List of publications from the EP Think Tank

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

Search criteria used to generate the list:

Sort: Sort by relevance
Word(s): "geo-blocking"

138 result(s)

Creation date: 25-05-2018
Geo-Blocking

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 06-02-2018  
Author: Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI  
Keyword: single market | digital single market | consumer protection | digital literacy | intra-EU trade | discrimination on the basis of nationality | copyright | impact study | electronic commerce | telecommunications | data protection | digital technology | proposal (EU)  
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 IMCO Committee in relation to the geo-blocking phenomenon.

Geo-blocking and discrimination among customers in the EU

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 02-02-2018  
Author: Tambiama André MADIEGA  
Policy area: Intellectual Property Law | Internal Market and Customs Union | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council  
Keyword: electronic commerce | freedom to provide services | digital single market | consumer protection | payment system | free movement of goods | goods and services | discrimination on the basis of nationality | copyright  
Summary: Geo-blocking practices commonly restrict cross-border sales of tangible goods as well as of electronically supplied services and electronically delivered content services in the EU. In May 2016, the European Commission proposed a new regulation that prohibits online sellers of tangible goods, and of some types of electronically supplied services, from discriminating among customers based on their nationality or place of residence within the European Union. In November 2017, after protracted negotiations, the co-legislators agreed to ban some types of unjustified geo-blocking practices. However, the ban will not apply initially to content and services protected under copyright (for instance, e-books and downloads of music and audiovisual content). At the request of the Parliament, a review clause has been introduced which requires the Commission to re-examine the situation two years after the entry into force of the regulation.


Publication type: Study  
Date: 20-09-2017  
External author: Ms. Chloe Grondin  
Keyword: single market | electronic commerce | impact study | digital single market | consumer protection | digital literacy | telecommunications | data protection | discrimination on the basis of nationality | copyright | proposal (EU)  
Summary: This report summarizes the discussion during the 10th Meeting of the IMCO Working Group on the Digital Single Market. It summarizes the exchange of views between MEPs, independent academic experts and the European Commission on the topic of geo-blocking in the Digital Single Market. The proceedings were prepared by Policy Department A for the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee.

Extending the Scope of the Geo-Blocking Prohibition: An Economic Assessment

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 16-01-2017  
External author: J. Scott MARCUS (Bruegel) and Georgios PETROPOULOS (Bruegel)  
Keyword: single market | electronic commerce | impact study | digital single market | consumer protection | digital literacy | telecommunications | data protection | discrimination on the basis of nationality | copyright | proposal (EU)  
Summary: On 25 May 2016, the European Commission presented a proposal for a regulation on addressing unjustified geo-blocking. This paper illustrates the prevalence of geo-blocking in e-commerce and summarizes available relevant evidence. It also discusses the economic impact of lifting geo-blocking restrictions in online goods and copyrighted digital content services. This document was prepared for Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection.
The Geo-Blocking Proposal: Internal Market, Competition Law and Regulatory Aspects

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 16-01-2017  
**External author** Miguel POIARES MADURO (European University Institute), Giorgio MONTI (European University Institute) and Gonçalo COELHO (World Bank / Luis Morais, Associados)  
**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  
**Keyword** single market | digital single market | broadcasting | consumer protection | literary and artistic property | sport | discrimination on the basis of nationality | copyright | electronic commerce | telecommunications | data protection | digital technology | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU | proposal (EU)  
**Summary** This Study analyses the Commission’s May 2016 Proposal for a Regulation addressing geo-blocking and other forms of customer discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment within the internal market. The study assesses the Commission’s proposal under the Internal Market, Competition law and sector-specific rules and provides for policy recommendations and specific amendments to the proposal.  
This document was prepared for Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

Summary

Combatting Consumer Discrimination in the Digital Single Market: Preventing Geo-Blocking and other Forms of Geo-Discrimination

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 15-08-2016  
**External author** Felice SIMONELLI  
**Policy area** Culture | 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  
**Keyword** single market | electronic commerce | impact study | digital single market | consumer protection | digital literacy | telecommunications | digital technology | data protection | discrimination on the basis of nationality | copyright | proposal (EU)  
**Summary** The paper conducts a stocktaking exercise of the state of play in the DSM and offers a critical assessment of the most relevant initiatives to combat consumer discrimination. It gives an overview of discriminatory practices in the online environment and assesses the magnitude of the problem. Differences between justified and unjustified geo-blocking are discussed. An in-depth analysis of the EC proposals on geo-blocking, portability and parcel delivery and the DG COMP investigation into the distribution of audiovisual content is then performed.
This document was prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

Summary

Geo-blocking in the Digital Single Market

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 21-09-2016  
**Author** HUBERT DALLI  
**Policy area** Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Internal Market and Customs Union  
**Summary** The IA clearly defines the problem and appears to use up-to-date data and research throughout, especially in the problem definition and in establishing the scope of the impact assessment. At times, however, the presentation of the policy options lacks clarity. The IA seems to provide sound justification for the proposal, but appears not to fully address the RSB’s recommendation in its first opinion for a better description of the potential interaction of all the legislation that would target justified geo-blocking. This is something which might merit attention, particularly given that many of the parallel initiatives concerned are currently going through Parliament.

Briefing

E-commerce: Ban on unjustified geo-blocking and discrimination practices among customers

**Publication type** At a Glance  
**Date** 31-01-2018  
**Author** Tambiama André MADIEGA  
**Policy area** Intellectual Property Law | Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council  
**Summary** In May 2016, the European Commission proposed a new regulation that prohibits online sellers of physical goods and of some types of electronically supplied services and content from discriminating among customers based on their nationality or place of residence within the European Union. The Parliament is expected to vote on the proposal during the February I plenary session.
Digital Single Market and geo-blocking

Publication type  At a Glance  
Date 13-05-2015  
Author Tambiama André MADIEGA  
Policy area  Intellectual Property Law | Internal Market and Customs Union  
Keyword  EU competition policy | single market | electronic commerce | consumer protection | case law (EU) | refusal to sell | competition law | intra-EU trade | copyright  
Summary  On 6 May 2015 the European Commission unveiled its Digital Single Market Strategy with which, inter alia, it intends to remove barriers to e-commerce across Europe. One such barrier is ‘geo-blocking’, that is commercial practices that prevent or restrict customers from accessing or purchasing a product or a service online, thereby adversely affecting cross-border e-commerce in the EU.

Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, February I 2018

Publication type  At a Glance  
Date 09-02-2018  
Author CLARE FERGUSON | KATARZYNA SOCHACKA  
Policy area  EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law  
Summary  Highlights of the session included the second in a series of debates with EU leaders on the future of Europe, with Croatian Prime Minister, Andrej Plenković; and the debate and vote on the composition of the European Parliament after Brexit. Parliament adopted agreed first-reading positions on, inter alia, a regulation on ending unjustified geo-blocking and two regulations on EU external action funds – among the priorities for 2018 in the Joint Declaration agreed by the Council, Commission and Parliament.

Adapting to new digital realities: Main issues and policy responses

Publication type  Briefing  
Date 19-04-2018  
Author Maria Del Mar NEGREIRO ACHIAGA | Marcin SZCZEPANSKI | Vincent REILLON | Naja BENTZEN | Nikolina SAJN  
Policy area  Research Policy | Forward Planning | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues | Consumer Protection | Democracy  
Summary  Digital technologies have changed the way we live and transformed the world around us at unprecedented speed. They have affected all important aspects of life, both at work and at home, and have influenced almost everything from human relations to the economy, to the extent that access to the internet has now become a basic human right recognised by the United Nations. This profound change presents both opportunities and threats to our society. Citizens need specific skills and access to be able to meaningfully take part in society and work. European businesses need an adequate policy framework and infrastructure to capture the enormous value created by the digital economy. Supporting innovation, removing barriers in the digital single market, and effectively managing and using data are the necessary tools to assist them and boost economic growth in Europe. The European Union takes an active part in shaping the digital economy and society, with cross policy initiatives that range from boosting investment, through reforms of copyright and e privacy, to removal of geo-blocking and development of e-government. This multifaceted approach is necessary to facilitate adaptation to complex new realities. The European Parliament, as co legislator, is involved in shaping the policy framework which will help citizens and businesses fully utilise the potential of digital technologies.

Single market information tool (SMIT)

Publication type  Briefing  
Date 18-07-2017  
Author Cemal KARAKAS  
Policy area  Internal Market and Customs Union  
Keyword  single market | data collection | application of EU law | EU Member State | EU initiative | exchange of information | trade information | type of business | ordinary legislative procedure | administrative cooperation | cross-frontier data flow | EU competence | proposal (EU)  
Summary  Competition and consumer protection in the single market are often undermined by measures such as price discrimination based on residency, geo-blocking of online audio-visual content, or limited cross-border parcel delivery. While many businesses do not cooperate with the Commission by e.g. disclosing their pricing structure, Member States often do not have the means or the tools to collect and deliver the required information to the Commission. On 2 May 2017, the Commission presented a ‘compliance package‘ of three proposals on enhancing the practical functioning of the single market. One of these introduces the single market information tool (SMIT). The use of SMIT would be a measure of last resort and subject to confidentiality requirements. SMIT would provide the Commission with e.g. powers to request business-related information (such as cost structure or product volumes sold), and to address regulatory and market failures in a more timely and efficient way.
Regulating online TV and radio broadcasting

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 16-04-2018
Author: Tambiama André MADIEGA
Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council

Summary: The provision of television and radio broadcasting services over the internet is a fast-developing phenomenon in the European Union. The European Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation to promote the cross-border provision of online services ancillary to broadcasts and facilitate digital retransmissions of TV and radio programmes originating in other Member States in September 2016. The European Parliament and the Council have each voted, separately, to amend the proposal to a large extent. The co-legislators are discussing, inter alia, what type of online services should fall under the scope of the regulation and whether the mechanisms facilitating satellite and cable operators’ broadcasting cross-border in the EU should be extended to new service providers such as internet protocol television (IPTV) and over-the-top (OTT) providers. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing EN

Review of the EU copyright Framework: European Implementation Assessment

Publication type: Study
Date: 13-10-2015
Author: Stephane REYNOLDS
External author: Input was received from three independent external contractors: 1) A consortium led by the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) with Economisti Associati as consortium partner; 2) Milieu Ltd; and, 3) Valdani Vicari & Associati (VVA) with the involvement of KEA European Affairs as a subcontractor.
Keyword: single market | broadcasting | audiovisual industry | application of EU law | culture industry | legal basis | cost-benefit analysis | EC Directive | programmes industry | electronic commerce | impact study | interpretation of the law | amendment of a law | publishing | film industry | intellectual property | audiovisual piracy

Summary: 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.

Study EN


Publication type: Study
Date: 25-08-2016
Author: LOUIS DANCOURT | ALESSIA MIGLIACCIO | Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI
Policy area: Public international law | International Trade | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Global Governance | Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection
Keyword: freedom to provide services | digital single market | information industry | consumer protection | payment system | competition law | discrimination on the basis of nationality | electronic commerce | Internet | information society | entrepreneurship | innovation | electronic government

Summary: This report summarizes the discussion during the 8th Meeting of the IMCO Working Group on the Digital Single Market. It explains an exchange of views between MEPs, the European Commission and experts on the topic of boosting e-commerce and combating consumer discrimination in the Digital Single Market. The proceedings were prepared by Policy Department A for the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee.

Study EN
EU copyright reform: Revisiting the principle of territoriality

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 28-09-2015
Author: Tambiama André MADIEGA
Policy area: Intellectual Property Law
Keyword: electronic commerce | economic consequence | interpretation of the law | approximation of laws | impact of information technology | territorial jurisdiction | culture industry | case law (EU) | international convention | film industry | copyright | audiovisual piracy
Summary: Copyright protection is territorial since rights are normally acquired and enforced on a country-by-country basis, and exceptions and limitations to copyright protection vary from one Member State to another. However, the new digital environment increasingly characterised by the use of the internet to deliver content across borders has an impact on both users and the creative industries, and represents a challenge to the implementation of coherent copyright legislation throughout the EU. The European Commission has announced it will put forward plans for reform before the end of 2015. Parliament adopted a resolution in July 2015 on the harmonisation of aspects of copyright and related rights to steer the debate on the forthcoming reform. A key issue for policy-makers to address is how to mitigate the hindrance to the internal market caused by territorial protection of copyright. Several approaches have also been discussed. Finally, the introduction of a unified legal framework for EU copyright law has been proposed, and requires a comprehensive, evidence-based assessment of the cost and benefits involved.

Digital Services in the Area of Accommodation and Transportation: Economic and Legal Aspects

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-12-2017
External author: Prof. Dr. Stuart John BARNE
Keyword: digital single market | Internet | consumer information | digitisation | collaborative economy | tourism | carriage of passengers | leisure | tax avoidance | air transport | direct selling | economic analysis
Summary: This paper examines the development of digital business models in the provision of flights and short-term accommodation services. It discusses the growing importance of digital intermediaries and their associated business model features, some of which provide significant value, and others which could be considered deleterious and in need of regulatory scrutiny. The paper concludes with some suggestions for regulation based on technology, algorithms and big data analytics. This could enable a more soft-touch, automatic, dynamic and individualised approach to regulation. This research paper has been commissioned by Policy Department at the request of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee.

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

Publication type: Study
Date: 18-12-2017
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | 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 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.
EU Portability Regulation: In-Depth Analysis of the Proposal

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 15-08-2016

External author Tatiana Eleni SYNODINIOU (University of Cyprus, Cyprus)

Keyword electronic commerce | digital single market | consumer protection | harmonisation law | EU Member State | telecommunications | literary and artistic property | digital technology | data protection | copyright

Summary Upon request by the JURI Committee, this In-depth-Analysis identifies and analyses the recent proposal of the European Commission concerning a regulation on ensuring the cross-border portability of online content, COM(2015)627.

Cross-border online sales in the EU

Publication type Briefing
Date 15-07-2016

Author Eulalia CLAROS GIMENO | Tambiama André MADIEGA

Policy area Intellectual Property Law | Internal Market and Customs Union

Summary Geo-blocking practices are commonly used to restrict cross-border sales of tangible goods e.g. (e.g. clothes, electronics) as well as of electronically supplied services (e.g. cloud services) and electronically delivered content (e.g. audiovisual services, e-books). In order to give customers better access to goods and services in the Single Market, the European Commission has proposed a regulation to prevent GeoBlocking and related practices which introduce discrimination – based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment – between traders and customers in cross-border commercial transactions (See EPRS Legislation in progress briefing). Against this background, this paper provides some statistical data on: the value of cross-border online trade in the EU, the public's interest in accessing online content cross-border, consumers' behaviour towards online shopping, online retailers' experience and concerns with cross-border transactions, audiovisual and online music services, and development of e-learning activities.

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.

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

Publication type Study
Date 15-12-2015

External author Ilsa GODLOVITCH (WIK), Bas KOTTERINK (TNO), J. Scott MARCUS (WIK), Pieter NOOREN (TNO), Jop ESMEIJER (TNO) and Arnold ROOSENDAAL (TNO)

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union
Keyword programmes industry | single market | electronic commerce | consumer protection | impact of information technology | audiovisual industry | telecommunications industry | competition law | data protection | start-up | economic analysis | corporate finance

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

Study EN
**European app economy: State of play, challenges and EU policy**

**Publication type:** Briefing  
**Date:** 24-05-2018  
**Author:** Marcin SZCZEPAŃSKI  
**Policy area:** Research Policy | Industry  

**Summary:** Ten years have passed since the app economy was launched. Since then apps have evolved to play an increasingly important role in the life of citizens and became crucial to the success of many industries. Growing connectivity and availability of portable devices ensure that this trend will continue. The European app economy is rather successful and accounts for just under a third of revenues in the global market. Clusters of app developers exist in a few western European and Nordic Member States creating well-paid jobs, value and innovation in the digital economy. However, some bottlenecks still exist and hamper the growth of the sector. These include limited availability of finance, shortage of digital skills, the need to constantly upgrade infrastructure, and improving access to data. The EU strives to address these issues by creating an environment conducive to growth of the sector.  

**Source:** © European Union, 2018 - EP

---

**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 EU defence policies or increased cooperation to fight corporate tax avoidance. The main beneficiaries of the potential efficiency gains are included 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 ongoing discussion about the European Union’s policy priorities over the current five-year institutional cycle, running from 2014 to 2019.

**Source:** © European Union, 2018 - EP

---

**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.

**Source:** © European Union, 2018 - EP
Challenges for Competition Policy in a Digitalised Economy

Publication type Study
Date 15-07-2015
External author Nicolai VAN GORP (Ecorys Netherlands) and Olga BATURA (University of Bremen)
Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues | Consumer Protection | Financial and Banking Issues | Industry
Keyword communications systems | EU competition policy | merger control | protection of privacy | consumer protection | copyright | anti-trust legislation | electronic commerce | consumer behaviour | patent | innovation | data protection | digital technology

Summary This study describes the challenges for competition policy in relation to the digital economy. It explores the specific characteristics of digital economy markets and how these characteristics impact competition policy. The study focuses on competition policy and its instruments such as anti-trust laws, merger regulation, State aid and sector regulation. Neighbouring policy fields such as copyright and data protection are outlined where important but not analysed in detail.

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

Study DE, EN, FR

The ubiquitous digital single market

Publication type EU Fact Sheets
Date 01-11-2017
Author Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI
Policy area Research Policy | Internal Market and Customs Union
Keyword single market | electronic commerce | data-processing law | consumer protection | information technology | data transmission | digital technology | electronic government

Summary The digital single market is one of the most promising and challenging areas of progress, creating potential efficiency gains of EUR 415 billion. It opens up new opportunities to boost the economy through e-commerce, while at the same time facilitating administrative and financial compliance for businesses and empowering customers through e-government. Market and government services developed within the digital single market are evolving from fixed to mobile platforms and becoming increasingly ubiquitous, offering access to information and content anytime, anywhere and on any device (ubiquitous commerce and ubiquitous government). These advances call for a regulatory framework that is conducive to the development of cloud computing, borderless mobile data connectivity and simplified access to information and content, while safeguarding privacy, personal data, cybersecurity and net neutrality.

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

Digital Agenda for Europe

Publication type EU Fact Sheets
Date 01-02-2018
Author Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI | Frederic GOUARDERES
Policy area Research Policy
Keyword single market | Internet | data-processing law | access to information | consumer protection | information technology | European Network and Information Security Agency | data transmission | digital technology | communications policy | intellectual property

Summary Since 1995, information and communication technologies (ICTs) have driven productivity gains and growth in the EU[1]. The concept of ICTs covers a broad spectrum of technologies, ranging from information technology (IT) through telecommunications, broadcast media, and all types of audio and video processing and transmission to network-based control and monitoring functions. Over the past three decades, technological ‘convergence’ has been blurring the boundaries between telecommunications, broadcasting and IT. Although linear broadcasting continues to be the principal medium of information distribution and entertainment in Europe, more and more audiovisual content is available on demand, while exponential growth in 4G and 5G internet connectivity and the ‘internet of things’ (IoT) gives the internet an increasingly ubiquitous dimension. With a view to addressing the different challenges, the Commission launched the digital single market in 2015 to deliver the main legislative proposals set as priority, such as boosting e-commerce, copyright, audiovisuals, the telecoms review, ePrivacy, harmonisation of digital rights, affordable parcel delivery, harmonised VAT rules and cybersecurity.

EU Fact Sheets BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV
Reducing Costs and Barriers for Businesses in the Single Market

Publication type: Study
Date: 11-04-2016

External author: Moritz Immanuel GODEL, Annette HARMS, Siôn JONES and Iris MANTOVANI (LE Europe)

Policy area: Forward Planning | International Trade | Global Governance | Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection

Keyword: single market | electronic commerce | VAT | public contract | consumer protection | simplification of formalities | administrative formalities | non-tariff barrier | public consultation | intra-EU trade | cost-benefit analysis | electronic government

Summary: The study points that reducing business costs and regulatory and market barriers is necessary to complete the Single Market. However, monitoring of barriers and costs in the EU is piecemeal and unsystematic, quantification and clear identification of barriers and costs is lacking, which makes prioritisation of policy actions difficult. Resulting costs of slow reform process and vague initiatives with uncertain time horizons in the area of e-commerce alone amount to €748 billion. As indicated by examples of Estonia and South Korea, ICT and e-government can be particularly efficient in reducing these costs and barriers. The study was prepared for Policy Department A at the request of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee.

Study EN

Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - October 2017

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 02-10-2017

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Culture | Budgetary Control | Internal Market and Customs Union | Foreign Affairs | Education

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

European Digital Guarantee

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-11-2016

External author: Michał BIENIAS (Traple, Konarski, Podrecki i wspólncy), Piotr KWATKOWSKI (University of Osnabruck), Hans SCHULTE-NÖLKE (University of Osnabruck), Anne-Katrin SUILMANN (University of Osnabruck) and Aneta WIEWIÓROWSKA-DOMAGALSKA (University of Osnabruck)


Keyword: single market | guarantee | consumer protection | EU Member State | digital evidence | discrimination on the basis of nationality

Summary: The study analyses the inconveniences of paper receipts and guarantees that are lost or fade away. The collected evidence indicates that missing paper documents may result in problems for consumers in the enforcement of their rights. The study assesses e-receipt solutions already existing on the market and evaluates whether the regulation of such schemes could contribute to the Single Market. Some guidelines are given concerning a possible regulation of e-receipt schemes, including the impact of other fields of the EU law.

This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the IMCO Committee.

Study EN

Digital single market in Europe [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 05-05-2015

Author: Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI

Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword: single market | electronic commerce | bibliography

Summary: On 6 May, the European Commission will unveil its strategy for creating a digital single market, one of the top priorities of President Jean-Claude Juncker. It aims to stimulate economic growth and create jobs by giving consumers and businesses easier access to digital goods and services. The Commission’s blueprint, presented on 25 March, envisages facilitating e-commerce, tackling geo-blocking, modernising copyright law and simplifying VAT arrangements. Other goals include improving the environment for digital networks and services, and creating a ‘European Digital Economy and Society’. This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports on the topic from major international think tanks and research institutes.

At a Glance EN
The Portability of Online Services as Part of the Modernisation of Copyright in the European Union

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-06-2016
Policy area: Intellectual Property Law
Keyword: electronic commerce | digital single market | consumer protection | telecommunications | literary and artistic property | EU law | digital technology | data protection | copyright | proposal (EU)
Summary: Upon request by the JURI Committee, this In-depth-Analysis identifies and analyses the recent proposal of the European Commission concerning a regulation on ensuring the cross-border portability of online content in the internal market, COM(2015)627 in the context of the modernisation of EU-Copyright rules.

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (11th edition)

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

Cross-border portability of online content services

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 25-04-2017
Author: Tambiama André MADIEGA
Policy area: Culture | Intellectual Property Law | Internal Market and Customs Union | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council
Keyword: single market | electronic commerce | drafting of EU law | cross-frontier data flow | trade licence | copyright | audiovisual piracy
Summary: In February 2017, negotiators from the European Parliament, the Council and Commission reached a compromise on the proposal for a regulation on cross-border portability of online content services. The EP must now formally approve the new rules, enabling consumers to access their online subscriptions for content services when they travel across the EU and are temporarily outside their Member State of residence. The compromise text amends the Commission's proposal in various ways. It clarifies that providers of free-of-charge online content services can also offer portability services to their subscribers. The notion of temporary presence in other Member States has been tightened and refers to a limited period of time. The concept of Member State of residence and its verification mechanism are also more explicitly defined. At the EP's request, some safeguards have been added to ensure data protection and privacy are respected (especially for IP address checks), and a waiver clause has been introduced which allows content providers to avoid verifying the residence of their customers when all the holders of copyright, related rights, or other rights in the content agree.

**European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (10th edition)**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 13-12-2016  
**Author** Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN  
**Keyword** single market | digital single market | social policy | area of freedom, security and justice | common foreign and security policy | international relations | development policy | European Council | climate change policy | competitiveness | energy policy | economic policy | international trade | tax harmonisation | EU employment policy  
**Summary** The European Council's role - to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' - has developed rapidly over the past seven years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament's in-house research service and think-tank, has been monitoring and analysing the European Council's delivery of the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a regularly updated Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council has set itself since January 2010 and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.

---

**Boosting e-Commerce in the Digital Single Market: A Foundation for European Growth and Competitiveness**

**Publication type** In-Depth Analysis  
**Date** 15-09-2016  
**External author** Anthony D. Williams  
**Keyword** single market | electronic commerce | freedom to provide services | digital single market | Internet | information society | information industry | entrepreneur | innovation | small and medium-sized enterprises | electronic government | discrimination on the basis of nationality  
**Summary** This paper reviews global trends in e-commerce and provides an analysis of the opportunities a Digital Single Market (DSM) would create for European entrepreneurs. The paper argues that the economic impact of the DSM could be enhanced by placing greater attention on the enabling conditions for entrepreneurial success, particularly by ensuring entrepreneurs have access to anchor customers, an ample supply of growth capital, sophisticated management talent and well-coordinated supports for scale-ups and internationalization. This document was prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the European Parliament’s Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

---

**An EU intellectual property policy to boost innovation**

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 03-04-2018  
**Author** Elodie THIRION  
**Policy area** Intellectual Property Law | Industry  
**Summary** Intellectual property (IP) lies at the heart of innovation and competitiveness around the world as well as in the European Union, and intellectual property rights (IPRs) are protected mainly through patents, trade marks and copyright. IPRs enable individuals and companies to earn recognition and/or financial benefit from what they invent or create. By striking the right balance between innovators and public interest, IP aims to foster an environment in which creativity and innovation can flourish. The EU has shaped a framework that defines and protects innovations and creations through IP. This framework mainly comprises of directives and regulations protecting copyright, trade marks, patents, designs and geographical indications.

---

25-05-2018  
Source : © European Union, 2018 - EP
**Single Market Information Tool**

**Publication type**  Briefing  
**Date** 05-10-2017  
**Author** Vera VIKOLAINEN  

**Policy area**  Internal Market and Customs Union  
**Keyword**  trade information | single market | impact study | type of business | data collection | application of EU law | EU initiative | exchange of information | administrative cooperation | cross-border data flow | EU competence  

**Summary**  This note seeks to provide an initial analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the European Commission's impact assessment (IA) accompanying the above proposal, submitted on 2 May 2017 and referred to Parliament’s Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection. The creation of a deeper and fairer single market is one of the ten main priorities of the Juncker Commission. To this end, the Commission proposed a new single market strategy in 2015. One of the key areas of the single market strategy’s targeted actions is dedicated to a smart enforcement strategy and the culture of compliance and is entitled ‘Ensuring practical delivery’. Within this area, the strategy announced, among other actions, “a regulatory initiative on a market information tool for the Single Market, enabling the Commission to collect information from selected market players” (Single Market Strategy, p.16). It is this ‘Single Market Information Tool’ (SMIT) that is the subject of the Commission proposal. Two other initiatives were proposed by the Commission alongside the SMIT on 2 May 2017 as part of the compliance package: a regulation establishing a single digital gateway and an action plan on the reinforcement of the SOLVIT tool.

---

**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.

---

**Research for AGRI Committee - Preserving agricultural soils in the EU**

**Publication type**  Study  
**Date** 15-03-2017  
**External author**  H.F.M. ten Berge, J.J. Schröder, J.E. Olesen, J.-V. Giraldez Cervera  

**Policy area**  Environment | Agriculture and Rural Development  

**Keyword**  climate change | soil resources | biodiversity | agricultural land | food security | sustainable development | farm income | soil pollution | soil protection  

**Summary**  This study explains how threats to soils and soil services are linked to agricultural soil management, how threats can be mitigated, and which barriers complicate this. It highlights trade-offs and synergies that exist between different interests affected by soil management, such as climate change mitigation, water and air quality, biodiversity, food security and farm income. Conservation of peatland and extensive agro-forestry systems, and protecting soils against sealing, erosion and compaction are ranked as highest priorities. Potential policy elements are suggested.
Language equality in the digital age - Towards a Human Language Project

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 24-03-2017  
**External author** Rafael RIVERA PASTOR, Iclaves S.L.  
Carïota TARÍN QUIRÓS, Iclaves S.L.  
Juan Pablo VILLAR GARCÍA, Iclaves S.L.  
Prof. Toni BADIA CARDÚS, PhD. Universitat Pompeu Fabra  
Prof. Maite MELERO NOGUÉS, PhD. Universitat Pompeu Fabra  
**Policy area** Culture | Research Policy | Forward Planning  
**Keyword** impact of information technology | information technology | equal treatment | language skills | linguistic group | EU initiative | EU research policy | official language | digital technology | new technology | language policy  
**Summary** The EU is a unique endeavour involving more than 500 million citizens sharing about 80 different languages, and while multilingualism is a key feature, it is also one of the most substantial challenges for the creation of a truly integrated EU. Language barriers have a profound effect on cross-border public services, on fostering a common European identity, on workers’ mobility, and on cross-border e-commerce and trade, in the context of a Digital Single Market. The emergence of new technological approaches, based on increased computational power and access to sizeable amounts of data, are making Human Language Technologies (HLT) a real solution to overcoming language barriers. However, several challenges, such as market fragmentation and unsubstantial and uncoordinated funding strategies, are hindering the European HLT community, including research and industry.

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

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 09-08-2017  
**External author** Fabian AMTENBRINK, Menelaos MARKAKIS and René REPASI  
Erasmus School of Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam / European Research Centre for Economic and Financial Governance (EURO-CEFG)  
Erasmus University Rotterdam  
**Keyword** single market | public contract | United Kingdom | consumer protection | customs union | Treaty on European Union | EU Member State | trade agreement | World Trade Organisation | impact study | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | interparliamentary relations | trade cooperation | withdrawal from the EU | international trade  
**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 - March 2017

**Publication type** At a Glance  
**Date** 13-03-2017  
**Policy area** EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Budgetary Control | Consumer Protection | Foreign Affairs | Education  
**Keyword** allocation of seats | operation of the Institutions | EU Member State | dissemination of EU information | composition of parliament | 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
The concept of ICTs covers a broad spectrum of technologies, ranging from information technology (IT) through telecommunications, broadcast media, and all types of audio and video processing and transmission to network-based control and monitoring functions. Information and communication technologies (ICTs) and data and internet access services have taken the place of traditional telephone services as the key products for both consumers and businesses. Although linear broadcasting continues to be the principal medium of information distribution and entertainment, more and more audiovisual content is available on demand and internet connectivity is subject to exponential growth. As a consequence, the EU has set up a regulatory framework for telecommunications covering fixed and wireless telecoms, internet, broadcasting and transmission services, through a series of rules which apply throughout the EU Member States.

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

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, Tambiama Madiega, Shara Monteleone, Anita Orav, Laura Puccio, Christian Scheinert, Andrej Stuchlík, Marcin Szczechanski, Laura Tilindyte 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.

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

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 Miltay, Shara Monteleone, Anita Orav, Christian Scheinert, Andrej Stuchlík, Marcin Szczechanski, Laura Tilindyte and Sofija Voronova. The graphics have been prepared by Giulio Sabbati, and are derived from the on line ‘Legislative Train Schedule’ application, launched by Parliament to track progress on the Commission’s legislative proposals.
Legal Proceedings available to Individuals before the Highest Courts: A Comparative Law Perspective - Canada

Publication type: Study
Date: 06-10-2017
External author: EPRS, Comparative Law; Professor Johanne Poirier of McGill University, Montreal

Policy area: Foreign Affairs

Summary
This study is part of a wider project seeking to investigate, from a comparative law perspective, judicial proceedings available to individuals before the highest courts of different states, and before certain international courts. The aim of this study is to examine the various judicial proceedings available to individuals in Canadian law, and in particular before the Supreme Court of Canada. To this end, the text is divided into five parts. The introduction provides an overview of Canadian constitutional history, which explains the coexistence of rights derived from several legal traditions. It then introduces the federal system, the origins of constitutional review, as well as the court structure (I). As Canada practises a 'diffuse' (or 'decentralized') constitutional review process, the second part deals with the different types of proceedings available to individuals in matters of constitutional justice before both administrative and judicial courts, while highlighting proceedings available before the Supreme Court of Canada (II). This is followed by an examination of the constitutional and legal sources of individual — and in some cases collective — rights (III), as well as the means developed by the judiciary, the legislative, and the executive branches to ensure the effective judicial protection of rights (IV). The conclusion assesses the effectiveness of proceedings available to individuals in matters of ‘constitutional justice’. Essentially, while Canadian citizens benefit from a wide range of rights and proceedings, access to the country’s Supreme Court is restricted due to the limited number of cases the Court chooses to hear every year. More generally, access to justice continues to pose real challenges in Canada. This is not due to judicial failings or a lack of sources of rights per se, but rather to lengthy judicial delays and the often enormous costs of proceedings.

Study EN, FR

Assistive technologies for people with disabilities

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-01-2018
Author: Philip Nicholas BOUCHER


Keyword: medical device | European social policy | access to education | equal treatment | job access | facilities for the disabled | integration of the disabled | new technology

Summary
Assistive technologies (ATs) are designed to improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities. Some are relatively low-tech and very familiar, such as such as reading glasses, crutches and hearing aids. Others are more advanced, using cutting-edge science and technology, with future ATs under development that could have a huge impact on all our lives. This briefing provides an overview of a scientific foresight study of ATs for three specific types of disability: blindness and visual impairment, deafness and hearing impairment, and autism spectrum disorders.

In-Depth Analysis EN
Annex I EN
Annex II EN
Annex III EN
Annex IV EN

Helping European SMEs to grow: Start-up and scale-up initiatives for business ventures in the EU

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 06-06-2017
Author: Marcin SZCZEPAŃSKI

Policy area: Financial and Banking Issues | Industry

Keyword: corporation tax | digital single market | digitisation | Framework Programme for Research and Development | retail selling | investment | small and medium-sized enterprises | economic analysis | services company | job creation | tourism | bankruptcy | distribution of EU funding | industrial manufacturing | start-up

Summary
Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) constitute 99 of every 100 businesses, and employ two out of three employees in Europe. Some of them are high-growth firms that generate a disproportionately high number of new jobs. However, SMEs often face obstacles specific to their smaller size that can hamper their growth potential. The main recent initiatives undertaken to help European SMEs grow fall within the flagship initiatives of the Commission: the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the single market strategy, the digital single market, and the capital markets union. The EU also supports SMEs through a range of long-term programmes running in the 2014-2020 period, such as COSME, Horizon 2020 and the structural and investment funds.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR
The digital economy in the EU [What Think Tanks are thinking]

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

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

Publication type: Study
Date: 29-11-2017
Author: Lorna SCHREFLER
Keyword: evaluation method | operation of the Institutions | administrative transparency | European Commission | EU programme | EU law
Summary: This paper aims to provide an overview of planned and ongoing evaluations of EU legislation and spending programmes carried out by each European Commission directorate-general (DG). The general overview and state of play on the public availability of evaluations is completed by a rolling check-list comprising on-going and planned evaluations on the basis of information disclosed by the Commission in various sources (DGs' management plans and annual activity reports, the Single Evaluation Plans for 2016 and 2017, roadmaps published since July 2015) and the information available in individual DGs. The annexes to this paper contain an overview of, and links to, the DGs' management plans for 2017 (Annex I); and a list of, and direct links to, the evaluations published between 2015 and 20 October 2017 in various sources (Annexes II and III). Finally, Annex IV covers the Commission staff working documents related to evaluation published on EUR-Lex and in the Register of Commission Documents up to October 2017.


Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 18-01-2017
Author: Jana VALANT
Policy area: International Trade | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Consumer Protection
Keyword: trade information | single market | electronic commerce | unfair terms of contract | consumer protection | advertising | commercial law | advertising malpractice | application of EU law | trade policy
Summary: Consumers may find it difficult to identify potentially harmful or unfair practices when entering into a transactional relationship with traders. Similarly, businesses and enforcement authorities may sometimes have problems applying and interpreting EU legislation in relation to commercial practices. While it is the Court of Justice that has competence to interpret EU legislation, the European Commission published legally non-binding guidance on the implementation/application of the Directive on Unfair Commercial Practices in May 2016, which aims to clarify some of the issues that have arisen since the adoption of the directive.
A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 15-09-2015
Author: Marcin SZCZEPANSKI
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.

Countering Terrorist Narratives

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-11-2017
External author: Dr Alastair Reed, International Centre for Counter-Terrorism – The Hague (ICCT), The Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael, Leiden University’s Institute for Security and Global Affairs (ISGA)
Dr Haroro J. Ingram, International Centre for Counter-Terrorism – The Hague (ICCT)
Joe Whittaker, International Centre for Counter-Terrorism – The Hague (ICCT), Cyberterrorism Project, Swansea University, Leiden University’s Institute for Security and Global Affairs (ISGA)
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Keyword: Internet | third country | multinational enterprise | police cooperation | public awareness campaign | political propaganda | terrorism | data transmission | NATO | EU-NATO cooperation | religious fundamentalism

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

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

Publication type Briefing  Date 27-10-2017
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG | Susanna TENHUNEN
Keyword digital single market | European security | head office | digitisation | European Banking Authority | United Kingdom | European Medicines Agency | EU action | refugee | international relations | Ireland | external border of the EU | European Council | EU migration policy | withdrawal from the EU
Summary
At their meeting on 19-20 October 2017, EU leaders will focus on migration, in particular assessing the progress made in stemming illegal flows on all migration routes, and digital Europe, following up on the Digital Summit held in Tallinn on 23 September. Heads of State or Government will also discuss defence, in particular the preparations for permanent structured cooperation (PESCO) as well as external relations, including relations with Turkey. The President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, is expected to present the new ‘Leaders’ Agenda 2017-2018’, outlining the decisions that need to be taken at the level of the European Council in the coming year. Finally, EU-27 leaders will meet on 20 October in a separate formal European Council (Article 50), without the United Kingdom, to discuss the latest developments in the latter’s withdrawal negotiations. It is expected that the European Council (Article 50) will postpone the decision on starting the second phase of negotiations on the EU’s future relations with the UK until the December 2017 European Council, due to insufficient progress having been made to date.

Briefing EN

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

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

Briefing EN

Understanding non-tariff barriers in the single market

Publication type Briefing  Date 09-10-2017
Author Marcin SZCZEPAŃSKI
Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword single market | standardisation | VAT | public contract | tendering | digital single market | collaborative economy | mutual recognition principle | non-tariff barrier
Summary
Despite the achievements of single market integration, many non-tariff barriers (NTBs) persist, preventing realisation of its full economic potential. These arise from laws, technical regulations and practices, and create obstacles for trade. NTBs can be of a general character, such as problems with the implementation and enforcement of EU law at the national level, missing or differing e-government solutions, or complex VAT requirements in intra-EU trade. NTBs can also be sector-specific and concern only specific markets for goods, services or retail. Accordingly, the EU is tackling NTBs with a mix of general and sectoral initiatives, often cutting across various policy areas. The Juncker Commission, now at the mid-term of its mandate, made deepening the single market one of its main priorities. The Commission’s single market and digital single market strategies address many NTBs. However, greater Member State involvement, stronger monitoring, and increased political emphasis on the single market are likely to be needed to remove the barriers and deepen single market integration. NTBs are also increasingly mentioned in the context of debates on the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union. The impacts of Brexit on the single market and NTBs are as yet unclear, but early analysis points to the likelihood of legal uncertainty and the need to address a multitude of often challenging issues.

Briefing EN
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 Gaudéul-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 Tiliydyte 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.

Strengthening the Position of Press Publishers and Authors and Performers in the Copyright Directive

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-09-2017
External author: Lionel Bently
Martin Kretschmer
Tobias Dudenbostel
Maria del Carmen Calatrava Moreno
Alfred Radauer
Keyword: literary profession | digital single market | publisher | approximation of laws | audiovisual industry | cultural heritage | digital technology | copyright
Summary: This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the JURI committee. It reviews Art 11 and Arts 14-16 of the proposed Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market. It outlines criticisms that have been made of the Commission's legislative proposals. As the Commission 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.

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. TTIP 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 ascendancy 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.
Modernisation of EU copyright rules: Initial Appraisal of a European Commission Impact Assessment

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 21-12-2016  
Author: Katharina EISELE | NIELS TACK  
Policy area: Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Intellectual Property Law  
Keyword: single market | digital single market | broadcasting | transmission network | television | copyright | impact study | reprography | Internet | audiovisual programme | digital rights management | cultural heritage | digital technology  
Summary: The IA clearly defines the underlying problems and the objectives of the proposed initiatives. It relies on various recent external studies, reviews and evaluations. The Commission consulted widely and the IA appears to have analysed a broad range of options and their impacts on all relevant stakeholders. However, the IA, which is very dense, is based on limited quantitative data, which the Commission openly acknowledges. It would also perhaps have benefited from a more detailed assessment of social impacts and impacts on fundamental rights. Moreover, with regard to the third general objective of achieving a well-functioning marketplace for copyright, it would seem that some specific issues were not addressed. Concerning the use of right holders’ content by online services, it appears the Commission changed its preferred option following the issuing of the RSB opinion, since a negotiation obligation is no longer included in the final IA. The IA could also have given more guidance on the coherence of the proposed acts with the E-Commerce Directive. Finally, concerning rights in (press) publications, it would have been useful if the IA had provided thorough reasoning regarding the new ancillary right.

Briefing  DE, EN, FR

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

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 23-05-2016  
Author: Etienne BASSOT | WOLFGANG HILLER  
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law  
Keyword: single market | United States | Economic and Monetary Union | the EU's international role | area of freedom, security and justice | sustainable development | EU industrial policy | European Commission | electronic commerce | simplification of legislation | climate change policy | energy policy | EU migration policy | trade agreement (EU) | economic priority | EU employment policy  
Summary: This publication provides an overview of the work done by the European Commission under the first two work programmes of Jean-Claude Juncker’s presidency, and more specifically of the initiatives it has taken in the framework of its ten priority areas for actions. It draws on a wide range of publications by EPRS, and builds, in particular, on the briefing ‘The ten priorities of the Juncker Commission: State of play a year on’, by Ariane Debyser. It has been compiled by Dessislava Boyadjieva with contributions from authors across EPRS – Piotr Bakowski, Angelos Delivorias, Goran Erbach, Stephan Hofer, Elena Lazarou, Anita Orav, Eva-Maria Poptcheva, 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.

In-Depth Analysis  DE, EN, FR

Copyright in the digital single market

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 29-11-2016  
Author: Tambiama André MADIEGA  
Policy area: Intellectual Property Law | Internal Market and Customs Union | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council  
Summary: On 14 September 2016, the European Commission presented a legislative package for the modernisation of the EU copyright rules, including a new directive on copyright in the digital single market. The proposal aims at further harmonising the EU copyright framework taking into account the increasing digital and cross-border uses of protected content. More specifically, it lays down rules on exceptions and limitations to copyright protection, on the facilitation of licences as well as rules aimed at ensuring a well-functioning marketplace for the exploitation of copyright-protected works. Stakeholders and commentators are strongly divided on the proposal. Much of the debate focuses on the creation of a new neighbouring right for press publishers, the measures imposed on platforms storing and giving access to user-uploaded content, and the scope of the new text- and data-mining exception.

Briefing  EN
Mass Surveillance - Part 1: Risks and opportunities raised by the current generation of network services and applications

Publication type: Study
Date: 12-01-2015
External author: Company: TECNALIA Research and Investigation

Authors:
Arkaitz Gamino Garcia
Concepción Cortes Velasco
Eider Ibarra Zamalloa
Erkuden Rico Velasco
Iñaki Eguía Elejabarrieta
Javier Herrera Lotero
Jason Mansell (Linguistic Review)
José Javier Larrañeta Ibañez
Stefan Schuster (Editor)

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

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

Study EN
Annex I EN
Annex II EN
Multimedia EN

Ten more technologies which could change our lives

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 14-07-2017
Author: CHRISTIAN MARTIN KURRER
Policy area: Research Policy | Industry

Keyword: sustainable mobility | intelligent transport system | health care | superconducting alloy | Framework Programme for Research and Development | renewable resources | radio telecommunications | electric vehicle | sustainable agriculture | genetic engineering | wood for construction | big data | cryptography | high-speed transport | trans-European network

Summary: In 2015, the European Parliament’s Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services (DG EPRS) broke new ground with its publication ‘Ten technologies which could change our lives – potential impacts and policy implications’, with each chapter highlighting a particular technology, its promises and potential negative consequences, and the role that the European Parliament could and should play in shaping these developments. This new study continues this work, presenting ten additional technologies that will increasingly require the attention of policy-makers. The topics for the current study have been chosen to reflect the wide range of topics that the Parliament’s Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Panel has decided to focus upon for the eighth parliamentary term (2014-2019). The aim of the publication is not only to draw attention to these ten particular technologies, but also to promote further reflection about other technological developments that may still be at an early stage but that could, in a similar way, massively impact our lives in the short- or longer-term future.

In-Depth Analysis EN
Multimedia EN

A Comparison Between US and EU Data Protection Legislation for Law Enforcement Purposes

Publication type: Study
Date: 08-10-2015
External author: Franziska Boehm (University of Münster, Institute for Information, Telecommunication and Media Law, Germany)

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice


Summary: This study was commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee. The study compares US and the EU legal frameworks on data protection in the field of law enforcement. It reviews US and EU principal legal sources of data protection legislation in the law enforcement and national security context and identifies rights available to individuals. The study further considers newly introduced or proposed US laws such as the USA FREEDOM Act and the Draft Judicial Redress Act and reviews its compatibility with EU data protection standards.

Study EN
**Commissioner-designate – Mariya Gabriel**

**Publication type** At a Glance  
**Date** 28-06-2017  
**Author** Tambiama André MADIEGA  
**Policy area** EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law  
**Keyword** rules of procedure | powers of the EP | European Commissioner | public hearing | appointment of members

**Summary** Mariya Gabriel has been designated Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society. The Committees on Industry, Research and Energy and on Culture and Education jointly held a hearing with her on 20 June 2017. Parliament is due to vote on her appointment on 4 July.

**At a Glance** EN

---

**The Cost of Non-Europe in the Sharing Economy: Economic, Social and Legal Challenges and Opportunities**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 25-01-2016  
**Author** Pierre GOUDIN  
**Policy area** European Added Value | Internal Market and Customs Union  
**Keyword** single market | freedom to provide services | labour law | application of EU law | restriction on competition | transport market | cost-benefit analysis | social security | impact study | social impact | electronic commerce | new type of employment | tax collection | impact of information technology

**Summary** This 'Cost of Non-Europe' study examines the current economic, social and legal state of play regarding the sharing economy in the European Union, and identifies the cost of the lack of further European action in this field. The assessment of existing EU and national legislation confirms that there are still significant implementation gaps and areas of poor economic performance. The subsequent examination of areas where it was believed that an economic potential exists highlighted that substantial barriers remain, hindering the achievement of the goals set out in the existing legislation. Moreover, some issues are not or are insufficiently addressed (e.g. status of workers employed by sharing economy service providers). Consequently, more European action would be necessary to achieve the full economic potential of the sharing economy. In doing so, policy-makers should seek to ensure an adequate balance between creative freedom for business and the necessary regulatory protection. This research estimates the potential economic gain linked with a better use of capacities (otherwise under-used) as a result of the sharing economy is €572 billion in annual consumption across the EU-28. This figure should nevertheless be considered with caution; substantial barriers prevent the full benefits from being realised, and could reduce the value of potential increased use to up to €18 billion in the shorter-term and up to €134 billion in the medium and longer term, depending on the scale of regulatory obstacles.

**Study** EN
A connected Digital Single Market - State of play and the way forward

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 26-01-2015
Author: Marcin SZCZEPANSKI
Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword: single market | electronic commerce | consumer protection | economic growth | legislative programme (EU) | telecommunications | data protection | copyright
Summary: Information and communication technologies and the digital economy have the potential to improve Europe's productivity and create growth and jobs. The EU has been making efforts to help create a more integrated European digital economy since the mid-1990s. In 2010, the Commission added new momentum to the process, and with the launch of the Digital Agenda set out to reap the benefits of a digital single market for households and businesses. Despite a relatively high level of implementation of the actions on the Agenda and the adoption of numerous legislative initiatives, the Digital Single Market remains fragmented into 28 national markets, and the EU continues to lag behind its main international competitors. The new European Commission recognised these shortcomings and the potential of the internet economy to help Europe recover from the crisis, and so placed completion of the Digital Single Market high on its agenda to the extent that there is now a dedicated project team of 13 Commissioners. In its 2015 Work Programme, the Commission outlined its intentions to conclude work on key pending proposals and table new legislative and non-legislative initiatives in this promising but challenging policy field, however to what extent tangible results will be achieved remains to be seen.

Priority dossiers under the Estonian EU Council Presidency

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 15-06-2017
Author: LUCIENNE ATTARD
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
Keyword: digital single market | European social policy | European security | telecommunications policy | EU Council Presidency | EU migration policy | Estonia | economic policy | renewable energy | EU growth strategy | EU energy policy | EU employment policy
Summary: Estonia will hold the EU Council Presidency from July to December 2017. Its presidency will herald a new Trio Presidency, composed of Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria. This will be the first time Estonia holds the rotating presidency. Estonia is currently led by a government coalition consisting of three political parties: the Estonian Centre Party (Eesti Keskerakond), the Social Democratic Party (Sotsiaaldemokraatlik Erakond) and the Pro Patria and Res Publica Union (Isamaa ja Res Publica Liit). Its Prime Minister, Jüri Ratas, in office since November 2016, belongs to the Estonian Centre Party. Estonia is a republic divided into 15 counties. It has a unicameral parliamentary system with 101 Members of Parliament, elected by proportional representation. On 15 October 2017, local municipality elections will be held, followed by parliamentary (Riigikogu) elections in 2019.

Evaluation in the European Commission (2nd edition)

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

Publication type: Study
Date: 04-08-2016

External author: Willibrordus Sluijters (DG REGIO, European Commission); Sébastien Renaud (European Commission); Chryssy Potsiou (National Technical University of Athens, Greece); George Delis (Ministry of Infrastructure, Transportation and Networks, Greece) and Andreas Psathas (Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism, Greece)

Policy area: Budget | Public international law | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Budgetary Control
Keyword: real estate business | institutional reform | allocation of land | Greece | expropriation | land reform

Summary: On 14 June 2016, at the request of the Committee on Budgetary Control, the Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs organised a workshop on “Follow-up of CONT mission to Greece. How to improve land expropriation decisions?”. The workshop examined the current status and the future prospects of land expropriations in Greece, offering clarification on undertaken reforms and recent legislation changes. This document cannot constitute an authoritative record of proceedings. The workshop was public and live webstreamed. The video record can be found under the following link: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-li/en/committees/video?event=20160614-1500-COMMITTEE-CONT

Study: EN

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

Publication type: Study
Date: 28-06-2016

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

Study: EN

Media freedom trends 2017: Eastern Partnership countries

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 03-05-2017

Author: Naja BENTZEN

Policy area: Foreign Affairs
Keyword: disinformation | freedom of expression | Armenia | censorship | political propaganda | freedom of communication | Ukraine | Belarus | Eastern Partnership | pluralism in the media | Georgia | Russia | Moldova | Azerbaijan

Summary: Media freedom is a core EU value and a cornerstone of democracy. That makes it a key part of the overall set of democratic and legal reforms being implemented by the six Eastern Partnership ( EaP) countries. As such, it is high on the agenda in political dialogue between the EU and these former Soviet states. Since the 2015 Eastern Partnership Media Conference highlighted media freedom in the EaP countries and options for EU engagement, international rankings assessing the levels of media freedom in most EaP countries have seen limited changes. Whereas Ukraine has made progress, despite the on-going crisis in the country, Moldova — former ‘poster child’ of the international media freedom rankings — has slipped downwards over recent years. In both countries, the Kremlin’s increasing information activities present a difficult challenge to media freedom policies. Sustainable changes in media freedom do not happen overnight. Nevertheless, beneath the surface, EU-funded projects and programmes are helping to change the media landscape. The European Parliament (EP) has also been consistent in promoting and supporting press freedom and freedom of expression in the region.

Briefing: EN
Presentation: Challenges for Competition Policy in a Digitalised Economy

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 05-08-2015
External author Nicolai VAN GORP and Olga BATURA
Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues | Consumer Protection | Financial and Banking Issues | Industry
Keyword EU competition policy | Internet | protection of privacy | telecommunications industry | dominant position | competition law | personal data | knowledge economy | digital technology | data protection
Summary The study presented in this event describes the challenges for competition policy in relation to the digital economy. It explores the specific characteristics of digital economy markets and how these characteristics impact competition policy. The study focuses on competition policy and its instruments such as anti-trust laws, merger regulation, sector specific regulation and State aid. Neighbouring policy fields such as copyright and data protection are outlined where important.

In-Depth Analysis EN

Audiovisual rights in sports events: An EU perspective

Publication type Briefing
Date 02-03-2017
Author Ivana KATSAROVA
Policy area Culture
Keyword impact study | exclusive distribution agreement | broadcasting | sports body | EU Member State | ownership | sporting event | EU law | copyright
Summary Premium live sports content attracts large audiences, drives TV subscriptions upwards and generates advertising for broadcasters, particularly in an increasingly diversified media landscape. With no foreseeable end to the rush for premium sports rights over a handful of major sports events, the dramatic intensification of competition in the past 20 years has led to a steep increase in the pricing levels of audiovisual rights. In 2009, EU broadcasters spent around €5.8 billion on the acquisition of rights, representing nearly 17% of their total €34.5 billion programming spend. Although sports events do not qualify as works of authorship, the audiovisual recordings of such events enjoy copyright protection and entitle rights-holders of the first fixation of the event to the right of reproduction, distribution, rental and communication to the public. In this context, the regulatory framework under which audiovisual sports rights agreements are negotiated in the EU features two predominant models – the joint selling of rights, where rights are sold by specially created associations on behalf of sports clubs, and exclusivity – a model referring to territorial exclusivity over the exploitation of audiovisual rights. In spite of the prominence of the latter model, the Audiovisual Media Services Directive contains two provisions that curb the restrictive allocation of rights, making it possible to freely receive information about events of major importance for society and enabling the public to have access to short extracts within general news programmes. The ongoing revision of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive does not currently envisage any changes to these provisions.

Briefing EN
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: 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.

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 scrutinizes the work of the European Commission. The Parliament can therefore ask the Commission to take action to fulfill 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 37 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.

Contracts for the supply of digital content and for the online and other distance sales of goods: Initial Appraisal of a European Commission Impact Assessment

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 17-02-2016

Author: HUBERT DALLI

Policy area: Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Internal Market and Customs Union | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law

Keyword: harmonisation of standards | digital technology | data protection | contract | supplier

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 two Commission proposals (the proposals), submitted on 9 December 2015 and referred to Parliament’s Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection. In 2011 the Commission published a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and Council on a Common European Sales Law (CESL). The European Parliament adopted its first reading legislative resolution on the proposal in February 2014, proposing substantial amendments. It did not receive Council's backing, however. In its Work Programme for 2015, the Commission stated that it would be modifying the CESL proposal and the two proposals under examination are the result of that process. The 2015 Work Programme had announced that the Commission was preparing a strategy to identify and tackle the major challenges towards a digital single market, undertaking, amongst other things, to simplify the rules for consumers making online and digital purchases and to facilitate e-commerce. Please click here for the full publication in PDF format.
Priority dossiers under the Maltese EU Council Presidency

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 15-12-2016
Author: LUCIENNE ATTARD
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary: Malta will hold the EU Council Presidency from January to July 2017. Its Presidency will bring to an end the Trio Presidency composed of the Netherlands, Slovakia and Malta. This is the first time Malta holds the rotating presidency. Malta is currently led by a Socialist government, with Joseph Muscat as its Prime Minister. Prime Minister Muscat was a Member of the European Parliament between July 2004 and January 2007. He has been Prime Minister since 2013. The next general elections are due in 2018. Six over-arching priorities have been identified by the Maltese government, as follows: migration, Single market, Security, Social inclusion, Europe’s Neighbourhood & Maritime sector. The Maltese Presidency is also cognisant of the impact a potential triggering of Article 50 by the British government will have on the future of the EU, and is preparing for a potential start of negotiations on a British exit from the EU. Prime Minister Theresa May has announced the notification under Article 50 by the UK government can be expected by March 2017.

Role of the European Council in delivery of single market strategies

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 22-11-2016
Author: Susanna TENHUNEN
Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council
Keyword: single market | European Council | digital single market | summit meeting | capital market

Summary: The potential of the EU single market should be better exploited. That is the main reason why the European Council, in June 2016, urged delivery of the different single market strategies and adopted an agenda of measures calling for rapid action in the areas of the digital single market, single market strategy and a Capital Markets Union. The focus is on bringing more opportunities to consumers and businesses, in particular encouraging digitalisation and reducing barriers to cross-border activities. The European Council’s main call is for the completion and implementation of the different single market strategies and action plans by 2018.


Publication type: Study
Date: 12-10-2015
External author: Stuart A. Reeves, Daniel Stepputts, Christopher Zimmermann, Uwe Krumme, Christian von Dorrien, Marloes Kraan, Ruben Verkemypnyc, Nathalie A. Steins, José Mª Bellido Millán, José Luis Sánchez Lizaso, Ana Carbonell Quetglas, Teresa Garcia Jimenez, Jorge Baro Domínguez and Julio Valeiras Mota
Policy area: Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Fisheries
Keyword: impact study | Mediterranean Sea | marine ecosystem | catch of fish | fishery management | Atlantic Ocean | Baltic Sea | common fisheries policy | environmental impact | fishing regulations

Summary: This set of documents was prepared for the workshop of the PECH Secretariat held on 13 October 2015 in Brussels, and include the following papers:
I - Lessons from the Past for the Future of Technical Measures ;
II - Technical Measures in the Baltic Sea – An Alternative to Over-Regulation and the Brace-and-Belt Approach ;
III - Technical Measures in the Atlantic and the North Sea – Working with Stakeholders Towards Meaningful Revision ;

Cross Border Acquisitions of Residential Property in the EU: Problems Encountered by Citizens

Publication type: Study
Date: 05-04-2016
External author: Peter Sparkes (University of Southampton), Dilsen Bulut (ZERP, University of Bremen), Magdalena Habdas (University of Silesia), Mark Jordan (Southampton Law School), Héctor Simón Moreno (University Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona), Sergio Naserre Aznar (University Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona), Tommi Ralli (ZERP, University of Bremen) and Christoph Schmid (ZERP, University of Bremen)
Policy area: EU Law: Legal System and Acts
Keyword: residence | consumer protection | real estate credit | EU Member State | property market | comparative study | free movement of persons | local tax | acquisition of property | national law | administrative formalities | Community migration | real property | land and buildings | EU competence

Summary: This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the JURI Committee. It identifies and analyses the legal and practical difficulties that an EU citizen faces when buying properties abroad and investigates what can be done to assist an EU citizen when buying residential immovable property in another Member State, making ten recommendations to improve their lot.
**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.

**China’s Foreign Policy and External Relations**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 07-07-2015  
**External author** Matthieu BURNAY, Kolja RAUBE and Jan WOUTERS  
**Policy area** International Trade | Global Governance | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence  
**Keyword** Libya | Pakistan | Syria | sustainable development | Ukraine | investment abroad | ASEAN countries | China | World Trade Organisation | North Korea | UN Security Council | territorial dispute | International Monetary Fund | Iran | India | Japan | foreign policy | rule of law | economic relations | regional security | non-proliferation of arms | international sanctions | terrorism | Russia | cooperation agreement (EU)  
**Summary** This study provides an overview of China’s current approach to foreign policy and external relations. It focuses more particularly on the role and actions of China in global governance, its territorial claims and relations with countries in Asia, and its emergence as an important actor in Central and Eastern Europe as well as in the EU’s Eastern Neighbourhood. It assesses the implications for the EU and makes recommendations on how the EU should deepen its strategic partnership with China. The study argues that China has not made a unilateral and exclusive turn towards assertiveness in its foreign policy. China’s foreign policy assertiveness represents a policy choice that should be understood in the broader context of its external relations, which is one of uncertainty. Both the impact of China’s emergence in international affairs and the use China intends to make of its power and influence remain uncertain. This uncertainty is explained by the interdependence between a number of international and domestic factors as well as by the absence of a grand strategy. The uncertainty in China’s foreign policy opens avenues for the EU to influence China and further deepen the scope of the EU-China Strategic Partnership.

**Consumer protection aspects of mobile payments**

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 22-06-2015  
**Author** Jana VALANT  
**Policy area** Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection  
**Keyword** electronic commerce | computer crime | consumer protection | impact of information technology | advertising malpractice | electronic money | business morals | mobile phone | systems interconnection | data protection  
**Summary** Over the next few years, mobile commerce in Europe is expected to grow at an average compound annual rate of 42%. The way in which consumers purchase goods and services is changing significantly as new technologies permit the development of an increasing number of cashless payment solutions. There are various forms of mobile payment (payment, for which the payment data and the payment instruction is initiated, transmitted or confirmed via a mobile phone or device). They include payments via SMS, direct billing (by adding the payment to the monthly mobile phone bill), mobile web payments (using a credit/debit card or pre-registration at an online payment provider), and Near Field Communication (NFC). However some of the challenges to consumer protection, such as lack of interoperability between mobile payment options, personal data protection, digital identity theft and fraud, prevent greater consumer take-up of mobile payments. Unfair commercial practices in e-commerce relevant to mobile payments include misleading advertising, hidden payment obligation and IP tracking. Other consumer protection issues are dormant assets, lack of accessibility and readability of payment-related information, and concerns related to vulnerable consumers. While the current legislative framework is undergoing revision as a result of the European Commission's new proposal for a Directive on payment services in the internal market, some stakeholders voice concerns.
A strategy for completing the Single Market: the trillion euro bonus - Report of the High-Level Panel of Experts to the IMCO Committee

Publication type: Study  
Date: 11-01-2016

Author: Stanislas DE FINANCE | Joseph DUNNE | Tatjana EVAS | Pierre GOUDIN | Lorna SCHREFLER | Katharina EISELE

Policy area: European Added Value | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword: single market | governance | impact study | drafting of EU law | free movement of goods | coordination of EMU policies | European integration | free movement of workers | cost-benefit analysis | economic analysis

Summary: The economic potential of the Single Market could reach, according to research carried out by the European Parliament, as much as one trillion euro per annum in additional GDP growth. Securing this economic 'bonus' requires a strategic approach, through which the EU would pursue a "genuine Single Market" and treat it as a common asset. Such a strategy implies leadership and new politics for the Single Market, involving the full commitment of Member States and their compliance in implementing EU law and removing the remaining obstacles. Six key recommendations are put forward to enhance the functioning of the Single market, focused on concepts of reframing, reengineering and retooling the Single Market.

Study EN

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 film in the digital era

Publication type: At a Glance  
Date: 20-04-2015

Author: Magdalena PASIKOWSKA-SCHNASS

Policy area: Culture

Keyword: electronic commerce | United States | consumer behaviour | impact of information technology | distributive trades | film industry | technological change | European audiovisual area | international competition | copyright | audiovisual piracy

Summary: The fast pace of technological change is creating both challenges and opportunities for the film industry, notably in terms of distribution via new release channels (video on demand, downloading, streaming) and release windows (release chronology), and resulting changes in audience behaviour. New business models also raise questions over copyright for access to content.

At a Glance EN

Tax Challenges in the Digital Economy

Publication type: Study  
Date: 29-06-2016

External author: Eli Hadzhieva

Policy area: European Added Value | Public international law | European Semester | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword: electronic commerce | VAT | banking secrecy | OECD | multinational enterprise | fraud | tax evasion | territorial jurisdiction | research and development | European Commission | tax avoidance

Summary: This paper analyses direct and indirect tax challenges in the digital economy in light of the conclusions of the OECD’s BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) Project. While assessing the recent reforms in the area of taxation within the EU and third countries, it revisits the question of whether or not specific measures are needed for the digital sector. Taking into account the recent scandals involving big digital companies and their aggressive tax planning practices in the EU, the specificities of the digital sector and the legal landscape in the 28 Member States, the paper makes policy recommendations for further tax reforms in order to tackle tax avoidance and harmful competition.

Study EN
EU Innovation Policy – Part II: EU policies and instruments supporting innovation

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 24-05-2016
Author: Vincent REILLON
Policy area: Research Policy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Industry
Keyword: single market | multi-level governance | EU financing | EU industrial policy | small and medium-sized enterprises | electronic commerce | economic and social cohesion | energy policy | entrepreneurship | EU research policy | company research | research and development | innovation | intellectual property
Summary: This publication aims to provide an overview of the measures and instruments that make up the EU's innovation policy mix. The paper focuses on current EU innovation initiatives and considers some issues limiting the development of an EU innovation policy. The EU innovation policy mix comprises, on the one hand, key policies targeting the actors of the innovation process (research and development, industrial, education and regional policy); on the other, it includes key framework conditions covering policies and instruments shaping the interactions and organising the flows of knowledge, skills and funds between the innovation players (funding, taxation, single market and competition, regulation, standards, intellectual property rights, etc.). Most measures taken at EU level aim to address the fragmentation of the European innovation landscape resulting from the diversity of national and regional policies. Although progress has been made in addressing the barriers created by fragmentation, there is a need to renew the governance of innovation policies in order for innovation to reach its full potential in Europe.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR

The Single Market Strategy
Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 23-05-2016
Author: Jana VALANT
Policy area: Employment | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues | Consumer Protection
Keyword: single market | freedom to provide services | VAT | EP Committee | financial solvency | economic convergence | European patent | EU situation | designation of origin | social security | small and medium-sized enterprises | economic analysis
Summary: Following the Commission Communication 'Upgrading the Single Market: more opportunities for people and business', presented on 28 October 2015, the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) adopted its own-initiative report on the Single Market Strategy on 21 April. The report is due to be discussed and voted in plenary in May.

At a Glance EN

Streaming and Online Access to Content and Services
Publication type: Study
Date: 14-03-2014
Author: Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI
Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection
Keyword: single market | electronic commerce | freedom to provide services | Internet | digital archiving | impact of information technology | telecommunications policy | free movement of goods | cross-frontier data flow | knowledge economy | international competition | electronic government
Summary: As a result of technological progress in the area of cloud computing and mobile connectivity, Internet is increasingly offering an omnipresent and interactive - ubiquitous - access to information and content. This improved access is, in turn, leading to efficiency, innovation and a significant reduction of the environmental footprint through dematerialisation of consumption, with potential changes in the economic and societal landscape. However, the current legal and economic setting in Europe is leading to a partitioning of mobile Internet access and Internet content along national borders, significantly affecting benefits that could be derived by Europeans from the Digital Single Market and preventing Europe from consolidating its comparative advantage on the global ICT market.

Study EN
Mass Surveillance - Part 2: Technology foresight, options for longer term security and privacy improvements

Publication type: Study
Date: 13-01-2015
External author: Company: Capgemini Consulting
Authors: M. van den Berg
P. de Graaf (editor)
P.O. Kwant
T. Slewe

Policy area: Research Policy | Forward Planning
Keyword: computer crime | Internet | impact of information technology | prospective technological studies | area of freedom, security and justice | protection of communications | espionage | cryptography | personal data | open source software | data protection

Summary: The main objective of part two of this study is to provide the European Parliament with policy options, based on technology foresight, with regard to the protection of the European Information Society against mass surveillance from a perspective of technology and organisational foresight. Four scenarios with two to four technology options each were developed in this study, leading to twenty-three policy options.

Study EN
Annex I EN
Annex II EN
Multimedia 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
Cross-border portability of online content services in the internal market: Initial Appraisal of a European Commission Impact Assessment

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 17-03-2016
Author: Katharina EISELE

Policy area: Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Internal Market and Customs Union
Keyword: programmes industry | single market | electronic commerce | impact study | freedom to provide services | audiovisual industry | drafting of EU law | cross-border data flow | free movement of programmes | copyright

Summary: This note seeks to provide an initial analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the European Commission's Impact Assessment accompanying the above proposal, adopted on 9 December 2015. This proposal is one of the first legislative initiatives proposed under the umbrella of the Digital Single Market (DSM) Strategy. The DSM Strategy is in itself one of the ten political priorities of the Juncker Commission. The portability proposal aims to contribute to the key objectives of the DSM allowing for better online access to digital goods and services across the EU Member States when travelling. Further legislative proposals in the field of copyright are expected in 2016. Overall, the impression is that this IA has made a reasonable attempt to analyse the current situation, substantiating the need for EU action to solve the issue. The IA draws upon a wide range of research from different sources and disciplines, both external and internal, and the stakeholder consultation appears to be broad. However, the objective of the present initiative (to ensure cross-border portability) is formulated in such a way that it can in fact only conceivably be achieved by a legislative solution that prescribes portability on a mandatory basis (meaning Option 3, which is the Commission's preferred option). This could cast some doubt as to whether the alternatives presented were really considered as viable options. Also, some of the assumptions upon which the IA is based might merit some further examination. For example, this might be the case concerning the current and potential future consumer demand for portability based on Eurobarometer data. Finally, the IA could perhaps have been clearer from the start that the real issue at hand concerns almost exclusively limited portability of online content services in the AV sector and sport premium content services, but that for reasons of legal certainty, all sectors are technically covered by the initiative (IA, p. 21).

Briefing: DE, EN, FR

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

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 2015, 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.

Briefing: EN

Multimedia: EN
Towards a Digital Single Market Act
Publication type At a Glance
Date 11-01-2016
Author Marcin SZCZEPANSKI
Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword single market | electronic commerce | transmission network | consumer protection | digital literacy | entrepreneurship | labour shortage | social security | electronic government | corporate finance
Summary In May 2015, the Commission adopted a strategic proposal entitled 'A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe', comprising 16 legislative and non-legislative initiatives to be delivered by the end of 2016. A report by the Committees on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) and on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), elaborating on the Strategy and its impact on society and economy, is due to be discussed in plenary in January.

Publication type Study
Date 13-04-2015
Author Joseph DUNNE
Keyword single market | citizens’ Europe | consumer protection | liberalisation of trade | law of banking | cost-benefit analysis | common security and defence policy | economic analysis | electronic commerce | European social policy | coordination of aid | tourism policy | coordination of EMU policies | trade agreement (EU) | common transport policy | financial legislation
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.

The Collaborative Economy
Publication type Study
Date 21-12-2015
Author Lieve VAN WOENSEL | PETER IDE-KOSTIC
External author External authors: Steve Robertshaw (editor), Nick Achilleopoulos, Johan E. Bengtsson, Patrick Crehan, Angele Giuliano, John Solidatos (AcrossLimits Ltd, Malta)
Policy area Research Policy | Forward Planning | Global Governance | Consumer Protection
Keyword consumer protection | electronic money | prospective technological studies | technological change | copyright | social impact | electronic commerce | economic consequence | Internet | impact of information technology | information processing | computer assisted design | data protection
Summary Ever since its appearance, Internet has allowed us to collaborate with other people remotely. In the 80's, email was the breakthrough that enabled exchange of digital materials. In the 90's, the World Wide Web opened collaboration on web sites. After 2000, social media and e-meeting technologies enabled face-to-face interaction with others via the Internet. New modes of collaboration, such as crowd sourcing, crowd funding, co-creation or open design are reaching mainstream use. Advances in technologies related to Collaborative Internet, Big/Open Data, Crypto Currency and Additive Manufacturing are bringing the Collaborative Economy ever closer to us. This study reveals a wide range of opportunities and threats associated with these technologies, as well as social, political, economic, moral and ethical issues related to this new way of working. Policy options are presented, in order to help policy makers anticipate developments with effective policies that will nurture the positive impacts of collaborative Internet and avoid the negative ones.
The Eastern Partnership after Five Years: Time for Deep Rethinking

Publication type Study
Date 23-02-2015
External author Grzegorz GROMADZKI (Institute of Public Affairs, Poland)
Policy area International Trade | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword European neighbourhood policy | energy cooperation | free-trade area | European integration | Ukraine | joint body (EU) | Belarus | human rights | visa policy | political reform | regional security | international sanctions | economic recession | Russia | Moldova | democratisation | Caucasus countries | association agreement (EU)
Summary The first five years of the Eastern Partnership have witnessed the most challenging period of relations between the EU and its eastern neighbours since the fall of communism in 1991. The year 2014 was a pivotal one, marked by the signing of Association Agreements with the European Union by three partners countries – Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, and Georgia – but also by Russian military intervention in Ukraine, including the annexation of Crimea. The continued aggression of a revanchist and intransigent Russia has altered the political and social landscape, and the original concept of the Eastern Partnership, however well-intentioned and suitable for a previous era, is not adequate to meet the challenges of 2015 and beyond. Therefore, there is a need for the EU to rethink its policy towards the Eastern Partnership countries and Russia, and build new approaches to suit the new reality. More than ever, the EU needs to focus its attention on relations with those Eastern Partner countries that are willing to cooperate more closely and who truly wish to integrate with the Union, politically, economically and socially. Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, and Georgia should be perceived as more than partners, and the ‘more for more’ approach should be strengthened. Such an approach would send a clear political signal to all parties involved, and make for a better use of limited resources.

Research for TRAN Committee - The Digitisation of Tourism Enterprises

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 16-11-2015
External author Ondrej Mitas, Marian van der Ent and Paul Peeters
Policy area Transport | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice
Keyword electronic commerce | impact of information technology | dominant position | tourism | market | information technology applications | small and medium-sized enterprises
Summary This analysis synthesizes the effects of information technology developments on tourism SMEs in the European Union. The effects were found to be profoundly disruptive to traditional business models of tourism information and distribution. Policy developments supporting research, education and facilitating change in tourism SMEs are called for.

Employment and Skills Aspects of the Digital Single Market Strategy

Publication type Study
Date 16-11-2015
External author Daphne Valsamis (IDEA Consult)
Policy area Social Policy | Employment
Keyword single market | personnel administration | labour law | vocational training | digital literacy | labour shortage | digital divide | teleworking | working conditions | skill obsolescence | social security | electronic commerce | new type of employment | economic consequence | postal service
Summary The ongoing and anticipated impact of digitalisation and the digital single market not only provides opportunities, but also presents challenges in terms of the job dynamics and changes in working conditions. The net effects of digitalisation on employment are ambiguous, but job losses in certain sectors are inevitable. Classic employer-employee relationships are also under pressure. The transformation of jobs calls for different skills requirements which could lead to growing skill gaps and mismatch in the labour market.

Source : © European Union, 2018 - EP
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.

Supporting European Security and Defence with Existing EU Measures and Procedures

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 | decision-making
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, internal 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.

Democratic Change in Central and Eastern Europe 1989-90

Publication type Study
Date 27-01-2015
Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights
Keyword Yugoslavia | USSR | Romania | enlargement of the Union | East-West relations | contemporary history | European integration | unification of Germany | Baltic States | human rights | Hungary | Poland | change of political system | post-communism | Albania | German Democratic Republic | Bulgaria | cold war | Czechoslovakia | European Parliament
Summary Part of the new European Parliament History series, this study analyses the events that led to democratic change in Central and Eastern Europe in the years 1989-90, from the perspective of the Parliament, as detailed in materials to be found in its Historical Archives. It traces Parliament's discussions and positions during this crucial period, including its debates on Post-Communism and on Eastern enlargement. The studies in the European Parliament History Series are primarily based on documents preserved in, and made available to the public by, the Historical Archives of the European Parliament. &nbsp;
Research for TRAN Committee - Tourism and the Sharing Economy: Challenges and Opportunities for the EU

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-10-2015

External author: Paul Peeters, Corné Dijkmans, Ondrej Mitas, Boukje Strous and Jeroen Vinkensteij

Policy area: Transport | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice
Keyword: single market | electronic commerce | EU competition policy | barter | Internet | impact of information technology | tourism policy | basis of tax assessment | tax | hotel industry | economic analysis

Summary: The impacts, challenges and opportunities caused by the fast-growing sharing economy in tourism are assessed. The report describes the definition, size, and development of the sharing (or collaborative) economy, assessing the (dis-)advantages for the tourism sector, concluding with policy analysis and recommendations. Large parts of the sharing economy are affecting the tourism sector, although its share is very small. The main challenges are taxation and regulation; main opportunities are the innovative power and enhanced competition.

Study: EN

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

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 04-09-2015
Author: Ariane DEBYSER

Policy area: European Added Value
Keyword: 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: 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.

Briefing: ES, EN

Smart Single Market Regulation

Publication type: Study
Date: 02-09-2015

External author: Patrick MULLER

Keyword: governance | single market | application of EU law | drafting of EU law | exchange of information | case study | economic analysis | EU law - national law | simplification of legislation | principle of subsidiarity | power of assessment | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | digital technology | action programme

Summary: This study proposes a consolidated governance system that would serve as a tool for smart Single Market regulation toward 2020 and beyond. It outlines areas for improvement in Single Market regulation through the adoption of performance-based policy concepts; and reviews the scope for making better use of the Single Market governance tools to improve the effectiveness of regulation. The study was prepared for Policy Department A at the request of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee.

Study: EN
Towards reform of the EU Copyright Directive
Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 29-06-2015
Author: Tambiama André MADIEGA
Policy area: Intellectual Property Law
Keyword: single market | law relating to information | approximation of laws | amendment of a law | technological change | digital technology | EC Directive | copyright | proposal (EU)
Summary: The European Parliament has long called for the modernisation of the legal framework on copyright. A Commission proposal to amend EU copyright law is expected by the end of 2015. On 16 June 2015, the Legal Affairs Committee adopted an own-initiative report on the implementation of one of the main pieces of legislation governing copyright in the EU, the 2001 Copyright Directive.

Fisheries Management and the Arctic in the Context of Climate Change
Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2015
External author: Roland BLOMEYER, Kim STOBBERUP, Karim ERZINI, Vicky LAM, Daniel PAULY and Jesper RAAKAER
Policy area: Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Fisheries
Keyword: environmental monitoring | marine ecosystem | Arctic | indigenous population | global warming | economic consequence | fishery resources | fishing agreement | fishing area | fishery management | common fisheries policy | environmental impact | Arctic Ocean
Summary: Climate change is expected to significantly affect the Arctic Ocean, primarily through warming and reduction of ice cover. Models suggest that fisheries in the Arctic will benefit from increased primary productivity, expansion of distribution ranges of mainly low to medium resilience boreal commercial species and availability of new fishing grounds, especially in international waters not covered by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations. The EU Arctic policy should further develop international collaboration in research and monitoring, and address future fisheries governance issues.

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 | 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 Schmitt, 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.

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

Source: © European Union, 2018 - EP
Assessing the EU's Approach to Security Sector Reform (SSR)

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 23-01-2013
External author: Eva GROSS (Free University of Brussels, Belgium) and Marine JACOB (TEPSA, BELGIUM - for the workshop report at annex)
Policy area: Global Governance | Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence
Keyword: SSR activities are key for stabilizing fragile and post-conflict states through their emphasis on training, institutional reform and governance. The EU has engaged in aspects of SSR for the past decade through its CFSP/CSDP as well as development and enlargement policies. The recently launched CSDP missions in the Horn of Africa take place in a new institutional context, and address European security concerns in a fragile but geopolitically important region. The EU’s engagement with SSR in general and the Horn of Africa in particular shows the difficulties in simultaneously pursuing dual objectives of stability and institution-building and in adopting and coordinating long- and short-term approaches to the problems facing the region. To do justice to the holistic conception of SSR and its emphasis on accountability and democratic oversight, the training of security forces and capacity building needs to be framed in a long-term approach that aims for sustainable structural change. The creation of the EEAS has given the EU the right tools – but a continued emphasis on policy coordination is necessary to address old and new, institutional and operational challenges so as to attain a comprehensive approach to SSR. The input and continued commitment of member states to CSDP also remains vital.

In-Depth Analysis: EN

Does it Help or Hinder ? - Promotion of Innovation on the Internet and Citizens’ Right to Privacy

Publication type: Study
Date: 13-12-2011
External author: Jonathan Cave, Neil Robinson and Rebecca Schindler (RAND Europe) ; Gabriela Bodea, Linda Kool and Marc van Lieshout (TNO) ; Quality Assurance review conducted by Scott Marcus (WIK-Consult) and Hans Graux (time.lex)
Policy area: Consumer Protection | Industry
Keyword: This study investigates the interplay between Internet innovation and privacy. We propose working definitions of innovation and privacy and review the literature about their interaction. We interpret the possible tensions and problems in terms of market and system failures and analyse the relevant legal and policy aspects in relation to examples of privacy invasion and/or protection by innovating companies. Using a four issue framework we analyse relevant case studies such as cloud computing and online behavioural advertising. Following a gap analysis according to our model of failure, we present a series of recommendations aimed at different stakeholders. The study was based on desk research, key informant interviews, case studies and an interactive expert consultation held in Brussels in June 2011.

Study: EN

Executive summary: ES, CS, DE, EL, EN, FR, IT, HU, NL, PL, PT, RO, SV

Options for Sustainable Food and Agriculture in the EU (Synthesis of the Project 'Technology Options for Feeding 10 Billion People')

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-11-2013
Policy area: Research Policy | Food Safety | Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword: How should Europe respond to the increased demands on our food and agriculture systems arising from global population growth, changing diets, and competing demands on agricultural land? This report offers a view on how the EU could play a role in meeting these challenges in the coming decades and sets out some of the options which merit particular attention. It focuses on options for increasing agricultural productivity whilst adapting to the effects of climate change and reducing emissions from agriculture, the means of reversing continued declines in farmland biodiversity, the reduction of food wastage, ways to achieve a more resource-efficient food sector, and the options for using wastes and residues to meet biomaterial and bioenergy needs in a sustainable way. It brings together some of the analysis and results of five commissioned studies in a synthesis, considering the state of play today and some of the key developments on the horizon moving towards 2050. The European Union has strongly developed common environmental and agricultural policies, and a recently reformed Common Agricultural Policy with a greater emphasis on both the environment and innovation, providing Member States with an opportunity to initiate a change in direction.

At the same time, there are major challenges to increasing productivity in an appropriate way whilst reducing damage to European agricultural and natural resources and biodiversity. It will be important to produce more with less in Europe and to cut wastage.

Study: EN

Executive summary: ES, CS, DE, EL, EN, FR, IT, HU, NL, PL, PT, RO, SV
The Implementation of the Joint Africa Europe Strategy: Rebuilding Confidence and Commitments

Publication type: Study
Date: 09-04-2014

External author: Damien HELLY (project leader), Essete Abebe BEKELE, Sahra EL FASSI and Greta GALEAZZI (ECDPM, the Netherlands)

Policy area: Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: regional security | governance | Africa | migration policy | EU relations | cooperation policy | North-South relations | economic integration | trade policy | economic infrastructure | human rights

Summary: EU’s relations with Africa still need to be guided by high level political ambitions expressed in a revitalised political statement — the Joint Africa Europe Strategy (JAES) — agreed by heads of state and government and EU and AU leadership in 2007. The JAES is also a multi-dimensional cooperation partnership. Despite its bureaucratic shortfalls, politically aware and motivated stakeholders actually managed to use it effectively in conducive environments. Yet, the partnership has lost its political traction because of serious divergences on trade, international justice, governance and cultural cooperation. Refreshing the partnership is now necessary to rebuild trust and commitment. This will only be effective if the following conditions are met: clearly identified and sustainable political leadership and steering from both sides; alignment on African and European long-term continental and global strategies; clarification of the relevant and appropriate level of intervention (continental, regional, national) of JAES implementation according to the subsidiarity principle; available funds (including the Pan-African Programme) programmed according to the mindset of the joint strategy; functional and direct linkages with existing international, African and European decision making structures; available space for informal multi-stakeholder dialogue paving the ground for mutual understanding and coalitions of the willing; stronger monitoring and oversight mechanisms on JAES implementation by parliaments, civil society and other relevant bodies.

Implementation of the Modernised Customs Code

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-02-2012

External author: Ine Lejeune, Ruud Tusveld, Dirk Aerts, Jos Verstraten, Nico Bogaerts and Michael Van de Velde (PwC Belgium / PwC the Netherlands)

Policy area: Internal Market and Customs Union | EU Law: Legal System and Acts
Keyword: EU customs procedure | information technology | customs regulations | application of EU law | exchange of information

Summary: The aim of this study is to examine the challenges and conditions relating to the implementation of the Modernised Customs Code. The study identifies and assesses the legal, IT technical and operational issues in view of the implementation of the Modernised Customs Code.

Agriculture in Brazil and Relations with the EU

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-03-2014

Author: Albert MASSOT MARTI | Guillaume RAGONNAUD | Francesco TROPEA

Policy area: Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword: demography | aid to agriculture | agricultural situation | economic region | agricultural trade | administrative structures | trade dispute | Brazil | common agricultural policy | transgenic plant | national agricultural policy | agricultural statistics | economic situation

Summary: This study consists of: 1) an introductory section setting out the main physical and demographic data; 2) a general chapter on the Brazilian economy; 3) an in-depth analysis of the agricultural sector in terms of both production and commercial aspects; 4) an overview of conflicts and potentially conflictive issues in EU-Brazil relations; 5) and finally, some general comments on the new CAP 2014/2020.

Gold-Plating’ in the EAFRD - To What Extent Do National Rules Unnecessarily Add to Complexity and, as a Result, Increase the Risk of Errors?

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-02-2014

External author: Matteo BOCCI, Jan Maarten DE VET and Andreas PAUER (Ecorys Brussels NV), in collaboration with Roland BLOMEYER and Antonio SANZ (Blomeyer & Sanz) and Elena SARACENO (independent consultant)

Policy area: Transposition and Implementation of Law | Budgetary Control | Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword: governance | EAFRD | Austria | terms for aid | rural development | administrative procedure | Italy | Spain | Portugal | administrative formalities | Bulgaria | financial control | financial regulation | management accounting

Summary: ‘Gold-plating’ refers to obligations that go beyond EU requirements: an excess of norms, guidelines and procedures accumulated at national, regional and local levels interfering with the expected policy goals. A broad range of gold-plating issues have been identified in the EAFRD, related above all to eligibility and agri-environmental commitments, but also to payment issues, controls and procurement rules set at the RDPs level. Gold-plating and related errors can be addressed by capacity building, coordination and cooperation between all actors involved.

Publication type  Study
Date  15-03-2011
External author  Milou Beerepoot (Renewable Energy Division, International Energy Agency - IEA), Ruggero Bertani (Geothermal Business Development, Enel S.p.A.), Anthony Brenninkmeijer (HIINICIO), Max Carcas (Pelamis Wave Power, Edinburgh), Luis Crespo (Protermosolar, Spain), Antonio Falcão (Technical University of Lisbon) and Arnulf Jäger-Waldau (EC Joint Research Centre, Ispra)
Policy area  Environment | Research Policy | Energy | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword  geothermal energy | energy audit | energy technology | solar energy | renewable energy | research and development | wave energy | technology assessment | economic analysis
Summary  The aim of the workshop was to assess the potential for the development and deployment of new renewable energy technologies in the field of solar power, ocean energy and geothermal energy. The invited speakers explored the main features of these technologies, their technological capacities, potential and limits, and their environmental impact. They also reviewed the economics of the sector, assessing both capital costs and electricity generation costs.

State of the Art Mobile Internet Connectivity and its Impact on e-Commerce

Publication type  Study
Date  16-07-2012
External author  J. Scott Marcus (WIK), Pieter Nooren (TNO) and Imme Philbeck (WIK)
Policy area  Research Policy | Internal Market and Customs Union | Consumer Protection
Keyword  single market | electronic commerce | retail price | Internet | transmission network | regulation of telecommunications | mobile phone | new technology
Summary  Mobile broadband usage is growing thanks to the popularity of Internet-enabled smart phones and tablets. Mobile data networks are becoming faster and more capable. Europeans increasingly depend on mobile data applications, when at home and when under way. This briefing note considers whether the high price of mobile data roaming inhibits the use of mobile applications; the degree to which the 2012 Roaming Regulation addresses these concerns; and what further measures if any should be taken.

Workshop Report on Internet Governance Forum 2008 : a European Perspective

Publication type  Study
Date  15-01-2009
External author  Wolfgang Kleinwächter (Department for Media and Information Sciences of the University of Aarhus, Danemark), Rolf Weber (European Law Institute and of the Centre for Information and Communication Law, Faculty of Law, University of Zürich, Switzerland) and Yves Pouillot (Research Centre on IT and Law - CRID, University of Namur, Belgium)
Policy area  Culture | Industry
Keyword  Internet | freedom of expression | protection of privacy | information technology | cultural pluralism | data protection
Summary  The Internet Governance Forum is a multi-stakeholder forum for policy dialogue on issues of internet governance and its third meeting was held in December 2008 in Hyderabad/India. The workshop and the briefings were intended to stimulate efficient and effective discussion among experts on key topics and to provide expert advice and recommendations to the EP ad hoc delegation in order to prepare its input and position. The briefings provided some analytical research and visions on the political, economic, social and legal issues of Internet governance.
### Arctic Governance: Balancing Challenges and Development

**Publication type:** Study  
**Date:** 25-06-2012  
**Author:** Fernando GARCES DE LOS FAYOS TOURNAN  
**Policy area:** Environment | Energy | Industry  
**Keyword:** governance | extraction of oil | United States | natural gas | Finland | Arctic | Canada | climate change | natural resources | biodiversity | exploitation of resources | mining industry | Norway | Russia | Sweden | environmental impact | Denmark  
**Summary:** The Arctic region is experiencing major changes, which are occurring more rapidly than in any other region of the world, mainly as a result of global warming and climate change. Coupled with new technology, changes in the Arctic have rendered resources that were once well beyond our reach accessible. Commercial ships, for example, are now using Arctic routes each summer to shorten the length of their trips between continents; such routes that would have been impassable only a few decades ago. The fragility of the Arctic environment and of its ecosystems has led to growing concern that they may reach a tipping point, after which they would simply collapse. The rising seas caused by melting Arctic glaciers are only one example of the relation. More robust Arctic governance systems need to be developed soon, particularly as the UNFCCC discussions are not progressing as expected. For the Arctic Council, for example, should be given wider powers. Arctic governance will have to strike a balance between protection and development, and between respecting Arctic States and their inhabitants and recognising the legitimate interests of the rest of the world. Several Arctic States have issued Arctic strategy papers, and the European Commission will this month adopt its second Communication on the EU's Arctic policy.

**Study EN**

### Workshop Report on 'Climate Change: Reduction of Non-CO2 Emissions' - Brussels, 28 June 2011

**Publication type:** Study  
**Date:** 15-07-2011  
**External author:** Maria José Lopez and Marco Orsini (ICEDD - Institut de Conseil et d'Etudes en Développement Durable, Namur, Belgique)  
**Policy area:** Environment  
**Keyword:** climate change | EU environmental policy | greenhouse gas | reduction of gas emissions | technology  
**Summary:** This report summarises the presentations and discussions at a Workshop on "Climate Change: Reduction of non-CO2 emissions" held in the European Parliament in Brussels. The aim of the workshop was to exchange views with scientific and institutional experts, the European Commission and representatives from industry and non-profit organizations towards addressing efficiently these non-CO2 emissions. The workshop panel discussed how a number of early actions for non-CO2 emissions, complementing actions aiming at reducing long-term CO2 emissions, could offer a near-term solution to help curb the observed climate trends and thus avoiding further global warming. Of particular importance are HFCs, black carbon and pollutant gases that lead to formation of tropospheric ozone. The workshop heard the European Commission's involvement in the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and its recent focus on black carbon and tropospheric ozone precursors, but the need to present an integrated European policy encompassing all warming drivers (e.g. the non-CO2 emissions) in consistence with the 2°C target was stressed. For these non-CO2 emissions, scientific assessments show that the most substantial benefits will be felt immediately in and/or close to the regions where actions are taken to reduce emissions. Concerning HFCs, there was a general agreement that the Montreal Protocol has been more effective in protecting the climate in the past through the eradication of CFCs and can add to climate protection in the near future taking additional responsibility on the HCFs elimination.

**Study EN**

### Regulatory and Legal Constraints for European Aquaculture

**Publication type:** Study  
**Date:** 15-09-2009  
**External author:** Ocean Law Information and Consultancy Services (UK) and Poseidon Aquatic Resources Management (UK) ; Lead Authors : C. Hedley and T. Huntington  
**Policy area:** Fisheries | EU Law: Legal System and Acts  
**Keyword:** administrative formalities | environmental protection | international trade law | aquaculture | fishing regulations  
**Summary:** This study reviews key regulatory and legal constraints in aquaculture policies in the EU and in Member States, focussing on the EU’s main producers – France, Greece, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. Identified constraints and burdens are assessed against both the needs of the EU aquaculture industry and contemporary principles of better regulation and recommendations to lessen, rationalize or remove the constraints and proposed.

**Study ES, DE, EN, FR, IT**
Measures to promote the situation of Roma EU citizens in the European Union - Country reports

Publication type: Study
Date: 03-02-2011

External author: Todor Todorov (for Bulgaria study case), Laura Cashman (for Czech Republic study case), Christophe Robert (for France study case), Gregor Grienig (for Germany study case), Dimitris Papadimitriou, Argyris Mamarelis and Georgios Niarchos (for Greece study case), Érzsébet Vajdovich-Visy (for Hungary study case), Roberta Benini (for Italy study case), Peter Vermeersch (for Poland study case), Sorin Cace, Florin Moisa, Daniela Tarnovschi and Ovidiu Voicu (for Roumania study case), Kyriaki Topidi (for Slovakia study case), Joan Costa-i-Font (for Spain study case), Sarah Cemlyn and Andrew Ryder (for UK study case)

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Social Policy
Keyword: education policy | ethnic discrimination | employment policy | rights of minorities | EU Member State | Roma | health policy | European Social Fund | housing policy | social integration | socioeconomic conditions

Summary: This document is related to the study "Measures to promote the situation of Roma EU citizens in the European Union - Country reports" (see: PE 432 747).

Study EN

The Increase in Kurdish Women Committing Suicide

Publication type: Study
Date: 04-06-2007

External author: Projet kurde des droits de l’homme, Dublin
Policy area: Social Policy | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Education | Public Health
Keyword: Afghanistan | Iraq | forced marriage | access to education | government violence | Turkey | domestic violence | position of women | Kurdistan question | suicide

Summary: This study provides an in-depth analysis of the root causes of the increase in female suicides in the Kurdish community in Turkey and Iraq. It analyses the factors dominating women's lives in those Kurdish regions which as such may be contributory factors to the suicide rate. Such factors include their socio-economic situation, their particular geo-political situation, the impact of long-term conflict, and the social and institutional obstacles to gender equality and Kurdish women’s rights. It also compares the situation of Kurdish women to that of Afghani women.

Study EN, FR

The Common Foreign Security Policy and the Security of the Energy Supplies

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-03-2007

External author: Zeyno Baran
Director
Center for Eurasian Policy
Hudson Institute
Policy area: Energy | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: security of supply | European neighbourhood policy | energy supply | Central Asia | United States | energy diversification | natural gas | gas pipeline | renewable energy | Russia | Middle East | common security and defence policy

Summary: This study recommends that the EU regard energy security as a foreign and security policy issue rather than an economic one. The current lack of cohesiveness and overall weakness of the EU’s energy policy is counterproductive to European security, allowing Russia to strengthen its position as the dominant energy supplier. It also leaves Europe’s neighbours in the Caucasus and Central Asia more vulnerable to political and economic interference from Moscow, hampering Western efforts at reform in those countries. A common solution to these problems is engagement with these states on the development of non-Russian-controlled oil and gas pipeline routes into Europe. The study argues that this will improve the EU’s energy security as well as assist its efforts to foster democracy, rule of law and good governance in its neighbours.

The study recommends, in the short- to medium-term, a diversification away from Russian energy supplies to those from the Caspian basin, specifically Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. Further supplies of oil and natural gas can be imported from the EU’s neighbours on the Mediterranean Sea. In the medium- to long-term, this Study calls for more robust research and development partnerships with other energy consumers, especially with the United States, by far the world’s largest energy consumer.

Study EN

Environment and Innovation: New Environmental Concepts and Technologies and Their Implications for Shaping Future EU Environmental Policies

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-10-2006

External author: SERI (Sustainable Europe Research Institute), UNI-MERIT (United Nations University), FFRC (Finland Futures Research Centre)
Policy area: Environment | Industry
Keyword: clean technology | EU environmental policy | sustainable mobility | renewable energy | reduction of gas emissions | sustainable development | eco-label

Study EN
The question of Freedom of Movement and the impact of the "separation barrier" on it in the territories occupied by Israël

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 16-06-2006
External author Jessica Montell
Executive Director
B'Tselem: the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories
Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights
Keyword the EU's international role | Israel | international human rights law | financial aid | Palestine

Summary The restrictions on movement that Israel has imposed on the Palestinian population in the Occupied Territories over the past five years are unprecedented in their scope and severity. These policies cause extensive harm to the three and a half million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The European Union and its member states have legal obligations to ensure that Israel complies with human rights law and international humanitarian law. The EU/Israel Action Plan should include specific actions to ensure Palestinian freedom of movement, and ensure an effective mechanism to monitor implementation of the human rights provisions. The European Parliament can play a positive role in ensuring that the EU-Israel relationship accords with both parties legal obligations through several means: ensuring integration of a human rights approach in the review of the implementation of the Action Plan; establishment and oversight of financial instruments that include an explicit human rights approach; and initiation of factfinding missions to Israel.

The Costs of Peripherality

Publication type Study
Date 01-01-2001
External author Mário José Amaral Fortuna, Professor at the University of the Azores, Director Department of Economics and Business; Tomaz Ponce Dentinho and José António Cabral Vieira, Azores
Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development
Keyword peripheral region | regional policy | socioeconomic conditions

Summary With Portugal’s and Spain’s entry into the EU the problem of the territories at a considerable distance from the European continent became more significant since it now involved three Member States as opposed to one. The specific problems of these regions are then considered as an EU problem and not just of the respective countries.

The Future of the Audiovisual Sector in the EU

Publication type Study
Date 01-02-1999
External author Sandrine Marques
Policy area Culture
Keyword audiovisual production | audiovisual industry | competitiveness | cultural pluralism | film industry

Summary The study is divided into two parts. Part 1 situates the traditional media in a competitive environment while emphasising the difficulty involved in establishing a proper European audiovisual policy. Part 2 demonstrates the need to make the transition from a European audiovisual policy to a European multimedia policy.