

Newsletter

Focus

Towards performance budgeting



Dear Reader,

In order to perform its role, the Budgetary Control Committee's work has been traditionally based on compliance audit based on the error rates detected and annually reported by the European Court of Auditors. The Budgetary Control Committee has shown an increased interest in the performance audit assessing the

economy, the efficiency and the effectiveness of EU programmes. This evolution paves the way towards a modern outcome-oriented audit model providing stimulus for better public administration.

My initiative report on the article 318 TFEU evaluation report guides the European Commission regarding how it has to assess the financial performance of the EU. The Commission is now invited to develop together with the Member States and the European Parliament a coherent system of political goals linked to budget lines and concrete projects. The challenge will be to identify commonly agreed indicators to measure the effectiveness of the political outcome of EU funded programmes. The Policy Department's contribution will continue to be essential by comparing and assessing the different national models of performance auditing and budgeting.

*Michael Theurer, MEP
 Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control*

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Committee	Title	Publication date
PECH	Deep sea fishing (in-depth analysis)	March 2014
JURI AFCO	National constitutional avenues for further EU integration	March 2014
BUDG	Factual study on the follow-up of pilot projects and preparatory actions 2009-2013	March 2014
DEVE	European Union development strategy in the Pacific	April 2014
EMPL	Austerity Measures and Poverty (briefing paper)	April 2014

Link to the studies: www.europarl.europa.eu/studies

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Credit Rating Agencies: Implementation of Legislation **ECON**

Workshop
 18 March 2014 - 12:30 to 15:00 - ASP 1G2

"Gold-Plating" in the European agricultural fund for rural development **CONT**

Study presentation
 18 March 2014 - 16:00 - ASP 3E2

Impact of the economic crisis on the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the EU **REGI**

Study presentation
 19 March 2014 - 9:00 to 10:00 - PHS 3C050

Gender mainstreaming in committees and delegations of the European Parliament **FEMM**

Study presentation
 20 March 2014 - 10:30 to 11:30 - ASP 3G3

African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries' positions on economic partnership agreements (EPA) **DEVE**

Study presentation
 25 March 2014 - 15:00 - room tbc

More workshops



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SELECTION OF NEW STUDIES

Proceedings of the workshop on cigarette smuggling

Policy Department on Budgetary Affairs

January 2014



On 22 January 2014, a half-day workshop on “Cigarette Smuggling” has been organised by the Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs at the request of the Committee on Budgetary Control. Experts from academia and NGOs working in the field were invited to exchange views and experiences on how to tackle the problem of cigarette smuggling. The aim of this workshop document is to summarise and to spread what was discussed during this half day. The brochure, furthermore, contains briefing papers and presentations by the external experts



Consumer protection aspects of financial services

Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policy

February 2014



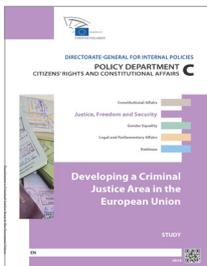
Inadequate consumer protection, especially in the U.S. mortgage market, not only led to considerable consumer detriment but was a major contributor to the global financial crisis. Given the risks both to individual consumers and to the Single Market, consumer protection policy needs to properly focus on this area. Improved transparency and better informed transactions resulting from such policy will lead to better solutions for consumers and greater market efficiency. A number of recommendations to strengthen consumer protection are put forward in this study.



Developing a criminal justice area in the European Union

Policy Department on Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs

January 2014



This study addresses the development of an EU criminal justice area. By exploring key concepts and features of criminal processes in comparative perspective, it seeks to provide ideas for such an area. Because the situation in the Member States is diverse, independent concepts guided by the study findings are explored. Fundamentally this study identifies EU citizenship as key concept for the development of any EU criminal justice area; core to this thinking is the idea that there are certain interests only the EU can protect effectively for its citizens.



Measures at farm level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from EU agriculture

Policy Department on Structural and Cohesion Policies

January 2014



This document contains two notes drawn up within the framework of the Workshop held in January 2014 on ‘Measures at farm level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from EU agriculture’. The first note gives an overview of the key role of agriculture in mitigating climate change. Mitigation measures at farm level have been shown to be effective and the new CAP reform should help increase their potential. The second note proposes ten measures related to agricultural practices in the field of nitrogen fertilisation, carbon storage in soils and biomass, animal diets, biogas production and energy savings, in order to reduce GHG emissions in France.



Space, sovereignty and European security

Policy Department on External Policies

January 2014



A comprehensive analysis of the role of space-based capabilities in supporting the security and defence policies of the European Union and of its Member States. Moving from the description of the current and future space-based systems developed at the national, intergovernmental and European level, the study tries to point out the contribution of these assets to the security initiatives undertaken in Europe. It describes the roles of the actors and the functioning of the institutional framework through which these capabilities are developed and exploited for Europe’s security purposes.

