Words by the Chair

It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to the last issue of LIBE Newsletter of 2014. This year has been very important for Members of the European Parliament due to the elections which took place in May. At this stage the elections seem like a distant memory, the work of the LIBE committee is in full flow with resolutions, old and new reports as well as the hearings that took place for the new Commission. This month the LIBE Committee will meet three times: on 2nd December in a joint meeting with the FEMM Committee to discuss the trafficking of human beings, on 3-4 and 11 December.

On 3rd December, Dimitris Avramopoulos, Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship will attend the LIBE meeting for the first time since his appointment as Commissioner, for an exchange of views with the Members of the Committee. During the last meeting of the year, on 11th December, the Italian Presidency will debrief the Members of LIBE on the Italian Presidency and the issues within LIBE competences.

Let me remind you that December, 1st 2014 was a landmark in the development of the European Area of Freedom Security and Justice. Five years after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty the transitional period for the measures in the fields of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, as set out in Protocol 36, comes to an end, which means, among other things that the European Commission and the Court of Justice of the European Union will extend their scrutiny powers over Member States implementation of EU criminal justice law.

Chair's agenda

**2 December – Annual meeting of the CCC with the Commission College**
This meeting will provide for an exchange of views on the Commission Work Programme 2015. The Commission President Juncker and Vice-President Timmermans have sent a letter to President Schulz and the Italian Presidency giving a preliminary list of intended initiatives.

**8 December – Conference of the European Data Governance Forum**
I will attend the European Data Governance Forum as the LIBE Chair. This high-level event will be hosted by UNESCO in Paris and will include the participation of a number of key actors in civil society, the private sector as well as policymakers. This will be a great opportunity to discuss the challenges of digital surveillance in a democratic society. As Chair of LIBE, I will argue the case to ensure that fundamental rights are protected and remain a priority in the area of data governance.

**10 December – ILGA event on combatting hate crime**
The conference “Stepping up against hate crimes” hosted by the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) takes place and I will join a panel to discuss the role of EU institutions and steps forward in order to promote and EU inclusive response to the issue of homophobic and transphobic violence, strengthening citizenship is one of the crucial aspects of the work of our committee and I believe that this conference will offer the chance to work with civil society to address the issue of hate crimes and protect EU citizens.

**11 December – Meeting with the Latvian Coreper II Ambassador, Ms Ilze Juhansone**
I am meeting with the incoming Latvian Presidency of the Council in order to exchange information and to establish an indicative timetable, in particular regarding on-going codecision files. LIBE is currently responsible for 19 on-going codecision files as well as being involved in a further 3 codecision files with other committees.
LIBE NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 5 - 2 DECEMBER 2014

LIBE oral questions in Plenary
- Renewing the EU Internal Security Strategy
- Situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration

Two oral questions have been added to the agenda of the LIBE Committee lately. Both will be included in the draft agenda of the December plenary part-session.

EU Internal Security Strategy
On 3 December, the LIBE Committee will vote on a draft motion for a resolution on Renewing the EU Internal Security Strategy. The current EU Internal Security Strategy, which was adopted in 2010, comes to an end this year. The Commission is in the process of developing the new Internal Security Strategy that should last until 2019. Council will be the body to formally adopt this new Strategy.

Due to the importance of this issue it is vital for Parliament's input to be duly taken into account by the Commission and the Council. Therefore, a debate on this topic is scheduled in Plenary during the December Plenary session and this debate will be wound up by the motion for a resolution that is on the LIBE agenda.

Some of the imperative recommendations included in this draft motion for a resolution are: make better use of existing instruments before creating new ones; need for a forward looking and strategic Strategy; comprehensive, balanced and holistic approach necessary to deal with security threats; need for more effective, operational cooperation among Member States; trust building measures, such as training and exchange programmes; the "forgotten" justice dimension; appropriate financial resources needed, and European Parliament and national parliaments should be part of monitoring process of implementation of Strategy in order to ensure democratic scrutiny.

Situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration
On 25 November a debate took place in plenary on the basis of LIBE oral questions to the Commission and the Council on the situation of the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration. To wind up the debate the Committee will adopt a draft resolution to be adopted in the December part-session.

Italian Presidency of the Council:
JHA Council meeting on 4 and 5 December

On 4 and 5 December the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs will meet in Brussels for the JHA Council. The meeting will be chaired by Andrea Orlando, Italian Minister for Justice and by Angelino Alfano, Italian Minister for the Interior.

On Thursday, justice ministers are due to adopt a general approach on a directive on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence. On the field of data protection, the Council is expected to reach a partial general approach on specific issues of the draft regulation and will also hold a debate on the “one-stop-shop” mechanism. Moreover, the Council is also due to adopt a partial general approach a regulation on the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (EUROJUST). Ministers will then be invited to have a policy debate on a proposal for the regulation on the establishment of the European public prosecutor's office (EPPO).

On Friday, in the framework of the fight against terrorism, home affairs ministers will have an orientation debate on the implementation of the package of measures regarding foreign fighters and returnees.

Finally, the Council will also adopt guidelines implementing the revised EU Strategy on Radicalisation and Recruitment and will take note of two reports from the Counter Terrorism Coordinator on the implementation of the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy and on the revised Strategy on Terrorist Financing.

For further information:
Modernisation of the Council of Europe Convention 108

An exchange of views was organised on the modernisation of the Council of Europe Convention 108 (Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data). On this occasion, the LIBE Members heard Jean-Philippe Walter, Chair of the Consultative Committee of Convention 108 and Deputy Commissioner of the Data Protection and Transparency Authority of Switzerland, as well as Sophie Kwazny, head of the Data Protection Unit at the Council of Europe.

Mr Walter presented the main points of the reform of the Convention 108: scope, definitions, principles, sensitive data, data security, transparency of processing operations, rights of data subjects, obligations, transfers of data, supervisory authorities. He concluded his presentation by stressing that the finalization of the work on the modernisation of Convention 108 was slowed down as to allow the EU to adopt its own legal framework in this field and to synchronize both reforms. However, the EU framework has still not been adopted two years later. He stressed that the Convention is the basis of the EU regime in this matter and the adoption of this text cannot be delayed further. He also invited the countries which are parties to the Cybercrime Convention (Budapest Convention) to become parties to the Convention 108.

Exchange of views on the common European visa policy

Mr. Ruete, Director General DG Home Affairs, presented the different aspects of the common visa policy:

1) Reciprocity mechanism: Mr Ruete reported the results of the new reciprocity mechanism on the basis of the recent Commission report, explaining that the Commission received notifications of non-reciprocity situations from 5 Member States (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Poland and Romania) related to 5 third countries (Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Japan and the US). He added that none of the Member States concerned requested to suspend the exemption from the visa requirement for nationals of the third country concerned.

2) Visa waiver: Mr. Ruete referred to the latest update of the lists of countries contained in the Visa Regulation for which Council decided to authorise the opening of negotiations to abolish the visa obligation of nationals from 16 countries from the ACP group, and as well as of the United Arab Emirates. As for the case of Peru and Colombia, Mr Ruete reported that last October 29th, the Commission adopted two reports concluding that necessary conditions were met for the start of visa waiver negotiations between the EU and these 2 countries.

3) Visa facilitation-Liberalisation and Readmission Agreements: Mr. Ruete informed Members that the Visa facilitation agreements and readmission agreements with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Cape Verde have already entered into force. Currently, negotiations are under way with Morocco, Tunisia and Belarus. The Visa dialogue with Russia has been stopped following the occupation of Crimea. Finally, Mr. Ruete reported that the EU Readmission Agreement with Turkey entered into force on 1st October, whereas the visa liberalisation dialogue launched in parallel to the Readmission Agreement is currently on-going. Under this framework, Mr. Ruete explained that the Commission published a recent report on Turkey’s progress concerning the fulfillment of the requirements of its visa liberalisation roadmap.

Also discussed:

- Equal treatment of persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation (Rap. Ulrike Lunacek)
- EU agency for law enforcement training (CEPOL) (Rap. Kinga Gál)
- Agreement between Canada and the European Union on the transfer and processing of Passenger Name Record data (Rap. Sophia in’t Veld)
- Exchange of views on terrorism, foreign fighters and presentation of TE-SAT report
- The transitional provisions in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters and police cooperation (Lisbon Treaty - Protocol 36) – “UK opt out and opt back in”
- Written question to the Commission on the definition of “national security” by Sophia in’t Veld (E-006381-14)
The following points were discussed:

- Deployment of the eCall in-vehicle system (Rap. Axel Voss)
- Arrangement with the Swiss Confederation on the modalities of its participation in the European Asylum Support Office (Rap. Roberta Metsola)
- The European Union programmes for Funding Instruments
- Presentation of the main findings of two Policy Department C studies on the EU criminal justice area
- Activities of the COSI in the field of law enforcement cooperation and internal security (Article 71 TFEU) and presentation of Operation Archimedes
- Cyber Crime and presentation of Threat Assessment on Internet Facilitated Organised Crime (iOCTA)
- Use of Passenger Name Record data (EU PNR) (Rap. Timothy Kirkhope)
- Hearing on Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters (Rap. Caterina Chinnici, Dennis de Jong and Nathalie Griesbeck)

20 November 2014, Brussels

- European Public Prosecutor’s Office

On 20 November, the Members of LIBE held a debate on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office.

Pursuant to Article 86 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union a European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO) may be created in order to combat crimes affecting the financial interests of the Union.

The Commission presented its proposal for a Council Regulation on the establishment of the EPPO in July 2013 and ever since Member States are negotiating in the Council.

Once the final text is agreed, it will be submitted to the European Parliament for its consent (special legislative procedure). During the last legislative term, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the basis of an interim report drafted by Salvatore Iacolino. The new rapporteur for the 2014-2019 legislative term is Monica Macovei (EPP).

During the meeting the European Commission representative, Dick Heimanns, reiterated that the Commission called for an efficient and independent EPPO bringing a real added value to the fight against fraud.

Lorenzo Salazar, representative of the Italian Presidency updated the Members of the Committee on the state of play of the negotiations: namely on the structure (college), the powers and appointment of the Chief Prosecutor and the European Delegated Prosecutors.

The rapporteur called for a single strong, independent and efficient office, a new European body and not another intergovernmental agency. She focused also on the need for clear definition of competences at central and decentralized level with an exclusive competence of the EPPO on PIF cases. She urged the Council to take into account the views of Parliament at all stages of the negotiations in order to reach the necessary inter-institutional consensus enabling Parliament to give its final consent for the establishment of the EPPO.

The shadow rapporteurs for the file: Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann (S&D), Timothy Kirkhope (ECR), Louis Michel (ALDE) and Jan-Philipp Albrecht (Greens/EFA) took the floor and insisted on the need of an efficient and independent EPPO with an added value. Other Members of LIBE also intervened in the debate: Axel Voss (EPP), Vicky Maeijer (NI), Kristina Winberg (EFDD), Peter Niedermüller (S&D), Catherina Chinnici (S&D) and Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D). The rapporteur then presented her concluding remarks.

Also discussed:

- EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training (Europol) (Rap. Agustín Díaz de Mera)
- EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) (Rap. Axel Voss)
3 - 4 December 2014, Brussels, PHS3C050

- Procedural safeguards for children suspected or accused in criminal proceedings

The proposal for a Directive on the procedural safeguards for children suspected or accused in criminal proceedings (“the Children Directive”) is part of the Roadmap to strengthen the rights of suspected or accused persons adopted by the Council in 2009. It was presented by the European Commission in November 2013 and the debate in LIBE started already in the last legislative term, however the time was too short to issue a committee report.

The new rapporteur is Caterina Chinnici (S&D). She will present her draft report on 3 December 2014. The shadow rapporteurs are Pál Csáky (PPE), Timothy Kirkhope (ECR), Nathalie Griesbeck (ALDE), Dennis de Jong (GUE/NGL), Jean Lambert (Verts/ALE) and Laura Ferrara (EFDD). The deadline for amendments is 19 December 2014 at 12.00.

- Smart Borders Package: presentation by the Commission of the Cost Analysis

Following the presentation of the Technical Study on Smart Borders at the LIBE meeting of 16 October the Commission will present the chapter 'Cost Analysis' of the Technical Study on 4 December.

The main objective of this cost analysis was to provide up-to-date, reliable cost estimates of the EES and RTP systems to be borne by the European Commission (central) and Member State (national) level. The Rapporteurs are Agustín Díaz de Mera (EPP) and Tanja Fajon (S&D).

Also in the agenda of 3-4 December 2014:

- Exchange of views with Dimitris Avramopoulos, Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship
- Exchange of views with Fabrice Leggeri, selected candidate for the position of Executive Director of Frontex
- Presentation of the pilot project "EU Resettlement - Save lifes" by Federal Minister for the Interior of Austria, Johanna Mikl-Leitner
- Committee of inquiry into mafia-related and other criminal organisations of the Italian Parliament
- Presentation of the Fundamental Rights Agency studies on fundamental rights “at airports: border checks at five international airports in the European Union" and "at land borders: findings from selected European Union border crossing points"
- Sixth bi-annual report on the functioning of the Schengen area (1 May - 30 October 2014)
- EU-US agreement on the protection of personal data when transferred and processed for law enforcement purposes (EU-US "umbrella agreement") - US Safe Harbour (in camera)
- Presentation of the study "New approaches, alternative avenues and means of access to asylum procedures for persons seeking international protection"
- National Programmes for the Home Affairs' Funds

11 December 2014, Brussels, PHS 1A002

The following points, among others, will be discussed:

- Conclusions of the Italian Presidency in the area of Justice and Home Affairs
- EU agency for law enforcement training (Cepol) (Rap. Kinga Gál)
- Legal aid for suspects or accused persons deprived of liberty and legal aid in European arrest warrant proceedings (Rap. Dennis De Jong)
Study on the feasibility of the creation of a European System of Border Guards

In the Stockholm Programme the European Council invited the Commission “to initiate a debate on the long-term development of Frontex. This debate should include, as was envisaged in the Hague programme, the feasibility of the creation of a European system of border guards”.

Following this invitation the Commission has made available the Study on the feasibility of the creation of a European System of Border Guards to control the external borders of the Union.

The study is available here.

The Echelon Affair
New publication of Parliament’s Historical Archives Unit

The Parliament’s Historical Archives Unit presented the publication “The ECHELON affair: the EP and the global interception system 1998-2002”.

The publication was presented at a debate on 5 November with a number of guest speakers, including the Chair of the LIBE Committee, Claude Moraes, and Carlos Coelho, former Chair of the Temporary Committee on Echelon.

The publication (in FR, EN version will become available later) is available here.

UNHCR Ministerial-level pledging conference: Resettlement and other forms of admission for Syrian refugees

On 9 December, governments will gather in Geneva as UNHCR issues an urgent plea for 100,000 more resettlement places in 2015/2016. The conference will take place in room XVII of Palais des Nations on 9 December 2014 from 14.00 to 18.00.

In preparation to this Pledging Conference and, in general, in order to discuss and promote the commitment of Member States to resettlement at Union level, the Commission organised a Resettlement and Relocation Forum on 25 November.

For further information:
www.unhcr.org/52b2f8bafcc.pdf
Latest news from the Agencies

- Law enforcement officers from 34 countries took part in Operation Archimedes, the largest ever coordinated operation against organised crime in the EU. 1027 individuals were arrested. Watch a video on this operation here.

- In 2010 the EU established a new initiative to facilitate effective cooperation between EU Member States’ law enforcement agencies, EU institutions, EU agencies and relevant third parties; delivering coherent and robust operational action to target the most pressing criminal threats facing the European Union. This initiative is called the EU policy cycle. To get more information, watch the following video.

***

- Candidates, potential candidates and neighbouring countries of the EU, preparing to collaborate with the EMCDDA, will participate in the third ‘Reitox week’ held in Lisbon from 25-28 November.

This annual event initiated in 2012 and enlarging the regular Heads of focal point session, will bring together representatives of over 40 nations including: the current 30 members of the Reitox focal points network, Russia and a number of beneficiaries of the European Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI).

This year, the event will offer the occasion to officially close a technical cooperation project with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo*, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. The national correspondents from these countries will present the results of this three-year project, initiated in January 2012. The event will also give the EMCDDA the chance to present the first regional report on drug use in the Western Balkans.

This year’s Reitox week will also include a full-day session on the topical issue of cannabis legislation and policy. Here the participants will hear experts from the United States, Latin America and Europe share their knowledge on developments in this area and the knock-on challenges for drug monitoring.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

- The organisers of the first European conference on addictive behaviours and dependencies — to be held in Lisbon from 23–25 September 2015 — launched a call for abstracts on 31 October with a deadline of 1 March 2015. This pioneering event is steered by the Portuguese General-Directorate for Intervention on Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies (SICAD) in collaboration with the scientific journal Addiction, the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE) and the EMCDDA.

The conference will showcase the latest developments in European addiction science and explore the topics of illicit drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gambling and other addictive behaviours. The event is organised around four general themes: Addictions: a multi-disciplinary perspective; Translating research into policy and practice; New frontiers in addiction research; and Challenges of addiction in an interconnected world. Online registration will open in December 2014, with an ‘early bird fee’ available for participants registering before 1 February 2015.

***

Frontex has finalised all preparations for the launch of the Joint Operation Triton on November 1st 2014. With a monthly budget of EUR 2.9 million the agency will coordinate the deployment of three open sea patrol vessels, two coastal patrol vessels, two coastal patrol boats, two aircraft, and one helicopter in the Central Mediterranean.

Frontex Executive Director Gil Arias Fernandez underlined that operation Triton focuses on border control and surveillance. "Having said that saving lives will remain an absolute priority for Frontex", he added. Frontex will operate under the command of the Italian Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with Guardia di Finanza, as well as the Italian Coast Guard.

***

- Eu-LISA published a report on Smart Borders following the first international eu-LISA Conference on "Smart Borders: A Faster and Safer Way to Europe".

The report contains a summary of the speeches and the presentations delivered as well a synthesis of the discussions during the Conference which took place on 1 October 2014 in Tallinn.

- Eu-LISA and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) on 4 November have signed a working arrangement to strengthen the cooperation between both agencies active in the area of Justice and Home Affairs. More information and the text of the agreement are available here.

***
This year EASO will organise the plenary meeting of its Consultative Forum in Brussels on 11 and 12 December 2014. It is an annual event that brings together civil society organisations, academics, members of the judiciary, EU institutions, EU agencies and Member States to look at the experience of the past year of working together, identify lessons learned and earmark areas of future cooperation.

- EASO published a Country of Origin Information report on Somalia and on Chechnya. Read the full text of the COI report on Somalia here and the one on Chechnya here.

- In January EASO will organise an event at the occasion of three years of EASO training curriculum, in order to take stock of the results achieved and to reflect on further future improvements.

- At the end of September the EASO Management adopted the EASO Work Programme for 2015. It will be presented in LIBE in January 2015.

***

- The annual Fundamental Rights Conference 2014, by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in cooperation with the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, was held in Rome on 10-11 November 2014.

The Vice-Chair of the LIBE Committee, Iliana Iotova, joined the discussion in the panel debate 'Towards a fundamental rights-based approach to migration and integration: from arrival to inclusion' on 10 November 2014 and presented the LIBE Committee priorities and issues of concern relevant to fundamental rights in the areas of border asylum and migration. The conference was an excellent occasion to discuss the key fundamental rights challenges in the area of border management, asylum and migrant integration, to exchange ideas on means to alleviate the effects of the current migration pressures at the EU's external borders, and to debate the best ways of promoting social inclusion and migrant integration. The conclusions of the Fundamental Rights Conference will be soon available.

- FRA and the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union hosted the inaugural meeting of the Working Party on Improving Reporting and Recording of Hate Crime on 4 November in Rome. 27 Member States have shown interest in the Working Party by appointing 59 public officials from their prime ministers' offices, ministries of interior, justice and social affairs, police services and police training institutions, and national parliaments. The members of the Working Party discussed terms of references for cooperation and put together a plan of activities in following areas: Encouraging reporting and improving recording of hate crime incidents; Enhancing multi-agency partnerships; Training for public service providers. Each group agreed on specific activities to be carried out before the next formal meeting of the Working Party, which is due to take place under the auspices of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU in March 2015.

- In April 2014, the European Parliament requested FRA to conduct research on the protection of fundamental rights in the context of large-scale surveillance. On 7 November, data protection experts gathered at FRA to discuss the preliminary findings from the FRA’s current project in the context of large-scale surveillance by intelligence services following the request.

This FRA project focuses on safeguarding the following two fundamental rights in the context of large-scale communication surveillance conducted by intelligence services: the respect for private and family life (e.g. privacy) and the protection of personal data (Article 7 and Article 8 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU).

The scope of the project is limited to the role played by State actors. It analyses the ways national institutions that are in charge of upholding fundamental rights ensure democratic oversight over intelligence authorities and enable effective remedies against fundamental rights violations in line with Article 47 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.

***

- “Cybercrime – rising to the challenges of the 21st century” was the title of the strategic meeting held at Eurojust’s premises in The Hague on 19 and 20 November.

More than 40 international judicial and police experts in the field of cybercrime have participated to this meeting, including representatives from the Council of Europe, Interpol, Europol's European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), the FBI, CEPOL, ENISA and EEAS, as well as Eurojust College members.

Among the needs identified were:
- to establish a new network for exchanging information on judicial issues and best practices in cybercrime investigations and prosecutions;
- to involve Eurojust at an early stage in the cybercrime investigation process;
- to build trust, offer training and share best practice among cybercrime prosecutors and investigators;
- to redefine the concept of territoriality in cyberspace;
- to find new legal tools to combat cybercrime, as existing legislation does not always keep pace with rapid developments;
- and to establish standards for collection of e-evidence, which is by nature fragile, i.e. easy to modify and destroy, and voluminous.

- Mr Frédéric Baab has been appointed as new National Member for France, as of October 2014.
A chat with...

Barbara Kudrycka, 4th Vice-Chair

In this issue we end up our round of LIBE Vice-Chairs with Barbara Kudrycka (EPP, PL). Ms Kudrycka was Member of LIBE from 2004 to 2007. Then she took up the post as Minister of Science and Higher Education of Poland. She became a Member of the European Parliament again in 2014 and on 7th July 2014, she was elected by acclamation as LIBE Fourth Vice-Chair.

Q: Why did you choose to become a member of the LIBE Committee?

A: Before I received a nomination for the Minister of Science and Higher Education in Poland I was a Member of the European Parliament. At that time I was actively involved in activities of the LIBE Committee hence for me it was a natural continuation of my work as well as a priority. I was a rapporteur dealing with many files, e.g. establishing the External Borders Fund for the period 2007-2013 and facilitation agreement with Ukraine of issuance of short-stay visas and readmission.

Q: You were a Member of LIBE for almost three years during the 6th legislative term (2004-2009). How have things changed in your view since then?

A: A lot has changed because of the Treaty of Lisbon which enabled new legislative powers to the European Parliament. Furthermore it changed the way the European Parliament works with other institutions and extended full legislative power to many fields. Moreover the global situation is very dynamic and we have to deal with many geopolitical challenges which automatically created new issues that European Union needs to face.

Q: In your opinion, what are the main challenges that the Union is facing in the field of Justice and Civil Liberties?

A: It is hard to emphasize what would be the most crucial priority on the agenda of LIBE. We have to face many challenges in the field of protection of internal security, migration, asylum policy as well as data protection. We are aware that the global situation is changing rapidly and we need to react effectively on the different phenomena in our civilised society. At this moment the EU is surrounded by lots of instabilities. In the coming years we should focus on managing migration flows and ensure security to our citizens.

Q: Half of the Members of the newly elected LIBE Committee are new; do you have any advice for new LIBE Members?

A: The most important thing is to set priorities. LIBE has a broad dossier which requires lots expertise not just political debate. It is crucial to be active in fields in which we can share our qualifications.

Q: What is the part of your work as LIBE Vice-Chair that you enjoy the most? Is there something that you like less about being a Vice-Chair?

A: The LIBE committee is extremely active and lots of issues are being raised. In general debates on many topics are very engaging and lively. It requires lots of attention since opinions of Member often differ a lot. I also find coordinators meetings very useful which are very substantive regarding committee priorities.

On a more personal note...

Q: Do your obligations as MEP and LIBE Vice-Chair leave you some free time for reading? What book would we find on your bedside table these days?

A: Indeed my agenda is quite busy during the week and furthermore I am also very active in my constituency during weekends. However, I love to read and currently I am reading “Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle” written by Dan Senor.

Q: Have you got the time to enjoy the city of Brussels from time to time, would you share with us your favourite corner of the town or something you like to do when you are here?

A: Brussels is a very interesting city with many contrasts and a wide cultural diversity. This city has to offer lots of attractions such as numerous museums, monuments, interesting exhibitions, fabulous food and festivals organized every year. Regrettably, I don't have much time to explore it. When I find time I like to go to the La Monnaie which has numerous concerts and recitals to offer.
LIBE Members
(as of 15.10.2014 - updates available here)

Full Members
BECKER Heinz K. (AT)
BONI Michal (PL)
DATI Rachida (FR)
DÍAZ DE MERA GARCÍA CONSUEGRA Agustín (ES)
ENGEL Frank (LU)
GABRIEL Mariya (BG)
GÁL Kinga (HU) (4th Vice-Chair)
HOHLMIEIER Monika (DE)
HORTEFEUX Brice (FR)
KUDRYCKA Barbara (PL) (4th Vice-Chair)
MACOVEI Monica Luisa (RO)
MATERA Barbara (IT)
METSOULA Roberta (MT)
MUSSOLINI Alessandra (IT)
NAGY József (SK)
SÓGOR Csaba (RO)
UNGUREANU Traian (RO)
ZDECHOVSKÝ Tomáš (CZ)
CHINNICI Caterina (IT)
FAJON Tanja (SI)
FLAŠÍKOVÁ BEŇOVÁ Monika (SK)
GÓMES Ana (PT)
GUILAUME Sylvie (FR)
IOTOVA Iliana (BG) (2nd Vice-Chair)
KAUFMANN Sylvia-Yvonne (DE)
KYENGE Kashetu (IT)
LAURISTIN Marij (EE)
LÓPEZ AGUILAR Juan Fernando (ES)
MORAES Claude (GB) (Chair)
NIEDERMÜLLER Péter (HU)
POST Soraya (SE)
SIPPEL Birgit (DE)
WEIDENHOLZER Josef (AT)
HALLA-AHO Jussi (FI)
KIRKHOPE Timothy (GB)
ŠKRIPEK Branislav (SK)
STEVENS Helga (BE)
VON STORCH Beatrix (DE)
TOMAŠEVSKI Valdemar (LT)
GRIESBECK Nathalie (FR)
HYUSMENOVÁ Filip (BG)
INT’ VELD Sophia (NL)
MICHEL Louis (BE)
WIKSTROM Cecilia (SE)
ANDERSON Martina (GB)
BJÖRK Malin (SE)
ERNST Cornelia (DE)
VERGIAT Marie-Christine (FR)
ALBRECHT Jan Philipp (DE) (3rd Vice-Chair)
CEBALLLOS Bodil (SE)
JOLY Eva (FR)
SARGENTINI Judith (NL)
BATTEN Gerard (GB)
CORRAO Ignazio (IT)
FERRARA Laura (IT)
WINBERG Kristina (SE)
FONTANA Lorenzo (IT)
MAEIJER Vicky (NL)
VILIMSKY Harald (AT)
VOIGT Udo (DE)

Substitute Members
BOCSKOR Andrea (HU)
COELHO Carlos (PT)
CORAZZA BILDT Anna Maria (SE)
CSÁKY Pál (SK)
FLORENZ Karl-Heinz (DE)
JIMÉNEZ-BECERRIL BARRIO Teresa (ES)
KALINOWSKI Jaroslaw (PL)
LENAIERS Jeroen (NL)
MORANO Nadine (FR)
PABRIKS Artis (LV)
POLLIESE Salvatore Domenico (IT)
RADEV Emil (BG)
ŠARVAMAA Petri (FI)
ŠTĚTINA Jaromír (CZ)
THUN UND HOHENSTEIN Róza Gráfin von (PL)
VOSS Axel (DE)
VOZEMBERG Elissavet (GR)

JUREK Marek (PL)
TOMAŠIČ Ruža (HR)
UJAZDOWSKI Kazimierz Michal (PL)
VISTISEN Anders Primdahl (DK)

DEPREZ Gérard (BE)
JEŽEK Petr (CZ)
MLINAR Angelika (AT)
PAGAZAURTUNDÚA RUIZ Maite (ES)
PETERSEN Morten Helvig (DK)

ALBIOL GUZMÁN Marina (ES)
CHRYSOGONOS Kosas (GR)
DE JONG Dennis (NL)
SPINELLI Barbara (IT)

KELLER Ska (DE)
LAMBERT Jean (GB)
LUNACEK Ulrike (AT)
TERRICABRAS Josep-Maria (ES)

AGEA Laura (IT)
ATKINSON Janice (GB)

FERRARD Edouard (FR)
LEBRETON Gilles (FR)
LE PEN Marine (FR)
SYNADINOS Eleytherios (GR)
Staff of the LIBE Secretariat

**Contact:** libe-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu

**Head of Unit:**
- Antoine CAHEN

**Administrators:**
- David CHICO ZAMANILLO
- José Manuel DE FRUTOS GOMEZ
- Anže ERBEŽNIK
- Katrin HUBER
- Gerrit HUYBREGHTS
- Claudine JACOB
- Kristiina MILT
- Gai OREN
- Danai PAPADOPOULOU
- Rosa RAFFAELLI
- Amparo RUEDA BUESO
- Nicolas STRAUCH
- Patricia VAN DE PEER
- Michael VANFLETEREN

**Assistants:**
- Petra GÖTZ
- Angela HRINCESCU
- Ulrike LEHMANN
- Nessa CULLIMORE
- Nicolas DAVID
- Vita GRIFITA
- Michela LUCCHINI
- Kelly MATHIOUDAKI-KOTSOMYTI
- Eva PICKMANN
- Pauline PLEITINX
- Carmen PUERTAS
- Mariann SZAKÁL
- Gesthimani TENGELIDOU

**Trainee:**
- Cele NADJEŠKI

---

**Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs**

DG Internal Policies  
LIBE Secretariat  
Square de Meeûs Building - 8th floor  
B-1047 Brussels

**Email:** libe-secretariat@ep.europa.eu  
**Website:** www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/libe/home.html  
**Follow us on Twitter:** https://twitter.com/EP_Justice

**Closure date of the current issue**
- 2 December 2014

**Newsletter subscription**
If you wish to receive this newsletter, please send an e-mail to libe-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu with the subject ‘newsletter’.

**Legal Disclaimer**
The content herein is drafted by the LIBE Secretariat and is provided for general information purposes only. The newsletter may contain links to websites that are created and maintained by other organisations. The LIBE Secretariat does not necessarily endorse the views expressed on these websites.

**Pictures:** © European Union