Dear Reader,

In May, the Plenary granted discharge to the Commission and most other institutions for their implementation of the 2018 budget. Through the discharge procedure Parliament scrutinises the management of EU funds in institutions and Member States. Thereby Parliament has ensured that implementation of the EU budget has improved over the years and it is fundamental to detect and avoid fraud and conflicts of interest. As part of our scrutiny, we have initiated a study on the largest 50 beneficiaries in each Member State of CAP and cohesion funds with the aim of identifying the end receivers of funds and analyse how to improve transparency in this area. Parliament must continue to push for sound financial management and transparency about who receives EU funds as a fundamental requirement for trust in EU spending.

Monika Hohlmeier, MEP,
Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control

Climate mainstreaming in the EU Budget
Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs

This study examines the current methodologies used for tracking climate-related and biodiversity-related expenditure in the EU budget. It identifies strengths and weaknesses of the current methodologies, and examines proposed changes to the methodologies for the 2021-2027 financial perspective. On this basis, it identifies potential objectives for strengthening the tracking mechanisms, and puts forward suggested approaches to meeting those objectives.

CONT  Open Office Space
Workshop 29 October 2020

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Balanced Arctic Strategy for the EU
Policy Department for External Relations

A proactive and ambitious revised EU Arctic policy needs to address two major challenges: accelerated climate change and increased geo-economic and geopolitical competition. This paper, requested by AFET, analyses the implementation of the 2016 EU Joint Communication on ‘An integrated European Union policy for the Arctic’, the specificities of the EU context and the major geopolitical challenges related to climate change, security and resources in the region of growing strategic importance.

Policies to ensure access to affordable housing
Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies

While there are significant differences by country, in recent years the affordability of housing has deteriorated, in particular among low-income owners and private renters. This study, provided by Policy Department A at the request of the committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL), analyses the current situation and key challenges with regard to housing affordability in the EU, as well as policies to ensure access to affordable housing at national and EU levels.

The use of artificial intelligence in culture and education sectors
Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies

Artificial intelligence (AI) is already transforming every area of life through rethinking how we integrate and analyse information and, as a result, improve decision making. This research project provides a synthesis of the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on education, audiovisual, culture and creative sectors as well as a presentation of the current issues and potential challenges. It proposes concrete recommendations on how the EU could shape appropriate policies in these fields.

Safety of journalists and fighting corruption in the EU
Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs

States must ensure a safe and favourable environment for journalists to perform their public watchdog function. Journalists face a growing range of threats, including violence, harassment, and restrictions on media freedom and access to information in the context of Covid-19 measures. This study examines the overall effect of crimes and threats against journalists and explores various regulatory and other measures to counter them.

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