

# AT A GLANCE

## Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights



### FOCUS

#### The potential impact of the unitary Supplementary Protection Certificate on access to health technologies



Dear Reader,

In the EU, medicinal products can be temporarily protected from direct competition by multiple forms of market protection. One of these is the Supplementary Protection Certificate (SPC), which effectively grants holders an extension of the patent protection by a maximum of 5 years.

Following the introduction of the Unitary Patent (UP) and the Unified Patent Court (UPC) through the Agreement on the Unified Patent Court (AUPC),

in April 2023 the Commission published a set of SPC proposals.

The study for JURI: "The potential impact of the unitary Supplementary Protection Certificate on access to health technologies" offers an overview of the SPC proposals for medicinal products, provides insight into their potential impacts on access to medicine, and aims to assist MEPs in their assessment of the proposed Regulations.

*Adrián VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA, MEP,  
Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs*

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### **AGRI** Reassessment of methane emissions (focus on biogenic methane emissions)

Workshop

28 November 2023 - 09:00-10:15 - SPAAK 1A2

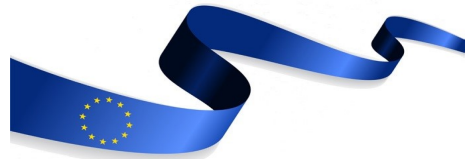
#### **IMCO** Market surveillance for effective consumer protection in the EU

Study presentation

28 November 2023 - SPINELLI 3G3

### DID YOU KNOW?

You can check all past and future events organized by committees and policy departments on the committee website under the [Events tab](#).



### The unitary Supplementary Protection Certificate

*Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs*



In April 2023 the European Commission adopted regulatory proposals introducing a unitary Supplementary Protection Certificate (SPC).

This study for the JURI Committee analyses the potential impacts of these proposals on access to medicines, the administrative burden to applicants and the cost to national health systems.

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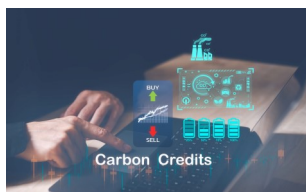


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## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### The EU Emissions Trading System

*Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs*



This in-depth analysis appraises the system used for the free allocation of emission allowances within the EU ETS, reviews its transparency and assesses related risks. The authors estimate the cost of free allocation to the EU budget and how the proceeds might be spent. In conclusion they recommend three policy approaches.



### The role of cyber in the Russian war against Ukraine

*Policy Department for External Relations*



Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine raises concerns about the harm inflicted on the civilian population – and about the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure – from both kinetic and cyber attacks. This report for SEDE analyses the magnitude of the war's cyber dimension, its impact, and the lessons learned. The authors aim to increase understanding about the threat environment and to strengthen cyber resilience and defence capabilities across the EU and in neighbouring countries.



### Performance of the Package Travel Directive

*Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies*



Owing to fast-paced changes in the industry, including digitalisation and a complex landscape of online intermediaries, the Package Travel Directive (PTD) requires updating. The study requested by IMCO committee identifies areas for improvement: adapting the definition of package travel, addressing pre-contractual information gaps, improving payment practices, tackling digitalisation challenges, enhancing enforcement, promoting alternative dispute resolution, and increasing consumer awareness.



### Chinese Investments in European Maritime Infrastructure

*Policy Department on Structural and Cohesion Policies*



The study looks at Chinese investments in European Maritime Infrastructure through the lens of 'de risking' for the first time. It provides a comprehensive overview of Chinese investments in this sector over the past two decades and weighs the associated risks that arise from the deliberate strategy by China to leverage its investments in European maritime infrastructure to its own advantage, and as a result of conflict scenarios.



## FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

- AFCO** Towards an EU-wide right to politically strike: A constitutional perspective - November 2023
- EMPL** Analysis of the European Disability Card - November 2023
- INTA** Dual use and cyber surveillance: EU policies and current practices - November 2023
- CONT** Due diligence in EU procurement - December 2023
- PECH** Policy options for strengthening the competitiveness of the EU fisheries and aquaculture sector - December 2023

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