃSKI
Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword public investment | private investment | EU policy | productivity | economic growth | population ageing | health care | research and development | economic infrastructure | euro area | long-term forecast
Summary Productivity has a key role to play in the EU's long-term economic growth. The recent economic recovery has reversed the negative trend but concerns remain about long-term prospects. Productivity varies across the EU, with newer Member States reaching only about half the level of the older ones (EU-15) when measured in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) per hour worked, but showing a higher growth dynamic. The recent poor productivity growth in the EU raises a number of important policy questions. First, there is no consensus on the reasons behind it or the best ways to remedy it. There are also conflicting views regarding how long this situation will continue. Most economists believe the current weak growth trend may be explained by a combination of cyclical and structural economic weaknesses that need to be addressed by a mix of shorter and longer-term measures. Remedies for low productivity include increasing labour market participation, strengthening product market competition, encouraging demand, investment and lending to companies, as well as restructuring inefficient markets, disseminating technology and generalising digitalisation. In the EU context, particularly important factors conducive to productivity growth include creating a genuine single market for services, boosting digitalisation across economic sectors and addressing long-term challenges, such as the ageing society and rising income inequalities, as well as implementing long-awaited structural reforms in the Member States.
Briefing EN
Adapting to new digital realities: Main issues and policy responses

Publication type Briefing
Date 19-04-2018
Author Maria Del Mar NEGREIRO ACHIAGA | Marcin SZCZEPAŃSKI | Vincent REILLON | Naja BENTZEN | Nikolina SAJNI
Policy area Research Policy | Forward Planning | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues | Consumer Protection | Democracy
Summary Digital technologies have changed the way we live and transformed the world around us at unprecedented speed. They have affected all important aspects of life, both at work and at home, and have influenced almost everything from human relations to the economy, to the extent that access to the internet has now become a basic human right recognised by the United Nations. This profound change presents both opportunities and threats to our society. Citizens need specific skills and access to be able to meaningfully take part in society and work. European businesses need an adequate policy framework and infrastructure to capture the enormous value created by the digital economy.

The regions in the digital single market: ICT and digital opportunities for European regions

Publication type Briefing
Date 19-04-2018
Author Vasileios MARGARAS
Policy area Research Policy | Social Policy | Employment | Regional Development | Public Health | Education
Keyword digital single market | Internet | transmission network | information technology | disclosure of information | social inequality | digital divide | EU programme | information processing | digital technology | new technology
Summary The digital economy is growing at seven times the rate of the rest of the economy. The European Commission estimates that completing the digital single market could contribute €415 billion per year to Europe's economy, create 3.8 million jobs and transform public services. In addition, many future jobs will require information and communications technologies (ICT) skills, rendering the process of acquiring digital skills an imperative. The European Commission has presented several initiatives to boost the use of ICT in Europe. The Digital Agenda for Europe, adopted in 2010 in the framework of the Europe 2020 strategy, aimed at promoting economic recovery and improving social inclusion through a more digitally proficient Europe. The Digital Single Market strategy, introduced in 2015, complements the Digital Agenda for Europe. Achieving a digital single market will ensure that Europe maintains its position as a world leader in the digital economy, helping European companies to grow globally. In 2016, the European Commission adopted a new Skills Agenda for Europe which includes measures on the acquisition of digital skills. Although many of the digital single market priorities are primarily dealt with at national level, various initiatives can be explored at the local and regional level. Regions and cities can plan and pursue their own digital strategies in the interests of enhancing economic growth and to promote their citizens' wellbeing. Enhanced use of digital technologies can improve citizens' access to information and culture, promote open government, equality and non-discrimination. However, a number of challenges need to be addressed to fully reap the benefits of digitalisation. Personnel with ICT skills are still lacking in Europe and many European citizens are not adequately trained to carry out ICT-related tasks. In addition, broadband connectivity in some parts of Europe remains slow. Although certain EU regions and local authorities experiment with new technologies, not all of them have managed to provide a high-level range of digital services and ICT related activities. This briefing is an update of an earlier edition, published in October 2015.

Outcome of the special European Council (Article 50), 25 November 2018

Publication type Briefing
Date 29-11-2018
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG
Keyword European Union membership | European Council | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United Kingdom | cooperation policy | transitional period (EU) | rights of the individual | withdrawal from the EU | Gibraltar
Summary EU-27 leaders endorsed the withdrawal agreement and approved the political declaration on future EU-UK relations on 25 November 2018. After last minute statements regarding Gibraltar and clarification on a possible extension to the transition period removed all obstacles. The agreement is due to enter into force on 30 March 2019. President Tajani stressed that the European Parliament 'welcomes the Political Declaration on the future relationship and regards it as an excellent basis on which to develop [the EU's] post-Brexit cooperation with the United Kingdom'.
EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Industrial policy

Publication type Briefing
Date 29-11-2018
Author Marcin SZCZEPAŃSKI
Policy area Research Policy | Industry
Keyword digitisation | satellite navigation | culture industry | Framework Programme for Research and Development | EU industrial policy | circular economy | impact study | economic growth | competitiveness | research and development | industrial manufacturing | harmonisation of standards | capital market | globalisation
Summary Through its industrial policy, the European Union (EU) has been striving to create conditions conducive to increasing industry growth and competitiveness since 1992. European industry remains a cornerstone of the economy, providing one job out of five and is responsible for the bulk of EU exports and investment in research and innovation. Today, the aim of EU policy is to enable a successful transformation towards a digital, knowledge-based, decarbonised and more circular industry in Europe. To reach this goal, the EU supports, coordinates or supplements Member State level policies and actions, mainly in the areas of research and innovation, technology and digital technologies. In a recent Eurobarometer poll conducted for the European Parliament, more than half of EU citizens expressed support for increased EU action on industrial policy. Despite this, it is still the least understood policy area covered in the poll. Since 2014, efforts have been made in a number of areas, including investment (mainly through the European Fund for Strategic Investment, which supports industrial modernisation); digitisation (for example setting up a number of research partnerships, or a growing network of digital innovation hubs); financing (making it easier for industry and SMEs to access public markets and attract venture funds); greener industry (for example through the revised 2030 emission targets, or measures on clean mobility); standardisation (bringing together relevant stakeholders to collectively develop and update European standards); and skills (mobilising key stakeholders to close the skills gap and providing an adequate workforce for modern industry). The European Parliament has called for ambitious policies in all of these areas. In the future, EU spending on key areas relevant to industrial policy is expected to rise moderately. The European Commission proposes to boost the share of EU spending on research, SMEs and key infrastructure, although not as much as Parliament has requested. In the coming years, policies are likely to focus on fairer global competition, stimulating innovation, building digital capacities and increasing the sustainability of European industry.

From Rome to Sibiu

Publication type Study
Date 12-04-2018
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL
Keyword European Council | head of government | citizens’ Europe | President of the European Council | opinion poll | head of State | summit meeting | EU statistics
Summary The purpose of this paper is to assess the follow-up and delivery by the European Council on the priorities that were set in the declaration adopted in Rome on 25 March 2017 on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome. The analysis shows that in the year since Rome, and a year before the special summit on the Future of Europe debate, due to take place in the Romanian city of Sibiu on 9 May 2019, substantive progress has been made regarding the debate itself and implementation of the policy priorities identified in the Bratislava Declaration/Roadmap and the Rome Declaration. The evidence so far suggests that the European Council, as well as the other EU institutions, have followed up on the pledges made in Rome, in an effort to boost the legitimacy of the EU, connect with a disaffected public, and combat Euroscepticism. The Leaders’ Agenda, adopted by October 2017, made an important contribution to the Future of Europe debate and, furthermore, was a potentially far-reaching institutional innovation for the European Council. Under the Leaders’ Agenda, discussions among the Heads of State or Government now attempt to resolve seemingly intractable policy disputes by means of a new working method. Not only has this helped to operationalise the Rome Declaration, it also seems to have consolidated the European Council’s position at the centre of the EU policy-making and agenda-setting framework.

Workshop on Building Blocks of the Ubiquitous Digital Single Market

Publication type Study
Date 03-02-2015
External author Nick Sohnenmann (FutureCandy, Germany), Christoph Pennings (iDate, France), Edwin Maaskant (Gartner Consulting, USA), Robert D. Atkinson (Information Technology & Innovation Foundation - ITIF, USA), Kim Soung Hie (KAIST Graduate School of IT & Media Management, South Korea), Silver Tammik (Economic Affairs at the Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU, Belgium), Anne Fleur van Veenstra (TNO Strategy & Policy, Netherlands), J. Scott Marcus (Wissenschaftliches Institut für Infrastruktur und Kommunikationsdienste, Germany) and Andreas Mittraks (European Union Agency for Network and Information Security - ENISA, Belgium)
Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection
Keyword single market | electronic commerce | computer crime | Internet | South Korea | transmission network | impact of information technology | economic growth | telecommunications policy | Estonia | technological change | electronic government
Summary Digital technologies enable new disruptive business models and fundamentally improved e-government solutions. They can transform the Digital Single Market into the main engine of growth and job creation. The workshop aims at giving an overview of most advanced market and technological trends built on mobile connectivity and cloud computing. It points at Estonia and South Korea as leading jurisdictions that made the most of digital technologies both in private and public sectors. It examines net neutrality and cybersecurity as upcoming political and regulatory challenges.

Source: © European Union, 2019 - EP
Research of the Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs and the EPRS in the Fields of Responsibilities of the Special Committee on Terrorism

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 06-10-2017
Author: Kristiina MILT | MIGUEL TELL CREMADES | Sofija VORONOVA
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Keyword: Member of the European Parliament | organised crime | European security | EP Committee | application of EU law | area of freedom, security and justice | legislative power | terrorism
Summary: This paper provides a detailed analysis of the responsibilities of the Special Committee on Terrorism and the corresponding available and upcoming research of the Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs and the EPRS.

In-Depth Analysis: DE, EN, FR

Research for TRAN Committee - Prospects for “Remote” En-Route Air Traffic Services

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-08-2016
External author: Stephen Wainwright and Rosie Offord, Mark Scott (Steer Davies Gleave)
Policy area: Forward Planning | Transport | Tourism
Keyword: computer crime | air traffic | transport safety | satellite communications | European Aviation Safety Agency | radio telecommunications | transport regulations
Summary: Remote tower services, where aircraft at an airport are remote-controlled from a separate location, have been introduced to some airports and are being tested at several others. By reviewing the current and emerging technologies, considering some of the risks associated with these technologies and evaluating the contribution of the NextGen and SESAR programmes, this paper aims to assess the feasibility of also providing “remote” en-route Air Traffic Services in Europe.

Study: EN

A common EU approach to liability rules and insurance for connected and autonomous vehicles

Publication type: Study
Date: 28-02-2018
Author: Tatjana EVAS
Policy area: European Added Value | Transport | Industry
Summary: This assessment of European added value finds that revision of the EU's current legislative framework is necessary, notably as regards the regulation of civil liability and insurance. Quantitative assessment of added value, at the current stage of technological development, proved difficult and inconclusive. A qualitative analysis, however, provided evidence that action at EU level would (i) promote legal certainty; (ii) reduce the transaction costs for car manufacturers and public administrations arising from differences in national liability rules and systems for the determination and calculation of damages; and (iii) secure effective consumer protection.

Study: EN

Food Safety Situation in Ireland and Overview of the Directorate for Health and Food Audits and Analysis, DG SANTE

Publication type: Study
Date: 28-02-2018
External author: Mrs S KEENAN, Campden BRI
Policy area: Environment | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice
Keyword: dairy industry | food safety | veterinary medicine | antimicrobial resistance | animal disease | foodstuff | exchange of information | fishery product | meat processing industry | Ireland | agri-foodstuffs
Summary: This study was prepared for Policy Department A at the request of the Environmental, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee, and updates the earlier 2016 briefing. It provides an overview of the food safety situation in Ireland. It outlines the Irish food and drink industry, the structure and organisation of the food safety and control system involved in food safety in Ireland and a description of current food safety issues in Ireland. An overview of the structure and competencies of the Directorate for Health and Food Audits and Analysis, DG SANTE (formerly European Food and Veterinary Office) based in Ireland is also provided.

Study: EN
European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date

Publication type: Study
Date: 28-06-2016
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Josephine MOERMAN | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENNHUNEN
Keyword: common commercial policy | single market | enlargement of the Union | EU regional policy | area of freedom, security and justice | European tax cooperation | common foreign and security policy | development policy | European Council | European social policy | climate change policy | competitiveness | energy policy | EU migration policy | coordination of EU policies | interinstitutional relations (EU) | EU employment policy

Summary: This eighth edition of the overview of European Council conclusions, presented in the form of a Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is a product of the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament's in-house research service and think-tank. As part of its work, the unit maintains a rolling database of all the European Council's commitments and responsibilities, which is updated and published regularly, with an indication of follow-up given to date. The European Council became a formal Union institution, with a full-time President, under the Treaty of Lisbon. Although it does not exercise legislative functions, the European Council's role - to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' - has developed rapidly over the past seven years. As an example of setting overall priorities for the Union, on 26-27 June 2014, the European Council adopted a Strategic Agenda to 'guide the institutions in annual and multiannual programming, as well as in legislative planning' in the 2014-19 institutional cycle. The European Parliament is strongly committed to the principle of Better Law-Making, and particularly to the effective use of impact assessment and evaluation throughout the legislative cycle. It is in this spirit that enhanced powers for stronger executive bodies can and should be balanced by greater scrutiny and oversight, especially in respect of the implementation of EU law and policies. The Parliament's administrative capacity to support parliamentary committees and individual Members in exercising ex-post scrutiny and oversight of the executive has accordingly been enhanced in order to provide stronger and deeper analysis of the transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU secondary law, and more generally, of the impact, operation, effectiveness and delivery of EU law and policy in practice. In this context, since June 2014, the European Parliament's oversight Unit has been monitoring and analysing the delivery on commitments made by the European Council in the conclusions of its meetings, as well as its various responsibilities either in law or on the basis of intergovernmental agreements. This compendium is designed to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in the months and years ahead.

Study EN

Computational propaganda techniques
Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 18-10-2018
Author: Naja BENTZEN
Policy area: Democracy | Human Rights
Summary: The techniques used by anti-democratic state and non-state actors to disrupt or influence democratic processes are constantly evolving. The use of algorithms, automation and artificial intelligence is boosting the scope and the efficiency of disinformation campaigns and related cyber-activities. In response, the EU is stepping up its efforts to protect its democratic processes from manipulation ahead of the European elections in May 2019.

At a Glance EN
Multimedia EN

EU policies – Delivering for citizens: EU support for democracy and peace in the world
Publication type: Briefing
Date: 16-10-2018
Author: Ionel ZAMFIR
Policy area: Democracy | Security and Defence | Human Rights
Keyword: generalised preferences | the EU's international role | peacekeeping | enlargement of the Union | development aid | fund (EU) | common foreign and security policy | international relations | international conflict
Summary: From the outset, the European Union (EU) has been an integration project directed at preserving peace among its Member States – a fundamental objective that it has succeeded in achieving for over 60 years. As a community of like-minded states, the EU is also based on certain fundamental values, such as democracy and the rule of law, which the Union aspires to promote, both internally and externally, and which guide all its policies. In line with this vision, the EU has developed specific policies to support democracy and peace in the world. It also aims to integrate the pursuit of peace and democracy with all its other external actions in areas such as trade, development, enlargement and neighbourhood policies, its common foreign and security policy, and political and diplomatic relations with third countries and multilateral institutions. The EU has established a reputation as a soft power organisation guided by a normative vision and as an effective actor for peace and democracy. Strengthening peace and democracy globally has never been an easy task, however, and today's geopolitical context poses new challenges. The proliferation and increasing gravity and duration of conflicts – some in the EU's immediate neighbourhood, the emergence of new threats, such as terrorism or nuclear proliferation, and the crisis of liberal democracies: have driven the EU to widen and intensify its efforts. They have also led to a new vision for action revolving around the concept of 'resilient societies' based on the mutually reinforcing pillars of peace and democracy, and a special emphasis on fragile states. Against this background, recent surveys have shown that citizens expect the EU to be even more active in promoting peace and democracy externally – something that should surely strengthen its resolve to make further progress in this crucial area.

Briefing DE, EN, FR
Multimedia EN
New civil aviation safety rules

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 15-10-2018
Author: Maria Niestadt

Policy area: Transport | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council
Keyword: EC Regulation | air traffic | crew | European Aviation Safety Agency | airport | civil aviation | Single European Sky | drone | air safety | aircraft | transport accident

Summary: Flying remains one of the safest forms of transport, and the EU's accident rate is lower than in the rest of the world. However, it cannot automatically be assumed that such performance will continue, as global air traffic is forecast to double over the next 20 years. New technologies, such as unmanned aircraft (drones), are also appearing in European skies, which require adaptation of the current regulatory framework. In December 2015, the European Commission proposed to update aviation safety rules. Two years later, the European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on the new rules and the rules have been in force since 11 September 2018. The reform includes the first-ever EU rules for civil drones, extends the EASA's mandate and provides for using existing resources more efficiently.

The European Commission at mid-term: State of play of President Juncker's ten priorities

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 11-07-2017
Author: Etienne BASSOT | WOLFGANG HILLER

Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Keyword: single market | digital single market | United States | Economic and Monetary Union | the EU's international role | free-trade agreement | area of freedom, security and justice | EU growth strategy | EU law | European Commission | EU investment | climate change policy | EU migration policy | people's democracy | proposal (EU)

Summary: This publication provides an overview of the work carried out by the European Commission at the mid-term of its mandate under Jean-Claude Juncker's presidency, and more specifically an update of the initiatives taken in the framework of the ten priority areas for action. The in-depth analysis draws on a wide range of EPRS publications, and updates a previous edition The Juncker Commission's ten priorities: state of play at the start of 2017, published in January 2017. It has been compiled and edited by Isabelle Gaudeul-Ehrhart, with contributions and support from across the Members' Research Service and the Directorate for Impact Assessment and European Added Value of EPRS, in particular from the following policy analysts: Piotr Bakowski, Angelos Delivorias, Gregor Erbach, Elena Lazarou, Tambiara Madiega, Shara Monteleone, Anita Orav, Laura Puccio, Christian Scheinert, Andrej Stuchlík, Marcin Szczepanski, Laura Tsvintule and Sofija Voronova. The graphics are by Giulio Sabbati, and are derived from the 'Legislative Train Schedule' application, recently launched by Parliament to track progress on the Commission's legislative proposals.

European defence industrial development programme (EDIDP)

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 28-09-2018
Author: CHRISTIAN SCHEINERT

Policy area: Security and Defence
Keyword: industrial development | development plan | EU programme | adoption of a law by vote | defence policy | EU aid | inter-company cooperation | competitiveness | financial aid | fund (EU) | research and development | innovation | proposal (EU)

Summary: The European Union is facing new security threats amid growing uncertainty about the reliability of some of its allies. As a consequence, it has embarked on a general scaling up of its defence capabilities. A European defence action plan has been agreed and a European Defence Fund created to provide financial support, ranging from the research phase to the acquisition phase of military equipment and technologies. The EDIDP, which will be part of that fund, is destined to provide the European defence industry with financial support during the development phase of new products and technologies in areas selected at European level. An agreement was reached in trilogue negotiations in May 2018, and after Parliament and Council had approved the deal, the final legislative act was signed on 18 July 2018. This programme, with a financial envelope of €500 million, is due to run from January 2019 to December 2020.
Towards a European gigabit society: Connectivity targets and 5G

Publication type Briefing
Date 09-06-2017
Author Maria Del Mar NEGREIRO ACHIAGA

Policy area Research Policy | Industry
Keyword digital single market | Internet | public-private partnership | transmission network | information technology | telecommunications industry | mobile phone | EU programmes | innovation | mobile communication | digital technology | new technology

Summary In September 2016, the Commission put forward new strategic connectivity objectives for 2025 as part of its digital single market strategy. These should prepare Europe for the roll-out of the next generation of broadband infrastructure with gigabit speeds, including both fixed and mobile internet access (5G). Once available, from 2020 onwards, 5G is expected to enable an array of new innovative services that will transform sectors such as manufacturing, energy, vehicle manufacturing and health, bringing them into the era of the internet of things. Given its importance for EU competitiveness, the Commission is speeding up 5G by co-financing research and development. The 5G-PPP public-private partnership is the largest initiative of its kind in the world, with €700 million in EU funding, to be topped up with private funding to reach a total budget of €3.5 billion by 2025. There is some concern that not all consumers and businesses in Europe will benefit from the gigabit society, given the current and future digital divide between urban and rural areas and across EU countries. For example if gigabit speeds and 5G are available only to areas with high demand, users are likely to be highly reluctant to pay for it as many new services will need continuity across borders and geographic areas. Progress in building the European gigabit society is expected once an updated EU telecoms framework is in place. This will enable high levels of investment in network infrastructure and increased policy coordination across Member States, for instance increasing spectrum harmonisation for 5G and co-investment of deployments. Both the proposed European Electronic Communications Code and the 5G action plan are of high importance for the Council and Parliament, and essential if the EU is to take the lead in the global 5G race.
Countering Terrorist Narratives

This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee, provides an overview of current approaches to countering terrorist narratives. The first and second sections outline the different responses developed at the global and European Union levels. The third section presents an analysis of four different approaches to responding to terrorist narratives: disruption of propaganda distribution, redirect method, campaign and message design, and government communications and synchronisation of message and action. The final section offers a number of policy recommendations, highlighting five interrelated ‘lines of effort’ essential to maximising the efficiency and effectiveness of counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism strategic communication.

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword: Internet | third country | multinational enterprise | police cooperation | public awareness campaign | political propaganda | terrorism | data transmission | NATO | EU-NATO cooperation | religious fundamentalism

Study

EN
Outlook for the European Council meeting on 19-20 October 2017 and the European Council (Article 50) meeting on 20 October 2017

Publication type Briefing
Date 27-10-2017
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG | Susanna TENHUNEN
Keyword digital single market | European security | head office | digitisation | European Banking Authority | United Kingdom | European Medicines Agency | EU action | refugee | international relations | Ireland | external border of the EU | European Council | EU migration policy | withdrawal from the EU
Summary At their meeting on 19-20 October 2017, EU leaders will focus on migration, in particular assessing the progress made in stemming illegal flows on all migration routes, and digital Europe, following up on the Digital Summit held in Tallinn on 29 September. Heads of State or Government will also discuss defence, in particular the preparations for permanent structured cooperation (PESCO) as well as external relations, including relations with Turkey. The President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, is expected to present the new ‘Leaders’ Agenda 2017-2018’, outlining the decisions that need to be taken at the level of the European Council in the coming year. Finally, EU-27 leaders will meet on 20 October in a separate formal European Council (Article 50), without the United Kingdom, to discuss the latest developments in the latter’s withdrawal negotiations. It is expected that the European Council (Article 50) will postpone the decision on starting the second phase of negotiations on the EU’s future relations with the UK until the December 2017 European Council, due to insufficient progress having been made to date.

New model of governance and accountability of data protection by Union institutions and bodies

Publication type Study
Date 27-10-2017
External author This study has been written by Fabrice Naftalski and Louise Fauvel of Ernst & Young Société d’Avocats and Marie Brunagel and Véronique Menez of EY Advisory, at the request of the Ex-Ante Impact Assessment Unit of the Directorate for Impact Assessment and European Added Value, within the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services (DG EPRS) of the European Parliament.
Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment
Keyword legal data processing | data-processing law | access to information | approximation of laws | application of EU law | area of freedom, security and justice | data protection
Summary In the framework of its consideration of the Commission’s proposal on the processing of personal data by Union institutions and bodies, the European Parliament’s Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs requested an impact assessment of three specific aspects of that proposal. These aspects concerned: (1) the impact of the new model of governance and accountability of data protection on Union institutions and bodies; (2) the implication of this new model in terms of budget and human resources; and (3) the risks generated by the decentralised model in terms of consistency and uniform application of the Regulation within Union institutions and bodies performing several processing activities by different controllers. The study considers the short term implications of the new governance model with regard to increased workload (for both data controllers and data protection officers) and additional investments in terms of budget and human resources. It concludes that it will only be once the ‘initial period of application’ has been completed that it will be possible to reasonably assess the final impact of the new model of governance and accountability on Union institutions and bodies. As for decentralisation, it considers that the proposal appears to contain adequate safeguards to offset the risks in terms of consistency and uniform application of the Regulation.

2021-2027 multiannual financial framework and new own resources: Analysis of the Commission's proposal

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 26-07-2018
Author Matthew PARRY | Magdalena SAPALA
Policy area Budget
Keyword single market | Structural Funds | financial management | European security | own resources | bilateral relations | budgetary procedure | EU environmental policy | financing of the EU budget | EU migration policy | commitment of expenditure | budget policy | innovation | general budget (EU) | proposal (EU)
Summary The process of negotiating a new seven-year financial plan for the EU has now begun formally with the Commission’s publication of proposals for a 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), and for a new system of own resources providing the revenue to pay for it. This analysis presents the proposed new MFF and own resources and compares them to the status quo, as well as to the European Parliament’s priorities as expressed in plenary resolutions adopted in spring 2018.
3D bio-printing is defined here as the use of 3D printing technology for applications related to the body, whether the products themselves include biological material or not, and whether or not their purpose is medical. It includes any application for rehabilitating, supporting or augmenting any kind of biological functionality. The impacts of 3D bio-printing are uncertain, and it is not clear which actions may be required to foster responsible development of the technology. A STOA study, 'Additive bio-manufacturing: 3D printing for medical recovery and human enhancement,' responded to these uncertainties by describing the state of the art and future development prospects of 3D bio-printing technology, analysing their wide-ranging impacts – including social, ethical and economic aspects – and identifying key policy challenges along with options to respond to them. Key challenges and responsive options were identified in the approach to regulation, in managing the distribution of costs and benefits, and in the role of citizens in technology development. This In-depth Analysis draws upon the findings of the STOA Study, summarising and reflecting upon its key findings. The conclusions highlight key trends and offer further reflections on the study in the context of responsible research and innovation.

The future of the European Defence Agency (EDA)

The aim of the workshop, held on 22 November 2017, was to discuss the future of the European Defence Agency (EDA) against the backdrop of framing a common Union defence policy. The first speaker, Dr Christian Mölling, provided an analysis of the issue of defence cooperation among EU member states and the difficulties it faces. In this context, he described the role and power of the EDA as well as possible options for its future. The second speaker, Professor David Versailles, focused on capabilities and competencies as well as on the interaction between civilian and military capabilities. The presentations were followed by a debate involving members of the Security and Defence Committee of the European Parliament.

The advent of blockchain in trade

Blockchain is a fairly new technology that is still evolving. Initially used for digital currencies, most research into this technology has been carried out for the finance industry. In recent years, however, research and development on supply chains and trade-related business processes have also gained ground. Start-ups and large companies have already exploited a wide range of blockchain-based applications in these areas, but the opportunities generated by this technology in international trade have yet to be fully exploited.

The Potential of Electricity Demand Response

This report summarises the presentations and discussions made during a workshop on 'The Potential of Electricity Demand Response' organised on 30 May 2017 by Policy Department A for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). The aim of the workshop was to highlight the role and potential of electricity demand response in achieving the EU energy and climate policy targets, to illustrate the current experiences and progress towards deployment of demand response across the EU and to i3D printing for medical recovery and human enhancement, initiatives to optimally deploy the potential. The presentations and proceedings of this workshop should support the ITRE members in their evaluation of the related legislative proposals in the "Clean Energy for All Europeans package".
Defence: What has the EU done?

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 29-06-2018
Author: Alexandre MATHIS
Policy area: Budget | Budgetary Control | Security and Defence
Keyword: establishment of peace | EU Member State | European Investment Bank | common security and defence policy | security of supply | EU office or agency | EU investment | European defence policy | public safety | operation of the Institutions | military cooperation | fund (EU) | High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Summary: Attempts to move towards a common defence have been part of the European Project since its inception. However, more has been achieved in the past two years than in the last 60 years.

Priority Dossiers under the Austrian EU Council Presidency

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 29-06-2018
Author: LUCIENNE ATTARD
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Keyword: digital single market | European social policy | digisation | enlargement of the Union | climate change policy | Austria | EU Council Presidency | EU migration policy | economic policy | EU energy policy | European citizens' initiative
Summary: Austria will hold the EU Council Presidency from July to December 2018. Its presidency comes at the end of the Trio Presidency composed of Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria. The last time Austria held the Council Presidency was in 2006. A EUROPE THAT PROTECTS is the motto Austria has chosen for its Presidency. Austria considers that there have been several crises in recent years that have given rise to mistrust in the EU amongst European citizens. This mistrust needs to be addressed. To this end, the Austrian Presidency has announced three main priorities for its term in office: security, competitiveness and stability. On security, it intends to focus on the fight against illegal migration, by securing Europe's external borders, and on the reform of the Common European Asylum System. On competitiveness, it will work on matters related to the digital single market, specifically digitalisation. On stability, it has announced its intention to work towards EU accession of the Western Balkan countries.

European space policy: Historical perspective, specific aspects and key challenges

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 30-01-2017
Author: Vincent REILLON
Policy area: Research Policy | Industry
Keyword: third country | European Space Agency | private sector | international cooperation | European defence policy | satellite communications | observation | EU Member State | space research | space policy | European GNSS Agency
Summary: Space has been a cooperative endeavour in Europe for over 50 years. The first collaborative structures between the Member States in the 1960s led to the establishment of the European Space Agency (ESA) in 1975. The European Union began to be involved in the field in the 1990s, especially through the design of EU space programmes – Galileo for satellite navigation and Copernicus for earth observation – implemented in cooperation with ESA. European space policy is defined and implemented by the EU, ESA and their member states. This diversity offers some flexibility, but also creates fragmentation, leading to inefficiency in areas such as the implementation of EU programmes or the development of international relations. New developments, including the role of private actors in the field and the growing importance of security and defence aspects also challenge current European space policy governance.

Ten issues to watch in 2017

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 26-01-2017
Author: Etienne BASSOT
Keyword: transfer of population | United States | European security | Economic and Monetary Union | migration | EU budget | Ukraine | EU emission allowance | withdrawal from the EU | common agricultural policy | presidential election
Summary: This is the first edition of a new EPRS publication designed to identify key issues and policy areas that are likely to feature prominently on the agenda of Members of the European Parliament over the coming year. Key issues presented include: the implications for the EU of the new US administration, the withdrawal of the UK from the EU, the migration crisis, rising inequalities, and the EU's external security challenges, with a more specific examination of the situation in Ukraine. Other important policy areas covered are the budget, agriculture, climate and transport and, last but not least, the outlook for economic and monetary union.

Source: © European Union, 2019 - EP
The legal framework to address “fake news”: possible policy actions at the EU level

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-06-2018

External author: Dr Andrea RENDA


Keyword: disinformation | Internet | dissemination of information | social media | operation of the Institutions | political propaganda | mass media | European Commission | information warfare | new technology

Summary: This paper argues that the current policy initiatives adopted by the European Commission are meaningful, but still incomplete. The policy response to online disinformation should ideally rely on: (i) the promotion of responsible behaviour in conveying information to end users; (ii) the enactment of a proactive media policy aimed at promoting pluralism and improving the exposure of diverse content to end users; and (iii) the empowerment of end users through media literacy initiatives, and supports to user behaviour.

Research for REGI Committee - Digital agenda and cohesion policy

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2018

External author: CSIL: Julie PELLEGRIN, Louis COLNOT supported by: Łukasz ARENDT, Luca BISASCHI, Gelsomina CATALANO, Žilvinas MARTINAITIS, Giorgio MICHELETTI

Policy area: Research Policy | Regional Development

Keyword: European Structural and Investment Funds | transmission network | radio telecommunications | Internet | information technology | EU strategy | economic convergence | job creation | big data | cloud computing | artificial intelligence | digital technology | information processing | new technology

Summary: This study provides a critical analysis of the contribution of Cohesion Policy and the European Structural Investment Funds to the Digital Agenda for Europe and the Digital Single Market. Based on the analysis of past and current patterns of ESIF digital investments and selected case studies, this study shows that Cohesion Policy should concentrate where its added value is highest, i.e., on support to the formulation of effective regional digital strategies and on the promotion of partnerships between relevant stakeholders, at regional level and beyond.

Automated vehicles in the EU

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 07-01-2016

Author: Susanne PILLATH

Policy area: Public international law | Transport | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword: automation | data-processing law | traffic regulations | protection of privacy | sustainable mobility | intelligent transport system | satellite navigation | telematics | motor vehicle | road safety | liability | motor vehicle industry | innovation | road traffic | data protection

Summary: Automated vehicle technologies allow the transfer of driving functions from a human driver to a computer. Automation, and in particular digitalisation, of driving will change road transport in a way which is viewed as a revolution in the field of mobility. As human error is the main reason for road traffic accidents, driving which is automatically controlled by a computer is expected to make future road transport safer and more secure. It has also the potential to be more environmentally friendly, efficient and accessible. Worldwide, automobile manufacturers and technology firms are working on driving system innovation. Agreement by all stakeholders on the desired deployment of the new technologies will provide developers with the certainty they need for investments. For an effective communication between the technological and political spheres, categorisation and terminology are being developed which define different levels of vehicle automation. Motor vehicles are highly complex systems which need advanced technical and legal standards in terms of road safety requirements. The technical requirements as well as international traffic rules are agreed at United Nations level and are currently in the process of being assessed with a view to the increasing automation of vehicles. The European Union and its Member States participate in international working groups which are revising the regulations as prerequisites for the deployment of automated vehicles. Furthermore the European Union is funding research on automated road transport as a priority in the Horizon 2020 Transport Research programme. Some key elements of the discussions on political and technical aspects are the questions of how data protection and cyber security can be secured and liability issues can be solved.

Source: © European Union, 2019 - EP
The fight against terrorism
Publication type Study
Date 25-05-2018
Author Piotr BAKOWSKI | Wouter VAN BALLEGOOU
Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Democracy | Human Rights
Keyword border control | European security | fight against crime | EU police cooperation | EU action | EU Member State | exchange of information | civilian victim | external border of the EU | money laundering | EU office or agency | terrorism | Schengen Agreement
Summary Significant benefits could be achieved by the EU and its Member States by addressing the gaps and barriers in the area of the fight against terrorism, notably by developing an evidence-based EU criminal policy cycle involving the European Parliament and national parliaments. In this context, EU institutions should conduct comprehensive ex-ante assessments and ex-post evaluations of counterterrorism measures, in line with better law-making principles. The effectiveness and fundamental rights compliance of counter-radicalisation programmes should continue to be monitored. The framework for countering terrorism requires further refinement. A European law enforcement culture with full respect for fundamental rights needs to be fostered in which relevant information is shared and analysed, judicial cooperation tools are properly utilised and seeking the support of EU agencies becomes a natural reflex. This also requires the allocation of significant resources aimed at training and exchanges. Beyond resulting in more relevant, coherent, effective and efficient mechanisms in the fight against terrorism, such measures could increase the wellbeing of the population, reduce the material and immaterial impacts of terrorism, and ensure protection of fundamental rights when impacted by counterterrorism measures.
Study EN

Delegation note - Economic, social and territorial situation and policies in the United States of America (focus: Boston, Massachusetts)
Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 15-05-2018
Author Diana HAASE
Policy area Research Policy | Forward Planning | Regional Development
Keyword higher education | demography | United States | regional policy | economic analysis
Summary This briefing was prepared to provide information for the visit to Boston (Massachusetts) and Washington, DC from 7 to 11 May 2018 of a delegation from the European Parliament’s Committee on Regional Development (REGI).
In-Depth Analysis EN, FR, IT

EYE 2016 – Cyber-attacks: Visible danger, invisible enemy
Publication type At a Glance
Date 28-04-2016
Author Patryk PAWLAK
Policy area Security and Defence
Keyword threat to national security | computer crime | Internet | European security | fight against crime | impact of information technology | international cooperation | European Network and Information Security Agency | terrorism | computer piracy | intellectual property | common security and defence policy
Summary The advance of information and communication technologies (ICT) has created numerous opportunities for human development, and reshaped the ways in which our societies communicate, work or learn. However, our reliance on internet-based platforms can also be a source of vulnerability, exploited by criminal networks for financial or political aims. XXXXXXXX Please click here for the full publication in PDF format
At a Glance EN

Outcome of European Council meeting of 22-23 June 2017
Publication type Briefing
Date 29-06-2017
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL
Policy area Environment | Employment | Security and Defence
Keyword European security | European Banking Authority | European Medicines Agency | United Kingdom | exchange of information | external border of the EU | common security and defence policy | European Council | climate change policy | European defence policy | EU migration policy | terrorism | digital technology
Summary The main results of the European Council meeting of 22-23 June 2017 include the ‘historic step’ of agreeing to set up ‘permanent structured cooperation’ in European defence, the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement on climate change in all its aspects, and the extension of sanctions against Russia. The EU Heads of State or Government also reviewed progress in deepening the single market, endorsed the country-specific recommendations on economic policy, pledged to increase cooperation on counter-terrorism, and called for reinforced cooperation with countries of origin and transit to tackle migration issues. EU-27 leaders endorsed the procedural arrangements for the relocation of the EU agencies currently sited in the UK.
Briefing EN
Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027: Commission Proposal - Initial comparison with the current MFF

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 04-05-2018
Author: Alina DOBREVA
Policy area: Budget
Keyword: co-financing | European Maritime and Fisheries Fund | European Structural and Investment Funds | Economic and Monetary Union | EAFRD | European Social Fund | Cohesion Fund | sustainable development | small and medium-sized enterprises | common security and defence policy | EU environmental policy | climate change policy | EU migration policy | trans-European network

Summary: On 2 May, the Commission presented its proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework for the 2021-2027 period (2021-2027 MFF), outlining the structure of the EU budget and the policy priorities of the EU for a period of seven years, together with proposals on own resources financing the EU budget and a proposal to link the EU budget and the rule of law. A series of further legislative proposals presenting the individual spending programmes is expected later in May and June. The Commission proposes that the 2021-2027 MFF (commitment appropriations) amounts to €1 135 billion in 2018 prices or 1.11 % of EU GNI. The previous MFF, converted into 2018 prices and including the European Development Fund (EDF) for comparative purposes, amounted to €1 138 billion or 1.03 % of EU GNI. Note, however, that this comparison does not take account of the various changes in programmes proposed or the impact of Brexit. The number of headings grows from the 2014-2020 MFF to 2021-2027 MFF, from five to seven, and some programmes change place from one heading to another. Regarding the structure of the 2021-2027 MFF, the Commission proposals have the ambition to align the budget closer to the political priorities, to simplify the structure of the EU budget (i.e. a reduced number of programmes), and to increase the flexibility within and between programmes.
New civil aviation safety rules
Publication type Briefing
Date 28-03-2018
Author Maria Niestadt
Policy area Transport | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council
Keyword air traffic control | air traffic | environmental protection | crew | European Aviation Safety Agency | airport | civil aviation | drone | air safety | aircraft | transport accident | proposal (EU)
Summary Flying remains one of the safest forms of transport, and the EU's accident rate is lower than in the rest of the world. However, it cannot automatically be assumed that such performance will continue, as global air traffic is forecast to double over the next 20 years. New technologies, such as unmanned aircraft (drones), are also appearing in European skies, which require adaption of the current regulatory framework. In December 2015, the European Commission proposed to update aviation safety rules. Two years later, the European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on the new rules. The reform includes the first-ever EU rules for civil drones, extends the EASA's mandate and provides for using existing resources more efficiently. The provisional agreement now needs to be confirmed by Parliament in plenary. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure. To view earlier editions of this briefing, please see: PE 595.877, 12 January 2017.

Interim evaluation of Horizon 2020
Publication type Briefing
Date 21-03-2018
Author Vincent REILLON
Policy area Budget | Research Policy
Keyword control of State aid | public-private partnership | dissemination of information | State aid | evaluation method | cooperation policy | Framework Programme for Research and Development | administrative transparency
Summary As required by the regulation, the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 – the European Union (EU) framework programme (FP) for research and innovation – began in October 2016 with a public consultation to gather feedback from stakeholders three years in. The Commission performed its own mid-term evaluation and asked experts to evaluate the programme’s specific instruments. In parallel, the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the advisory committees conducted their own, separate evaluations of the programme. The Commission adopted its conclusions on the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 in January 2018, confirming that the programme was relevant and presented clear EU added value. Implementation was considered to be efficient and the first results suggested that the programme was also effective in reaching its objectives. The integration of research and innovation and the Horizon 2020 pillar structure provided for greater internal coherence compared with previous framework programmes. All the evaluations highlighted four key issues to be addressed by the next FP. First, the programme budget needs to match better the funding required to bring the success rate back to acceptable levels. Second, the unbalanced distribution of FP funding across the EU raises concerns regarding the impact of the use of the excellence criterion and calls for changes to enable the various EU funds to generate more synergistic effects so as to maintain EU competitiveness and promote EU cohesion in research and innovation. Third, the evaluations highlight the will to improve the shared, multi-level governance between the EU, Member States and regions and to promote the co-design and co-construction of the FP with the public and civil society. Finally, there is widespread agreement that the EU research and innovation funding landscape has become too complex and should be streamlined, questioning the EU added value of each of the instruments and partnerships.

Optimal Scope for Free Flow of Non-Personal Data in Europe
Publication type Briefing
Date 15-03-2018
External author Dr. Simon Forge
Keyword computer crime | data-processing law | digital single market | access to information | EU Member State | protection of communications | open data | EU law | Internet | confidentiality | cross-frontier data flow | digital technology | information storage and retrieval | data protection | information storage
Summary Data is not static in a personal/non-personal classification – with modern analytic methods, certain non-personal data can help to generate personal data – so the distinction may become blurred. Thus, de-anonymisation techniques with advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and manipulation of large datasets will become a major issue. In some new applications, such as smart cities and connected cars, the enormous volumes of data gathered may be used for personal information as well as for non-personal functions, so such data may cross over from the technical and non-personal into the personal domain. A debate is taking place on whether current EU restrictions on confidentiality of personal private information should be relaxed so as to include personal information in free and open data flows. However, it is unlikely that a loosening of such rules will be positive for the growth of open data. Public distrust of open data flows may be exacerbated because of fears of potential commercial misuse of such data, as well of leakages, cyberattacks, and so on. The proposed recommendations are: to promote the use of open data licences to build trust and openness, promote sharing of private enterprises’ data within vertical sectors and across sectors to increase the volume of open data that is available for scientific studies, and support testing for contamination of open data mixed with personal data to ensure open data is scrubbed clean - and so reinforce public confidence, ensure anti-competitive behaviour does not compromise the open data initiative.
The employment and social situation in Canada

Publication type Study
Date 15-03-2018
External author Lynn Gambin, Terence Hogarth, Liga Baltina
Policy area Environment | Social Policy | Employment | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword labour market | statistics | economic growth | social indicator | economic policy | immigration | gross domestic product | Canada | social integration | economic analysis
Summary Commissioned by Policy Department A at the request of the EMPL Committee, this paper provides an overview of Canada's economy, labour market and social policies, as well as the functioning of related institutions, and takes a closer look at the impact of digitalisation on Canada's world of work.
Study EN

Research for REGI Committee - Building Blocks for a Future Cohesion Policy – First Reflections

Publication type Study
Date 14-04-2017
External author European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow: John BACTHLER, Laura POLVERARI
Policy area Regional Development
Keyword financing of the EU budget | EU financing arrangements | economic and social cohesion | administrative formalities | programme budgeting | EU growth strategy | EU budget | withdrawal from the EU | multiannual financial framework
Summary The reform of the EU budget and policy priorities in the post-2020 MFF comes at a difficult time for the EU with major internal and external challenges. The challenges for economic, social and territorial cohesion remain profound. However, there are also competing pressures on the EU budget, such as keeping net payers' contributions within acceptable limits and striking the right balance between overarching EU goals and new challenges. Once again, Cohesion Policy is under pressure to justify its value in relation to EU political objectives. This study discusses the main themes relating to post-2020 Cohesion Policy, the rationale and overall framework of the policy, current and future challenges, and the post-2020 delivery system.
Study EN

Special Reports of the European Court of Auditors - A Rolling Check-List of recent findings

Publication type Study
Date 13-03-2018
Author Gabriella ZANA-SZABO | RONNIE JOHANNES KORVER
Keyword financial transparency | EU policy | report | European Court of Auditors
Summary This rolling check-list presents an overview of the Special Reports of the European Court of Auditors (ECA), concentrating on those relevant for the 2016 discharge procedure. It strives to link the research topics of the Special Reports to relevant debates and positions within the European Parliament, including the working documents of the Committee on Budgetary Control, the work of the specialised parliamentary committees, forthcoming plenary resolutions and individual questions by Members. This check-list has been prepared by the Ex-Post Evaluation Unit of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the EP's in-house research service and think-tank, as part of its on-going support for parliamentary committees and individual Members in scrutinising the executive in its implementation of EU law, policies and programmes. The European Parliament is strongly committed to Better Law-Making, and particularly to the effective use of ex-ante impact assessment and ex-post evaluation throughout the entire legislative cycle. It is in this spirit that the Parliament has a particular interest in following the transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU law, and, more generally, monitoring the impact, operation, effectiveness and delivery of policy and programmes in practice.
Study EN

The Employment and Social situation in the US Labour Market

Publication type Study
Date 10-04-2017
Author Marion SCHMID-DRÜNER
External author Chris FORDE
Policy area poverty | labour market | United States | family benefit | economic growth | health care system | economic and social cohesion | vocational training | social statistics | social indicator | unemployment | self-employment
Keyword labour market | statistics | economic growth | social indicator | economic policy | immigration | gross domestic product | Canada | social integration | economic analysis
Summary This study provides an overview of the social and employment situation in the US. The paper has been put together to inform the Delegation of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee in view of their visit to Washington, USA in April 2017. The paper looks at the labour market situation in the USA over the last decade, social protection in the USA, and recent developments in the labor market and social protection.
Study EN
A global strategy on foreign and security policy for the EU

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 02-03-2017
Author: Patryk PAWLAK

Policy area: Global Governance | Security and Defence
Keyword: computer crime | third country | EU military mission | satellite communications | EU Member State | EU civilian mission | drone | foreign policy | EU Military Committee | common security and defence policy | Internet | European defence policy | military cooperation | armed forces | EU statistics

Summary: Tracking European Commission priority initiatives in 2017 – Number 1 The letter from Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, of 31 January 2017, notes that 'the challenges currently facing the European Union are more dangerous than ever before in the time since the signature of the Treaty of Rome'. Indeed, the current evolving international environment and geopolitical shifts highlight the need for effective and coherent implementation of the EU global strategy. The top strategic priorities for the implementation of the strategy, as decided by the Foreign Affairs Council on 17 October 2016 include: security and defence; building resilience and an integrated approach to conflicts and crises; addressing the internal/external security nexus; updating existing strategies and preparing new ones; and enhancing public diplomacy. Strengthening EU cooperation on external security and defence was also discussed at the European Council meeting in December 2016. Heads of State or Government focused on three priorities: implementation of the EU global strategy in the security and defence area, the European defence action plan, and the implementation of the EU-NATO Joint Declaration signed in Warsaw in July 2016. The first implementation report is expected in June 2017. This is an updated edition of a briefing published in April 2016.

Transatlantic relations: USA and Canada

Publication type: EU Fact Sheets
Date: 01-02-2018
Author: Mario DAMEN | TUULA KAARINA TURUNEN

Policy area: Foreign Affairs
Keyword: international security | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | information technology | interparliamentary relations | NAFTA | economic cooperation | Canada | trade relations | international competition

Summary: The EU, the US and Canada share the values of democracy, human rights, and economic and political freedom, and overlapping foreign policy and security concerns. The EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and Strategic Partnership Agreement were signed on 30 October 2016, receiving the European Parliament’s consent on 15 February 2017. Negotiations on an EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, launched on 8 July 2013, have been halted since President Trump was elected.

Outcome of the meetings of EU leaders of 14-15 December 2017

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 12-01-2018
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN

Keyword: threat to national security | European Council | European security | United Kingdom | EU migration policy | migrant | Eurogroup (euro area) | withdrawal from the EU | summit meeting

Summary: On 14-15 December 2017, EU Heads of State or Government convened in four different settings with varying compositions and levels of formality: a regular summit of the European Council, a Leaders' Meeting on migration, a European Council (Article 50) meeting, and an enlarged Euro Summit. While the European Council meeting adopted conclusions focused on security and defence, social policy, education and culture, the informal debate on migration concentrated on the reform of the Dublin Regulation, in particular on the relocation mechanisms for asylum-seekers. The European Council also discussed tax evasion, welcomed the outcome of the One Planet Summit in Paris, agreed to roll over the sanctions on Russia in response to the annexation of Crimea, and reiterated the EU’s firm commitment to the two-state solution for the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. The main results of the European Council (Article 50) meeting were the decision that ‘sufficient progress’ has been achieved to proceed to the second phase of Brexit negotiations, and the adoption of guidelines in this respect. While there were no formal conclusions at the Euro Summit meeting, participants agreed to focus on areas where the convergence of views is the greatest, most notably the completion of the Banking Union and the transformation of the ESM into a European Monetary Fund.

Policy area: Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Summary: As work on a new European Security Strategy begins, this briefing examines the impact of changes in the security environment of Europe. It argues in favour of an ambitious new security strategy which, twelve years after the adoption of the 2003 European Security Strategy, is most needed in a degraded security environment. It looks back at the process and content of that document and identifies its successes environment since 2003. Mapping those changes, the report points at new threats and challenges and the changing nature of conflict. It also focuses on the and North Africa, which have challenged the assessment that Europe is not facing threats on its borders. The briefing presents an assessment of the changes in the institutional and political architecture of the EU in the post-Lisbon context, which is significantly different from the 2003 institutional environment. It emphasises the multiple tools the EU is using to develop its security policy. Finally, the briefing provides some recommendations for the process and the substance of the starting strategic review and future strategy.

Study EN

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (Sixth edition)


Summary: The European Council’s role - to ‘provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development’ and to define its ‘general political directions and priorities’ - has developed rapidly over the past five years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliament’s Research Service (EPRS), the EP’s in-house research service and think tank, has been monitoring and analysing the delivery of the European Council on the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council set itself and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this area over the months and years ahead.

Study EN

Facing Russia’s Strategic Challenge: Security Developments from the Baltic to the Black Sea

Policy area: Security and Defence

Summary: The EU and NATO are facing an increasingly uncertain and complex situation on their eastern and south-eastern flanks. Moscow is exhibiting a growingly assertive military posture. The context of the Baltic and the Black Sea regions differs, but Russia’s actions in both seem to be part of the same strategy aiming to transform the European security order and its sustaining principles. The Kremlin seems to follow similar policies and tactics, mainly through the militarisation of the Kaliningrad Oblast and Crimea as the centrepiece of its strategy of power projection vis-à-vis Europe. The EU and NATO are testing the Euro-Atlantic response and resilience at large. To assess how far it might be willing to go, it is necessary to evaluate how Russia perceives the West and its actions, taking into account the deep and entrenched clash of perceptions between Brussels and Moscow, and the worldview of the latter.

Study EN
Understanding non-tariff barriers in the single market

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 09-10-2017  
**Author** Marcin SZCZEPANSKI

**Policy area** Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues  
**Keyword** single market | standardisation | VAT | public contract | tendering | digital single market | collaborative economy | mutual recognition principle | non-tariff barrier

**Summary** Despite the achievements of single market integration, many non-tariff barriers (NTBs) persist, preventing realisation of its full economic potential. These arise from laws, technical regulations and practices, and create obstacles for trade. NTBs can be of a general character, such as problems with the implementation and enforcement of EU law at the national level, missing or differing e-government solutions, or complex VAT requirements in intra-EU trade. NTBs can also be sector-specific and concern only specific markets for goods, services or retail. Accordingly, the EU is tackling NTBs with a mix of general and sectoral initiatives, often cutting across various policy areas. The Juncker Commission, now at the mid-term of its mandate, made deepening the single market one of its main priorities. The Commission's single market and digital single market strategies address many NTBs. However, greater Member State involvement, stronger monitoring, and increased political emphasis on the single market are likely to be needed to remove the barriers and deepen single market integration. NTBs are also increasingly mentioned in the context of debates on the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union. The impacts of Brexit on the single market and NTBs are as yet unclear, but early analysis points to the likelihood of legal uncertainty and the need to address a multitude of often challenging issues.

**Briefing** EN

---

Developing supercomputers in Europe

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 24-10-2017  
**Author** Maria Del Mar NEGREIRO ACHIAGA

**Policy area** Industry  
**Keyword** digital single market | third country | computer systems | digitisation | Framework Programme for Research and Development | EU research policy | cryptography | distribution of EU funding | European Commission

**Summary** A number of companies, universities and start-ups are racing to develop the fastest supercomputer in global rankings. So far China, Switzerland and the USA occupy the top four places in this regard, while the EU does not feature in the top 10. To address the situation, the European Commission has launched, as part of its European cloud strategy, a target plan to acquire and develop European high-performance computers that would rank among the world’s top three by 2022. This would allow European science and technology actors to regain competitive advantage. Supercomputers are increasingly needed to exploit big data and facilitate scientific discoveries that need large computational efforts, such as materials science, artificial intelligence technologies, climate modeling and cryptography. In June, a European strategy on supercomputing was adopted by the Commission. The strategy aims to launch an initiative on the scale of Airbus and, more recently, Galileo, to develop a European data-infrastructure ecosystem in high-performance computing. This has been set as a target in the European digital single market mid-term review, and it has also been established as a goal in the EuroHPC Declaration, which was signed during the first half of 2017 by nine Member States and more are expected.

In addition, the Commission has an ambitious €1 billion flagship initiative on quantum technology in place, which will also contribute to the development of quantum supercomputers in the longer term. Expected to surpass traditional supercomputers, the new ones could dramatically improve the technology used in communication, computing and sensing, as well as in other areas.

**Briefing** EN

---

Precision agriculture in Europe: Legal, social and ethical considerations

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 13-11-2017  
**Author** Michal KRITIKOS


**Keyword** climate change | farm modernisation | automation | sustainable agriculture | food safety | regulation of agricultural production | agricultural production | biotechnology | bio-ethics | environmental impact

**Summary** The aim of this study is to illustrate the different ways in which the current EU legislative framework may be affected by the digitalisation and automation of farming activities and the respective technological trends. The study analyses the issues that might have to be dealt with, identifying the European Parliament committees concerned and the legislative acts that might need to be revisited, especially in view of the forthcoming Commission communication on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It also provides a series of overarching recommendations that EU actors may wish to take into account when dealing with precision agriculture. To do so, an analysis of the multiple ethical and legal challenges associated with precision farming technologies has been performed, along with a scanning of current legislation in a wide range of areas of EU policy-making, including agricultural policy and related fields, such as environment, health, food safety and climate change.

**Study** EN

---

Source: © European Union, 2019 - EP
Harnessing globalisation for local and regional authorities: Challenges and possible solutions

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (Fifth edition)

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 29-09-2017
Author: Vasileios MARGARAS
Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: Globalisation, economic growth, competitiveness, sustainable development, regional and local authorities, economic cooperation, international trade, globalisation
Summary: Globalisation has various positive and negative aspects. On the positive side, economic opportunities can emerge. Exports may flourish, companies may find new global customers, knowledge may be easily circulated, and trade may pick up, thus stimulating economic growth. Interaction through new technological instruments helps to interconnect people in different parts of the world. However, globalisation may also have disadvantages. For instance, various EU industries (e.g., coal, steel, iron, shipbuilding, automotive and textiles) have been affected by global competition, and have had to downsize their activities. Cheap imports of non-EU manufacturing goods have led to the decline of various EU industrial sectors, but also to relocations, closures and redundancies. In addition, globalisation has an environmental, demographic, technological and cultural dimension. The impact of globalisation therefore affects the activities and development of regional and local entities within the EU. In order to address these challenges, the European Commission has presented a reflection paper on harnessing globalisation. This briefing addresses some of the most important challenges that globalisation brings to EU regions, and sets out ideas that may be useful in tackling these challenges. Harnessing globalisation requires a holistic approach. European, national and local synergies will have to be established to address the multi-layered challenges stemming from globalisation. Serious thinking will have to be done on how to empower local and regional authorities in order to address these challenges successfully.

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (Fifth edition)

Publication type: Study
Date: 13-10-2015
Author: Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Josephine MOERMAN | Ralf DRACHENBERG | Susanna TENHUNEN | Stanislas DE FINANCE | Suzana Elena ANGHEL
Keyword: common commercial policy, single market, EU regional policy, area of freedom, security and justice, fiscal policy, powers of the institutions (EU), common foreign and security policy, development policy, European Council, European social policy, climate change policy, energy policy, competitiveness, coordination of EMU policies, EU research policy, EU employment policy
Summary: The European Council's role in providing the Union with the necessary impetus for its development and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' - has developed rapidly over the past five years. Since June 2014, the European Council's primary institution within the European Institutions, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission have had to downsize their activities. Cheap imports of non-EU manufacturing goods have led to the decline of various EU industrial sectors, but also to relocations, closures and redundancies. In addition, globalisation has an environmental, demographic, technological and cultural dimension. The impact of globalisation therefore affects the activities and development of regional and local entities within the EU. In order to address all these issues, the European Commission has presented a reflection paper on harnessing globalisation. This briefing addresses some of the most important challenges that globalisation brings to EU regions, and sets out ideas that may be useful in tackling these challenges. Harnessing globalisation requires a holistic approach. European, national and local synergies will have to be established to address the multi-layered challenges stemming from globalisation. Serious thinking will have to be done on how to empower local and regional authorities in order to address these challenges successfully.

Reflection paper on harnessing globalisation

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 08-09-2017
Author: CHRISTIAN SCHEINERT
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword: World Trade Organisation, European Structural and Investment Funds, Economic and Monetary Union, European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, International agreement, sustainable development, European Investment Bank, economic integration, deepening of the European Union, protectionism, EU institution, globalisation
Summary: Globalisation is nothing new; it is centuries old and has always contributed significantly to boosting growth and creating employment. It goes beyond the mere circulation of commercial goods, and more recently services, as it is a way to exchange ideas, spur discovery and innovation, and increase competitiveness. However, for some, globalisation is synonymous with unfair trade practices, job losses and the offshoring of firms, and there has recently been a backlash, culminating in the failure of multilateral trade agreements. Calls for protectionism are all the while growing louder. As part of its wider exercise to modernise the EU, which is now centred on the white paper on the future of Europe, the Commission published a reflection paper on harnessing globalisation in May 2017. The paper identifies both an acceleration and a transformation of globalisation, making it unescapable, and the Commission therefore strongly supports keeping markets open. Nevertheless, it also advocates shaping globalisation in order to spread core European values, such as human rights. The EU's external response should be based on international cooperation, economic diplomacy and ensuring a level playing field. The policy areas covered would range from trade to environment, and from sustainable development to investment. In parallel, the EU's internal response would aim to increase resilience through improved sharing of the benefits of globalisation, and promoting European industry's long-term competitiveness. Reinforcement of the internal market and using the European Semester for improved coordination of economic policies is also advocated in connection with harnessing globalisation, as is targeted support for regions. This briefing is one of a series on the European Commission's reflection papers following up the March 2017 White Paper on the Future of Europe.
Research for TRAN Committee - Decarbonisation of EU transport

Publication type: Study  
Date: 05-09-2017  
External author: CE Delft: Anco Hoen, Anouk van Grinsven, Bettina Kampman, Jasper Faber, Huib van Essen; TERP: Ian Skinner

Policy area: Forward Planning | Transport | Tourism

Keyword: climate change | environmental statistics | atmospheric pollution | greenhouse gas | reduction of gas emissions | transport policy | energy consumption | EU programme | environmental cooperation

Summary: This study shows that very significant GHG reductions are still necessary in the transport sector to meet EU medium and long-term climate targets. The urgency of swift policy action has increased with the Paris Agreement.

Study: EN, FR

Trans-Pacific Partnership: Geopolitical Implications for EU-US Relations

Publication type: Study  
Date: 24-06-2016  
External author: Daniel TWINING? Hans KUNDNANI and Peter SPARDING

Policy area: Global Governance | Foreign Affairs

Keyword: common commercial policy | United States | free-trade agreement | Japan | Canada | Chile | China | New Zealand | economic consequence | Mexico | Australia | Malaysia | Singapore | trade agreement (EU) | Peru | international trade | geopolitics | Vietnam

Summary: The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the prospective Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), if enacted, will reshape trade and investment flows between the United States, Asia, and Europe. Together, these agreements encompass more than 60 % of the global economy, including the leading industrial economies of North America, the European Union and Japan. TPP is the economic anchor of the US ‘pivot’ to Asia. TPP is as much a geopolitical project to reinforce US leadership in Asia as it is a deal driven by an economic logic of spurring new sources of trade and investment. The EU has concluded or is negotiating a series of bilateral trade and investment agreements, including with Singapore, Vietnam, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, and New Zealand. But Europe as a whole needs to take a more strategic and coherent approach to Asia, beyond commerce and investment ties, and particularly to unify its approach to China. This is a compelling requirement given both China’s enormous economic power and the risks its ascendency poses to the liberal international order. Beyond the politics around both trade deals, however, lies a conviction among trade liberalisers in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres that the agreements could provide a positive shock to a global economy badly in need of new engines of growth.

Study: EN

Resilience in the EU's foreign and security policy

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 15-06-2016  
Author: Patryk PAWLAK

Policy area: Development and Humanitarian Aid | Security and Defence

Keyword: poverty | European security | the EU's international role | self-sufficiency in food | environmental risk prevention | EU financing | common foreign and security policy | conflict prevention | humanitarian aid | aid to refugees | EU migration policy | Mediterranean third countries | development aid | adaptation to climate change | geopolitics

Summary: The migratory pressure with which the European Union is struggling is yet more evidence that distance or the natural borders inherent in seas, mountains and deserts are of little significance when people are confronted with challenges like conflict, fragility or failure of governance. The scale of conflicts, natural hazards, water shortages and state collapse suggests that things will only get worse – unless a new policy paradigm is effectively implemented. Resilience – understood as the capacity of different layers of society to withstand, to adapt to, and to recover quickly from stresses and shocks – has gradually emerged as an answer to the growing complexity of the international security environment. In the EU context, the concept of resilience combines different policy areas: humanitarian aid, development assistance, disaster-risk reduction, climate-change adaptation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. As a relatively new addition to EU jargon, the aim of building societal resilience still needs to be translated into tangible, practicable measures. This briefing complements an earlier briefing, Risk and resilience in foreign policy, published in September 2015.

Briefing: EN
European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (Fourth edition)

Publication type: Study
Date: 17-06-2015
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN | Stanislas DE FINANCE | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Josephine MOERMAN
Keyword: common commercial policy | single market | EU regional policy | area of freedom, security and justice | fiscal policy | powers of the institutions (EU) | common foreign and security policy | development policy | European Council | European social policy | climate change policy | energy policy | competitiveness | coordination of EMU policies | EU research policy | EU employment policy
Summary: In this fourth edition of the overview of European Council Conclusions, presented in the form of a Rolling Check-List of Commitments, the European Council Oversight Unit has been monitoring and analysing the delivery of the European Council on the commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings, as well as its various responsibilities either in law or on the basis of intergovernmental agreements. The Check-List covers eight broad policy areas: Financial and Economic Affairs; Employment and Social Policies; Competitiveness; Climate and Energy Policy; Freedom, Security and Justice; External Policies; Development; and Regional Policy. This compendium is designed to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in the months and years ahead.

Study EN

Commissioner-designate – Mariya Gabriel

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 28-06-2017
Author: Tambiama André MADIEGA
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Keyword: rules of procedure | powers of the EP | European Commissioner | public hearing | appointment of members
Summary: Mariya Gabriel has been designated Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society. The Committees on Industry, Research and Energy and on Culture and Education jointly held a hearing with her on 20 June 2017. Parliament is due to vote on her appointment on 4 July.

At a Glance EN

A Global Strategy on foreign and security policy for the EU

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 08-04-2016
Author: Patryk PAWLAK
Policy area: Security and Defence
Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | European security | the EU's international role | common foreign and security policy | interinstitutional relations (EU)
Summary: Tracking European Commission priority initiatives in 2016 – Number 1 Recognising dramatic changes in the EU’s security environment, at the June 2015 European Council, Member States’ leaders approved a mandate for the EU High Representative to continue the process of strategic reflection with a view to preparing a global strategy on foreign and security policy, in close cooperation with Member States, to be submitted to the European Council by June 2016. The strategic reflection about the EU’s future Global Strategy is ongoing. The picture emerging from the discussions within the European foreign and security policy community, as well as the limited information provided by the High Representative, Federica Mogherini, suggests that the strategy will strive to promote and protect the interests of the EU and its citizens, in particular with regard to their security, prosperity and resilience. It will be structured around a set of assumptions and issues grouped in five priority areas: strengthening global governance, supporting regional architectures, strengthening state and social resilience, rethinking the EU’s approach to conflict and crises, and responding to the ‘integration choice’ of its near neighbours. In April 2016, the European Parliament is expected to vote in plenary on an own-initiative report ‘The EU in a changing global environment’, adopted by the Foreign Affairs Committee, intended as the EP’s input to the definition of the Global Strategy.

Briefing EN
The Future of EU Defence Research

Publication type: Study
Date: 30-03-2016
External author: Frédéric MAURO and Klaus THOMA

Policy area: Security and Defence
Keyword: European security | research programme | European Space Agency | military research | European arms policy | arms industry | industrial restructuring | European Defence Agency | EU financing | EU-NATO cooperation | competitiveness | institutional reform | defence budget | research budget

Summary: There is an increasing demand for the EU to become a ‘Security Provider’. This demand comes from Europe’s best ally, namely the U.S., but also from Member States themselves. For the first time ever the defence solidarity clause of article 42.7 of the Treaty on European Union was invoked in November 2015. Ultimately the demand to put ‘more defence in the Union’ comes from European citizens who wonder why Europe does not protect them in the current turmoil. From the answer to this question depends not only Europe’s ‘strategic autonomy’, but possibly the future of the whole European project.

Several steps have already been initiated to answer the call for more defence in Europe. Since the beginning of his mandate, President Juncker has declared defence a ‘priority’, called for the implementation of the Permanent Structured Cooperation enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty and reiterated the long term vision of a ‘European army’. In June 2016, a ‘global strategy’ will be issued and a Commission Defence Action Plan should follow by the end of 2016. A ‘Pilot Project’, adopted by the European Parliament in autumn 2014, has been launched and should open the path to a ‘Preparatory Action on Defence Research’ that may be voted in 2016 for the 2017-2020 budgets.

A natural underpinning of those efforts should be the undertaking of a full-fledged Union programme in defence research. The size, the shape and the steps to be taken towards setting it up are the subject of the present report.

Study EN

EU abolishes mobile roaming charges

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 14-06-2017

Policy area: Consumer Protection
Keyword: single market | digital single market | transmission network | consumer protection | regulation of telecommunications | roaming | mobile communication | Internet | telephone charges | consumer price | universal service | mobile phone | data transmission | cross-border data flow

Summary: Almost all EU residents own a mobile phone for their personal or professional use. When they travel to another EU country and use it to call, text or go online, they used to have to pay additional costs (roaming charges). This situation, which made travel within the EU more complicated and expensive for consumers and businesses, has come to an end: the latest EU Roaming Regulation abolished the extra costs on 15 June 2017. Since then, ‘roam like at home’ (RLAH) has become a reality for all Europeans. The new roaming-free zone covers not only the EU, but the whole of the European Economic Area (EEA), which includes the EU and three European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Briefing EN

The Role of ENISA in Contributing to a Coherent and Enhanced Structure of Network and Information Security in the EU and Internationally

Publication type: Study
Date: 11-07-2011

External author: J. Scott Marcus, Marieke Klaver, Gabriela Bodea, Annette Hillebrand and Peter Stamm

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Industry
Keyword: computer crime | European Network and Information Security Agency | protection of communications | data transmission | data protection

Summary: This study provides analysis to support an ongoing discussion over the future course of ENISA. It assesses many aspects of the effectiveness of ENISA, and considers possible ways to improve its efficiency and effectiveness going forward. The level and balance of staffing, and the efficiency of mission-related travel arrangements, prove to be important factors.

Study EN
Executive summary DE, FR
The 2017 G7 Summit in Taormina

India and challenges ahead in the Indo-Pacific region: Opportunities for cooperation with the EU

The 2017 G7 Summit in Taormina

Research for TRAN Committee – Self-Piloted Cars: The Future of Road Transport?
**Contractual public-private partnerships in research**

**Publication type**  At a Glance  
**Date**  17-05-2017  
**Author**  Vincent REILLON  
**Policy area**  Research Policy | Internal Market and Customs Union | Financial and Banking Issues  
**Keyword**  public-private partnership | organisation of research | Framework Programme for Research and Development | EU research policy | research and development  

**Summary**
The first three contractual public-private partnerships in research were established as a tool to address the 2008 financial crisis. Their main feature is prior consultation of industry in defining the topics of the calls in the framework programme for research. This allows better alignment of the topics with industry needs, especially regarding demonstration projects, increasing the participation of private actors in the programme. The scheme, easier to establish than institutional public-private partnerships such as the joint technology initiatives, was extended under Horizon 2020 with a budget of €7.15 billion ring-fenced for 10 of these partnerships (almost 10 % of the programme’s budget).

---

**Public-private partnerships in research**

**Publication type**  Briefing  
**Date**  17-05-2017  
**Author**  Vincent REILLON  
**Policy area**  Research Policy | Internal Market and Customs Union  
**Keyword**  public-private partnership | joint action | research | technology | EU research policy  

**Summary**
The EU public-private partnerships (PPPs) in research were set up in the context of the development of European Research Area policy in 2003 with two main objectives. First, they were to address the fragmentation of research efforts between the private and public sector and across borders. Second, they were to increase public and private investment in research activities to reach the target of 3 % of EU gross domestic product. The first PPPs – the European Technology Platforms and the Joint Technology Initiatives – were developed to achieve these objectives. The initial focus of the PPPs on research activities was broadened in 2005 with the introduction of a more comprehensive view of innovation. The European Institute of Innovation and Technology and its Knowledge and Innovation Communities were set up to embody this new vision by promoting the integration of research, innovation and education activities. The 2008 financial crisis demanded swift action to support investments in research and led to the establishment of the rapidly implemented contractual PPPs. By 2010, the focus on technology challenges had been replaced by the need to tackle societal challenges. The European Innovation Partnerships provided a new tool to better address these challenges by integrating all the actors of the innovation process. Around 70 EU PPPs in research help define common priorities and visions for EU, national and regional research and innovation activities. However, the multiplication of PPPs created a new form of fragmentation with different types of PPPs focusing on similar fields. The 3 % target has not been reached (currently at 2.03 %). The share of private investment in research has stagnated at around 55 % since 2004, whereas the share of the budget of the EU framework programme for research (FP) dedicated to the PPPs has more than doubled (9.1 % for FP7 versus 21.5 % for Horizon 2020). All these aspects will have to be considered when setting the budget for the PPPs in FP9.

---

**Potential impact of financial innovation on monetary policy**

**Publication type**  In-Depth Analysis  
**Date**  15-05-2017  
**External author**  Marek DABROWSKI (CASE, Center for Social and Economic Research)  
**Policy area**  European Semester | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues  
**Keyword**  information technology | electronic money | innovation | diffusion of innovations | financial instrument | monetary policy  

**Summary**
The recent wave of financial innovation poses a serious challenge to the financial industry’s business model in both its banking and non-banking components. If not responded to adequately and timely by regulators, it may create new risks to financial stability, as occurred before the global financial crisis of 2007-2009. However, financial innovation will not seriously affect the process of monetary policymaking and is unlikely to undermine the ability of central banks to perform their price stability mission.
The future of multilateralism: Crisis or opportunity?
Publication type Briefing
Date 10-05-2017
Author Elefni LAZAROU
Policy area Global Governance | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword multilateral relations | G20 | common foreign and security policy | World Trade Organisation | OSCE | international cooperation | UN Security Council | Bank for International Settlements | Council of Europe | International Monetary Fund | geopolitics
Summary Multilateralism lies at the core of the EU’s identity and of its engagement with the world. Both the 2003 European Security Strategy and the 2016 Global Strategy emphasised the importance of a rules-based global order with multilateralism as its key principle and the United Nations (UN) at its core, and made its promotion part of the EU’s strategic goals. Yet, in spite of widespread acknowledgement of the achievements of the multilateral international order established after the Second World War, and in particular of the attainment of long-lasting peace, multilateral institutions and the liberal international order in which they are embedded have recently been the subject of severe criticism. The rise of populist nationalism has been interpreted, among other things, as a crisis in support for the multilateral order. Some of the causes of this crisis are related to the emergence of new actors in the global scene, the expansive nature of multilateral institutions, the widening gap between publics and international institutions and the decline of American power. The election of Donald Trump, who had repeatedly questioned the value of multilateral organisations such as the UN, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), has led to even greater preoccupation about the future of global governance. In this scenario, several scholars suggest that the EU and the G20 should be proactive in safeguarding multilateralism, while acknowledging and promoting the necessary reforms to the architecture of global governance.

Transformation of China and global economic interdependence
Publication type Study
Date 26-04-2017
Policy area International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword common commercial policy | foreign investment | EU relations | political situation | economic system | investment abroad | trade policy | foreign policy | anti-dumping legislation | China | economic situation | human rights
Summary China is a natural strategic partner for the EU, despite fundamental divergences in some areas, mostly related to state intervention, both in economic and social affairs. Due to growing tensions and geopolitical unpredictability, there is a window of opportunity to develop closer ties between the EU and China. The partnership offers mutually beneficial opportunities, such as comprehensive agreements on investment and on the protection of geographical indications; aviation and maritime cooperation; and dialogues on human rights and legal affairs. China is navigating a crucial but complex transformation towards more sustainable growth by rebalancing from investment to consumption and from manufacturing to services. Overall, this transition is expected to benefit both China and the world as a whole. Due to economic interdependence, it is also likely to produce certain spill-over effects that will vary by country and by region. Global integration is fundamental for all economies and no one has an interest in a trade war or protectionism. Maintaining public ownership as the mainstay of the Chinese economy is not sustainable. Reforms are needed to tackle the root causes of overcapacity in various industrial sectors and the role of state owned enterprises. Domestic concerns, such as lifting millions of people out of poverty and reducing ever-growing income inequalities as well as endemic corruption, need to be addressed. China now plays a crucial role in global governance, the rules-based international order and meeting commitments made in the G20 framework — achieving ‘major country’ status comes with responsibilities. Beijing has demonstrated some movement in shifting away from the pursuit of narrow national aims towards a more active foreign and security policy and increased global financial, economic and peace cooperation. At the same time, China has been increasingly assertive in its Asian neighbourhood and it has called for restraint from all sides to prevent rapidly escalating tensions on the Korean peninsula from turning into a disastrous conflict.

A strategy for completing the Single Market: the trillion euro bonus - Report of the High-Level Panel of Experts to the IMCO Committee
Publication type Study
Date 11-01-2016
Author Stanislas DE FINANCE | Joseph DUNNE | Tatjana EVAS | Pierre GOUDIN | Lorna SCHREFLER | Katharina EISELE
Policy area European Added Value | Internal Market and Customs Union
Keyword single market | governance | impact study | drafting of EU law | application of EU law | free movement of goods | coordination of EMU policies | European integration | free movement of workers | cost-benefit analysis | economic analysis
Summary The economic potential of the Single Market could reach, according to research carried out by the European Parliament, as much as one trillion euro per annum in additional GDP growth. Securing this economic ‘bonus’ requires a strategic approach, through which the EU would pursue a “genuine Single Market” and treat it as a common asset. Such a strategy implies leadership and new politics for the Single Market, involving the full commitment of Member States and their compliance in implementing of EU law and removing the remaining obstacles. Six key recommendations are put forward to enhance the functioning of the Single market, focused on concepts of reframing, reengineering and retouching the Single Market.
Mass Surveillance - Part 1: Risks and opportunities raised by the current generation of network services and applications

Publication type: Study
Date: 12-01-2015

External author:
Company: TECNALIA Research and Investigation

Authors:
Arkaitz Gamino García
Concepción Cortes Velasco
Eider Iturbe Zamalloa
Erikuden Ríos Velasco
Iñaki Eguía Elejabarrieta
Javier Herrera Lotero
Jason Mansell (Linguistic Review)
José Javier Larrañeta Ibañez
Stefan Schuster (Editor)

Policy area: Research Policy | Forward Planning

Keyword: computer crime | Internet | impact of information technology | area of freedom, security and justice | protection of communications | espionage | cryptography | electronic mail | personal data | computer virus | data protection

Summary:
This document identifies the risks of data breaches for users of publicly available Internet services such as email, social networks and cloud computing, and the possible impacts for them and the European Information Society. It presents the latest technology advances allowing the analysis of user data and their meta-data on a mass scale for surveillance reasons. It identifies technological and organisational measures and the key stakeholders for reducing the risks identified. Finally the study proposes possible policy options, in support of the risk reduction measures identified by the study.

Study EN
Annex I EN
Annex II EN
Multimedia EN

Streaming and Online Access to Content and Services

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-03-2014

Author: Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI

Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection

Keyword: single market | electronic commerce | freedom to provide services | Internet | digital archiving | impact of information technology | telecommunications policy | free movement of goods | cross-frontier data flow | knowledge economy | international competition | electronic government

Summary:
As a result of technological progress in the area of cloud computing and mobile connectivity, Internet is increasingly offering an omnipresent and interactive - ubiquitous - access to information and content. This improved access is, in turn, leading to efficiency, innovation and a significant reduction of the environmental footprint through dematerialisation of consumption, with potential changes in the economic and societal landscape. However, the current legal and economic setting in Europe is leading to a partitioning of mobile Internet access and Internet content along national borders, significantly affecting benefits that could be derived by Europeans from the Digital Single Market and preventing Europe from consolidating its comparative advantage on the global ICT market.

Study EN

The future of EU - ASEAN relations

Publication type: Study
Date: 20-04-2017

Author: Xavier NUTTIN


Keyword: cooperation policy | trade relations | ASEAN countries | economic integration | common foreign and security policy | regional integration | human rights | ASEAN | China | regional security | inter-parliamentary cooperation | democratisation | cooperation agreement (EU)

Summary:
Marking the 40th anniversary of the start of their dialogue ASEAN and the EU have agreed to work towards establishing a strategic partnership. While trade has always been the cornerstone of the relationship - ASEAN is the EU's third largest trade partner - the EU's ambition to expand its role as a global actor demand increased engagement. Both sides face common challenges that can only be addressed through joint responses that involve all stakeholders. To be strategic the partnership must embrace all aspects, from trade to energy, from climate change to security issues, from human rights to sustainable development. Deepening and enhancing relations between one of the most dynamic region in the world and the largest and most affluent market will bring important benefits to both European and ASEAN citizens. The last years have seen an increase in contacts but the many challenges faced today by the EU, internally and in its close neighbourhood, risk to require all attention and put the EU-ASEAN relations at risk. Finally the study argues that strengthening the parliamentary dimension of the relationship would, besides supporting representative democracy in Southeast Asia, contribute to maintaining the momentum launched in 2012.

Study EN
(Re-)Designing the internal market for electricity
Publication type Briefing
Date 11-04-2017
Author HUBERT DALLI
Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Energy
Keyword energy grid | security of supply | EU competition policy | single market | energy supply | impact study | energy cooperation | liberalisation of the market | electrical energy | drafting of EU law | electrical industry
Summary The IA appears to present a good and comprehensive analysis to identify the problems in the status quo, define the objectives of EU action, delineate policy options that can fulfil those objectives, assess the impacts of those options, and choose the best options to address the identified problems. This process seems to be based on sound data and research. In the explanation of the objectives, however, the distinction between what the IA refers to as the sub-objectives and the operational objectives does not appear to be very clear, raising doubts as to whether the sequential process required in the better regulation guidelines has been followed. Finally, the IA’s length and complexity somewhat limit its accessibility, although the sixteen page abstract added in response to the Regulatory Scrutiny Board’s recommendation goes some way towards addressing this issue.

Horizon 2020 EU framework programme for research and innovation
Publication type Study
Date 24-02-2017
Author Anna ZYGIEREWICZ
Keyword cross-border cooperation | private sector | EU Member State | Framework Programme for Research and Development | EU research policy | research and development | innovation | report | gender equality
Summary Horizon 2020, the EU framework programme for research and innovation (2014-2020) is aimed at building a society and an economy based on knowledge and innovation across the Union, while contributing to sustainable development. The programme supports the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy and other Union policies, as well as the achievement and functioning of the European Research Area (ERA). The introduction to this European implementation assessment (EIA) presents basic information on the implementation of Horizon 2020, including policy on gender equality and international cooperation. In addition, the annexes contain the input to the EIA received from external experts, who prepared analyses of the implementation of the three Horizon 2020 priorities: excellent science, industrial leadership, and societal challenges. The implementation of each priority was analysed from two perspectives: a) a research and industry perspective prepared by experts from the Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services (CSES) and the Centre for Industrial Studies (CISI); b) economic and financial perspective prepared by experts from the Europe Economics consortium.

The Lisbon Treaty's Provisions on CFSP/CSDP - State of Implementation
Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 02-10-2015
Author Wanda TROSZCZYNSKA VAN GENDEREN
Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword the EU's international role | powers of the EP | Treaty on European Union | EU Member State | mutual assistance | common foreign and security policy | agreement (EU) | external competence (EU) | European External Action Service | military cooperation | enhanced cooperation | EU competence | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | Treaty of Lisbon
Summary Since the Treaty of Lisbon entered into force in December 2009, major efforts have been made to implement the new institutional set-up it created: the EU has acquired legal personality, the post of Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy has been created, the European External Action Service has been operationalised, and the EU Delegations around the world have boosted the EU’s presence and increased diplomatic and policy outreach. The European Parliament has also acquired a greater role thanks to the Lisbon Treaty, particularly in the fields of foreign policy oversight and budgetary scrutiny. Nevertheless, many provisions of the Lisbon Treaty, designed to provide a boost to foreign, security and defence policies, remain non-implemented owing to a lack of political support stemming from the fears of some EU Member States of the creation of a ‘two-speed Europe’ and loss of control over these fields in favour of the EU institutions.
European Commission follow-up to European Parliament requests

Publication type: Study
Date: 02-02-2017
Author: Gertrud MALMERSJO | Gabriella ZANA-SZABO | ROXANA OSIAC | Stephan HUBER
Keyword: parliamentary scrutiny | powers of the institutions (EU) | EP resolution | parliamentary committee | European Commission | European Parliament | work study

Summary: In addition to its well-known role as a co-legislator, the European Parliament also supervises and scrutinises the work of the European Commission. The Parliament can therefore ask the Commission to take action to fulfil its role as guardian of the Treaties and to contribute to the improved functioning of the European Union and its legislation. Such requests usually take the form of resolutions. This Rolling Check-List covers the resolutions adopted by Parliament on the basis of own-initiative reports and legislative own-initiative reports during the current eighth legislative term up to December 2015, and the actions taken by the Commission as a result up to 31 October 2016. In total, the report covers 97 resolutions across almost all parliamentary committees. It provides a detailed overview of the Parliament's requests, and tracks the Commission's response and any further action taken. It thus offers a comprehensive scrutiny and reference tool, providing easy access to the follow-up given by the Commission to the Parliament's requests.

Control of exports, transfer, brokering, technical assistance and transit of dual-use items

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 25-01-2017
Author: Alina Alexandra GEORGESCU
Policy area: Ex-ante Impact Assessment | International Trade | Security and Defence
Keyword: technical cooperation | impact study | export monitoring | trade restriction | transit | customs regulations | export (EU) | dual-use good | intra-EU trade

Summary: The IA is well structured, clear and compact. Overall, it appears to provide well-researched explanation of the evidence base of the legislative proposal. The problem definition is illustrated by facts and figures which give a clear view of international security threats. The outcome of the stakeholder consultation is clearly presented and has been integrated into the analysis and the assessment of the different options, with a transparent presentation of stakeholders' views throughout. Nevertheless, the IA has a number of shortcomings. A clearer explanation of the links between the problems and their drivers, the objectives of the legislative proposal and the options considered, would have strengthened the IA. The report would have been more persuasive had it been clearer about the methodological approach to the comparison of the options. Even if the Commission made efforts to collect relevant data in preparation of the IA, the analysis remains essentially qualitative. Finally, the IA remains vague about the overall impact of the proposal on SMEs and competitiveness.
The Juncker Commission's ten priorities: State of play at the start of 2017

Overview of the internal energy market design legislation

In particular, they look to incorporate recent changes, such as the rapid increase in renewables and technological advances relating to the digitalisation of services. They also attempt to clarify previous legislation such as in the case of storage for Transmission System Operators (TSOs) for example. As with the recent proposals on security of gas supply, the Commission looks to incorporate a regional approach as the default option for assessing needs and mitigating risks. The Commission's evaluation, as well as the review of the implementation process, have shown that, while progress has been made, challenges to create a properly functioning internal market remain. The challenges identified by the evaluation, such as price controls, insufficient cross-border trade, uncoordinated national interventions and issues around regulatory independence, are addressed by the current proposals. However, it is also clear from the evaluation that progress towards a well-functioning and competitive energy market has not been consistent across the EU. Where progress has been made, the effects have been positive, although the evaluation does not look at examples of best practice to assess the best way forward. The EU-wide oversight of national regulators and TSOs is seen as positive, but question marks remain in terms of whether the suggested changes will be sufficient. Several reviews on the topic have noted that the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) lack sufficient powers to be effective and it is unclear whether the current proposals will properly address this issue. The public consultations also pointed to the dual role of the European Network for Transmission System Operators for electricity (ENTSO-E), as both a lobby organisation and a representative of public interest, as potentially problematic. The creation of a European Distribution System Operator (DSO) could possibly duplicate this issue. The evaluation does not include any assessment around infrastructure legislation or the EU's role in this area; however, it notes that the incentives for private investments have been insufficient so far. It is hoped that the proposed moves to a more flexible and price-driven market should improve investment conditions. As reforms in this area have been ongoing since the 1990s, it will be particularly important to continue to monitor progress and to what extent the new proposals increase competition and a well-functioning, price-led market. In terms of the Parliament's demands, many of its requests are reflected in the proposals, such as calls for more regional cooperation, for example. They do not, however, include a review of the gas market or interconnectivity objectives differentiated by regions; nor do they look to address to any great extent the issue of external import. In the case of the ACER, Parliament had asked for a substantial increase in resources. While the proposals strengthen the agency's position, the Commission decided not to propose making the ACER into a pan-European regulator, with the increase in budget and staff that such a move would have entailed.
**New civil aviation safety rules**

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 12-01-2017  
Author: Maria Niestadt  
Policy area: Transport | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council  
Keyword: air traffic | environmental protection | crew | European Aviation Safety Agency | airport | civil aviation | drone | air safety | aircraft  
Summary: Despite some recent high-profile disasters, flying remains one of the safest forms of transport and the EU's accident rate is lower than in the rest of the world. However, it cannot automatically be assumed that such performance will continue, as global air traffic is forecast to double over the next 20 years. In addition, new technologies, such as unmanned aircraft (drones), are also appearing in European skies, which require adoption of the current regulatory framework. In December 2015, the European Commission proposed to replace the current Regulation on civil aviation safety and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). The new proposal would introduce risk- and performance-based rules, close some safety gaps and interlinks safety more closely with other domains such as security and the environment. It proposes to strengthen EASA's role and take several measures to use existing resources more efficiently (e.g. sharing aviation inspectors). It also introduces essential requirements for drones. In November 2016, the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism generally backed the updated rules, in particular the idea of regulating drones at EU level. The report constitutes Parliament’s position for negotiations with the Council, which adopted its general approach for the negotiations with the Parliament on 1 December 2016. This updates an earlier edition, of January 2016: PE 573.933. "A more recent edition of this document is available. Find it by searching by the document title at this address: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/home.html"

**Cyber Security and Politically, Socially and Religiously Motivated Cyber Attacks**

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 02-02-2009  
External author: Paul Cornish (Chatham House, London, UK)  
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence  
Keyword: computer crime | international security | Internet | organised crime | information technology | area of freedom, security and justice | extremism | terrorism | common foreign and security policy | religious fundamentalism  
Summary: This paper examines Cyber-Security and Politically, Socially and Religiously Motivated Cyber-Attacks, focusing on the European Union as an international organisation with a fragmented yet developing interest in cyber-security.

**Precision Agriculture and the Future of Farming in Europe**

Publication type: Study  
Date: 22-12-2016  
Policy area: Forward Planning | Agriculture and Rural Development  
Keyword: harvest | fertiliser | agricultural product | satellite navigation | farming system | agricultural policy | digital technology | environmental impact  
Summary: This study resulted in the identification of four main future opportunities and concerns regarding precision agriculture (PA), or precision farming, in the EU, on which the European Parliament could take anticipatory action now: 1. PA can actively contribute to food security and safety; 2. PA supports sustainable farming; 3. PA will trigger societal changes along with its uptake; 4. PA requires new skills to be learned. The wide diversity of agriculture throughout the EU, regarding particularly farm size, types of farming, farming practices, output and employment, presents a challenge for European policy-makers. European policy measures therefore should differentiate between Member States, taking into account the opportunities and concerns vary highly from one country to another.

Study: ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, PL, PT  
Annex: EN  
Annex II: EN
Evaluation in the European Commission (2nd edition)

Publication type: Study  
Date: 16-12-2016  
Author: Lorna SCHREFLER  
Keyword: assessment | operation of the Institutions | application of EU law | administrative transparency | European Commission  
Summary: This research paper aims to provide an overview of planned and ongoing evaluations of EU legislation and spending programmes carried out by each European Commission directorate-general (DG). The general overview and state of play on the public availability of evaluations is completed by a rolling check-list comprising on-going and planned evaluations on the basis of information disclosed by the Commission in various sources (DGs' management plans and annual activity reports, the Single Evaluation Plans for 2015 and 2016, roadmaps published since July 2015) and the information available in individual DGs. The annexes to this research paper contain an overview of and links to the DGs' management plans for 2016 (Annex I) and the contact details for the evaluation function in each DG (Annex II). Annexes III to V provide a list of and direct links to the evaluations published in 2015 and until 20 October 2016 in various sources. Finally, Annex VI covers the Commission evaluation staff working documents published on EUR-Lex and in the Register of Commission Documents.

Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - November 2016

Publication type: At a Glance  
Date: 21-11-2016  
Policy area: Intellectual Property Law | Budgetary Control | Economics and Monetary Issues | Fisheries | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights  
Keyword: money laundering | EP Committee | tax evasion | dissemination of EU information | committee of inquiry | parliamentary inquiry | tax avoidance | bibliography  
Summary: The Monthly Highlights publication provides an overview, at a glance, of the on-going work of the policy departments, including a selection of the latest and forthcoming publications, and a list of future events.

Regulatory Technical Standards on Strong Customer Authentication and Secure Communication

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 15-11-2016  
Author: Doris KOLASSA | Anne Katharina KRISCHEL  
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues  
Summary: This briefing is drawn up to support ECON’s work on scrutiny of delegated acts, in particular the discussion taking place on 29 November 2016 on the draft Regulatory Technical Standards (RTS on Strong Customer Authentication and Secure Communication ‘SCA&SC’) under the revised Payment Services Directive (PSD2) 2015/2366 (Art.98).
Does the EU Have the Right Instruments to Finance Assistance in Protracted Crises and the Needs of Upper Middle Income Countries?

Publication type Study
Date 14-11-2016

External author Matthieu BURNAY (University of Leuven, Belgium), Matthias DENECKERE (European Centre for Development Policy Management, Maastricht, the Netherlands), Kolja RAUBE (University of Leuven, Belgium) and Volker HAUCK (European Centre for Development Policy Management, Maastricht, the Netherlands)

Policy area Global Governance | Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights

Keyword European neighbourhood policy | humanitarian aid | development policy | pre-accession aid | EU financial instrument | economic development | aid system | EDF | common foreign and security policy | settlement of disputes

Summary This study pays critical attention to two specific issue areas, which the financing instruments ought to be concerned with: First, the EU has developed tools and instruments to react to and prevent ‘protracted crises’. The results of this study show that the current set of instruments forms a good basis to the challenges associated with protracted crisis. In fact, no new instrument is needed to specifically address protracted crises. However, the operationalisation of instruments should be optimised. There is a clear need to find more sophisticated approaches that can establish a more holistic response to the various dimensions of protracted crises throughout the conflict cycle. In light of this, substantial improvements should be made to the responsiveness, flexibility, coherence and complementarity of the EU response in support of resilience. A critical point is that better incentives should be provided for long-term instruments to flexibly engage in protracted crises, including through support to peacebuilding, conflict prevention, post-crisis reconstruction and resilience. Second, the study focuses on the specific case of Upper Middle Income Countries (UMICs). The study acknowledges the importance and relevance of the ‘differentiated approach’ while also identifying some of the many problems which concern UMICs: first, the study shows that the Partnership Instrument has so far mainly targeted EU Strategic Partners, while thematic and regional programmes of the DCI hardly fill in the gap left following the graduation of some countries from bilateral aid programmes. The analysis also notes that exceptions which have been granted to some UMICs are strongly problematic. The analysis, however, also points to the fact that the question remains whether these exceptions will be extended to the period 2017-2020. While there is a clear need for a better coherence and coordination, the study argues that there is currently no need for the creation of a new instrument which would exclusively target UMICs.

Study EN

An EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 27-10-2016

Author Tatjana EVAS | Wouter VAN BALLEGOOIJ

Policy area European Added Value | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Democracy | EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword impact study | European Data Protection Supervisor | Treaty on European Union | democracy | rule of law | cost-benefit analysis | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights | EU institution | interinstitutional agreement | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

Summary European Parliament legislative initiative reports drawn up on the basis of Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU are automatically accompanied by a European Added Value Assessment (EAVA). Such assessments are aimed at evaluating the potential impacts, and identifying the advantages, of proposals made in legislative initiative reports. This EAVA accompanies a resolution based on a legislative initiative report prepared by Parliament’s Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) (rapporteur: Sophie in ’t Veld (ALDE, the Netherlands), presenting recommendations to the Commission on an EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights (P8_TA-PROV (2016) 0409). The main conclusion of the EAVA is that there is a gap between the proclamation of the rights and values listed in Article 2 TEU and actual compliance by EU institutions and Member States, resulting in significant economic, social and political costs. The root causes of this lack of compliance are to be found in certain weaknesses in the existing EU legal and policy framework on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights. These weaknesses could be overcome by the conclusion of an EU Pact for Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights (DRF) in the form of an interinstitutional agreement (IIA). This IIA should lay down arrangements for (i) the development of an annual European report on the state of democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights in the Member States with country-specific recommendations assessing compliance with DRF, and (ii) a policy cycle for DRF, involving EU institutions and national parliaments, with country-specific recommendations aimed at monitoring and enforcing Member State compliance, including a DRF policy cycle within the institutions of the Union. This could be done at relatively low cost, particularly if the right synergies are found with international organisations, whilst at the same time having significant benefits, notably fostering mutual trust and recognition, attracting more investment, and providing higher welfare standards.

In-Depth Analysis EN
Annex I EN
Annex II EN
Global Trendometer

Summary

This paper prepared by the Policy Department A Economic and Scientific Policy and the Secretariat of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) provides a graphic overview on core legislation in the area of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection. The presentation essentially covers the areas within the responsibility of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection, hence it starts with core IMCO areas but also displays neighbouring areas of other Committees' competences which are closely connected to and impacting on IMCO's work.

Study EN

Cyberbullying among Young People

Summary

This study provides an overview of the extent, scope and forms of cyberbullying in the EU taking into account the age and gender of victims and perpetrators as well as the medium used. Commissioned by the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee, the study illustrates the legal and policy measures on cyberbullying adopted at EU and international levels and delineates the EU role in this area. An analysis of legislation and policies aimed at preventing and fighting this phenomenon across the 28 EU Member States is also presented. The study outlines the variety of definitions of cyberbullying across EU Member States and the similarities and differences between cyberbullying, traditional bullying and cyber aggression. Moreover, it presents successful practices on how to prevent and combat cyberbullying in nine selected EU Member States and puts forward recommendations for improving the response at EU and Member State levels.

Study EN

Fighting Cyber Crime and Protecting Privacy in the Cloud

Summary

This study addresses the challenges raised by the growing reliance on cloud computing. It starts by investigating the issues at stake and explores how the EU is addressing the identified concerns. The study then examines the legal aspects in relation to the right to data protection, the issues of jurisdiction, responsibility and regulation of data transfers to third countries. These questions have been neglected in EU policies and strategies, despite very strong implications on EU data sovereignty and the protection of citizens' rights.

Study EN
Europe of Defence? Views on the future of defence cooperation

Publication type Briefing
Date 07-07-2016
Author Eleni LAZAROU

Policy area Security and Defence
Keyword United States | European arms policy | powers of the EP | EU Member State | European Defence Agency | EU-NATO cooperation | European defence policy | defence budget | defence expenditure | military cooperation | NATO | deepening of the European Union | Treaty of Lisbon

Summary Against the backdrop of growing security challenges, the debate regarding the future of European defence cooperation has grown in relevance. While the Lisbon Treaty introduced significant possibilities with regard to the future of EU defence policy, and while there has been consistent EU Member State public support for further cooperation in this area, progress has been slow. The impact of the economic crisis on defence budgets, fears concerning the effects of more integration on national defence industries and various political considerations are some of the reasons that have been given to explain the reluctance to move towards closer cooperation in defence until now. In early 2015, comments by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker regarding the possibility for the creation of an EU army sparked a wide debate among experts and political elites. In June 2015, the European Council concluded that work would continue on a more effective Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), on the further development of civilian and military capabilities, and on the strengthening of Europe's defence industry. A revamped role for the EU in defence is an important part of the EU Global Strategy presented to Member States at the European Council in June 2016. Individual Member States have also taken the lead in the proposals on how to move ahead, suggesting that the momentum is there on many fronts. The European Parliament has been a longstanding advocate of a stronger and more effective CSDP. This briefing complements an earlier briefing, European defence cooperation: State of play and thoughts on an EU army, published in March 2015.

Public opinion and EU policies: Exploring the expectations gap

Publication type Briefing
Date 07-07-2016
External author EPRS, DG

Keyword the EU's international role | European tax cooperation | EU industrial policy | common foreign and security policy | gender equality | external border of the EU | EU environmental policy | European social policy | opinion poll | energy policy | terrorism | EU situation | coordination of EMU policies | common agricultural policy | EU employment policy

Summary The Eurobarometer survey of the European Parliament ‘Europeans in 2016: Perceptions and expectations, fight against terrorism and radicalisation’ aimed to identify, across a range of different policy fields, the level of awareness of citizens of EU action in that field, and to assess how content they were with EU involvement in each field. This compendium brings together a set of short briefings by the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) following up the survey. Taking each of those policy fields in turn, they look at what the Union is already doing, identify gaps between citizens’ expectations and current EU activity, and possible areas for additional EU action. The full survey can be accessed on the European Parliament website, including a series of infographics presenting the differences in public opinion by policy area in each Member State.

NATO in figures – ahead of the Warsaw summit

Publication type At a Glance
Date 05-07-2016
Author Philippe PERCHOC | Christian DIETRICH

Policy area Security and Defence
Keyword military intervention | defence budget | NATO | military cooperation | NATO countries

Summary The end of the Cold War and the 2001 terrorist attacks in the USA changed the face of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The alliance has developed, with interventions both within and outside Europe (the Balkans, Afghanistan, the African Horn, and Sub-Saharan Africa). More recently, the alliance has increasingly organised exercises in Europe, in order to reassure its members in the face of military build-up to the East of its borders.

At a Glance
The 2016 NATO Summit in Warsaw: Expectations and priorities

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 01-07-2016
Author: Eleni LAZAROU

Policy area: Security and Defence
Keyword: European security | asymmetric warfare | Syria | migratory movement | Ukraine | EU-NATO cooperation | Turkey | defence budget | deterrent | Russia | military cooperation | NATO | geopolitics | summit meeting

Summary: The 2016 Warsaw Summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will convene on 8–9 July, bringing together member countries' heads of state or government in order to facilitate dialogue, and establish new policies and strategies for the Alliance. The main issues on the agenda will include balancing the Alliance’s policies towards the east and the south; EU-NATO relations; and ensuring that Allies are fulfilling their defence budget commitments. In the face of emerging and complex threats in the European security environment, the challenge is for NATO to maintain and project a cohesive, united and effective vision for transatlantic security.

Public expectations and EU policies - Security and defence policy

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 30-06-2016
Author: Patryk PAWLAK | Kristina GROSEK | Alina DOBREVA

Policy area: Security and Defence
Keyword: European security | the EU’s international role | opinion poll | mutual assistance | EU situation | EU financing | EU budget | legal basis | conflict prevention | settlement of disputes | common security and defence policy

Summary: Decisions on security and defence policy are, most of the time, taken by the EU-28’s national governments and usually without public scrutiny. Yet, almost two thirds of EU citizens would like the EU to intervene in this policy area more than it does at present. Since the introduction of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) in the Treaty of Maastricht, the EU has made substantial progress in assuming its role as a regional security provider. Although significantly strengthened by the Treaty of Lisbon, this policy area continues to be hampered by the Member States’ lack of will to make better use of the existing legal framework, and by inadequate funding mechanisms.

Priority dossiers under the Slovak EU Council Presidency

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 31-05-2016
Author: Dora BOYTHA

Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Keyword: single market | common commercial policy | European security | Economic and Monetary Union | citizens' Europe | tax evasion | EU Council Presidency | drafting of EU law | area of freedom, security and justice | multiannual financial framework | EU relations | climate change policy | energy policy | EU migration policy | operation of the Institutions | Slovakia | digital technology

Summary: On 1 July 2016, Slovakia will take over the six-month rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU from The Netherlands, as part of the Dutch-Slovak-Maltese 'Trio Presidency'. The Slovak "coalition of historic compromise" was only sworn in on 23 March 2016 and Prime Minister Robert Fico was just released from hospital at the beginning of May after heart surgery, still the Slovak government is expected to steer a challenging Presidency programme. On 24 February 2016, the (previous) Slovak government adopted the framework agenda of the Slovak Presidency, yet the final Presidency programme will be approved by the government on 29 June 2016.

As the fastest growing eurozone member between 2004 and 2014, Slovakia will be closely following the debate on the creation of a fiscal capacity for the eurozone; and as the largest car producer per capita in the world, it will also be sensitive to the adoption of market surveillance rules and limitations in emissions from cars. Other priorities will include the implementation of the Capital Markets Union proposals, the completion of stage 1 of the Economic and Monetary Union, delivering on Energy Union measures and the Single Market, as well as external relations with a particular focus on transatlantic ties and Eastern Partnership. Slovak political priorities will inevitably address the migration crisis, a revision of the Dublin system and the fight against terrorism. In the second half of the year, institutional changes are also likely be on the agenda, concerning namely the mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework, the European electoral reform, the European Parliament's right of inquiry, implementation of the IIA on better law-making and the upcoming IIA on transparency register. Finally, the Slovak Council Presidency will have to address the consequences of the referendum on the UK's membership in the EU, to be held on 23 June 2016.
Cloud computing: An overview of economic and policy issues

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 26-05-2016
Author: Ron DAVIES
Policy area: Research Policy | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword: protection of privacy | jurisdiction | personal data | contract | standardisation | economic consequence | Internet | computer system | information technology | impact of information technology | data protection | electronic government | information storage
Summary: Cloud computing is a model for providing information and communication technology (ICT) services over the internet. Businesses, public bodies and individuals can all benefit through lower costs, global access to data and applications, flexibility in provision, and the ability to innovate without large capital costs. Cloud computing may also have beneficial effects on energy consumption and carbon emissions. However, cloud computing raises concerns about personal data protection and privacy, security and interoperability and portability of data and applications, as well as contract terms that may be overly restrictive of customers’ rights. The European Commission considers cloud computing central to the EU’s competitiveness and a key to economic growth and innovation. The EU has provided support to research in cloud computing. Determining the appropriate responses to the challenges of cloud computing is part of the European Commission's Digital Single Market strategy. The Commission has announced its intention to propose a ‘free flow of data initiative’, tackling restrictions on where data is located, and a European Cloud initiative that will cover certification of cloud services, reduce the risks of vendor lock-in, and provide a research cloud for researchers to share access to data.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR

The Juncker Commission’s ten priorities: State of play in mid-2016

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 23-05-2016
Author: Etienne BASSOT | WOLFGANG HILLER
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Keyword: single market | United States | Economic and Monetary Union | the EU's international role | area of freedom, security and justice | sustainable development | EU industrial policy | European Commission | electronic commerce | simplification of legislation | climate change policy | energy policy | EU migration policy | trade agreement (EU) | economic priority | EU employment policy
Summary: This publication provides an overview of the work done by the European Commission under the first two work programmes of Jean-Claude Juncker's presidency, and more specifically of the initiatives it has taken in the framework of its ten priority areas for actions. It draws on a wide range of publications by EPRS, and builds, in particular, on the briefing ‘The ten priorities of the Juncker Commission: State of play a year on’, by Ariane Debyser. It has been compiled by Dessiava Boyadgieva with contributions from authors across EPRS – Piotr Bakowski, Angelos Delivorias, Gregor Erbach, Stephan Huber, Elena Lazarou, Anita Orav, Eva-Maria Poptcheva, Laura Puccio, Christian Scheinert, Andrej Stuchlik, Marcin Szczepanski, Laura Trimbyle, Sofija Voronova and Astrid Worum – as well as colleagues from the Office of the Deputy Secretary-General. Graphics are by Eulalia Claros, Christian Dietrich and Giulio Sabbati. As the European Commission under its President Jean-Claude Juncker begins the preparation of its 2017 work programme, this publication seeks to provide an overview of the work already done since the Commission took office in each of its 10 priority areas. Moreover, as this Commission approaches the midway point of its second annual work programme, it is of growing interest to assess progress towards the targets that the Commission has set itself, and to identify areas in which difficulties in making progress have been encountered.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR
Trafficking in Human Beings from a Gender Perspective (Directive 2011/36/EU): European Implementation Assessment

**Publication type** Study
**Date** 29-04-2016
**Author** Amandine Marie Anne SCHERRER | Helmut WERNER
**External author** - Denise Charlton and Nusha Yonkova, on Ireland;
- Josie Christodoulou, on Cyprus and Greece;
- Ryszard Piotrowicz, Bärbel Uhl, Klara Skrivankova, Marjan Wijers, on Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Romania, Sweden and the UK;
- Venla Roth, on Finland;
- Genoveva Tisheva and Nusha Yonkova, on Bulgaria;
- Viviana Waisman and Gema Fernandez Rodriguez de Liévano, on Spain.

**Policy area** Transposition and Implementation of Law | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Human Rights
**Keyword** fight against crime | EU Member State | application of EU law | help for victims | prostitution | child protection | position of women | trafficking in human beings | directive (EU) | gender mainstreaming | witness protection

**Summary** Trafficking in human beings (THB), in all its forms, is a serious crime affecting fundamental rights, health, social life, economy and justice. THB knows no boundaries and most reported victims are female EU nationals from Central and Eastern Europe. THB can be tackled effectively only through a coherent approach at the levels of legislation and executive powers and through strategic policy-making. Proper investigation and prosecution are important and enhance victim protection and assistance as well as prevention. However, taking into account the gender dimension of THB is essential to ensure adequate support for the victims as well as effective prevention. The 2011 EU Anti-Trafficking Directive represents a landmark piece of legislation in that respect. The Ex-Post Impact Assessment Unit of the European Parliament has asked several groups of experts to analyse the implementation and application of the Directive, from a gender perspective, in 12 Member States: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Romania, Sweden, the UK and Spain. The contributions received point to an uneven implementation of the Directive’s requirements across the EU Member States. The findings emphasise the need to improve the identification of victims, which is key for granting them protection, to establish better training on the gender aspects of the different forms of human trafficking for front-line officers, to enhance cooperation between public administration and competent NGOs, and to expand prevention via public awareness campaigning.

**Study** EN

---

On the Way towards a European Defence Union - A White Book as a First Step

**Publication type** Study
**Date** 18-04-2016
**External author** Javier SOLANA (ESADE Center for Global Economy and Geopolitics, Spain), Angel SAZ-CARRANZA (ESADE Center for Global Economy and Geopolitics, Spain), María GARCÍA CASAS (ESADE Center for Global Economy and Geopolitics, Spain) and Jose Francisco ESTÉBANEZ GÓMEZ (ESADE Center for Global Economy and Geopolitics, Spain)

**Policy area** Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | European Added Value | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence | Industry
**Keyword** United States | European security | EU publication | EU Member State | powers of the institutions (EU) | Council of the European Union | European Commission | common security and defence policy | European Council | EU relations | intra-EU relations | European defence policy | NATO | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | intergovernmental cooperation (EU) | Treaty of Lisbon | High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy | European Parliament

**Summary** This study proposes a process, framed in the Lisbon Treaty, for the EU to produce a White Book (WB) on European defence. Based on document reviews and expert interviewing, this study details the core elements of a future EU Defence White Book: strategic objectives, necessary capabilities development, specific programs and measures aimed at achieving the improved capabilities, and the process and drafting team of a future European WB. The study synthesizes concrete proposals for each European institution, chief among which is calling on the European Council to entrust the High Representative with the drafting of the White Book.

**Study** DE, EN, FR
Aviation strategy — Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems: Initial Appraisal of a European Commission Impact Assessment

Publication type Briefing
Date 14-04-2016
Author Laura ZANDERSONE
Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Transport
Keyword single market | impact study | approval | noise | protection of privacy | product safety | drafting of EU law | civil aviation | drone | air safety | data protection

Summary
This note seeks to provide an initial analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the European Commission's Impact Assessment on Safe Development of Drone Operations. The main strengths of the IA are its solid information base, including the three supporting studies, as well as the presentation of the results of the public consultation throughout, and the examination of options against the proportionality criterion according to the new Better Regulation guidelines. However, the range of options considered appears to be rather limited, and descriptions are so general that it is very difficult to assess and compare them; for example, the criteria for categorising drone risks, and the question of how the certificates will be issued and by whom, are not explained at all. The IA reiterates throughout that several issues, such as drone risk categorisation, or factors defining an operation-centric approach to regulating drones, will be topics for new impact assessments accompanying future delegated acts. The absence of some more insight concerning the likely content of the measures to be adopted through delegated acts or for the use of such delegated acts is regrettable. Nevertheless, the categorisation of risks (what is a high or low risk operation) could have been explained in more detail, as not every aspect of drone rules is likely to depend only on technological development. A better illustrated and explained problem description, as well as more detailed descriptions of the policy options, would have contributed to better and clearer understanding of the impacts of the new proposal, especially for a reader who may not be familiar with existing civil aviation safety rules.

Estimates of Parliament's 2017 budget

Publication type At a Glance
Date 12-04-2016
Author Alessandro D'ALFONSO
Policy area Budget
Keyword parliamentary allowance | budget estimate | electronic document management | personnel administration | draft budget (EU) | administrative expenditure (EU) | dissemination of EU information | administrative transparency | public relations | administration of the Institutions | European Parliament | data protection

Summary
The budget of the European Parliament (EP), which accounts for less than 1.2% of the EU general budget, covers the administrative expenditure that ensures the functioning of an institution with 751 Members and 24 official languages. On 14 April 2016, the plenary is scheduled to vote on a report defining the priority objectives and proposed budget of the EP for next year.

Counter-terrorism funding in the EU budget

Publication type Briefing
Date 08-04-2016
Author Gianluca SGUEO
Policy area Budget | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Keyword institutional structure | European security | Europol | EU expenditure | judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the EU | terrorism | EU financing | general budget (EU) | multiannual financial framework

Summary
Counter-terrorism (CT) spending by Western countries has increased over the past 15 years. Since 2001, United States (US) federal expenditure on homeland security has grown on average by $360 billion annually. While it is not possible to calculate total EU and Member State spending on CT with any precision, EU spending is estimated to have increased from €5.7 million in 2002 to €93.5 million in 2009. The broader 'Security and Citizenship' heading in the EU budget was increased from €2 522 million in 2015 to €4 052 million in 2016. Spending on CT, including EU funds and operational expenses for the functioning of the institutional framework, has increased. Greater investment in CT may provide a response to the upsurge in terrorist threats. Increased spending, however, is not always followed by a reduced incidence of terrorism. The EU's increased efforts to develop a strategy to tackle terrorism and to improve the institutional framework must be seen alongside concerns that its approach to CT may amount to a 'paper tiger'. While CT remains mainly in the realm of national policy, it has received increased attention at the EU level. Following the terrorist attacks in 2015 in Paris and Copenhagen, and 2016 in Brussels, counter-terrorism has become an area of even higher priority in the EU. A number of proposals are under discussion (or have been approved) at EU level to further implement and strengthen EU strategy on CT. For example, the European Counter-Terrorism Centre was established within Europol in January 2016. This briefing updates the previous edition published on 8 June 2015.
Ukraine: What to watch for in 2016

Publication type Briefing
Date 12-02-2016
Author Naja BENTZEN
Policy area Foreign Affairs
Keyword energy supply | disinformation | referendum | political situation | gas pipeline | Ukraine | foreign policy | financial aid | Russia | association agreement (EU) | military occupation | settlement of disputes | economic situation
Summary With the entry into force of the EU-Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) as part of the Association Agreement (AA) on 1 January 2016, Ukraine has taken a significant step forward on its long road to European integration. However, 2016 will entail a new series of tests for the country.

While Kyiv is under continued pressure to fulfil the February 2015 Minsk II ceasefire agreement, the interruption of electricity supply to Crimea — occupied by Russia since March 2014 — has added fuel to bilateral tensions over the peninsula, which could intensify in 2016. Ukraine's default on its US$3 billion debt to Russia, and Moscow's response will further strain bilateral ties.

The growing fragility of the pro-European government coalition could increase the likelihood of early parliamentary elections and impede the on-going reform process. At the same time, the national security situation — precarious overall as it is — could be further undermined by cyber-attacks.

In addition, a number of external developments, for example, the split within the EU vis-à-vis the Russia-backed 'Nord Stream 2' gas pipeline and the forthcoming Dutch referendum on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, planned for April 2016, will require attention.

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and the Parliamentary Dimension of Regulatory Cooperation

Publication type Study
Date 09-04-2014
External author Alberto ALEMANNO (HEC Paris, France)
Policy area International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword legislative procedure | institutional structure | technical barrier | United States | powers of parliament | liberalisation of trade | powers of the EP | drafting of EU law | comparative study | inter-parliamentary cooperation | trade agreement (EU) | technical regulations
Summary The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) presents a historic opportunity for the EU and the US to remove regulatory divergence thereby increasing economic growth. Yet, with great promises come challenges too. The EU and the US have been attempting to reduce trade barriers since the 1970s, and parliamentarians from both sides of the Atlantic have since the 1990s been working to institutionalise these efforts through dialogues and committees, as epitomised by the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue. While this report reviews these efforts, the general conclusion is an overall lack of success: regulatory differences remain as neither side has the incentives to consider the extraterritorial effects of its regulations. As an international agreement predicted to contain a Horizontal Chapter, TTIP has the potential to transform this impasse, if approached correctly. The Horizontal Chapter would provide a 'gateway' for handling sectoral regulatory issues between the EU and the US, including by addressing both legislation and non-legislative acts. The development of such a framework for transatlantic regulatory cooperation raises questions in relation to its interactions with the parties' respective legislatures, the EP and the US Congress. This report examines the potential parliamentary roles, and their implications for the EU legal order. It concludes with recommendations designed to identify the most appropriate avenues to ensure parliamentary involvement and connect transatlantic parliamentary cooperation with the institutional operation of TTIP.
A New Deal for energy consumers

Summary
On 15 July 2015, the European Commission adopted a Communication on Delivering a New Deal for energy consumers (‘New Deal’), as part of the Summer Energy Package. The New Deal is one of several consumer-related actions envisaged in the Energy Union strategy, and is designed to inform future actions in this field, including proposed legislation.

The New Deal highlights the need for greater transparency around energy prices: wholesale and retail prices are diverging as taxes account for a growing share of energy bills, placing a disproportionate burden on household consumers. It emphasises the importance of easy switching between energy suppliers and calls for the phasing out of regulated retail prices, which discourage market competition and investment in infrastructure. The New Deal argues that greater energy efficiency is necessary, demand response among consumers should be facilitated, and community production initiatives encouraged. The Commission considers that rolling out smart meters across the EU is necessary to encourage greater demand response. Yet the precise cost savings for consumers from smart metering (and demand response in general) remain rather unclear, while smart metering has more positive effects when accompanied by incentives to change patterns of energy use (e.g. dynamic pricing). The New Deal calls for new measures to address vulnerable consumers and energy poverty in the EU, with reports by the Commission and European Parliament shedding light on these issues.

The New Deal seeks to encourage the development of smart homes and networks, which will require a range of new energy technologies. The growing use of ICT in smart grids has raised concerns about data protection and the risk of cyber hacking in smart grids. In past resolutions, the European Parliament expressed strong support for key ideas outlined in the New Deal, and has called for consumers to play a more active role in the energy transition.

Priority dossiers under the Dutch EU Council Presidency

Summary
From January to June 2016, The Netherlands will hold the Presidency of the EU Council for the 12th time, kicking off the Dutch-Slovak-Maltese Trio Presidency.

For the first semester of 2016, the Commission’s soon ending 2015 work programme will largely determine the legislative agenda as nearly all major proposals will have been put on the table by the end of this year. As of 16 December 2015, there are 140 active ordinary legislative procedures, of which 23 have been agreed by the co-legislators at political level and around 30 are being negotiated in view of a first or (early) second reading agreement. The Dutch EU Presidency will pursue the following priorities: (i) improving quality and simplification of legislation; (ii) growth and jobs (internal market, innovation and digital economy); and (iii) active involvement of citizens and civil society in policymaking.

This note aims to present the state of affairs in the policy fields of Dutch priority, as well as the most important related dossiers to be addressed by the Dutch Presidency.

Over-the-Top (OTTs) Players: Market Dynamics and Policy Challenges

Summary
In this study we (1) explore current and emerging business models for over-the-top (OTT) services (including Voice over IP, instant messaging services, and streaming video and music services); (2) identify costs and barriers to European online service development including over-the-top (OTT); (3) describe the regulatory environment for online services in Europe, contrasting it with the environment for traditional telecom and media services, as well as the environment in some of Europe’s major trading partners; and (4) make recommendations to achieve a Digital Single Market. The study was prepared for Policy Department A at the request of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee.
EU-Brazil cooperation on internet governance and ICT issues

Supporting European Security and Defence with Existing EU Measures and Procedures

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP): The Sluggish State of Negotiations
Cyber security in the European Union

Publication type Briefing
Date 12-11-2013
Author Piotr BAKOWSKI
Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Research Policy | Consumer Protection
Keyword computer crime | Internet | information technology | European convention | European Network and Information Security Agency | area of freedom, security and justice | information system | data transmission | computer virus | EU legal system | data protection
Summary Over the past few decades, the digital revolution has brought global connectivity to an entirely new level. Information and communication technologies (ICT) are crucial for virtually all modern services, both civilian and military. Convenient as it is, such growing reliance on ICT entails and increasing risk of cyber attacks. These attacks may target individuals, businesses, entire networks or even the critical infrastructure of one or more EU Member States.

Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - October 2015

Publication type At a Glance
Date 05-10-2015
Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Budgetary Control | Agriculture and Rural Development | Economics and Monetary Issues | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights
Keyword EU policy | EP Committee | transparency in decision-making | interest group | interinstitutional relations (EU) | bibliography
Summary The Monthly Highlights publication provides an overview, at a glance, of the on-going work of the policy departments, including a selection of the latest and forthcoming publications, and a list of future events.

The regions in the Digital Single Market – ICT and digital opportunities for regions and cities

Publication type Briefing
Date 01-10-2015
Author Vasileios MARGARAS
Policy area Research Policy | Social Policy | Employment | Regional Development | Public Health | Education
Keyword transmission network | digital literacy | regional government | digital divide | EU financing | town planning | rural development | local government | telemedicine | cross-border cooperation | impact of information technology | job creation | distance learning | tourism | cultural promotion | electronic government
Summary The digital economy is growing at seven times the rate of the rest of the economy. The European Commission estimates that completing a Digital Single Market could contribute €415 billion per year to Europe’s economy, create 3.8 million jobs and transform public services. Local and regional authorities may well benefit from many of the opportunities which the digital era offers.

The European Commission has presented different initiatives in order to boost the use of information and communications technologies (ICT) in Europe. The Digital Agenda for Europe, which was announced in 2010 in the framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy, aimed to promote economic recovery and improve social inclusion through a more digitally proficient Europe. The Digital Single Market strategy, introduced in 2015, complements the Digital Agenda for Europe. Achieving a Digital Single Market will ensure that Europe maintains its position as a world leader in the digital economy, helping European companies to grow globally. Equally, enhanced use of digital technologies can improve citizens’ access to information and culture, and can promote open government, equality and non-discrimination.

Although many of the Digital Single Market priorities are dealt with primarily at national level, various initiatives can be explored at the local and regional level, and regions and cities can become active in planning and pursuing their own digital strategies.
National Programme for Mass Surveillance of Personal Data in EU Member States and their Compatibility with EU Law

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-10-2013  
External author: Didier Bigo (Centre d’Etudes sur les Conflits, Liberté et Sécurité - CCLS, Sciences-Po Paris, France, King’s College, London, the UK), Sergio Carrera (Centre for European Policy Studies - CEPS), Nicholas Hernanz (CEPS), Julien Jeandesboz (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands; CCLS), Joanna Parkin (CEPS), Francesco Ragazzi (Leiden University) and Amandine Scherrer (CCLS)  
Keyword: United States | protection of privacy | France | United Kingdom | data collection | area of freedom, security and justice | Netherlands | personal data | rule of law | national sovereignty | Germany | public order | Sweden | data protection | secret service

Summary: In the wake of the disclosures surrounding PRISM and other US surveillance programmes, this study makes an assessment of the large-scale surveillance practices by a selection of EU member states: the UK, Sweden, France, Germany and the Netherlands. Given the large-scale nature of surveillance practices at stake, which represent a reconfiguration of traditional intelligence gathering, the study contends that an analysis of European surveillance programmes cannot be reduced to a question of balance between data protection versus national security, but has to be framed in terms of collective freedoms and democracy. It finds that four of the five EU member states selected for in-depth examination are engaging in some form of large-scale interception and surveillance of communication data, and identifies parallels and discrepancies between these programmes and the NSA-run operations. The study argues that these surveillance programmes do not stand outside the realm of EU intervention but can be engaged from an EU law perspective via (i) an understanding of national security in a democratic rule of law framework where fundamental human rights standards and judicial oversight constitute key standards; (ii) the risks presented to the internal security of the Union as a whole as well as the privacy of EU citizens as data owners, and (iii) the potential spillover into the activities and responsibilities of EU agencies. The study then presents a set of policy recommendations to the European Parliament.

Study EN, FR

Industry 4.0: Digitalisation for productivity and growth

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 22-09-2015  
Author: Ron DAVIES  
Policy area: Industry  
Keyword: quality standard | public-private partnership | industrial development | EU industrial policy | modernisation of industry | industrial investment | impact of information technology | updating of skills | job creation | innovation | harmonisation of standards | communications industry | intellectual property

Summary: Many observers believe that Europe is at the beginning of a new industrial revolution, considered to be the fourth such leap forward and hence labelled Industry 4.0. The ubiquitous use of sensors, the expansion of wireless communication and networks, the deployment of increasingly intelligent robots and machines – as well as increased computing power at lower cost and the development of "big data" analytics – has the potential to transform the way goods are manufactured in Europe. This new, digital industrial revolution holds the promise of increased flexibility in manufacturing, mass customisation, increased speed, better quality and improved productivity. However to capture these benefits, enterprises will need to invest in equipment, information and communication technologies (ICTs) and data analysis as well as the integration of data flows throughout the global value chain. The EU supports industrial change through its industrial policy and through research and infrastructure funding. Member States are also sponsoring national initiatives such as Industrie 4.0 in Germany, the Factory of the Future in France and Italy, and Catapult centres in the UK. However challenges remain. The need for investment, changing business models, data issues, legal questions of liability and intellectual property, standards, and skills mismatches are among the challenges that must be met if benefits are to be gained from new manufacturing and industrial technologies. If these obstacles can be overcome, Industry 4.0 may help to reverse the past decline in industrialisation and increase total value added from manufacturing to a targeted 20% of all value added by 2020. Please click here for the full publication in PDF format.

Briefing EN
A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe

The ten priorities of the Juncker Commission: State of play a year on

eGovernment: Using technology to improve public services and democratic participation
Consumer protection in the EU: Policy overview

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 01-09-2015
Author: Jana VALANT
Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection
Keyword: single market | quality standard | United States | consumer protection | distributive trades | data collection | application of EU law | EU growth strategy | labelling | service | electronic commerce | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | consumer policy

Summary

'Consumers, by definition, include us all. They are the largest economic group in the economy, affecting and affected by almost every public and private economic decision', were the words of US President JF Kennedy in 1962, which marked the dawn of consumer rights.

A lot has changed since then, but the fast-paced and ever-changing world is still a constant in our daily lives as consumers. In recent years, EU consumer policy has shifted from the technical harmonisation of standards to the recognition of consumer protection as a part of the effort to establish a 'Europe for citizens'. But what precisely does the European Union' consumer protection legislation encompass and which tools are used to monitor and improve the protection of European consumers? This document seeks to answer these questions, providing a snapshot of the main consumer policy developments in recent years, together with success stories, shortcomings and future challenges for legislators.

Security of eGovernment Systems

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-07-2013
External author: Anders Jacobi (Project leader, DBT), Mikkel Lund Jensen (DBT), Linda Kool (Rathenau Institute), Geert Munnichs (Rathenau Institute) and Arnd Weber (ITAS)
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Research Policy
Keyword: public contract | computer network | protection of privacy | transmission network | identity document | personal data | information technology applications | harmonisation of standards | computer piracy | electronic government

Summary

The project 'Security of eGovernment systems' aimed at assisting policymakers in discerning policy options for meeting future challenges in securing eGovernment systems. The project focused on upcoming challenges of eGovernment security in delivering public services across borders. Through identifying key security barriers and enablers, the project points to promising avenues of policy development in an environment of rapidly changing ICTs and changing socio-economic concerns in the EU.

The most important contribution of the project is the development and assessment of 11 policy options.

Policy Option 1: Develop a policy strategy for improving the security of IT-systems used in Europe;
Policy Option 2: Stimulate development and use of security checklists (short-term);
Policy Option 3: Policy Option 3: Encourage the development and use of highly secure components (mid-term);
Policy Option 4: Encourage the development and use of highly secure systems (long-term);
Policy option 5: Create stronger institutional supervision and oversight of security;
Policy option 6: Build a 'Privacy by Design' knowledge base;
Policy option 7: Substantiate the data minimization principle by using anonymization techniques in all European eGovernment systems;
Policy option 8: Stimulate technical and legal solutions that avoid or limit privacy risks caused by re-identification of previously anonymized data;
Policy option 9: Make Privacy Impact Assessments of eGovernment systems mandatory and public;
Policy option 10: Use gateways to achieve interoperability of different national eGovernment security tools, but aim at Europe-wide availability and usability of tools;
Policy option 11: Ensure open and transparent evaluations of the trade-offs between privacy, security, usability, interoperability and costs of an eGovernment system.

Understanding hybrid threats

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 22-06-2015
Author: Patryk PAWLAK
Policy area: Security and Defence
Keyword: computer crime | North Korea | law of war | terrorism | Russia | civil war | NATO | Ukraine | border war | common foreign and security policy | China

Summary

'Hybrid threats' are often invoked in reference to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the ISIL/Da'esh campaign in Iraq. As policy-makers struggle to grasp what hybrid threats mean for national security, it is pertinent to recall the origins, the meaning, and legal challenges associated with this concept.

At a Glance EN
G7 Summit in Schloss Elmau: A Tighter Agenda, with Wider Impact?

Author: Wanda TROSCZYSNSKA VAN GENDEREN

Policy area: International Trade | Global Governance | Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence | Human Rights

Keyword: United States | France | United Kingdom | President of the Commission | Japan | sustainable development | trade relations | Ukraine | Canada | foreign policy | economic relations | Italy | Germany | climate change policy | President of the European Council | energy policy | ministerial meeting | Russia | group of leading industrialised countries | summit meeting

Summary: The 7-8 June 2015 Group of Seven (G7) summit in Schloss Elmau (Germany) marked the second meeting of seven leading industrialised nations without Russia since the disbanding of the Group of Eight (G8). The group's smaller configuration – a response to Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea – appears here to stay. The summit provided an opportunity for G7 leaders to discuss a number of topics pertaining to foreign policy, economy, health, energy, climate and sustainable development. Ukraine and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) featured prominently on the meeting's agenda, as did discussions on the post-2015 development and climate agendas. The revival of the G7 has served to ensure its members' unity on key policy files, shape joint policy responses and influence EU policies and global governance, particularly through its nexus with the Group of 20 (G20), the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The German presidency of G7 has been praised its inclusive approach ahead of the summit, with consultations conducted with non-governmental stakeholders.

Counter-terrorism funding in the EU budget

Author: Gianluca SGUEO

Policy area: Budget | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword: institutional structure | European security | Europol | EU expenditure | judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the EU | terrorism | EU financing | general budget (EU) | multiannual financial framework

Summary: Counter-terrorism (CT) spending by Western countries has increased over the past 15 years. Since 2001, United States (US) federal expenditure on homeland security has grown on average by $360 billion annually. While it is not possible to calculate total EU and Member State spending on CT with any precision, EU spending is estimated to have increased from €5.7 million in 2002 to €93.5 million in 2009. The 'Security and Citizenship' heading in the EU budget was slightly reduced, from €2 172 million in 2014 to €2 146.73 million in 2015. However, spending on CT, including EU fund and operational expenses for the functioning of the institutional framework, has increased. Greater investment in CT may provide a response to the upsurge in terrorist threats. Increased spending, however, is not always followed by a reduced incidence of terrorism. The EU's increased efforts to develop a strategy to tackle terrorism and to improve the institutional framework must be seen alongside concerns that its approach to CT may amount to a 'paper tiger'. This is due to the lack of an overall framework for new measures to tackle terrorism and to poor coordination of the institutional framework. A number of proposals are under discussion at EU level to further implement and strengthen EU strategy on CT. These include new rules on money-laundering, increased cooperation between the EU and its Member States, and a review of the existing tools for fighting terrorism. Please click here for the full publication in PDF format.

The 2015 G7 summit: Seeking common ground on global issues

Author: Marcin SZCZEPANSKI

Policy area: Global Governance

Keyword: the EU's international role | position of women | Ukraine | common foreign and security policy | foreign policy | climate change | security of supply | development policy | aid to refugees | Africa | marine environment | economic recession | Russia | group of leading industrialised countries | summit meeting | globalisation

Summary: The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal forum for international cooperation consisting of seven leading industrialised nations (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the USA). The heads of state or government of these countries have convened annual meetings since 1975 to discuss issues of global interest. The group has an informal nature and operates without a permanent secretariat. A rotating presidency is responsible for preparation of its annual summits. Since 1981, the EU has taken part in all G7 sessions. The next Summit will be held under the German presidency on 7 and 8 June 2015 in Schloss Elmau, Bavaria. The main points on the agenda will be the global economy, foreign and security policies, development, and climate issues. The leaders will also be discussing the UN conferences taking place later in 2015, the post-2015 agenda and many other specific issues such as resource efficiency, the marine environment and energy security.

Preparations for the Summit included engagement with representatives of civil society (such as non-governmental organisations, the science and research community, and business associations) and three ministerial meetings (with the participation of foreign, energy, and finance ministers respectively) which helped to set the Summit agenda. The programme will however only be finalised at the last minute, dependent on the most pressing recent developments.
The US Legal System on Data Protection in the Field of Law Enforcement. Safeguards, Rights and Remedies for EU Citizens

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-05-2015
External author: Francesca Bignami (George Washington University Law School, Washington, USA)
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Keyword: threat to national security | legal system | United States | protection of privacy | EU national | disclosure of information | data collection | source of law | espionage | judicial inquiry | data protection
Summary: Upon request by the LIBE Committee, this study surveys the US legal system of data protection in the field of federal law enforcement. It reviews two principal sources of US data protection law, the Fourth Amendment to the US Constitution and the Privacy Act of 1974. It also considers the legally prescribed methods of data collection, together with their associated data protection guarantees, in ordinary criminal investigations and national security investigations. Throughout, the study pays special attention to the rights afforded to EU citizens.

Digital Single Market for Europe

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 13-05-2015
Author: Marcin SZCZEPANSKI
Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword: single market | electronic commerce | regulation of telecommunications | consumer protection | intra-EU trade | data protection | computer piracy | copyright | proposal (EU)
Summary: The European Commission has proposed a new strategy to create a deeper Digital Single Market, in order to overcome the current fragmentation into 28 national markets. The strategy comprises a mix of legislative and non-legislative initiatives to be tabled by the end of 2016. However, the first reactions to the strategy have been mixed.

Interactive EU Mapping: Overview of Internal Market and Consumer Protection Related Legislation - Digital Single Market and e-Commerce

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 05-05-2015
Author: Iveta OZOLINA | Kendra PENGELLY | Birgit HARDT | Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI
Keyword: single market | electronic commerce | regulation (EU) | transmission network | regulation of telecommunications | consumer protection | directive (EU) | data protection | electronic government | copyright | proposal (EU)
Summary: Overview of Internal Market and Consumer Protection related legislation: Digital single market and e-commerce.

Parliament’s estimates of its 2016 budget

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 20-04-2015
Author: Alessandro D’ALFONSO
Policy area: Budget
Keyword: drawing up of the EU budget | budget estimate | administrative expenditure (EU) | operational expenditure (EU) | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | financial year | general budget (EU) | European Parliament
Summary: On 29 April 2015, the European Parliament (EP) is scheduled to vote on a report defining its priority objectives and proposed budget for next year as part of the procedure to establish the 2016 general budget of the European Union (EU). The EP’s budget accounts for around 1.2% of the EU budget.

Source: © European Union, 2019 - EP
**European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (Third edition)**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 18-03-2015  
**Author** Ralf DRACHENBERG | Stanislas DE FINANCE | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Josephine MOERMAN | Susanna TENHUNEN


**Keyword**  
common commercial policy | single market | Economic and Monetary Union | citizens' Europe | area of freedom, security and justice | common foreign and security policy | European Council | climate change policy | energy policy | EU migration policy | EU research policy | financial legislation | trans-European network | EU employment policy

**Summary**  
In this third edition of the overview of European Council Conclusions, presented in the form of a Rolling Check-List of Commitments, the European Council Oversight Unit has been monitoring and analysing the delivery of the European Council on the commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings, as well as its various responsibilities either in law or on the basis of intergovernmental agreements. The Check-List covers seven broad policy areas contained in seven chapters: Financial and Economic Affairs; Employment and Social Policies Agenda and Strategy; Competitiveness; Climate and Energy Strategies; Freedom, Security and Justice; External Policies; and Development. This compendium is designed to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in the months and years ahead.

**Munich Security Conference 2015 - Key security challenges ahead**

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 19-02-2015  
**Author** Carmen-Cristina CIRLIG

**Policy area** Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Security and Defence

**Keyword** Iran | Iraq | European security | United States | military intervention | Syria | Ukraine | Palestine question | common foreign and security policy | regional security | terrorism | Russia | nuclear non-proliferation | NATO | military occupation

**Summary** Between 6 and 8 February 2015, world leaders, former and current politicians, as well as media and civil society representatives gathered for the 51st Munich Security Conference (MSC), an increasingly important forum for debate and exchange of views among the world’s security community. The agenda was dedicated to the key challenges that lay ahead in 2015, dominated by the crisis in Ukraine and the deteriorating relations between Russia and the West, the rise of violent extremism and the fight against terrorism, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the refugee crisis around the world, the situation in the Middle East, as well as climate and energy security challenges. The underlying theme of the conference focused on the dangers of a collapse in the global order, of its institutions and, most importantly, of the principles on which it has been built since the Second World War.

**Data Protection Review : Impact on EU Innovation and Competitiveness**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 06-12-2012  
**External author** Jonathan Cave (RAND Europe) , H.R. (Rebecca) Schindler (RAND Europe) , Neil Robinson (RAND Europe) , Veronika Horvath (RAND Europe) , Sophie Castle-Clarke (RAND Europe) , A.P.C. (Arnold) Roosendaal (TNO) and Bas Kotterink (TNO).

**Quality Assurance review conducted by Scott Marcus (WIK-Consult) and Joanna Chataway (RAND Europe)**

**Policy area** Research Policy | Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection

**Keyword** single market | impact study | protection of privacy | data collection | competitiveness | administrative formalities | personal data | innovation | data protection | information storage

**Summary** The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) has requested an ad hoc briefing paper to provide its Members with information and advice regarding the proposed General Data Protection Regulation (2012/0011(COD)). This document presents a rapid assessment of the innovation and competitiveness impacts of the measures affecting: automated processing; control of data processing; and data transfers. It considers a variety of perspectives: profiling; big data; cloud computing; and privacy-friendly technologies and identifies a variety of impacts, and areas for improvement.

**Executive summary** DE, FR
Commitments Made at the Hearings of the Commissioners-Designate, Juncker Commission (November 2014 - October 2019)

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 14-11-2014

Author: Annamaria FORGACS, Miklos Laszlo GYORFFI, Doris KOLASSA, Marcel MAGNUS, Prit OJAMAA, Guillaume RAGONNAUD, Manuel MANRIQUE GIL, Purificacion TEJEDOR DEL REAL, Judit BARNA, Fernando GARCES DE LOS FAYOS TOURNAN, Dagmara STOERRING, Alexandre MATHIS, Martin HRADISKY, Wanda TROSZCZYNSKA VAN GENDEREN, Carine PIAGUET, Jost ANGERER, Manica HAUPTMAN, Alessandro DAVOLI, Petr NOVAK, Sarah Salome SY, Piero SOAVE, Darren NEVILLE, Laurence SMAJDA, Dirk VERBEKEN, Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI, Celine CHATEAU, Frederic GOUARDERES, Pasquale DE MICCO, Ottavio MARZOCCHI


Keyword: EU policy, EP Committee, President of the Commission, European Commissioner, public hearing, appointment of members, interinstitutional cooperation (EU), High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, vice-president of an institution

Summary: This compilation of briefings presents the most salient points and essential commitments made by the commissioners-designate during the hearings held in September/October 2014 before the parliamentary committees. These commitments concern the main on-going legislative procedures, the preparation of future legislative proposals as well as the scrutiny of the implementation of existing legislation. They also touch upon the crucial issue of interinstitutional cooperation.

Briefing EN
Overcoming Transatlantic differences on intellectual property

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 10-07-2014
Author: Carmen-Cristina CIRLIG
Policy area: Intellectual Property Law | International Trade | Foreign Affairs | Industry
Keyword: common commercial policy | commercial arbitration | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | industrial secret | free-trade agreement | investment protection | TRIPS | trade agreement (EU) | designation of origin | intellectual property | World Intellectual Property Organisation
Summary: Recent studies demonstrate the important contribution of intellectual property rights (IPR) to the American and EU economies. The differences between the respective IPR systems are comparatively small, yet seen as hard to overcome. The negotiation of the EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) may present the opportunity for a step change in EU-US relations in respect of IPR.

EU approach to cyber-security

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 31-03-2014
Author: Francesca FERRARO
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Keyword: computer crime | Europol | fight against crime | European convention | European Network and Information Security Agency | area of freedom, security and justice | espionage | administrative cooperation | directive (EU) | EU programme | data protection
Summary: Fighting cross-border crime affecting information and communications networks (cybercrime) is a priority in the EU's internal security strategy. To counter so-called cyber-attacks in a borderless space, the European Union and the Council of Europe have drawn up common strategies, operational measures and legislation.

The Economic, Financial & Social Impacts of Organised Crime in the EU

Publication type: Study
Date: 16-09-2013
External author: Michael Levi, Martin Innes, Peter Reuter and V. Rajeev Gundur
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Keyword: offence | public prosecution | organised crime | information analysis | EU police cooperation | fight against crime | judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the EU | fraud against the EU | EU body for police and judicial cooperation
Summary: The aim of the study is to generate a best estimate for the economic, financial and social costs of organised crime in and against the EU and to inform an evidence-based understanding of the associated issues. As so much uncertainty and known intra-EU and inter-crime variation exist, the study refrains from trying to create an aggregate figure for the costs of organised crime and responses to it in the EU as a whole and, instead, where possible, produces estimates for selected offenses. The study underlines that measuring the costs of organised crime is still at an early stage of development and that there is a clear need for more cross-border data matching and investigation in order to improve the quality of the evidence basis for European law enforcement agencies and their effectiveness in fighting organised crime.

The US Surveillance Programmes and Their Impact on EU Citizens' Fundamental Rights

Publication type: Study
Date: 16-09-2013
External author: Caspar BOWDEN (Independent Privacy Researcher), Introduction by Didier BIGO (King's College London / Centre d'Etudes sur les Conflits, Liberté et Sécurité – CCLS, Paris, France)
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Keyword: Internet | data recording | United States | data collection | espionage | personal data | rights of the individual | data protection
Summary: In light of the recent PRISM-related revelations, this briefing note analyzes the impact of US surveillance programmes on European citizens' rights. The note explores the scope of surveillance that can be carried out under the US FISA Amendment Act 2008, and related practices of the US authorities which have very strong implications for EU data sovereignty and the protection of European citizens' rights.
Road Map to the Digital Single Market - Prioritising Necessary Legislative Responses to Opportunities and Barriers to e-Commerce

Publication type: Study  
Date: 10-07-2012

External author: Alberto BOLOGNINI and Eletra LEGOVINI (Economisti Associati)

Policy area: Intellectual Property Law | Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection

Keyword: single market | electronic commerce | Internet | consumer protection | impact of information technology | competitiveness | digital technology | data protection | intellectual property

Summary: This note reviews the state of play of the actions promoting the Commission’s Digital Single Market within the framework of the Digital Agenda for Europe and the Single Market Act. It identifies priority actions according to economic growth potential, the rationale and overtime variation of EU legislation, and the degree of consensus or lack thereof. Finally, it highlights synergies and interdependencies between the various actions and offers a rough estimate of the time schedule for their implementation and expected impact.

Study: DE, EN, FR

review of security measures in the 6th research framework programme and the preparatory action for security research

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 29-05-2008

External author: Didier Bigo et Julien Jeandesboz, Centre d’Etudes sur les Conflits, Paris


Keyword: biometrics | protection of privacy | military research | public safety | environmental risk prevention | Framework Programme for Research and Development | video surveillance | research and development | common security and defence policy | industrial research

Summary: Security research has constituted, over the past few years, a strong priority for Community policies in the field of scientific research, industry, and justice and home affairs. Community efforts in this domain have been channelled, over the period 2002-2006, through the 6th Framework programme (FP6) and the Preparatory action on security research (PASR). FP6 has sustained, within its various thematic priorities, a series of projects and programmes dealing with technological developments in the field of security. The PASR is a targeted initiative of the European Commission aiming at developing contacts and partnerships between the actors of the European security industry, the public actors, and research bodies. PASR activities, in this respect, have mainly focused on technological development and the networking of actors, in anticipation for the thematic programme on security now established under FP7. The analysis of the contents of research being conducted under the FP6 and PASR is very revealing in this respect: it highlights the fact that this research is mainly oriented towards technological development as such, and unquestioningly takes security as a norm and a fundamental value. In this regard, and despite the odd exception, European security research does not include in its scope the effects that increasingly sophisticated technologies of control and surveillance can have on individual freedom and rights, particularly with regard privacy and the protection of personal data. It does not address the necessary limits to security. The point, then, is to envisage the modalities through which a reflection on the ethical, legal, political and social implications of security technologies can be strengthen and further integrated in European security research.

In-Depth Analysis: EN, FR

Proceedings of the workshop on 'Cyber Security in Europe' - Brussels, 31 August 2011

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-09-2011

External author: Freddy Dezeure (Interinstitutional Computer Emergency Response Pre-Configuration Team), Steve Purser (European Network and Information Security Agency - ENISA), Ferenc Suba (CERT-Hungary - National Cyber Security Centre), Mikko Hypponen (F-Secure), William Beer (Cyber Security Practice, PwC UK) and Markus Schaffrin (eco-Association of the German Internet Industry)

Policy area: Research Policy | Industry

Keyword: computer crime | Internet | multinational enterprise | fight against crime | small and medium-sized enterprises | EU institution

Summary: The general purpose of the workshop was to summarise existing and emerging threats that pose significant risks to networks and critical information, and to identify the drivers of these threats and to associate these key elements with security controls that can help to mitigate the risks. The workshop also sought to analyse possible European responses to challenges related to cyber security. Furthermore, the event aimed to facilitate an exchange of views and provide a forum for discussion with MEPs and all other participants.

Study: EN

Executive summary: DE, FR
Missile Defence in Europe: Strategic, Political and Industrial Implications

Publication type: Study
Date: 20-05-2011

External author: Nik HYNEK (Research Leader, Centre for International Security of the Institute of International Relations - IIR, Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC and Metropolitan University, Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC), Vit STRITECKY (Institute of International Relations, Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC, Centre for International Security and Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC) and Ondrej DITRYCH (Institute of International Relations, Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC and Centre for International Security)

Policy area: Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence | Industry
Keyword: United States | European arms policy | missile | arms industry | deterrent | Russia | strategic defence | NATO | common security and defence policy

Summary: Since the original announcement made by former U.S. president George W. Bush to build Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD)'s third pillar in Central Europe, BMD has become a widely discussed and contested issue. President Obama's review of the U.S. system (2009) paved the way for the construction of a multilayered system as a NATO capability which was endorsed by the Alliance at the Lisbon Summit (2010). Although the European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA) system proposed by the Obama administration is different from the original U.S. plans, it is now to be incorporated within NATO's Active Layered Theatre Ballistic Missile Defence (ALTBMD) architecture and, in addition, Russia has now been invited to participate. However, there are still a number of outstanding questions. This expert study investigates three dimensions of missile defence in Europe, placing the project in its proper strategic context, inquiring into its political implications and finally it assesses the industrial opportunities and challenges. The authors introduce three modalities of deterrence, the logic underlying each of them and the roles for missile defence (both territorial and theatre) in each case. The modalities identified are (1) the renewed strategic deterrence between the USA and Russia, (2) the deterrence of third states in reaction to their asymmetric nuclear threat, and (3) the reverse deterrence from intervention in regional conflicts. Taking into account the EU's securitization of ballistic missile proliferation, the new CSDP provisions of the Lisbon Treaty (especially the mutual assistance clause), strained EUNATO relations, as well as the political, economic, technological and industrial benefits of Europe's increased participation, this study argues in favour of an EU role in missile defence that would facilitate Europe's common action. It also identifies the European Defence Agency (EDA) as an institution that could enhance cooperation in this area. Pointing out U.S. techn

Study EN

International Terrorism and European Security

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-12-2003

Author: Richard HOLDSWORTH

Policy area: Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword: European security | asymmetric warfare | powers of the EP | terrorism | democracy | NATO | knowledge economy | common security and defence policy | human rights

Summary: This analysis of Europe's response to the threat of international terrorism after the 11 September attacks and the development of the European Security and Defence Policy was a reference document for the preparation of the Morillon Report on 'Security and defence - priorities and deficiencies' voted on by Parliament on 10 April 2003.

Study EN

Review of Security Measures in the Research Framework Programme

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-10-2010

External author: Julien Jeandesboz and Francesco Ragazzi

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Research Policy
Keyword: public-private partnership | European security | military research | area of freedom, security and justice | Framework Programme for Research and Development | industry-research relations | industrial research

Summary: This study provides an assessment of the EU "public-private dialogue" in security research and of the projects currently funded under the 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7), from the point of view of their contribution to the development of an area of freedom, security and justice. In this study, we ask two simple questions, deriving from the general objectives defined by the Stockholm programme. To what extent is EU-funded security research placed at the service of citizens? To what extent does it contribute to the strengthening of a single area of fundamental rights and freedoms?

Study EN
Workshop Report on Internet Governance Forum 2008: a European Perspective

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-01-2009

External author: Wolgang Kleinwächter (Department for Media and Information Sciences of the University of Aarhus, Denmark), Rolf Weber (European Law Institute and of the Centre for Information and Communication Law, Faculty of Law, University of Zurich, Switzerland) and Yves Pouillet (Research Centre on IT and Law - CRID, University of Namur, Belgium)

Policy area: Culture | Industry
Keyword: Internet | freedom of expression | protection of privacy | information technology | cultural pluralism | data protection

Summary: The Internet Governance Forum is a multi-stakeholder forum for policy dialogue on issues of internet governance and its third meeting was held in December 2008 in Hyderabad, India. The workshop and the briefings were intended to stimulate efficient and effective discussion among experts on key topics and to provide expert advice and recommendations to the EP ad hoc delegation in order to prepare its input and position. The briefings provided some analytical research and visions on the political, economic, social and legal issues of Internet governance.

Study EN

External Costs of Maritime Transport

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2007

External author: Silvia Maffii (project leader), Andrea Molocchi and Cosimo Chiffi (TRT Trasporti e Territorio Srl)

Policy area: Environment | Transport
Keyword: climate change | atmospheric pollution | greenhouse gas | maritime transport | environmental tax | marine pollution | environmental impact | polluter pays principle | pollution from ships

Summary: This note assesses the total and specific external costs of maritime transport. Three main external factors are analysed: a) marine pollution (discharges into the sea); b) air quality (atmospheric emissions); c) climate change (greenhouse gases). In addition, physical impacts are quantified for a second group of factors for which monetary values are not available: d) resources consumption; e) solid (garbage) and liquid (sludge) waste. Illegal discharges are also assessed in this briefing paper.

The final chapter contains recommendations regarding cost-efficient and promising measures to reduce/internalise the external costs of maritime transport.

Study DE, EN, FR

Legal, Technical and Policy Differences between the New Framework Programme RTD 2002-2006 and Previous Programmes

Publication type: Study
Date: 16-07-2001

External author: University of Oviedo Foundation (Oviedo, Spain)

Policy area: Budget | Research Policy | Industry
Keyword: EU activity | Framework Programme for Research and Development | research and development | innovation | knowledge economy | research budget

Summary: The purpose of this study is to analyse the new Framework Programme 2002-2006 for Research and Technological Development (FPRTD), with selective comparisons with the preceding framework programmes, particularly the Fifth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (1998-2002). This analysis will focus in particular on the legal, technical and policy aspects of the new framework programme and will be developed on the basis of its essential elements, i.e.: the pillars of the framework programme, particularly the legal basis and criteria for selecting priorities, its structure based on the priority themes, and the instruments for its implementation. A detailed analysis will also be made of the development of the budgets allotted to the framework programmes, particularly to the new Framework Programme for RTD (2002-2006), concluding with a list of the various topical subjects open to public debate.

Study EN