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Creation date: 09-12-2019
TTIP and Labour Standards

Publication type: Study  
Date: 14-06-2016

External author: Jan Orbie, Ferdi de Ville and Lore van den Putte

Policy area: Forward Planning | International Trade | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment

Keyword: common commercial policy | United States | corporate social responsibility | social dumping | free-trade agreement | sustainable development | social impact | economic consequence | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | labour dispute | labour standard | social clause | trade agreement (EU) | international labour law

Summary: The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) will follow EU and US recent trade policy practice to include labour provisions. These could limit the risk that liberalisation results in social dumping and promote upward change. This Policy Department A study concludes that the EU could take a precautionary stance and employ various instruments that increase the chances that TTIP will have positive social consequences. TTIP may combine the strengths of the EU and US approaches to labour provisions, while improving their weaknesses. More analysis of the social consequences of liberalisation and labour provisions might be stimulated and strong flanking measures at the EU and national level be foreseen.

Study: EN

TTIP Impacts on European Energy Markets and Manufacturing Industries

Publication type: Study  
Date: 12-01-2015

External author: Koen RADEMAEKERS, Stephan SLINGERLAND, Albert BRESSAND, Gabriel FELBERMAYR and Karl TÖRNMARCK (Triple E Consulting)


Keyword: labour market | United States | free-trade agreement | soft energy | invention | biomass | market access | oil industry | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | foreign investment | competitiveness | brain drain | trade agreement (EU) | gas industry | innovation | industrial manufacturing | energy production | manufactured goods | intellectual property

Summary: This study, provided by the Policy Department A at the request of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee (ITRE), aims to assess whether and to which extent European energy markets and manufacturing industries would be affected by the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Although the negotiations are currently ongoing, the analysis shows that the TTIP will improve the EU’s security of energy supply through adding liquidity and competition to the natural gas market. The TTIP will not directly lower either environmental or social legislation, but the study recommends the ITRE Committee to be aware of the potential for weakening of legislation implementation such as REACH and FQD.

Study: EN

TTIP and Jobs

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-04-2016

External author: Gabriel Felbermayr (Ludwig Maximilian's University Munich) and ifo Institute Leibniz Institute for Economic Research

Policy area: Forward Planning | International Trade | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment

Keyword: economic consequence | labour market | labour law | United States | employment structure | free-trade agreement | unemployment | trade agreement (EU) | EU employment policy | extra-EU trade

Summary: TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) could lead to substantial reallocation of jobs between and within industries, however the overall employment effects are uncertain. This Policy Department A study provides the Employment and Social Affairs Committee with an analytical review of literature and calculations of the potential employment impact of TTIP with a view to sectors affected. It provides a snapshot of EU and US trade and labour markets, compares methodologies and results of ex-ante assessments and also uses information from relevant ex-post evaluations of other trade agreements.

Study: EN

EU-US negotiations on TTIP: A survey of current issues

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 11-07-2016

Author: Laura PUCCIO

Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs

Keyword: public contract | United States | transatlantic relations | free-trade agreement | sustainable development | administrative transparency | European Commission | environmental policy | extra-EU trade | foreign investment | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | economic growth | international negotiations | European Parliament | EU statistics

Summary: The negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the EU and the USA aim at achieving a comprehensive trade agreement with renewed liberalisation efforts in trade, services and investments, while at the same time aiming at regulatory cooperation and rule-based trade. Since the completion of the 13th round of negotiations on TTIP in April 2016, the European Commission and the USA have been working to achieve substantial progress before the next round takes place in July 2016. As those negotiations get under way, this in-depth analysis examines progress to date and looks at the various issues that are still outstanding.

In-Depth Analysis: DE, EN, FR
Comparison of the EU Service Offers for the TTIP and TiSA Negotiations

Publication type: Study
Date: 11-12-2015
External author: Christopher HARTWELL, Jan TERESIŃSKI, Bartosz RADZIKOWSKI and Karolina BEAUMONT
Policy area: International Trade | Global Governance | Employment | Internal Market and Customs Union | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: freedom to provide services | United States | liberalisation of trade | international payment | transport market | health service | building industry | market access | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | energy industry | teaching | trade agreement (EU) | social services | recognition of diplomas | GATS | communications industry | most favoured nation
Summary: A comparison of the services offers which the European Union has made for the negotiations on the EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) shows that, in general, both treaties follow similar approaches and points of difference are minor; both TiSA and TTIP apply a positive listing approach in regards to market access and negative listing in regards to national treatment, and the rules governing market access and national treatment do not differ between the two agreements. The most significant differences in sector-specific provisions are featured in the transport sector and educational services, while the highest harmonisation of provisions is in the energy sector and communications. Overall, the service provisions in TiSA and TTIP are very similar, although it seems that the level of trade liberalization is higher in TiSA.

Study EN

TTIP: Opportunities and Challenges in the Area of Technical Barriers to Trade, Including Standards

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2015
External author: Jacques PELKMANS
Keyword: standardisation | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | technical barrier | United States | South Korea | mutual recognition principle | free-trade agreement | Singapore
Summary: The study explores the possibilities for reducing the costs of technical barriers to trade (TBTs) between the US and the EU, found in standardisation, technical regulations and/or conformity assessment procedures and acceptance of their results. This is important for many industrial sectors but also horizontally as TBTs generally. The EU proposal is ambitious, but without a US text, feasibility is hard to assess, given that the two systems differ considerably. A preliminary attempt to construct the US demands and some partial solutions for TTIP are discussed. The ‘living agreement’ is critical for an effective TBT chapter and needs to be given time, as long as it is driven by an agreed ambitious objective of reducing TBTs as much as possible.

Study EN

EU-US negotiations on TTIP: A survey of current issues

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-06-2015
Author: Laura PUCCIO
Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: public contract | United States | originating product | free-trade agreement | investment protection | designation of origin | financial services | market access | small and medium-sized enterprises | technical barrier | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | treaty sector | plant health legislation | trade agreement (EU)
Summary: The negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the EU and the US aim at achieving a comprehensive trade agreement with renewed liberalisation efforts in trade, services and investments while at the same time aiming at regulatory cooperation and rule-based trade. Negotiations on TTIP have now completed their ninth round. Political debates on some of the outstanding issues are becoming more acute, as the European Parliament discusses its new recommendations to the European Commission on TTIP. The discussion and vote in plenary planned for 10 June was postponed in view of the large number of amendments submitted to the draft recommendations. This analysis looks at the different negotiation issues still outstanding.

In-Depth Analysis ES, DE, EN, FR
TTIP: Challenges and Opportunities for the Consumer Protection

In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 15-06-2016

External author: Stephen WOOLCOCK, Barbara HOLZER and Petros KUSMU


Keyword: information technology industry | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | technical barrier | United States | consumer protection | free-trade agreement | powers of the EP | motor vehicle industry | machine-tool industry | chemical industry | technical regulations | decision-making

Summary: This in-depth analysis examines options for regulatory cooperation in TTIP and assesses its challenges and opportunities for consumer protection. It looks at existing regulatory approaches illustrated by reference to a range of case studies drawn from other briefing papers in the TTIP series for IMCO. Based on established practice and on the Commission's recently published proposal on regulatory cooperation, the briefing eventually discusses the likely approach in the TTIP. Despite desirable opportunities there are also significant challenges of reconciling the different regulatory philosophies ahead. In broad terms it finds that the European Parliament's regulatory powers will not be affected by the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, but suggests that the EP will need to ensure that the EP's priorities shape the TTIP regulatory cooperation agenda and not the other way around.

In-Depth Analysis  EN

TTIP: Access to consolidated texts and confidential documents

Briefing  
Date: 12-07-2016

Author: Laura PUCCIO

Policy area: International Trade

Summary: Like other negotiating documents, consolidated texts, which combine the 'textual proposals' of parties negotiating an agreement, are normally confidential. The text of an agreement is typically only published once negotiations are complete and the parties have reached agreement on a single text. In response to growing public concern and calls for greater transparency in negotiations, the EU has begun to engage more with civil society on the content of its negotiating objectives. The controversy surrounding talks on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) prompted the European Commission to publish the textual proposals tabled by the EU in its negotiations with the US. However, the US has not reciprocated, which means that consolidated texts and other documents referring to US positions remain classified. Initially, on the EU side, only officials with a 'need to know' and proper accreditation from the Commission or from a national government, as well as a limited number of Members of the European Parliament had access to these documents. However, in late 2015, the EU and the US reached an agreement under which all Members of the European Parliament and all members of the EU Member States' national parliaments would have access to the consolidated TTIP negotiating documents. For further information on the ongoing TTIP negotiations, see the recent EPRS publication 'EU-US negotiations on TTIP: A survey of current issues', by Laura Pucio.

Briefing  EN

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP): The Sluggish State of Negotiations

In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 20-10-2015

Author: Elfriede BIERBRAUER


Keyword: freedom to provide services | public contract | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | right of establishment | liberalisation of trade | free-trade agreement | non-tariff barrier | investment protection | free movement of goods | trade agreement (EU) | market access

Summary: Ten rounds of negotiations on the EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) over the past two years have produced scant results. Since the talks were launched – with high expectations – in June 2013, negotiators have shied away from addressing real substance or tackling difficult issues. The political objectives of the EU mandate and those expressed by the European Parliament in its recent resolution on the TTIP, as well as the US Congress's objectives as specified in the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) Act, have been clear: all recommend eliminating tariffs and dismantling non-tariff barriers to further liberalise transatlantic markets and promote higher rates of growth and job creation. In early October 2015, the negotiating parties finally presented upgraded proposals on how to eliminate tariffs. They will also need to present offers on access to public procurement markets and begin discussions on the new Investment Court System (ICS), as proposed by Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström on 16 September 2015. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the other major trade agreement that had occupied US negotiators (to a greater extent, in fact, than the TTIP), was agreed on 5 October 2015. If TTIP negotiations are to close before US President Barack Obama leaves office – disrupting the negotiating process and possibly ushering in a less trade-friendly president – the process will have to be considerably speeded up.

In-Depth Analysis  ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, NL
The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP): Challenges and Opportunities for the Internal Market and Consumer Protection in the Area of Engineering

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-07-2015  
External author: Jacques PELKMANS  
Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection | Industry  
Keyword: standardisation | safety standard | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | technical barrier | United States | mechanical engineering | mutual recognition principle | free-trade agreement | competitiveness | quality label | industrial manufacturing | market access  
Summary: The European Engineering industry, by far the biggest exporter of goods to the US, suffers from a range of TBTs (Technical Barriers to Trade) when exporting to the US. After two decades of trying – in vain - to reduce the costs of these TBTs, TTIP should address them, yielding significant economic gains. US standards, relevant for US safety regulation, are very rarely international standards from ISO and IEC, in sharp contrast with the EU. This is costly for EU exporters. Conformity assessment issues related to OSHA requirements (US regulator) should be resolved as EU exporters suffer from a triple cost disadvantage. The US insistence of ‘mutual recognition of standards’ is not a solution at all, undermining the EU single standard environment and ‘trading in’ a first best (world standard) solution for a second-best one, if not worse. Over time globalisation increases the pressure to find effective US/EU solutions.

Study EN

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP): Challenges and Opportunities for the Internal Market and Consumer Protection in the Area of Services

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-09-2015  
External author: Kenneth HEYDON (London School of Economics and Political Science, the UK)  
Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union  
Keyword: preferential agreement | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | services company | trade restriction | consumer protection | tertiary sector | service industry | trade agreement | provision of services | tariff barrier  
Summary: This paper was prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the European Parliament’s Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection. It finds that there is significant scope for the EU to benefit from freeing up of transatlantic services trade while safeguarding European values and preserving the right to regulate. Importantly, TTIP negotiation of reduced transatlantic regulatory barriers will help unify the internal EU services market, leading to significant increases in intra-EU services trade.

Study EN

TTIP Negotiations: Challenges and Opportunities for Europe - Compilation of 8 At a Glance Notes

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 09-06-2015  
Author: Kendra PENGELLY | Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI | Iveta OZOLINA  
Keyword: customs inspection | common commercial policy | public contract | United States | originating product | consumer protection | free-trade agreement | labelling | market access | technical barrier | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | mechanical engineering | tertiary sector | trade agreement (EU) | textile industry | customs cooperation  
Summary: Compilation of 8 at-a-glance notes on 'TTIP: Opportunities and challenges', prepared by the Policy Department A for the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection cover 8 sectors:  
- services,  
- public procurement,  
- technical barriers to trade, including standards,  
- customs and trade facilitation,  
- consumer protection,  
- textiles and labelling,  
- motor vehicles and engineering, including machinery.  
The analyses done on the opportunities and challenges Europe faces with regard to the negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). They examine options of the TTIP from the point of view of EU offensive and defensive interests.

In-Depth Analysis EN
ENVI Relevant Legislative Areas of the EU-US Trade and Investment Partnership Negotiations (TTIP)

**Publication type:** Study  
**Date:** 05-11-2014  
**External author:** Shailendra Mudgal, Katherine Salès, Alice Landowski, Otto Kern, Juliette Mansard, Christiane Gerstetter, Max Grünig, Elizabeth Dooley, Elizabeth Tedsen, Martin Nesbit, Kamila Paquel and Sirini Withana  
**Policy area:** Environment | Food Safety | Forward Planning | International Trade | Energy | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Public Health | Industry  
**Keyword:** nanotechnology | United States | comparative law | consumer protection | free-trade agreement | environmental law | energy law | foodstuffs legislation | pharmaceutical legislation | medical device | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | health legislation | plant health legislation | market approval | motor vehicle industry | cloning | trade agreement (EU) | cosmetic product  
**Summary:** This study, prepared by Policy Department A, aims to support Members of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) in monitoring on-going negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). It analyses the main differences between EU and US legislation in eight areas, namely: human medicines and medical devices, cosmetics, food and nutrition, sanitary and phyto-sanitary, nanomaterials, cloning, raw materials and energy, and motor vehicles. Existing collaboration between the EU and US, progress already achieved in the negotiations and potential future developments in these areas are also addressed.

**Study EN**

TTIP - Challenges and Opportunities

**Publication type:** At a Glance  
**Date:** 29-06-2016  
**Author:** Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI  
**Keyword:** public contract | United States | originating product | free-trade agreement | investment protection | designation of origin | financial services | market access | small and medium-sized enterprises | technical barrier | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | barrier | Canada | market access | standardisation | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | South Korea | mutual recognition principle | competitiveness | motor vehicle industry | intellectual property  
**Summary:** This leaflet provides short compilation of papers prepared by the European Parliament’s Policy Department A: Economic and Scientific Policy in relation to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

At a Glance EN

The Transatlantic Trade and investment Partnership (TTIP): Challenges and Opportunities for the Internal Market and Consumer Protection in the Area of Motor Vehicles

**Publication type:** Study  
**Date:** 07-07-2015  
**External author:** IW Köln  
**Policy area:** Environment | Internal Market and Customs Union | Industry  
**Keyword:** common commercial policy | United States | free-trade agreement | liberalisation of trade | tariff policy | non-tariff barrier | Canada | market access | standardisation | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | South Korea | mutual recognition principle | competitiveness | motor vehicle industry | intellectual property  
**Summary:** The expected effects of TTIP on the European automotive industry will be significant, but depend strongly on the scope of trade liberalisation. In the field of motor vehicles TTIP should go far beyond the degree of trade liberalization reached in previous trade agreements between the EU and other countries. Tariffs should be eliminated and also non-tariff barriers (NTBs) reduced. Regulatory cooperation to reduce NTBs is promising particularly in the automotive industry. Beside harmonisation, international standards and cooperation on new technologies, another promising approach is mutually recognition of aspects of regulation based on sound evidence of the equivalence of outcomes. However, the challenge is twofold: identifying unnecessarily trade distorting NTBs while at the same time respecting EU regulatory sovereignty, democratic legitimacy, and the high level of EU standards in passenger and environmental safety.

Study EN

TTIP and Labour Standards

**Publication type:** At a Glance  
**Date:** 15-07-2016  
**Author:** Susanne KRAATZ  
**External author:** Jan Orbie, Ferdi de Ville and Lore van den Putte (Ghent University, Belgium)  
**Policy area:** Forward Planning | International Trade | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment  
**Keyword:** common commercial policy | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | labour relations | liberalisation of trade | free-trade agreement | labour standard | trade agreement (EU) | working conditions | International Labour Organisation  
**Summary:** This Policy Department A note gives a summary of the study TTIP and Labour Standards. The study analyzes the possible effects of TTIP on labour conditions in the European Union (EU), the United States (US) and third countries. It is based on a literature review, an evaluation of labour provisions in recent EU trade agreements and an assessment of stakeholder positions.

At a Glance EN
TTIP: Challenges and Opportunities in the Area of Customs and Trade Facilities

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 31-08-2015
Author Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI | Roberto BENDINI
Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection
Keyword United States | consumer protection | free-trade agreement | powers of the EP | Canada | security of supply | EU customs procedure | technical barrier | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | South Korea | impact of information technology | trade promotion | tariff barrier
Summary The trade costs associated with customs and other border controls become more important as tariff barriers are reduced. The EU is in the process of further modernisation of its customs code. It also needs to work with the EU’s trading partners to facilitate trade while protecting consumer interests and the security of the international supply chain. The negotiations on TTIP offer a means of building on existing agreements to further this aim. This paper is about how to make customs more efficient. Others in this series of eight, prepared by Policy Department A for the IMCO Committee, cover the substantive issues in technical barriers to trade, services, procurement and the sectors of textiles and clothing, motor vehicles and machinery sectors. A further paper covers the horizontal issues in regulatory cooperation.

TTIP and regulation of financial markets: Regulatory autonomy versus fragmentation

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 15-06-2015
Author Laura PUCCIO
Policy area International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword common commercial policy | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | financial market | national law | free-trade agreement | investment protection | trade agreement (EU) | financial legislation | foreign enterprise | market access | financial services
Summary Financial services trade is currently one of the most controversial service chapters in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations. One of the main concerns is how the trade agreement may affect the ongoing reform of domestic financial regulations. Trade agreements ensure regulatory independence in the field. However, regulatory independence has also led to substantial divergence in regulatory requirements. Regulatory fragmentation and the extraterritorial reach of domestic financial regulation have been shown to result in potential conflict, which might raise transaction costs in transatlantic trade in financial services. The US is currently opposed to negotiating stronger cooperation within TTIP, as they fear that the cooperation framework proposed by the EU could slow their domestic reform process.

TTIP - Challenges and Opportunities, Compilation of Papers

Publication type Briefing
Date 04-12-2015
Author Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI | Iveta OZOLINA | MAGDALENA DIMOVA
Keyword common commercial policy | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | free-trade agreement | EU publication | trade agreement (EU) | bibliography
Summary This leaflet provides a compilation of papers prepared by the European Parliament’s Policy Department A: Economic and Scientific Policy in relation to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

TTIP: Opportunities and Challenges in the Area of Public Procurement

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 15-06-2015
External author Stephen WOOLCOCK
Keyword public contract | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | free-trade agreement | business morals | protectionism | small and medium-sized enterprises | market access
Summary In TTIP the EU has offensive interests in greater coverage of public procurement markets in the USA. Consumers stand to gain from lower prices and better use of public funds. There is an opportunity to negotiate better access for EU suppliers. EU smaller or medium sized suppliers would especially benefit from more transparent US state and city public procurement procedures.
TTIP: Challenges and Opportunities in the Area of Textiles and Labelling

**Publication type** In-Depth Analysis  
**Date** 31-08-2015  
**Author** Roberto BENDINI | Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI  
**Policy area** Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection  
**Keyword** consumer information | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | consumer protection | free-trade agreement | powers of the EP | non-tariff barrier | production cost | labelling | textile industry | harmonisation of standards  
**Summary** The paper, produced by Policy Department A for the IMCO committee, analyses opportunities and challenges of TTIP for the EU in textile and clothing (T&C). This area differs from other industrial sectors in that average tariff levels are relatively high and a number of tariff peaks still exist. It would not be difficult to negotiate the complete phase out of all tariff barriers and obtain gains for consumers and firms. A more challenging task will be to tackle the existing high level of non-tariff barriers. To be able to exploit the potential gains from trade liberalization, the challenge for EU negotiators is to enter a regulatory co-operation game with the US while maintaining the high level of health and environment protection achieved in the EU.

The Expected Impact of the TTIP on EU Member States and Selected Third Countries

**Publication type** In-Depth Analysis  
**Date** 19-09-2014  
**Author** Roberto BENDINI | Pasquale DE MICCO  
**Policy area** International Trade | Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection | Foreign Affairs | Industry  
**Keyword** United States | generalised preferences | suspension of customs duties | developing countries | import (EU) | free-trade agreement | liberalisation of trade | EU Member State | export (EU) | market access | impact study | economic consequence | trade agreement (EU) | GATT  
**Summary** The Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is one of the largest trade deals ever negotiated by the European Union. The European Commission, based on studies commissioned externally, has stressed on the extremely positive effects the deal could produce on the EU economy as a whole and tried to dismiss allegations that TTIP could have negatively impacted on a certain number of economic sectors and third countries, especially those benefiting from preferential access to the EU and the US markets. Several independent studies, both general and regional, have meanwhile been published. These studies, while generally confirming the expected benefits to the EU economy as a whole, often diverge as far as given economic sectors or Member States are concerned. It is worth to note that at present time, only two studies dealing with third countries have been carried out. Impact on third countries has been analysed revealing that preferential partners of both the EU and the US may face severe losses should the deal be finally concluded following the most optimistic scenario (full liberalisation).

Investment rules in trade agreements: Developments and issues in light of the TTIP debate

**Publication type** In-Depth Analysis  
**Date** 18-09-2015  
**Author** Laura PUCCIO  
**Policy area** International Trade | Foreign Affairs  
**Keyword** United States | foreign investment | interpretation of the law | free-trade agreement | bilateral agreement | EU Member State | investment protection | expropriation | trade agreement (EU) | investment abroad | international law  
**Summary** The foreign direct investment (FDI) stocks of EU entities in the US and of US entities in the EU both amount to over €1.6 trillion. Investment access and protection is therefore critical to EU-US economic relations. On both sides of the Atlantic, criticism has been growing regarding the interpretation of certain investment protection rules found in either free trade agreements or in bilateral investment treaties, and of their potential constraints on the regulatory capacity of the states party to them. The US and the EU alike are revising these rules to ensure states maintain the freedom to regulate for legitimate public purposes. Often, the US and EU approach to reform investment chapters is similar and could be complementary. The need for a solution that works for both has become an essential component of the negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

TTIP: Consumer Protection - Study in Focus

**Publication type** At a Glance  
**Date** 16-11-2015  
**Author** Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI  
**Keyword** negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | consumer protection | liberalisation of trade | powers of the EP | investment protection | trade agreement (EU) | technical regulations  
**Summary** This is a short overview of the in-depth analysis "TTIP: Challenges and Opportunities for Consumer Protection". Link to the original document: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2015/542222/IPOL_IDA(2015)542222_EN.pdf  
**At a Glance** EN
TTIP: Engineering, Including Machinery - Study in Focus
Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 16-11-2015
Author: Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI
Keyword: United States | liberalisation of trade | machinery | Canada | market access | standardisation | technical barrier | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | South Korea | mechanical engineering | mutual recognition principle | Singapore | trade agreement (EU)
Summary: The study TTIP: Engineering including Machinery explores how TTIP could effectively address the causes of costly market access to the US in the Engineering sector, such as stubborn TBTs. The case is made why TTIP offers the potential to lower the TBTs to the US engineering market significantly, via three complementary routes in TTIP. The study sets out the overall and specific EU offensive interests, one crucial defensive interest (the integrity of the single market) and some opportunities and challenges. This is a short overview of this study.

At a Glance

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

EU and US Trade Policy and its Global Implications (TPP, TTIP and China)
Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 07-07-2014
Author: Roberto BENDINI | Jakub PRZETACZNIK
Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: common commercial policy | trade by country | economic consequence | United States | liberalisation of trade | free-trade agreement | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy | foreign policy | geopolitics | China
Summary: The focus of US foreign policy has shifted to Asia in a dramatic way. With the ‘pivot’ strategy, the US intends to reaffirm its political role in the region and secure a stronger economic position, not least by concluding an ambitious Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement. The new strategy will inevitably have an impact on China, and may be seen as a US response to China’s increasing assertiveness in world affairs. As a result of the global economic crisis, the US has also adopted a forward-looking foreign trade strategy aimed at rebalancing external deficits, create new jobs and increase industrial production in the US. In pursuing these economic aims, the US has essentially turned towards Asia, apparently at the expense of its preferential relations with the EU. With the launch of the US-EU Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in 2013, the scenario changed dramatically, with the US negotiating two major deals at the same time. Its economic focus notwithstanding, the TTIP has strong and obvious political implications that are not without risks for the EU. In this context, China faces a serious dilemma. As joining the TPP on the conditions set by the US does not seem to be a viable solution, Beijing is left with two alternatives: to strengthen it hold over Asian economies or to conclude an ambitious deal with the EU. Both options are feasible, but neither is without consequences.
In-Depth Analysis

Source: © European Union, 2019 - EP
EU investment protection after the ECJ Opinion on Singapore: Questions of competence and coherence

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<tr>
<td>External author</td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Steffen HINDELANG, LL.M., Department of Law, University of Southern Denmark, and Dr. Jurgita BAUR, Germany; and Prof. Dr. Stephan SCHILL, LL.M., Amsterdam Center for International Law, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Investment protection continues to be a controversial issue, as shown in particular during the negotiations on the EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). To address stakeholder concerns, the EU has moved from traditional investor-state dispute settlement arrangements towards introducing bilateral investment court systems in new agreements and pursuing the goal of establishing a permanent multilateral investment court. At the same time, the European Court of Justice defined the limits of the Union’s exclusive competence in its opinion of 16 May 2017 with regard to the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (FTA), which has led to the splitting of new FTAs into two parts, treating investment protection separately. Adding to the complex picture, a plethora of EU Member States’ bilateral investment treaties also remain in place. The workshop held by the Committee on International Trade took stock of existing EU investment protection provisions and analysed the options for a coherent and predictable dispute settlement system in line with the EU Treaties.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>EN</td>
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The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP): The US Congress’s Positions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication type</th>
<th>Briefing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>09-09-2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Elfriede BIERBRAUER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword</td>
<td>public contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>The US Congress is mandated by the US Constitution to exercise a regulatory and oversight role in international trade. It also has a role in negotiating external trade agreements, exercising its oversight, legislative and advisory functions. To date, the Congress has played an active role in the negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), overseeing the negotiations, gathering the views of key stakeholders during hearings and events it has organised, and flagging issues it considers politically important. While the US Congress has been broadly supportive of the negotiations, there appears to be no political consensus at the moment on the key issues under consideration, including the potential desirability and likely impact of the measures under discussion. Contentious issues include agriculture, intellectual property rights, regulatory cooperation and the EU’s access to the US public procurement and energy markets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Briefing</td>
<td>EN</td>
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Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) Negotiations: State of Play

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication type</th>
<th>Briefing</th>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>28-08-2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Elfriede BIERBRAUER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>The negotiations on a comprehensive Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) started in June 2013, with enormous political support on both sides of the Atlantic. One year on, after six rounds of negotiations, initial enthusiasm in view of an agreement which would create a transatlantic market free of tariffs and other non-tariff barriers with the aim of boosting growth and creating additional jobs, both in the EU and the US, has given way to defence of own markets. Be it increased access to markets for goods, services and public procurement, closer regulatory cooperation, an investment chapter that includes sound investment protection provisions and an Investor-State Dispute Settlement clause, intellectual property rights, a chapter on energy and raw materials, etc., all the issues involved appear to be contentious in one way or the transatlantic negotiators. The European Parliament, which will have to give its consent to the TTIP (as will the US Congress), has been following the negotiations closely.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briefing</td>
<td>DE, EN</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**TTIP: Public Procurement - Study in Focus**

Publication type: At a Glance  
Date: 16-11-2015  
Author: Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI


**Keyword:** public contract | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | trade agreement (EU) | market access

**Summary:** This is a short overview of the in-depth analysis "TTIP: Opportunities and Challenges in the area of Public procurement".


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**The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and Labour**

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 01-12-2014  
Author: Susanne KRAATZ

**Policy area:** Employment

**Keyword:** public contract | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | corporate social responsibility | tertiary sector | free-trade agreement | job creation | labour standard | investment protection | trade agreement (EU) | Canada | international labour law

**Summary:** This briefing prepared by Policy Department A for the Employment and Social Affairs Committee provides an overview of labour provisions in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). After a summary of its scope, state and EP involvement it analyses the evolution of labour provisions in trade and investment agreements with a view to similarities and differences in the EU and US approaches. Finally, it presents a number of employment-related issues as well as selected results from research on potential job effects.

Briefing

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**TTIP: Customs and Trade Facilitation - Study in Focus**

Publication type: At a Glance  
Date: 16-11-2015  
Author: Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI


**Keyword:** health control | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | consumer protection | liberalisation of trade | simplification of formalities | anti-dumping measure | trade agreement (EU) | customs cooperation | electronic government

**Summary:** The study TTIP: Opportunities and Challenges in the Area of Customs and Trade Facilitation assess how TTIP can help to reduce these costs whilst at the same time ensure that consumers are protected from the import of unsafe or dangerous products and EU commercial policy instruments can be properly implemented. This is a short overview of this study.


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**Parliament's recommendations on TTIP talks**

Publication type: At a Glance  
Date: 02-06-2015  
Author: Laura PUCCIO

**Policy area:** International Trade | Foreign Affairs

**Keyword:** negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | free-trade agreement | transparency in decision-making | public service | investment protection | trade agreement (EU) | designation of origin | provision of services | market access

**Summary:** The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is currently being negotiated between the EU and the US as a comprehensive and ambitious trade agreement aiming to liberalise trade and investments as well as foster regulatory cooperation. Public opinion in some EU Member States shows fears related to investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) clauses in TTIP and, more generally, the impact of the future agreement on states' regulatory freedom in the areas of the environment, consumer and labour law and data protection. The INTA Committee has adopted draft recommendations on the TTIP negotiations, due to be discussed during the June plenary.

At a Glance: ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, PL
TTIP: Motor Vehicles - Study in Focus

Publication type  At a Glance
Date 16-11-2015
Author Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI


Keyword  approval | safety standard | environmental standard | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | South Korea | liberalisation of trade | motor car | non-tariff barrier | motor vehicle industry | trade agreement (EU) | Canada

Summary The study TTIP: Motor Vehicles analyses the main challenges and opportunities concerning trade with motor vehicles and parts which should be considered during the negotiation between the EU and the US. The first part offers an overview of the effects of two recently concluded free trade agreements (FTA), the EU-Korea FTA and the FTA with Canada. In the second part the focus turns to the EU-US trade barriers and the potential for regulatory cooperation in the automotive industry. This is a short overview of this study.

Link to the original document:

The TTIP’s Potential Impact on Developing Countries: A Review of Existing Literature and Selected Issues

Publication type  In-Depth Analysis
Date 29-04-2015
Author Manuel MANRIQUE GIL | Elfriede BIERBRAUER | Marika LERCH

Policy area  International Trade | Development and Humanitarian Aid

Keyword  trade by group of countries | United States | generalised preferences | suspension of customs duties | developing countries | free-trade agreement | liberalisation of trade | trading operation | impact study | economic consequence | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | trade agreement (EU) | geopolitics

Summary The position and concerns of developing countries have only belatedly entered the discussion over the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). While poor countries may gain much from the positive effects of the TTIP, their precarious positions means that they may be less able to react and adapt to negative consequences. The EU is required to assess the development effects of its policies, including trade policies, by the Lisbon Treaty. Although the shape and scope of the final TTIP agreement is not yet known, economic analyses have identified different ways in which it could affect developing countries and influence the global trading system. Several economic studies have also attempted to measure the possible outcomes for different countries and regions. While it appears that the negative impact of trade diversion and preference erosion is likely to be small, there may be notable exceptions, including risks to the position of some countries in international value chains. Proposals to address such negative consequences include concrete measures for affected countries, such as extending unilateral preferences and shaping the TTIP in such a way as to facilitate positive effects. Extending the principle of mutual recognition or equivalence to third parties and defining liberal rules of origin in the agreement are particularly important.

In-Depth Analysis EN

TTIP: Technical Barriers to Trade, Including Standards - Study in Focus

Publication type  At a Glance
Date 16-11-2015
Author Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI


Keyword  standardisation | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | technical barrier | United States | South Korea | mutual recognition principle | free-trade agreement | Singapore | trade agreement (EU) | Canada

Summary The study TTIP: Opportunities and Challenges in the area of Technical Barriers to Trade, including Standards concentrates on the horizontal TBT chapter in TTIP, with links to the regulatory cooperation chapter and the nine sectorial chapters. This is a short overview of this study.

Link to the original document:

At a Glance EN
Parliamentary scrutiny of trade policies across the western world

Publication type: Study
Date: 25-03-2019

External author: Bart KERREMSANS, Johan ADRIAENSEN, Francesca COLLI, Evelyn COREMANS

Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | International Trade | Democracy | Foreign Affairs

Summary: The Lisbon Treaty increased the European Parliament's powers over EU trade policy. Ten years after its entry into force it is timely to take stock of how the EP has made use of this leverage in shaping the EU's trade negotiations. Such an exercise benefits from a comparison with other well-established parliamentary democracies, particularly the key partners with whom the EU has recently negotiated or has started to negotiate a comprehensive trade agreement. This study compares parliamentary scrutiny of trade policy in the EU with the United States, Canada and Australia. It concludes that the European Parliament has become powerful and active in trade policy, on a comparable level to the US Congress. Its powers exceed those of other Western democracies, such as Australia and Canada. From the latter the European Parliament may conclude that it is important to codify some of its informal oversight practices, before they may get lost over time again. This may also help to encourage its trading partners to increase their parliamentary involvement during negotiations with the EU. As regards the implementation of trade agreements however, the EU has very few competences in comparison to all other three countries analysed.

Study EN

TTIP Textiles and Labelling - Study in Focus

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 16-11-2015
Author: Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI


Keyword: negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | South Korea | consumer protection | originating product | free-trade agreement | non-tariff barrier | labelling | trade agreement (EU) | Canada | textile industry

Summary: The study TTIP: Opportunities and Challenges in the Area of Textiles and Labelling looks at the textiles and clothing sector. Relatively high tariffs remain in textiles and clothing and the study considers the opportunities and challenges of reducing these as well as simplifying the complex rules of origin that have been used in the sector. It also analyses the important non-tariff barriers in the sector, such as those concerning labelling and consumer safety. This is a short overview of this study.

At a Glance EN

Parliament's draft recommendations on TTIP talks

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 03-07-2015
Author: Laura PUCCIO

Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs

Keyword: negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | free-trade agreement | investment protection | trade agreement (EU) | interinstitutional relations (EU)

Summary: The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is currently being negotiated between the EU and the US as a comprehensive and ambitious trade agreement aiming to liberalise trade and investment as well as foster regulatory cooperation. Citizens in some EU Member States raise fears related to investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) clauses in TTIP and, more generally, the impact of the future agreement on states’ regulatory freedom in the areas of the environment, consumer and labour law and data protection. In light of the number of amendments submitted on Parliament’s draft recommendations for the negotiations, the plenary discussion and vote was postponed in June. But after a brief return to Committee they are now due to be discussed in the July plenary.

At a Glance EN
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 parliamentarian involvement and connect transatlantic parliamentary cooperation with the institutional operation of TTIP.

Study EN, FR

Gender Equality in Trade Agreements

Publication type Study
Date 28-11-2016
External author Marzia FONTANA

Keyword social impact | World Trade Organisation | third country | United States | Canada | industrial manufacturing | trade agreement | provision of services | gender equality

Summary Trade policies have different impacts on different groups of women and men. Carefully assessing the likely gender implications of specific trade agreements is therefore essential to ensure that both women and men benefit from the gains from liberalisation and are adequately protected from its negative effects. This study, commissioned by the European Parliament Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs upon request by the FEMM Committee, reviews evidence and makes recommendations on how to ensure that new trade agreements such as CETA, TTIP and TiSA take gender equality objectives more fully into account.

Study EN

EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership: Detailed Appraisal of the Commission’s Impact Assessment

Publication type Study
Date 15-04-2014
External author Jacques Pelkmans, Arjan Lejour, Lorna Schrefler, Federica Mustilli and Jacopo Timini (CEPS)

Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment | International Trade
Keyword labour market | public contract | United States | free-trade agreement | non-tariff barrier | impact study | social impact | economic forecasting | economic consequence | economic model | comparative analysis | trade agreement (EU) | environmental impact

Summary This research paper examines the appropriateness and validity of the methodology behind the European Commission’s Impact Assessment (IA) of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), focusing in particular on the underlying economic model, a computable general equilibrium (CGE). The methodology applied by CEPR for this economic modelling is analysed in depth, together with the assumptions used to make the TTIP amenable to an economic appraisal. The research paper also compares the IA on the TTIP with selected previous empirical economic assessments of EU trade agreements and with a set of alternative studies on the TTIP itself. In reading our findings, two central caveats should be kept in mind that affect any analysis of the CGE model included in the European Commission’s Impact Assessment. First, the TTIP is a rather unusual bilateral trade agreement; and second, the TTIP is so wide-ranging that an alternative approach, such as the so-called ‘partial’ (equilibrium) approach – already a second-best solution – would be totally inappropriate to the case under examination.

Study EN
The EU’s Energy Diplomacy: Transatlantic and Foreign Policy Implications

**Publication type** Study
**Date** 16-06-2016
**External author** Eckart Woertz

**Policy area** Energy | Global Governance | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
**Keyword** United States | energy cooperation | energy diversification | natural gas | Canada | petroleum | OPEC countries | coal | OPEC | security of supply | energy market | energy transport | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | export policy | climate change policy | import policy | Russia | trade agreement (EU) | geopolitics

**Summary** Energy security is increasingly occupying a top spot on the EU’s foreign policy agenda. The unconventional oil and gas revolution, OPEC’s supply response, increased global Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) trade, persistent concerns about the reliability of Russian gas supplies and the need to expand low carbon energies such as renewables to address climate change pose opportunities and challenges to European energy security. The EU has upgraded the issue with its flagship Energy Union communication and its EU Energy Diplomacy Action Plan. The United States has developed into a major exporter of Natural Gas Liquids and refined petroleum products as a result of its unconventional oil and gas revolution. It might develop export capacities for LNG and continues to be a major coal exporter. The mutual energy trade could expand if the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) were concluded successfully. The United States is also a crucial partner of the EU for transport security and the protection of critical energy infrastructure. Against this backdrop, this study analyses opportunities and challenges of transatlantic energy cooperation in a changing global energy landscape.

Study EN

ENVI Relevant Legislative Areas of the EU-US Trade and Investment Partnership Negotiations (TTIP)

**Publication type** At a Glance
**Date** 05-02-2015
**Author** Dagmara STOERRING

**Keyword** nutrition | nanotechnology | pharmaceutical industry | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | food industry | motor vehicle industry | cloning | environmental policy | cosmetic product | energy production | raw material

**Summary** In February 2013, the European Union (EU) and the United States of America (US) started the procedures necessary for initiating formal negotiations on a free trade agreement, referred to as the “Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership” (TTIP). The first round of negotiations took place in Washington D.C. in July 2013, the seventh round ended on 3 October 2014 and the eighth round is taking place in Brussels from 2 to 6 February 2015. In order to monitor the on-going negotiations, the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) commissioned a study on “ENVI Relevant Legislative Areas of the EU-US Trade and Investment Partnership Negotiations (TTIP)”. The study complemented a 2013 study on “Legal Implications of TTIP for the Acquis Communautaire in ENVI Relevant Sectors” for the ENVI Committee. This leaflet presents the key findings of the 2014 study.

At a Glance EN

Legal Implications of the EU-US Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) for the Acquis Communautaire and the ENVI Relevant Sectors that Could be Addressed During Negotiations

**Publication type** Study
**Date** 15-10-2013
**External author** Christiane Gerstetter (Ecologic institute), Michael Mehling (Ecologic Institute), Andrew Eberle (Ecologic Institute) and Katherine Sales (BIO Intelligence Service)

**Policy area** Environment | Food Safety | International Trade
**Keyword** negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | food safety | consumer protection | genetically modified organism | environmental protection | Community acquis | civil aviation | toxic substance | investment abroad

**Summary** This study discusses the potential impact of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership agreement on the EU acquis in the areas of the environment and food safety. It recommends, in particular, that the European Parliament pay very close attention to the precise wording of provisions regarding the environment, food safety, and investment set out in the final text to ensure that both parties are able to maintain the environmental and consumer protection standards they deem appropriate, as provided for in the European Commission’s negotiating mandate.

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

Publication type: Study
Date: 16-10-2019
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | MARKO VUKOVIC | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL

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 the latest 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.

Study EN

Free and fair trade for all?

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 21-11-2017
Author: Mario DAMEN
Policy area: International Trade | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword: common commercial policy | public contract | corporate social responsibility | free-trade agreement | investment protection | sustainable development | international competition | market access | China | human rights | Eastern Partnership | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | social clause | trade agreement (EU) | EU competence | association agreement (EU) | withdrawal from the EU

Summary: With its strategy paper entitled 'Trade for all' in 2015, the Commission launched an EU trade policy that focussed on values such as human rights, workers' rights, environmental protection and sustainable development. The idea was that free trade should be fair for both consumers in Europe and for citizens elsewhere. This approach was pursued in bilateral trade negotiations and in legislative proposals on, for example, conflict minerals, dual-use goods or the investment court system. But by the end of 2016 the tenor of the debate on international trade had changed, shifting the focus to national interests and fairness for consumers and producers at home. The UK's decision to withdraw from the EU and the election of President Trump in the US, together with the expiry of the clause recognising China's non-market economy status, contributed to this shift. The European Parliament has played a crucial role in shaping the direction of EU trade policy. While its 2015 resolution on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) set the values-based trade agenda, its resolutions in 2016 and 2017 on China's market economy status and global value chains reflected the shift in values. The Commission is seeking to balance free and fair trade but new challenges lie ahead, notably in the EU's neighbourhood: Russia, the Eastern Partnership, Turkey and the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

In-Depth Analysis EN

TTIP Services - Study in Focus

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 16-11-2015
Author: Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI
Keyword: electronic commerce | freedom to provide services | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | South Korea | tertiary sector | public service | recognition of vocational training qualifications | investment protection | trade agreement (EU) | Canada | data protection

Summary: This study Challenges and Opportunities for the Internal Market and Consumer Protection in the area of Services analyses the opportunities and potential benefits – in aggregate and by sector - from further freeing up of transatlantic services trade via improvements in market access, regulatory cooperation and service provider mobility. The study also considers the EU’s defensive interests in maintaining consumer standards and the government’s right to regulate and draws on the innovations and lessons to be taken from other recent EU preferential trade agreements. This is a short overview of this study.


At a Glance EN
From arbitration to the investment court system (ICS): The evolution of CETA rules

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 15-06-2017
Author RODERICK EDWARD NOEL HARTE | Laura PUCCIO
Policy area International Trade
Keyword World Trade Organisation | public contract | foreign investment | EU environmental policy | ratification of an agreement | legislative power | administrative transparency | Canada | international trade | European Parliament | trade agreement | international commercial arbitration
Summary After a public consultation on proposed reforms to investment protection and the investor-dispute settlement framework of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the United States of America, the European Parliament requested the replacement of the traditional arbitration framework with a new court system. The European Commission and Canada subsequently renegotiated the relevant provisions of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) to establish a new investment court system (ICS). The ICS departs substantially from the arbitration model, in particular on the appointment of judges. Procedurally the ICS remains similar to treaty-based arbitration proceedings and retains all the innovations introduced in the early draft of CETA. Those innovations aim, among other things, to prevent ‘forum shopping’ and abuse of the system. Some of the innovations introduced will require further decisions in CETA’s established Committees, such as on the code of conduct and decisions on appellate body judges. Some concerns raised regarding the basis for differences between ISDS and domestic court systems persist in the ICS context. These relate both to the different treatment between foreign and domestic investors, and to uncertainty regarding the compatibility of the ICS system with the principle of autonomy of the EU legal order. On this last point, however, the ICS framework can be distinguished for various reasons from past opinions on the European and Community Patent Court and the EU’s accession to the European Convention on Human Rights.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR

Civil Society’s Concerns about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 14-10-2014
Author Marika ARMANOVIÇA | Roberto BENDINI
Keyword United States | labour law | commercial arbitration | protection of privacy | consumer protection | free-trade agreement | transparency in decision-making | impact study | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | genetically modified organism | trade agreement (EU) | civil society | intellectual property
Summary When the EU and the US launched negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in June 2013, civil society was invited to play a constructive and engaged part in defining the content of this strategic deal. Interest in the TTIP has gone beyond its expected economic impact: the agreement has been seen by some as a way to strengthen the West’s weakening grip on the world economy, and by others as a tool for big multinationals to secure unfair advantages at the expense of the rest of society. Civil society groups have come forward with various conditions, demands (including stopping the negotiations) and concrete proposals – in most cases to ensure that the TTIP represents their interests.

The TTIP requires extremely complex international negotiations, and its final content is still not known. The result will depend on the outcome of the negotiations and the extent to which they respond to civil society’s concerns. However, much will also depend on the way the European Parliament and the Council agree to transpose the provisions of the new deal – if concluded and approved – into existing EU legislation.

In-Depth Analysis EN

EU-US trade and investment relations: Effects on tax evasion, money laundering and tax transparency

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 06-03-2017
Author Isabelle IOANNIDES
Policy area International Trade | Transposition and Implementation of Law | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword impact study | United States | foreign investment | money laundering | tax evasion | bilateral relations | exchange of information | tax avoidance | trade agreement | tax harmonisation | EU statistics | extra-EU trade
Summary This ex-post impact assessment analyses EU-US trade and investment relations to assess whether and, if so, to what extent these relations have impacted on issues related to tax evasion, money laundering and tax transparency. The EU and US economies are highly intertwined, generating together half the world’s gross domestic product and more than 30 % of global trade. Overall, trade and investment relations between the European Union and the United States do not seem to have impacted on US efforts to combat tax evasion, strengthened anti-money laundering legislation, and its implementation, and boost tax transparency. While some progress has been made in the ongoing negotiation of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), which also aims to establish regulatory cooperation between the EU and the USA on financial services, progress has been below expectations. The United States has set up mechanisms for information exchange with EU Member States, has signed tax treaties with almost all EU Member States, and has developed a robust legal framework to address money laundering and combat terrorism financing. Despite being largely compliant with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force, however, challenges remain on questions of beneficial ownership, cross-border exchange of information, privacy issues, and designated non-financial businesses and professions.

In-Depth Analysis EN
TTIP and Jobs
Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 15-07-2016
Author: Susanne KRAATZ
External author: Gabriel Felbermayr
Policy area: Forward Planning | International Trade | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Employment
Keyword: common commercial policy | economic consequence | labour market | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | liberalisation of trade | free-trade agreement | unemployment | job creation | trade agreement (EU)
Summary: This note by Policy Department A gives a summary of the study "TTIP and Jobs". The study analyzes and synthesizes existing literature on the employment and wage effects of European trade agreements in general and of the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in particular.

Risks and opportunities for the eu agri-food sector in a possible EU-US trade agreement
Publication type: Study
Date: 13-07-2014
External author: AgroParisTech & Centre d'études prospectives et d'informations internationales (CEPII): Jean-Christophe BUREAU
École d'Economie de Paris & Institut national de la recherche agronomique (INRA): Anne-Célia DISDIER
CEPII: Charlotte EMLINGER; Jean FOURÉ
Université de Munich & Institut Ifo - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research at the University of Munich: Gabriel FELBERMAYR
École d'économie de Paris & CEPII: Lionel FONTAGNÉ
CEPII & INRA: Sébastien JEAN
Policy area: Food Safety | Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword: trade statistics | United States | food safety | import (EU) | free-trade agreement | export (EU) | restriction on competition | non-tariff barrier | agro-industry | agricultural trade | economic analysis
Summary: The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is under negotiation. This report provides a detailed overview of EU-US agricultural trade. It analyses current barriers to trade, paying special attention to non-tariff measures. This information is then used in a computable general equilibrium model of international trade to assess the potential impact of the TTIP on agri-food exports, imports and value added. This study also includes a general discussion on the opportunities and risks of a TTIP for the EU agricultural sector.

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 | 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.

EYE 2016 – USA–Europe: Big deal or no deal?
Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 28-04-2016
Author: Laura PUCCIO
Policy area: Foreign Affairs
Keyword: public opinion | common commercial policy | economic consequence | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | liberalisation of trade | free-trade agreement | trade agreement (EU)
Summary: The EU-US negotiations towards a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) were launched in 2013. Negotiators have so far completed 12 rounds of negotiations. Considering its economic significance and the ambitious agenda of the negotiations, tackling a number of controversial areas, TTIP has raised significant public debate. This note has been prepared for the European Youth Event, taking place in Strasbourg in May 2016. Please click here for the full publication in PDF format.
Free trade or geo-economics? Trends in world trade

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 27-09-2019
Author Mario DAMEN | WOLFGANG IGLER
Policy area International Trade

Summary The European Union (EU) is the biggest integrated economic zone and a guarantor of an open and predictable regulatory system able to determine its own economic destiny. But the behaviour of other global powers is increasingly calling this ability into question. China and the United States, especially, do not separate economic interests from geopolitical interests in the same way the EU does and are increasingly trying to gain geopolitical advantage using their economic might.

The EU is known as a fierce defender of a multilateral rules-based trade system with free but fair trade as its strategic policy objective. The EU will therefore do its utmost to save a ‘meaningful multilateralism’ by helping to reform the WTO, improve multilateral investment protection and conclude multilateral trade agreements. At the same time, the EU will defend its own interests by negotiating bilateral trade deals and applying trade defence and investment screening where needed. The EU has a strong interest in keeping the use of geo-economic measures manageable and avoid escalation into a trade war.

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

Publication type Study
Date 14-06-2019
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | MARKO VUKOVIC | Suzana Elena ANGHEL

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

Publication type Study
Date 18-04-2019
Policy area European Added Value

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 ongoing discussion about the European Union's policy priorities over the coming five-year institutional cycle, from 2019 to 2024.

Key issues in the European Council - State of play in October 2019

Publication type Study
Date 16-10-2019
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG | MARKO VUKOVIC | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL

Summary
This EPRS publication, 'Key issues in the European Council', which will be updated quarterly to coincide with European Council meetings, aims to provide an overview of the institution's activities on major EU issues. It analyses nine policy areas, explaining the legal and political background and the main priorities and orientations defined by the European Council. It also assesses the results of European Council involvement to date and identifies future challenges in the various policy fields.

Study EN
Proceedings of the Workshop on Competition Policy in International Agreements

Publication type: Study
Date: 03-08-2015
External author: Rachel BRANDENBURGER, Kenta SUZUKI, Patrik DUCREY, Blanca RODRIGUEZ GALINDO, Hendrik BOURGOIS, Ioannis LIANOS and Christophe KIENER
Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues | Consumer Protection | Financial and Banking Issues | Industry
Keyword: United States | free-trade agreement | India | international agreement | Japan | competition law | competition policy | China | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | Russia | Brazil | trade agreement (EU) | Switzerland

Summary: Enforcement of fair competition is based on different rules around the world. This workshop aims to give an overview on existing and planned international agreements on cooperation in the field of competition policy. The first session focuses on international cooperation in antitrust investigations and discusses how agreements are designed to ensure consistency in the prosecution of infringements and to overcome regulatory friction. The second session looks into what is currently known about the chapter on competition policy in the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership (TTIP) to help understanding the on-going negotiations.

This Workshop was prepared by the Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON).

Study EN

Consequences of US trade policy on EU-US trade relations and the global trading system

Publication type: Study
Date: 17-10-2018
External author: Peter CHASE, Peter SPARDING, Yuki MUKAI
Policy area: Public international law | International Trade | Global Governance | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs | Industry
Keyword: World Trade Organisation | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | transatlantic relations | trade policy | China

Summary: The Trump Administration’s trade policy is driven by the belief that previous Administrations have let other countries take advantage of the United States for foreign policy reasons, as demonstrated by America’s more open trade regime and its trade deficits. It is determined to end this perceived imbalance by demanding reciprocity instead, and is willing to use tough tactics to achieve this through strict enforcement of its procurement and trade defense law; expansive tax provisions; bringing the WTO dispute settlement to a halt; withdrawing from and forcing others to renegotiate existing bilateral and multilateral agreements; adopting a novel “national security” argument to justify breaking WTO tariff commitments for steel, aluminum and possibly autos; and enacting punitive tariffs on billions of dollars of imports from China, possibly threatening a trade war. The scenarios for U.S.-EU trade relations as well as the global trading system are anything but rosy. The EU can stand up to the Administration’s “bullying,” or it can take advantage of America’s need for a “re-balancing” to build its own stature by taking simple steps to improve EU-U.S. trade, forging a way forward in the WTO, and providing necessary leadership to address the dangers China’s economic system poses to the global trading order.

Study EN

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

Publication type: Study
Date: 20-03-2019
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | MARKO VUKOVIC | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL

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.

Study EN
Protectionism and international diplomacy

Publication type: Study
Date: 25-06-2018
External author: Ms Kamala DAWAR

Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: common commercial policy | United States | United Kingdom | withdrawal from an agreement | trade relations | protectionism | China | World Trade Organisation | institutional reform | EU situation | tariff negotiations | trade policy | international trade | withdrawal from the EU | geopolitics | globalisation | economic situation

Summary: Just three decades after the fall of the Berlin Wall signifying the end of Cold War aggression and the ascendancy of international liberalism, the world faces even greater uncertainty. In every region of the world, geopolitical shifts are taking place that have brought offensive trade agendas to the fore. The US has withdrawn from underwriting the post-World War Two international economic and foreign policy architecture, instead proposing to build a wall between itself and neighbouring Mexico, imposing unilateral tariff increases while refusing to negotiate new international agreements. In Europe, the project of ever greater integration has been attacked by Brexit, as well as other populist sentiment against the perceived power of EU institutions and the forces of globalisation. The breakdown of the western coalition advocating global governance has left a power vacuum that other key players such as China are forced to respond to. These current tectonic shifts in power and foreign policy positions impact on every country and every individual in the early 21st century. While many governments strive to maintain international cooperation and further integration, it is an unpredictable era. For trade policy has established itself firmly within the arena of high foreign diplomacy and as a result, traditional assumptions and adherence to international norms can no longer be assumed in such a state of political and economic flux. Yet when trade policy becomes a tool of diplomacy and foreign policy, sound economic reasoning can be lost to political decision making. This report shines a spotlight on the rise of protectionism in the 21st century. It examines the diplomatic dynamics behind economic nationalism and its attack on the established liberal international institutions that were created after the second World War to settle disputes without recourse to war. Before focusing on the US, UK, EU and China, the first chapter centers on the threat to economic integration and cooperation in promoting sustainable development through the multilateral rules-based system established under the World Trade Organization.

Study EN

Contribution of the European Parliament to multilevel governance: Building on a potential for a fuller right of legislative initiative for the European Parliament

Publication type: Study
Date: 30-03-2017
Author: Peter VAVRIK

Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts
Keyword: governance | common commercial policy | European treaties | citizens’ Europe | national parliament | transparency in decision-making | EU Member State | international negotiations | administrative transparency | legislative initiative | European Parliament | trade agreement

Summary: This analysis was prepared in the framework of the EU Fellowship Programme and presents the results of research reflecting on the full right of legislative initiative of the European Parliament in the light of the experience of the US Congress. It is based on data gathered for the purposes of the research from national parliaments of 26 EU Member States, analysis of 59 replies by the European Commission to the European Parliament's legislative initiative reports and a case study on 3 complex US laws, carried out on the basis of 15 interviews with Congressional staff.

Study 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
European Union trade policy [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Publication type: At a Glance
Published: 13-07-2015
Author: Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI
Policy area: International Trade
Keyword: common commercial policy | World Trade Organisation | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | dissemination of EU information | foreign trade | trade agreement (EU) | trade relations | directory

Summary
International trade is an area where the European Union has an unquestionable global clout. It is the world's biggest trading bloc while trade policy is an exclusive power of the EU. The EU faces numerous challenges in the trade area, notably talks on the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership (TTIP), an agreement with the United States, the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA), an accord currently being negotiated by 24 members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and, in general reviving the Doha Round of world trade negotiations. On 8 July, the European Parliament approved its recommendations on TTIP to EU trade negotiators. This note offers links to recent studies and reports from major international think tanks on EU trade policies, divided into a section devoted to TTIP, the most pending current trade issue and other trade matters.

International Agreements in Progress: EU-Japan free trade agreement within reach

Publication type: Briefing
Published: 14-07-2017
Author: Krisztina BINDER
Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: impact study | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | free-trade agreement | Japan | bilateral relations | powers of the institutions (EU) | international trade | EU institution

Summary
Negotiations on an EU-Japan free trade agreement (FTA) were officially launched in March 2013. Following 18 rounds of negotiations and a number of meetings at the technical and political levels, a political agreement in principle was reached during the 24th EU-Japan Summit in Brussels, on 6 July 2017. Negotiations on the outstanding issues that were left on the table will continue, with the aim of finalising the text of the agreement by the end of 2017. The deal with Japan, the EU’s second largest trading partner in Asia, will enhance trade and investment relationships between the two parties. European companies, in the agri-food sector for instance, will benefit from improved access to the Japanese market, mainly through the reduction both of tariffs on specific goods as well as existing regulatory and non-tariff barriers. The 2016 trade sustainability impact assessment for the EU-Japan FTA indicated that the EU-Japan FTA and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement, involving the EU and the USA, would result in similar levels of economic gains for Europe. According to recent Commission estimates, European companies will save up to €1 billion in customs duties per year as a result of the EU-Japan FTA. Moreover, the value of EU goods and services exports could rise by up to €20 billion. This briefing is an update of an earlier version, of October 2016: PE 589.828.

Financial Services Liberalisation and TiSA: Implications for EU Free Trade Agreements

Publication type: Study
Published: 26-07-2016
External author: Andrew LANG and Leonie AMARASEKARA
Policy area: International Trade | Global Governance
Keyword: impact study | freedom to provide services | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | free-trade agreement | investment protection | exchange of information | trade agreement (EU) | financial legislation | market access | financial services | most favoured nation | protective clause

Summary
With 23 participating countries, including all of the world’s largest financial centres, covering the vast bulk of global financial services trade, the TiSA negotiations on financial services trade are strategically important for the EU. They are likely to deliver commitments and rules, which go significantly beyond the GATS package negotiated over two decades ago – and to extend their umbrella to a greater range of countries. In addition, the level of market access commitments ultimately incorporated into TiSA will set a new benchmark and reference point for future EU FTA negotiations. Depending on the outcome of remaining negotiations, the TiSA may also establish influential new and consolidated texts on such matters as data transfer, forced localisation, source code, regulatory transparency, and domestic regulation.
A guide to EU procedures for the conclusion of international trade agreements

Publication type Briefing
Date 25-10-2016
Author Laura PUCCIO

Policy area International Trade

Summary The European Union (EU) was the world's biggest exporter and importer of goods and services in 2015, representing 32.51 % of global trade in goods and services. The USA and China, meanwhile, accounted for 12.01 % and 10.68 % respectively. The EU has been negotiating trade agreements since the 1970s, then as the European Communities. Over time it has diversified its trading partners, and is now negotiating trade agreements with partners from every continent. The content of trade agreements has also evolved as EU trade competences have developed. The EU is currently in the process of amending and modernising some of its older trade agreements and is working on some of the most ambitious trade agreements since its inception (such as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with Canada and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the USA). The Lisbon Treaty modified both the EU's competences in trade and the procedure for concluding trade agreements, giving a stronger role to the European Parliament. This briefing looks at how trade negotiations are conducted and concluded in the EU, and discusses some of the key issues in the current EU trade policy debate.

Briefing EN, FR
Multimedia EN

The future of the EU trade policy

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 26-06-2015
Author Roberto BENDINI

Policy area Forward Planning | International Trade | Global Governance | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs
Keyword single market | common commercial policy | trade statistics | United States | free-trade agreement | EU Member States | Japan | non-tariff barrier | powers of the institutions (EU) | common foreign and security policy | China | World Trade Organisation | public opinion | standardisation | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | foreign trade | trade agreement (EU) | international trade | interinstitutional relations (EU) | globalisation

Summary After years of relative stagnation and emphasis on multilateral negotiations (WTO), the European Union has instigated an impressive number of trade negotiations, some successfully concluded. The scene is currently dominated by negotiations with the US (TTIP) and Japan. The success of the current Commission will greatly depend on the outcome of these negotiations.

The Union's trade strategy cannot be limited to the creation of new negotiation tables, but must also ensure the proper implementation of negotiated agreements and combat the rise of new non-tariff barriers. The European Union and its bodies must also be able to convince civil society that its actions are correct and secure the solid support of Member States and public opinion for the new international agreements which will gradually come into force.

This significant objective can only be achieved if the Union's trade policy is able to incorporate the aspirations of European citizens and provide coherent responses, based on the ongoing and unconditional defence of the common interest. Obviously, this objective does not merely involve the Commission, but calls for a proactive and credible contribution from the European Parliament and the Council.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR, IT

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-border 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.

Study EN
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 eight 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.

Summary: This study reviews and updates the previous 2013 report on Food safety policies and regulation in the United States. In particular the review considers the basic relevant legislative acts and the organisation of various branches of government, key changes in approach or implementation have also been identified. In addition, a list of the legislative requirements related to food safety in relation to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is presented. A brief description is also given of current food safety emergencies in the United States.

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 since January 2010 and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.
Key issues in the European Council

Publication type: Study
Date: 20-06-2019
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | MARKO VUKOVIC | Suzana Elena ANGHEL


Summary: The European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) monitors and analyses the activities, commitments and impact of the European Council, so as to maximize parliamentary understanding of the political dynamics of this important institution. This new EPRS publication, 'Key issues in the European Council', which will be updated quarterly to coincide with European Council meetings, aims to provide an overview of the institution's activities on major EU issues. It analyses nine policy areas, explaining the legal and political background and the main priorities and orientations defined by the European Council. It also assesses the results of European Council involvement to date and identifies future challenges in the various policy fields.

Study

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (12th edition)

Publication type: Study
Date: 20-06-2017
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

Comparing EU and EFTA Trade Agreements: Drivers, Actors, Benefits, and Costs

Publication type: Study
Date: 30-05-2016
External author: Andreas MAURER

Policy area: International Trade | Internal Market and Customs Union | Foreign Affairs | Industry

Keyword: common commercial policy | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | Norway | European Economic Area | bilateral agreement | Iceland | comparative study | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy | Switzerland | trade agreement | EFTA

Summary: EFTA states have built up a network of 26 preferential trade agreements (PTAs) with 37 partners, compared to more than 120 trade agreements concluded by the EU with more than 45 partners. There are substantial differences between EU and EFTA PTAs in terms of scope and ambition. EFTA agreements still focus on traditional areas of market access, while the post-1990 EU agreements are more elaborate, values-driven, political and comprehensive. As a bloc, the EU has more leverage when it negotiates around the world. The size of its market and its highly developed common policies mean that the EU can bring more to the negotiating table and has stronger tools to enforce its economic interests and political conditions compared to the smaller EFTA states whose political and economic cooperation is limited. Although the EFTA states do not form a customs union like the EU, they usually negotiate PTAs as a group, bringing their combined economic and political weight to bear. However, they retain the right to reach bilateral trade agreements with third countries outside the EFTA framework, such as Switzerland's PTAs with Japan and China, and Iceland's bilateral PTA with China. EFTA's small size nonetheless has some benefits. Since EFTA states are not so constrained by — often diverging — interests they can be more flexible in their negotiations. In some cases EFTA has concluded trade deals relatively quickly compared to the EU, but this has been at the expense of relatively shallow trade agreements.

Study
The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP): Potential regional and global impacts

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 12-05-2016

Author: Krisztina BINDER

Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs

Keyword: trade by group of countries | common commercial policy | free-trade agreement | liberalisation of trade | Japan | Chile | Brunei | China | New Zealand | economic consequence | EU relations | ratification of an agreement | Australia | Malaysia | Singapore | trade agreement (EU) | Peru | NAFTA countries | Vietnam

Summary: On 4 February 2016, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement was signed by 12 countries: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam. It encompasses about 800 million people, and the participating countries account for roughly a quarter of global trade and approximately 40% of the world's GDP. The TPP – described by US President Barack Obama as 'a regional agreement that will have broad-based membership and the high standards worthy of a 21st century trade agreement' – provides deeper liberalisation for trade in goods and services and introduces a set of common rules in a number of fields, going beyond current WTO plus commitments in existing free trade agreements. It is highly probable that the TPP, although yet to be ratified, will influence the way that regional free trade agreements, including the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), develop. Alongside China's growing stature and the increase in intraregional economic relations in the Asia-Pacific region, the TPP could adversely affect the interests of the EU. It remains to be seen whether other countries will be able to join the partnership.
Role of the US Congress in trade agreements: The 'Fast-Track' procedure

Summary

Since 1974 the United States Congress has enacted several Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) acts to ensure speedy ratification of trade agreements in the United States, while maintaining a congressional hold on the objectives to be pursued by US negotiators. TPA defines the conditions and procedures applicable for a streamlined or expedited process, also known as the fast-track procedure, to vote in Congress on international trade agreements negotiated during a specific defined period of time. The current (2015) Trade Promotion Authority Act, which was finally passed in June 2015, sets out the rules for the expedited procedures applicable to any international agreement entered into by the US before 1 July 2018 (with possible extension up to 1 July 2021), covering inter alia the recently concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership and any agreement stemming from the ongoing Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations. The TPA requirements in terms of negotiating objectives and consultation have constantly evolved to match the rising political need of Congress to exert greater control over the outcomes of US trade negotiations.

In-Depth Analysis

Multilateral court for the settlement of investment disputes

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 recommendation, submitted on 13 September 2017 and referred to Parliament’s Committee on International Trade. The recommendation aims to pave the way for the creation of a framework for the resolution of international investment disputes. The IA notes that foreign investors and host countries have settled the disputes through the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS, ad hoc arbitration) since the 1950s. In recent years, concerns have been voiced about the ISDS, in particular in the context of the negotiation processes of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) (EU-USA) and of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) (EU-Canada). Based on the results of the public consultation carried out in 2014, the European Commission presented a plan in May 2015 to reform the investment resolution system. It comprises, as a first step, an institutionalised court system (Investment Court System, ICS) for future EU trade and investment agreements and, as a second step, the establishment of an ‘international investment Court’. According to the IA report, ‘since 2016 the Commission has actively engaged with a large number of partner countries both at a technical and political level to further the reform of the ISDS system and to build a consensus for the initiative of a permanent multilateral investment Court’ (IA, p. 6). In its resolutions of 8 July 2015 on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and of 6 April 2011 on the future European international investment policy, Parliament noted the need to reform the investment dispute settlement mechanism. In its resolution of 5 July 2016 on the future strategy for trade and investment, it supported the aim of creating a ‘multilateral solution to investment disputes’.

Briefing

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (11th 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 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.
International Agreements in Progress: Prospective EU-Japan free trade agreement

Publication type Briefing
Date 07-10-2016
Author Krisztina BINDER
Policy area International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Summary Negotiations on an EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) were officially launched in March 2013. There have been 17 rounds of negotiations to date, with the latest taking place at the end of September 2016, in Brussels. Although there is strong political will to conclude the agreement as early as possible, whether the FTA can be finalised by the end of 2016 remains to be seen. The deal with Japan, the EU's second largest trading partner in Asia, is expected to enhance trade and investment relationships between the two parties. European companies, especially those in the food, feed and processed food sectors, will benefit from improved access to the Japanese market, mainly through the reduction both of tariffs on specific goods as well as existing regulatory and non-tariff barriers. The Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment for the EU-Japan FTA indicates that the EU-Japan FTA and the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement, involving the EU and the United States, would result in similar levels of economic gains for Europe. Moreover, the EU-Japan FTA may balance the potentially negative effects of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement, which counts Japan among its members, on the EU.

Free Trade Agreements and Patterns of Risk Regulation in the EU and the US

Publication type Study
Date 13-09-2016
External author International Risk Governance Council (Switzerland)
Keyword common commercial policy | United States | food safety | transatlantic relations | free-trade agreement | liberalisation of trade | foodstuffs legislation | motor vehicle | pharmaceutical legislation | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | pharmaceutical product | chemical product | technical regulations
Summary Transatlantic regulatory patterns overall and in four key sectors: food, automobiles, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals indicate that EU risk regulation is not always or generally more stringent or precautionary than the US regulation. In fact, the reality is a complex mix of parity and particularity. While there is overall EU-US similarity, there is also variation. In some risk matters, and across and within sectors, there is more precaution in Europe, whereas in others it may be in the US. Even if they are unusual deviations, and even if they go in both directions, transatlantic regulatory differences can still pose barriers to trade that may in some cases warrant harmonization. However, regulatory variation can also be the basis for learning to improve future regulatory design, both by comparing outcomes across regulations in different jurisdictions, and by planning adaptive regulation over time. International regulatory cooperation does not simply mean adopting the current standard of one side or the other. It can also involve collaboration to reviewing existing regulations and designing new approaches that improve outcomes for all.

Consequences of Brexit in the area of public procurement

Publication type Study
Date 15-06-2017
External author Sue ARROWSMITH, Public Procurement Research Group, School of Law, University of Nottingham
Policy area Forward Planning | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | United Kingdom | European Economic Area | trade agreement (EU) | market access
Keyword single market | impact study | public contract | European Union membership | economic consequence | State aid | trade agreement (EU)
Summary This paper examines the implications of the UK's departure from the EU for the EU-UK legal relationship in the field of public procurement. It assesses, in comparison with the position under EU membership, the implications of four approaches found in the EU's relationships with other trading partners: the EEA model; the GPA model; and, between these two, what we call an "EEA-minus" approach and a "GPA-plus" approach. It also notes the procurement-specific issues that may need to be addressed in any withdrawal agreement (or later transition arrangement). This document was prepared for Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection.
Mapping the Cost of Non-Europe, 2014-19 - Fourth edition

Publication type: Study
Date: 07-12-2017

Author: WOLFGANG HILLER


Keyword: single market | company law | corporation tax | Economic and Monetary Union | water management | transport policy | women's rights | international relations | rule of law | research policy | workers' representation | equal pay | tax avoidance | Schengen Agreement | euro area

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 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 the European economy could be boosted by €1.75 trillion per year - or 12 % of EU-28 GDP (2016) - by such measures over time. The study is intended to make a contribution to the on-going discussion about the European Union's policy priorities over the current five-year institutional cycle, running from 2014 to 2019.

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.

Study: EN

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.

Study: EN
Focus on: Risks and Opportunities for the EU Agri-Food Sector in a Possible EU-US Trade Agreement

Summary
This Briefing summarises the conclusions of a study on 'Risks and Opportunities for the EU Agri-Food Sector in a Possible EU-US Trade Agreement' prepared by an international team of researchers for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament. On 14 June 2013, the Council adopted a mandate for the European Commission to negotiate a trade and investment agreement with the United States (the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership or TTIP). On 17 June 2013, at the G8 summit in Lough Erne (United Kingdom), Presidents Van Rompuy, Barroso and Obama officially launched the bilateral negotiations. The latest Round of negotiations (7th) took place between 29 September and 3 October 2014.

Guillaume RAGONNAUD

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

Summary
This eighth edition of the overview of European Council conclusions, 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
Research for AGRI Committee - Agricultural trade: assessing reciprocity of standards

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-05-2018


Policy area: International Trade | Agriculture and Rural Development | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law

Keyword: food production | South Korea | bilateral agreement | trade agreement (EU) | agricultural trade | Canada | harmonisation of standards | common agricultural policy | certificate of origin

Summary: The aim of this study is to provide an assessment of the application of the reciprocity principle in EU agri-food trade at global level. The report provides substantial evidence for progresses occurring at worldwide level in regulatory rapprochement. Scientific cooperation, collaboration between risk assessment bodies, harmonization of control procedures and early warning systems for emerging hazards can facilitate progress in this direction, reducing transaction costs and information asymmetries in agri-food trade.

Study EN

Could US Oil and Gas Exports Be a Game Changer for EU Energy Security?

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 08-02-2016

Author: Pasquale DE MICCO

Policy area: International Trade | Energy | Foreign Affairs

Keyword: energy supply | United States | price of energy | energy diversification | export policy | import (EU) | natural gas | free-trade agreement | available energy | trade agreement (EU) | self-sufficiency in energy | crude oil

Summary: The quest for oil markets abroad can be seen as an attempt by US companies to find higher prices and profits and avoid bankruptcy, since the current low price of oil, resulting from OPEC’s strategy of oversupplying the market, is making shale-oil production in the US less and less profitable. The impact of potential US oil exports on the European Union’s energy security is expected to be limited in the short term. The oil market is oversupplied, prices are depressed and are only expected to increase slightly if OPEC and other producers agree to stabilise production, and Europe can find alternative suppliers easily. These now include Iran, which has the world’s fourth-largest reserves of oil, since sanctions were lifted in January following the nuclear deal. The US ban on natural gas exports is still in force. Should it be removed, as part of a TTIP deal or under changes to domestic law, the US has the potential to become a net gas exporter. However, as the US can get higher prices on Asian markets and as both the US and the EU have limited LNG infrastructures, the EU is an unlikely destination for large LNG imports from the US in the short run. Europe can obtain gas from a plethora of suppliers, now including Iran, which has the world’s second-largest reserves of gas. The long-term outlook is more promising, as US LNG export capacities are expected to rise significantly in the coming decade and EU Member States may decide to diversify supplier countries and routes, under the European Energy Security Strategy, rather than allowing short-term commercial interests to prevail.

In-Depth Analysis EN

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, Tambiya Madiega, Shara Monteleone, Anita Oray, Laura Puccio, Christian Scheinert, Andrej Stuchlik, Marcin Szczepanski, Laura Tsindyte 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.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR
An Assessment of the Economic Impact of Brexit on the EU 27

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2017
External author: Michael Emerson, Matthias Busse, Mattia Di Salvo, Daniel Gros and Jacques Pelkmans (Centre for European Policy Studies - CEPS, Brussels, Belgium)
Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues | Consumer Protection
Keyword: World Trade Organisation | European Union membership | United Kingdom | European Economic Area | EU Member State | trade agreement (EU) | gross domestic product | trade relations | trade policy | general budget (EU) | withdrawal from the EU | free movement of persons
Summary: This paper, managed by the Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policies for the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection, assesses the likely impact of Brexit on the EU 27, with some scenarios for the terms of the UK’s secession. For the EU 27, the losses are found to be virtually insignificant, and hardly noticed in the aggregate. By contrast, for the UK, the losses could be highly significant, with various estimates up to ten times greater as a share of GDP. Impacts on some Member States – in particular Ireland – and some sectors in the EU27 could be more pronounced than the average for the EU27.
Study: EN

G7 Summit in Schloss Elmau: A Tighter Agenda, with Wider Impact?

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 10-06-2015
Author: Wanda TROSZCZYNSKA 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 to 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.
In-Depth Analysis: EN

Cost of non-Europe in robotics and artificial intelligence

Publication type: Study
Date: 12-06-2019
External author: This study has been written by Bob Martens and Jorren Garrez of DLA Piper UK LLP and Cambridge Econometrics at the request of the European Added Value Unit within the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS) of the European Parliament.
Policy area: European Added Value | Internal Market and Customs Union | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law
Summary: Robotics is a wide and multi-faceted domain, which crosses boundaries between many economics sectors and legal disciplines. The perception of a need for some kind of Europe-wide legal framework to accompany the development of robotic and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies is growing. A harmonised EU regulatory framework concerning specifically liability and insurance regarding robotics and AI could provide greater legal certainty and promote trust. It could also stimulate greater research and development activity by producers and increase the speed of uptake of these two new emerging technologies by consumers, resulting in a possible positive impact in terms of GDP. Research suggests that, by 2030, EU GDP could be 0.04 % higher than it would otherwise be under the current regulatory framework.
Study: EN

EU Public Health Policies: State of play, current and future challenges

Publication type: Study
Date: 17-09-2019
External author: Nikolai PUSHKAREV, Fiona GODFREY, Sascha MARSCHANG, Zoltán, MASSAY-KOSUBEK, Yannis NATSIS, Ann Marie BORG, Vivana GALLI
Policy area: Forward Planning | Public Health
Summary: This study provides an outlook on the topics that may shape the ENVI Committee’s public health agenda during the new legislature. It describes key public health definitions, principles and concepts, and discusses the EU’s powers to act on health, and presents an overview of health policy developments and challenges. This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety of the European Parliament.
Study: EN
European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (seventh edition)

Publication type: Study
Date: 21-03-2016

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


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 EMU policies | interinstitutional relations (EU) | EU employment policy

Summary: Seventh edition. 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 six 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

Revising the European Citizens’ Initiative

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 04-03-2019

Author: Laura TILINDYTE-HUMBURG


Keyword: ordinary legislative procedure | European treaties | power of initiative | participatory democracy | national parliament | public hearing | EU initiative | European citizens’ initiative

Summary: The ECI enables European citizens to invite the Commission to table a proposal for a legal act. The detailed rules for such initiatives are laid down in a 2011 regulation, whose main stated aim is encouraging citizens’ participation in the political life of the European Union (EU). However, since the regulation became applicable in April 2012, numerous actors have raised concerns regarding the instrument’s functioning and have called for reform, aiming to simplify the existing procedures and increasing the tool’s usability. On 13 September 2017, the Commission presented a legislative proposal which would update the tool and replace the existing regulation on the European Citizens’ Initiative. Following interinstitutional negotiations between September and December 2018, the co-legislators reached provisional agreement on the proposal for revision of the ECI. The agreed text now needs to be approved by the Parliament and Council. 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
Multimedia EN

Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) Provisions in the EU’s International Investment Agreements

(Volume 1: Workshop ; Volume 2: Studies - in the Annex)

Publication type: Study
Date: 04-09-2014

External author: Pieter Jan Kuijper, Ingolf Pernice and Steffen Hindelang

Policy area: International Trade | Transposition and Implementation of Law | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law

Keyword: investment policy | EU investment | international economic law | court of arbitration | International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes | EU legal system | arbitration | EU law - international law | agreement (EU)

Summary: The European Parliament organised a workshop on 1 April 2014 on Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions in the EU's international investment agreements. Volume 1 of this publication describes the proceedings of this workshop, while Volume 2 contains three studies: one on investment protection agreements as instruments of international economic law, one on ISDS and alternatives of dispute resolution in international investment law, and another on International investment protection agreements and EU law.

Study EN
Annex I EN
Legal Instruments and Practice of Arbitration in the EU (Study, Annex, Questionnary, Answers to Questionnary)

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-01-2015  
External author: Tony COLE, Ilias BANTEKAS, Federico FERRETTI, Christine RIEFA, Barbara WARWAS and Pietro ORTOLANI  
Policy area: International Trade | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law  
Keyword: United States | comparative law | commercial arbitration | EU Member State | investment protection | court of arbitration | arbitration | international commercial arbitration | foreign investment | legal profession | trade dispute | professional ethics | trade agreement (EU) | Switzerland  
Summary: Upon request by the JURI Committee, this study investigates the law and practice of arbitration across the European Union and Switzerland. It includes an in-depth examination of the practice and the laws relating to arbitration in each Member State of the European Union and Switzerland, as well as an examination of the involvement of Member States and the European Union in arbitration. While substantial harmony exists across the European Union at both the level of law and practice, the Study finds that arbitration in the European Union is predominantly regional, rather than transnational. It also concludes that investment arbitration is often a beneficial feature of investment agreements, although the terms of such agreements must be carefully designed.

Study EN  
Annex I EN  
Annex II EN  
Annex III EN

EU Trade Policy and the Wildlife Trade

Publication type: Study  
Date: 06-12-2016  
External author: Rosaleen DUFFY (University of Sheffield, the United Kingdom)  
Policy area: Environment | International Trade | Internal Market and Customs Union | Development and Humanitarian Aid  
Keyword: common commercial policy | environmental offence | trade statistics | organised crime | corporate social responsibility | wildlife | the EU’s international role | customs regulations | sustainable development | exchange of information | UNO | electronic commerce | World Trade Organisation | OECD | supply and demand | illicit trade | trade agreement (EU) | international convention  
Summary: The wildlife trade is one of the most lucrative trades in the world. The legal trade into the EU alone is worth EUR 100 billion annually, while the global illegal wildlife trade is estimated to be worth between EUR 8 and 20 billion annually. The trade is highly complex and its legal and illegal forms are often connected. The illegal wildlife trade cannot be tackled via the use of trade policy alone; instead trade instruments need to be used in conjunction with broader means of addressing the wide range of reasons why wildlife is traded illegally first place. This includes the need to reduce poverty and inequality in source countries, demand reduction in consumer countries and tackling corruption, organised crime, poor enforcement and low penalties in many source, transit and end user markets. The EU is also facing some new challenges in the legal and illegal wildlife trade, emanating from the growth of e-commerce, expansion of private mailing centres and the growth of containerisation. The EU already has a strong track record in promoting a legal and sustainable trade, while also attempting to tackle the illegal wildlife trade. The EU already has a legal framework (EUWTR) which sets out stricter arrangements than CITES for trading in wildlife products. It has played an active role at CITES since it joined as a member in 2015, and all 20 EU proposals were accepted at CITES CoP17 in 2016. It now has an opportunity to use trade policy to embed and develop this track record further.

Study EN

Impacts of the CETA Agreement on Developing Countries

Publication type: Study  
Date: 16-02-2017  
External author: Peter Draper  
Policy area: International Trade | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs  
Keyword: common commercial policy | economic consequence | developing countries | originating product | trade agreement (EU) | Canada | trade relations | South Africa | trading operation | Tanzania | trade policy | harmonisation of standards  
Summary: With the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) negotiations concluded and subsequently signed by both parties, the European Union and Canada’s most progressive trade agreement to date is set to provisionally enter into force soon. However, as developed countries move to negotiate preferential trade agreements between themselves (like the CETA), extending beyond current multilateral trade obligations, the improved market access, trade harmonisation and cross-cutting issues included in the agreements can have a much wider impact, affecting countries not party to them. As far as CETA is concerned, in our judgement those impacts are likely to be relatively small, and confined to a small group of vulnerable states, especially those with concentrated export structures, and notably of primary products in direct competition with Canadian exports to the EU. However, given the limitations of this paper the conclusion is fairly speculative, and so a key recommendation is that more detailed analysis of potentially vulnerable exporters be conducted to narrow down a subsequent mitigation strategy. That mitigation strategy mainly revolves around the impact of non-tariff measures (NTMs), focusing on product standards, and Rules of Origin. Essentially the focus needs to be on a targeted development assistance package referencing the need to upgrade product standards capacities in vulnerable states, in order to maximise the potential of trade to contribute to economic growth and, thereby, poverty reduction.

Study EN
Agriculture in the European Union and United States

Publication type At a Glance
Date 11-07-2016
Author Christian DIETRICH
Policy area International Trade | Agriculture and Rural Development | Foreign Affairs
Keyword The EU and the USA are currently negotiating the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), an agreement which could have major consequences for trade in agricultural products. In a document explaining the EU's TTIP proposal on agriculture, the European Commission said that it is aimed at increasing EU-US imports and exports by reducing tariffs and non-tariff protection, while respecting the individual agricultural models and standards of the EU and USA. This infographic gives an overview of EU-US trade in agri-food products, their differences in agricultural structure and policy measures, and their respective shares in global agricultural production.

Research for CULT Committee - Culture and creative sectors in the European Union – Key future developments, challenges and opportunities

Publication type Study
Date 28-08-2019
External author KEA European Affairs: Clémentine Daubeuf, Arthur Le Gall, Teodora Pletosu, Mariantthi Kopellou ; PPMI: Donatas Pocius, Olima Koshchiyenka, Rasja Goštiautaitė
Policy area Culture | Education
Summary Culture and creative sectors (CCS) are confronted with an ever-changing environment which challenges practices, business models and market balances. This study highlights the key trends that are likely to impact the future development of the CCS in their operational context in the European Union by 2030.

Third country equivalence in EU banking and financial regulation

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 27-08-2019
Author JEROME JEAN PHILIPPE DESLANDES | Marcel MAGNUS | CRISTINA SOFIA PACHECO DIAS
Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword single market | third country | freedom to provide services | European Banking Authority | United Kingdom | banking supervision | European Securities and Markets Authority | European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority | mutual recognition principle | credit institution | insurance company | withdrawal from the EU | harmonisation of standards
Summary This briefing provides an insight into the latest developments on equivalence in EU banking and financial regulation both in terms of governance and decision making (Section 1) and in terms of regulatory and supervisory frameworks that governs the access of third countries firms to the internal market (Section 2). The briefing also gives an overview on the possible role of equivalence regimes in the context of Brexit (Section 3) together with Brexit-related supervisory and regulatory issues (Section 4). This briefing is an updated version of a briefing published in April 2018.

In Pursuit of an International Investment Court. Recently Negotiated Investment Chapters in EU Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements in Comparative Perspective

Publication type Study
Date 04-07-2017
External author Prof. Dr. Steffen HINDELANG, LL.M., Department of Law, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany and Ass. iur. Teoman M. HAGEMEYER, Dipl. iur. oec., Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Law, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
Policy area International Trade
Keyword comparative law | access to information | free-trade agreement | judge | investment protection | European Court of Human Rights | appeal | comparative study | court of arbitration | Canada | Court of Justice of the European Union | judicial proceedings | Singapore | trade agreement (EU) | Vietnam
Summary The study compares the revised and signed text of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EUVFTA) and the EU Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) in respect of important procedural aspects relating to investor State dispute settlement. The findings are juxtaposed to the procedural rules governing the preliminary reference procedure and direct action (action for annulment) before the Court of Justice of the European Union as well as the individual application before the European Court of Human Rights. In doing so, it provides a tool and manual to evaluate the EU's todays and future progress in reforming the international investment law regime. By outlining key features of the procedural frameworks governing two international courts, some 'tired and tested' concepts as source of inspiration for the possible design of a 'multilateral investment court' might be found.
Financial Services in EU Trade Agreements

Publication type: Study  
Date: 11-11-2014  
External author: Andrew LANG and Caitlin CONYERS  
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues  
Keyword: preferential agreement | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | right of establishment | labour mobility | investment protection | trade agreement (EU) | financial legislation | GATS | market access | financial services | international commercial arbitration | most favoured nation  
Summary: This Policy Department A study for ECON covers rules on trade in financial services in preferential trade agreements (PTA), in view of current TTIP negotiations. The financial services sector is of strategic importance in trade policy. The EU has already obtained considerable PTA concessions, incl. new investor protection rights. Its PTAs also contain more developed disciplines on financial regulation, incl. prior comment obligations, data processing rules, prudential regulation and use of international standards.

The Juncker Commission's ten priorities: An end-of-term assessment

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 03-05-2019  
Author: Etienne BASSOT | WOLFGANG HILLER  
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law  
Summary: This April 2019 edition closes the cycle of the European Parliamentary Research Service's bi annual monitoring of the Juncker Commission's ten priorities. After the last plenary session of the 2014 2019 Parliament, and before the end of the European Commission's 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 analysis shows that, of the 547 proposals foreseen from the Commission, 512 have been submitted (94 per cent), of which 361 have been adopted (66 per cent). There are 151 proposals (28 per cent) which have not so far been adopted, and where the outcome may depend on the EU institutional transition this year. Of these, 115 (21 per cent) have been proceeding normally through the legislative process, and 36 (7 per cent) have either been proceeding slowly or are blocked. On the eve of the 2019 European Parliament elections, the paper is intended both to assess the extent to which the Juncker Commission has met the targets that it set itself, to take note of the achievements made to date and to identify areas in which difficulties have been, or continue to be, encountered.

Outlook for the European Council of 19-20 March 2015: Pre-European Council Briefing

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 18-03-2015  
Author: Stanislas DE FINANCE | Josephine MOERMAN | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Susanna TENHUNEN | Ralf DRACHENBERG  
Keyword: Libya | Ukraine | common foreign and security policy | economic sanctions | European Council | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | climate change policy | energy policy | international sanctions | Russia | coordination of EMU policies | trade agreement (EU) | investment promotion | trans-European network | settlement of disputes  
Summary: The Spring European Council will focus on building a European Energy Union. The Heads of State or Government will also exchange views on the economic situation and conclude the first phase of the European Semester for 2015, which includes giving guidance to Member States for the preparation of their national reforms and the stability or convergence programmes. They are also likely to consider the progress on the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) and the state of play in the negotiations with the US on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). On the external relations agenda, the European Council is expected to discuss relations with Russia and the situation in Ukraine, in particular the implementation of the Minsk II Agreement, and agree on possible further steps. The difficult situation in Libya and its security implications for the EU will also be on the agenda. EU leaders are also expected to prepare the Eastern Partnership Summit in Riga on 21-22 May 2015.
European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (Sixth edition)

Publication type: Study
Date: 21-01-2016
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Stanislas DE FINANCE | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN
Keyword: single market | common commercial policy | EU policy | EU regional policy | area of freedom, security and justice | fiscal policy | EU law | common foreign and security policy | development policy | European Council | European social policy | climate change policy | competitiveness | energy policy | EU migration policy | operation of the Institutions | coordination of EMU policies | innovation | intellectual property | EU employment policy
Summary: Sixth edition. 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 Parliamentary 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

The Juncker Commission's ten priorities: State of play at the start of 2017

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 12-01-2017
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 | free-trade agreement | industrial policy | area of freedom, security and justice | investment | EU institution | economic growth | climate change policy | EU migration policy | energy policy | job creation | globalisation
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 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 publications by EPRS, and updates a previous edition 'The Juncker Commission's ten priorities: State of play in mid-2016', published in May last year. 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, Tambiana Madiega, Anita Orav, Laura Puccio, Christian Scheinert, Andrej Stuchlik, Marcin Szczepanski, Laura Tilindyte and Sofija Voronova. The graphics are by Giulio Sabbati, and are derived from the 'Legislative Trains' application, recently launched by Parliament to track progress on the Commission's legislative proposals. As the European Commission, under its President, Jean-Claude Juncker, begins the implementation of its 2017 work programme, this publication seeks to provide an updated overview of the work already done in each of its ten priority areas since the Commission took office. Moreover, as this Commission approaches the midway point of its mandate, it is of growing interest regularly to assess progress towards the targets that the Commission has set itself, and to identify areas in which difficulties have been, or are being, encountered.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR

Cardiovascular Diseases and Lifestyle

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-01-2019
External author: Mariana Dates, Micol Tedeschi, Mai Webber
Policy area: Forward Planning | Public Health
Summary: This document summarises the presentations and discussion taking place at the workshop organised by Policy Department A on the limits and opportunities of the Cardiovascular Disease and Lifestyle, held at the European Parliament, in Brussels. The aim of the workshop was to inform the Members of the ENVI Committee and all participants on the relationship between cardiovascular and related diseases and a number of lifestyle choices in the context of the European Union, and to have an overview of the global and EU policy landscape addressing these challenges.

In-Depth Analysis EN
Finding the right balance across EU FTAs: benefits and risks for EU economic sectors

Publication type  Study
Date  17-10-2018
External author  Christopher HARTWELL, Veronika MOVCHAN
Policy area  International Trade
Keyword  free-trade agreement | Japan | Indonesia | Canada | European Union | Colombia | Mercosur | Mexico | South Korea | Central America | Peru | association agreement (EU) | international trade | Vietnam
Summary  Globally, anti-trade sentiment is on the rise, meaning it is incumbent upon policymakers to explore and explain the benefits of free and open trade. This study examines the costs and benefits of various free trade agreements (FTAs) that the EU has completed, will complete, or is contemplating. With regard to completed FTAs, the EU has seen benefits in terms of consumer choice but has a much larger and positive impact on its partners (although not as much as ex-ante modelling would suggest). For forthcoming or contemplated FTAs, the issue of non-tariff barriers must be considered for FTAs with developed economies to be a success, while comprehensive liberalisation with emerging markets improves trade and other outcomes for both the EU and its partner. Across all FTAs, trade and economic metrics are improved by an agreement while indirect effects (human rights, environment) are less likely to change. We conclude that the EU must continue its focus on comprehensive liberalisation, incorporating NTBs effectively into new agreements, while tempering expectations of influence on human rights.

Study  EN

The EU-US Trade and Investment Partnership

Publication type  At a Glance
Date  16-05-2013
Author  Carmen-Cristina CIRLIG
Policy area  International Trade
Keyword  public contract | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | free-trade agreement | investment promotion | tariff reduction | financial services
Summary  On 13 February 2013, European Union (EU) and United States (US) leaders announced the start of procedures for the launch of negotiations on a transatlantic free trade deal. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) would address a broad range of issues, from the elimination of tariffs to reducing regulatory barriers and developing rules for global trade.

At a Glance  EN

Achievements of the Committee on Petitions during the 2014-2019 parliamentary term and challenges for the future

Publication type  Study
Date  03-07-2019
Author  JOHANNES HEEZEN | Ottavio MARZOCCHI
Policy area  Petitions to the European Parliament
Summary  During the 2014-19 parliamentary term the European Union and notably the European Parliament, through its dedicated Committee on Petitions (PETI), has continued to uphold the right of citizens to petition the EP to raise issues and concerns and to call for redress and action in areas of EU competence, by mobilising institutions and Member States both on issues at the centre of the political debate, and on “orphan” or “dormant” issues. With the aim of better serving EU citizens, the Committee on Petitions has developed a Petitions Web Portal, adopted new and updated Guidelines, created a Petitions Network and a special Working Group on Child Welfare Issues. PETI continued to examine a high number of petitions raising issues in all areas of EU activity. In the 9th legislature, PETI could strengthen its achievements by exploring innovative ways to achieve effective solutions for the petitioners.

Study  ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, PL
Comparative Study on Access to Documents (and Confidentiality Rules) in International Trade Negotiations

Publication type: Study
Date: 10-04-2015

External author: Andreas MAURER
Keyword: institutional structure | access to information | United States | parliamentary scrutiny | national parliament | EU Member State | India | comparative study | trade agreement | access to EU information | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | Russia | Brazil | trade agreement (EU) | interinstitutional relations (EU) | parliamentary procedure
Summary: It is extremely difficult to strengthen parliamentary oversight of the EU’s trade policies without clear and predictable rules and procedures for the EP to access relevant information from the Commission and the Council. This study provides an overview on the rules guaranteeing access to information in international trade negotiations both in the EU and in selected third countries. It evaluates the existing arrangements on access to information by Parliament in view of the provisions included in the Treaty of Lisbon, international norms and agreements, EU case-law, and similar rules, arrangements and practices in a group of national parliaments.

Study: EN

The Investment Chapters of the EU’s International Trade and Investment Agreements in a Comparative Perspective

Publication type: Study
Date: 29-09-2015

External author: Steffen HINDELANG and Carl-Philipp SASSENRATH
Keyword: United States | bilateral agreement | investment protection | comparative study | Canada | international commercial arbitration | judicial proceedings | foreign investment | Germany | Lithuania | trade dispute | Singapore | regulation of investments | trade agreement (EU) | international trade law
Summary: Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) clauses in international investment agreements have traditionally been based on an approach which may be termed ‘light touch regulation’ of investment protection. The avenue taken by the recently negotiated EU draft agreements, the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA), can be described as ‘more comprehensive regulation’. Likewise, EUSFTA and CETA provide a rather detailed body of law on substantive standards for the protection of foreign investment. While this may add to the clarity and predictability of the current regime of international investment law, it may also lead to a reduced standard of protection. Compared with other agreements, EUSFTA and CETA have attempted to rebalance the protection of private property and the host state’s regulatory autonomy. In terms of the regulation of ISDS proceedings, EUSFTA and CETA preserve its principle characteristics but deliver moderate change in five areas: (1) consultation mechanisms, (2) the relationship between remedies, (3) the appointment and conduct of arbitrators, (4) cost allocation, and (5) transparency rules. This study proposes (1) further development regarding the coordination between effective domestic legal systems and ISDS and (2) the start of negotiations for the establishment of a permanent appeals mechanism in a regional or bilateral context.

Study: EN

Comparative Study on Access to Documents (and Confidentiality Rules) in International Trade Negotiations

Publication type: Study
Date: 30-10-2015

External author: Kolja RAUBE (University of Leuven, Belgium), Jan WOUTERS (University of Leuven, Belgium), Federica BICCHI (London School of Economics, United Kingdom), Philip DE MAN (University of Leuven, Belgium), Daniel FIOTT (Free University of Brussels, Belgium), Damien HELLY (European Centre for Development Policy Management, the Netherlands), Christian KAUNERT (University of Dundee, United Kingdom), Chantal LAVALLEE (University of Dundee, United Kingdom), Jocelyn MAWDSLEY (University of Nottingham, United Kingdom) and Licinia SIMAO (University of Coimbra, Portugal)
Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | common commercial policy | export monitoring | arms industry | EU financing | EU industrial policy | conflict prevention | common security and defence policy | European defence policy | development aid | Mediterranean third countries | arms trade | militarisation of space | trade agreement (EU) | Treaty of Lisbon
Summary: Focusing on the support of non-CSDP policies for CSDP measures, both in the field of crisis management and defence, this study submits that CSDP cannot effectively contribute to EU external action by itself, but only in coherence with other EU policies and instruments. The study focuses on nine different issue areas of the EU which are of particular interest in the context of CSDP: European Neighbourhood Policy, development cooperation, international policies and financing instruments in the context of the EU’s international crisis management, as well as innovation, policies, industrial policies, regional policy, trade policy and space policy in the context of the EU’s defence policy. The study builds on existing evidence of synergising effects of CSDP and other non-CSDP policies and points to the potential impact which the closer interplay of CSDP and non-CSDP policies could have. Focusing on policy adaptation as well as institutional cooperation of EU actors in each of the policy relationships, the study provides a comprehensive overview of the linkage between CSDP and each of the respective policies and draws a large set of tailor-made recommendations in the field.

Study: EN
The power of the European Parliament: Examples of EP impact during the 2014-19 legislative term

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 30-04-2019
External author: DG, EPRS;
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Summary: As the only European Union institution elected directly, the European Parliament is at the heart of representative democracy, the foundation upon which the EU is built. Since its creation, the Parliament's powers have evolved significantly, transforming it into a full-fledged legislative body and forum of discussion and engagement, whose influence is felt in virtually all areas of EU activity. This paper provides an overview of the European Parliament's main powers, demonstrating how they interact, and illustrating through practical examples from the most recent parliamentary term (2014-2019) the various ways in which the Parliament uses those powers in its daily work.

EU trade policy: Frequently asked questions

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-10-2019
Author: Jana TITIEVSKAIA
Policy area: International Trade
Summary: This paper seeks to serve as a key resource for policy-makers who need to understand complex issues related to international trade quickly. It also outlines the key academic debates and issues, and provides references to further resources that could offer useful support to the work of policy-makers in the European Parliament. It seeks to provide immediate answers to the most commonly asked questions related to EU trade policy: from the evolution and scope of EU common commercial policy to the role of different EU institutions and the economics of trade. It includes explanations of key trade concepts. In addition, the paper covers the procedures for the conclusion of international trade agreements, types of trade relationship, and the specific characteristics of EU legal instruments in the area of trade. Lastly, it addresses the issues of trade and sustainable development, which have grown into a key area of concern for Parliament.

Luxembourg EU Council Presidency: Overview of priority dossiers

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 05-06-2015
Author: Dora BOYTHA
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | single market | investment policy | corporation tax | EU Council Presidency | drafting of EU law | European tax cooperation | Luxembourg | development policy | climate change policy | EU migration policy | energy policy | terrorism | coordination of EMU policies | EU budget | fund (EU) | euro area | interinstitutional relations (EU) | summit meeting
Summary: Luxembourg will hold its 12th Presidency of the Council, concluding the Italian-Latvian-Luxembourg Trio Council Presidency in the second half of 2015. Luxembourg last presided over the Council of the EU in 2005. The official programme of the Presidency will be presented to the Conference of Committee Chairs by Nicolas Schmit, the Minister of Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy on 9 June, and by Prime Minister Xavier Bettel to the Parliament on 8 July. Minister Schmitt will be responsible for relations with the European Parliament during the Luxembourgish Presidency. Luxembourg's European priorities will focus on the Growth and Jobs Agenda, the social dimension of European policies, the implementation of the European Agenda for Migration and the Energy Union, the reform of the Economic and Monetary Union, the negotiation of the TTIP agreement and the preparation of the COP 21 climate change conference in Paris.

The added value of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), and its revision

Publication type: Study
Date: 13-04-2018
Author: Christian SALM
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Keyword: incompatibility | participatory democracy | transparency in decision-making | EU initiative | European Ombudsman | personal data | Internet | power of initiative | non-governmental organisation | petition | admissibility | legislative initiative | public consultation | European citizenship | data protection
Summary: The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) is aimed at bringing the EU closer to its citizens, by enabling them to invite the European Commission to make a proposal for a legal act. Introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon, the ECI should provide every citizen with the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union. However, the ECI in practice has had various procedural hurdles, preventing the fulfilment of the regulation's objectives. The ECI is thus not fulfilling its potential with regard to bringing the EU closer to its citizens. Against this background, the present study outlines the weaknesses in the existing ECI procedure. Moreover, it assesses, with a view to their added value, the main reform proposals that have been put forward to improve the ECI's functioning.
Workshop on How to support the internationalisation of SMEs and microenterprises

Publication type Study
Date 14-10-2016
External author Mike Coyne, Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services (CSES)
Stephan Kreutzer, Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services (CSES)
Policy area Energy | EU Law: Legal System and Acts
Keyword third country | foreign market | aid to undertakings | sustainable development | EU programme | international trade | intergovernmental cooperation (EU) | small and medium-sized enterprises | globalisation
Summary This paper summarises the discussions taking place during a workshop organised by the Policy Department A: Economic and Scientific Policy for the ITRE Committee on how to support the internationalisation of SMEs and microenterprises. The focus lay on the challenges and barriers, and the drivers to SME internationalisation. Moreover, the success of, and SME participation in EU measures supporting access to new markets were debated.

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 Desislava Boyadjieva with contributions from authors across EPRS – Piotr Bakowski, Angelos Delivorias, Gregor Erbach, Stephan Huber, Elena Lazarou, Anita Orav, Eva-Maria Popcheva, Laura Puccio, Christian Scheinert, Andrej Stuchlik, Marcin Szczepanski, Laura Tilindyte, 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.

Analysis of the Prospects for Updating the Trade Pillar of the European Union-Chile Association Agreement

Publication type Study
Date 30-05-2016
External author Rodrigo Polanco
Policy area International Trade
Keyword revision of an agreement | common commercial policy | public contract | originating product | liberalisation of trade | sustainable development | trade relations | Chile | investment | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy | technical regulations | association agreement (EU) | intellectual property
Summary The perception of the present state of trade relations with Chile is obscured by a lack of adequate understanding of its legal framework as well as of the policy behind it. This study attempts to clarify the present state of and future prospects for trade between the EU and Chile through an examination of previous agreements and the EU’s new approach to trade liberalisation. The authors agree with the large consensus existing on both the EU and Chilean sides regarding the efficacy of the Association Agreement, but note that any extension of an agreement with Chile should capture the spirit of older EU agreements rather than simply following the ‘NAFTA route’. The study also includes a comparative analysis between the EU-Chile agreement and current trade agreements being negotiated by the EU and Chile with third countries.

Study ES, EN
Foreign Direct Investment in the EU and the Eastern Partnership Countries

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 05-02-2018
Author: Mario DAMEN | BENEDIKT KLAUS WIEDENHOFER
Policy area: International Trade | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues | Foreign Affairs | Industry
Keyword: investment policy | foreign investment | Armenia | direct investment | Georgia | Moldova | Ukraine | investment abroad | Azerbaijan | Belarus | economic analysis
Summary: Upon request of the Euronest parliamentary assembly economic committee, investment patterns and policies in the EU and Eastern Partnership countries were compared. The EU is an investment heavyweight, both in terms of attracting as placing foreign direct investment. Many EU Member States protect their investment abroad and some have screening mechanisms for incoming investment. The Eastern Partnership countries are minor investors themselves, but keep attracting a slowly growing level of foreign direct investment. Investment is supported by the European Investment Bank, the EBRD or the World Bank. Looking at which countries invest in which Eastern Partnership country, it appears that each of them has one main investing country, suggesting a preferred relationship, which would need further research to explain.

Procedures of the Workshop on "Trade and Economic Relations with Asia"

Publication type: Study
Date: 07-03-2016
External author: Alessia AMIGHINI, Elisa BORGHI, Rodolfo HELG and Lucia TAJOLI
Policy area: International Trade | Internal Market and Customs Union | Foreign Affairs | Industry
Keyword: common commercial policy | India | Japan | bilateral relations | trade relations | trading operation | economic relations | ASEAN | China | World Trade Organisation | New Zealand | economic consequence | South Korea | Australia | foreign trade | Singapore | economic activity | trade agreement (EU) | international trade | Asia–Pacific economic cooperation
Summary: This publication consists of the proceedings and of three studies which were presented during the workshop on trade and economic relations with Asia:
- Asia as a new global engine: foreign trade and regional cooperation
- EU external trade strategy vis-à-vis Asia
- Implementation of the EU-Republic of Korea FTA

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 - 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 Parliamentary 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.
What next after the US withdrawal from the TPP? What are the options for trade relations in the Pacific and what will be the impact on the EU?

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 27-11-2017  
**External author** Peter CHASE, Pasha L. HSIEH, Bart KERREMANS  
**Policy area** International Trade | Global Governance  
**Keyword** common commercial policy | trade by country | United States | free-trade agreement | Asia | withdrawal from an agreement | Canada | Chile | New Zealand | economic consequence | Mexico | Australia | Peru | trade policy | geopolitics | globalisation  
**Summary** The Trans-Pacific Partnership was a landmark trade agreement signed by 12 Pacific Rim countries including the US on 4 February 2016. TPP had commercial as well as geopolitical significance for the Obama administration and was a key component of the former president’s so-called “pivot” to Asia. On his first full day in office, on 24 January 2017, President Trump pulled the US out of TPP leaving the other 11 signatories to grapple with the consequences. They have since vowed to move forward even without US participation, reviewing the existing clauses and rebranding the regional agreement under the name of Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Negotiations on the CPTPP will continue in 2018. The European Parliament has requested three experts from the EU, US and Asia to consider the implications of the US withdrawal from the TPP and draw conclusions on how the EU should position itself in this high-growth and geopolitically-strategic area. The findings were presented during a Workshop organised by the Policy Department for the International Trade Committee on 8 November 2017 in Brussels.

Study [EN](#)

Future trade relations between the EU and the UK: Options after Brexit

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 16-03-2018  
**External author** Piet Eeckhout  
**Policy area** International Trade | Consumer Protection | Foreign Affairs  
**Keyword** common commercial policy | World Trade Organisation | economic consequence | United Kingdom | customs union | European Economic Area | trade dispute | trade agreement (EU) | trade relations | withdrawal from the EU | market access  
**Summary** This study analyses the various options for the future trade relations between the EU and the UK, after Brexit. It examines the various models against the canvas of two distinct paradigms: market integration and trade liberalization. It finds that an intermediate model, which would allow for continued convergence and mutual recognition in some sectors/freedoms, but not others, is unavailable and cannot easily be constructed for legal, institutional, and political reasons. The stark choice is between a customs union/free trade agreement, or continued internal market membership through the EEA or an equivalent agreement. The study further analyses the effects of Brexit on the UK’s continued participation in the trade agreements concluded by the EU. Notwithstanding a range of complexities, the study finds that such continued participation is not automatic but subject to negotiation.

Study [EN](#)

Analysis of the upcoming Modernisation of the Trade Pillar of the European Union- Mexico Global Agreement

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 20-04-2016  
**Policy area** International Trade  
**Keyword** common commercial policy | trade statistics | public contract | sustainable development | trade relations | Canada | investment | agreement (EU) | Mercosur | Mexico | NAFTA | international trade | intellectual property  
**Summary** The 1997 Global Agreement between the EC and its Member States and Mexico, together with the set of decisions taken in its framework, has been effective, and thus modifications of the agreement are mainly motivated by changes in the global landscape since it was first enacted. Therefore, broad considerations on how the European Union (EU) trade policy is shaped are extremely relevant for the upcoming negotiations with Mexico. In this context, the needs and expectations, both from the EU and Mexico, regarding any further agreements are examined, focusing in particular on areas beyond trade in goods and services such as procurement, investment, and regulatory cooperation. It is argued that the ‘old’ Association Agreements should be taken as models for any modifications, given their emphasis on EU-specific issues and their ability to accommodate the needs of Mexico in any deepened agreement.

Study [ES](#), [EN](#)
Proceedings of the Workshop on the consequences of Brexit

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2017
External author: Anna CITARELLA, European Research Centre for Economic and Financial Governance; Menelaos MARKAKIS, European Research Centre for Economic and Financial Governance
Keyword: European treaties | single market | United Kingdom | consumer protection | customs union | referendum | Community acquis | powers of the institutions (EU) | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | economic interdependence | trade agreement (EU) | withdrawal from the EU | international trade | European Parliament
Summary: The workshop organised for the IMCO Committee by the Policy Department A in cooperation with the European Research Centre for Economic and Financial Governance (EURO-CEFG) of the Universities of Leiden, Delft and Rotterdam aimed at discussing the consequences of Brexit on the EU in general and on the policy fields covered by the IMCO Committee in particular. It allowed for a first exchange of opinion on the consequences of Brexit and for questions by EU decision-makers in preparation of the upcoming negotiations.

EU food quality scheme

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 08-07-2019
Author: Beata ROJEK
Policy area: Agriculture and Rural Development
Summary: The quality of European agricultural products often relies on their geographical origins, the traditional recipes used to make them, and the methods used in production and processing. These human and geographical factors are intrinsic to making a product unique. In 1992, the EU developed a quality scheme for foodstuffs, including the designation of their origin. The objectives of the EU quality scheme are to provide consumers with clear information, allowing them to make a more informed choice, and to indicate the added value of a given product. The protection of European local and gastronomic traditions, especially against imitation in third countries, is another important aim of the regulations. Consequently, the EU's engagement in protecting its registered products on the global market is a contentious issue in the negotiation of many trade agreements.

Workshop on "EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)"

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-12-2015
External author: Stephen Woolcock (London School of Economics, London, the UK) and Pierre Sauvé (World Trade Institute - WTI, University of Berne, Switzerland)
Keyword: common commercial policy | freedom to provide services | economic consequence | free-trade agreement | investment protection | trade agreement (EU) | Canada | provision of services | market access
Summary: The event which took place at the European Parliament on 9 December 2015 stressed the significance of the agreement for both the EU and Canada.
The European Community was founded on the belief that economic integration leads to peace and economic prosperity. Trade is therefore a fundamental part of the identity of the European Union (EU) today. Given the success of the internal market in fostering the longest period of European peace in modern history, the EU considers itself an example of the benefits of trade, globalisation and economic openness. International trade policy is an exclusive competence of the EU, and with the combined economic weight of its Member States behind it, the EU is one of the key players in global trade. Yet trade policy is about more than stability and growth for the EU, as it is also used to encourage poor countries to develop, foster international alliances and support fundamental values in the world. A strong partner in the World Trade Organization (WTO), the EU backs an international trading system based on rules rather than might. The benefits of globalisation and international trade have nevertheless been questioned in recent years, including within the EU. This has led it to reinvigorate its trade policy, in particular by presenting a new trade strategy and a reflection paper on harnessing globalisation. The EU's new 'trade for all' strategy addresses criticisms and focuses on making its trade policy more effective, transparent and value-based. In line with this strategy, the EU has pursued ongoing trade negotiations with renewed vigour and launched new trade and investment talks, resulting in state-of-the-art agreements with countries such as Canada and Japan. The EU faces uncertain times due to major shifts in international trade, coming from both the West and the East. In response, it seeks to promote economic openness, standing up for its values and protecting its interests. For example, the EU has retaliated against United States (US) steel tariffs and continues to defend the rules-based international trading order. Contentious trading practices on the part of third countries, including China, have led the EU to modernise its trade defence instruments, prepare a new foreign investment screening mechanism and seek a reform of the WTO. The EU is likely to continue this approach in the coming term, pursuing international cooperation and new agreements, possibly also at a continental level with Africa, and striving to protect its citizens and businesses from economic harm. This is an update of an earlier briefing issued in advance of the 2019 European elections.
Perspectives on transatlantic cooperation: Culture in EU-US relations

Publication type Briefing
Date 11-07-2017
Author Ivana KATSAROVA
Policy area Culture
Keyword United States | cultural exception | bilateral agreement | illicit trade | bilateral relations | literary and artistic property | cultural cooperation | international trade | digital technology | culture | copyright
Summary North America and Europe dominate the global trade in cultural goods. Together they account for 49 % of exports and 62 % of imports. However, there is a significant cultural divide between the EU and USA, which is reflected in contrasting policy approaches towards culture. Under the 2005 Unesco Convention – not signed by the USA – the EU has a legal obligation to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions, a principle also enshrined in Article 167 TFEU. Culture and the audiovisual sectors are supported in the EU through its 'Creative Europe' framework programme, but most importantly through the EU-28’s national budgets, with cultural spending representing between 0.2 % and 1.9 % of GDP in the 2000-2005 period. By contrast, cultural action in the USA is not centrally guided by any federal policy, and the resources made available are relatively small for a country boasting the world’s largest economy. While the EU has a (long) tradition in supporting cultural and creative industries, in the USA, culture is generally viewed as a commodity with the American film and music industries perceived as its main ambassadors. In 2016, the EU announced a strategy for international cultural relations, seeking, among other things, to fill gaps and remove misconceptions about the EU. In July 2017, the European Parliament welcomed the initiative. Similarly, the EU Delegation in the USA, together with the recently created Euro-American Cultural Foundation, run a number of cultural initiatives to bring the best of EU culture and help advance knowledge of the EU and the value of the transatlantic partnership. This briefing continues a series which formed part of a broader research project on perspectives on transatlantic cooperation, requested by the Chair of the European Parliament’s Delegation for relations with the United States.

The work of EPRS - The first five years: 2014 to 2018

Publication type Study
Date 29-05-2019
Author ANTHONY TEASDALE
Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Summary The European Parliament’s Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS) was established in November 2013, in order to provide Members of the European Parliament, and where appropriate, parliamentary committees, with independent, objective and authoritative analysis of, and research on, policy issues relating to the European Union, and so assist them in their parliamentary work. DG EPRS aims to provide a comprehensive range of products and services, backed by specialist internal expertise and knowledge sources in all policy fields, so empowering Members and committees through knowledge and contributing to the Parliament’s effectiveness and influence as an institution. This report describes the work of EPRS during its first five years of full operation, from January 2014 to December 2018, with special emphasis on the most recent calendar year, 2018.

Openness of public procurement markets in key third countries

Publication type Study
Date 04-07-2017
External author Kamala DAWAR, Sussex University, United Kingdom
Policy area International Trade | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Internal Market and Customs Union | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Regional Development
Keyword common commercial policy | public contract | United States | comparative law | trade restriction | liberalisation of trade | India | Japan | protectionism | market access | China | Brazil | EU market
Summary This report assesses the openness of public procurement markets in key third countries of interest to the EU. It provides a comparative overview of the regulatory and market access characteristics of the US, Brazil, India, China, Japan’s procurement markets, with reference to the procurement regulation and enforcement within the EU. The report assesses the available data on both the de jure and de facto levels of openness of these markets to put forward some conclusions of value to policy making both within the EU and in its trading relations with key third countries. This assessment concludes that the lack of comprehensive comparable data on procurement contract awards, particularly at the sub-central level, is not a trivial challenge for policy makers. Nevertheless, it is evident that the liberalisation of procurement markets continues to take place on a strictly reciprocal basis – linked to the offensive interests of governments. Given the slow-down in negotiating mega-regional agreements with comprehensive procurement chapters, the WTO Government Procurement Agreement remains the most efficient and transparent forum for undertaking further liberalisation in public procurement.
The EU - Japan Economic Partnership Agreement

Publication type: Study
Date: 28-09-2018

External author: Sonali CHOWDHRY, Marie Curie Visiting Fellow; André SAPIR, Senior Fellow; Alessio TERZI, Affiliate Fellow

Policy area: International Trade

Keyword: public contract | trade by country | corporate governance | free-trade agreement | liberalisation of trade | Japan | trading operation | market access | impact study | economic consequence | foreign investment | climate change policy | trade agreement (EU)

Summary: This report independently assesses the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement. We find that the EPA establishes an ambitious framework to further liberalise and better organise trade, covering goods, services, intellectual property and investment, tariff- and non-tariff measures, and regulatory cooperation. Given its depth and breadth, and that it is unprecedented in including provisions on corporate governance, SMEs, and climate change, the EPA is set to become a benchmark for future trade agreements. Joining two open economies with high income levels and regulatory standards, the agreement is expected to generate benefits by boosting trade within sectors, minimising sectoral relocation and negative employment effects. Agri-food, textiles and leather products are where the EU can expect to make the greatest gains. Furthermore, the EPA will boost the EU’s economic presence and political relevance in the Asia-Pacific area. Going beyond its economic benefits, the agreement also has significant non-economic implications.

Reinforced cooperation will enhance the ability of both parties to shape the course of global developments in a manner that better reflects their shared interests and values, such as their commitment to a rule-based global trade system and the fight against global warming.

Study: EN

Workshop "Anti-corruption provisions in EU free trade and investment agreements: Delivering on clean trade"

Publication type: Study
Date: 28-03-2018

External author: Alina MUNGIU-PIPPIDI

Policy area: International Trade

Keyword: common commercial policy | public contract | free-trade agreement | liberalisation of trade | business morals | investment protection | corruption | trade agreement | market access | World Trade Organisation | foreign investment | Cotonou Agreement | trade agreement (EU)

Summary: International trade agreements have the potential to help breaking the vicious circle of corruption in economies based on privileged connections rather than fair competition. They increase competition in the removal of tariffs and so diminish the power of rentier companies which influence domestic regulation in their favour. They also contribute to a fairer business environment through their transparency provisions. Trade openness, red tape reduction and fiscal transparency, especially transparency of procurement, play positive roles in widening control of corruption. They can be more easily influenced by external actors than the other important control of corruption factors: judicial independence, freedom of the press or the demand from civil society for good governance. This study ordered by the INTA Committee argues that indirect good governance policies which increase competition and subvert power and economic monopolies or quasi monopolies are far more effective than direct anticorruption policies, which in relying on domestic implementation tend to fall into the vicious circle again. The study presents options characterised as an 'economist's approach' with an apparently more modest but effective good governance package, a 'lawyer’s’ approach' with firm anticorruption language but unenforceable provisions even in EU countries (on bribery, for instance), and a 'holistic' approach where the EU would coordinate across international trade, promotion of norms and development aid. The three options may be used alternatively, depending on the degree of development and quality of governance of the trading partner. The study was presented at a workshop of the INTA committee on 24 January 2018.

Study: EN

The future partnership between the European Union and the United Kingdom: Negotiating a framework for relations after Brexit

Publication type: Study
Date: 25-09-2018

Author: Carmen-Cristina CIURLIG | Laura PUCCIO

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

Keyword: World Trade Organisation | preferential agreement | third country | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | police cooperation | European security | United Kingdom | development aid | trade relations | common foreign and security policy | withdrawal from the EU | European Union

Summary: Following the European Council's additional guidelines of March 2018, the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK) have started discussions on their future relationship after Brexit. The aim is to agree on a political framework for their future partnership by autumn 2018, to be adopted alongside the withdrawal agreement. Conclusion of a treaty or treaties establishing future EU-UK relations will only take place after the UK leaves the Union and becomes a third country. Both parties have expressed the desire to remain in a close partnership, which would cover several areas including trade and economic matters, internal security, foreign and security policy, and cooperation on defence. This study looks at the respective aims for, and principles underpinning, the negotiations, as expressed publicly to date by each party, and analyses some of the legal constraints and existing practices or precedents shaping EU cooperation with third-country partners. This allows assessment of the possibilities and limits of any future EU-UK partnership, in light of the stated objectives and 'red lines' officially announced, leading to the conclusion that, notwithstanding several common aims, significant divergences still persist with respect to the means of achieving the stated objectives.

Study: EN
Annex I: EN
Research for AGRI Committee - The Interactions between the EU's External Action and the Common Agricultural Policy

Publication type: Study
Date: 07-07-2016
External author: Alan SWINBANK (School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, University of Reading, the UK)
Policy area: Forward Planning | Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | common commercial policy | generalised preferences | enlargement of the Union | free-trade agreement | aid to agriculture | agricultural trade | World Trade Organisation | sustainable agriculture | development aid | trade dispute | reduction of gas emissions | tariff negotiations | GATT | ACP-EU Convention | agriculture-trade relationship | common agricultural policy

Summary: The CAP has been strongly influenced by the EU’s External Actions. The various Enlargements, and trade policies to favour its neighbours to both the East and South, and for its former colonies, have left their mark. However it is external pressures through the GATT/WTO that have had the most defining effect. Current pressures stem from a new generation of Free Trade agreements, the need to reduce agriculture’s greenhouse gas emissions, and to respond to Brexit.

Study EN, PL

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 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

Implementation of the Lisbon Treaty - Improving Functioning of the EU: Foreign Affairs, Update September 2016

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2016
External author: Marise CREMONA
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs | EU Law: Legal System and Acts
Keyword: mixed agreement | common commercial policy | external competence (EU) | third country | Treaty on European Union | association agreement | international agreement | common foreign and security policy | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

Summary: Foreign Affairs as field of EU action has very distinctive constitutional qualities. Its external powers are broad, encompassing not only traditional foreign policy, but also development cooperation and number of sectorial policies such as trade, transport and environment. This revised and expanded report provides an analysis of the changes in the constitutional and institutional framework brought about by the Lisbon Treaty and assess the implementation of those changes including obstacles to further improvement of its implementation. This updated version takes another look on the matters of competence and mixed agreements as well on the role of the ECJ in foreign affairs.

Study EN
The EU-Latin American Strategic Partnership: state of play and ways forward

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 a 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

Agenda-setting in the European Council, December 2014 - June 2017

Publication type: Study
Date: 26-09-2017

External author: This study has been written by Dr Petya Alexandrova Petrova of the University of Oxford at the request of the European Council Oversight Unit of the Directorate for Parliamentary Research Services (DG EPRS) of the General Secretariat of the European Parliament.

Keyword: governance | European Council | EU relations | EU migration policy | economic policy | agreement (EU) | summit meeting | EU statistics | extra-EU trade

Summary: The European Council plays an important role in European Union agenda-setting. Its task is to provide impetus and political direction to the European integration process. The Treaty of Lisbon has made the European Council an EU institution in legal terms, although its tasks remained virtually unchanged. It also introduced a permanent President. This study can be read as a follow-up to the 'Analysis of Agenda Setting in the European Council, 2009-2014', which examined the agenda of the institution during the Presidency of Herman Van Rompuy. The focus here is on the first mandate of the second President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, from December 2014 to June 2017.

Study: EN

The EU-Latin American Strategic Partnership: state of play and ways forward

Publication type: Study
Date: 30-08-2017

External author: Gustavo G. MÜLLER (Senior Researcher, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, University of Leuven, Belgium); Jan WOUTERS (Professor and Director, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, University of Leuven, Belgium); Jean-Christophe DEFRAGINE (Professor, Institute for European Studies, University Saint-Louis Brussels, Belgium); Sebastian SANTANDER (Professor, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Liege, Belgium); Kolja RAUBE (Senior Researcher, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, University of Leuven, Belgium)

Policy area: International Trade | Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: common commercial policy | political situation | India | Japan | economic integration | foreign policy | social situation | China | Latin America | human rights | EU relations | South Korea | Latin American organisation | interparliamentary relations | Caribbean Islands | trade policy | geopolitics | economic situation

Summary: By looking at the current social, economic and political trends in Latin America and the Caribbean and at recent developments in the EU's relation with the region, this study explores windows of opportunity for advancing the EU-Latin American strategic partnership. It is argued that, although asymmetries between Europe and Latin America might impact and diminish the bi-regional relationship, the EU is well-positioned to play a more active role in Latin America by strengthening existing institutional links, such as the strategic bi-regional partnership between the EU and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Euro-Latin America Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat). The study concludes with tailor-made recommendations in order to advance the EU's engagement and cooperation with individual Latin American countries and with the region as a whole, both through traditional cooperative channels and through closer parliamentary links within the framework of EuroLat.

Study: ES, EN
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.

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 | Marek KOŁODZIEJSKI | Jost ANGERER | Manica HAUPTMAN | Alessandro DAVOLI | Petr NOVAK | Sarah Salome SY | Piero SOAVE | Darren NEVILLE | Laurence SMAJDA | Dirk VERBEKEN | Frederic GOUARDERES | Pasquale DE MICCO | Ottavia 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 inter-institutional cooperation.

Towards an EU-US trade and investment deal

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 10-07-2014
Author: Carmen-Cristina CIRLIG

Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs

Keyword: common commercial policy | public contract | United States | food safety | free-trade agreement | liberalisation of trade | investment protection | agricultural trade | market access | financial services | technical barrier | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | trade agreement (EU)

Summary: The European Union (EU) and United States (US) are currently negotiating a trade and investment deal, which would create the world's largest free trade area. But the many challenges faced and increasing public opposition put successful conclusion of an agreement in doubt.
The Institutional Consequences of a ‘Bespoke’ Agreement with the UK based on a ‘Distant’ Cooperation Model

International Agreements in Progress: Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with Canada

The 2016 Elections in the United States: Effects on the EU-US Relationship
Free trade agreements between EFTA and third countries: An overview

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 18-04-2016
Author: Konur Alp KOCAK
Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: single market | trade statistics | third country | free-trade agreement | European Economic Area | bilateral agreement | trade cooperation | EEA joint institution | economic integration | EFTA countries | trade agreement | EFTA trade cooperation | EEA joint institution | economic integration | EFTA countries | trade agreement | EFTA
Summary: The biggest trading partner of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is the EU, but third countries have made up an increasing share of EFTA's trade since it began exploring new markets through free trade agreements (FTAs) following the end of the Cold War. Since international trade accounts for a significant share of EFTA countries' national economies, boosting trade with new markets is a priority for the association. Trade between the EU and three of the four EFTA states (the EEA EFTA states) is subject to the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement, meaning these countries adopt EU legislation relevant to the Single Market. As the EU accounts for almost 70% of EFTA's total trade, EU rules and regulations play a major role in its trade relations. This has tended to restrict EFTA members' trade policies towards third countries. EFTA began to negotiate FTAs around the world in the 1990s. Today, EFTA's network of preferential trade relations consists of 25 FTAs covering 36 countries. Further negotiations and exploratory talks are ongoing with major emerging economies such as India, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Modernisation and extension of some existing (first generation) FTAs, to incorporate new areas such as trade in services and investment, is also under way. Because EFTA is a free trade area not requiring the harmonisation of member countries' external trade policies, EFTA members are free to decide their own trade policies towards third countries. They have therefore signed bilateral FTAs with a number of third countries. The Iceland-China FTA, China's first with a European country, is one noteworthy example. Norway has signed two bilateral FTAs (with the Faroe Islands and Greenland), while Switzerland, which has been in a customs union with Liechtenstein since 1923, has concluded bilateral FTAs with three countries -- China, Japan, and the Faroe Islands. For the most part, EFTA has been able to speak with one voice whilst allowing its individual members to decide their own bilateral policies.

Human health implications of organic food and organic agriculture

Publication type: Study
Date: 20-12-2016
Policy area: Research Policy | Agriculture and Rural Development | Public Health
Keyword: antibiotic | fertiliser | pesticide | human nutrition | public health | plant health treatment | allergy | nutritional disease | organic farming | cadmium | organic product
Summary: This study reviews existing scientific evidence regarding the impact of organic food on human health from an EU perspective, with a focus on public health. The development of environmentally sustainable and healthy food systems is an international priority. The study examines how organic food and organic agriculture can contribute to this in relation to public health. Human and animal studies directly addressing the health effects of organic food are reviewed. Furthermore, evidence linking principles and rules of organic production to human health effects is discussed.

Towards an EU-US trade and investment deal

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 25-03-2014
Author: Carmen-Cristina CIRLIG
Policy area: International Trade
Keyword: common commercial policy | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | liberalisation of trade | non-tariff barrier | trade agreement (EU) | market access
Summary: The European Union and United States are currently negotiating a trade and investment deal, which would create the world's largest free trade area. But the many challenges faced and increasing public opposition put successful conclusion of an agreement in doubt.

Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - July 2016

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 04-07-2016
Keyword: EP Committee | economic and social cohesion | powers of the EP | dissemination of EU information | political propaganda | heritage protection | access to EU information | 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.
European Citizens' Initiative
Publication type  At a Glance
Date  10-04-2017
Author  Nikolai ATANASSOV
Policy area  Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Democracy
Keyword  European treaties | power of initiative | participatory democracy | public hearing | EU initiative | European Ombudsman | European citizenship | European citizens' initiative
Summary  The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) was introduced in 2009 with the Lisbon Treaty. It is a key element of participatory democracy, allowing citizens to play an active role in the EU's democratic life, by addressing requests to the European Commission for legislative proposals. The procedure and conditions for ECIs are governed by Regulation (EU) No 211/2011, in force since April 2012. This was the subject of a first three-yearly review by the Commission in 2015, leading to a debate on the ECI's effectiveness and some suggestions for improvement.

At a Glance  DE, EN, FR, NL

International Agreements in Progress: Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with Canada
Publication type  Briefing
Date  26-10-2016
Author  Wilhelm SCHOELLMANN
Policy area  International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Summary  EU-Canada negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) started in May 2009 and were declared concluded at the EU-Canada Summit on 26 September 2014. The agreement's overall aim is to increase flows of goods, services and investment to the benefit of both partners. For the EU, CETA represents the first comprehensive economic agreement with a highly industrialised Western economy. Except for a few sensitive agricultural products, the agreement would remove practically all tariffs on goods exchanged between the two partners. Canada would substantially open up its public procurement at both federal and sub-federal level, thereby eliminating a major asymmetry in access to each other's public procurement markets. The EU succeeded in securing protection for a large number of European Geographical Indications (GIs) on the Canadian market. Provisions on sustainable development should ensure that trade and investment do not develop to the detriment of, but rather support, environmental protection and social development. On 5 July 2016, the Commission made three proposals for a Council decision with respect to CETA: to sign the agreement, on provisional application, and on conclusion. The Council and Member States have had difficult discussions on the conditions under which CETA can be signed. The consent procedure can be launched once the proposal to conclude the agreement has officially reached the European Parliament. First edition. The 'International Agreements in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the process, from initial discussions through to ratification.
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
Briefing  EN, FR
Multimedia  EN

International Agreements in Progress: Bilateral trade deal with Japan – largest to date for EU
Publication type  Briefing
Date  01-02-2019
Author  Krisztina BINDER
Policy area  International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Summary  Following the signature of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) in July 2018, and the conclusion of the ratification procedures by both partners at the end of 2018, the agreement entered into force on 1 February 2019. The agreement's overall aim is to increase flows of goods, services and investment to the benefit of both partners. For the EU, CETA represents the first comprehensive economic agreement with a highly industrialised Western economy. Except for a few sensitive agricultural products, the agreement would remove practically all tariffs on goods exchanged between the two partners. Canada would substantially open up its public procurement at both federal and sub-federal level, thereby eliminating a major asymmetry in access to each other's public procurement markets. The EU succeeded in securing protection for a large number of European Geographical Indications (GIs) on the Canadian market. Provisions on sustainable development should ensure that trade and investment do not develop to the detriment of, but rather support, environmental protection and social development. On 5 July 2016, the Commission made three proposals for a Council decision with respect to CETA: to sign the agreement, on provisional application, and on conclusion. The Council and Member States have had difficult discussions on the conditions under which CETA can be signed. The consent procedure can be launched once the proposal to conclude the agreement has officially reached the European Parliament. First edition. The 'International Agreements in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the process, from initial discussions through to ratification.
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
Briefing  EN
Trade and Investments in Energy in the Context of the EU Common Commercial Policy

Publication type: Study  
Date: 11-05-2015  
External author: Matteo VERDA, Antonino ALÌ, Marco PERTILE, Nicolò ROSSETTO, Chiara SISLER and Paolo TURRINI  
Policy area: International Trade | Energy  
Keyword: energy supply | energy cooperation | free-trade agreement | energy law | investment protection | Ukraine | Western Balkans | discriminatory price | anti-dumping legislation | World Trade Organisation | security of supply | Georgia | Moldova | EU competence | international trade law | Treaty of Lisbon  
Summary: The aim of this study is to provide a preliminary assessment of the EU legal framework for trade and investment in energy. The European economy is expected to increase its reliance on international supplies, enhancing the importance of stable and open international markets and trade relationships for its energy security. The study investigates the difference between energy policy and trade policy, the relevance of WTO provisions that may serve EU energy interests, the rules on export duties and those WTO+ provisions that affect EU energy related business. The study also analyses the relevance of bilateral trade treaties signed by the EU, with particular reference to the protection of investment following the Lisbon treaty. Finally, the study reviews the comprehensive agreements, which have been signed with the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine.

Study EN

ENERGY POLICY

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 15-03-2017  
Author: Dagmara STOERRING | Frederic GOUARDERES  
Keyword: energy supply | energy grid | building insulation | gas supply | free-trade agreement | case study | household income | security of supply | energy storage | price of energy | EU investment | EP Committee | shale gas  
Summary: This leaflet provides abstracts of selection of latest publications prepared by the European Parliament's Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policy at the request of the ITRE Committee in relation to the Energy policy.

Briefing EN

Hearings of European Commissioners-designate - Compendium of Briefings

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 26-09-2014  
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council  
Keyword: parliamentary scrutiny | EU policy | powers of the EP | public hearing | appointment of members | European Commission | Treaty of Lisbon | High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU | history of Europe  
Summary: This publication is a compendium of the briefings produced by the Members' Research Service on the portfolios of the Commissioners-designate. It also contains additional background material, including a historic overview on Parliament's role in the appointment of the Commission before 1995, prepared by the Historical Archives team.

Briefing 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  
Keyword: impact study | free-trade agreement | Japan | bilateral relations | international negotiations | international trade  
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
Energy Security and Integration

Publication type  Briefing
Date  27-04-2016
Author  Gertrud MALMERSJO

Policy area  Transposition and Implementation of Law | Energy
Keyword  single market | energy demand | energy supply | energy grid | regulation (EU) | energy cooperation | energy diversification | energy efficiency | import (EU) | natural gas | application of EU law | EU Member State | energy law | renewable energy | self-sufficiency in energy | energy storage | Russia | proposal (EU)

Summary  The above studies and debate indicate that there is no single solution to increasing energy security and integration. However, it is clear that increased cooperation and coordination on a European level is needed to enhance energy independence, particularly in view of the differences between Member States in relation to their degree of energy dependency. The current proposal only covers gas supply and not electricity supply, making it more difficult to assess to what extent the proposal will enhance energy security overall. While the proposal strengthens the oversight role of the European Commission, it is not clear whether the increased information requirements would contribute to a more transparent and therefore more competitive market. Taking into account the global developments is also important. LNG demand in Asia, as well as conflicts in the Middle East, will have an effect on available resources and on energy security. This increases the importance of linking EU energy policy with EU external relations as called for by Parliament. Overall, a variety of initiatives are needed, together with careful consideration of the consequences of these choices, and a recognition that EU energy dependency will continue for some time.

Briefing  DE, EN, FR

Stakeholder, Parliamentary and Third Country Concerns about the EU-Canada Comprehensive Trade and Economic Agreement (CETA)

Publication type  In-Depth Analysis
Date  16-12-2014
Author  Wanda TROSZCZYNSKA VAN GENDEREN

Keyword  public contract | free-trade agreement | national parliament | seal | powers of the EP | transparency in decision-making | investment protection | Canada | visa policy | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | Mexico | Turkey | animal product | trade agreement (EU) | NAFTA | European Parliament

Summary  The EU-Canada Comprehensive Trade and Economic Agreement (CETA) – covering a plethora of issues, including market access, tariffs and non-tariff barriers – has elicited varied reactions from stakeholders. Business associations on both sides of the Atlantic have strongly supported the deal and its aim to boost economic relations between the partners. On the other hand, some civil society groups, trade unions and agricultural associations have voiced hesitations about some of the deal’s provisions and its impact on the agricultural sector, the job market and quality of public services. CETA negotiations have also provided civil society an opportunity to discuss indirectly related issues, including visa policies, data privacy and the EU ban on the trade in seal products. Both the European and Canadian Parliaments have actively monitored the negotiations and provided opportunities for stakeholders to express their opinions. While consultation and public outreach now appears to have resolved most hurdles, criticism about the negotiations’ transparency and inclusiveness – as well as concerns about the inclusion of investment protection clauses – have not entirely abated. Turkey and Canada’s partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement (the US and Mexico) also have distinct reasons to fear the impact of CETA on their own economies.

In-Depth Analysis  EN

Commitments Made at the Hearing of Cecilia Malmström - Commissioner-Designate

Publication type  Briefing
Date  14-11-2014
Author  Pasquale DE MICCO

Policy area  Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection | Foreign Affairs
Keyword  investment policy | common commercial policy | United States | transparency in decision-making | public hearing | appointment of members | Canada | China | World Trade Organisation | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | European Commissioner | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | international trade law | Sweden

Summary  Cecilia Malmström, the recently-confirmed European Commissioner for Trade, appeared before the European Parliament on 29 September 2014 to answer MEPs’ questions. In that hearing and in her answers to the questionnaire prepared for the meeting in advance, Commissioner Malmström made a number of statements of interest to the European Parliament. This document provides a summary of her most salient points.

Briefing  EN
The report was prepared at the request of Policy Department A and the IMCO Committee. The approach to e-communications were not sufficiently gauged by the European Commission in its impact assessment. Flexible, adaptive regulation in its overarching framework. The report argues that the merits of a lighter, ex post regulation in Europe, and ends up being at once too conservative (i.e. incremental with respect to legacy rules); fragile, overall the proposal does not entirely reflect the lessons learned from the past two decades of e-communications policy. The Commission in September 2016. While many of the proposed changes appear meaningful, the report argues that overall the proposal does not entirely reflect the lessons learned from the past two decades of e-communications regulation in Europe, and ends up being at once too conservative (i.e. incremental with respect to legacy rules); fragile, since its effectiveness crucially depends on governance reform; and ‘retro’, since it does not incorporate principles of flexible, adaptive regulation in its overarching framework. The report argues that the merits of a lighter, ex post approach to e-communications were not sufficiently gauged by the European Commission in its impact assessment. The report was prepared at the request of Policy Department A and the IMCO Committee.

Free Trade Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Singapore – Analysis

This study analyses provisions of the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement concluded in May 2015 ('EUSFTA'). It compares EUSFTA with other 'new-generation' free trade agreements, such as the EU-Republic of Korea and the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.

Overall, EUSFTA adopts a WTO+ approach and as a result significantly liberalises trade between the EU and Singapore compared to the current trade relationship. The study finds that a number of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in goods and services that currently exist between the parties will be reduced or removed on EUSFTA's entry into force.

EUSFTA, as with other 'new-generation' FTAs negotiated by the EU, adopts a comprehensive approach, and contains innovative provisions on investment, intellectual property rights, competition and public procurement. It also contains provisions which reflect growing concerns about the impact of global trade, such as those on trade and sustainable development.

With regard to EUSFTA's potential impact on trade, the economic modelling estimates an increase of around 10 % in trade volumes and greater volumes of foreign direct investment between the EU and Singapore as a result of the agreement. It also concludes that EUSFTA should lead to small increases of the gross domestic products of the EU and Singapore (0.06 % and 0.35 %, respectively).

The responses of a wide-range of EU and Singaporean stakeholder consultation reveal that, in general, EUSFTA is viewed positively and is considered a very ambitious agreement, which will offer new opportunities for trade and investment in the EU and Singapore. However, some concerns have been raised, especially by small and medium-sized enterprises.

The implications of the result of the Opinion of the Court of Justice of the EU in case 2/15 of 2017, on whether the EU had exclusive competence to sign and conclude EUSFTA alone, is also analysed in detail.

The study recommends, notably, monitoring closely that commitments taken under sustainable development.

Reforming e-Communications Services: A Critical Assessment

This report analyses the proposed reform of the e-communications regulatory framework presented by the European Commission in September 2016. While many of the proposed changes appear meaningful, the report argues that overall the proposal does not entirely reflect the lessons learned from the past two decades of e-communications regulation in Europe, and ends up being at once too conservative (i.e. incremental with respect to legacy rules); fragile, since its effectiveness crucially depends on governance reform; and ‘retro’, since it does not incorporate principles of flexible, adaptive regulation in its overarching framework. The report argues that the merits of a lighter, ex post approach to e-communications were not sufficiently gauged by the European Commission in its impact assessment. The report was prepared at the request of Policy Department A and the IMCO Committee.
The inclusion of financial services in EU free trade and association agreements: Effects on money laundering, tax evasion and avoidance

Publication type: Study
Date: 21-06-2016

Author: Isabelle IOANNIDES

External author: Ex-Post Impact Assessment Study on the impact of financial services in EU Free Trade and Association Agreements on money laundering, tax evasion and elusion, written by Dr Wybe Th. Douma, Onur Güven LL.M., Dr Davor Jancic, Dr Luca Pantaleo, Steffen van der Velde LL.M. (T.M.C. Asser Instituut) and Prof. Dr Olha O. Cherednychenko and Prof. Dr Heinrich B. Winter (Groningen Centre for European Financial Services Law (GCEFSL), University of Groningen), with Prof. Dr Femke de Vries (The Netherlands Authority for the Financial Markets) acting as an advisor.


Keyword: common commercial policy | Serbia | free-trade agreement | tax evasion | financial services | Colombia | impact study | Mexico | money laundering | South Korea | capital transfer | trade agreement (EU) | Peru | association agreement (EU) | tax avoidance | South Africa

Summary: This study examines the implementation and effects of the inclusion of financial services in existing EU free trade and association agreements (FTAs) and, in particular, their impact on money laundering, tax evasion and avoidance. The opening analysis outlines the geopolitical and trade context, as well as the EU policy framework to combat money laundering, tax evasion and avoidance. It examines the effects of the ‘Panama Papers’ leaks; assesses the consequences of tax evasion and money laundering and their link to Africa; evaluates the implementation of the EU-Central America Agreement; and provides a synthesis of the key findings and policy recommendations presented in the annexed study. The annexed expertise investigates the implementation and effects of financial services provisions in selected EU FTAs with third countries, with a particular focus on their propensity to curb money laundering, tax evasion and elusion. It concludes that the liberalisation of trade in goods and services with developing countries increases the threat of money laundering, and that it is therefore likely to contribute to an increase in illicit financial flows from developing countries to the EU. The study does not find conclusive statistical data to support a causal link between the EU FTAs that are in force and an increase in illicit financial flows. Nonetheless, the far-reaching commitments made by the EU and the developing countries in the selected EU FTAs regarding access to the markets for goods and services, including in the financial services sector, translate into such agreements significantly increasing trade openness, and hence also the threat of money laundering facing developing countries. To remedy these threats, the study provides a number of policy recommendations.

Study EN

Consequences of Brexit in the Area of Consumer Protection

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2017

External author: Dr. Malte KRAMME, Research Centre for Consumer Law, University of Bayreuth


Keyword: European treaties | judicial cooperation in civil matters in the EU | United Kingdom | consumer protection | Community acquis | European Economic Area | transitional period (EU) | trade relations | secondary legislation | World Trade Organisation | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | judicial cooperation | withdrawal from the EU | international trade

Summary: This paper outlines the consequences of the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union in the area of consumer protection. It examines the withdrawal’s impact on consumer protection under different scenarios: a future EEA membership of the UK (a); a relationship governed only by WTO rules; (c) a relationship governed by a “tailor-made agreement”. It comes to the conclusion that from the perspective of consumers in the EU28, an EEA membership of the UK is the most favourable scenario. Irrespective of the scenario, adequate transitory provisions taking into consideration the “two-step” negotiating schedule are necessary to resolve legal uncertainties occurring irrespective of the scenario. This document was prepared for Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

Study EN

International Taxation and Tax Rulings: Policy issues at Challenging Times

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 09-06-2016

External author: John VELLA (Oxford University Centre for Business Taxation, Said Business School, the UK), Elly VAN DE VELDE (Hasselt University and University of Antwerp, Belgium) and Raymond LUJA (Maastricht Centre for Taxation, Maastricht University, the Netherlands)

Policy area: Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword: corporation tax | multinational enterprise | State aid | disclosure of information | transfer pricing | European tax cooperation | exchange of information | tax law | tax system | tax reform

Summary: Reforming international taxation is a complex and difficult matter that will be the subject of continual discussion and negotiation for years to come. Since most major players are willing to settle for incremental change toward a better system, the world should be able to do better than now when it comes to taxing international income flows relatively fairly and efficiently. Given the complexity of the issues at stake, expert views are likely to provide great real value added. In this vein, and at the request of the Special Committee of the European Parliament on Tax Rulings (TAKE2), this compilation of three papers by people from academia specialized in International Taxation, Tax Rulings and State Aid has been prepared by the Policy Department A.

In-Depth Analysis EN
Prospects for e-democracy in Europe

Publication type: Study
Date: 02-02-2018
External author: EPRS, DG


Keyword: governance | information security | participatory democracy | Framework Programme for Research and Development | administrative transparency | electronic voting | Internet | information technology | innovation | diffusion of innovations | digital technology | electronic government | new technology

Summary: Digital tools could create stronger connections between European citizens and the EU decision-making process and, by doing so, might contribute to reducing the EU democratic deficit. This report investigates what lessons can be drawn from local, national and European experiences of the use of digital tools for the functioning of EU decision-making procedures and institutions. For that purpose, a review of current literature on e-democracy and the European public sphere has been carried out; 22 local, national and EU experiences with existing digital tools have been investigated and evaluated; and an analysis has been made of the suitability of the most promising digital tools for implementation and use at EU level. The most important factors for successful e-participation identified in the report are: a close and clear link between e-participation processes and a concrete formal decision-making process; the participatory process and the contribution of its outputs to the overall decision-making process have to be clear to participants from the start; feedback to the participants about what has been done with their contributions is an indispensable feature of the process; a participative process should not be limited to one event but should be imbedded in an institutional ‘culture of participation’; e-participation must be accompanied by an effective mobilisation and engagement strategy, involving communication instruments tailored for different target groups.

Study: EN, IT, NL
Annex I: EN
Annex II: EN
Annex III: EN
Annex IV: EN

European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 29-01-2018
Author: Nikolai ATANASSOV


Keyword: incompatibility | participatory democracy | transparency in decision-making | EU initiative | European Ombudsman | personal data | Internet | power of initiative | non-governmental organisation | petition | admissibility | legislative initiative | public consultation | European citizenship | data protection

Summary: The European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI), introduced in 2009 with the Lisbon Treaty, is a key element of participatory democracy, allowing citizens to play an active role in the EU’s democratic life, through addressing a request to the European Commission to make a proposal for a legal act. The procedure and conditions for ECIs are governed by Regulation (EU) No 211/2011, in force since April 2012. In September 2017, the European Commission presented a proposal for its amendment, picking up on a number of suggestions for improvement. This is a further update of an ‘at a glance’ note published in July 2017: PE 608.644. For more detailed information on the proposed amendment of the ECI Regulation, please see EPRS ‘EU Legislation in progress’ briefing, Revising the European Citizens’ initiative, PE 614.627.

At a Glance: EN

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.

Study: 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 online 'Legislative Train Schedule' application, launched by Parliament to track progress on the Commission's legislative proposals.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR

The European Ombudsman: Reflections on the role and its potential

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 20-11-2018
Author: Silvia KOTANIDIS
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts
Keyword: Treaty on European Union | administrative transparency | powers of the institutions (EU) | European Ombudsman | administration of the Institutions | institutional activity
Summary: The European Ombudsman is a body established to ensure that maladministration in the EU institutions is addressed and where possible remedied. From the establishment of the European Ombudsman, personalities and the open-ended character of the notion of maladministration have been relevant in shaping the activity of the office. Maladministration is widely accepted to be a sphere of inappropriate behaviour of the administration that goes beyond simple illegality. The particularity of the Ombudsman lies therefore on the fact that it is able, through the exercise of 'soft power', to tackle issues that would escape the scrutiny of the Court of Justice of the EU. This paper provides an overview of the activity of the Ombudsman, and attempts to identify the main areas of activity in quantitative terms, the main institutions to which the Ombudsman addresses inquiries and recommendations and highlights the proactive role exercised by this body so far. The compliance rate with the recommendations of the Ombudsman is rather high, although it would seem to decrease where the Ombudsman, by issuing critical remarks, exercises an 'educational' function. This paper also sets out some proposals to modify the Statute, with some less-extensive proposals, that would take into account already established practices, and other more far-reaching proposals, that would need however to be carefully considered so as not to distort the nature of the body.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR

Outlook for the European Council of 20-21 October 2016

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 19-10-2016
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Summary: The 20-21 October 2016 European Council meeting will focus primarily on migration and trade issues, but will also address global economic issues and external relations. On migration, EU leaders will most likely concentrate on progress on the Partnership Framework of cooperation with countries of origin or transit and on protecting the EU's external borders, as well as on the implementation of the EU-Turkey statement. The EU-Canada Free Trade Agreement, the ongoing free trade agreement negotiations with the United States and Japan, and trade defence instruments will be the main trade-related topics. On other global and economic issues, the European Council will probably welcome the ratification of the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the extension of the European Fund for Strategic Investment and the delivery of the various single market strategies. When it comes to external relations, EU leaders are expected to hold a policy debate on relations with Russia, and will possibly address the current situation in Syria.

Briefing EN
Implementation of the Lisbon Treaty - Improving Functioning of the EU: Foreign Affairs

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 10-11-2015
External author: Professor Marise CREMONA
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs | EU Law: Legal System and Acts
Keyword: humanitarian aid | common commercial policy | opt-out clause | institutional reform | development aid | powers of the institutions (EU) | enhanced cooperation | common foreign and security policy | Treaty of Lisbon | agreement (EU) | Court of Justice of the European Union
Summary: Foreign Affairs as field of EU action has very distinctive constitutional qualities. Its external powers are broad, encompassing not only traditional foreign policy, but also development cooperation and number of sectoral policies such as trade, transport and environment. The report provides an analysis of the changes in the constitutional and institutional framework brought about by the Lisbon Treaty and assess the implementation of those changes including obstacles to further improvement of its implementation.

In-Depth Analysis | EN

EU State Aid Law and National Tax Rulings

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 13-10-2015
External author: Raymond LUJA
Policy area: Research Policy | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword: control of State aid | corporation tax | State aid | disclosure of information | reimbursement of aid | transfer pricing | European tax cooperation | administrative cooperation | tax incentive | tax avoidance | tax harmonisation
Summary: This paper forms part of a series of analytical pieces on various key tax issues, prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the Special TAXE Committee. It sets out how tax rulings can be subject to state aid scrutiny if they lead to a beneficial tax treatment of a particular undertaking that is not in line with the normal application of national tax law. However, a deviation from national law in itself is not always an indicator of selective aid. As national law is the only relevant benchmark, the state aid regime is not designed to impose particular doctrines or best practices on the tax systems of Member States.

In-Depth Analysis | EN

The Trade in Services Agreement (TISA): An end to negotiations in sight?

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 12-10-2015
Author: Elina VIILUP
Policy area: Forward Planning | Intellectual Property Law | International Trade | Transport | Employment | Internal Market and Customs Union | Foreign Affairs | Tourism
Keyword: common commercial policy | freedom to provide services | tertiary sector | liberalisation of trade | powers of the EP | transparency in decision-making | services of general interest | international negotiations | GATS | market access
Summary: Launched at the beginning of 2013 by a group of World Trade Organisation (WTO) members calling themselves Really Good Friends of Services, negotiations on the plurilateral Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) are nearing an important juncture. The TISA agreement is the biggest free trade agreement currently under discussion when measured by the number of negotiating parties – 23 at present. It is designed to boost liberalisation of the global services sector, moving beyond the current, outdated GATS provisions and unlocking huge economic potential. The EU undoubtedly has important stakes in these negotiations as its economy is highly – and increasingly – dependent on the service sector. However, there remain several obstacles to the successful completion of the agreement and its effective WTO integration, with the most important of these being the inclusion of more WTO members among the signatories – and the hearts and minds of citizens.

In-Depth Analysis | EN

The European Union’s Trade Policy, Five Years After the Lisbon Treaty

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 03-03-2014
Author: Roberto BENDINI
Policy area: International Trade
Keyword: common commercial policy | investment policy | public contract | generalised preferences | liberalisation of trade | transparency in decision-making | tariff negotiations | trade relations | Treaty of Lisbon | agreement (EU) | market access
Summary: Despite the global economic crisis of 2008 and the spectacular rise of new emerging powers, the European Union (EU) remains one of the world's leading economies. The EU's trade policy has fundamentally changed in recent years. One of the founding and most influential members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the EU has been compelled to acknowledge that it had adopted for many years has not yielded genuine progress. In response, the EU launched a new strategy to combine its multilateral approach with renewed efforts to forge bilateral trade deals. The traditionally technocratic approach of the EU's trade policy was radically changed by the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009; with this treaty, the Commission lost its unilateral control in the domain, while the European Parliament gained an important voice.

In-Depth Analysis | EN
Future of Europe debates II: Parliament hosts Heads of State or Government

Publication type Briefing
Date 19-10-2018
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG | Silvia KOTANIDIS
Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Summary Against the background of the many challenges faced by the European Union (EU) in recent years, and with the May 2019 European Parliament elections approaching, the future of the European project has come back on the agenda of public discourse. At the European Council of October 2017, the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, announced his intention to host a series of Future of Europe debates during plenary sessions, as a democratic and open forum in which the Heads of State or Government of EU Member States would be invited to express their vision of the future, starting in early 2018. Intended to run for the whole of 2018 and beyond, the 'Future of Europe' debates in the European Parliament have thus far featured the leaders of ten Member States. They have used the opportunity to set out their personal vision, highlighting priorities, pointing to areas for better development, and revisiting accomplishments so far. (See the timeline of speakers below.) This is the second edition of a Briefing designed to provide an overview of the Future of Europe debate in a number of key policy areas. While the first edition covered the first six speakers, this edition focuses on the most recent four. It also contains insights on climate change and international trade, in addition to the areas of economic and monetary union (EMU), the EU social dimension, migration policy, security and defence, and the multiannual financial framework (MFF), covered in the first edition.

Research for AGRI Committee - Implications of 'Brexit' for the EU agri-food sector and the CAP: budgetary, trade and institutional issues

Publication type Study
Date 15-11-2017
External author Jörg Haas, Eulalia Rubio, Alan MATTHEWS, Cecilia BELLORA, Charlotte EMLINGER, Jean FOURÉ, Houssein GUIMBARD
Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United Kingdom | referendum | free-trade agreement | transitional period (EU) | EU agricultural market | withdrawal from the EU | budgetary procedure | common agricultural policy
Summary This is the reference document of the Workshop on ‘The Implications of ‘Brexit’ for the EU agricultural sector and the CAP’ of 9th November 2017, organised by COMAGRI and the Policy Department B. The purpose of this Workshop was to examine and debate the main budgetary, trade and institutional issues related to the Brexit process at the current state of negotiations. This document is structured in three parts:
1. Possible impact of Brexit on the EU budget and, in particular, CAP funding.
2. EU - UK agricultural trade: state of play and possible impacts of Brexit.

Reinvigorating EU-Turkey bilateral trade: Upgrading the customs union

Publication type Briefing
Date 03-03-2017
Author Krisztina BINDER
Policy area International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword statistics | customs union | Turkey | bilateral relations | trade policy | international trade | accession negotiations | provision of services
Summary The EU-Turkey customs union (CU), established more than two decades ago, together with a set of preferential trade agreements, has brought many benefits to both sides, enhancing trade and economic integration. However, this bilateral preferential trade framework (BPTF) has to be aligned to both the changing global trade environment and current EU trade policy, which prioritises the conclusion of bilateral agreements with more comprehensive coverage. After exploratory discussions, both sides reached a consensus, at the EU-Turkey high level meeting of May 2015, to start preparations for future talks to update the EU-Turkey BPTF. In December 2016, the Commission asked the Council for authorisation to launch talks to modernise the CU. The EU’s main objective is to enhance the BPTF by widening the scope of trade preferences and modernising the functioning of the CU, within a comprehensive negotiation process. As a result of the implementation of the CU, Turkey’s alignment with the EU acquis and EU-Turkey trade integration already began before the launch of accession negotiations. The bilateral trade framework will be upgraded in parallel, in complementarity with the accession negotiations.
EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 19-01-2016  
Author: MASSIMO SIBONA | Wilhelm SCHOELLMANN

Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs  
Keyword: common commercial policy | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | economic agreement | investment protection | trade agreement (EU) | Canada | trade relations | EU legal system | international commercial arbitration

Summary: EU-Canada negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) were declared concluded in September 2014. Except for a few sensitive agricultural products, CETA would remove practically all tariffs on goods exchanged between the two partners, and create important new market opportunities in, among others, financial services, telecommunications, energy and maritime transport, while reserving the parties’ right to regulate their internal public affairs. Canada would substantially open up its public procurement, at both federal and sub-federal level, thereby eliminating a major asymmetry in access to each other's public procurement markets.

The consolidated CETA text is currently undergoing legal-linguistic review. Once this 'legal scrubbing' and the translation into all official EU languages are completed, the Commission can submit it to the Council and the European Parliament for approval. It is still to be decided whether the agreement in its entirety falls under exclusive competence of the European Union or would also touch upon Member States' competences. In the latter case, ratification by the Member States would also be necessary for the agreement to come into force.

CETA brings forward a number of innovations to reform and reshape investment protection provisions in general and the investor-state-dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism in particular. Nevertheless, persistent opposition to investment protection, and ISDS in particular, has given rise to proposals to incorporate (elements of) the new investment court system (ICS) into CETA. The Commission is reportedly not pressing for including its entire ICS proposal into CETA; however, it intends to 'fine-tune' the agreement within the process of legal scrubbing. Working towards including (elements of) the ICS system into CETA could then be envisaged via the use of review clauses.

EU Member States in Agri-Food World Markets: Current Competitive Position and Perspectives

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-04-2014

External author: Michel Petit (CIHEAM-IAMM, Montpellier, France) ; Zuzana Krístková (Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic) ; Thomas Heckelei (Institute for Food and Resource Economics, University of Bonn, Germany) ; Kyösti Ilmari Arovuori and Perttu Pyykönén (Pellervo Economic Research PTT, Helsinki, Finland) ; Fabian Capitanio (Università degli Studi di Napoli - 'Federico II', Italy) ; José-María García Alvarez-Coque, Raúl Compés-López and Víctor Martínez-Gómez (Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain)

Policy area: Research Policy | International Trade | Budgetary Control | Agriculture and Rural Development | Industry

Keyword: common commercial policy | trade statistics | import (EU) | export (EU) | competitiveness | reform of the CAP | agro-industry | agricultural trade | case study | international competition | agricultural statistics

Summary: This report assesses the competitive position of the European Union (EU) agri-food sector in the world market by examining the influence and scope of policies affecting competitiveness. Considering recent Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) changes, the method combines a value-chain approach with trade performance indicators, surveys of stakeholders, case studies and policy assessment. While the EU has recently evolved from being a net importer to a net exporter of agri-food products, the report explores the existing weaknesses in the EU’s competitive position in agri-food international markets, focusing on internal and external policy actions aimed at creating value.

Energy Policy

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 29-06-2016

Author: Frederic GOUARDERES


Keyword: energy policy | bibliography

Summary: This leaflet provides abstracts of selection of papers prepared by the European Parliament’s Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policy at the request of the ITRE Committee in relation to the Energy policy.
Research for AGRI Committee - Possible transitional arrangements related to agriculture in the light of the future EU - UK relationship: institutional issues

Publication type Study
Date 16-10-2017
External author Alan Matthews
Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United Kingdom | referendum | free-trade agreement | transitional period (EU) | EU agricultural market | withdrawal from the EU | budgetary procedure | common agricultural policy
Summary There is the potential for severe disruption of agri-food trade between the UK and the EU27 as the UK prepares to leave the EU. This study reviews the additional trade costs that might arise and how they might be avoided under alternative future trade arrangements. The role of a transitional period in order to avoid a ‘cliff-edge’ for trade is examined. Options under the Common Agricultural Policy to address the negative consequences of Brexit for agricultural markets are discussed.

EU trade with Latin America and the Caribbean: Overview and figures

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 14-09-2018
Author Gisela GRIEGER | RODERICK EDWARD NOEL HARTE
Policy area International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword Cuba | Mercosur | World Trade Organisation | statistics | Mexico | Andean Community | Cariforum | Caribbean Islands | association agreement (EU) | Chile | international trade | Latin America
Summary This publication provides an overview of trade relations between the EU and Latin American and Caribbean countries and groupings. The EU has fully fledged agreements with two Latin American groupings (Cariforum and the Central America group), a multiparty trade agreement with three members of the Andean Community (Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru), and bilateral agreements with Chile and Mexico. Since November 2017, a new agreement governing trade relations with Cuba has also been provisionally applied. In addition, the EU is currently modernising its agreements with Mexico (with which it has reached an ‘agreement in principle’) and Chile. The EU also has framework agreements with Mercosur and its individual members (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay). The agreement with the former will be replaced, once the ongoing negotiations on an EU-Mercosur association agreement have been completed. This publication provides recent data on trade relations between the EU and Latin American and Caribbean countries and groupings, compares the main agreements governing trade relations that are already in place, and analyses the rationale behind the ongoing negotiations on the EU-Mercosur, EU-Mexico and EU-Chile agreements. This is a revised and updated edition of a publication from October 2017 by Gisela Grieger and Roderick Harte, PE 608.793.

Trade and sustainable development chapters in CETA

Publication type Briefing
Date 20-01-2017
Author Krisztina BINDER | Laura PUCCIO
Policy area International Trade | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs
Keyword labour law | free-trade agreement | sustainable development | Canada | alternative dispute resolution | international commercial arbitration | International Labour Organisation | human rights | foreign investment | ratification of an agreement | precautionary principle | international trade | civil society
Summary The EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), signed in October 2016, is currently at the ratification stage. This agreement, concluded between like-minded trade partners, represents the new generation of EU free trade agreements (FTAs), and contains chapters covering sustainable development. The inclusion by the EU of sustainable development chapters in FTAs concluded with its partners plays a role in ensuring that trade and investment liberalisation does not lead to a deterioration in environmental and labour conditions. In keeping with this trade policy practice, developed over the years, trade-related sustainability provisions, including labour and environmental considerations, are grouped in three chapters (Chapters 22 to 24) within CETA. CETA has only partially exceeded the dialogue-only approach contained in earlier EU trade agreements and has maintained the exclusion of trade and sustainable development (TSD) chapters from the scope of the state-to-state dispute settlement (SSDS) procedure. It also maintains an ad hoc two-stage dispute resolution mechanism already found in the EU-South Korea FTA. However, this mechanism does not include sanctions and focuses on mutually agreed solutions to problems. This choice by the EU is due to the still strongly cooperative nature of the TSD chapters. On CETA please refer also to the 'International Agreements in Progress' briefing on the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with Canada by Wilhelm Schöllmann.

Publication type Study
Date 05-03-2014
Author Joseph DUNNE

Policy area European Added Value | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword common commercial policy | company law | financial market | European tax cooperation | unemployment insurance | common security and defence policy | private international law | energy policy | coordination of aid | equal pay | EU research policy | common transport policy | deepening of the European Union

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 from pursuing a series of policy initiatives recently advocated by the Parliament - from a wider and deeper digital single market to better coordinated national and European policies for defence and development. The benefits may be measured in additional GDP generated or a more rational use of public resources. The analysis so far suggests that the European economy could be boosted by some 800 billion euro - or six per cent of current GDP - by such measures over time. The study is intended as a contribution to the growing discussion about the European Union’s policy priorities for the coming five-year institutional cycle, from 2014 to 2019.

Study ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, PL

EP-EUI Roundtable - Role of the European Parliament in promoting the use of independent expertise in the legislative process

Publication type Study
Date 16-08-2018
Author Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI

Keyword governance | United Kingdom | expert group (EU) | transparency in decision-making | legislative drafting | administrative transparency | withdrawal from the EU | European Parliament | scientific exchange

Summary This report reflects on the role of European Parliament in promoting the use of independent expertise in the European legislative process.

The European Parliament has a unique model of involving independent expertise of universities and think tanks in the European legislative process to guarantee that its decisions are based on the best available evidence. The EP-EUI roundtable discussed the general framework, best practices and the way forward for involving independent expertise in the European legislative process.

This document has been prepared in the framework of scientific cooperation between the European Parliament and the European University Institute.

Study EN

Trade Secrets

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 15-04-2014
Author Udo BUX

Policy area Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts
Keyword negotiation of an agreement (EU) | case-law | United States | confidentiality | commercial law | industrial secret | free-trade agreement | business morals | European Convention on Human Rights | TRIPS | case law (EU) | proposal (EU)

Summary This document provides an analysis of the nature of a trade secret, its legal protection and the European Commission's recent proposal. While protection is afforded under several jurisdictions, such as EU law, international law, criminal law, civil law, labour law or simply tort law, no uniform instrument exists. As case law is very important for that kind of a relatively new concept, some examples from jurisprudence are provided.

In-Depth Analysis EN
The ten priorities of the Juncker Commission: State of play a year on

Policy area: European Added Value

Summary: Before his election to office in July 2014, the incoming President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, set out ten policy priorities which would serve as the political mandate for his five-year term in office. With the stated aim of focusing on the 'big things', he outlined ten priority areas in which he wanted the EU to make a difference and deliver concrete results for citizens. The Commission Work Programme for 2015 was based on these guidelines, and on putting these priorities into practice. Ahead of President Juncker's 'State of the Union' address, to be delivered at the EP plenary session on 9 September 2015, this briefing outlines the principal initiatives taken by the Commission since coming into office, under each of the ten policy areas: 1. A new boost for jobs, growth and investment 2. A connected digital single market 3. A resilient Energy Union with a forward-looking climate change policy 4. A deeper and fairer internal market with a strengthened industrial base 5. A deeper and fairer Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) 6. A reasonable and balanced free trade agreement with the United States 7. An area of Justice and Fundamental Rights based on mutual trust 8. Towards a new policy on migration 9. Europe as a stronger global actor 10. A Union of democratic change. Among major developments are the adoption of a Regulation on the European Fund for Strategic Investment, which is a key component of the Investment Plan for Europe, and the presentation by the Commission of framework strategies in several major policy fields (for example, Digital Single Market, energy, internal security, migration). The Commission has also made proposals in the area of better regulation, covering the entire policy cycle, aiming to improve the transparency and quality of EU law-making. While key initiatives of the Work Programme remain to be presented in the second half of the year (notably an action plan on Capital Markets Union, and a labour-market mobility package), the Commission has also been confronted with other major developments influencing the political agenda. On EMU, while progress was made with the adoption of the ‘Five Presidents’ Report’, the agenda has been dominated by the Greek debt situation, while in the field of migration, the EU is currently confronted with an escalating crisis, which has prompted calls for a stronger and more concerted European response.

Legal Implications of Brexit: Customs Union, Internal Market Acquis for Goods and Services, Consumer Protection Law, Public Procurement

Policy area: Single Market | United States | Economic and Monetary Union | the EU's international role | area of freedom, security and justice | EU industrial policy | European Commission | simplification of legislation | electronic commerce | climate change policy | energy policy | EU migration policy | trade agreement (EU) | economic priority | EU employment policy

Summary: This in-depth analysis addresses the implications of several scenarios of the UK withdrawing from the EU in relation to the EU Customs Union, the Internal Market law for Goods and Services, and on Consumer Protection law, identifying the main cross-cutting challenges that have to be addressed irrespective of the policy choices that will be made in due course. The analysis takes the fully-fledged EU membership as a point of departure and compares this baseline scenario to a membership of the UK in the European Economic Area (EEA), the application of tailor-made arrangements, as well as the fall-back scenario, in which the mutual relationship is governed by WTO law. Following an analysis of the EU legal framework defining the withdrawal of a Member State from the EU the study develops an analytical framework that allows for the identification of the legal impact of different Brexit scenarios on policy fields falling within the ambit of the IMCO Committee. In this context, the general impact of the EEA model, the tailor-made model and the WTO model on key pieces of the currently existing acquis communautaire in these policy areas are highlighted.

Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - February 2015

Policy area: Budget | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Transport | Energy | Foreign Affairs | Industry

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.

Source: © European Union, 2019 - EP
New Trade Rules for China? Opportunities and Threats for the EU

Summary

Paragraph (a) (ii) of Article 15 in China’s Accession Protocol to the WTO - which determines the basis on which dumping margins are calculated in Anti-dumping proceedings against China - is about to expire in December 2016. This ad hoc briefing aims to shed light on the economic and political implications that may arise for the EU from different strategies related to the treatment of China after this date, including the possibility of granting it market economy status.

The study provides an economic, legal, as well as political overview of EU Anti-dumping regulation and compares it to that of China’s other main trading partners. It demonstrates that Anti-dumping constitutes a significant and frequently used trade defence instrument, although its use is extremely heterogeneous across countries and sectors. Even though market economy status is associated with lower Anti-dumping duties, granting it to China would not render the EU defenceless against dumping.

Beyond first order effects on the magnitudes of AD duties, a unilateral decision will have much wider implications, both for the EU’s relations with China as well as with other countries, particularly the USA. These have to be taken into account in the decision making process. This ad hoc briefing can only be a first step towards a full understanding of the impacts of granting MES to China on EU trade policy and European welfare. The briefing illustrates that more research is required.

Study

EN

European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI)

Summary

The European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI) was introduced in 2009 with the Lisbon Treaty. It is a key element of participatory democracy, allowing citizens to play an active role in the EU’s democratic life, by addressing requests to the European Commission for legislative proposals. The procedure and conditions for ECIs are governed by Regulation (EU) No 211/2011, in force since April 2012. This has been considered in debate on the ECI’s effectiveness, leading to some suggestions for improvement, in particular under the Commission’s planned review of the ECI Regulation in 2017.

At a Glance

EN

La ratifica dei trattati internazionali, una prospettiva di diritto comparato - Italia

Summary

Il presente studio rientra in un progetto più ampio volto ad analizzare, da una prospettiva di diritto comparato, la ratifica dei trattati internazionali in diversi Stati. L’obiettivo dello studio è quello di esaminare la ratifica dei trattati internazionali nel diritto italiano, con particolare riferimento al regime giuridico applicabile, alla procedura, alla prassi e a una stima dei tempi necessari per la ratifica. A tal fine, dopo un’introduzione generale, sono prese in esame le disposizioni normative, di rango costituzionale, che disciplinano la procedura di adozione dei trattati e la ripartizione delle competenze tra i diversi attori coinvolti nonché le tappe principali della procedura di conclusione dei trattati. Specifica attenzione è rivolta alla prassi attestata da settanta anni di storia repubblicana. Analogamente a quanto avviene nella gran parte degli Stati, la ratifica in Italia è formalmente nella competenza del Presidente della Repubblica ma sostanzialmente nelle mani del potere esecutivo, anche se il Parlamento è chiamato ad autorizzarla in numerosi casi significativi. Non mancano tuttavia casi in cui il Governo evita il passaggio parlamentare anche se esso sarebbe preferibile o addirittura necessario. Il presente studio vuole essere uno strumento utile ai vari organi del Parlamento europeo per fornire una visione completa del processo di ratifica applicato dallo Stato oggetto dello studio (nella fattispecie l’Italia). Ciò permetterà, ad esempio, agli organi del Parlamento di definire i calendari di lavoro tenendo conto di una stima dei tempi che possono essere necessari per completare la ratifica di un futuro trattato.

Study

IT
International Agreements in Progress - EU-Japan trade agreement: a driver for closer cooperation beyond trade

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 09-07-2018  
Author: Krisztina BINDER  
Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs  
Keyword: negotiation of an agreement (EU) | foreign investment | Japan | non-tariff barrier | tariff negotiations | trade agreement (EU) | international trade | data protection | alternative dispute resolution | economic analysis  
Summary: Negotiations on an EU-Japan trade agreement were officially launched in March 2013. Following the political agreement in principle reached in July 2017, a final accord on the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) was announced in December 2017. On 18 April 2018, the European Commission proposed to the Council of the European Union to sign and conclude the agreement. The Commission expects that the EU-Japan EPA can be signed in July 2018, and aims to have the agreement come into effect before the end of its mandate in 2019, following approval by the Council and the European Parliament. The EU-Japan EPA will establish a free trade area with a combined market of around 640 million consumers that accounts for roughly a third of the world's gross domestic product (GDP). The 2016 Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment (Trade SIA) of the agreement indicated that EU exports to Japan could rise by up to 34%, and according to a more recent Commission estimate, European companies would save up to €1 billion in customs duties per year as a result of the EU-Japan EPA. In addition to exploiting the untapped potential of bilateral trade, the agreement is also of strategic importance, conveying a strong message of the parties' commitment to promoting a free and fair trading system based on rules, and to reject trade protectionism.  
[Second] edition. The 'International Agreements in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the process, from initial discussions through to ratification. To view earlier editions of this briefing, please see: PE 589.828, 7 October 2016.

The Role and Powers of the European Parliament in the Brexit Process

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 15-06-2017  
External author: Prof. Dr Peter-Tobias STOLL, Institute for International Law and European Law, Faculty of Law, University of Göttingen  
Keyword: negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United Kingdom | referendum | powers of the EP | withdrawal from the EU | European Parliament | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU  
Summary: This document explores the role and powers of the European Parliament in the Brexit process. It describes the challenges and relevant steps and stages of the process and highlights the significance of agreement(s) to be concluded between the EU and the UK. On that basis, the Parliament’s mandate and powers in substantial terms as well as its involvement in the procedure are outlined. Some options are highlighted to enable the Parliament to adequately fulfil its mandate and play its role in the process. The document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the European Parliament’s Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

The Implications of International Economic and Financial Governance Agenda for EU Trade and Investment Policy

Publication type: Study  
Date: 09-12-2015  
External author: Stephen WOOLCOCK, Taylor ST JOHN and Elitsa GARNIZOVA  
Policy area: International Trade | Global Governance | Employment | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights  
Keyword: investment policy | common commercial policy | World Bank | the EU’s international role | World Customs Organisation | International Labour Organisation | World Intellectual Property Organisation | external competence (EU) | OECD | institutional cooperation | International Monetary Fund | UN technical commission | International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes | international trade | international standard | decision-making  
Summary: Many of the rules, norms, principles and practices that are central to EU trade and investment policy today have been influenced by a wide range of different types of international organisations (IOs). This influence occurs through formal rulemaking, voluntary codes of conduct or standards, the provision of technical and scientific expertise or the dissemination of research and best practice. The influence is pervasive and decisions taken years ago in IOs can shape EU trade policy today. With the difficulties facing multilateral approaches to rulemaking in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) the impact of other IOs has increased.
President Trump's first months in office: The course of transatlantic relations

On 25 May 2017, President Trump attends the NATO Summit in Brussels, as well as meeting with top EU officials, including the Presidents of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, and the European Council, Donald Tusk, and European Parliament, Antonio Tajani. A review of Trump's term thus far (using the 100-day benchmark) sheds light on current issues in transatlantic affairs in the context of this visit. While an address to Congress on 3 May by the Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, has helped to clarify the administration's approach, the implications of Trump's 'America First' policy for EU-US cooperation are still far from clear. Unpredictability has marked President Trump's time in office to date, and many analysts are yet to discern a firm strategic direction in his foreign policies. Relations with Russia have fluctuated significantly. Trump has also notably altered his stance on certain issues; for example, he has acknowledged the importance of NATO, and sought to maintain good ties with China. Thus far his policy towards the Middle East has not constituted a radical departure from that of the previous administration, though as with his interactions with other world leaders, he has brought a personal touch to his exchanges with leaders from the region. Since the EU and US share common interests and cooperate in many areas, Trump's disjointed approach has caused uncertainty in Europe.

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The Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and Canada, on which negotiations were concluded at the EU-Canada Summit in Ottawa on 26 September 2014, will be a 'first' in many areas. The agreement will be the EU's first with another highly industrialised country to facilitate market access for goods, services and investment by abolishing almost all tariffs and reducing a wide array of non-tariff barriers. CETA is also the first agreement to have been negotiated with a sound chapter on investment protection, (including Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) provisions) – an area that is, since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, an EU competence. The EU and Canada have agreed to improve regulatory cooperation without compromising existing safety standards, and CETA includes protection for more than 145 food products with geographical indications (GIs). The agreement preserves the governments' right to regulate in the public interest.

The European Parliament will be asked to give its consent to this agreement and to the parallel Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) – a process that is likely to take two years. This will give the Parliament sufficient time to weigh potential public concerns – which today are focussed principally on trade and investment negotiations with the US, but may spill over onto this agreement with Canada.

Negotiations on the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) Concluded

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The European Council in 2015
Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 25-07-2016
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN
Keyword European treaties | third country | political asylum | European security | bilateral agreement | common foreign and security policy | trade agreement | common security and defence policy | European Council | EU environmental policy | energy policy | EU migration policy | terrorism | distribution of EU funding | withdrawal from the EU
Summary Designed to be the first in a series of annual publications, this In-Depth Analysis by the European Council Oversight Unit of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) examines in detail the activity of the European Council in 2015 in all of the six policy areas which have most attracted the attention of the Heads of State or Government: namely migration, economic governance, foreign and security policy, terrorism, and work towards a new settlement for the United Kingdom in the European Union. Although European Council’s principal mission is meant to be strategic, in 2015 the institution mainly engaged in crisis management, due principally to the outbreak of the migration crisis. This led to an increase in the number of meetings: eight meetings of the Heads of State or Government were held, two of which were of an informal nature. Except for one informal meeting, the European Council President, Donald Tusk, reported to the European Parliament on the outcome of the meetings of the Heads of State or Government as required by the Treaties.

UK withdrawal from the European Union: Legal and procedural issues
Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 27-03-2017
Author Jesus CARMONA NUNEZ | Gianluca SGUEO | Carmen-Cristina CIRLIG
Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Keyword World Trade Organisation | European treaties | European Union membership | United Kingdom | EU Member State | international negotiations | withdrawal from the EU
Summary Following the United Kingdom’s referendum in June 2016, which delivered a majority vote in favour of the country leaving the European Union, a period of uncertainty has begun for both the UK and the EU. Although the process of withdrawing from the EU is outlined by Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, a number of issues remain unclear in practice, all the more so since there is no precedent of a Member State withdrawing from the Union. This in-depth analysis considers the legal and procedural issues surrounding UK withdrawal, focusing in particular on the formal exit process under Article 50 TEU and the EU institutions’ preparations for negotiations. It also sets out some possible templates for future EU-UK relations, as well as the details of existing frameworks for cooperation between the EU and third countries.

Challenges to Freedom of the Seas and Maritime Rivalry in Asia
Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 14-03-2017
External author Patrick HÉBRARD (Fondation pour la recherche stratégique - FRS, Paris, France)
Policy area International Trade | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword South Asia | United States | law of the sea | Japan | foreign policy | ASEAN | China | regional security | defence policy | UN convention | EU relations | Australia | territorial dispute | economic cooperation | shipping policy | maritime shipping | geopolitics
Summary China’s New Maritime Silk Road policy poses geostrategic challenges and offers some opportunities for the US and its allies in Asia-Pacific. To offset China’s westward focus, the US seeks to create a global alliance strategy with the aim to maintain a balance of power in Eurasia, to avoid a strong Russia-China or China-EU partnership fostered on economic cooperation. For the EU, the ‘One Belt, One Road’ (OBOR) initiative by improving infrastructure may contribute to economic development in neighbouring countries and in Africa but present also risks in terms of unfair economic competition and increased Chinese domination. Furthermore, China’s behaviour in the South China Sea and rebuff of the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, in July 2016, put the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) at risk with possible consequences to freedom of the seas. Increasing relations with China could also affect EU-US relations at a time of China-US tension. To face these challenges, a stronger EU, taking more responsibility in Defence and Security, including inside NATO, is needed.
Tailor-Made Support for SMEs towards Effective Implementation of the EU’s Trade and Investment Strategy

Publication type Study
Date 02-05-2016

External author Robert BLACKBURN
Policy area International Trade | Employment | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword common commercial policy | intervention policy | Czechia | United Kingdom | Austria | economic statistics | Bavaria | investment | small and medium-sized enterprises | Italy | economic support | Spain | Germany | trade promotion | innovation | globalisation

Summary A Workshop on Tailor-made support for SMEs towards effective implementation of the EU's trade and investment strategy took place in the European Parliament on 17 February 2016. Professor Blackburn gave an analysis on SME internationalisation and policy interventions, and representatives of SMEs shared their experiences in this field.

Study EN

Revision of the Fourth Anti-Money-Laundering Directive

Publication type Briefing
Date 12-04-2018

Author Angelos DELIVORIAS
Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword fight against crime | tax evasion | EU Member State | electronic money | bank deposit | exchange of information | economic offence | money laundering | electronic banking | financial transaction | terrorism | tax avoidance | banking system

Summary Directive (EU) 2015/849, which forms part of the EU regulatory framework to combat financial crime, has shown gaps in the light of terrorist attacks and various tax leaks. In this context, the European Commission proposed to amend the directive, along with Directive 2009/101/EC, to broaden their scope, lower thresholds benefiting from exemptions and provide for the creation of automated centralised mechanisms (e.g. central electronic data retrieval systems). The European Parliament and Council each put forward substantial modifications to the Commission proposal, including not amending the aforementioned Directive 2009/101/EC. These include: the obligation for Member States to provide data to the Commission on trusts and legal arrangements; specific professional secrecy obligations for staff working, or having worked for, competent authorities supervising credit and financial institutions; cooperation between competent authorities; or the obligation for Member States to provide Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) with access to information – including through registries or central electronic data retrieval systems – which allows the identification of any natural or legal person owning real estate. The agreement reached in trilogue negotiations now needs to be approved by the Parliament in plenary, and thereafter by the Council. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing EN

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.

Study EN
US policy to bring terrorists to justice

Policy area | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword | torture | United States | protection of privacy | asymmetric warfare | common foreign and security policy | transfer of prisoners | agreement (EU) | human rights | threat to national security | military criminal law | extraterritorial jurisdiction | terrorism | judicial cooperation | surveillance | data protection | secret service

Summary
US counter-terrorism strategy continues to be at the centre of public attention, with the recent drone strike, killing Yemeni al Qaeda leader Nasir al-Wuhayshi on 16 June 2015. The US government relies on a wide range of tools, inter alia intelligence, law enforcement and foreign policy.

US measures to bring terrorists to justice are still being debated and slowly redefined, primarily through court rulings assessing their compatibility with US constitutional law. The United States' criminal law has been broadened in scope, with wide extraterritorial application allowing prosecution of terrorists of other nationalities committing crimes outside the US. Certain measures taken in parallel to the domestic criminal procedure, such as the institution of ad hoc military commissions and the retention of prisoners in Guantanamo, have been challenged in the courts.

The counter-terrorism strategy relies on surveillance machinery involving various actors at the federal and state level, whose task is to identify suspects and gather evidence. The use of technology has created new opportunities for security controls but has also shown how difficult it is to strike a balance between the protection of rights, such as the right to privacy, and these new surveillance methods. The debates on the NSA surveillance programme and the court cases on the No Fly List are but examples of a broader debate on the human rights limits of some security measures taken to fight terrorism.

The US deems its collaboration with international actors and the EU in this domain as essential, not least because the functioning of its surveillance apparatus depends in part on information gathered abroad. However, concerns persist over the eventual implications for constitutional rights and freedoms that the US model entails, and these have become one of the major sources of opposition to the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership with the US. A new act has been introduced in the US Senate proposing the extension of redress rights under the Privacy Act to major US allies.

Outlook for the European Council of 25 - 26 June 2015: Pre-European Council Briefing

Policy area | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | International Trade | European Semester | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council
Keyword | investment policy | United States | United Kingdom | migratory movement | Ukraine | common foreign and security policy | economic sanctions | European Council | Mediterranean Sea | removal | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | Europe | EU migration policy | terrorism | Russia | coordination of EMU policies | Greece | fund (EU) | euro area | digital technology | summit meeting | Frontex

Summary
The June European Council has a very comprehensive agenda, as Heads of State or Government will discuss the situation in the Mediterranean, progress undertaken since December 2013 in the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), means to fight terrorism, economic governance aspects, the development of the digital agenda, as well as relations with Russia and the situation in Ukraine. Current developments in the Mediterranean and the Eurozone will most likely shift the Summit's primary focus from CSDP to migration and the future of Greece within the euro area. In addition, the future role of the United Kingdom will be addressed by the British Prime Minister.

Brexit and the European Union: General Institutional and Legal Considerations

Keyword | Member States’ contribution | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | European security | United Kingdom | government | national parliament | withdrawal from the EU | trade agreement | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

Summary
This study was requested by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament. It examines the political and institutional steps taken, or to be taken, both by the UK and by the EU in the context of the Brexit referendum vote, and into how matters may evolve in the coming months and years from a legal and institutional perspective. It will analyses, in broad terms, the possibilities for a future relationship between the Union and its departing member and the consequences that the departure of a large Member State may entail for the rest of the policies of the Union and for the Union itself. The study also briefly examines the potential for institutional progress that opens with the departure of the United Kingdom.
A Cold Winter to Come? The EU Seeks Alternatives to Russian Gas

Study

Date 22-02-2016

Author Dovydas Vytautas BLAZAITIS | Lea HANNAOI-SAULAIS | Pasquale DE MICCO

Policy area European Union | Energy | Foreign Affairs

Keyword Qatar | Iran | energy supply | Libya | Iraq | United States | Nigeria | import (EU) | shortage | gas pipeline | Turkmenistan | Ukraine | self-sufficiency in energy | economic sanctions | security of supply | Australia | Norway | Russia | Algeria | Azerbaijan | Mozambique | gas

Summary

The crisis in Ukraine has led to seven rounds of sanctions between Russia and the EU – and may well lead to more. Energy is the most alarming casualty in this clash, with the EU and Russia largely interdependent in the domain. The level of dependency among EU Member States varies greatly, as does their ability to respond to Russian warnings and actions.

Ukraine's gas situation is also at stake. The Russian gas exporter Gazprom ceased exporting to Ukraine in June. In late September, gas cuts were registered in Slovakia, Austria, Poland and Romania – in some cases to prevent Russian gas from being diverted to Ukraine. A provisional solution for Ukraine's winter supplies was reached in Berlin on 26 September, but has yet to be completely endorsed by Moscow and Kiev.

However, the risk of gas shortages for the rest of Europe has not been averted. Military and political tensions have obliged the EU to boost its energy security mechanisms and seek alternatives to Russian gas. The European Commission has just concluded a stress test on the EU gas system to assess the impact of a potential gas crisis. Several studies have suggested that, in the short term, the EU could substitute Algerian, Norwegian and Qatari supplies for Russian gas, although this would cost more and require new gas terminals. The Union's reserves – at present 90% full – will also help, but for how long depends on the coming winter.

In the longer term, gas supplies from Azerbaijan, the United States, Iran, Mozambique, Australia, Israel and Turkmenistan could also supply the thirsty European market. EU energy policies (on renewable sources, greater efficiency, shale gas and interconnection of energy grids) could also play a role in reducing – if not completely eliminating – Europe's dependence on Russian gas.

Study EN

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

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 the responsibilities 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

EU Trade Relations with Latin America: Results and Challenges in Implementing the EU-Colombia/Peru Trade Agreement

Study

Date 24-10-2014

Author Dovydas Vytautas BLAZAITIS | Lea HANNAOI-SAULAIS | Pasquale DE MICCO

Policy area Energy | Foreign Affairs

Keyword common commercial policy | trade statistics | labour law | trade balance | import (EU) | export (EU) | sustainable development | trade relations | tropical fruit | market access | Colombia | human rights | World Trade Organisation | economic cooperation | trade agreement (EU) | Peru

Summary

The Trade Agreement between the EU and Peru and Colombia has been provisionally implemented since the middle of 2013. However, based on limited secondary data available to date on its effects, this report shows that trade profiles have not been substantially altered. EU exports to Latin America are dominated by pharmaceuticals, machinery and vehicles, and have experienced very slight increases. Colombian exports to the EU have benefitted more than Peruvian exports from improved access, but oil and minerals remain the top exports. Fruit, vegetables, flowers and above all sugar cane and confectionaries have been the greatest beneficiaries of the tariff eliminations and reductions. Despite this lack of substantial change, the institutional arrangements created by the Agreement have been implemented. Civil society has also been involved in meetings of the Trade and Sustainability sub-committee, but resource and capacity constraints preclude smaller organisations from full participation in the process. Sadly, reports of the human rights situation in Colombia, in particular the plight of trade unionists, continue to be an issue.

Study EN
Cecilia Malmström - Trade - Hearings of European Commissioners-designate

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 26-09-2014
Author: Wilhelm SCHOELLMANN

Policy area: International Trade
Keyword: common commercial policy | EP Committee | European Commissioner | public hearing | appointment of members | trade agreement (EU) | trade relations | Sweden

Summary: The Commissioner-designate for Trade is Cecilia Malmström, Sweden. Her hearing will take place before the Committee on International Trade (INTA) on Monday 29 September at 14.30 hours.

Briefing DE, EN, FR

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 that the opportunities and concerns vary highly from one country to another.

Study ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, PL, PT
Annex EN
Annex II EN

Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - January 2016

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 18-01-2016
Keyword: energy storage | EU policy | EP Committee | 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.

At a Glance EN

EU Mapping: Overview of Internal Market and Consumer Protection Related Legislation

Publication type: Study
Date: 13-04-2015
Author: Sebastien VANHOUCKE | Benoit LEFORT | Joanna APAP | Iveta OZOLINA | Birgit HARDT | Julia FERGER | Bozica MATIC | Carine PIAGUET | Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI | Marlies DESOMER | Anders GRONBECH JORGENSEN
Keyword: single market | electronic commerce | freedom to provide services | public contract | consumer protection | customs union | free movement of goods | carriage of passengers | EU law | financial services | free movement of persons

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
Perspectives on transatlantic cooperation: Energy and EU-US relations

Publication type Briefing
Date 02-12-2016
Author Alex Benjamin WILSON

Policy area Energy | Foreign Affairs
Keyword statistics | United States | International Energy Agency | transatlantic relations | energy cooperation | energy diversification | renewable energy | trading operation | energy market | energy industry | climate change policy | scientific cooperation | trade agreement (EU) | gas industry | crude oil

Summary Energy as a subject of relations between the EU and the USA has been characterised by considerable synergy on security of supply issues, and efforts to enhance free trade in energy products and services, cooperate on geopolitical challenges and nuclear safety, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy sources. The recent lifting of US export restrictions on crude oil and natural gas is likely to increase energy trade with the EU, and allow Member States to benefit from lower energy prices and more diversified supply. Bilateral EU US cooperation on energy issues could be further enhanced, perhaps by building on the framework of the EU-US Energy Council. There is also potential for more systematic EU-US cooperation on energy research and new technologies. Greater coordination of EU and US positions in multilateral fora negotiating energy issues could help these organisations to achieve more ambitious goals, complementing a stronger EU-US bilateral relationship. This briefing continues a series which formed part of a broader research project on 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.

Focus on: Publications for COMAGRI in 2014

Publication type Briefing
Date 31-03-2015

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword EU relations | EP Committee | cooperation on agriculture | common agricultural policy | agri-foodstuffs | bibliography

Summary This Focus On gives an overview of the documents published by Policy Department B for the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development during 2014. Policy Department B provides high-level independent expertise, analysis and policy advice to assist parliamentary bodies. Written expertise is prepared either in house or by outside researchers. Policy Department B also organises events such as workshops, policy hubs and conferences.

European Citizens’ Initiative

Publication type EU Fact Sheets
Date 01-02-2018
Author Petr NOVAK | Roberta PANIZZA

Policy area Petitions to the European Parliament
Keyword power of initiative | citizens' Europe | petition | participatory democracy | proposal (EU)

Summary The European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI) is an important instrument of participatory democracy in the European Union, allowing one million EU citizens residing in at least one quarter of the Member States to invite the Commission to submit a proposal for a legal act to implement the EU Treaties. Since the application of Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 establishing detailed procedures and conditions for the ECI, four initiatives have been successfully submitted to the Commission.

Transatlantic relations: the USA and Canada

Publication type EU Fact Sheets
Date 01-02-2018
Author TUULA KAARINA TURUNEN | WOLFGANG IGLER

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 have overlapping foreign policy and security concerns. The EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and Strategic Partnership Agreement entered into force provisionally in 2017. Negotiations on an EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership were halted in 2017. The Council adopted negotiating directives to eliminate industrial tariffs on 15 April 2019.
The European Union and its trade partners
Publication type: EU Fact Sheets
Date: 01-02-2018
Author: Mario DAMEN
Policy area: International Trade
Summary: Over the years, the EU has been moving away from the production of labour-intensive, low-value products in order to specialise in higher-value, branded goods. With its open economy, trade is essential to the EU. To overcome barriers to trade and level the playing field for its businesses, the Union is negotiating a number of free trade agreements (FTAs). The EU is also a founder of and key player in the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

An assessment of the impact of Brexit on euro area stability
Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-11-2016
External author: Nauro Ferreira CAMPOS, Corrado MACCHIARELLI (Brunel University London and London School of Economics), Christopher HARTWELL, Roman HORVATH (CASE, Centre for Social and Economic Research), Michael HACHULA, Michele PIFFER, Malte RIETH, Rosa LASTRA (DIW Berlin and Queen Mary University of London), Karl WHELAN (University College Dublin)
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council
Keyword: single market | European treaties | European Union membership | United Kingdom | economic stabilisation | EU Member State | EU market | euro area | withdrawal from the EU | trade agreement | European Central Bank
Summary: The notes in this compilation provide an indication of the possible economic and financial impact of Brexit on the euro-area/EU economy. Notwithstanding the potential adverse effects, Brexit could also provide an opportunity for far-reaching reform to the euro area governance. The notes have been requested by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs as an input for the November 2016 session of the Monetary Dialogue.

Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) - State of play and prospects for reform
Publication type: Briefing
Date: 26-01-2015
Author: Laura PUCCIO | Marta LATEK
Policy area: International Trade
Keyword: negotiation of an agreement (EU) | commercial arbitration | foreign investment | investment protection | trade dispute | trade agreement (EU) | International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes | international court
Summary: Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanisms are found in more than 3 000 international investment treaties, but have been increasingly criticised in recent years. International investment agreements, and the ISDS mechanism, were originally created to protect investors from arbitrary expropriation and ensure non-discriminatory treatment for foreign investments, in countries considered risky. In such countries, with the judiciary not fully independent from government, arbitration was considered a more neutral framework to ensure enforcement of the host state's obligations towards investors. The progress made on comprehensive free trade agreements (FTAs) between the EU and Canada and the United States – in both cases including provisions for ISDS – has intensified discussion on the mechanism in the EU. A number of doubts exist with respect to the impartiality of arbitrators, while the relative broad interpretation given to the provision has been considered to have substantially reduced states' freedom to regulate, creating an imbalance between the investor's right to protection and the host state's sovereign right to regulate its market. The EU supports ISDS arbitration in general, while recognising the need for its reform. Indeed a consensus seems to be emerging on systemic problems found in this increasingly used system. That has led the European Commission to propose some innovative provisions in the framework of negotiations on EU trade and investment agreements, but without calling into question the ISDS system itself. This is an updated version of a briefing published in January 2014.
**The EU's Energy Security Made Urgent by the Crimean Crisis**

**Keyword**
- energy supply
- energy security
- energy consequence
- energy transport
- import (EU)
- natural gas
- Russia
- Ukraine
- import substitution
- military occupation
- self-sufficiency in energy
- economic sanctions

**Summary**
The crisis in Crimea has led to a first round of sanctions between Russia and the EU – and may well lead to more. For both the EU and Russia, energy constitutes the main risk in this clash, as the two actors are largely interdependent: Russia exports 65% of its gas to Europe, while the EU imports roughly one third of its natural gas from Russia. Among EU Member States, the level of dependency varies greatly, as does their ability to respond to Russian threats. Military and political tensions are obliging the EU to boost its energy security mechanisms and to seek out short- and long-term alternatives to Russian gas. The Union’s reserves are at present half-full, thanks to a mild winter, although no-one knows what the next winter will bring. Several studies have suggested that in the short term the EU could substitute Algerian, Iranian, Norwegian and Qatari gas for Russian gas, although the price would naturally be higher. Yet the risk of recession is estimated to be lower than was the case in the 1970 oil crisis. Most of the new supply would come via cargo ships, bypassing traditional pipelines, although this will require the rapid creation of new gas terminals. In the longer term, Azeri, US and Turkmenistan gas supplies may also quench the thirsty European market, depending on commercial and technical conditions. Other energy policies (focusing on renewable sources, greater efficiency, nuclear power, shale gas and the interconnection of the energy grids) can also play a role in reducing – if not completely eliminating – Europe’s dependence on Russian gas.

**EU-Japan trade deal finalised**

**Keyword**
- public contract
- negotiation of an agreement (EU)
- liberalisation of trade
- free-trade agreement
- Japan
- non-tariff barrier
- trade agreement (EU)
- market access

**Summary**
Following the political agreement in principle reached in July 2017, a final accord on the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) was announced on 8 December 2017. The Commission aims that the agreement come into effect before the end of its mandate in 2019, after the approval of the Council and the European Parliament. However, negotiations on investment protection standards and investment protection dispute resolution will continue.

**An overview of Europe’s film industry**

**Keyword**
- United States
- statistics
- State aid
- cultural exception
- EU programme
- copyright
- audiovisual co-production
- EU production
- cultural prize
- EU financing arrangements
- Council of Europe
- participation of women
- film industry
- EU market
- audiovisual piracy

**Summary**
In spite of the fact that Europe pioneered both technological and content innovation in cinema, at present the EU film landscape is characterised by the strong presence of Hollywood productions. In 2013, they held a share of nearly 70% of the EU market, while European productions represented only 26%. What makes the major US companies so powerful is the fact that they are vertically integrated, with activities spanning production and distribution, allowing them to spread risks over several films, and reinvest profits in new projects. To offset the financing challenges facing EU film companies, different types of film-support schemes have been set up, accounting in 2009 for an estimated €2.1 billion (excluding tax incentives and interventions by publicly funded banks and credit institutions).

Notwithstanding the ever-increasing presence of Hollywood majors, the European film industry is quite dynamic and encompasses over 75,000 companies, employing more than 370,000 people, and reaping some €60 billion in revenue in 2010. Within the EU, the ‘Big Five’ – France, Germany, United Kingdom, Italy and Spain – account for around 80% of releases, industry turnover, and persons employed.

In its 2014 communication on European film in the digital era, the European Commission identified a number of structural weaknesses which prevent the EU film industry from reaching potential audiences in the EU and globally. Along with the fragmentation of production and issues related to financing, there is greater focus on production, resulting in limited attention to distribution and promotion, and insufficient opportunities for international projects.

Helping overcome distribution barriers for European films is also one of the European Parliament’s goals through the LUX Prize, awarded annually since 2007. The winner of the prize does not receive a direct grant. Instead, during the LUX Film Days, the three films in competition are subtitled in the 24 official EU languages and are screened in more than 40 cities and at 18 festivals, allowing many Europeans to see them.
EU's Pesticide Risk Assessment System: The Case of Glyphosate

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-09-2016

External author: Yoline KUIPERS CAVACO, Matteo MASCOLO, Alicia McNEILL and Rachel DEMPSEY

Policy area: European Added Value | Agriculture and Rural Development | Public Health
Keyword: carcinogenic substance | European Food Safety Authority | European Chemicals Agency | precautionary principle | cancer | pesticide | herbicide | toxic substance | health risk

Summary
This report summarises the presentations and discussions of the workshop on the “EU’s pesticide risk assessment system: the case of glyphosate”, held at the European Parliament in Brussels on Tuesday, 24 May 2016. The aim of the workshop was to provide background information and advice for the Members of the ENVI Committee on the effects of glyphosate on human health.

During the first part of the workshop, the EU policy context and the state of play of the issue were presented. An update on the environmental effects of glyphosate on biodiversity was also given. Moreover, the status of the precautionary principle, a legal principle which underpins the use of this substance, was discussed.

The second part of the workshop focused on the challenges and options based on the available research and evidence. The different findings of the IARC and EFSA were presented. In particular, the different methods of the evaluation, as well as the difference between hazard assessment and risk assessment, were covered during this session. Furthermore, the ongoing ECHA’s evaluation of glyphosate, which is being carried out under the CLP Regulation, was illustrated.

Finally, the perspectives from civil society and doctors were also taken into account. While the divergences during the sessions showed how polarised the issue is, it was outlined that a decision on the glyphosate matter would be crucial in order to bring to an end a situation of uncertainty.

This workshop and the respective document were prepared by the Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

Study EN

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date - November 2014 update

Publication type: Study
Date: 09-12-2014

Author: Josephine MOERMAN | Susanna TENHUNEN | Stanislas DE FINANCE
Keyword: single market | common commercial policy | 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 | interinstitutional relations (EU) | EU employment policy

Summary
The EPRS publication “European Council Conclusions: Rolling Check-List of Commitment to Date” monitors the degree of progress in achieving the goals and guidelines set by the European Council in its conclusions. This second edition was updated and reviewed to give an overview of the conclusions and commitments from 2010 onwards. It is a compendium designed to assist the European Parliament in exercising its oversight role. It will be updated four times per year.

Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) has been monitoring and analysing the delivery of the European Council in respect of the commitments made in its conclusions, as well as its various responsibilities either in law or on the basis of intergovernmental agreements.

European Council meetings bring together the Heads of State or Government of the EU Member States and are chaired by the permanent European Council President. Since 1 December, this is Donald Tusk. The Commission President is a non-voting member of the European Council and the High Representative also takes part in its work. 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 the Lisbon Treaty. Hence the need for more detailed scrutiny and oversight of this European Union institution.

Study EN
The economic potential of the ten-point Juncker Plan for growth without debt

Publication type: Study
Date: 28-11-2014
Policy area: European Added Value
Keyword: single market | public contract | freedom to provide services | company law | United States | EU action | consumer protection | free-trade agreement | area of freedom, security and justice | free movement of goods | European tax cooperation | unemployment insurance | common security and defence policy | electronic commerce | energy policy | equal pay | tourism policy | coordination of EMU policies | common transport policy | trade agreement (EU) | financial legislation

Summary: This study offers a series of provisional estimations of the potential gains to the European Union economy that could be generated over time from pursuing the ten-point plan presented by Jean-Claude Juncker to the European Parliament before he was elected President of the European Commission in July 2014. It forms part of a series of studies being undertaken on the potential added value from European-level initiatives advocated in resolutions of the European Parliament. The text covers seven of the ten guidelines proposed by the Commission President, where quantification can be attempted: A deeper and fairer Internal Market with a strengthened industrial base; A connected Digital Single Market; A deeper and fairer Economic and Monetary Union; A resilient Energy Union with a forward-looking climate change policy; A reasonable and balanced Free Trade Agreement with the United States; Europe as a stronger global actor; An area of justice and fundamental rights based on mutual trust. This attempt to quantify the economic potential of the political guidelines presented by Jean-Claude Juncker, can be read in conjunction with the exercise of Mapping the Cost of Non-Europe 2014-15, which has so far been published by the European Added Value Unit in March and July 2014.

Study EN

The settlement of disputes arising from the United Kingdom’s Withdrawal from the European Union

Publication type: Study
Date: 17-11-2017
External author: Antonio Francisco FERNÁNDEZ TOMÁS
Keyword: third country | United Kingdom | European Economic Area | EU Member State | opinion of the Court of Justice (EU) | powers of the institutions (EU) | court of arbitration | Court of Justice of the European Union | World Trade Organisation | Turkey | international arbitration | association agreement (EU) | withdrawal from the EU | international trade | settlement of disputes
Summary: This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the AFCO Committee, analyses the various jurisdiction options, under EU law and under public international law, in settling disputes arising from the Withdrawal Agreement of the UK from the EU and in the context of the Future Relationship Agreement with the UK. It examines in particular the continued involvement of the CJEU in the new context of the EU-UK relations and, based on CJEU case-law and previous international agreements, presents the various governance possibilities for these agreements.

Study EN

EU trade with Latin America and the Caribbean: Overview and figures

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 26-10-2017
Author: Gisela GRIEGER | RODERICK EDWARD NOEL HARTE
Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: third country | statistics | bilateral agreement | bilateral relations | investment abroad | small and medium-sized enterprises | Latin America | technical cooperation | Mercosur | regional cooperation | Andean Community | Central America | Cariforum | Caribbean Islands | international trade
Summary: This publication provides an overview of trade relations between the EU and Latin American and Caribbean countries and groupings. The EU has concluded fully fledged agreements with two Latin American groupings (Cariforum and the Central America group), a multiparty trade agreement with three members of the Andean Community (Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru), and bilateral agreements with Chile and Mexico. It is currently also modernising its agreement with Mexico and intends soon to start negotiations on modernising its agreement with Chile. The EU has also concluded framework agreements with Mercosur and its individual members (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay). The agreement with the former will be replaced, once the on-going negotiations on an EU-Mercosur association agreement have been completed. This publication provides recent data on trade relations between the EU and Latin America and Caribbean countries and groupings, compares the agreements governing trade relations that have already been concluded, and analyses the reasons behind the ongoing and planned negotiations on the EU-Mercosur, EU-Mexico and EU-Chile agreements. This is a revised and updated edition of a publication from March 2016 by Enrique Gomez Ramirez, Eleni Lazarou, Laura Puccio and Giulio Sabbati, PE 579.086.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR
Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - September 2014

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 11-09-2014
Policy area: Budget | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Agriculture and Rural Development | Economics and Monetary Issues | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword: negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | Economic and Monetary Union | EU policy | economic recession | financial legislation | European Parliament | 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.

At a Glance EN

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 | 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.

Briefing DE, EN, FR

Public expectations and EU policies - Foreign policy

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 30-06-2016
Author: Eric PICHON | Raquel JUNCAL PASSOS ROCHA | Alina DOBREVA
Policy area: Global Governance
Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | humanitarian aid | opinion poll | EDF | development aid | EU situation | EU financing | EU budget | EU competence | legal basis | common foreign and security policy | High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Summary: Citizens who think EU engagement in foreign policy is sufficient are almost as numerous as those wishing the EU does more in this area – and nearly one fifth confess they are not able to evaluate EU action. This can be explained as the remit of EU foreign policy is not easy to identify, since it brings together missions for which the EU has full responsibility and competences shared with EU Member States, or even the UN or WTO. However, since its inception, EU foreign policy has adapted to an ever-changing global context: most international issues have multiple impacts – on climate, migration flows or security – and need to be comprehensively addressed. Building on the Treaties’ provisions, the EU and its Member States are moving from ‘silo’ policies (trade, development, humanitarian aid) towards more integrated strategies.

Briefing EN

How can European Industry Contribute to Growth and Foster European Competitiveness?

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-08-2014
External author: Janne SYLVEST (Danish Technological Institute), Hanne SHAPIRO (Danish Technological Institute), Dieter ELIXMANN (WIK Consult), Benita Kidmose RYTZ (Danish Technological Institute), J. Scott MARCUS (WIK Consult) and Kasper Damgaard JOHANSEN (Danish Technological Institute)
Policy area: Industry
Keyword: industrial structures | automation | industrial restructuring | production policy | EU industrial policy | case study | market access | corporate finance | economic growth | productivity | competitiveness | entrepreneurship | innovation | knowledge management | knowledge economy
Summary: This paper, produced by Policy Department A for the ITRE Committee, describes, analyses, and recommends options as to how European industry can contribute to sustainable growth and competitiveness in the EU. It reviews factors that influence growth and competitiveness, and links case studies from European industry to related barriers and enablers. It presents recommendations for framework conditions that public authorities can influence in order to promote European industry in repositioning itself globally. Finally, the paper then presents relevant case studies in full.

Study EN
Remaining legislative demands of the European Parliament's 7th legislative term

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Keyword: common commercial policy | single market | EU law | common foreign and security policy | EU environmental policy | European social policy | employment policy | EU budget | digital technology | common agricultural policy | Economic and Monetary Union | citizens' Europe | consumer protection | area of freedom, security and justice | European tax cooperation | EU industrial policy | small and medium-sized enterprises | financial services | climate change policy | energy policy | telecommunications | common transport policy | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | consumer policy | common fisheries policy | intellectual property |

Study: EN

The European Ombudsman

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Author: INA SOKOLSKA | Ottavio MARZOCCHI

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

Keyword: institutional structure | petition | transparency in decision-making | parliamentary inquiry | administrative transparency | appointment of members | European Ombudsman | protection of freedoms

Summary: The European Ombudsman conducts inquiries into cases of maladministration by European Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, acting on his or her own initiative or on the basis of complaints from EU citizens. The Ombudsman is elected by the European Parliament for the duration of the parliamentary term.

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

Research for AGRI Committee - The Post-Quotas EU Sugar Sector

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External author: Piotr Szajner, Barbara Wieliczko, Marek Wigier, Mariusz Hamulczuk and Wioletta Wrazasycz (Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics - National Research Institute, Poland)

Policy area: Forward Planning | Agriculture and Rural Development

Keyword: economic consequence | sugar | food safety | regulation of agricultural production | guaranteed minimum price | liberalisation of the market | aid to agriculture | sugar industry | self-sufficiency in food | price of agricultural produce | agricultural market | reform of the CAP

Summary: The liberalisation of the sugar market in the EU will bring about changes in the sugar sector. Elimination of production quotas and the minimum price for the purchase of sugar beet will affect competition and sugar production. Foreign trade will play a key role in the market balance. The EU market will become strongly linked to the world market. The sugar sector is of strategic importance and CAP market policy should include instruments that allow the maintenance of sugar production.

Study: EN

Land Grabbing and Human Rights: The Involvement of European Corporate and Financial Entities in Land Grabbing outside the European Union

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External author: Saturnino M. BORRAS Jr. (International Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands), Philip SEUFERT (FIAN Germany, Germany), Stephan BACKES (FIAN International, Belgium), Daniel FYFE (FIAN International, Switzerland), Roman HERRE (FIAN Germany, Germany), Laura MICHELE (FIAN International, Germany) and Elyse MILLS (International Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands)

Policy area: Development and Humanitarian Aid | Human Rights

Keyword: self-regulation | common commercial policy | the EU's international role | corporate social responsibility | self-sufficiency in food | biofuel | business morals | social rights | investment abroad | human rights | development policy | land mobility | extraterritorial jurisdiction

Summary: In early research on land grabbing, the initial focus was on foreign companies investing abroad, with a particular focus on those based in countries such as China, Gulf States, South Korea, and India. In recent years, it has become evident that the range of countries land investors originate in is far broader, and includes both North Atlantic - and EU-based actors. In this study, we offer both quantitative and qualitative data illustrating the involvement of EU-based corporate and financial entities in land deals occurring outside of the EU. This study also analyses the global land rush within a human rights framework, examining the implications of particular land deals involving EU-based investors and their impact on communities living in areas where the investments are taking place. The research presented here builds partly on Cotula’s 2014 study on the drivers and human rights implications of land grabbing, but differs in that it focuses explicitly on particular cases of possible, actual or potential human rights abuses and violations, in the context of activities involving European corporate and financial entities. In our conclusions, we offer a series of recommendations on how the EU can more effectively address these issues.

Study: EN, FR

Annex I: EN, FR
Reflection paper on harnessing globalisation

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 08-09-2017  
**Author** CHRISTIAN SCHEINERT  
**Policy area** Economics and Monetary Issues  
**Keyword** simplification of legislation | petition | administrative formalities | application of EU law | political involvement | legislative initiative | European citizenship | European Union | protectionism | EU institution | globalisation | economic integration | deepening of the European Union | protectionism | EU institution | globalisation | international agreement | sustainable development | European Investment Bank | economic integration | deepening of the European Union | protectionism | EU institution | globalisation | 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.

Global Trendometer: Essays on medium- and long-term global trends - Summer 2017

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 06-09-2017  
**Author** Anne ALTMAYER | Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI | Daniele RECHARD | Agnieszka WIDUTO | Jessica Freya WINDLE-WEHRLE | EAMONN NOONAN  
**Keyword** demography | water management | sub-Saharan Africa | construction equipment | middle class | multilateral relations | protectionism | raw material | economic analysis | China | redistribution of income | equal treatment | international trade | tax system

**Summary** With the publication of the "Global Trendometer" the EPRS Global Trends Unit seeks to contribute to the process of identifying and addressing medium- and long-term trends, and their possible implications for policy-making in the European Union. In this latest edition, three essays and seven two-page vignettes on different geopolitical, economic, technological and social issues paint a broad-ranging picture of some developments that may shape Europe’s future.

The European Citizens' Initiative: the experience of the first three years - European Implementation

**Publication type** In-Depth Analysis  
**Date** 15-04-2015  
**Author** Irmgard ANGLMAYER  
**Policy area** EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Democracy  
**Keyword** simplification of legislation | petition | administrative formalities | application of EU law | political involvement | legislative initiative | European citizenship

**Summary** The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) has been in operation since April 2012. Observers have identified a number of shortcomings in its implementation, which impact negatively on the effectiveness and acceptance of this relatively new instrument of transnational participatory democracy. Against this background, stakeholders are calling for simplification and a substantial revision of the current ECI framework and its application, including its implementation in the EU Member States.

On 31 March 2015, the Commission presented its first report on the application of the ECI Regulation. While it concluded that it considered the ECI to be fully implemented, it however listed a few areas for improvement.

It is widely expected that this review, together with the European Ombudsman's recent recommendations, will prompt a revision of that regulation.

This paper seeks to provide a systematic overview of the current weaknesses in the ECI process and puts forward concrete recommendations for a better functioning ECI.
Outcome of the European Council of 19-20 March 2015

Author Josephine MOERMAN | Susanna TENHUNEN | Ralf DRACHENBERG
Policy area European Semester | Energy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council
Keyword European neighbourhood policy | single market | Libya | investment policy | structural adjustment | United States | Ukraine | common foreign and security policy | Tunisia | European Council | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | climate change policy | energy policy | EU migration policy | international sanctions | Russia | coordination of EMU policies | Secretary General of an Institution | economic situation

Summary As the EPRS Outlook for the Spring European Council foresaw, European Union leaders approved the building blocks for a European Energy Union, endorsed the Commission's Annual Growth Survey (AGS), linked sanctions against Russia to the complete implementation of the Minsk agreements, and called for a government of National Unity in Libya. The Heads of State or Government also appointed Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen as new Secretary General of the Secretariat-General of the Council.

L'accès aux médicaments dans les pays en développement

Author Marta LATEK
Policy area Intellectual Property Law | Development and Humanitarian Aid
Keyword negotiation of an agreement (EU) | dissemination of information | political situation | government policy | Japan | trade agreement (EU) | common foreign and security policy | directory

Summary L’accès aux médicaments s’inscrit parmi les 17 Objectifs de Développement Durables devenus le cadre de référence de l’action collective au niveau mondial pour le développement durable d’ici 2030. Cet objectif se heurte à des inégalités dans le développement des systèmes de santé nationaux et dans l’accès aux ressources financières nécessaires pour acquérir les médicaments. Nés en Europe et aux États Unis et devenus standard international dans le cadre de l’Organisation mondiale du Commerce, les droits de propriété intellectuelle (DPI) ont été maintes fois accusés de freiner la concurrence de médicaments génériques et donc l’accès à des médicaments essentiels à des prix abordables dans les pays pauvres. Le Parlement européen a pris une part active dans ce débat, en soulignant la nécessité pour les pays en développement de pouvoir profiter activement des flexibilités prévues dans le régime international de protection des DPI et en demandant à la Commission européenne de ne pas anéantir ces flexibilités par des dispositions plus strictes des accords commerciaux bilatéraux. Alors que l’industrie pharmaceutique souligne le rôle clé des DPI pour promouvoir l’innovation, un consensus semble se dégager pour aller au-delà de l’action purement philanthropique, que ce soit de la part de l’industrie ou des fonds multi-donateurs, vers une solution systémique axée sur le renforcement des systèmes de santé et sur le développement de nouvelles formes de financement de l’innovation, qui empêcheraient ce que le prix Nobel Joseph Stiglitz appelle “la privatisation de la science”.

Japan and the EU [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Author Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI
Policy area Foreign Affairs
Keyword negotiation of an agreement (EU) | dissemination of information | political situation | government policy | Japan | trade agreement (EU) | common foreign and security policy | directory

Summary After more than two decades of economic stagnation, Japan is pushing ahead with a ‘three arrow’ reform package aimed at reviving growth through fiscal stimulus, monetary easing and structural changes, a strategy known as ‘Abenomics’, after the name of Liberal Democrat Prime Minister Shinzō Abe. The reforms are being pursued against a challenging background of high government debt, an ageing population and a fragile external security environment, with, for example, North Korea pushing ahead with its nuclear arms programme. As advanced industrialised democracies, the EU and Japan have many common interests and values. The scope of the overall relationship has broadened in recent years, along the lines foreseen in the 2001 Action Plan. The EU and Japan are currently working towards a new Framework Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement. This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on relations between Japan and the EU, as well as on economic and political developments in that country.
EU Industrial Policy: Assessment of Recent Developments and Recommendations for Future Policies

Publication type: Study
Date: 02-03-2015
External author: Julie Pellegrin (CSIL - Centre for Industrial Studies, Italy), Maria Letizia Giorgetti (University of Milan, Italy), Camilla Jensen (CASE, Poland) and Alberto Bolognini (Economisti Associati, Italy)
Policy area: Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Industry
Keyword: single market | EU competition policy | France | United Kingdom | industrial development | EU industrial policy | EU programme | small and medium-sized enterprises | Italy | Poland | Germany | productivity | economic and social cohesion | EU financial instrument | competitiveness | Greece | research and development | innovation | intellectual property | EU statistics
Summary: Following disregard in the 1980s, industrial policy has recently attracted policy attention at EU level. The objective of this study provided by Policy Department A at the request of the ITRE Committee, is to establish the state of the art of a coordinated and integrated EU industrial policy. It assesses current initiatives, policies and arrangements and proposes an overview of stakeholders' positions at EU and national levels in order to feed into the debate on how to improve competitiveness and growth in Europe.

Study EN

EU–Latin America trade relations: Overview and figures

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 11-03-2016
Author: Enrique GOMEZ RAMIREZ | Eleni LAZAROU | Laura PUCCIO | Giulio SABBATI
Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: trade statistics | free-trade agreement | Chile | trading operation | Argentina | Colombia | Mercosur | Mexico | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | Ecuador | Andean Community | Central America | Cariforum | Brazil | trade agreement (EU) | Peru
Summary: Trade relations between the EU and Latin American countries have come back into the spotlight in recent years. Collectively, the countries forming the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) represent the fifth largest trading partner of the EU. The EU has concluded agreements with two Latin American (LA) groupings (Cariforum and the Central America group) and with four other Latin American countries (Mexico, Chile, Peru and Colombia). The FTAs concluded by the EU with Latin American countries differ considerably in terms of coverage and methodology depending on the time at which they were concluded and the context of the negotiations. The EU now aims to modernise the oldest FTAs, concluded with Mexico and Chile, in order to align them to the current standards of EU FTAs. The long-standing negotiations on a comprehensive trade agreement with Mercosur – which would mean the EU then had trade agreements with nearly all of Latin America – are yet to pick up pace, however.

In-Depth Analysis EN, DE, EN, FR

Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - January 2015

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 12-01-2015
Policy area: Budget | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Transport | Employment | Human Rights
Keyword: common commercial policy | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | EU policy | EP Committee | trade agreement (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.

At a Glance EN

Outcome of the European Council of 17-18 December 2015: Post-European Council Briefing

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 15-01-2016
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Susanna TENHUNEN
Keyword: Libya | single market | Economic and Monetary Union | United Kingdom | Syria | migratory movement | common foreign and security policy | external border of the EU | European Council | climate change policy | energy policy | Turkey | EU migration policy | terrorism | euro area
Summary: The main focus of the European Council meeting of 17-18 December 2015 was on terrorism, migration and the UK's membership of the EU. The latter two issues are also the main items on the agenda of the next European Council meeting, on 18-19 February 2016. Other issues discussed included completion of the internal market and of the Economic and Monetary Union, and climate and energy, following the agreement reached at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris.

Briefing EN
A strategy for completing the Single Market: the trillion euro bonus - Report of the High-Level Panel of Experts to the IMCO Committee

Prospects for a Multilateral Investment Court

The precautionary principle: Definitions, applications and governance

From TPP to new trade arrangements in the Asia-Pacific region
Setting EU priorities, 2014-19
Publication type Briefing
Date 17-10-2014
Author Ariane DEBYSER
Policy area European Added Value
Keyword single market | investment policy | United States | Economic and Monetary Union | the EU's international role | citizens' Europe | free-trade agreement | President of the Commission | powers of the EP | transparency in decision-making | area of freedom, security and justice | EU industrial policy | common foreign and security policy | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | climate change policy | EU migration policy | energy policy | European Commissioner | job creation | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | digital technology | vice-president of an institution
Summary Jean-Claude Juncker, Commission President-elect, has set out the political agenda for his five-year term (2014-19) at the head of the institution in a set of 'political guidelines' focussing on ten policy areas in which he said that the European Union could make a difference, and underlined the importance of achieving concrete results in each area. This Briefing represents a first effort to cross-check the ten priorities against past requests from the Parliament for action by the Commission, drawing where appropriate on work undertaken for parliamentary committees on the potential added value of action in these fields.

Food Safety: State-of-Play, Current and Future Challenges
Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 15-10-2014
External author Robert Pederson (Food Policy Consultants) and Guillermo Hernández (Milieu Ltd)
Policy area Food Safety | Social Policy
Keyword climate change | nanotechnology | free-trade agreement | genetically modified organism | food technology | toxic substance | foodstuffs legislation | avian influenza | health risk | globalisation
Summary Food safety seeks to strike a balance between guaranteeing a high level of public health, environmental and consumer protection, while at the same time providing a stable regulatory environment for actors in the food chain. Food safety challenges relate to cross-cutting issues such as globalisation and climate change, as well as to specific cases – e.g. persistent episodes of food borne illness, Endocrine Disruptors and nanotechnology, particularly in the context of current and future regulation and non-regulatory actions. This document was provided by Policy Department A for the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee (ENVI).

Rolling Legislative Agenda of the European Union, Europe connects & Europe protects
Publication type Study
Date 15-09-2014
Author Klaus WELLE | Philipp SCHULMEISTER | Franck DEBIE
Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council
Keyword single market | common commercial policy | governance | Economic and Monetary Union | citizens' Europe | consumer protection | area of freedom, security and justice | EU industrial policy | common foreign and security policy | EU environmental policy | financing of the EU budget | energy policy | legislative programme (EU) | common transport policy | common agricultural policy | EU employment policy
Summary For the first time at the beginning of a legislative term the European Council has presented a 'Strategic Agenda for the Union in Times of Change', outlining political guidelines in five thematic areas. On these five thematic areas and beyond the European Parliament had, during the past legislative term (2009-2014), developed and adopted numerous initiatives for European legislation, calling on the European Commission for legislative action with a view to addressing the political, economic and societal challenges the European Union is faced with. Some of these legislative requests have been taken up by the Commission and subsequently adopted as part of the European Union’s answers to the financial and economic crisis or together with the new Multiannual Financial Framework. A substantial number of legislative requests were, nevertheless, not addressed. Yet they remain fully valid in view of the European Council’s Strategic Agenda. The present comprehensive document assembles Parliament’s remaining legislative requests, structured according to the thematic blocks of the European Council’s Strategic Agenda and to their individual state of play.
Review of the EU copyright Framework: European Implementation Assessment

Publication type: Study
Date: 13-10-2015
Author: Stephane REYNOLDS

This European Implementation Assessment aims to provide briefing for the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) ahead of the publication of the Commission’s legislative proposals concerning the modernisation of the EU copyright framework, which are expected towards the end of 2015. The specific objective is to help JURI Members achieve a better understanding of the actual gaps and weaknesses in the existing EU copyright framework. This European Implementation Assessment is divided into: an introduction presenting an overall analysis and summary of findings, an Ex-Post Impact Assessment study, and three EU Added Value briefing papers, which are included as annexes.

Trade, Growth and Development: An Assessment

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 24-09-2015
Author: Roberto BENDINI

The European Commission communication ‘Trade, Growth and Development’ was published in January 2012 as a direct spin-off of the more general communication ‘Trade, Growth and World Affairs’. It was also a response to the criticism levelled by many non-governmental organisations, governments of developing countries and other stakeholders at the Commission’s trade policies (in particular economic partnership agreements) with traditional African, Caribbean and Pacific partners. The communication secured greater clarity and coordination between development- and trade-oriented policies, but it does not appear to have produced revolutionary changes. A number of updates have addressed the progress made by developing countries in the era of globalisation, but the essential separation remains. The communication did, however, have the unquestionable merit of promoting the modernisation of certain development-oriented trade instruments, such as the Generalised System of Preferences, and concentrating declining resources on fragile and least-developed countries.

How Congress and President shape US foreign policy

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 30-03-2017
Author: Micaela DEL MONTE | Eleni LAZAROU

The United States Constitution regulates the conduct of American foreign policy through a system of checks and balances. The Constitution provides both Congress and the President, as the legislative and executive branches respectively, with the legal authority to shape relations with foreign nations. It recognises that only the federal government is authorised to conduct foreign policy; that federal courts are competent in cases arising under treaties; and declares treaties the supreme law of the land. The Constitution also lists the powers of Congress, including the ‘power of the purse’ (namely the ability to tax and spend public money on behalf of the federal government), the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, the power to declare war and the authority to raise and support the army and navy. At the same time, the President is the Commander-in-Chief of the United States (US) army and navy and, although Congressional action is required to declare war, it is generally agreed that the President has the authority to respond to attacks against the US and to lead the armed forces. While the President’s powers are substantial, they are not without limits, due to the role played by the legislative branch. In light of the discussion of the foreign policy options of the new administration under President Donald Trump, this briefing specifically explores the powers conferred to conclude international agreements, to regulate commerce with foreign nations, to use military force and to declare war. It also explains how Congress performs its oversight – or ‘watchdog’ – functions with regard to foreign policy, the tools at its disposal, and the role of committees in the process.
Financial Instruments and Legal Frameworks of Derivatives Markets in EU Agriculture: Current State of Play and Future Perspectives

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-07-2014
External author: Myriam VANDER STICHELE (SOMO, the Netherlands)
Policy area: Agriculture and Rural Development | Internal Market and Customs Union | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword: commodities market | economic consequence | United States | supervisory power | EU agricultural market | price of agricultural produce | speculative capital | reform of the CAP | futures market | guaranteed price | financial legislation | financial instrument
Summary: For the first time, new EU laws regulate the agricultural commodity derivatives markets and their participants. By 1st July 2014, some important technical standards and other instruments that determine the effectiveness and the enforcement of these laws still needed to be decided. This study finds that the price discovery and hedging functions of European agricultural commodity derivatives markets and their related infrastructure in the physical agricultural markets need improvements from the perspective of European farmers and the agricultural sector.

The Role of the EP in Shaping the EU's Trade Policy after the Entry into Force of the Treaty of Lisbon

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 09-07-2014
Author: Roberto BENDINI | Marika ARMANOVICA
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: common commercial policy | free-trade agreement | powers of the EP | transparency in decision-making | drafting of EU law | social rights | sustainable development | human rights | World Trade Organisation | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | trade agreement (EU) | Treaty of Lisbon | interinstitutional relations (EU) | intellectual property
Summary: In the few years that have passed since the Treaty of Lisbon amplified the European Parliament's authority, the institution has reshaped the EU's trade policy – a domain that has become the exclusive competence of the EU. Parliament has not, as some feared it would, compromised the Union’s technical approach. Rather, it has given the EU’s Common Commercial Policy (CCP) democratic legitimacy and emphasised human rights and environmental concerns. While the Treaty of Lisbon made this change possible, it did not make it inevitable; Parliament has exercised creativity in interpreting its co-legislative powers and modelling a significant role for itself. As the fifth anniversary in December 2014 of the entry of the Treaty of Lisbon approaches, Parliament is further consolidating its powers of oversight and decision. The moment is ripe to survey the lessons of the past four-and-a-half years and to buttress the institution for the challenges to come.

Workers' Rights, Working Conditions, Third Country and Member State Aspects

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 09-09-2015
Author: Marion SCHMID-DRÜNER | Susanne KRAATZ
Keyword: labour law | United States | EU relations | EU publication | Russia | working conditions | Switzerland | EU employment policy | bibliography
Summary: The Employment and Social Affairs Committee (EMPL) in the European Parliament covers a broad range of topics. As regards employment, its competences include workers' rights and working conditions, health and safety at work, policies to increase labour market participation, vocational training, the free movement of workers and pensioners. Furthermore, it is responsible for all aspects of social policy comprising social protection and social inclusion as well as for the European Social Fund. This leaflet provides abstracts of a compilation of selected papers prepared by the European Parliament’s Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policy. Two other notes cover employment challenges and skills as well as social inclusion and protection.

Source: © European Union, 2019 - EP
**The Plurilateral Agreement on Services**

*Publication type* In-Depth Analysis  
*Date* 01-07-2013  
*External author* Pierre SAUVÉ (World Trade Institution, University of Bern, Germany)

*Policy area* International Trade  
*Keyword* common commercial policy | World Trade Organisation | foreign investment | multilateral agreement | free-trade agreement | Doha Round | international competition | market access | service

*Summary* Negotiations are underway on a Trade in Services Agreement (TISA). Following the Commission's request for a mandate in February 2013 the EU is participating in these negotiations. The negotiations are motivated by a desire to further trade in services at a time when the negotiations at the multilateral level on the Doha Development Agenda are at an apparent standstill. The aim of the negotiations is that they shall be consistent with the General Agreement on Trade in Services and the WTO and that they will ultimately result in a multilateralisation. The negotiations are ambitious in terms of sectoral coverage as well as the rules that should be agreed. For those who wish to enhance trade in services, the TISA represents a move in the right direction after many years of stalemate. The last services trade negotiations in the WTO were completed nearly 20 years ago. On the other hand there are a number of genuine doubts about the initiative. Will it provide much value-added in terms of access to new markets when some of the key emerging markets are not participating? Will the efforts further or undermine multilateral efforts, in the sense that the incentive to conclude a multilateral agreement is reduced? The pros and cons of such services negotiations and their implications for wider trade relations and thus the interests of the EU are analysed in depth in this report.

In-Depth Analysis  EN

**Compendium of Initial Appraisals of European Commission Impact Assessments: July 2014 - December 2015**

*Publication type* Briefing  
*Date* 03-09-2015  
*Author* Joseph DUNNE

*Policy area* Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council  
*Keyword* impact study | dissemination of information | EU policy | drafting of EU law | documentary tool

*Summary* The European Parliament's Ex-Ante Impact Assessment Unit routinely undertakes initial appraisals of Impact Assessments accompanying the European Commission's legislative proposals when they arrive in Parliament, to check that certain criteria are met and to identify their basic methodological strengths and weaknesses. The initial appraisals do not attempt to deal with the substance of the proposal and are drafted for informational and background purposes to assist the relevant parliamentary committee(s) and Members more widely in their work. The present volume is a compendium of all Initial Appraisals produced from July 2014 to December 2015.

Briefing  EN

**CETA and public services**

*Publication type* In-Depth Analysis  
*Date* 10-02-2017  
*Author* Laura PUCCIO | Wilhelm SCHOELLMANN | Giulio SABBATI

*Policy area* International Trade | Foreign Affairs  
*Keyword* statistics | public service | EU Member State | health care | environmental industry | Canada | trade agreement | carriage of goods | education policy | energy policy | postal service | carriage of passengers | social services | international trade | protective clause

*Summary* EU-Canada negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) began in May 2009 and concluded in September 2014. Signed in October 2016, the agreement's overall aim is to increase flows of goods, services and investment. This publication analyses the extent to which public services are protected in CETA. The trade agreement takes the public sector into account by means of a (general) public sector carve-out and specific reservations introduced by the EU and the Member States in the annexes to the agreement. These reservations apply specifically to health services, education services, social services, and environmental, energy and transport services. National reservations introduced by the EU Member States to complement EU-wide reservations vary greatly. To a large extent this is the result of the widely varying levels of liberalisation of certain services among Member States, leading some of them to see a greater need to protect particular sectors from foreign competition than others.

In-Depth Analysis  EN
The EU's Trade Policy: From Gender-Blind to Gender-Sensitive?

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 09-07-2015  
Author: Elina VIILUP

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

Keyword: common commercial policy | developing countries | liberalisation of trade | sustainable development | Ukraine | ASEAN countries | Jordan | gender equality | Latin America | China | human rights | World Trade Organisation | economic consequence | South Korea | North Africa | equal pay | globalisation | Armenia | India | position of women | Canada | GCC countries | female work | social impact | Georgia | participation of women | Moldova | trade agreement (EU) | international labour law

Summary: The services of the European Commission are currently reflecting on the follow-up to the Strategy for equality between women and men 2010-2015 (COM (2010) final). The EU's trade policy has not yet been fully integrated into this strategy, providing an opportunity for the INTA committee to consider whether and how gender issues should be dealt with in the context of the EU's trade policies. Article 8 TFEU provides that "in all its activities, the Union shall aim to eliminate inequalities, and to promote equality between men and women." The trade policy issues that are discussed by the European Parliament's INTA committee can have differing gender impacts across the various sectors of the economy. Understanding the gender dimension of trade agreements better will therefore contribute to better policy making and to ensuring that both sexes can take advantage of the benefits of trade liberalisation and be protected from its negative effects.

In-Depth Analysis | EN, FR

The challenges of copyright in the EU

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 30-06-2015  
Author: Ivana KATSAROVA

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

Keyword: single market | United States | approximation of laws | drafting of EU law | patents licence | technological change | EC Directive | World Intellectual Property Organisation | copyright | law relating to information | trade agreement (EU) | open source software | digital technology | proposal (EU) | right of personal portrayal

Summary: Despite over a century of international harmonisation, copyright law remains essentially national law, even though some fundamental copyright norms are gradually converging. Today, copyright is regulated at international level mainly through the Bern Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention, and a series of other treaties administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization. At present, national copyright laws are grounded in a handful of universal rules and principles. Exclusive rights are granted to creators for 'original' works which range from art (music, paintings) to information products (maps, databases). The rights conceded under copyright vary with national laws and legal traditions (civil law in continental Europe and common law in Anglo-American countries). However, as a minimum, exclusive rights encompass the rights to reproduce, distribute, rent, lend, or communicate a work to the public. All these rights can be transferred and/or collectively managed by specialist intermediaries (notably for music works). Most national laws also grant moral rights to protect the author's name and reputation. Other provisions – such as the term of copyright protection – differ widely on a global scale. To maintain a fair balance between the interests of users and rights-holders, legislators have foreseen a number of exceptions, allowing for limited free use of certain works. The main European Union instrument providing a legal framework for copyright is the 2001 Copyright Directive. In May 2015, the European Commission unveiled its plans to create a Digital Single Market, aiming in this respect to present legislative proposals reducing the differences between national copyright regimes and allowing for wider online access, including through further harmonisation measures. Reactions from stakeholders were mixed. In this context, the European Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs undertook the preparation of an own initiative report, which is due to be voted in plenary in July 2015.

Briefing | EN

Referendums on EU Matters

Publication type: Study  
Date: 30-01-2017  
External author: Fernando MENDEZ and Mario MENDEZ


Keyword: national sovereignty | third country | United Kingdom | referendum | EU Member State | European integration | withdrawal from the EU | euro scepticism

Summary: This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament. It analyses the political and legal dynamics behind referendums on EU-related matters. It argues that we have entered a period of increasing political uncertainty with regard to the European project and that this new political configuration will both affect and be affected by the politics of EU-related referendums. Such referendums have long been a risky endeavour and this has been accentuated in the wake of the Great Recession with its negative ramifications for public opinion in the European Union. It is clear that referendums on EU matters are here to stay and will continue to be central to the EU’s future as they are deployed to determine the number of Member States within the EU, its geographical reach, its constitutional evolution and adherence to EU policies. Only now they have become an even riskier endeavour.

Study | EN
Trade and economic relations with China 2015

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 23-06-2015
Author: Roberto BENDINI | Barbara BARONE
Policy area: International Trade | Global Governance | Internal Market and Customs Union | Foreign Affairs | Industry
Keyword: common commercial policy | trade statistics | trade restriction | free-trade agreement | EU Member State | investment abroad | trade volume | economic relations | anti-dumping legislation | market access | China | World Trade Organisation | foreign investment | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | import | intellectual property | export
Summary: The EU's trade and economic relations with China, the global leader in trade, are generally good, and the number of disputes reasonable. Yet the EU is dissatisfied with China's reluctance to fully implement its commitments to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and, more generally, with its protectionist measures, which often hurt EU interests. For its part, Beijing is still dissatisfied with the EU's refusal to grant the country 'market economy' status and with other measures it believes limit China's access to the Single Market. Negotiations for an EU-China partnership and cooperation agreement, initiated in 2007, have yet to be concluded. In January 2014, China and the EU held the first round of negotiations for a bilateral investment agreement. Negotiations are progressing steadily but their end is not in sight. More recently, Beijing has suggested opening talks for an EU-China FTA, but Europe's reaction has been lukewarm.

EU and US competition policies: Similar objectives, different approaches

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 27-03-2014
Author: Gregor ERBACH
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword: merger control | control of State aid | United States | cartel | powers of the EP | restriction on competition | control of restrictive practices | supervisory body | anti-trust legislation | competition policy
Summary: Both the EU and the US have well-developed competition policies that aim to prevent and penalise anticompetitive behaviour. Although the EU and US systems share similar aims, there are a number of significant differences. The EU has an administrative system for antitrust enforcement, in which companies are penalised with fines. In contrast, US antitrust enforcement is based on criminal law, with financial and custodial penalties against individuals.

From Safe Harbour to Privacy Shield: Advances and shortcomings of the new EU-US data transfer rules

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 19-01-2017
Author: Shara MONTELEONE | Laura PUCCIO
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: third country | data-processing law | United States | protection of privacy | bilateral agreement | exchange of information | cross-frontier data flow | personal data | data protection
Summary: The CJEU's Schrems judgment of October 2015, besides declaring the European Commission's Decision on the EU-US 'Safe Harbour' data transfer regime invalid, has also settled a number of crucial requirements corresponding to the foundations of EU data protection. In the assessment of the Privacy Shield, the new framework for EU-US data transfer, these need to be taken into account. In less than one year since the CJEU ruling, the Commission has adopted a new adequacy decision, in which the Privacy Shield regime is deemed to adequately protect EU citizens. The main improvements of the Privacy Shield (over its predecessor), as well as the critical reactions to the new arrangements, are discussed in this analysis, taking into account, however, that an annual review is expected to take place by summer 2017, which will also take into account the coming into effect of the EU General Data Protection Regulation in 2018.

Cross Competition among Information (Digital) Platforms

Publication type: Study
Date: 09-06-2015
External author: Nicolai VAN GORP
Keyword: EU competition policy | Internet | impact of information technology | board of management | telecommunications industry | competitiveness | EU industrial policy | technological change | innovation | knowledge economy | international competition | monopoly
Summary: The workshop, prepared by Policy Department A for the ITRE committee, addressed the questions "should we avoid global information monopolies, and what place for European platforms?". It concludes that it is unclear how dominant large digital platforms actually are. Markets are often contestable due to dynamic competition for the market. Policy should focus on paving the way for European champions and there is a need for revising non-digital policies governing traditional industries in order to remove barriers for enterprises to adapt to new realities.

Study EN
**European Citizens’ Initiative**

Publication type: At a Glance  
Date: 22-12-2016  
Author: Nikolai ATANASSOV  
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Democracy  
Keyword: European treaties | power of initiative | petition | participatory democracy | public hearing | EU initiative | European Ombudsman | European citizens’ initiative  
Summary: The European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI) was introduced as a major innovation in the 2009 Lisbon Treaty. It is a key element of participatory democracy, allowing citizens to play an active role in the EU’s democratic life through addressing requests for legislative proposals to the European Commission. Notwithstanding the Commission’s right of initiative, the European Parliament and the Council, under Articles 225 and 241 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) respectively, also have the ability to request the Commission submit a legislative proposal. The procedure and conditions for ECIs are governed by Regulation (EU) No 211/2011, in force since April 2012. This was the subject of a first three-yearly review by the Commission in 2015, leading to a debate on the ECI’s effectiveness and some suggestions for improvement.

**Research for CULT Committee - Culture and Education in the CETA**

Publication type: Study  
Date: 19-12-2016  
Author: Michaela FRANKE  
External author: Michael Hahn, Institute for European and International Economic Law & World Trade Institute, University of Bern.  
Pierre Sauvé, World Trade Institute, University of Bern.  
Policy area: Culture  
Keyword: education policy | EU Member State | cultural policy | Canada | trade agreement | public policy | extra-EU trade  
Summary: This paper assesses the treatment of education and culture in the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). The CETA marked (for the EU) significant changes in negotiating modalities in the fields of services and investment, involving a shift in the manner in which the Parties undertake negotiated market opening commitments under the Treaty (from a GATS-type hybrid list to a negative list approach). Notwithstanding such changes, both Canada and the European Union have secured under the CETA negotiated outcomes fully aligned to – and wholly consistent with - those achieved by both Parties in their preceding trade and investment agreements at the bilateral, regional or multilateral levels. The CETA marked no change to the long-held policy of both Parties to retain full policy immunity by eschewing substantive disciplines and market opening commitments in matters of culture and publicly-funded education services.

**Driving trade in the ASEAN region: Progress of FTA negotiations**

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 14-12-2016  
Author: Krisztina BINDER  
Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs  
Keyword: statistics | multilateral agreement | import (EU) | free-trade agreement | export (EU) | EU Member State | free-trade area | bilateral relations | ASEAN countries | international relations | ASEAN  
Summary: After negotiations between the EU and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for a regional free trade agreement (FTA) were suspended in 2009, the EU decided to pursue bilateral trade agreements with the individual ASEAN member states. To date, six of them have started talks on a bilateral FTA with the EU. Negotiations have already been concluded with two of these countries, Singapore and Vietnam, although those FTAs still await ratification. The EU's final objective is to have a region-to-region agreement with ASEAN, based on the bilateral FTAs concluded with the ASEAN member states. Once the conditions required for this to happen are in place, the EU and its ASEAN partners will need to determine how to bring all these bilateral agreements under one regional FTA, with a view to including ASEAN member states with which the EU does not have bilateral agreements. It is in the EU's strategic interest to strengthen economic cooperation with ASEAN, and to maintain its competitive position in the Asia-Pacific region, given its economic importance, combined with the expanding intraregional trade and investment relations and the growing number of regional integration initiatives. Back in 2006, in its communication entitled 'Global Europe: Competing in the world', the European Commission identified ASEAN as a potential FTA partner that should be given priority based on key economic criteria. The Commission's new 2015 trade strategy, entitled 'Trade for all – Towards a more responsible trade and investment policy', reaffirmed this objective.
New income stabilisation tools and price volatility in agricultural markets

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 24-10-2016

Author: Francesco TROPEA

Policy area: Agriculture and Rural Development

Summary: Farmers are often confronted with substantial changes in the prices they receive for the sale of their agricultural products, which causes financial uncertainty about their incomes. Commonly referred to as ‘price volatility’, this phenomenon is more evident in agriculture than in other economic sectors due to a variety of economic, natural and political factors. Data provided by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation suggest that global price volatility has been on the increase since 2005 and is likely to remain a major concern for farmers in the coming decades. The Common Agricultural Policy for the 2014–2020 period is mainly aimed at compensating farmers for the negative effects of price volatility and at tackling income volatility, rather than directly addressing price volatility itself. Indeed, market interventions have been reduced and now play the limited role of safety net measures which are only activated when prices drop below certain levels. The main policy instrument involves direct payments which provide a stable form of income for farmers regardless of market conditions. Additionally, Member States have the possibility to support three risk management tools (insurance schemes, mutual funds and an Income Stabilisation Tool) through their rural development programmes. In the framework of the Multiannual Financial Framework review, on 14 September 2016, the Commission proposed some changes to the Income Stabilisation Tool. The European Parliament has been working actively on the issue of price volatility in agricultural markets, notably by organising a hearing and launching an own-initiative report on the subject. Looking to the future, direct payments, which reduce income volatility by providing a stable form of revenue for farmers, will probably still play a role in the CAP after 2020, but a political shift towards the further development of risk management tools could be at the core of the debate on the future of European agriculture policy. This briefing updates ‘Price volatility in agricultural markets’ published in July 2016.
Proceedings of the Workshop on Novel Foods
Publication type Study
Date 06-02-2015
External author Sue Keenan (Campden BRI), Alan Alldrick (Campden BRI) and Steven Tompkins (ADAS)
Policy area Food Safety | Consumer Protection | Public Health | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Industry
Keyword approval | food safety | consumer protection | European Food Safety Authority | new product | foodstuff | food industry | foodstuffs legislation | proposal (EU)
Summary This report summarises the presentations and discussions during the Workshop on Novel Foods, held on 7 October 2014. The aim of the workshop was to allow an exchange of views between MEPs, the European Commission, stakeholders of the novel foods industry, NGOs, public administration and academia. There is general agreement that amendment to the Novel Foods Regulation is required to reflect scientific and technological advances. Following an outline of the current state of play, presentations focussed on certain aspects of the Novel Foods Regulation and in particular innovation, the importance of novel foods from the industry and consumer perspectives and whether the draft Regulation solves existing problems. The requirement for further amendments was also considered. The Workshop was chaired by MEP James Nicholson, ENVI Rapporteur for the Commission proposal for Novel Foods Regulation.
Study EN

Brexit: Implications and outlook [What Think Tanks are thinking]
Publication type Briefing
Date 21-10-2016
Author Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI
Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Forward Planning
Summary Uncertainty about the future relations between the European Union and the United Kingdom has contributed to turbulence on financial markets and in European politics, following the country's vote by referendum on 23 June to leave the EU. The new British Prime Minister, Teresa May, detailed some of her plans in a speech at the Conservative Party conference in October 2016, indicating that the UK would invoke the Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union by March 2017, a move needed for a member state to leave the Union. There is still lack of clarity on crucial aspects of the UK’s departure, such as whether it wishes to remain part of the EU’s single market or customs union, what the impact may be on EU’s and the UK’s economies and how the country’s Parliament may be involved in process of leaving the EU. This note offers links to recent commentaries and reports published by major international think tanks and other research centres in response to the UK referendum. More studies on issues raised by the vote can be found in a previous edition of ‘What Think Tanks are thinking’ in July 2016.
Briefing EN

Contribution of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection to Growth
Publication type Study
Date 15-12-2014
External author Frank Alleweldt
Policy area Consumer Protection
Keyword poverty | single market | public contract | consumer protection | fiscal policy | EU growth strategy | EU industrial policy | financial services | electronic commerce | economic consequence | energy policy | common transport policy | youth policy | EU employment policy
Summary This study first outlines the economic benefits of the EU single market and consumer protection from a general perspective. It then presents key achievements of the Europe 2020 flagship initiatives in deepening the single market and improving consumer protection, as well as remaining barriers. Based on evidence collected with regard to potentially significant economic benefits (including untapped potential in areas beyond the explicit scope of the flagship initiatives), it advocates further leveraging of single market and consumer protection policies in the Europe 2020 strategy to reignite growth.
Study EN
**Priority dossiers under the Latvian presidency**

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 12-12-2014  
**Author** Dora BOYTHA  
**Policy area** EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council  
**Keyword** single market | European neighbourhood policy | Economic and Monetary Union | EU Council Presidency | area of freedom, security and justice | fiscal policy | common foreign and security policy | Latvia | climate change policy | energy policy | competitiveness | digital technology | interinstitutional relations (EU) | EU employment policy  
**Summary** The Italian-Latvian-Luxemburgish Trio Presidency of the Council marks the start of the 2014-2019 European Parliamentary legislature. The first half of 2015 will be very challenging for Latvia, not least given that Latvia is holding the presidency of the EU Council for the first time. A new parliament (Saeima) was elected on 4 October. The Latvian Prime Minister, Ms. Laimdota Straujuma will present the priorities of the Presidency to the Parliament on 14 January 2015. Latvia will focus on three priorities during its Presidency: Facilitation of EU competitiveness as a key to economic 'growth' and jobs; Full exploitation of the digital potential of the European economy, and Reinforcing the role of the European Union in the world. In addition, the Latvian Presidency wishes to ensure that the Council contributes to the implementation of the European Council's five-year Strategic Agenda in the areas of protection of citizens, an Energy Union with a forward-looking climate policy, and a Union of freedom, security and justice. Aside from some major strategic items likely to feature from the Commission's 2015 Annual Work Programme the bulk of the legislative work of the Latvian Council Presidency will consist essentially of resuming unfinished business from the previous legislature. Currently around 30 legislative dossiers are under negotiation between the Council and the Parliament with a view to reaching a first and or second reading agreement - half of those are likely to be concluded under the Italian Presidency. This note presents the main political dossiers under the above-mentioned priorities, and the related European legislative activity (under the ordinary legislative procedure) expected during the Latvian EU Council Presidency in the first semester of 2015. 

**Briefing EN**

**Supporting the European film industry**

**Publication type** At a Glance  
**Date** 05-12-2014  
**Author** Ivana KATSAROVA  
**Policy area** Culture  
**Keyword** negotiation of an agreement (EU) | United States | cultural prize | cultural exception | sectoral aid | film industry | EU market | EU programme | European Parliament | support policy  
**Summary** Cinema was born in Europe, but at present the European film landscape is characterised by the strong presence of Hollywood 'majors' such as Sony Pictures, Walt Disney and Warner Bros. Strikingly, despite US-based companies producing only 622 films in 2013, compared to 1,546 European productions in the same period, they currently account for almost two thirds of the EU market. 

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

**Commitments Made at the Hearing of Neven Mimica - Commissioner-Designate**

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 14-11-2014  
**Author** Manuel MANRIQUE GIL  
**Policy area** International Trade | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights  
**Keyword** developing countries | Croatia | ACP-EU relationship | aid system | European Commissioner | development aid | public hearing | sustainable development | appointment of members | interinstitutional cooperation (EU)  
**Summary** Neven Mimica, the recently-confirmed European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, appeared before the European Parliament’s Committee on Development (DEVE) on 29 September 2014 to answer MEPs' questions. In that hearing and in his answers to the questionnaire prepared for the meeting, Commissioner Mimica made a number of statements of interest to the European Parliament. This document provides a summary of his most salient points. 

**Briefing EN**
Upcoming Issues of EU Law

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-09-2014

External author: Wolfgang Heusel (Academy of European Law - ERA, Germany);
Contributors: Karine Caunes, Ramin Farinpour, Angelika Fuchs, Florence Hartmann-Vareilles (Academy of European Law - ERA, Germany);
Marta Ballesteros (Milieu, Belgium);
Xandra Kramer (Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands);
Lionel Bently (with thanks to Brad Sherman) (Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Law at the University of Cambridge, the UK);
Alfred Radauer (Technopolis Group, Austria);
Andrea Bertolini and Erica Palmerini (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy)


Keyword: European treaties | judicial cooperation in civil matters in the EU | judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the EU | powers of the EP | application of EU law | technological change | ethics | EU law - national law | robotics | bio-ethics | EU competence | European private law | intellectual property

Summary: Upon request by the JURI Committee, five specific topics have been chosen for the workshop "Upcoming issues of EU law" on the afternoon of 24 September 2014 as being representative of different avenues for the future development of the law and aiming at giving Members of the European Parliament an overview of the work of the Legal Affairs Committee in several of its areas of competence. The workshop focuses both on work that has been accomplished in the past and on challenges that may be expected to arise in the course of the legislature 2014-2019.

In-Depth Analysis EN
Annex I EN

One Belt, One Road (OBOR): China's regional integration initiative

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 07-07-2016

Author: Gisela GRIEGER

Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs

Keyword: energy supply | investment policy | United States | India | transport policy | ASEAN countries | economic integration | foreign policy | China | transport infrastructure | economic consequence | maritime transport | Russia | territorial dispute | trade policy | geopolitics

Summary: In 2013, China launched its 'One Belt, One Road' (OBOR) initiative. OBOR is China's broadly sketched vision of how it plans to boost regional integration in its wider neighbourhood. The initiative is unprecedented in terms of China's financial engagement and the innovative network-based project design which is intended to contribute to a more inclusive global governance. It contrasts sharply with existing treaty-based integration concepts where the geographical scope, partner countries, strategy, principles and rules were clearly defined at the outset. China's new development vision has been seen as an alternative to regional trade agreements which do not include it; as a strategy for asserting its leadership role in Asia in response to the US pivot to Asia; as an economic outreach towards Asian countries for resolving territorial and maritime disputes by exporting China's domestic development policies; and as a means of tapping into new sources of growth to check the marked downturn in its economy; as a tool for tackling the socio-economic divide between its inland and coastal provinces; and finally, as a venue for addressing security challenges on its western periphery as well as energy security issues. The response to China's regional integration vision has been mixed. While the idea of enhancing connectivity has drawn considerable interest, given the huge infrastructure gaps across Asia, scepticism regarding China's potential hegemonic ambitions has prevailed notably among regional rivals India and Japan as well as the USA. Whether OBOR will be mutually beneficial for China and the EU will depend on the two sides agreeing on the 'rules of the game', including for joint projects in third countries. Potential synergies between OBOR and the EU connectivity initiatives are being explored under the EU-China Connectivity Platform.

Briefing EN
Price volatility in agricultural markets: Risk management and other tools

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 07-07-2016
Author: Francesco TROPEA
Policy area: Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword: single payment scheme | farmers’ income | aid to agriculture | dominant position | price of agricultural produce | EU financing | market intervention | agricultural insurance
Summary: Farmers are often confronted with substantial changes in the prices they receive for the sale of their agricultural products, which causes financial uncertainty about their incomes. Commonly referred to as ‘price volatility’, this phenomenon is more evident in agriculture than in other economic sectors due to a variety of economic, natural and political factors. Data provided by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation suggest that global price volatility has been on the increase since 2005 and is likely to remain a major concern for farmers in the coming decades. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the 2014–2020 period is mainly aimed at compensating farmers for the negative effects of price volatility and at tackling income volatility, rather than directly addressing price volatility itself. Indeed, market interventions have been reduced and now play the limited role of safety net measures which are only activated when prices drop below certain levels. The main policy instrument involves direct payments which provide a stable form of income for farmers regardless of market conditions. Additionally, Member States have the possibility to support three risk management tools (insurance schemes, mutual funds and an Income Stabilisation Tool) through their rural development programmes. The European Parliament has been working actively on the issue of price volatility in agricultural markets, notably by organising a hearing and launching an own-initiative report on the subject. It will also play a crucial role in determining the next CAP framework. Looking to the future, direct payments, which reduce income volatility by providing a stable form of revenue for farmers, will probably still play a role in the CAP after 2020, but a political shift towards the further development of risk management tools, especially the Income Stabilisation Tool, could be at the core of the debate on the future of the European agricultural policy. Please click here for the full publication in PDF format.

Is CETA a mixed agreement?

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 01-07-2016
Author: Wilhelm SCHOELLMANN
Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: free-trade agreement | competence of the Member States | investment protection | Canada | mixed agreement | foreign investment | interpretation of the law | preliminary ruling procedure | dissemination of EU information | signature of an agreement | trade agreement (EU) | EU competence | interim agreement (EU)
Summary: The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with Canada is currently being translated into the EU’s official languages. Once the translations are available, the European Commission can propose that the Council sign and conclude the agreement on behalf of the European Union. It is not yet decided whether the agreement in its entirety would fall under the exclusive competence of the European Union or would also touch upon Member States’ competences. In the latter case, ratification by the Member States would also be necessary for the agreement to come into force. The Commission’s proposal is expected on 5 July 2016. If the Commission presents a proposal for an ‘EU-only’ agreement, the Council would need unanimity to change this.

EU Geographical Indications: Protection for non-agricultural products

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 28-06-2016
Author: Laura PUCCIO
Policy area: Intellectual Property Law | International Trade
Keyword: single market | common commercial policy | craft production | TRIPS | industrial property | designation of origin
Summary: At its plenary session on 6 October 2015, the European Parliament (EP) adopted a resolution on the possible extension of protection of geographical indications (GIs) to non-agricultural products. The report adopted by the EP stressed the opportunity and need to create a uniform European framework of protection for GIs for non-food products.
Openness, Transparency and the Right of Access to Documents in the EU

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 16-06-2016
External author: Deirdre CURTIN (European University Institute of Florence, Italy) and Päivi LEINO-SANDBERG (University of Helsinki, Finland)
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Petitions to the European Parliament
Keyword: access to information | protection of privacy | transparency in decision-making | right to information | administrative transparency | case law (EU) | Council of the European Union | European Commission | European Parliament | Court of Justice of the European Union | provision of documents

Summary: Upon request of the PETI Committee, the Policy Department on Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs commissioned the present analysis, which examines the situation in relation to openness, transparency, access to documents and information in the EU. Case law and developments in the jurisprudence of the CJEU are examined, notably for legislative documents, documents relating to administrative proceedings, to Court proceedings, infringement proceedings and EU Pilot cases, protection of privacy and international relations. Current and future challenges, as well as conclusions and policy recommendations are set out, in order to ensure compliance with the Treaties’ and Charter of Fundamental Rights’ requirements aimed at enhancing citizens’ participation in the EU decision-making process, and consequently stronger accountability and democracy in the EU.

Improving global value chains key for EU trade

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 13-06-2016
Author: Krisztina BINDER
Policy area: International Trade
Keyword: common commercial policy | developing countries | corporate social responsibility | originating product | sustainable development | production policy | working conditions | gender equality | sustainable agriculture | deforestation | agro-industry | international labour law | textile industry

Summary: Global value chains, and the related trade in intermediate goods and services, dominate today’s interconnected economy. Tragic events, such as the collapse of the Rana Plaza garment factory in 2013, have shed new light on the operation of these chains. Pressure is mounting on the various stakeholders involved at both national and international levels to prevent and mitigate the risks of the adverse effects linked to their functioning. Although a number of promising initiatives have been launched and some improvements have been made, much remains to be done. Promotion of sustainability and responsible management of global value chains figure prominently on the agendas of organisations such as the United Nations (UN), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The EU also plays a part. One of the main objectives of the EU is to integrate sustainability, with its various economic, social and environmental dimensions, into all relevant internal policies and external action. Against this backdrop and building on its ongoing initiatives, existing policy frameworks and instruments, the EU is and has been encouraging efforts to promote sustainable value chains. How best to address this challenge is key to the EU's new trade and investment strategy 'Trade for all'. The new European Commission initiatives currently under development, such as the EU Garment Initiative and the EU Action Plan on Responsible Business Conduct, and the Council conclusions of May 2016 on Responsible Global Value Chains are in line with this endeavour.
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.

In the first half of the year, the Commission has put on the table the politically most important legislative dossiers, such as the energy security package, proposals for e-commerce, an action plan to fight against corporate tax evasion, the review of the posting of workers directive, the establishment of a European Border and Coast Guard and recommendations for visa liberalisation in Ukraine and Turkey. As of May 2016, of around 140 active ordinary legislative procedures, some 25 are being negotiated by the co-legislators in view of a first or (early) second reading agreement. This note aims to present the state of affairs in the priority fields of the Slovak Presidency, as well as the most important related dossiers to be addressed by the Presidency in the next semester.

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.

Briefing EN

US: Economic indicators and trade with the EU

Publication type At a Glance
Date 11-07-2016
Author ODILE MAISSE | Giulio SABBATI
Policy area International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword trade statistics | trade by country | United States | trade by product | budget deficit | economic statistics | import (EU) | export (EU) | public finance | investment abroad | foreign investment | employment statistics | gross domestic product

Summary
Amid an intense public debate on Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) talks, this Infographic provides you with essential data on trade between the world’s 2 largest economies. This product was jointly produced by EPRS and the European University Institute as part of the GlobalStat Project.

At a Glance EN

Measures to address the crisis in the dairy sector

Publication type At a Glance
Date 23-05-2016
Author Francesco TROPEA
Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword price fluctuation | public stock | agricultural quota | dairy production | agricultural situation | price of agricultural produce | milk | export credit insurance | trade agreement | market intervention | dominant position | dairy farm | common agricultural policy

Summary
The milk crisis in the EU has persisted since 2015. In light of the situation facing the dairy sector and recognising that the outlook for milk prices is not encouraging, Parliament has requested the Commission and the Council to provide an update in plenary on measures to address the situation.

At a Glance EN, IT
European Council Conclusions: Rolling Check-List of Commitments To Date

Publication type: Study
Date: 26-06-2014
Author: Monika NOGAJ
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Environment | Energy | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: single market | common commercial policy | 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 | interinstitutional relations (EU) | 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 five years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary 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.

Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - May 2016
Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 09-05-2016
Policy area: Budget | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Transport | Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection | Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: EP Committee | dissemination of EU information | EU budget | multiannual financial framework | 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 World Bank: Serving ambitious goals, but in need of reform
Publication type: Briefing
Date: 21-04-2016
Author: Angelos DELIVORIAS
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues
Keyword: governance | poverty | financial cooperation | World Bank | international organisation | international finance | Bretton Woods Agreement | board of directors | development bank | economic relations
Summary: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, nowadays known as the World Bank, was conceived to help rebuild European countries devastated by the Second World War. Since then, through various reforms, its mission has evolved and its scope and staff increased significantly. Nowadays, the World Bank Group consists of five institutions (IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA and ICSID), each with a particular mode of organisation and a specific scope and mission. The institution and its role have evolved significantly since its inception in 1944, most recently with its 2013 strategy, although the main reasons behind its existence remain. The five institutions that form the World Bank Group have slightly different memberships, along with boards of governors and boards of directors. Commentators have presented arguments in favour of the Bank, as well as many criticisms and concerns with regard to its work. In particular, criticisms concerns issues such as smaller countries being inadequately represented, and some of the Bank's models being too conservative and in need of updating to take into consideration the evolution of today's world economy. Furthermore, critics say the Bank should engage meaningfully with the international human rights framework and assist its member countries in complying with their own human rights obligations, and despite positive results from some of the Bank's programmes, these have also had negative spill-overs in the countries concerned.
Trade and Economic Relations with China 2014

Although China managed to sustain its previous year’s level of economic growth in 2013, its economy is headed towards further change and possible upheaval. Beijing has accordingly widened its focus, and is no longer concentrating solely on economic growth. Inflation remained stable in the country. However, falling producer prices present challenges for Chinese production. The real estate bubble and growing debt are threatening the country’s economic stability. Beijing has liberalised a number of areas, reinforcing perceptions that the country is moving towards a market economy.

The EU's trade and economic relations with China, the largest trading nation in the world, are generally good, and the number of disputes reasonable. However, the EU is dissatisfied with China’s reluctance to fully implement its WTO commitments and, more generally, with its protectionist measures, which hurt EU interests. For its part, Beijing is still dissatisfied with the EU's refusal to grant the country 'market economy' status. The two parties recently settled three major trade defence cases (solar panels, wine and polysilicon), which poisoned bilateral trade relations during the last year.

Negotiations for an EU-China partnership and cooperation agreement, initiated in 2007, have yet to be concluded. In January 2014, China and the EU held the first round of negotiations for a bilateral investment agreement. Beijing has also recently offered to open talks for an EUChina FTA, but Europe’s reaction has been lukewarm.

EU-Latin America relations

During the past two decades, EU-Latin America relations have been shaped at bi-regional, sub-regional and country levels, with regular summits of the Heads of State or Government of the two regions as the main driver. Although EU trade with Latin America has increased over time in terms of value, the EU has lost ground in terms of market share. The EU has however remained the region’s major investor.

Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - March 2016

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.

Social and Employment Situation in Italy

Due to its structural weaknesses Italy is one of the EU28 Member States worst hit by the crisis. The segmentation across gender, age, and territory is very marked and job opportunities are unevenly distributed among the labour force, with the marginalization of specific segments of the working population, in particular women and young people, and especially those residing in Southern regions.

Since 2011 several labour market and social protection reforms have been introduced: in 2012 the Italian labour market was reformed (Fornero reform) and the recently formed Renzi Government has announced a new Programme for Labour Reforms (Jobs Act). The Italian Presidency programme is described in the 2014 Work Programme "Participation of Italy at the European Union". The document sets out the priority dossiers and areas on which Italy plans to engage at the European level.
The EU and the digital economy [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Publication type  At a Glance
Date  22-01-2016
Author  Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI
Policy area  Forward Planning | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword  single market | electronic commerce | Internet | impact of information technology | technological change | electronic government | copyright | bibliography
Summary  The European Union is presented with many opportunities and challenges from the rapid development of the digital economy, with its fast growth of data flows, domination of U.S. firms, concern of privacy and new business models in many sectors. The creation of the Digital Single Market is a central policy plank for the European Commission, which wants to use its regulatory authority and economic growth. It wants to improve access to digital goods and services and create the conditions for digital networks and services to prosper. The European Parliament adopted its resolution on the Digital Single Market on 19 January. The EU’s immediate task is concluding a new data transfer agreement with the United States. Other challenges include upgrading the copyright law, deciding on net neutrality and addressing competition concerns. This note offers links to recent studies and reports from major international think tanks and research institutes on the digital economy. More papers on the subject can be found in a previous edition of ‘What think tanks are thinking’ devoted to the Digital Single Market. Please click here for the full publication in PDF format.
High-quality free trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 15-01-2016
Author: Krisztina BINDER
Policy area: Foreign Affairs
Keyword: common commercial policy | New Zealand | trade statistics | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | Australia | free-trade agreement | trade agreement (EU) | trading operation | investment | international trade
Summary: The EU's future free trade agreements (FTAs) with Australia and New Zealand will be based on the strong and longstanding economic relationship between these countries and the Union. Through enhanced market access, trade diversification and full exploitation of export possibilities, these FTAs could help to offset the potential negative impact of trade agreements on the EU, both those being pursued and those which have already been concluded in the Asia-Pacific region.

Analysis and Effects of the Different Member States' Customs Sanctioning Systems

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-01-2016
External author: Ruud TUSVELD (PwC), Moritz GODEL (London Economics), André STOOP (PwC) and Matthijs VAN DER KEMP (PwC)
Policy area: Consumer Protection
Keyword: impact study | EU customs procedure | United States | EU Member State | limitation of legal proceedings | GATT | customs fraud | customs harmonisation | proposal (EU)
Summary: This Study provides an analysis of the effects of the present divergence of the customs sanctioning systems of the Member States of the EU, as well as of the proposal of the European Commission for a Directive to harmonise the customs infringements and sanctions. A number of conclusions and recommendations on the preferred model for the EU is provided. The Study was prepared for Policy Department A on the request of European Parliament’s Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

European Commission’s 2016 Work Programme

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 15-01-2016
Author: Ariane DEBYSER
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Keyword: single market | Economic and Monetary Union | the EU's international role | area of freedom, security and justice | sustainable development | climate change policy | energy policy | EU migration policy | legislative programme (EU) | trade agreement (EU) | interinstitutional relations (EU) | proposal (EU) | EU employment policy
Summary: On 27 October 2015, the European Commission adopted its Work Programme for the year ahead (2016 CWP), and presented it to the European Parliament the same day. Based on the 10 political guidelines set out in mid-2014 by President Jean-Claude Juncker, it builds on the ‘framework strategies’ adopted by the Commission since entering office and places emphasis on the legislative measures and concrete follow-up actions needed to implement them. The 2016 CWP includes relatively few entirely new actions. Most of the initiatives it contains have already been announced and fit into the framework strategies presented earlier; a few of them were to be presented before the end of 2015. The CWP also looks beyond 2016, providing for the necessary preparatory work, such as evaluations, consultations or impact assessments, for actions to be included in future work programmes. Confronted with major unexpected events dominating the political agenda, such as the migration crisis and, more recently, the major terrorist attacks in Paris, the Commission may be compelled, as in 2015, to adapt to emerging challenges, taking immediate action and/or accelerating implementation in certain areas (for example, with counter-terrorism measures). The EP had adopted a resolution in September 2015 setting out its recommendations for the forthcoming CWP. In that it called on the Commission to use its right of initiative to the full extent, in order to give the Union clear leadership, reaffirmed its attachment to the ‘Community method’ and welcomed progress in the negotiations on a new inter-institutional agreement on better law-making, since completed.
One Year to Go: The Debate over China’s Market Economy Status (MES) Heats Up

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 17-12-2015
Author Barbara BARONE

Policy area International Trade | Internal Market and Customs Union | Foreign Affairs | Industry
Keyword controlled economy | common commercial policy | World Trade Organisation | enlargement of an international organisation | intervention policy | interpretation of the law | market economy | protocol to an agreement | price control | trade relations | anti-dumping legislation | China

Summary Market economy status (MES) – a technical term used in antidumping investigations – has come to the top of the international agenda, bringing heated discussions on whether or not China will soon be granted this status. China argues that its WTO accession documents foresee an automatic acquisition of MES after 11 December 2016. Yet for many other WTO members, the text in question – Section 15 of China’s Protocol of Accession – is subject to interpretation. The issue is sensitive for a number of reasons. Legally, the EU must ensure that its rules are compatible with the WTO’s. But the economic aspects are complex – and potentially substantial for significant sectors of the Union’s economy. The EU’s ability to level the playing field for its own industrial products and imports from China depends on its ability to offset unfairly low prices of ‘dumped’ Chinese imports; the antidumping instruments the Union deploys to this end depend on China’s MES. The issue also has political ramifications, and may well affect the Union’s relationship with other countries.

In general, the EU would benefit from a more elaborated assessment than has yet been undertaken, from the input of the European Parliament, and from a more coordinated approach with major trading partners.

In-Depth Analysis ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, PL

Priority dossiers under the Dutch EU Council Presidency

Publication type Briefing
Date 16-12-2015
Author Dora BOYTHA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Keyword single market | common commercial policy | Economic and Monetary Union | citizens’ Europe | government | EU Council Presidency | area of freedom, security and justice | Netherlands | fiscal policy | common foreign and security policy | human rights | climate change policy | energy policy | EU migration policy | common transport policy | digital technology | interinstitutional relations (EU)

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.

Briefing EN

The Audiovisual Media Services Directive: state of play

Publication type Briefing
Date 11-11-2015
Author Ivana KATSAROVA

Policy area Culture | Internal Market and Customs Union
Keyword audiovisual production | broadcasting | regulation of telecommunications | distance selling | advertising | audiovisual industry | services of general interest | child protection | provision of services

Summary The EU's audiovisual sector comprises over 100 000 companies and employs more than 760 000 people. Audiovisual media services however outrun market considerations by playing a central role in modern democratic societies, which accounts for the application of specific rules across the European Union (EU). Current transmission capacities have come a long way from the first linear broadcasts. The Internet, together with media convergence, is changing the way people use media. Although television is still the most popular medium in the EU and globally, internet comes close behind. This shift in media consumption holds both promises and challenges. The advent of internet-enabled TV faces regulators with complex dilemmas, such as protecting young people from harmful content and banning incitement to hatred, while still ensuring freedom of speech. The Audiovisual Media Services (AVMS) Directive covers all services with audiovisual content, including ‘on-demand’, and audiovisual advertising. However, it takes into account the degree of user control over the service and therefore on-demand services are subject to lighter regulation. Member States are encouraged to use co-regulation and/or self-regulation as complementary approaches to the Directive’s provisions, in particular in relation to commercial communications and the protection of minors. The Commission’s 2012 report on the implementation of the AVMS Directive concluded that in general, the EU regulatory framework performed well. The Commission is currently processing the results from a public consultation on the functioning of the Directive and is expected to present a proposal for a review by the end of 2015.

Briefing EN
Imported GM food and feed: Right of Member States to opt out (third edition)

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 19-10-2015
Author: Tarja LAANINEN

Policy area: Food Safety | Agriculture and Rural Development | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council

Keyword: single market | principle of subsidiarity | food safety | European Food Safety Authority | import (EU) | competence of the Member States | genetically modified organism | drafting of EU law | free movement of goods | market approval | foodstuffs legislation | animal feedingstuffs

Summary: All genetically modified organisms (GMOS) need authorisation before they can be placed on the EU market. However, a qualified majority among the Member States has never been reached either in favour of or against any authorisation proposal put forward by the Commission.

The Commission has therefore concluded that the legal framework for decision-making on genetically modified (GM) food and feed needs to be adapted, and proposes to extend to GM food and feed the solution agreed by the European Parliament and the Council on GMO cultivation. The Member States would thus be allowed to restrict or prohibit the use of genetically modified food and feed on their territory, despite it being authorised at EU level.

Stakeholders have been critical of the proposal, claiming that it jeopardises the internal market, would cause serious distortions to competition and leave measures taken by Member States vulnerable to legal challenge.

This briefing updates an earlier edition, of 3 July 2015: PE 564.394.

Briefing EN

Measures to support dairy farmers after the end of EU milk quotas

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 09-10-2015
Author: Francesco TROPEA

Policy area: Agriculture and Rural Development

Keyword: regulation (EU) | price reduction | agricultural quota | export (EU) | dairy production | labelling | dairy industry | common organisation of markets | farmers' income | supply and demand | milk product | agricultural production | trade promotion | producer price | agricultural statistics | EU statistics

Summary: Milk is produced in every EU Member State and EU milk production is growing. As the leading worldwide exporter of many dairy products, the EU is a major player in the global dairy market, within the Union, dairy is an essential agricultural sector with significant economic, social and territorial importance. For more than 30 years, EU milk supply was managed by the EU milk quota system, which expired at the end of March 2015. Although long-term market prospects are generally quite positive, with an overall rise in global demand which could offer opportunities to the sector, the challenges to be faced in coming years are numerous. The current tensions regarding milk prices and the 2009 milk price crisis demonstrate that market liberalisation and dependence on international markets can increase market instability and price volatility. At its plenary session in July 2015, the European Parliament voted on an own-initiative resolution on prospects for the EU dairy sector. It suggested that a series of tools could be developed or improved for the milk sector, such as establishing compulsory written contracts between milk producers and processors, enhancing the role of producer organisations and the recently-created Milk Market Observatory and tackling unfair trading practices in the food chain. The European Parliament also proposed pursuing new trade agreements, and improving information and promotion programmes for the dairy sector and school milk scheme, as well as new measures to protect farmers' profit margins. In September 2015, the European Commission presented a €500 million package to support European dairy farmers. This briefing updates 'The future of the EU dairy sector after the end of milk quotas', published in June 2015.

Briefing EN
Third countries’ reciprocal access to EU public procurement: Detailed appraisal of the European Commission’s Impact Assessment

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 22-07-2013
Author: Elke BALLON | Helmut WERNER

External author: Authors of the Annexes:
- Annex I - Methodological aspects, by Prof. Dr. Andrea Renda of the Centre for European Policy Studies
- Annex II - Openness, job creation, administrative burdens, SMEs and thresholds, by Máté Péter Vincze
- Annex III - SME related impacts, thresholds and national legislation, by Dr. Pedro Telles of Bangor University (UK)
- Annex IV - Game theory considerations, by Prof. Nicola Dimitri of the Department of Political Economy and Statistics of the University of Siena (Italy)

Policy area: Ex-ante Impact Assessment | International Trade | Internal Market and Customs Union
Keyword: impact study | public contract | market protection | administrative formalities | drafting of EU law | job creation | trade agreement (EU) | EU market | protectionism | small and medium-sized enterprises | market access

Summary: The Ex-ante Impact Assessment Unit of DG Parliamentary Research Services was requested by the INTA and IMCO Committees to provide a detailed analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the European Commission’s Impact Assessment (IA) accompanying the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules on the access of third country goods and services to the European Union’s internal market in public procurement and procedures supporting negotiations on of European Union goods and services to the public procurement markets of third countries. As part of this process, the Unit has commissioned four research papers, drafted by specialist experts, on various aspects of the Commission’s IA. They are authored by: Prof. Dr. Andrea RENDA, CEPS, who addresses the questions put forward by the INTA and IMCO Committees from a methodological point of view. Mr. M&aaacute;P&eacute;VINCZE, MSc in Economics, who deals with the questions put forward by the INTA and IMCO committees, with a view to finding answers substantiated inter alia by data-mining in relevant databases. Dr. Pedro TELLES, Bangor University, UK, who focuses on impacts, thresholds and national legislation in respect to SMEs. Professor Dr. Nicola DIMITRI, University of Siena, Italy, who analyses reciprocity and retaliation questions, using a game theory approach. The experts were asked to provide an appraisal of the European Commission’s impact assessment, analyzing, commenting and possibly complementing it with regard to eight topics: Openness of EU public procurement market; Potential benefits of market opening; Impact on job creation of the different options; Risk of retaliation and leverage creation; Administrative burden of assessed options; Impact on SMEs; Justification of thresholds; Existing national legislation restricting access to public procurement markets.

Trade in services: towards a plurilateral agreement

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 17-07-2013
Author: Laine SKOBA

Policy area: International Trade
Keyword: freedom to provide services | trade restriction | liberalisation of trade | international negotiations | Doha Round | GATS | market access

Summary: Businesses across the world are increasingly interdependent, in so-called “global value chains”. As the largest exporter of services in the world, the EU has a strong interest in the liberalisation of services. In the light of stagnation in the Doha Round of trade talks, a separate international agreement on trade in services is seen as a way to increase efficiencies in production carried out around the globe. Some 20 countries, led by the United States, the EU and Japan, have recently begun negotiating such an agreement on a plurilateral basis, bringing together some but not all WTO members.

A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 15-09-2015
Author: Marcin SZCZEPAŃSKI

Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword: single market | consumer protection | digital literacy | copyright | anti-trust legislation | electronic commerce | information society | information technology | impact of information technology | job creation | telecommunications | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | digital technology

Summary: The European Commission has proposed a new strategy to create a fully integrated Digital Single Market (DSM), in order to gradually bring down the remaining obstacles and move from 28 national markets to a single one. The strategy comprises a mix of legislative and non-legislative initiatives to be tabled by the end of 2016. It is centred on three pillars: improving access to digital goods and services for consumers and businesses, creating the conditions for digital networks and services to prosper, and maximising the growth potential of the digital economy.

The European Parliament has been a long-standing advocate of ending the current fragmentation of the European market and utilising the full potential of an integrated digital market which would create jobs and growth in the EU. Implementation of the new strategy will require a number of new pieces of EU legislation to be adopted by the European Parliament and Council under the ordinary legislative procedure.

Experts, digital industry, businesses and consumers have generally welcomed the strategy, but some argued that it needs more clarity and that it does not sufficiently cover all obstacles to the fully integrated DSM. Many stakeholders are also expecting difficult negotiations among the Member States.
Towards a Revision of the European Citizens’ Initiative?

**Publication type**: Briefing  
**Date**: 15-09-2015  
**Author**: Iweta OZOLINA | Stephanie HONNEFELDER | Doris KOLASSA


**Keyword**: single monetary policy | coordination of EMU policies | financial legislation | competition | banking supervision | financial services | bibliography

**Summary**: This briefing, prepared by the Policy Department A: Economy and Scientific Policy, provides a quick overview of the most recent publications grouped in the sections of Financial services, Monetary policy and Competition topics that are currently discussed in the ECON committee.

**Briefing**  
**EN**

Overview and Structure of Financial Supervision and Regulation in the US

**Publication type**: Study  
**Date**: 08-09-2015  
**External author**: Joseph R. MASON (Louisiana University, USA)

**Policy area**: Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

**Keyword**: United States | financial market | bank deposit | insurance company | financial institution | financial regulation | financial legislation | banking supervision | capital market

**Summary**: The study distinguishes 'regulation' and 'supervision' in the US and provides a concise overview of the structure of US financial supervision. The US legal system limits financial supervision to financial institutions/products that investors cannot comprehend on the basis of published financial reports, namely banks. But US supervision has historically overlooked the parent institutions of supervised firms. Moreover, the different legal set-up limits direct comparison of US supervisory arrangements with EU objectives.

The study, managed by Policy Department A, on request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) aims at facilitating ECON’s understanding of the complex US system of financial supervision.

**Study**  
**EN**

The Development of a European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB)

**Publication type**: Study  
**Date**: 10-06-2013  
**External author**: Valerio BRIANI (Istituto Affari Internazionali - IAI, Italy), Alessandro MARRONE (Istituto Affari Internazionali - IAI, Italy), Christian MÖLLING (lead, German Institute for International and Security Affairs - SWP, Germany) and Tomas VALASEK (Central European Policy Institute - CEPI, Slovakia)

**Policy area**: Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence | Industry

**Keyword**: security of supply | industrial structures | European arms policy | arms industry | EU Member State | industrial cooperation | industrial restructuring | globalisation | common security and defence policy

**Summary**: In 2007 the EU member states inaugurated a European Defence Technological and Industrial Base strategy. The gradual integration of national DTIB should lead to self-sufficiency of supply – but on a European rather than national level. A better co-ordinated, less duplicative defence landscape was to emerge, to better serve the political objectives of European defence. Six years on, with the European Council on defence scheduled for later this year, this is the right time to define where EDTIB stands today and what added value can EU institutions offer to sustain and develop it. The current state and the long-term trend of the defence policies and industrial activities make the materialisation of the current vision of the EDTIB increasingly improbable. The joint political vision has lost contact with the individual political and industrial reality of the growing export orientation of European suppliers. In addition, security of supply depends ever more on the influx of civilian and defence goods as well as raw materials from beyond Europe’s borders. The EDTIB is trapped between the national and global developments. New solutions have to be added to the already existing recommendations. A key step would be a revision of the 2007 EDTIB Strategy.

**Study**  
**EN**

Towards a Revision of the European Citizens’ Initiative?

**Publication type**: Study  
**Date**: 15-07-2015  
**External author**: Marta BALLESTEROS and Sara FIorentini (Milieu Ltd., Belgium)

**Policy area**: Petitions to the European Parliament

**Keyword**: regulation (EU) | power of initiative | petition | participatory democracy | data collection | administrative formalities | powers of the institutions (EU) | European Commission | European citizenship | data protection | administrative procedure

**Summary**: At the request of the PETI committee, the Study provides an overview of the most significant difficulties faced by organisers when setting up and running a European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI) and an in-depth analysis of the possible solutions based on a review of the latest reports by EU Institutions on this issue. The aim of the Study is to propose recommendations or measures to improve the ECI as an effective tool for participatory democracy in the EU in view of the current discussions concerning the revision of Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 on the Citizens’ Initiative. The ultimate goal is to define an ECI process with fewer costs and unnecessary burdens for EU citizens which would empower them to actively participate in shaping the future of Europe.

**Study**  
**EN**
Turkey: Economic outlook

Policy area: Foreign Affairs
Keyword: foreign investment | EU relations | customs union | Turkey | economic policy | trade policy | economic situation | monetary policy

Summary: Turkey is one of the main trading partners of the European Union. In the past 15 years, significant market reforms have boosted the Turkish economy. Since the recent global economic crisis, GDP growth has been solid (around 4%), half of the 2007 rate. The current account imbalance makes Turkey's economy highly dependent on foreign investment to maintain the strong growth needed to absorb new workers (young people, women) on the job market. In this context, high unemployment has triggered a debate on the future orientation of economic policies.
Cross-Cutting Effects of the EU’s Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) on Developing Economies

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2015

External author: Christopher HARTWELL (CASE - Center for Social and Economic Research, Poland)

Policy area: International Trade | Global Governance | Development and Humanitarian Aid

Keyword: preferential agreement | United States | developing countries | originating product | Morocco | Botswana | investment protection | cost-benefit analysis | agreement (EU) | World Trade Organisation | technical cooperation | technical barrier | health legislation | plant health legislation | Nepal | customs harmonisation | harmonisation of standards | intellectual property

Summary: The world has seen rapid growth of preferential trade and investment agreements (PTAs) that, by definition, aim to go beyond the existing WTO obligations of the parties. With this growth comes the danger of incompatible obligations as these PTAs overlap within a country. This study examines the sources of overlap in various PTAs and the compliance costs that PTAs may create for a developing country, with a special focus on the agricultural realm. Examining the reality of divergent SPS standards, we conclude that better-targeted “Aid for Trade” and regulatory streamlining within the EU can help to mitigate compliance costs in developing countries. Additionally, involvement of the private sector at an earlier stage in PTA negotiations may also help to clarify compliance costs and build their mitigation into the agreements.

Study EN

Institutional and Constitutional Aspects of Special Interest Representation

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2015

External author: David Coen and Alexander Katsaitis (School of Public Policy, University College London, the UK)

Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Forward Planning

Keyword: professional association | information service | application of EU law | transparency in decision-making | public hearing | access to EU information | financial interests of members | non-governmental organisation | dissemination of EU information | interest group | conflict of interest | EU policy - national policy | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | decision-making | consultancy

Summary: The European Parliament is lobbied by growing numbers of special interests; their activity is greater in Committees dealing with issues on integration & regulation, and procedures under OLP, CNS and INI. Significantly, the density and diversity of accredited interests across committees mirrors patterns observed in registered groups across Commission DGs. Based on a survey of MEPs the report notes variation in the activity of interest groups across the policy cycle while influential groups are considered those that provide a mix of European level technical and political expertise; overall the Transparency Register is considered to improve the behaviour of interest representatives.

Study EN


Publication type: Study
Date: 09-06-2015

External author: Ian ANTHONY (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Sweden), Camille GRAND (Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique, France) and Patricia LEWIS (Chatham House, United Kingdom)

Policy area: Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | third country | institutional structure | European security | common security and defence policy | defence policy | religious conflict | impact of information technology | military equipment | institutional reform | terrorism | Treaty of Lisbon | geopolitics | accession to the European Union

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
**Imports of GM food and feed - Right of Member States to opt out**

**Publication type**: Briefing  
**Date**: 01-06-2015  
**Author**: Tarja LAANINEN

**Policy area**: Food Safety | Agriculture and Rural Development | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council  
**Keyword**: genetically modified organism | foodstuff | market approval | foodstuffs legislation | animal feedingstuffs | proposal (EU)  
**Summary**: All genetically modified organisms ( GMOs ) need authorisation before they can be placed on the EU market. However, a qualified majority amongst the Member States has never been reached either in favour of or against any authorisation proposal put forward by the Commission. The Commission has therefore concluded that the legal framework for decision-making on genetically modified ( GM ) food and feed needs to be adapted, and proposes to extend to GM food and feed the solution agreed by the European Parliament and the Council on GMO cultivation. The Member States would thus be allowed to restrict or prohibit the use of genetically modified food and feed on their territory, despite it being authorised at EU level. Stakeholders have been critical of the proposal, claiming that it jeopardises the internal market, would cause serious distortions to competition and leave measures taken by Member States vulnerable to legal challenge.

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

**Briefing**  
**EN**

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**Emissions from engines in non-road mobile machinery: Initial Appraisal of a European Commission Impact Assessment**

**Publication type**: Briefing  
**Date**: 04-05-2015  
**Author**: Alina Alexandra GEORGESCU

**Policy area**: Environment | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Public Health  
**Keyword**: impact study | pleasure craft | technical standard | engine | combustion gases | cost of pollution | machinery | reduction of gas emissions | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | health risk | harmonisation of standards  
**Summary**: This note seeks to provide an initial analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the European Commission’s Impact Assessment (IA) accompanying the proposal for a Regulation relating to emission limits and type-approval for internal combustion engines for non-road mobile machinery.

Non-road mobile machinery ( NRMM ) is a term that encompasses a wide range of equipment. Small handheld equipment, construction and forestry machinery, generators, railcars, locomotives and inland waterway vessels ( IWV ) can all be classed as NRMM. These machines are commonplace within the agriculture, construction, rail, aircraft, inland waterway transport ( IWT ) and domestic shipping industries.

This note, prepared by the Ex-Ante Impact Assessment Unit for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety ( ENVI ) of the European Parliament, analyses whether the principal criteria laid down in the Commission’s own Impact Assessment Guidelines, as well as additional factors identified by the Parliament in its Impact Assessment Handbook, appear to be met by the IA.

**Briefing**  
**EN**

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**Something New Out of Africa? Chinese, US and EU Strategies for the Continent**

**Publication type**: In-Depth Analysis  
**Date**: 22-04-2015  
**Author**: Manuel MANRIQUE GIL

**Policy area**: Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence | Human Rights  
**Keyword**: United States | the EU’s international role | ACP-EU relationship | sustainable development | trade relations | economic relations | African Union | China | regional security | foreign investment | Africa | international cooperation | development aid | Cotonou Agreement | settlement of disputes  
**Summary**: The seventh College-to-College meeting between the European Commission and the African Union Commission underscores the close cooperation between the European Union ( EU ) and Africa. Institutional and political relations have intensified in recent years, coinciding with a renewed international interest in an African continent whose economic growth in the past decade has been remarkably strong. The United States ( US ) and China have also recently strengthened their links with Africa. While these three actors frame their relations with Africa in different ways, their interests converge around two broad areas: i) Africa’s economic potential and the need to intensify trade and investment to generate economic growth and development; and ii) concerns about peace and security — and notably the threats posed by armed conflict and terrorist groups.

In light of this renewed international interest and other important factors – including the expiry of the Cotonou Agreement in 2020 – the European Parliament should embark on an ambitious and strategic political reflection on the EU’s relations with Africa. Parliament should recognise both the potential and vulnerabilities of the continent, as well as the EU’s own varied interests across policy areas. Alongside other actors, including the US and China, Parliament should also work to ensure that Africa finds its due place in the changing international order.

**In-Depth Analysis**  
**EN**
Re-Communicating the EU's IPR Strategy for Third Countries

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 25-03-2015
Author: Roberto BENDINI | Susana MENDONCA

Policy area: Forward Planning | Intellectual Property Law | International Trade | Internal Market and Customs Union | Industry
Keyword: third country | public awareness campaign | trade regulations | approximation of laws | multilateral agreement | data collection | exchange of information | technical cooperation | electronic commerce | competitiveness | trade agreement (EU) | innovation | international trade | intellectual property

Summary: The European Commission's most recent initiative in the field of intellectual property rights (IPR), a 2014 communication, returns to an issue that has been largely side-lined since the European Parliament rejected the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) in 2014. While not a landmark, 'Trade, growth and intellectual property – Strategy for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights in third countries' (COM(2014)0389) serves as a good basis for constructive debate on securing better IPR protection in foreign markets, in cooperation with third countries and without infringing on civil liberties. The new document builds on a 2004 communication with a nearly identical title (Strategy for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights in third countries'), which introduced a broad framework of initiatives aimed at combatting IPR violations outside the EU.

When Choosing Means Losing: The Eastern Partners, the EU and the Eurasian Economic Union

Publication type: Study
Date: 10-03-2015
Author: Pasquale DE MICCO

Policy area: International Trade | Energy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | trade restriction | liberalisation of trade | free-trade area | Kazakhstan | trade relations | Ukraine | economic integration | Belarus | economic analysis | World Trade Organisation | Russia | Moldova | association agreement (EU) | Caucasus countries | harmonisation of standards | economic situation

Summary: The six countries in the EU's Eastern Partnership are sandwiched between two large, potent trading blocs: the EU to the west, and the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) to the east. Most of the six have chosen to pursue a deeper alliance with one or the other bloc – a tough choice, reflecting both political and economic factors. Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine signed Association Agreements with the EU on 27 June 2014. Armenia and Belarus chose to accede to the Eurasian Economic Union (belatedly, in the case of Armenia). For all these countries, a choice for East or West has meant a loss: a loss of trade policy sovereignty – and likely the growth that comes with open trade policies – for some; a loss of the vital and once-fluid exchanges with the EAEU for the others. The trade and economic separation between the EU and EAEU has not aided the Eastern partners. In fact, the division is not simply a commercial one: it has been drawn – and deepened – by political and geopolitical considerations. But from a purely trade perspective, all the partners – the countries choosing one or another alliance, as well as the dozens composing the EU and EEAU – would benefit from a new and more constructive approach.

Protectionism in the G20 (2015)

Publication type: Study
Date: 09-03-2015
Author: Roberto BENDINI | Barbara BARONE

Policy area: International Trade | Internal Market and Customs Union | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: common commercial policy | Saudi Arabia | United States | France | United Kingdom | liberalisation of trade | India | Indonesia | Japan | Canada | protectionism | Argentina | China | Italy | Mexico | Germany | South Korea | Australia | world organisation | Turkey | Russia | Brazil | South Africa

Study EN
European Commission's 2015 Work Programme

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 23-01-2015
Author: Ariane DEBYSER | Eva-Maria Alexandrova POPTCHEVA | Etienne BASSOT

Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Democracy
Keyword: single market | Economic and Monetary Union | climate change policy | energy policy | EU migration policy | legislative programme (EU) | area of freedom, security and justice | trade agreement (EU) | interinstitutional relations (EU) | proposal (EU)

Summary: On 16 December 2014 the newly appointed European Commission adopted its Work Programme for the year ahead (2015 CWP). Based on the political guidelines set out by its President, Jean-Claude Juncker, the Programme forms the basis for the Commission's work in putting these ten priorities into effect. The procedures and timetable governing the European Parliament's role in this annual exercise are well-established and are laid out in detail in the 2010 Framework Agreement between the European Parliament and Commission. Nonetheless, the current exercise takes place in a markedly different context to those in the past, notably as a result of the process by which the Commission President was nominated as candidate and elected to office being more transparent and political than before. This stemmed from the introduction of 'lead candidates' (Spitzenkandidaten) in the 2014 European election campaign, an innovation aimed at giving voters a more direct influence over the future political direction of the European executive.

In comparison with previous years, the 2015 CWP contains relatively few new proposals (only 23), though it also lists a large number of pending proposals to be withdrawn or modified. This reflects the Commission's stated intention to concentrate its efforts on a smaller number of priorities such as jobs and growth, and to focus on initiatives where it feels that concrete results can be delivered in the near term. Initial reaction from within the EP to the 2015 CWP has been mixed. While a large number of Members have broadly welcomed the thrust towards a slimmed-down package focusing on essentials, concerns have been raised about various issues, notably the scope and content of proposed withdrawals. None of the resolutions tabled by the political groups on the 2015 CWP achieved the majority necessary for adoption at the January I part-session, so the EP has not adopted a formal position on the matter.

Outcome of the European Council meeting of 18 December 2014

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 13-01-2015
Author: Stanislas DE FINANCE | Josephine MOERMAN

Keyword: single market | investment policy | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | President of the European Council | tax evasion | European Investment Bank | coordination of EMU policies | fund (EU) | Ukraine | interinstitutional relations (EU) | summit meeting

Summary: This briefing note forms part of a new series of analytical notes in advance and following each European Council meeting. The first European Council meeting chaired by Donald Tusk was noteworthy for its relative focus and brevity. EU leaders discussed on how to foster investment in Europe and, in particular, the urgent establishment of a European Fund for Strategic Investments coupled with Member States' commitment to intensifying structural reforms and pursuing growth-friendly fiscal consolidation. They also discussed the situation in Ukraine.

Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - December 2014

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 15-12-2014
Policy area: Budget | International Trade | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Agriculture and Rural Development | Economics and Monetary Issues | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword: economic and social cohesion | EU budget | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | European Parliament | 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.
**Shale gas and EU energy security**

**Publication type**: Briefing  
**Date**: 11-12-2014  
**Author**: Gregor ERBACH

**Policy area**: Energy  
**Keyword**: energy supply | United States | energy diversification | natural gas | import (EU) | EU Member State | self-sufficiency in energy | security of supply | economic consequence | evaluation of resources | exploitation of resources | price of energy | Russia

**Summary**: While the United States has abundant supplies of cheap gas thanks to the ‘shale revolution’, the EU remains dependent on gas imports. The Ukrainian crisis has given rise to increasing concerns about the security of the EU’s gas supply. At the request of the European Council, the European Commission has analysed the situation, and published a European Energy Security Strategy. Among other elements, the strategy focuses on increasing energy production in the EU and diversifying external supplies. This briefing addresses the question whether, and to what extent, shale gas can contribute to European energy security. Some European regions have significant shale gas resources, but more exploration is needed to find out whether they can be developed commercially. Most analysts agree that shale gas in Europe will be more expensive than in the US, due to different geology and the need to address public acceptance and environmental impact. Shale gas will not resolve short-term energy security issues as exploration and development will take 5 to 15 years. In any case, the volumes produced will not make Europe self-sufficient in gas, but could help to reduce gas prices. The increased production of shale gas in the US has already reduced global gas prices by reducing US demand for liquefied natural gas (LNG). Future gas exports from the US will contribute further to this trend, but prices for exported gas will be higher than domestic US prices due to the cost of LNG transport. Moreover, many analysts believe that exports of US shale gas will go to Asian markets. Prices in Asia are higher than in Europe, where ample supplies of conventional pipeline gas compete with LNG. Analysts agree that Russia will remain an important gas supplier for the EU.

**G20 Summit in Brisbane: Low Expectations, Limited Progress?**

**Publication type**: Briefing  
**Date**: 21-11-2014  
**Author**: Roberto BENDINI | Wanda TROSZCZYNSKA VAN GENDEREN

**Policy area**: Environment | Forward Planning | International Trade | Energy | Global Governance | Agriculture and Rural Development | Internal Market and Customs Union | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Financial and Banking Issues | Foreign Affairs | Public Health

**Keyword**: energy cooperation | international finance | liberalisation of trade | Ukraine | refutation | international tax law | corruption | tax reform | World Trade Organisation | climate change policy | world organisation | Russia | financial legislation | summit meeting

**Summary**: The recent Group of 20 (G20) summit in Brisbane aimed to coordinate global action to support a transition from containing the financial crisis to supporting economic recovery. The Australian presidency’s agenda privileged discussions on concrete steps to facilitate growth and build resilience to future economic shocks, focusing on tax issues and corruption. The programme also sought to strengthen the G20 partners’ cooperation on trade and energy. While the meeting, held on 15-16 November 2014, did deliver some concrete economic commitments, the achievements were overshadowed by underlying geopolitical concerns. In bilateral discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin, some G20 leaders – including from the EU, a full member of the Group – criticised Russia’s actions in eastern Ukraine and its failure to ensure a proper investigation into the crash of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17. With other areas of focus including climate change (thanks in part to the efforts of the EU), energy cooperation and fighting Ebola, the summit’s middling score sheet – with modest progress at best – looked rather similar to those of recent G20 summits.

**A Comparative Study of EU and US Approaches to Human Rights in External Relations**

**Publication type**: Study  
**Date**: 10-11-2014  
**External author**: Jan WOUTERS, Laura BEKE, Anna-Luise CHANÉ, David D’HOLLANDER and Kolja RAUBE (University of Leuven, Belgium)

**Policy area**: Global Governance | Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights

**Keyword**: common commercial policy | United States | International Criminal Court | the EU’s international role | UN subsidiary body | development aid | comparative study | trade policy | democratisation | common foreign and security policy | foreign policy | human rights

**Summary**: Both the European Union (EU) and the United States (US) emphasise the centrality of human rights in their domestic and external policies. Despite their common attachment to human rights and a potential affinity of seemingly common transatlantic approaches to human rights issues in external policies, the EU and the US have diverged considerably in their respective promotion of human rights abroad. Drawing on the historical and legal underpinnings of human rights promotion in the EU and the US, the purpose of the present study is to provide a comparative analysis of how human rights are integrated and mainstreamed into their respective external policies, thereby using case studies such as EU Special Representatives/US Special Envoys, Democracy Promotion, the Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court to contextualise the argument. To this end, the study outlines the intricacies behind the institutional set-up of EU and US external action, and delves into the specifics of human rights-related policy-making in the realm of traditional foreign policy, international trade and international development. The study concludes with the formulation of recommendations for the further integration of human rights in EU external policies, as well as to the future collaboration between the EU and the US on human rights.
Commitments Made at the Hearing of Carlos Moedas - Commissioner-Designate

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 04-11-2014
Author: Frederic GOULARDES
Keyword: applied research | Portugal | European Commissioner | public hearing | Framework Programme for Research and Development | industry-research relations | EU research policy | appointment of members | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | innovation | investment | small and medium-sized enterprises
Summary: This note summarises the commitments made at the hearing of Carlos Moedas Commissioner designate for Research and Innovation.

Brazil: Promises of More Change – But in Which Direction?

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 22-10-2014
Author: Jesper TVEVAD
Policy area: International Trade | Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: poverty | political system | social policy | economic reform | foreign policy | corruption | presidential election | political reform | EU relations | interparliamentary relations | Brazil | trade policy | economic situation
Summary: On 26 October 2014, almost 142 million voters will elect Brazil's president for the next four years. The elections take place against a backdrop of economic stagnation and widespread discontent with inadequate public services and the political system, highlighted by social protests in 2013. After a decade of economic and social progress, and a parallel rise in the country's global stature, the sustainability of the country's last two decades of achievements is increasingly questioned. Facing these challenges, all major political forces have advocated 'change' in the run-up to the October elections. There are strong expectations that the government that takes over on 1 January 2015 will initiate a new phase in Brazil's social, economic and political development. The new government will have to address demands to renew the political system and to implement reforms to make the economy more competitive and capable of generating the growth needed to continue improving social conditions.

Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - October 2014

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 20-10-2014
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Transport | Budgetary Control | Employment | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: EU policy | EP Committee | sustainable mobility | common transport policy | 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.

Andrus Ansip - Vice-President – Digital Single Market - Hearings of European Commissioners-designate

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 25-09-2014
Author: Ron DAVIES
Policy area: Research Policy | Internal Market and Customs Union
Keyword: single market | EP Committee | information technology | European Commissioner | Estonia | public hearing | telecommunications | appointment of members | digital technology | data protection | intellectual property | vice-president of an institution
Summary: The Vice President-designate for The Digital Single Market is Andrus Ansip, Estonia. His hearing will take place before the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) on Monday 6 October at 18.30 hours.

Tibor Navracsics - Education, Culture, Youth and Citizenship - Hearings of European Commissioners-designate

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 24-09-2014
Author: Ivana KATSAROVA
Policy area: Culture
Keyword: Hungary | education policy | EP Committee | citizens' Europe | European Commissioner | public hearing | cultural policy | youth policy | appointment of members
Summary: The Commissioner-designate for Education, Culture, Youth and Citizenship is Tibor Navracsics (Hungary). His hearing will take place before the Committee on Culture and Education on Wednesday 1 October (18.00-21.00).
Phil Hogan - Agriculture and Rural Development - Hearings of European Commissioners-designate

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 24-09-2014
Author: Jean WEISSENBERGER
Policy area: Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword: EP Committee | European Commissioner | public hearing | appointment of members | common agricultural policy | Ireland | rural development
Summary: The Commissioner-designate for Agriculture and Rural Development is Phil Hogan (Ireland). His hearing will take place before the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development on Thursday 2 October (09.00-12.00).

Compendium of Initial Appraisals of European Commission Impact Assessments: July 2013 - June 2014

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-07-2014
Policy area: Ex-ante Impact Assessment | EU Law: Legal System and Acts
Keyword: impact study | EU policy | drafting of EU law | documentary tool
Summary: The European parliament's Ex-Ante Impact Assessment Unit routinely screens the road-maps accompanying the European Commission's Work Programme, to check which of its legislative proposals will be subject to impact assessment by the Commission. It then undertakes an initial appraisal of these Commission impact assessments when they arrive in the Parliament, to check that certain criteria are met and to identify the basic methodological strengths and weaknesses of the texts.
This is a compendium of such initial appraisals prepared by the Ex-Ante Impact Assessment Unit for different parliamentary committees. They analyse whether the principal criteria laid down in the Commission’s Impact Assessment Guidelines, as well as additional factors identified by the Parliament in its Impact Assessment Handbook, appear to be met by the impact assessments accompanying Commission proposals. They do not attempt to deal with the substance of the proposal and are drafted for informational and background purposes to assist the relevant parliamentary committee(s) and Members more widely in their work.
The present volume is a compendium of all Initial Appraisals produced by the Ex-Ante Impact Assessment Unit in the period from July 2013 to June 2014.

Adapting the EU Copyright Rules to the Digital Transformation: Implementation Appraisal

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 15-07-2014
Author: Stephane REYNOLDS
Policy area: Intellectual Property Law | Transposition and Implementation of Law
Keyword: single market | electronic commerce | approximation of laws | drafting of EU law | application of EU law | knowledge economy | EC Directive | copyright
Summary: This briefing is one of a new series of 'Implementation Appraisals', produced by the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), on the operation of existing EU legislation in practice. Each briefing focuses on a specific EU body of law which is, or will shortly be, subject to amending proposals from the European Commission, intended to update the current framework. The series is based on the Commission's intentions, as announced in its annual Work Programme (CWP).
'Implementation Appraisals' aim to provide a succinct overview of material publicly available on the implementation, application and effectiveness of an EU law to date - drawing on available in-puts from, inter alia, the EU institutions and advisory committees, national parliaments, and relevant external consultation and outreach exercises. They are provided to assist parliamentary committees in their consideration of related Commission proposals, once tabled.

Unconventional gas and oil in North America

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 25-06-2014
Author: Gregor ERBACH
Policy area: Energy
Keyword: energy site | United States | water pollution | Canada | self-sufficiency in energy | climate change | economic forecasting | oil industry | security of supply | economic consequence | energy market | price of energy | export policy | greenhouse gas | gas industry | environmental impact
Summary: Over the past decade, the United States and Canada have experienced spectacular growth in the production of unconventional fossil fuels, notably shale gas and tight oil, thanks to technological innovations such as horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing (fracking).
EU-Japan: forging strategic ties

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 10-04-2014
Author: Enrico D'AMBROGIO
Policy area: Foreign Affairs
Keyword: public contract | cooperation policy | free-trade agreement | liberalisation of trade | export (EU) | Japan | agricultural trade | foreign policy | market access | defence policy | economic policy | territorial dispute | association agreement (EU)
Summary: The EU and Japan share common values and principles and enjoy solid, long-term political and economic ties. Both sides believe the time has come to develop the large and unexploited potential in their relationship. Therefore, the EU and Japan are currently negotiating two agreements: a Strategic Partnership Agreement and an Economic Partnership Agreement/Free Trade Agreement.

Secure, clean and affordable energy for Europe

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 31-03-2014
Author: Gregor ERBACH
Policy area: Energy
Keyword: energy grid | security of supply | energy supply | energy industry | price of energy | liberalisation of the market | gas pipeline | renewable energy | reduction of gas emissions | self-sufficiency in energy
Summary: The EU is developing energy policies that aim to ensure security of supply, affordable energy for households and industry, and a reduction of carbon emissions in line with EU climate commitments.

The Impact of Oil Price on EU Energy Prices

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-02-2014
External author: Ludwig-Bölkow-Systemtechnik - LBST: Uwe ALBRECHT, Matthias ALTANN, Jan ZERHUSEN and Tetyana RAKSHA, HINICIO: Patrick MAIO, Alexandre BEAUDET and Paola TRUCCO, Centre for European Policy Studies - CEPS: Christian EGENHOFER, Arno BEHRENS, Jonas TEUSCH, Julian WIECZORKIEWICZ and Fabio GENOESE, IFPEN: Guy MAISONNIER
Policy area: Energy
Keyword: commodities market | price formation | natural gas | electrical energy | renewable energy | commodity price | coal | impact study | retail price | price of energy | environmental tax | crude oil | energy saving
Summary: Oil prices have increased considerably over the past years at global level, while natural gas and other energy prices have seen differing developments in each world region. The present report examines the level of impact of high oil prices on European energy prices and analyses the underlying mechanisms. Policy options to reduce this impact are discussed.

Proceedings of the Workshop on "The Euromed Region after the Arab Spring and the New Generation of DCFTAs"

Publication type: Study
Date: 22-01-2014
External author: Ahmed Farouk GHONEIM (Faculty of Economics & Political Science, Cairo University, Egypt) and Erwan LANNON (College of Europe and Ghent University, Belgium)
Policy area: International Trade | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | social analysis | common commercial policy | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | free-trade agreement | Mediterranean third countries | trade relations | association agreement (EU) | political violence | economic analysis
Summary: Proceedings of the Workshop on "The Euromed region after the Arab Spring and the new generation of DCFTAs", held on 18 June 2013 in Brussels. The present document is the compilation of the background notes and Power Point presentations prepared by the experts invited.
The Pacific Alliance: Regional Integration or Fragmentation?

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 10-01-2014
Author: Jesper TVEVAD

Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: common commercial policy | institutional structure | Panama | parliamentary assembly | free-trade area | trade relations | economic integration | Costa Rica | Chile | Colombia | Mexico | Latin American organisation | interparliamentary relations | Peru

Summary: The year 2013 brought much attention to the Pacific Alliance (Alianza del Pacífico), the most recent regional integration initiative in Latin America. Building on the existing free trade agreements between them, the four members of the Alliance - Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru - have set the goal of advancing towards the free movement of goods, services, capitals and people, with the objective of creating an 'area of deep integration' to stimulate economic growth and competitiveness. Since it was formally constituted in June 2012, the Pacific Alliance has come to be seen as the most promising and dynamic regional group in Latin America. Adopting a freemarket approach to regional integration, it is widely perceived as an alternative to the 'stagnating' and 'increasingly protectionist' Mercosur bloc. In this regard, the Pacific Alliance has led to hopes for a new momentum for regional integration and cooperation in Latin America, as well as to concerns about a possible fracture in the region. The EU, which has long-standing institutionalised links, liberalised trade and good relations with the members of the Pacific Alliance, has welcomed the Alliance as a promising initiative. The evolution of the Alliance could have direct or indirect consequences for the EU's relations with other regional blocs in Latin America.

In-Depth Analysis EN

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
Exernal 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 Hernandez (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 DE, EN, FR

Trade in critical raw materials (CRMs): Main challenges

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 02-09-2013
Author: Gisela GRIEGER

Policy area: International Trade | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: security of supply | World Trade Organisation | third country | import (EU) | advanced materials | trade cooperation | advanced technology industry | export restriction | non-ferrous metal | raw material

Summary: EU industry depends almost entirely on a handful of countries for imports of 14 critical raw materials (CRMs). These are of high economic significance and are at particularly high risk of supply shortages. Geographical concentration of CRM production, growing global demand and a tendency of main suppliers to apply export restrictions to reserve CRM stocks for domestic industrialisation has rendered access to CRM markets increasingly difficult.