Liste der Veröffentlichungen des Think Tank des EP

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Suchkriterien für die Erstellung der Liste :

Sortierung   Nach Datum ordnen
Politikbereich  "Demokratie"

419 Ergebnis(se)

Erstellungsdatum : 22-02-2021
Digital automation and the future of work

This study has been written by David Spencer, Matt Cole, Simon Joyce, Xanthe Whittaker and Mark Stuart of the Leeds University Business School, University of Leeds, UK, at the request of the Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA) and managed by the Scientific Foresight Unit, within the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS) of the Secretariat of the European Parliament.

This report addresses the nature, scope and possible effects of digital automation. It reviews relevant literature and situates modern debates on technological change in historical context. It also offers some policy options that, if implemented, would help to harness technology for positive economic and social ends. The report recognises that technological change can affect not just the volume of work but also its quality. It identifies threats to job quality and an unequal distribution of the risks and benefits associated with digital automation. In response, it recommends a number of policy options – ones that aim to go beyond the provision of skills and training and which seek a human-centred approach to digital transformations of work based on industrial democracy and social partnership. Overall, the report pushes for a new Digital Social Contract and a future of work that works for all.

Holocaust education: 'Never, never be a bystander'

This year, 27 January, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, marks the 76th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camp. One focus of this annual day of commemoration is the responsibility borne by those who remain indifferent in the face of intolerance and discrimination. This places the Holocaust in the context of human rights, broadening Holocaust education to issues of tolerance, respect for human dignity, and democracy. Holocaust education, which traditionally centres on the human and historical dimension, is also a vehicle for reflection on ethical and legal issues, and promotes critical thinking and open-mindedness. In contrast with ethical aspects and critical thinking, the legal dimension adds a new perspective to school education that can put additional pressure on the teachers responsible for Holocaust education, extending beyond their usual subject areas. Moreover, many European countries host immigrant populations whose collective history does not include this particular experience. Pupils and students meanwhile use social media, a potential source of conspiracy theories, Holocaust denial, antisemitism and xenophobia. In this context, teachers need to be ready to deal with this subject in a difficult social environment. They also need adequate resources and tools to address inconvenient truths of the period. International institutions, and the European Union and its bodies, encourage dialogue and research on these issues, recognising the importance of Holocaust education and its human rights aspects for democracy and tolerant societies. The European Union provides funds, expert bodies and agencies to address the history, education, pedagogy and rights aspects of Holocaust education in all its dimensions of discrimination, persecution and extermination of Jewish, Roma and Sinti populations, as well as other minorities.

Outcome of the European Council video-conference of 21 January 2021

Discussions at the 21 January video-conference meeting of EU leaders largely focused on a coordinated response to the coronavirus pandemic, including the evolving public health situation with the spread of new virus variants coming from the UK and South Africa, vaccination strategies and international solidarity. While agreeing to further restrictive measures to limit non-essential travel, keeping borders open to ensure the functioning of the EU’s single market was emphasised as essential. At the meeting, EU leaders also raised the issue of the detention of Alexei Navalny, condemning it and calling on the Russian authorities to release him.
What future for democracy?

On Thursday 10 and Friday 11 December 2020, the European Council discussed the development, purchase and the EU-wide distribution of effective vaccines against Covid-19 and committing to a binding EU reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of at least 55% by 2030. Moreover, the European Council discussed the future of democracy in the light of the coronavirus pandemic. Participatory democracy was seen as a potential remedy for polarisation, while digitisation brings a need for careful governance. Misinformation and disinformation needs to be addressed through education. A poll of attendees identified a panel at the 2020 ESPAS conference discussed the future of democracy in the light of the coronavirus pandemic.
**Sustainable economic recovery**

Art der Veröffentlichung: Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum: 11-12-2020
Verfasser: EAMONN NOONAN

**Politikbereich:**
- Haushalt
- Umwelt
- Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte
- Vorausplanung
- Europäisches Semester
- Sozialpolitik
- Haushaltkontrolle
- Beschäftigung
- Wirtschaft und Währung
- Demokratie

**Zusammenfassung:**
A panel at the 2020 ESPAS conference discussed how to create a sustainable economic recovery after the coronavirus pandemic. Robust governance is needed to get the most out of the new resources created at EU level. Both public funding and private capital are needed for the green transition. Public access to big data sets was identified as a critical issue, to prevent harmful monopolies. A poll of attendees identified dependence on fossil fuels as a key obstacle to a sustainable recovery.

**Outlook for the meetings of EU leaders on 10-11 December 2020**

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 09-12-2020
Verfasser: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL

**Politikbereich:**
- Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts
- Umwelt
- Demokratie
- Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
- Coronavirus

**Zusammenfassung:**
On 10 and 11 December, EU leaders will meet for their 13th meeting of 2020, bringing to a close a year of exceptionally intensive activity for the European Council. EU Heads of State or Government will address a packed agenda, covering most of 2020’s key issues: the coronavirus pandemic, climate change – notably the new EU greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for 2030 – and the fight against terrorism, as well as various external relations issues, such as relations with the US and with Turkey. Two crucial issues, which are not on the formal agenda but could dominate discussions, are rule-of-law conditionality for the 2021-27 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the EU-UK negotiations. EU leaders are also expected to appoint a new member of the European Central Bank’s executive board. The Euro Summit on 11 December will focus on the revision of the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) treaty and on progress towards a banking union.

**Mapping Fake News and Disinformation in the Western Balkans and Identifying Ways to Effectively Counter Them**

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 03-12-2020
Externe Autor: Samuel GREENE, Gregory ASMOLOV, Adam FAGAN, Ofer FRIDMAN, Borjan GJUZELOV

**Politikbereich:**
- Demokratie
- Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
- Coronavirus

**Zusammenfassung:**
Disinformation is an endemic and ubiquitous part of politics throughout the Western Balkans, without exception. A mapping of the disinformation and counter-disinformation landscapes in the region in the period from 2018 through 2020 reveals three key disinformation challenges: external challenges to EU credibility; disinformation related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and the impact of disinformation on elections and referenda. While foreign actors feature prominently – chiefly Russia, but also China, Turkey, and other countries in and near the region – the bulk of disinformation in the Western Balkans is produced and disseminated by domestic actors for domestic purposes. Further, disinformation (and information disorder more broadly) is a symptom of social and political disorder, rather than the cause. As a result, the European Union should focus on the role that it can play in bolstering the quality of democracy and governance in the Western Balkans, as the most powerful potential bulwark against disinformation.

**Strengthening media freedom in the EU**

Art der Veröffentlichung: Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum: 19-11-2020
Verfasser: Gianluca SGUEO

**Politikbereich:**
- Demokratie

**Zusammenfassung:**
The EU is actively engaged in protecting the independence and safety of journalists as crucial components of the proper democratic functioning of its institutions and Member States. Media freedom, however, has been deteriorating in recent years. Threats, harassment, public shaming and even assassinations of media actors are on the rise. At its November II plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote on an own-initiative report concerned with strengthening media freedom. The report emphasises that combating media capture, hate speech and misinformation is fundamental when it comes to defending the rule of law and democracy in the EU.
Stärkung von Transparenz und Integrität durch die neue „Unabhängige Einrichtung für Ethikfragen“ (UEE)

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 31-10-2020

Externe Autor: FRISCHHUT Markus

Politikbereich: Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Haushaltskontrolle | Bewertung von Rechtsvorschriften und politischen Maßnahmen in der Praxis | Petitionen an das Europäische Parlament | Demokratie | EU-Recht: Rechtsordnung und Rechtsakte

Schlagwortliste: vergleichender Test | EU-Behörde | Berufsethos | Europäische Integration | Ethik


Studie EN

Zusammenfassung: BG, DE, EN, FR, IT, NL

Outcome of the European Council meeting of 15-16 October 2020

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 19-10-2020

Verfasser: Ralf DRACHENBERG

Politikbereich: Demokratie

Schlagwortliste: Europäischer Rat | Afrika | Epidemie | das Vereinigte Königreich | Klimaschutzpolitik | die Türkei | Coronavirus-Erkrankung | Gemeinsame Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik | Austritt aus der EU | EU-Energiepolitik | Belarus | China

Zusammenfassung: Without reaching any new decisions, the European Council meeting of 15-16 October 2020 addressed a series of important issues, including the coronavirus pandemic, EU-United Kingdom relations and climate change. It also discussed numerous external relations issues, notably relations with Africa, the EU’s southern neighbourhood, Belarus and Turkey. In the context of rising Covid-19 infections across all Member States, the European Council expressed its very serious concern about the developing pandemic situation and agreed to intensify overall coordination at EU level and between Member States. Regarding the negotiations on future EU-UK relations, EU leaders expressed their concern about the lack of progress and called on the UK to make the necessary moves. They stressed that the Withdrawal Agreement and its Protocols needed to be implemented in a full and timely manner.

Briefing EN

Key issues in the European Council: State of play in October 2020

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 15-10-2020

Verfasser: Annastina PAPUNEN | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL

Politikbereich: Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Umwelt | Verkehr | Energie | Beschäftigung | Wirtschaft und Währung | Demokratie | Finanz- und Bankenangelegenheiten | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Coronavirus | Industrie

Schlagwortliste: Europäischer Rat | Forschungsbericht | Arbeitsweise der Organe | Politische Analyse

Zusammenfassung: This EPRS publication, ‘Key issues in the European Council’, is updated quarterly to coincide with European Council meetings. It aims to provide an overview of the institution’s activities on major EU issues, by analysing twelve broad policy areas, explaining the legal and political background and the main priorities and orientations defined by the European Council in each field. It also assesses the results of European Council involvement in these policy areas to date, and identifies future challenges in the various policy fields.

Studie EN

Outlook for the European Council meeting of 15-16 October 2020

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 09-10-2020

Verfasser: Ralf DRACHENBERG

Politikbereich: Demokratie

Schlagwortliste: Europäischer Rat | Afrika | Epidemi | das Vereinigte Königreich | Klimaschutzpolitik | Oppositionsführer | die Russische Föderation | Coronavirus-Erkranckung | Austritt aus der EU | China

Zusammenfassung: Only two weeks after the last European Council meeting, EU Heads of State or Government gather again on 15-16 October 2020, to address future EU-UK relations, EU-Africa relations and climate change. On climate, EU leaders will evaluate the progress on the EU’s objective of climate neutrality by 2050 and hold an orientation debate. Regarding EU-UK relations, they will assess the implementation of the withdrawal agreement, receive an update on the negotiations on the future EU-UK partnership and discuss the preparatory work for all scenarios after 1 January 2021. In addition to EU-Africa relations, other external relations issues are likely to be discussed, notably the poisoning of Alexei Navalny. EU leaders will also return to the handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Briefing EN
Foresight for resilience: The European Commission's first annual Foresight Report

The first Annual Foresight Report sets out how foresight will be used in the EU's work towards a sustainable recovery and open strategic autonomy. Horizon scanning can identify emerging risks and opportunities. Scenario development can tease out potential synergies, for example between green and digital objectives. Dashboards can be used to measure progress towards agreed goals, while a European Foresight Network can enhance the interaction between different levels of governance.

European Council Leaders' Agenda 2020-21

At the special European Council meeting of 1-2 October 2020, Charles Michel, President of the European Council, presented a new Leaders' Agenda outlining his view of 'the key challenges confronting the Union' and setting a timetable for the Heads of State or Government to address these issues at meetings between October 2020 and June 2021. The new Leaders' Agenda puts strong focus on the 'green transition and digital transformation', as well as on 'Europe's role in the world', two core priorities in the EU Strategic Agenda 2019-24. Mr Michel intends to structure the approach to external relations and to cooperate with Turkey – provided the current path to dialogue was maintained – while envisaging all options otherwise. On Belarus, the leaders agreed on restrictive measures against officials responsible for repression and election falsification. Also on the agenda were the single market, industrial policy and digital transformation, notably in the context of EU strategic autonomy. There was also an in-depth discussion on coordination of the coronavirus pandemic response. Finally, the President presented the new Leaders' Agenda 2020-21, foreseeing the main topics for discussion up to June 2021.

Geopolitical implications of the COVID-19 pandemic

Since the Coronavirus began its spread across the world, many analysts have speculated about its impact: would it merely accelerate previously-existing trends, or would it prove to be a geopolitical ‘game-changer’, creating a world profoundly different than before? The answer is much more complex than either or: the world during and after COVID-19 will have elements of both, the old and the new, the known and the unknown. This study explores both dimensions of the pandemic's impact: how does it affect the geopolitical context it erupted into, and what possibility space does it open up? The first section assesses the geopolitical trends antedating the pandemic and measures its present and expected impact on them, while the second section lays out the space for action and change created by the disruption. In the third section, the interplay of trends and uncertainties is explored in three scenarios set in 2025: Strategic Distancing; Europe in Self-isolation; and Lockdown World.

The study finds that European foreign policy is entering an era of re-definition in which the European Parliament should play a crucial role. This means outlining the elements of strategic autonomy, but also streamlining them with each other. As such, classical foreign policy needs to join forces with other policy areas such as environmental and technological matters, trade, strategic communication – and of course, health. In that sense alone, the pandemic is already proving to be a game-changer.
Überwachungs-, Präventions- und Durchsetzungsmechanismen auf EU-Ebene

Zusammenfassung

At the special European Council meeting of 1-2 October 2020, postponed from 24-25 September, EU Heads of State or Government are expected to dedicate much of their time to external relations issues, notably to a strategic discussion on Turkey and a debate on relations with China. Continuing illegal Turkish drilling activities in the eastern Mediterranean have made the former more urgent, while the latter is long overdue. The European Council is also likely to adopt extensive conclusions regarding the single market, industrial and digital policy, reiterating the key objective of achieving strategic autonomy, whilst maintaining an open economy. EU leaders are expected to call for development of EU autonomy in the space sector, a more integrated defence industrial base, and for the presentation of a ‘digital compass’ setting out the EU’s digital ambitions for 2030 in its move towards digital sovereignty. EU leaders will also take stock of the coronavirus situation and review the coordination of national and European measures. Finally, the President, Charles Michel, is expected to set out his vision of the main issues to be dealt with by the leaders in the coming year, and to propose a work-plan for the European Council, similar to the Leaders’ Agenda which guided the work of the European Council during Donald Tusk’s second mandate as President.

Schutz der gemeinsamen Werte der EU innerhalb der Mitgliedstaaten: Ein Überblick über die Überwachungs-, Präventions- und Durchsetzungsmechanismen auf EU-Ebene

Zusammenfassung

In dieser Studie werden die bestehenden und vorgeschlagenen Mechanismen analysiert, die den Organen der EU zur Verfügung stehen und die eingesetzt werden können, um die Einhaltung der europäischen Werte durch die Mitgliedstaaten zu überwachen und durchzusetzen. Konkret befasst sich die Studie mit dem Status und der Bedeutung der europäischen Werte (Artikel 2 EUV) und erörtert ferner bestehende Überwachungs- und Präventionsmechanismen (Europäisches Semester, EU-Justizbarometer, Rahmen der Kommission zur Stärkung des Rechtsstaatsprinzips, Dialoge des Rates über Rechtsstaatlichkeit und die präventive Komponente von Artikel 7 EUV) sowie Durchsetzungsmechanismen (Vertragsverletzungsverfahren, EU-Justizbarometer, Förderkriterium, Sanktion (EU), Vertrag über die Europäische Union | Mitgliedstaat der EU | Recht des Einzelnen | Europäisches Semester | Rechtsstaat | Gemeinschaftsorgan)
Disruption durch Technologien: Auswirkungen auf Politik, Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 21-09-2020
Verfasser: Tambiama André MADIEGA | Marcin SZCZEPANSKI | Naja BENTZEN | Leopold SCHMERTZING | Philip Nicholas BOUCHER | Tania LATICI
Politikbereich: Vorausplanung | Bewertung von Rechtsvorschriften und politischen Maßnahmen in der Praxis | Wirtschaft und Währung | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Coronavirus | Industrie

Eingehende Analyse DE, EN, FR
Multimedia: EN

The poisoning of Alexey Navalny

Art der Veröffentlichung: Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum: 21-09-2020
Verfasser: Martin RUSSELL
Politikbereich: Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Schlagwortliste: restriktive Maßnahme der EU | die Vereinigte Staaten | politische Opposition | Frankreich | Deutschland | staatliche Gewalt | Verbrechen gegen Personen | Gasfernleitung | chemische Waffe | die Russische Föderation | passives Wahlrecht
Zusammenfassung: EU-Russia relations hit a new low in August 2020, after Alexey Navalny, one of Russia’s leading opposition activists, was poisoned by a banned nerve agent. Although the perpetrators have not yet been identified, the attack has to be seen in the context of repression and growing discontent against Putin. In response to this clear breach of international law and human rights, the EU is considering additional sanctions against Moscow.

Auf einen Blick EN

Obstacles to participation in local and European elections, inside the E.U.

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 15-09-2020
Externe Autor: Aalt Willem HERINGA, Professor of Comparative Constitutional and Administrative Law, Maastricht University, NL; Hoai-Thu NGUYEN, Policy Fellow for EU Institutions and Democracy, Jacques Delors Centre, Berlin, DE.
Politikbereich: Bewertung von Rechtsvorschriften und politischen Maßnahmen in der Praxis | Petitionen an das Europäische Parlament | Demokratie
Schlagwortliste: europäische Wahl | Lokalwahl | Mitgliedstaat der EU | europäische Staatsbürgerschaft | Wahlrecht | aktives Wahlrecht
Zusammenfassung: This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the PETI Committee, addresses some major issues of obstacles to elections in general and of obstacles to participation inside the EU more specifically. This is done by focusing on Member States and examples with regard to municipal elections, and European elections, but also in general on de-facto access to the exercise of the right to vote. Various recommendations are formulated.

Studie EN
Addressing violations of democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights

22-02-2021

Outcome of the European Council video-conference of 19 August 2020

25-08-2020

Peace and Security in 2020: Overview of EU action and outlook for the future

10-09-2020

22-02-2021 Quelle : © Europäische Union, 2021 - EP
**Scenarios for geo-politics after coronavirus: A recent Atlantic Council analysis**

Art der Veröffentlichung | Auf einen Blick
---|---
Kalenderdatum | 16-07-2020
Verfasser | Leopold SCHMERTZING
Politikbereich | Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Vorausplanung | Internationaler Handel | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Öffentliche Gesundheit | Coronavirus
Schlagwortliste | Epidemie | die Vereinigte Staaten | Think Tank | die Russische Föderation | Coronavirus-Erkrankung | Geopolitik | China

Zusammenfassung | The Atlantic Council report, 'What World Post-Covid-19? Three Scenarios', has two main takeaways: first, Chinese-US rivalry could get worse and go global, destabilising an increasingly divided EU and endangering the United States' alliances system in Asia. Second, there is no way around the US, Europe and China cooperating to develop a positive, global 'new normal'.

**2019 report on human rights and democracy**

Art der Veröffentlichung | Auf einen Blick
---|---
Kalenderdatum | 06-07-2020
Verfasser | Ionel ZAMFIR
Politikbereich | Demokratie | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste | Desinformation | Redefreiheit | Demokratie | Bericht | Menschenrechtsbewegung | Menschenrechte


**Artificial intelligence: How does it work, why does it matter, and what can we do about it?**

Art der Veröffentlichung | Studie
---|---
Kalenderdatum | 28-06-2020
Verfasser | Philip Nicholas BOUCHER
Politikbereich | Kultur | Forschungspolitik | Vorausplanung | Sozialpolitik | Beschäftigung | Binnenmarkt und Zollunion | Verbraucherschutz | Demokratie | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Bildung | Menschenrechte | Industrie
Schlagwortliste | Wirkungsstudie | Auswirkungen der Informationstechnologie | künstliche Intelligenz | neue Technologie

Zusammenfassung | Artificial intelligence (AI) is probably the defining technology of the last decade, and perhaps also the next. The aim of this report is to support meaningful reflection and productive debate about AI by providing accessible information about the full range of current and speculative techniques and their associated impacts, and setting out a wide range of regulatory, technological and societal measures that could be mobilised in response.

Studie | EN

**A Comprehensive EU Strategy for Africa**

Art der Veröffentlichung | Briefing
---|---
Kalenderdatum | 25-06-2020
Externe Autor | Morten BØÅS, Ondřej HORKÝ-HLUCHÁŇ,Ainhoa MARIN-EGOSCOZABAL
Politikbereich | Umwelt | Internationaler Handel | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Coronavirus | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste | Klimaveränderung | humanitäre Hilfe | Governance | gemeinsame Handelspolitik | Afrika | EU-Strategie | Wanderung | Entwicklungshilfe | dauerhafte Entwicklung | Handelsbeziehungen | Gemeinsame Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik

Zusammenfassung | The new EU-Africa Strategy presented by the Commission on 9 March puts a reinforced emphasis on the creation of a real partnership with a continent whose relevance for Europe is growing by the day. The three briefings focus on different aspects of this new partnership, the first one dealing with the implications for the political dialogue with a focus on (good) governance and the even bigger challenge of security and migration. The second briefing has a look at more 'traditional' aspects of this relationship, development and humanitarian aid, complemented with the rising challenge of climate change. The new approach is also illustrated by the emphasis put on the promotion of bilateral trade and investment relations, the topic of the third briefing. All these briefings also try to incorporate first elements on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the bilateral relationship.

Briefing | EN
Key issues in the European Council: State of play in June 2020

This EPRS publication, ‘Key issues in the European Council’, is updated quarterly to coincide with European Council meetings. It aims to provide an overview of the institution’s activities on major EU issues, by analysing twelve broad policy areas, explaining the legal and political background and the main priorities and orientations defined by the European Council in each field. It also assesses the results of European Council involvement in these policy areas to date, and identifies future challenges in the various policy fields.

Europäisierung der „europäischen Öffentlichkeit“

These studies, which are the result of a cooperation between the European Parliament’s Press and PR Service and the FRA, aim to provide a broad outline of the situation of the “European Public” in the European Union. They are based on the results of a survey, which was conducted in 2018 among a representative sample of the adult European population.

Outlook for the European Council video-conference of 19 June 2020

The European Council meeting on 19 June, to be held by video-conference, will be almost exclusively dedicated to the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the proposed new EU recovery fund, dubbed ‘Next Generation EU’. The two European Commission proposals are now to be considered as one package for the purpose of negotiation, since the recovery fund is in effect embedded within the revamped EU long-term budget. This has increased the pressure on Member States to reach a political agreement on the MFF, but also multiplied the issues of disagreement among the EU leaders. In addition to the MFF-specific issues, on which divergences could not be overcome at the special European Council meeting in February 2020 – namely the overall size of the EU budget, the use of rebates and the funding allocation per policy area – the proposal for the recovery fund raises sensitive new questions, notably on the balance between loans and grants, the allocation criteria for funding and the modalities for repayment.
The impact of coronavirus on media freedom

Media freedom has increasingly come under the spotlight in recent years. In its 2019 report on media freedom, Freedom House argued that media freedom around the world was coming under growing threat both in democratic and non-democratic countries, whilst in its 2020 edition of the World Press Freedom Index, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) argue that the next decade will be pivotal in ensuring the preservation of media freedom. This threat to media freedom is often attributed to the recent rise of populist and authoritarian governments, with many world-leaders – including leaders of major democracies – increasingly seeming to view free media as an opponent, rather than a fundamental aspect of a free society. The knock-on effects of such actions can be grave, particularly given the important role that a free media plays in upholding democracy and democratic freedoms. Media freedom and pluralism are part of the rights and principles enshrined in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and in the European Convention on Human Rights. As the coronavirus pandemic continues to have significant ramifications for public health, social welfare and the economy, the crisis also presents a significant threat to media freedom. Media freedom proponents have warned that governments across the world could use the coronavirus emergency as a pretext for the implementation of new, draconian restrictions on free expression, as well as to increase press censorship. In many countries, the crisis has been exploited for just such reasons, with political leaders using it as a justification for additional restrictions on media freedom. In its 2020 World Press Freedom Index, RSF argues that certain governments have used the crisis to impose media restrictions that in ordinary times would be impossible. The Council of Europe (CoE) Platform for the Protection of Journalists has warned that the fresh assault on media freedom amid the Covid 19 pandemic has worsened an already gloomy media freedom outlook.
Outcome of the European Council video-conference of 23 April 2020

At the European Council’s video-conference meeting on 23 April, EU leaders demonstrated greater willingness to achieve a coordinated response at EU-level to face the coronavirus crisis than had previously been the case. Although concrete decisions were postponed, Heads of State or Government adopted a more united approach and took decisive steps towards collective action. Notably, they welcomed both the ‘Joint European Roadmap towards Lifting Covid-19 Containment Measures’ and the ‘Roadmap for Recovery’, but also agreed to ‘work towards establishing’ an urgently needed recovery fund ‘dedicated to dealing with this unprecedented crisis’. However, whilst asking the European Commission to shape the recovery strategy and to clarify the link between the Recovery Fund and the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), EU leaders gave little guidance on specific details, such as the total amount, whether it would provide loans or grants, or on a precise timetable. Furthermore, EU leaders called on Turkey to end its illegal drilling activities off Cyprus in the island’s Exclusive Economic Zone. They also announced a video-conference between EU Heads of State or Government and their counterparts from the Western Balkans, on 6 May 2020, date of the previously planned EU-Western Balkans Summit.

Outlook for the European Council video-conference of 23 April 2020

The European Council video-conference meeting on 23 April 2020 is expected to shift EU leaders’ attention away from immediate and short-term priorities, such as limiting the spread of the coronavirus, to a longer-term strategic approach focused on a recovery strategy for the European Union, and the financing thereof. The recovery strategy could be based on four pillars: 1) the internal market, including the Green Deal, the digital agenda and the EU’s strategic autonomy; 2) an investment strategy, to be included in the next seven-year EU budget and reflected in the work programme of the European Investment Bank; 3) a global recovery strategy reinforcing the external responsibility of the EU and promoting multilateralism; and 4) strengthening resilience and governance for a stronger EU after the crisis. As the EU’s Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the seven years from 2021 to 2027, which has yet to be agreed, touches upon all four pillars of the recovery strategy, EU leaders will engage in a strategic discussion on the MFF during their video-conference.

Countering the health ‘infodemic’

The dissemination of mis- and disinformation in traditional media and on social media has surged in recent years, with wide-ranging consequences in various policy areas – from elections to geopolitics to healthcare. The prevalence of false information regarding health issues threatens to undermine trust in official health advice and institutions responsible for countering threats to public health, potentially posing a serious threat to the health and wellbeing of individuals, a threat exacerbated in the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Western Balkans on the European Council agenda: Overview of discussions since the Lisbon Treaty

The European Council to endorse the 24 March 2020 Council political agreement on the opening of negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia.
Charles Michel as President of the European Council: The first 100+ days

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing  
Kalenderdatum: 30-03-2020  
Verfasser: Ralf DRACHENBERG

Schlagwörter: Haushalt | Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Demokratie  
Schlagwörter: Epidemie | Präsident des Europäischen Rates | Krisenmanagement | institutionelle Zuständigkeit | Präsident einer Institution  
Schlagwörter: Coronavirus-Erkrankung  
Zusammenfassung: On 1 December 2019, Charles Michel, previously prime minister of Belgium, became the third President of the European Council. He began his term in dynamic mode, aiming to make his mark in foreign affairs and develop the EU's interinstitutional relations. While pursuing his predecessors' efforts to secure unity between EU leaders, Michel has applied his own style, visible notably in his discourse, social media presence and transparency efforts. An analysis of the President's Twitter activities shows his strong focus on EU-Africa relations, climate and, most recently, COVID-19.

Outcome of European Council video-conference of 26 March 2020

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing  
Kalenderdatum: 30-03-2020  
Verfasser: Ralf DRACHENBERG

Schlagwörter: Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Verkehr | Binnenmarkt und Zollunion | Wirtschaft und Währung | Demokratie | Öffentliche Gesundheit  
Schlagwörter: medizinische Forschung | Europäischer Rat | medizintechnische Ausrüstung | Epidemie | Erweiterung der Europäischen Union | Kroatien | Rückkehrbeihilfe | Videokommunikation | Coronavirus-Erkrankung | Außengrenze der EU | Mehrjähriger Finanzrahmen | China  
Zusammenfassung: On 26 March, EU Heads of State or Government continued their joint coordination efforts to address the COVID-19 outbreak and held a six hour long video conference on this subject, but failed to agree on the adequate financing instruments to help countries in fiscal difficulty due to the crisis. The President of the European Parliament President, David Sassoli, strongly criticised the results of the European Council and 'the short-sightedness and selfishness of some governments'. EU leaders asked the President of the Commission and the President of the European Council to start working on a Roadmap accompanied by an Action Plan to prepare an exit strategy and a comprehensive recovery plan, including unprecedented investment.

The European Council, health policy and pandemics

Art der Veröffentlichung: Auf einen Blick  
Kalenderdatum: 27-03-2020  
Verfasser: Izabela Cristina BACIAN

Schlagwörter: Europäischer Rat | Epidemie | Gesundheitspolitik | Coronavirus-Erkrankung  
Zusammenfassung: The European Council (of EU Heads of State or Government) has been active in its response to the coronavirus crisis. So far it has held three video-conference calls of national leaders on the subject, with a view to seeking to develop a coordinated response both among the Member States and collectively at EU level. This note sketches the context, describes some of the instruments available to the Union, and compares responses to the outbreaks of Ebola in the past and COVID-19 today.

The European Council as COVID-19 crisis manager: A comparison with previous crises

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing  
Kalenderdatum: 27-03-2020  
Verfasser: Suzana Elena ANGHEL

Schlagwörter: Europäischer Rat | Epidemie | EU-Politik | Krisenmanagement | Coronavirus-Erkrankung  
Zusammenfassung: The COVID-19 outbreak confronts the European Union with a severe crisis, affecting both individual EU citizens’ lives and society as a whole. Due to its role and centrality in the EU's institutional framework, the European Council is once again called upon to exercise its crisis-management role. Similarities can be drawn with past crises as regards both short and long-term responses. The main difference to previous crises, for instance, in the economy or on migration, which impacted a limited number of EU policies, is that the COVID-19 crisis touches the entire spectrum of policies at both European and national level, making a common response more challenging, as competences are divided between the different strata of the EU's multi-level governance system. Ultimately, this crisis has the potential to reshape EU policies, leading to increased cross-policy cooperation and possibly a centrally coordinated response mechanism.
The ethics of artificial intelligence: Issues and initiatives

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 11-03-2020

Externe Autor: DG, EPRS This study has been drafted by Eleanor Bird, Jasmin Fox-Skelly, Nicola Jenner, Ruth Labrey, Emma Weikamp and Alan Winfield from the Science Communication Unit at the University of the West of England, at the request of the Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA), and managed by the Scientific Foresight Unit, within the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS) of the Secretariat of the European Parliament.

Politikbereich: Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Forschungspolitik | Vorausplanung | Verkehr | Sozialpolitik | Globale Ordnungspolitik | Beschäftigung | Verbraucherschutz | Demokratie | Finanz- und Bankenangelegenheiten | Öffentliche Gesundheit | EU-Recht: Rechtsordnung und Rechtsakte

Schlagwortliste: soziale Auswirkungen | Wirkungsstudie | Robotertechnik | künstliche Intelligenz | neue Technologie | Ethik

Zusammenfassung: This study deals with the ethical implications and moral questions that arise from the development and implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies. It also reviews the guidelines and frameworks that countries and regions around the world have created to address these. It presents a comparison between the current main frameworks and the main ethical issues, and highlights gaps around mechanisms of fair benefit sharing; assigning of responsibility; exploitation of workers; energy demands in the context of environmental and climate changes; and more complex and less certain implications of AI, such as those regarding human relationships.

Studie EN
Anlagen I EN

European arrest warrant

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 19-02-2020

Verfasser: Wouter VAN BALLEGOOIJ | IVANA KIENDL KRISTO

Politikbereich: Haushalt | Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Umsetzung und Durchführung von Rechtsvorschriften | Bewertung von Rechtsvorschriften und politischen Maßnahmen in der Praxis | Demokratie | EU-Recht: Rechtsordnung und Rechtsakte | Menschenrechte

Zusammenfassung: The European Arrest Warrant has led to simplifies and faster surrender procedures for suspects and sentenced persons. However, trust in the system needs to be enhanced through proper implementation and further harmonisation of substantive and procedural criminal law.

Eingehende Analyse EN

European Commission Work Programme for 2020

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 11-02-2020

Verfasser: Milan REMAC | STEFANO VETTORAZZI

Politikbereich: Wirtschaft und Währung | Demokratie

Schlagwortliste: Wirkungsstudie | Ausschuss EP | Arbeitsweise der Organe | Ordnungspolitik | Europäische Kommission

Zusammenfassung: This briefing is intended as a background overview for parliamentary committees planning their activities in relation to the European Commission's 2020 work programme (CWP 2020). It offers a brief description of the work programme's content and of related publications provided by the Ex-Ante Impact Assessment Unit (IMPA) and the Ex-Post Evaluation Unit (EVAL) of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), in particular initial appraisals of Commission impact assessments and implementation appraisals.

Briefing EN
Peace, justice and strong institutions: EU support for implementing SDG 16 worldwide

The 16th sustainable development goal (SDG 16) to 'Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels' represents a new milestone compared with the earlier millennium development goals. While several of its targets (such as peace, corruption-free institutions and freedom from violence) were once seen as prerequisites of sustainable development, the adoption of SDG 16 marked the first time that they were globally recognised as development objectives in themselves. To achieve universal recognition, SDG 16 leaves out explicit reference to internationally recognised political and civil rights norms, attracting some criticism. Its very general scope has also stirred controversy regarding the type of data required in order to assess progress rigorously. The state of play with regard to the implementation of SDG 16 indicates that substantial progress is still needed in order to achieve the SDG targets by 2030. Violent conflicts continue to affect many parts of the world, societal violence remains widespread in many countries and violence against children in particular remains a pervasive phenomenon, especially in developing countries. At the same time, fundamental freedoms have come under increased attack from regimes that disrespect human rights and undermine international and national norms in this area. The EU has committed to contributing to the achievement of all the SDGs, and the specific targets of SDG 16 have been given special recognition. From the Global Strategy to the 'new consensus on development', various policy documents acknowledge the crucial role of peace, democracy, human rights and the rule of law for sustainable development. The interconnection between the pursuit of these fundamental values and EU efforts to help developing countries achieve the SDGs is obvious in numerous measures undertaken in the framework of EU external action. The European Parliament is a strong champion for these values in the world.
Politische Kultur und Dynamik des Europäischen Parlaments, 1979–1989


The European Council under the Lisbon Treaty: How has the institution evolved since 2009?

On 1 December 2009, with the coming into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, the European Council became a formal EU institution. Ten years later, the European Council is seen by many as representing the centre of gravity of the EU's institutional framework. However, was this development purely the result of the changes to the Treaties made with Lisbon or did it happen naturally over time? This study analyses both the formal changes brought about by the Lisbon Treaty and the incremental evolution resulting from the institution's day-to-day practice, including the European Council's behaviour during the various crises of the last decade. It outlines the responsibilities envisaged for the European Council in the Treaty and the informal roles it has taken on over time. It explores the extent to which the Lisbon Treaty changed the functioning of the European Council, and how EU leaders themselves tried to optimise the working methods of their institution. Special attention is to the new position of full-time European Council President and the way in which the first two incumbents have interpreted their office. The analysis concludes that, while the EU’s various crises strongly contributed to the rise of the European Council, the Lisbon Treaty united two previously separate dimensions – the political and the legal, formally adding new competences to the role already performed by the EU Heads of State or Government. Many of these competences have yet to be fully exploited and represent a rich seam of unused Treaty potential for the future.

Parliamentary hearings of the Commissioners-designate: An analysis of the portfolios of the von der Leyen Commission

This compendium brings together a set of Briefings prepared by the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) to assist Members of the European Parliament in gaining an overview of the parliamentary hearings of Commissioners-designate, which took place in early October 2019, as well as additional hearings in November. These public hearings form the backdrop to Parliament's confirmation vote on the College of Commissioners put forward by Ursula von der Leyen, following her own election as Commission President by the European Parliament in July 2019. In addition to an overview of the process, setting it in its historical and political context, this volume contains a briefing on each of the Commissioners-designate and their portfolios. Each of these briefings highlights some of the key issues and recent developments in the portfolio, as well as recalling the Parliament's activity in the area in the last parliamentary term.
Commitments made at the hearing of Jutta URPILAINEN, Commissioner-designate - International Partnerships

The Commissioner-designate, Jutta Urpilainen, appeared before the European Parliament on 01 October 2019 to answer MEPs’ questions. During the hearing, she made a number of commitments which are highlighted in this document. These commitments refer to her portfolio, as described in the mission letter sent to her by Ursula von der Leyen, President-elect of the European Commission, including:

- Building sustainable partnerships.

Commitments made at the hearing of Margaritis SCHINAS, Vice-President-designate - Promoting the European Way of Life

The Vice President-designate, Margaritis Schinas, appeared before the European Parliament on 03 October 2019 to answer questions from MEPs in the Committees on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, Culture and Education, Employment and Social Affairs. During the hearing, he made a number of commitments which are highlighted in this document. These commitments refer to his portfolio, as described in the mission letter sent to him by Ursula von der Leyen, President-elect of the European Commission, including:

- Skills, education and integration;
- Finding common ground on migration; and
- Security Union.

Commitments made at the hearing of Dubravka ŠUICA, Vice-President-designate - Democracy and Demography

The Vice President-designate, Dubravka Šuica, appeared before the European Parliament on 03 October 2019 to answer questions from MEPs in the Committees on Constitutional affairs and Employment and social affairs. During the hearing, she made a number of commitments which are highlighted in this document. These commitments refer to her portfolio, as described in the mission letter sent to her by Ursula von der Leyen, President-elect of the European Commission, including:

- Conference on the Future of Europe; and
- Supporting Europe through the demographic transition.
Commitments made at the hearing of Ylva JOHANSSON, Commissioner-designate - Home Affairs

The commissioner-designate, Ylva Johansson, appeared before the European Parliament on 01 October 2019 to answer MEPs’ questions. During the hearing, she made a number of commitments which are highlighted in this document. These commitments refer to her portfolio, as described in the mission letter sent to her by Ursula von der Leyen, President-elect of the European Commission, including: General approach, Common European values, A fresh start on migration and Internal security.

Commitments made at the hearing of Didier REYNDERS, Commissioner-designate - Justice

The commissioner-designate, Didier Reynders, appeared before the European Parliament on 02 October 2019 to answer questions from MEPs in the Committees on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection. During the hearing, he made a number of commitments which are highlighted in this document. These commitments refer to his portfolio, as described in the mission letter sent to him by Ursula von der Leyen, President-elect of the European Commission, including: Upholding the rule of law; and Justice and consumer protection.

Western Balkans: State of play in the European Council

The Western Balkans have regularly featured on the agenda of the European Council since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in December 2009. Three dimensions – enlargement, counter-terrorism and migration – have been at the centre of the EU leaders' discussion of the subject. The European Commission recommended twice in the last two years the opening of accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia. In the absence of an agreement at the 15 October 2019 General Affairs Council, the decision on whether to open accession negotiations with the two countries now lies with the European Council.

What next for Europe? A strategic foresight perspective

The ESPAS report examines the challenges posed for the European Union by megatrends such as digitisation, demographic change and the climate crisis. It emphasises the need for judicious responses, arguing that inaction heightens the risk of bad outcomes. It also notes that the more equal our societies are, the better prepared we are to face the future. Topics examined The report is the fruit of an inter-institutional strategic foresight exercise.
Ukraine: Navigating multiple challenges

Zusammenfassung

Five years after the 'revolution of dignity', in which Ukrainians demanded a functioning democracy and an end to kleptocracy, the country elected a new President in April 2019 and a new Parliament in July. The new leaders in Kyiv are facing a wide range of persistent challenges. Russia's ongoing hybrid war against the country, including the illegal occupation of Crimea and the war in eastern Ukraine, as well as the continued reform process dominate the agenda.

The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission is expected to make a statement on the situation in Ukraine during the October I plenary session.

Auf einen Blick

The European Parliament's evolving soft power - From back-door diplomacy to agenda-setting:

Democracy support and mediation

Zusammenfassung

For the past 40 years, Members of the European Parliament have been working at boosting Parliament's role in EU foreign policy. These efforts have continued to be stepped up since the launch of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) in 1993. Over recent decades, the European Parliament has significantly raised its profile as a credible moral force with strong focus on strengthening human rights, supporting democracy and enhancing the rule of law worldwide. Perhaps less visible than the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought, the European Parliament's democracy support activities are part of its 'soft-power' approach to international relations. Moreover, Parliament can convey messages through channels that are different from, and complementary to, those employed by the EU's traditional diplomatic players: for example, through its parliamentary networks. Parliament also enjoys Treaty-based information and consultation rights, which allow its Members to shape the EU's external policies. In addition, the European Parliament has become a public forum for debating with representatives of partner countries and international organisations, as well as influential non-state actors. MEPs pro-actively engage in inter-parliamentary delegations and missions to third countries as well as joint parliamentary assemblies. Moreover, parties in different countries often share strong links via their political families.

Politisiche Maßnahmen der EU im Interesse der Bürger: Förderung von Demokratie und Frieden auf der Welt durch die EU

Zusammenfassung

Darstellung von Bedrohungen für Frieden und Demokratie weltweit: Einführung in den Normandie-Index

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 03-06-2019

Politikbereich: Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Sicherheit und Verteidigung

Schlagwortliste: Frieden | internationale Statistik | internationale Rolle der Union | statistische Methode | Demokratie | Gemeinsame Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik | Geopolitik | internationaler Konflikt


Eingehende Analyse: DE, EN, FR
Multimedia: EN

Peace and Security in 2019: Evaluating EU efforts to support peace in Colombia

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 03-06-2019

Verfasser: Isabelle IOANNIDES

Politikbereich: Internationaler Handel | Bewertung von Rechtsvorschriften und politischen Maßnahmen in der Praxis | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Menschenrechte

Schlagwortliste: EU-Beihilfe | Erhaltung des Friedens | Beilegung der Streitigkeiten | Kolumbien

Zusammenfassung: This second thematic study in the Peace and Security series focuses on European Union (EU) peace support efforts in Colombia. The series will make an annual evaluation of EU performance in the field of peace and security in a specific geographical region. This study evaluates EU engagement during the 50-year conflict in Colombia, and focuses on peacemaking since the historic 2016 final agreement between the government and the main armed group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP). This is a country where the EU has mobilised a large spectrum of civilian instruments: bilateral and multilateral diplomacy; humanitarian and development aid; and trade relations. After placing the conflict in its geopolitical context, this evaluation analyses the EU approach to and implementation of support to peace in Colombia, the European Parliament's contribution, risks since the signature of the peace agreement, and ways to mitigate them. A parallel study, published separately, provides an overview of current EU action on peace and security and introduces the 2019 Normandy Index. The studies have been drafted with a view to their presentation at the Normandy World Peace Forum, in June 2019.

Studie: ES, EN, FR

Frieden und Sicherheit 2019: Überblick über die Maßnahmen der EU und Aussichten für die Zukunft

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 03-06-2019

Verfasser: Eleni LAZAROU

Politikbereich: Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Sicherheit und Verteidigung

Schlagwortliste: Herbeiführung des Friedens | europäische Sicherheit | Erhaltung des Friedens | Außenpolitik | gemeinsame Sicherheits- und Verteidigungspolitik


Studie: DE, EN, FR
Multimedia: EN
**Living in the EU: European Elections and Democracy**

*Art der Veröffentlichung* Auf einen Blick  
*Kalenderdatum* 30-04-2019  
*Verfasser* Giulio SABBATI  
*Politikbereich* Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Demokratie  
*Schlagwortliste* europäische Wahl | Wahlbeteiligung | Pressefreiheit | Demokratie | Lage der Frauen | Frau | Korruption | Statistik der EU

**Zusammenfassung**  
The concept of participation lies at the heart of the European project, however recent years have seen a decrease in electoral turnout in contrast to the broader feelings of EU citizens of being part of a wider project promoting prosperity, social cohesion, unity and tolerance. Participation differs among different groups, and among the most explored is the gender gap in political participation, even though progress has been achieved over the years. Nowadays many European citizens show an increasing attachment to the EU, and its democracy, despite the perception of corruption and the challenges to press freedom affecting Member States to different degrees.

**Indonesia's April 2019 elections**

*Art der Veröffentlichung* Auf einen Blick  
*Kalenderdatum* 09-04-2019  
*Verfasser* Martin RUSSELL  
*Politikbereich* Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten

**Zusammenfassung**  
On 17 April 2019, Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country and third largest democracy (190 million voters), will hold presidential, parliamentary, regional and local elections. Incumbent President, Joko Widodo, is expected to win comfortably and retain a parliamentary majority. The only other presidential candidate is 2014 runner-up Prabowo Subianto, forecast to lose by a bigger margin than in 2014.

**Nepal, Bhutan and their neighbours: Two Himalayan countries landlocked between India and China**

*Art der Veröffentlichung* Briefing  
*Kalenderdatum* 05-04-2019  
*Verfasser* Enrico D'AMBROGIO  
*Politikbereich* Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten  
*Schlagwortliste* allgemeine Präferenzen | internationale Rolle der Union | Indien | Demokratie | autoritäres Regime | Nepal | Demokratisierung | Bhutan | China

**Zusammenfassung**  
Nepal and Bhutan are two poor landlocked Himalayan countries, sandwiched between a democracy and an authoritarian one-party state: India and China. After an authoritarian past, during the last decade, they have begun reforms in order to switch towards a democratic model. After a long and complicated path, Nepal succeeded in adopting a new constitution in 2015. Its first post-constitution government is run by an alliance of communist parties. In Bhutan, the king has successfully steered the country towards democratisation, as confirmed by the October 2018 general elections. While historically the two countries have nurtured solid relations with India, in recent years Beijing has expanded its footprint in the region considerably, challenging Delhi's traditional sphere of influence and increasing its sense of encirclement. In 2017 this led to a crisis referred to as the 'Doklam Plateau standoff'. There is currently a window of opportunity for Nepal and Bhutan to diversify their economic and security partnership and to rebalance their foreign policies between their two big neighbours. The EU has been supporting the two countries on their democratic journey and tripled resources for both countries’ development for the 2014-2020 period. As they are among the world's poorest countries, Nepal and Bhutan benefit from the EU's 'Everything But Arms' scheme, which grants full duty free and quota free access to the EU single market for all products.

**A governance framework for algorithmic accountability and transparency**

*Art der Veröffentlichung* Studie  
*Kalenderdatum* 04-04-2019  
*Externe Autor* DG, EPRS  
*Politikbereich* Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Vorausplanung | Sozialpolitik | Beschäftigung | Demokratie | EU-Recht: Rechtsordnung und Rechtsakte | Menschenrechte  
*Schlagwortliste* Gleichbehandlung | Big Data | künstliche Intelligenz | Datenverarbeitung | Entscheidungsprozess

**Zusammenfassung**  
Transparency and accountability are both tools to promote fair algorithmic decisions by providing the foundations for obtaining recourse to meaningful explanation, correction, or ways to ascertain faults that could bring about compensatory processes. The study develops policy options for the governance of algorithmic transparency and accountability, based on an analysis of the social, technical and regulatory challenges posed by algorithmic systems. Based on an extensive review and analysis of existing proposals for governance of algorithmic systems, the authors propose a set of four policy options each of which addresses a different aspect of algorithmic transparency and accountability. 1. Awareness raising: education, watchdogs and whistleblowers. 2. Accountability in public sector use of algorithmic decision-making. 3. Regulatory oversight and Legal liability. 4. Global coordination for algorithmic governance.
Parliamentary scrutiny of trade policies across the western world

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 25-03-2019
Externe Autor: Bart KERREMANS, Johan ADRIAENSEN, Francesca COLLI, Evelyn COREMANS
Politikbereich: Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Internationaler Handel | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Schlagwortliste: gemeinsame Handelspolitik | parlamentarische Kontrolle | die Vereinigten Staaten | Australien | vergleichende Studie | Handelsabkommen (EU) | Kanada

Zusammenfassung: The Lisbon Treaty increased the European Parliament’s powers over EU trade policy. Ten years after its entry into force it is timely to take stock of how the EP has made use of this leverage in shaping the EU’s trade negotiations. Such an exercise benefits from a comparison with other well-established parliamentary democracies, particularly the key partners with whom the EU has recently negotiated or has started to negotiate a comprehensive trade agreement. This study compares parliamentary scrutiny of trade policy in the EU with the United States, Canada and Australia. It concludes that the European Parliament has become powerful and active in trade policy, on a comparable level to the US Congress. Its powers exceed those of other Western democracies, such as Australia and Canada. From the latter the European Parliament may conclude that it is important to codify some of its informal oversight practices, before they may get lost over time again. This may also help to encourage its trading partners to increase their parliamentary involvement during negotiations with the EU. As regards the implementation of trade agreements however, the EU has very few competences in comparison to all other three countries analysed.

Outlook for the meetings of EU leaders, 21-22 March 2019

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 20-03-2019
Verfasser: Ralf DRACHENBERG | MARKO VUKOVIC
Politikbereich: Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Demokratie | EU-Recht: Rechtsordnung und Rechtsakte
Schlagwortliste: EU-Wettbewerbspolitik | Binnenmarkt | Desinformation | Europäischer Rat | Beziehungen der Union | das Vereinigte Königreich | Klimaschutzpolitik | Wirtschaftswachstum | Kapitalmarktunion | Schaffung von Arbeitsplätzen | Industriepolitik der EU | Austritt aus der EU

Zusammenfassung: The European Council of 21-22 March 2019, is expected to discuss the future development of the single market, the capital markets union, industrial policy and European digital policy, in preparation for the next strategic agenda. In the external relations field, the focus will be on the forthcoming EU-China summit. EU leaders will also look at developments on fighting disinformation and will give guidance on the future EU climate policy. However, Brexit will again take centre stage following recent developments in the House of Commons.

Artificial Intelligence ante portas: Legal & ethical reflections

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 14-03-2019
Verfasser: Michail KRITIKOS
Politikbereich: Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Vorausplanung | Bewertung von Rechtsvorschriften und politischen Maßnahmen in der Praxis | Demokratie | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste: Rechtsinformatik | Verordnung (EU) | Datenverarbeitungsrecht | Informationssicherheit | Schutz der Privatsphäre | Auswirkungen der Informationstechnologie | Transparenz des Entscheidungsprozesses | Big Data | Robotertechnik | künstliche Intelligenz | Datenverarbeitung

Zusammenfassung: This briefing provides accessible introductions to some of the major legal, regulatory and ethical debates surrounding the deployment and use of AI systems. It focuses on the challenges that the sui generis features of AI may pose on the current legal framework and argues that as AI systems become more autonomous, a doctrinal paradigm shift may be needed. Given the foreseeable pervasiveness of AI, the briefing poses the question about how this new technology should be defined and classified in legal and ethical terms. By providing an analysis of the key legal initiatives in this field in Europe, the briefing aims to equip the reader with the understanding they need to engage in clear-headed reflection about AI’s legal and socio-ethical challenges, and meaningful debates about how the current EU acquis may need to be adjusted to the new technological realities.
How artificial intelligence works

**Art der Veröffentlichung:** Briefing  
**Kalenderdatum:** 14-03-2019  
**Verfasser:** Philip Nicholas BOUCHER  
**Politikbereich:** Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Kultur | Forschungspolitik | Ex-ante-Folgenabschätzung | Vorausplanung | Sozialpolitik | Beschäftigung | Verbraucherschutz | Demokratie | Öffentliche Gesundheit | Industrie  
**Schlagwortliste:** Gentechnologie | Big Data | Robotertechnik | künstliche Intelligenz | Datenverarbeitung  
**Zusammenfassung:** This briefing provides accessible introductions to some of the key techniques that come under the AI banner, grouped into three sections to give a sense the chronology of its development. The first describes early techniques, described as ‘symbolic AI’ while the second focusses on the ‘data driven’ approaches that currently dominate and the third looks towards possible future developments. By explaining what is ‘deep’ about deep learning and showing that AI is more maths than magic, the briefing aims to equip the reader with the understanding they need to engage in clear-headed reflection about AI’s opportunities and challenges, and meaningful debates about its development.

**Briefing EN**

Why artificial intelligence matters

**Art der Veröffentlichung:** Briefing  
**Kalenderdatum:** 14-03-2019  
**Verfasser:** Philip Nicholas BOUCHER  
**Politikbereich:** Kultur | Forschungspolitik | Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Vorausplanung | Sozialpolitik | Bewertung von Rechtsvorschriften und politischen Maßnahmen in der Praxis | Verbraucherschutz | Demokratie | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Öffentliche Gesundheit | Menschenrechte | Industrie  
**Schlagwortliste:** Auswirkungen der Informationstechnologie | Robotertechnik | künstliche Intelligenz | Datenverarbeitung  
**Zusammenfassung:** This briefing explains why AI matters by reviewing some of the key opportunities and challenges it presents, but it does so with reference to the functionality and readiness of the technology. The first section focuses on the opportunities and challenges presented by today's AI while the second explores longer-term speculative opportunities and challenges that are contingent upon future developments that may never happen.

**Briefing EN**

Regulating disinformation with artificial intelligence

**Art der Veröffentlichung:** Studie  
**Kalenderdatum:** 13-03-2019  
**Externe Autor:** DG, EPRS  
**Politikbereich:** Forschungspolitik | Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Sozialpolitik | Bewertung von Rechtsvorschriften und politischen Maßnahmen in der Praxis | Globale Ordnungspolitik | Beschäftigung | Demokratie | Finanz- und Bankenangelegenheiten | EU-Recht: Rechtsordnung und Rechtsakte | Menschenrechte  
**Schlagwortliste:** Desinformation | Redefreiheit | Informationsverbreitung | Medienpluralismus | künstliche Intelligenz  
**Zusammenfassung:** In this study, we examine the consequences of the increasingly prevalent use of artificial intelligence (AI) disinformation initiatives upon freedom of expression, pluralism and the functioning of a democratic polity. The study examines the trade-offs in using automated technology to limit the spread of disinformation online. It presents (self-regulatory to legislative) options to regulate automated content recognition (ACR) technologies in this context. Special attention is paid to the opportunities for the European Union as a whole to take the lead in setting the framework for designing these technologies in a way that enhances accountability and transparency and respects free speech. The present project reviews some of the key academic and policy ideas on technology and disinformation and highlights their relevance to European policy.

**Studie EN**

Anlagen I
Technology and social polarisation

Polarisation and the use of technology in political campaigns and communication

Polarisation and the news media in Europe

Quelle: © Europäische Union, 2021 - EP
**Special Reports of the European Court of Auditors - A Rolling Check-list of recent findings**

**Art der Veröffentlichung** Studie

**Kalenderdatum** 28-02-2019

**Verfasser** Gabriella ZANA-SZABO | RONNIE JOHANNES KORVER

**Politikbereich** Haushalt | Umwelt | Verkehr | Bewertung von Rechtsvorschriften und politischen Maßnahmen in der Praxis | Binnenmarkt und Zollunion | Landwirtschaft und Entwicklung des ländlichen Raums | Wirtschaft und Währung | Demokratie | Regionale Entwicklung | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Europäischer Mehrwert | Sozialpolitik | Energie | Haushaltskontrolle | Beschäftigung | Finanz- und Bankenangelegenheiten | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten

**Schlagwortliste** Haushaltskontrolle | Haushaltsplan der EU | Haushaltsentlastung | Europäischer Rechnungshof

**Zusammenfassung** This rolling checklist presents an overview of the European Court of Auditors’ (ECA) special reports, concentrating on those relevant for the 2017 discharge procedure. It strives to link the research topics of the special reports to the relevant debates and positions within the European Parliament, including the working documents of the Committee on Budgetary Control, the work of the specialised parliamentary committees, plenary resolutions and individual questions by Members.

**Studie** EN

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**Women's rights in Western Balkans**

**Art der Veröffentlichung** Studie

**Kalenderdatum** 29-01-2019

**Externe Autor** Dasa Duhaček and Milica Mirazic University of Belgrade; Biljana Brankovic, GREVIO member

**Politikbereich** Sozialpolitik | Gleichstellungsfragen, Gleichheit und Vielfalt | Bewertung von Rechtsvorschriften und politischen Maßnahmen in der Praxis | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte

**Schlagwortliste** Fortpflanzungsgesundheit | Gleichbehandlung | sexuelle Gewalt | häusliche Gewalt | sexuelle Minderheit | Westlicher Balkan | Rechte der Frau

**Zusammenfassung** This study commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the FEMM Committee, entitled Women’s rights in Western Balkans, analyzes the countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro and Serbia and is executed so as to address the following issues: 1. Economic-social factors relevant to women’s rights, 2. Violence against women (VAW), including membership of the Istanbul convention and 3. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and LGBTi rights.

**Studie** EN

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**EP democracy support activities and their follow-up, and prospects for the future**

**Art der Veröffentlichung** Studie

**Kalenderdatum** 18-01-2019

**Externe Autor** Holly Ruthrauff, Hannah Roberts, Sarah Crozier

**Politikbereich** Demokratie

**Schlagwortliste** Drittland | internationale Rolle der Union | Informationsverbreitung (EU) | Demokratie | die Ukraine | Westlicher Balkan | Wahlprüfung | Europäisches Parlament | Zivilgesellschaft | Menschenrechtsbewegung | Meinungsfreiheit | Menschenrechte

**Zusammenfassung** The Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (DEG) is responsible for coordinating the democracy support activities of the European Parliament (EP). Over the course of the eighth legislature, the DEG has aimed to bring strategic focus to its democracy support activities through the introduction of a Comprehensive Democracy Support Approach (CDSA). While the introduction of the CDSA has outlined a vision for more focused and strategic interventions around the electoral cycle, the implementation remains a ‘work in progress’. There have been some innovative and long-term activities that bring coherence with EU policies, notably in Ukraine, but also there continue to be some cases of one-off actions without clear objectives. The comparative advantage of the EP in democracy support is its political perspective and ability to work ‘peer to peer’ with other parliamentarians, which has been demonstrated in its capacity building and mediation and dialogue activities. Overall the EP should continue to strive to be innovative and strategic in its democracy support, working where it has influence and bringing policy coherence with broader EU priorities. Election observation remains relevant, and follow-up to observer recommendations could be enhanced. The Sakharov Prize and the activities around it, which are also coordinated by the DEG, are consistent with EU values, including through support for human rights defenders and civil society.

**Studie** EN
The Generalised Scheme of Preferences Regulation (No 978/2012): European Implementation Assessment

Art der Veröffentlichung Studie
Kalenderdatum 19-12-2018
Verfasser Isabelle IOANNIDES
Politikbereich Internationaler Handel | Bewertung von Rechtsvorschriften und politischen Maßnahmen in der Praxis | Demokratie | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste Wirkungsstudie | Verordnung (EU) | allgemeine Präferenzen | Entwicklungsland | Entwicklungshilfe | dauerhafte Entwicklung | EU-Markt | Präferenzzoll | Rechtsstaat | Marktzugang
Zusammenfassung This evaluation of the EU Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) focuses on the incentives in the GSP provisions that aim to push beneficiaries to comply with human rights and the extent to which these have been implemented and have had an impact on poverty reduction and good governance. The annexed economic evaluation of the GSP Regulation examines three inter-related questions: how beneficiaries have graduated from the GSP and what role preferences have played; how trade relations between the countries that have recently graduated from the GSP and those that still benefit from it are affected; and what the impact of changes in the rules of origin has been.

Jahresbericht 2017 über Menschenrechte und Demokratie in der Welt

Art der Veröffentlichung Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum 05-12-2018
Verfasser Joanna APAP
Politikbereich Demokratie | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste Desinformation | Tätigkeitsbericht | Redefreiheit | internationale Rolle der Union | EU-Migrationspolitik | sexuelle Gewalt | Beruf in der Kommunikationsbranche | häusliche Gewalt | Demokratie | Zivilgesellschaft | Menschenrechtsbewegung | Menschenrechte

Relations between the European Council and the European Parliament

Art der Veröffentlichung Studie
Kalenderdatum 23-11-2018
Externe Autor EPRS, DG
Politikbereich Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Demokratie
Schlagwortliste Governance | Europäische Verträge | Europäischer Rat | Präsident des Europäischen Rates | Zusammensetzung des Parlaments | Europäisches Parlament | Interinstitutionelle Beziehungen (EU) | Europäische Zentralbank
Zusammenfassung This study explores the development of relations between the European Council (of Heads of State or Government) and the European Parliament, two institutions that have become increasingly central to the operation of the European Union political system, especially since the 2009 Lisbon Treaty. It explains the Treaty framework for relations between the two institutions and traces their practical evolution over time, including an analysis of the roles of the presidents of each institution in such interaction. It also examines points of contention in the relationship to date, including in relation to 'legislative trespassing' by the European Council and the Spitzenkandidaten process.

Creative Europe Programme (2014 to 2020)

Art der Veröffentlichung Studie
Kalenderdatum 26-10-2018
Verfasser Anna ZYGIEREWICZ
Politikbereich Kultur | Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Demokratie
Schlagwortliste Wirkungsstudie | audiovisuelle Produktion | Kulturindustrie | kulturelle Vielfalt | Aufschlüsselung der EU-Finanzierung | EU-Programm | kulturelle Zusammenarbeit | Werbung für Kulturveranstaltung | Sprachpolitik
Zusammenfassung The study provides an up-to-date evaluation of the implementation of the selected smaller and bigger actions within the Creative Europe programme (2014 to 2020) with focus on the European dimension and European added value of the undertaken actions as well as their visibility.
From post-truth to post-trust?

Is the ‘very concept of objective truth’ fading out of the world, as George Orwell wrote in his Homage to Catalonia in the 1930s? Or is truth even ‘dead’, as Time magazine asked in 2017? Can we draw clear lines between objective facts, spin and lies? What are the consequences of ‘truth decay’ for trust, democracy and multilateralism?

Madagascar: vers une sortie des crises politiques à répétition?

Depuis l’indépendance de Madagascar, malgré l’absence de conflit majeur et sa richesse en ressources tant humaines que naturelles, sa population continue de s’appauvrir. Cette ‘énigme malgache’ s’accompagne d’un paradoxe: chaque fois qu’une reprise économique s’amorce, une crise politique vient l’interrompre. La clef de l’énigme réside dans les jeux de pouvoir entre les réseaux des élites, qui se créent au gré des circonstances autour des leaders aspirant au poste du chef d’État. La culture politique, tout en gardant une apparence démocratique, soutient implicitement les institutions informelles fondées sur la personnalisation du pouvoir, au détriment des institutions formelles, dont l’équilibre est censé stabiliser le système politique. Les institutions étatiques sont constamment (re)façonnées au profit des réseaux au pouvoir pour ne pas menacer la mainmise de l’exécutif. La déception de la population, dont le pouvoir d’achat ne cesse de diminuer depuis des décennies, se confirme dans les enquêtes d’opinion et dans la baisse constante de la participation électorale. En effet, il existe un clivage profond entre les élites, prises dans l’auto-préservation, et la population, désabusée et tiraillée entre les aspirations démocratiques et une soumission fataliste, dérivée des valeurs ancestrales. L’aide internationale, bien que vitale pour la population, vivant en majorité dans une grande pauvreté, est insuffisante pour un développement durable du pays. Au-delà du renforcement des institutions démocratiques et du développement de corps intermédiaires qui pourraient mieux répondre aux aspirations populaires, un surtout plus profond est nécessaire pour bâtir une démocratie au-delà de la façade. Son fondement: un nouveau contrat social entre la population et les élites du pays, basé sur une reformulation commune de la culture politique malgache, entre tradition et modernité.

Computational propaganda techniques

The techniques used by anti-democratic state and non-state actors to disrupt or influence democratic processes are constantly evolving. The use of algorithms, automation and artificial intelligence is boosting the scope and the efficiency of disinformation campaigns and related cyber-activities. In response, the EU is stepping up its efforts to protect its democratic processes from manipulation ahead of the European elections in May 2019.
Brazil ahead of the 2018 elections

On 7 October 2018, about 147 million Brazilians will go to the polls to choose a new president, new governors and new members of the bicameral National Congress and state legislatures. If, as expected, none of the presidential candidates gains over 50 % of votes, a run-off between the two best-performing presidential candidates is scheduled to take place on 28 October 2018. Brazil's severe and protracted political, economic, social and public-security crisis has created a complex and polarised political climate that makes the election outcome highly unpredictable. Pollsters show that voters have lost faith in a discredited political elite and that only anti-establishment outsiders not embroiled in large-scale corruption scandals and entrenched clientelism would truly match voters' preferences. However, there is a huge gap between voters' strong demand for a radical political renewal based on new faces, and the dramatic shortage of political newcomers among the candidates. Voters' disillusionment with conventional politics and political institutions has fuelled nostalgic preferences and is likely to prompt part of the electorate to shift away from centrist candidates associated with policy continuity to candidates at the opposite sides of the party spectrum. Many less well-off voters would have welcomed a return to office of former left-wing President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (2003-2010), who due to a then booming economy, could run social programmes that lifted millions out of extreme poverty and who, barred by Brazil's judiciary from running in 2018, has tried to transfer his high popularity to his much less-known replacement. Another part of the electorate, appalled by growing public-security issues and endemic corruption, but also disappointed with democracy more broadly, appears to be strongly attracted by the simple and unconventional answers to complex challenges posed by far-right populist rhetoric. The latter – worryingly – glorifies Brazil's dictatorship (1964-1985). As candidates with unorthodox political approaches appear to be an emerging norm, Brazilians may opt for a populist turn as well. If so, EU-Brazil relations may become more complex in the future.

European Union – Council of Europe cooperation and joint programmes

The Council of Europe (CoE) and the European Union (EU) are to a significant extent based on shared values, and have overlapping membership. This has led them over time to develop a strategic partnership and joint actions beyond the EU's and, more recently, the CoE's borders, making use of the latter's longstanding technical expertise on human rights, the rule of law and democracy. For the EU, the CoE is a central partner. For the CoE, the European Court of Human Rights remain central instruments for defending human rights in Europe, as stated in the EU's 2017 Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World. The relationship between the CoE and the EU is generally seen as mutually beneficial and thriving, each partner contributing according to its own strengths and capabilities. In 2011 the CoE launched a new approach towards the EU's neighbourhood regions, endorsed by the EU. Cooperation has become more structured, with the Council of the EU agreeing and adopting the EU's priorities for cooperation with the Council of Europe on a biannual basis, in cooperation with the CoE. The EU-CoE relationship has not escaped some criticism, however, namely that the CoE acts as a political consultancy or a junior partner to the EU owing to the latter's budgetary clout and its disproportionate and larger contribution to joint activities. There is arguably room to improve the partnership. According to some, the EU countries (which are all CoE members) need to develop a strategic and long-term vision regarding future cooperation with the CoE.

What if blockchain offered a way to reconcile privacy with transparency?

One of the most appealing aspects of blockchain technology is the degree of transparency that it can provide. Blockchain has the potential to improve supply chains and clinical trials, enforce the law, enable responsible consumption and enhance democratic governance through a traceability of information as a means of ensuring that nothing is unduly modified. The level of transparency that blockchain brings forward adds a degree of accountability that has not existed to date. At the same time, one of the most appealing aspects of blockchain technology is the degree of privacy that it can provide. How could blockchain safeguard the rights to privacy and control over one's data, whilst promoting data transparency?
What if blockchain were to be truly decentralised?

Technological systems, once introduced in a particular socio-economic context, often evolve in unforeseen ways and may fall prey to unexpected power relations. Blockchain, as a technology that relies on decentralisation to enable storing and securing data-based transactions without central administration, is currently facing significant centralisation pressures that may undermine the purpose of operating a decentralised blockchain network. But what if blockchain fulfilled its promise to be truly decentralised?

The Development of an Institutional Framework for the Implementation of the Association Agreements in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine: a comparative perspective

In recent years the EU concluded Association Agreements, including the creation of a Comprehensive Free Trade Areas with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. These are amongst the most complex and comprehensive legal treaties concluded by the EU with third countries. The treaties place a profound obligation on the partner countries of legal approximation, that is, to undertake extensive, binding commitments to adopt vast swathes of the acquis in order to stimulate political and economic development and institutional modernisation. This study shows that creating the institutional framework for implementation is a challenging and drawn-out process. While all countries have made some progress with devising these mechanisms, they are short of the necessary political leadership, policy planning, administrative capacity and there is a dearth of budgetary planning to enable effective implementation. There is also a notable need to embed implementation into wider reform strategies. While these issues are being addressed on the part of the countries, the EU can assist them by providing the necessary systemic support in an integrated, sequenced and long-term way.

EP-EUI Roundtable on Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in Europe

Proceedings summarise the EP-EUI roundtable on the Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in Europe. The roundtable with academics from European University Institute involved MEP Róża THUN (Chair of the Digital Single Market Working Group of the Committee for the Internal Market and Consumer Protection), MEP Mady DELVAUX (MEP), Mr Riccardo RIBERA D’ALCALA, Director-General of DG IPOL, European Parliament, Ms Catelijne MULLER (European Economic and Social Committee), and Dr Cecile HUET, the Deputy Head of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Unit in DG GNECT. This document was prepared by Policy Department A in the framework of scientific cooperation between European Parliament and European University Institute.
Zimbabwe's post-electoral challenges

As international isolation is no longer economically bearable, Zimbabwe has been searching for legitimacy on the global stage. The post-Mugabe transition government, from a ruling party fraction, committed itself to free and fair elections and invited international observers for first time in 16 years. But much-awaited change in Zimbabwe needs much more than a newly elected president and legislature. The country suffers from institutional dysfunction driven by years of a de facto one-party, military-backed regime, characterised by rampant corruption and systematic patronage, securing the capture of key economic areas and political institutions by party elites. The victory of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), in both the legislative and presidential elections, and the deadly crackdown on the opposition that followed, seriously undermine the prospects for genuine Zimbabwean democracy. Although international observers assessed the electoral process as relatively free and competitive, it took place on an uneven playing field due to years of ZANU-PF domination. EU observers, in particular, expressed strong concern regarding the intimidation of voters, the pro-state bias of the media, and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission's (ZEC) lack of transparency. Some observers have indeed warned that the ousting of Robert Mugabe, which had raised so many hopes, was just part of a power reshuffle inside Zimbabwe's authoritarian regime, meant to protect the interests of the governing elites. Indeed, powerful forces obstruct change in Zimbabwe, seeking the sole preservation of their economic interests in the renewed political context. It is likely that the newly-elected President, Emmerson Mnangagwa, will pursue some economic reform, especially to attract foreign investors, while maintaining political control from above. In this situation, the EU, having declared its readiness to fully re-engage with Zimbabwe, has to use every lever to induce structural changes and to support civil society in this deeply corrupt and dysfunctional state.

Michail KRITIKOS

What if technologies challenged our ethical norms?

Exploring the relationship between ethics and technological innovation has always been a challenging task for policy-makers. Ethical considerations concerning the impact of research and innovation (R&I) are increasingly important owing to the quickening pace of technological innovation and the transformative potential and complexity of contemporary advances in science and technology. The multiplication of legal references to ethical principles and the mushrooming of ad hoc ethics committees indicate the institutional embedding of ethics into the scientific research process as such, but also into an increasing array of technological trajectories. Yet the rapid development of disruptive technologies means that social and ethical norms often struggle to keep up with technological development. But what if disruptive technologies were to challenge traditional ethical norms and structures?

Michail KRITIKOS

What if technologies had their own ethical standards?

Technologies are often seen either as objects of ethical scrutiny or as challenging traditional ethical norms. The advent of autonomous machines, deep learning and big data techniques, blockchain applications and 'smart' technological products raises the need to introduce ethical norms into these devices. The very act of building new and emerging technologies has also become the act of creating specific moral systems within which human and artificial agents will interact through transactions with moral implications. But what if technologies introduced and defined their own ethical standards?
Trade agreement between the European Union and Colombia and Peru

Zusammenfassung
This European Implementation Assessment consists of two parts. The in-house opening analysis (part I) presents briefly the signature of the trade agreement between the EU and Colombia and Peru. It also presents the socio-economic situation in Colombia and Peru and the relations between the EU and Colombia and Peru as well as the relations between the EU and Andean Community. The research paper prepared by external experts (part II) presents detail analysis of trade in goods and services and foreign direct investments. The paper also evaluated in detail the implementation of the trade and sustainable development chapter of the agreement in both Colombia and Peru. They are followed by the presentation of the international cooperation of Colombia and Peru. Finally, the paper provides recommendation for the improvement of the implementation of the trade agreement.

Global Trendometer - Essays on medium- and long-term global trends - July 2018

Zusammenfassung
The EU faces challenges from the outside and the inside. Most of those are the symptoms of big underlying trends, and handling them needs foresight. The Global Trendometer tries to provide foresight for decision makers in the EU by analysing the changes in these long-term trends. This publication does not offer answers or make recommendations. It presents summarised information derived from a range of carefully selected sources. This issue of the Global Trendometer analyses long-term trends on India, the labour-share of income, and democracy and artificial intelligence. It also features two-pagers on geoengineering, remittances, food security in China, economic waves, the US after Trump, public procurement and deep fakes.

Pakistan ahead of the 2018 elections

Zusammenfassung
Pakistan will hold general elections on 25 July 2018. This event deserves attention for several reasons. With around 200 million inhabitants, Pakistan has the sixth-largest population in the world. One of the world's nine nuclear powers, it is the only Muslim country among them. It is strategically located between India, China, Afghanistan and Iran. It plays a major role with regard to Afghanistan's stability and the fight against terrorism, for which it has often been accused of connivance with militant groups. Finally, it is home to the world's second-largest Muslim population. The election is set to secure the second consecutive democratic transition of power in a country marked by chronic dualism between political and military power. The event is particularly important, given the current political turmoil following the removal of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from office. Pakistan is accused of giving support to terrorist groups. However, after the Taliban massacred 132 children at an army-run school in 2014, the authorities adopted a number of provisions to curtail terrorism. Nevertheless, the US administration, which considers Pakistan one of its key allies in the Afghanistan war, is unsatisfied with its record of fighting terrorism. The resultant US freeze on military aid to Islamabad may force the latter to switch allegiance to China and Russia, which could jeopardise Washington's efforts in Afghanistan. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) of infrastructure projects is an example of the already flourishing relations with Beijing. An EU election observation mission is monitoring the electoral process. Since 2014, Pakistan has benefitted from the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), which has boosted the country's exports to the EU. A new EU-Pakistan strategic engagement plan is to be signed in 2018. The European Parliament has expressed concern over the country's human rights situation on several occasions, with special reference to the persecution of religious minorities.
The further development of the Common Position 944/2008/CFSP on arms exports control

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 16-07-2018
Verfasser: Dr. Sibylle BAUER, Mark BROMLEY, Giovanna MALETTA – Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

Zusammenfassung: In view of the upcoming review of the EU Common Position 944/2008/CFSP on arms exports, the aim of the workshop was to provide an overview of the context in which this process will take place together with a set of possible outcomes the review could produce. The speakers from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), first defined the context by describing how, since the EU Common Position was adopted in 2008, EU member states performed in terms of military expenditure, arms production and arms transfers. Recent measures adopted at the EU level to boost defence industrial cooperation were also indicated as part of this framework. The speakers also highlighted the divergences in member states’ export policies which emerged in the last decade, most recently during the conflict in Yemen. They then provided a number of options that could be taken into consideration during the 2018 review, concerning adjustments to the language of the criteria and the user’s guide and measures to improve the implementation of the EU Common Position, the quality of reporting and to increase coherence and coordination of the EU export control regime.

Studie EN

Foreign influence operations in the EU

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 10-07-2018
Verfasser: Naja BENTZEN

Zusammenfassung: Attempting to influence political decision-making beyond one’s own political sphere is not a new phenomenon – it is an integral part of the history of geopolitics. Whereas hard power relies on military and economic force, the soft power of a state involves public diplomacy and dialogue on values, cultures and ideas, which should normally correspond with its behaviour abroad. Although the extent is hard to measure, democratic states whose values match the prevailing global norms – pluralism, fundamental rights and freedoms, the rule of law as a principle within states and in international relations – and exert this influence by contributing to the prevention and resolution of conflicts, traditionally appear more attractive, thus having more soft power leverage. However, influence can also serve purposes of interference and destabilisation. Authoritarian state actors struggle to project soft power while engaging in disruptive or destructive behaviour. Instead, some state actors see a means of reaching their goals by making democratic actors, systems and values appear less attractive, through a number of overt and covert instruments. The tools are constantly evolving. Today, social media combines the oral tradition with new electronic means of dissemination, enabling (potentially disruptive) messages to spread instantaneously. Disinformation can be, and is being, combined with other instruments in an increasingly diverse, hybrid ‘toolbox’ that authoritarian state actors have at their disposal. In recent years, awareness in the research community of online disinformation by state actors has increased around the world, not least in the context of the United Kingdom referendum on EU membership and the US presidential election in 2016. Although their visibility increases in the context of elections and referendums, influence campaigns are not limited to democratic processes.

Briefing EN
Multimedia EN
Review Clauses in EU Legislation: A Rolling Check-List (6th edition)

This study provides an overview of review clauses (reviews, evaluations, implementation reports) contained in EU legislation during the sixth, seventh and the current, eighth parliamentary term. Drawing on information publicly available across several sources, it provides in a single, comprehensive repository an analytical overview of acts that contain a review clause. The study puts a special focus on (and the analysis of) review clauses in EU legislative acts adopted during the current parliamentary term (with a total of 147 legislative acts with a review clause adopted through the ordinary legislative procedure up until end of December 2017).

Association agreements between the EU and Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine

The study presents the successes and shortcomings of the implementation of three association agreements signed by the EU with Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine. The study is composed of four papers: the first presents the opinions of the EU monitoring and supervising bodies on the implementation of the three agreements; the second evaluates in detail the implementation of the agreement in Moldova, the third - in Georgia and the fourth - in Ukraine. The recommendations on how to improve the implementation processes form part of the evaluation.

The fight against terrorism

Significant benefits could be achieved by the EU and its Member States by addressing the gaps and barriers in the area of the fight against terrorism, notably by developing an evidence-based EU criminal policy cycle involving the European Parliament and national parliaments. In this context, EU institutions should conduct comprehensive ex-ante assessments and ex-post evaluations of counterterrorism measures, in line with better law-making principles. The effectiveness and fundamental rights compliance of counter-radicalisation programmes should continue to be monitored. The framework for countering terrorism requires further refinement. A European law enforcement culture with full respect for fundamental rights needs to be fostered in which relevant information is shared and analysed, judicial cooperation tools are properly utilised and seeking the support of EU agencies becomes a natural reflex. This also requires the allocation of significant resources aimed at training and exchanges. Beyond resulting in more relevant, coherent, effective and efficient action in the fight against terrorism, such measures could increase the well-being of the population, reduce the material and immaterial impacts of terrorism, and ensure protection of fundamental rights when impacted by counterterrorism measures.
**Peace and Security in 2018: An evaluation of EU peacebuilding in the Western Balkans**

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 22-05-2018
Verfasser: Isabelle IOANNIDES
Politikbereich: Bewertung von Rechtsvorschriften und politischen Maßnahmen in der Praxis | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Schlagwortliste: Militärmission der EU | Serbien | Kroatien | Bosnien und Herzegowina | Westlicher Balkan | Zusammenarbeit EU-NATO | internationale Beziehungen | Kosovo | Europäischer Rat | Erhaltung des Friedens | die Türkei | Aufschlussteil der EU-Finanzierung | Nordmazedonien

Zusammenfassung: This first thematic study of the Peace and Security series focuses on European Union (EU) peacebuilding efforts in the Western Balkans. The series will make an annual evaluation of EU performance in the field of peace and security in a specific geographical region. Examining EU engagement in the Western Balkans, the study assesses the extent to which the Union has been able to transform and strengthen the region's governance, economy and resilience. The study is organised around three key inter-connected (and at times overlapping) phases in EU post-conflict peacebuilding – stabilisation, state-building and EU enlargement – to explain the strengths, weaknesses and limits of EU engagement. It ends with an assessment of the new EU strategy for the Western Balkans and analyses the potential to remedy past deficiencies and help move the region towards genuine, inclusive and sustainable peace. A parallel study, published separately, provides an overview of current EU action on peace and security and of the outlook for the future. The studies have been drafted with a view to their presentation at the Normandy World Peace Forum, in June 2018.

Studie: EN, FR

**EYE event - Free speech in the digital era**

Art der Veröffentlichung: Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum: 16-05-2018
Verfasser: Naja BENTZEN
Politikbereich: Demokratie
Schlagwortliste: Desinformation | digitaler Binnenmarkt | Redefreiheit | Informationsverbreitung | Zensur | soziale Medien | Demokratie | Recht der freien Meinungsausübung | Verhaltenskodex

Zusammenfassung: Are the business models of the big social media companies compatible with the principles of democracy? Can we protect free speech and at the same time ensure that social media companies take more responsibility for the content they spread, including hate speech? Can we turn the challenges into opportunities?

Auf einen Blick: EN

**Demokratieförderung und Wahlbeobachtung**

Art der Veröffentlichung: Kurzdarstellungen zur EU
Kalenderdatum: 01-05-2018
Verfasser: Marika LERCH
Politikbereich: Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten

Zusammenfassung: Die weltweite Förderung der Demokratie ist eine vorrangige Aufgabe der Europäischen Union. Demokratie ist nach wie vor das einzige System der Regierungsführung, in dem die Menschen ihre Menschenrechte vollständig wahrnehmen können, und sie ist ein bestimmender Faktor für Entwicklung und langfristige Stabilität. Als einziges direkt gewähltes Organ der EU setzt sich das Europäische Parlament in besonderem Maße für die Demokratieförderung ein.

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

**Malaysia’s 2018 general election**

Art der Veröffentlichung: Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum: 26-04-2018
Verfasser: Martin RUSSELL
Politikbereich: Demokratie
Schlagwortliste: politische Opposition | Malaysia | politische Lage | Wahlorganisation | Inhaftierung | Parlamentswahl

Zusammenfassung: On 9 May 2018, Malaysians go to the polls to elect federal and state parliaments. Although a financial scandal and rising living costs have dented the popularity of the government, the opposition faces an uphill battle to end the governing Barisan Nasional coalition’s six-decade rule, and it is not widely expected to win.

Auf einen Blick: EN
Adapting to new digital realities: Main issues and policy responses

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which set out a universal core of human rights and fundamental freedoms for the first time. The Universal Declaration, together with other measures which followed, constitute the International Bill of Human Rights. In the 12 years of its existence, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has actively defended human rights worldwide. Its robust mandate and unique set of mechanisms, such as universal periodic review and special procedures, provide a system for prevention, technical assistance and capacity-building, as well as a mechanism to respond to cases of grave violations of human rights. The 12th anniversary of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) will be celebrated during its 37th session, from 26 February to 23 March 2018.

Special Reports of the European Court of Auditors - A Rolling Check-List of recent findings

This rolling check-list presents an overview of the Special Reports of the European Court of Auditors (ECA), concentrating on those relevant for the 2016 discharge procedure. It strives to link the research topics of the Special Reports to relevant debates and positions within the European Parliament, including the working documents of the Committee on Budgetary Control, the work of the specialised parliamentary committees, forthcoming plenary resolutions and individual questions by Members. This check-list has been prepared by the Ex-Post Evaluation Unit of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the EP’s in-house research service and think-tank, as part of its on-going support for parliamentary committees and individual Members in scrutinising the executive in its implementation of EU law, policies and programmes. The European Parliament is strongly committed to Better Law-Making, and particularly to the effective use of ex-ante impact assessment and ex-post evaluation throughout the entire legislative cycle. It is in this spirit that the Parliament has a particular interest in following the transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU law, and, more generally, monitoring the impact, operation, effectiveness and delivery of policy and programmes in practice.

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which set out a universal core of human rights and fundamental freedoms for the first time. The Universal Declaration, together with other measures which followed, constitute the International Bill of Human Rights. In the 12 years of its existence, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has actively defended human rights worldwide. Its robust mandate and unique set of mechanisms, such as universal periodic review and special procedures, provide a system for prevention, technical assistance and capacity-building, as well as a mechanism to respond to cases of grave violations of human rights. The 12th anniversary of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) will be celebrated during its 37th session, from 26 February to 23 March 2018.

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.
What if all technologies were inherently social?

How technology has shaped society and how future technologies might affect it in the years to come are subjects for frequent debate. It can be tempting in this context to think of technologies as neutral ‘things’ that can be used for good or bad depending on the user’s intentions and skills. But what if technologies were social objects that reflected and reinforced human activities or even political values? In fact, while mechanisms, effects and implications remain open to debate, experts on the relationship between technology and society broadly agree that technologies are indeed social in this way. By scripting, restricting and enabling different human behaviours, technologies can influence our lives in much the same way that policy programmes do. A number of key ideas have emerged from this field over the last five decades, with various implications for European policy-making.

Democracy support in EU external policy

The EU's policy of external democracy support has gained momentum, particularly after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, which defined democracy as a fundamental principle of the Union, to be enshrined in all policies of external significance. Subsequently, several policy documents have outlined strategic orientations and sought ways to enhance implementation and policy coherence and effectiveness, a need often recognised by EU stakeholders and other players. The EU has deployed all the tools at its disposal in order to support democracy and democratisation processes across the world. These tools range from political and diplomatic efforts, including political and human rights dialogues, to development aid instruments and extensive support for civil society and human rights defenders. As a result, democracy support has become better integrated into the EU's external policies, particularly in the area of development, and better inter-linked with measures to protect human rights and the space needed for civil society to thrive. The EU is the biggest commercial bloc and development aid donor in the world, and therefore has considerable leverage over its partner countries. However, as the EU does not want to use its power in a coercive manner, it has sought to move away from a classical relationship of donor conditionality to one of equal partnership, recognising that domestic dynamics and local ownership in third countries are essential for democratic progress. It has used sanctions mechanisms in its bilateral agreements and unilateral trade preferences mainly as a constructive tool to open dialogue and find solutions based on consultation and cooperation.

Senegal: bastion of democracy, migration priority for the EU

Senegal is one of the most politically stable countries in Africa. Free and fair presidential elections in March 2012, for which the EU deployed an Election Expert Mission (EEM), brought Macky Sall to the presidency. The regular organisation of legislative elections, political pluralism, a free press, and a vibrant civil society are all proof of Senegal’s democratic culture.

Senegal has a long tradition of migration to the EU and other African countries, and today 5% of its population live abroad. Remittances account for more than 10% of GDP. As a priority partner in the Migration Partnership Framework, Senegal has been constructive in the political dialogue on migration, while maintaining its position that more should be done on legal migration into the EU. Senegal is one of the main beneficiaries of the EU Trust Fund. Development cooperation, still at the core of relations with Senegal, has been structured to ensure increased coordination between the EU, Member States, and the Senegalese authorities. The challenge going forward will be to ensure that Senegal honours its commitments on the readmission of irregular migrants, and encourage progress on human rights.
Prospects for e-democracy in Europe

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

Zehn Themen, die 2018 im Fokus stehen werden

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

Zusammenfassung
EU support to democracy and good governance in Africa

The settlement of disputes arising from the United Kingdom's Withdrawal from the European Union

The Pan-African Parliament: getting ready for the 2017 AU-EU Summit
The Joint Africa-EU Strategy

The launch of negotiations on a new EU-Azerbaijan agreement – in spite of serious political and human rights problems in the country – results from several intertwined factors, including the EU’s energy security needs and Baku’s increasing bargaining power. At this stage, Azerbaijan is interested only in forms of cooperation that are not circumventing the political status quo. However, the decline in both world oil prices and domestic oil production in this country is creating bargaining opportunities for the EU in what promises to be a difficult negotiation.

Effective access to justice

This study, commissioned by the European Parliament Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs upon request by PETI Committee, aims to identify and understand the issues affecting effective access to justice raised by the EU citizens and residents in some Member States with the main aim to frame the analysis and obtain a fair representation of recurring issues pertaining to access to justice across the EU. It seeks to understand why citizens have turned to the EU institutions to seek access to justice, and looks at a large range of factors, including legal and procedural issues as well as practical, social, historical and political factors that underpin the issues raised in these petitions.

The EU is currently reshaping its relationship with Armenia and Azerbaijan through new agreements for which the negotiations ended (Armenia) or started (Azerbaijan) in February 2017. After Yerevan’s decision to join the EAEU (thereby renouncing to sign an AA/DCFTA), the initialling of the CEPA is also a clear indication that the EU has not engaged in a zero-sum game with Russia and the EU and provides a vivid illustration of the EU’s readiness to respond to EaP countries’ specific needs and circumstances. The CEPA is willing to exploit any opportunity to further its links with EaP countries.

EU relations with Armenia and Azerbaijan
The electoral reforms in three association countries of the Eastern Neighbourhood - Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova and their impact on political developments in these countries

This study focuses on electoral reform in Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova, which have all concluded Association Agreements with the EU. Recent experience in all three countries has shown that political elites are changing (or not changing) the electoral system to hold onto power. Beyond the choice of electoral system, changes have often been introduced in a rush, without a genuinely inclusive, thorough and public debate. Frequent changes to legal frameworks, often made just prior to elections, have also not contributed to stability of law. Issues identified during elections are symptomatic of deeper weaknesses that must be addressed, including: lack of an independent judiciary, insufficient rule of law, non-functioning or selective use of oversight mechanisms, weak government institutions, concentration of media ownership, political corruption and misuse of state resources. All three countries are also experiencing widespread public discontent with the political elite, and political renewal is much needed. While electoral reform can play a role, efforts should be made to promote internal party democracy and overcome barriers to entry for new political actors.

Brexit Literature Update 10/2017

Following a relevant request by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, the Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs has been compiling, on a regular basis, academic and scholarly material related to the process of, and the negotiations on, the withdrawal of the UK from the EU. Since the June 2016 referendum in the UK, Brexit-related literature has grown significantly and it is probably going to expand further in the future. Thus, this compilation is far from exhaustive; rather, it identifies some of the more useful articles, taking into account, in particular, the following elements:

- Scholarly rather than a journalistic character of the publication
- Originality and interest
- Recent publication
- Be of interest for the EU
- Constitutional or institutional relevance.

Iraqi Kurdistan’s independence referendum

On 25 September 2017, the government of the autonomous Region of Kurdistan in Iraq, under its president, Masoud Barzani, organised a referendum on independence, disregarding calls by the Iraqi central government and the international community to postpone it. The referendum was held in the Kurdistan Region’s constituencies and also in the neighbouring ‘disputed’ territories, in particular the oil-rich area of Kirkuk, which have de facto not legally been governed by the Iraqi authorities since the moment they were recaptured from ISIL/Da’esh. Even though the ‘yes’ side has won, it is by no means certain that a Kurdish state will emerge in the near future. Such a state would be weakened by internal divisions and poor economic conditions. In addition, Syria, Turkey and Iran strongly condemned the referendum and have taken retaliatory action. Among other considerations, they are worried that an independent Kurdish state would encourage their own Kurdish populations to seek greater autonomy. However, the prospect of a Greater Kurdistan is remote, since the regional Kurdish landscape is dominated by the PKK (Kurdistan Workers’ Party) and its affiliate parties, which do not share the Iraqi Kurdish leaders’ ideology or strategic alliances. Concerned by the fragmentation of the Middle East, the EU, the USA, Russia, and most of the region’s powers other than Israel, disapproved of the referendum, which took place in the context of the ongoing fight against ISIL/Da’esh, and called for negotiations within the existing Iraqi borders. This briefing updates Regional implications of Iraqi Kurdistan’s quest for independence, EPRS, December 2016.
Kyrgyzstan's 2017 presidential election

On 15 October 2017, Kyrgyz voters go to the polls. Despite worrying signs of backsliding into authoritarianism, the country is still the most democratic in Central Asia and the result is far from a foregone conclusion. The two main candidates are Sooronbai Jeenbekov, an ally of incumbent president Almazbek Atambayev, and his younger rival, Omurbek Babanov.

Global Trendometer: Essays on medium- and long-term global trends - Summer 2017

With the publication of the "Global Trendometer" the EPRS Global Trends Unit seeks to contribute to the process of identifying and addressing medium- and long-term trends, and their possible implications for policy-making in the European Union. In this latest edition, three essays and seven two-page vignettes on different geopolitical, economic, technological and social issues paint a broad-ranging picture of some developments that may shape Europe’s future.

The EU-Latin American Strategic Partnership: state of play and ways forward

By looking at the current social, economic and political trends in Latin America and the Caribbean and at recent developments in the EU’s relation with the region, this study explores windows of opportunity for advancing the EU-Latin American strategic partnership. It is argued that, although asymmetries between Europe and Latin America might impact and diminish the bi-regional relationship, the EU is well-positioned to play a more active role in Latin America by strengthening existing institutional links, such as the strategic bi-regional partnership between the EU and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Euro-Latin America Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat). The study concludes with tailor-made recommendations in order to advance the EU’s engagement and cooperation with individual Latin American countries and with the region as a whole, both through traditional cooperative channels and through closer parliamentary links within the framework of EuroLat.
Legal Implications of Brexit: Customs Union, Internal Market Acquis for Goods and Services, Consumer Protection Law, Public Procurement

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 09-08-2017

Externe Autor: Fabian AMTENBRINK, Menelaos MARKAKIS and René REPASI
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Erasmus University Rotterdam


Schlagwortliste: Binnenmarkt | öffentlicher Auftrag | das Vereinigte Königreich | Verbraucherschutz | Zollunion | Vertrag über die Europäische Union | Mitgliedstaat der EU | Handelsabkommen | Welthandelsorganisation | Wirkungsstudie | Aushandlung von Abkommen (EU) | interparlamentarische Beziehungen | handelspolitische Zusammenarbeit | Austritt aus der EU | internationales Handel

Zusammenfassung: 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.

Studie EN

European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)
Art der Veröffentlichung: Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum: 14-07-2017

Verfasser: Nikolai ATANASSOV

Politikbereich: Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Demokratie

Schlagwortliste: Verordnung (EU) | Petition | partizipative Demokratie | Institutionelle Zuständigkeit (EU) | Europäische Kommission | Europäische Bürgerinitiative

Zusammenfassung: The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) was introduced in 2009 with the Lisbon Treaty. It is a key element of participatory democracy, allowing citizens to play an active role in the EU's democratic life, by addressing requests to the European Commission for legislative proposals. The procedure and conditions for ECIs are governed by Regulation (EU) No 211/2011, in force since April 2012. This has been considered in debate on the ECI's effectiveness, leading to some suggestions for improvement, in particular under the Commission’s planned review of the ECI Regulation in 2017.

Auf einen Blick EN

Outlook for the European Council meeting on 22-23 June 2017 and the European Council (Article 50) meeting on 22 June 2017
Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 20-06-2017

Verfasser: Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN

Politikbereich: Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Umwelt | Europäisches Semester | Demokratie | Sicherheit und Verteidigung

Schlagwortliste:europäische Sicherheit | das Vereinigte Königreich | Informationsaustausch | Europäischer Fonds für strategische Investitionen | Außenpolitische Entscheidungen | Europa | gemeinsame Sicherheits- und Verteidigungspolitik | Europäischer Rat | Klimaschutzpolitisches Handlungsfeld | europäische Verteidigungspolitik | EU-Migrationspolitik | Wirtschaftspolitik | Antidumpingmaßnahme | Datenübertragung | internationaler Handel

Zusammenfassung: At their meeting on 22-23 June 2017, EU leaders will focus on internal security, including, most probably, the fight against terrorism, as well as external security, when they will assess progress made in European defence cooperation. They will also review progress on deepening and modernising the Single Market, and endorse the country-specific recommendations under the European Semester process. In addition, migration, external relations and the Paris Agreement on climate change are to be discussed. Although not on the draft agenda, EU leaders will probably address current issues related to trade. Finally, EU-27 leaders will meet in a separate formal European Council (Article 50) without the United Kingdom, to discuss the latest developments following the UK’s formal notification of its withdrawal from the EU.

Briefing EN

22-02-2021 Quelle: © Europäische Union, 2021 - EP
European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (12th edition)

Verfasser Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN

Politikbereich Umwelt | Vorausplanung | Wettbewerbsrecht | Binnenmarkt und Zollunion | Demokratie | Wirtschaft und Währung | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | EU-Recht: Rechtsordnung und Rechtsakte | Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Europäisches Semester | Beschäftigung | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Finanz- und Bankenangelegenheiten | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Annahme von Rechtsvorschriften durch das EP und den Rat | Menschenrechte

Schlagwortliste Binnenmarkt | digitaler Binnenmarkt | Sozialpolitik | Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Gemeinsame Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik | internationale Beziehungen | Entwicklungspolitik | Europäischer Rat | Klimaschutzpolitik | Wettbewerbsfähigkeit | Energiepolitik | Wirtschaftspolitik | internationaler Handel | Steuerharmonisierung | Beschäftigungspolitik der EU

Zusammenfassung 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.

Studie EN

Value for money of EU programme funding in the field of democracy and rule of law

Verfasser Rand Europe Community Int.Co.: Ben Baruch, Jirka Taylor, Elma Dujso, Matteo Barberi, Jeremy Lonsdale, Tom Ling

Politikbereich Haushalt | Haushaltskontrolle | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Menschenrechte

Schlagwortliste Drittland | Erhaltung des Friedens | Finanzinstrument der EU | Umstellungsbeihilfe | Demokratie | Stabilitätsprogramm | EU-Programm | Rechtsstaat | Konfliktprävention | Menschenrechte

Zusammenfassung This study explores the extent to which processes are in place to enable the delivery of value for money through EU programme funding in the field of democracy and rule of law. It includes a review of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and the Instrument for Stability and Peace. It considers current ways of working and the potential for improvement. Analysis is based on interviews with EU programme officials and EU delegations, and related documentary evidence.

Studie EN

The implementation of the EU arms export control system

Verfasser Sibylle BAUER, Mark BROMLEY and Giovanna MALETTA, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

Politikbereich Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Industrie

Schlagwortliste parlamentarische Kontrolle | Überwachung der Ausfuhren | gemeinschaftliche Position | Datenerhebung | Ausfuhr (EU) | Anwendung des EU-Rechts | Informationsaustausch | Waffenhandel | Ausfuhrhilfen

Zusammenfassung The aim of the workshop was to provide an overview of the EU arms export control system as well as options for improvement. The main speaker, Dr Sibylle Bauer, Director of the Dual-Use and Arms Trade Control Programme at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), provided a brief overview of the main elements of the EU Common Position 2008/944/CFSP and then focused on aspects related to strengthening implementation of the eight criteria of the Common Position, the enhancement of compliance with the reporting obligation by Member States, possible ways to increase the transparency and public scrutiny of the export control framework and the development of the EU’s institutional framework in this context. Her presentation was followed by a debate involving members of the Security and Defence Committee of the European Parliament, the outcome of which may feed into the EP Annual Report on Arms Export.

Eingehende Analyse EN
Outcome of the special European Council (Article 50) meeting of 29 April 2017

Zusammenfassung

At their first formal meeting as the European Council of the EU-27 on 29 April 2017, EU leaders took a united stance on the main priorities of the EU-27 for the Article 50 negotiations, namely to guarantee EU and UK citizens' rights, settle the UK's financial obligations to the EU, and avoid a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland. They also agreed on a phased approach for the negotiations, i.e. the negotiations on the future relationship with the UK can only start once sufficient progress has been made on the three priority issues. EU leaders were also informally updated on the process for the relocation of EU agencies, which should be decided upon in the autumn of 2017.

The future of EU - ASEAN relations

Zusammenfassung

Marking the 40th anniversary of the start of their dialogue ASEAN and the EU have agreed to work towards establishing a strategic partnership. While trade has always been the cornerstone of the relationship - ASEAN is the EU’s third largest trade partner - the EU’s ambition to expand its role as a global actor demand increased engagement. Both sides face common challenges that can only be addressed through joint responses that involve all stakeholders. To be strategic the partnership must embrace all aspects, from trade to energy, from climate change to security issues, from human rights to sustainable development. Deepening and enhancing relations between one of the most dynamic region in the world and the largest and most affluent market will bring important benefits to both European and ASEAN citizens. The last years have seen an increase in contacts but the many challenges faced today by the EU, internally and in its close neighbourhood, risk to require all attention and put the EU-ASEAN relations at risk. Finally the study argues that strengthening the parliamentary dimension of the relationship would, besides supporting representative democracy in Southeast Asia, contribute to maintaining the momentum launched in 2012.

From Bratislava to Rome: The European Council’s role in shaping a common future for EU-27

Zusammenfassung

The Rome Declaration of 25 March 2017, issued by the Heads of State or Government of the EU-27 on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, marked the end of a process that started after the UK referendum on EU membership on 23 June 2016. The aim of this In-depth Analysis is to assess the outcomes of the various EU-27 and European Council meetings in the period between the Bratislava summit of 16 September 2016 and the Rome summit of 25 March 2017, in relation to the objectives laid out in the Bratislava Declaration and Roadmap. The analysis shows that substantial progress has been made on the Bratislava commitments for all three policy priorities listed – migration, security, and the economy. It also reflects on how the Rome Declaration and Bratislava process were shaped by the overall context of the growing concerns of EU citizens and their attitude towards the EU and demonstrates how the views of the different EU institutions and the various Member States have converged during this process, leading to a consensual Rome Declaration.
Shrinking space for civil society: the EU response

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 12-04-2017
Externe Autor: Richard YOUNGS (Senior Fellow at Carnegie Europe, Belgium and Professor at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom) and Ana ECHAGÜE (independent consultant)
Politikbereich: Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste: Drittland | Nichtregierungsorganisation | internationale Rolle der Union | Entwicklungshilfe | Voraussetzung für die Beihilfegewährung | Finanzierung der EU | Demokratisierung | Gemeinsame Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik | Zivilgesellschaft | politische Grundrechte | Menschenrechtsbewegung
Zusammenfassung: The EU has developed an impressive range of policy tools for pushing back against restrictions on civil society across the world. It has gradually improved the way it deploys these instruments and has helped protect many activists at risk. Notwithstanding this, the EU needs to sharpen its ‘shrinking space’ strategy. This study suggests a range of precise policy changes it should contemplate to this end. It advocates a number of strategic guidelines that could help make the EU’s responses more proactive; better able to tackle the broad structural elements of the shrinking space; fully balanced between political and development approaches; and geared towards building more inclusive alliances against new restrictions on civil society.

Studie EN

Morocco’s new political landscape

Art der Veröffentlichung: Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum: 11-04-2017
Verfasser: Joanna APAP
Politikbereich: Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Schlagwortliste: Zweikammersystem | politische Parteien | politische Lage | Marokko | Westsahara | Parlamentswahl | Gesetzgebungsverfahren | parlamentarische Monarchie | Beziehungen der Union | Wahlrecht | Verfassungsänderung | politisches Bündnis | parlamentarisches Verfahren
Zusammenfassung: On 7 October 2016, Morocco went to the polls for national parliamentary elections. This was the second time that Morocco had held national elections since being touched by the Arab Spring in February 2011. Since the 2011 public protests, a number of constitutional reforms, introduced by King Mohammed VI, have made significant changes to electoral and administrative law. Morocco’s Islamic Justice and Development Party (PJD), re-emerged as the winner, with the Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM) in second position. Since 25 March 2017, Morocco has a new coalition government.

Auf einen Blick EN

Europäische Bürgerinitiative

Art der Veröffentlichung: Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum: 10-04-2017
Verfasser: Nikolai ATANASSOV
Politikbereich: Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Demokratie
Schlagwortliste: Europäische Verträge | Initiativrecht | partizipative Demokratie | öffentliche Anhörung | Initiative der EU | Europäischer Bürgerbeauftragter | europäische Staatsbürgerschaft | Europäische Bürgerinitiative

Auf einen Blick DE, EN, FR, NL
Human Rights Provisions in Economic Partnership Agreements in Light of the Expiry of the Cotonou Agreement in 2020

The study considers the options for suspending obligations under the EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) in connection with violations of human rights, democratic principles or the rule of law following the expiry of the Cotonou Agreement in 2020. It outlines the functioning of the human rights clause in the Cotonou Agreement, before considering the possibilities for suspending the EPAs under their own provisions, or for other reasons in international law, such as countermeasures. Next, it discusses how any post-2020 arrangements can best continue the existing mechanisms for human rights conditionality set out in the Cotonou Agreement. In connection with this, this study proposes certain suggestions for improving future versions of human rights clauses, and considers whether there are legal obstacles to the invocation of this clause under general international law, principally under WTO law. The study concludes with a set of comments and recommendations.

Anti-corruption efforts in the Western Balkans

Widespread corruption is a major shared challenge for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia. It is a phenomenon that poses a threat to the EU's core values, such as democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, and undermines good governance and economic development. For these reasons, anti-corruption reform is among the key requirements for EU accession. The prospect of EU integration has proven to be a strong incentive for undertaking reform. The Western Balkan countries have taken a number of anti-corruption steps, such as adapting legislation and establishing dedicated anti-corruption institutions with both preventative and repressive competences. They are also parties to all relevant international conventions. The Commission, as well as various international organisations, has measured annual progress in that respect, and the EU has supported anti-corruption efforts financially and through sharing expertise. Yet, the latest 2016 assessments show that corruption continues to permeate the region. Although the legal and institutional framework is largely in place, and the EU has prioritised good governance reforms in the pre-accession process, the concrete results achieved on the ground are disproportionately low, and political will to improve them is to a great extent insufficient. Addressing corruption requires long-term work at many levels (regional, national and local) and involves multiple stakeholders. A more informed and demanding public, a civil society with a strengthened role in monitoring policies in corruption-prone areas, as well as visible economic progress and improved business environment are other necessary elements for achieving sustainable results.
Communicating Europe in third countries

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 15-03-2017
Verfasser: Patryk PAWLAK
Politikbereich: Demokratie | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste: EU-Beihilfe | Drittland | politische Kommunikation | Informationsverbreitung | Transparenz des Entscheidungsprozesses | Kulturpolitik | Verwaltungstransparenz | Aufschlüsselung der EU-Finanzierung | Austausch im Bildungswesen | Europäisches Nachbarschafts- und Partnerschaftsinstrument | religiöser Fundamentalismus
Zusammenfassung: Work on implementing the EU's global strategy for 2016-2017 includes stepping up public diplomacy efforts as one of the priority areas. A number of factors motivated this move. Firstly, the substantial resources committed for relief and recovery assistance to Syrian refugees and their host communities in neighbouring Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt have had little impact on public awareness of the existing European cooperation programmes. The visibility of EU funds has also been limited in the 10 EU strategic partner countries, where the profile of EU programmes is still low. Secondly, the need for a strategic EU approach to communication also results from intensified propaganda and disinformation campaigns seeking to discredit the EU and eventually undermine its position. Thirdly, effective EU communication in third countries plays a key role in countering jihadist propaganda in the EU's neighbourhood and its spilling over into EU territory.

This briefing has been adapted from an earlier one prepared for the annual meeting of EU Ambassadors and Members of the European Parliament on 'Support to democracy in third countries: the EU's added value', held in September 2016.

Human Rights in Iran after the Nuclear Deal Business as Usual or Time for Change?

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 13-03-2017
Externe Autor: Firouzeh NAHAVANDI (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium - chapter 2.1); Nazila GHANEA (University of Oxford, the UK - chapter 2.2) and Giulia BONACQUISTI (Trans European Policy Studies Association - TEPSA, Belgium - workshop report)
Politikbereich: Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste: Iran | Zensur | staatliche Gewalt | Todesstrafe | Religionsfreiheit | Lage der Frauen | Korruption | Rechte des Kindes | Menschenrechte | Beziehungen der Union | Anspruch auf rechtliches Gehör | politischer Gefangener | politische Grundrechte
Zusammenfassung: This report summarises the proceedings of a workshop organised jointly by the European Parliament’s Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) and the Delegation for relations with Iran (D-IR). The purpose of the workshop was to analyse the most recent developments regarding human rights in Iran since the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was signed in July 2015 and to explore the options available to the EU in seeking to help improve the situation. Experts and human rights defenders pointed to the gaps between law and practice in Iran and raised continuing concerns about the death penalty, political prisoners, prison conditions, arrests of dual nationals, minority rights and restrictions to internet access. They identified Iran’s dual power structure of elected and non-elected institutions and corruption as some of the chief constraints to any reform efforts. They said the EU should keep human rights — including support for the relevant UN mechanisms and efforts — high on its agenda. They said the key factors for engaging successfully with Iran on human rights issues in future were clear criteria and benchmarks, detailed knowledge of the human rights issues at stake and interaction with Iranian civil society both inside and outside Iran.

The Legisprudential Role of National Parliaments in the European Union

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 10-03-2017
Externe Autor: Luís Heleno TERRINHA
Schlagwortliste: Europäische Verträge | Gesetzgebungsverfahren | nationales Parlament | institutionelle Zusammenarbeit | EU-Recht
Zusammenfassung: National parliaments’ contribution to the law-making process at European level should focus on the overall rationality of the draft legislative proposals. The Early Warning Mechanism must not be limited to considerations regarding the breach of the principle of subsidiarity, but also encompass the principle of conferral and the principle of proportionality. The Political Dialogue could be enhanced to acknowledge the legisprudential role assigned to national parliaments, encompassing configurations akin to the green or red card without the need to amend the Treaties.
Subsidiary as a Means to Enhance Cooperation between EU Institutions and National Parliaments

The Treaty of Lisbon has entrusted national parliaments with the responsibility to monitor the respect of the principle of subsidiarity in new EU legislative proposals adopted in areas of non-exclusive EU competence (so-called Early Warning System). The Commission has been the primary interlocutor of parliaments in this framework, although Parliament also receives and follows-up on national parliaments' reasoned opinions. Despite positive developments following the transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU law, and, more generally, in monitoring the impact, operation, effectiveness and delivery of policy and programmes in practice. It is in this spirit that the Parliament has a particular interest in concentrating on those relevant for the 2015 EU discharge procedure. The document seeks to link the topics discussed by the special reports to the relevant debates and positions within the European Parliament, including notably the working documents of the Budgetary Control Committee, to the work of the various specialised parliamentary committees, and to individual Members' questions. It is produced by the Policy Cycle Unit of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the Parliament's in-house research service and think-tank, as part of its on-going support for parliamentary committees and individual Members, helping them to scrutinise the executive in its implementation of EU law, policies and programmes. The European Parliament is strongly committed to the concept of better law-making, and particularly to the effective use of ex-ante impact assessment and ex-post evaluation throughout the whole legislative cycle. It is in this spirit that the Parliament has a particular interest in following the transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU law, and, more generally, in monitoring the impact, operation, effectiveness and delivery of policy and programmes in practice.
The Role of National Parliaments in the EU after Lisbon: Potentialities and Challenges

Studie
Kalenderdatum 06-03-2017
Externe Autor Olivier Rozenberg
Schlagwortliste Gesetzgebungsverfahren | wirtschaftspolitische Steuerung (EU) | nationales Parlament | Vertrag über die Europäische Union | Verwaltungstransparenz | interinstitutionelle Beziehungen | EU-Recht | Europäisches Parlament

Zusammenfassung This study was commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament. It assesses the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon provisions on national parliaments as well as other related developments since 2009. The issues that are specifically investigated include the treaty provisions regarding national parliaments, Early Warning Mechanism, dialogue between national parliaments and the European Commission, the extending networks of inter-parliamentary cooperation, the parliamentary dimension of the budgetary and economic coordination and finally, the challenges raised by the on-going developments of the European legislative procedure.

Europa für Bürgerinnen und Bürger – ehrgeizige Ziele, aber begrenzte Mittel

Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum 24-02-2017
Verfasser Magdalena PASIKOWSKA-SCHNASS
Politikbereich Kultur | Umsetzung und Durchführung von Rechtsvorschriften | Bewertung von Rechtsvorschriften und politischen Maßnahmen in der Praxis | Demokratie | Bildung
Schlagwortliste Europa der Bürger | partizipative Demokratie | EU-Programm | Zivilgesellschaft | Beziehungen Verwaltung/Bürger


State of Play of EU-Mauritania Relations

Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum 23-02-2017
Externe Autor Morten Bøås
Politikbereich Internationaler Handel | Gleichstellungsfragen, Gleichheit und Vielfalt | Globale Ordnungspolitik | Wirtschaft und Währung | Demokratie | Fischerei | Finanz- und Bankenangelegenheiten | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste ethnische Gruppe | Wanderung | Mauretanien | politische Lage | EEF | Staatschef | Protokoll zu einem Abkommen | Flüchtling | Menschenrechte | islamischer Staat | Sicherheit einer geografischen Region | Entwicklungspolitik | Sahel | Fischereiabkommen | Terrorismus | Sklavenlager | Übereinkommen von Cotonou | Demokratisierung | Mal | Anpassung an den Klimawandel | Wirtschaftslage

Zusammenfassung Mauritania, an important ally of the EU in the fight against terrorism in the Sahel, faces several inter-related development challenges: ensuring an efficient use of the revenue derived from natural resources, economic diversification and improved governance. The severity of these development challenges is increased by difficult political relations between the three main ethnic groups in the country, the dominant group being the Arab-Berber Bidhan. They constitute less than one-third of the country’s population, but dominate economically and politically. The Haratin, the largest group in the country, is made up of descendants of black Africans enslaved by the Bidhan (freed or still enslaved). The third group in the country is the West Africans or Black Mauritanians. Mauritania’s post-independence history is marked by repeated attempts by this group to assert its non-Arab identity and claim for a more equitable share of political and economic power. The tension that these divisions create is a problem in itself, but they can also be appropriated by violent Islamist insurgencies in the region. The urgency of this challenge is further complicated by the likelihood of increased climate change effects that the country is currently not adequately prepared for. This study therefore discusses the main political, economic and development challenges that contemporary Mauritania is faced with, illustrating how these challenges can only be properly grasped with consideration to their historical evolution. Based on this, the study investigates the current basis for EU-Mauritania relations and suggests a select number of policy areas for consideration, as this relationship continues to evolve around issues of mutual concern such as security and development.

Eingehende Analyse EN, FR

Quelle : © Europäische Union, 2021 - EP
Wie die Blockchain-Technologie unser Leben verändern könnte

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 20-02-2017
Verfasser: Philip Nicholas BOUCHER

Schlagwortliste: Informationssicherheit | Digitalisierung | Europäische Bankenaufsichtsbehörde | Notenminderung | digitale Rechtverwaltung | Patentlizenz | elektronische Abstimmung | Informatikanwendung | digitale Technologie | Urheberrecht

Zusammenfassung: Die Blockchain-Technologie ist für Bürger, Unternehmen und Gesetzgeber in der gesamten Europäischen Union von zunehmendem Interesse. Dieser Bericht soll als Einstieg für diejenigen dienen, die über die Blockchain-Technologie erfahren möchten, damit Interesse geweckt wird und Diskussionen rund um ihre möglichen Auswirkungen angestoßen werden. Einer allgemeinen Einführung folgt eine nähere Betrachtung von acht Bereichen, in denen die Blockchain-Technologie die politische Agenda verändern könnte.

Eingehende Analyse: ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, PL, PT
Multimedia: EN

The effects of human rights related clauses in the EU-Mexico Global Agreement and the EU-Chile Association Agreement

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 10-02-2017
Verfasser: Isabelle IOANNIDES

Schlagwortliste: Wirkungsstudie | Mexiko | Freihandelsabkommen | Assoziationsabkommen (EU) | Chile | Zivilgesellschaft | Extra-EU-Handel | Menschenrechte

Zusammenfassung: The democracy clause in the EU-Mexico Global Agreement and by extension the EU-Mexico Free Trade Agreement calls for respect for fundamental human rights. If these are breached, a sanctioning clause can be invoked. The widely reported violations of human rights in Mexico are tackled through political dialogue. The agreement includes cooperation articles on social policy, the results of which are non-binding. Against this background, it is difficult to make a clear link between the potential effects of human rights related clauses in the Global Agreement on the human rights situation in Mexico. The EU-Chile Association Agreement (AA) also includes a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, which is subject to the democracy clause. More developed than that in the Global Agreement, this clause calls for respect for fundamental human rights; sustainable economic and social development; and commits parties to good governance. The AA also includes a suspension clause in case of breach of the democracy clause, and cooperation provisions, the results of which are non-binding. While these are more detailed than the ones in the Global Agreement, the impact of the EU-Chile AA on the human rights situation in Chile has been limited in its extent and to specific aspects of the social policy agenda. In both cases, the monitoring mechanisms of the EU agreements have generally been implemented properly – even if civil society participation in Chile was institutionalised late. These mechanisms have played an important role in nurturing cooperation, but the incentives created have not translated into sufficient pressure for the implementation of human rights related reforms. Rather than the EU FTAs per se impacting on ensuring the respect of human rights in Mexico and Chile, it is the cumulative effect of the liberalisation of trade in the two countries, the EU-Chile Strategic Partnership, the role of all global players, and cooperation with international donors that have encouraged reform. Ultimately, whether or not reforms in favour of respect of human rights have been adopted and implemented was the result of domestic politics in Mexico and Chile.

Studie: ES, EN

Russia’s National Security Strategy and Military Doctrine and their Implications for the EU

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 01-02-2017
Externe Autor: Isabelle FACON (Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique - FRS, Paris, France)

Politikbereich: internationale Sicherheit | Politik der Zusammenarbeit | Ost-West-Beziehungen | diplomatische Beziehungen | die Ukraine | Außenpolitik | Gemeinsame Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik | Verteidigungspolitik | Beziehungen der Union | die Russische Föderation | NATO | Armeen | Geopolitik
Schlagwortliste: Rechtverwaltung | Patentlizenz | elektronische Abstimmung | Informatikanwendung | digitale Technologie | Urheberrecht

Zusammenfassung: The European Union sees its relationship with Russia as a ‘key strategic challenge’. Its members are alarmed by Russia’s violations of international commitments and increased military activity in Europe. Russian recently updated basic strategic documents are full of indications about Moscow’s world vision and security concerns. They indirectly point to a tension between Russia’s internal (economic, demographic, societal) weaknesses and its claim to be recognized as one of the ‘centers of influence’ in the emerging multipolar world order. The West, including the EU, is clearly perceived as the major challenger to both Russia’s great power ambitions and security. At the same time, various indicators suggest that Moscow is probably not fully confident that it will obtain a gratifying role in the emerging new international landscape. All this has led Russia to rely massively on its restored military capabilities. The West (the EU, NATO, the United States) has been pursuing — strengthening defenses on the one hand, pursuing dialogue and cooperative engagement on the other hand.
Zehn Themen, die 2017 im Fokus stehen werden

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse  
Kalenderdatum: 26-01-2017  
Verfasser: Etienne BASSOT  
Politikbereich: Haushalt | Umwelt | Internationaler Handel | Verkehr | Gleichstellung | Landwirtschaft | Entwicklung des ländlichen Raums | Demokratie | Wirtschaft und Währung | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Energie | Beschäftigung | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten  
Schlagwortliste: Umsiedlung | die Vereinigte Staaten | europäische Sicherheit | Wirtschafts- und Währungsunion | Wanderung | Haushaltsplan der EU | die Ukraine | EU-Emissionszertifikate | Austritt aus der EU | Gemeinsame Agrarpolitik | Präsidentschaftswahl  
Zusammenfassung: Dies ist die erste Ausgabe einer neuen Veröffentlichung des EPRS, in der zentrale Fragen und Politikbereiche herausgestellt werden sollen, die voraussichtlich während des laufenden Jahres an vorrangiger Stelle auf der Tagesordnung der Mitglieder des Europäischen Parlaments stehen werden. Die angesprochenen wichtigen Themen umfassen die Folgen des Regierungswechsels in den USA für die EU, den Austritt des Vereinigten Königreichs aus der EU, die Migrationskrise, die wachsende Ungleichheit und die Herausforderungen der EU auf dem Gebiet der außeren Sicherheit, wobei die Situation in der Ukraine genauer untersucht wurde. Weitere wichtige Politikbereiche, auf die eingegangen wird, sind Haushalt, Landwirtschaft, Klima und Verkehr und nicht zuletzt die Aussichten für die Wirtschafts- und Währungsunion.

Eingehende Analyse: DE, EN, FR  
Multimedia: EN

US President Donald Trump [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing  
Kalenderdatum: 25-01-2017  
Verfasser: Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI  
Politikbereich: Globale Ordnungspolitik | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten  
Schlagwortliste: internationale Sicherheit | die Vereinigte Staaten | Staatschef | internationaler Handel | internationale Beziehungen  
Zusammenfassung: Donald Trump has begun his four-year term as the US President by moving to deliver on some of his campaign promises, such on Obamacare, the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement and the North American Free Trade Agreement. Analysts and politicians agree that the Trump presidency will have wide-ranging implications for trade, international relations and security. This note offers links to recent commentaries and reports published by major international think tanks and other research centres on Trump's presidency. Earlier analyse can be found in a previous edition of 'What Think Tanks are thinking.'

Briefing: EN

The 2016 Elections in the United States: Effects on the EU-US Relationship

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse  
Kalenderdatum: 17-01-2017  
Externe Autor: Nicolas BOUCHET (The German Marshall Fund of the United States, USA)  
Politikbereich: Internationales Handel | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Sicherheit und Verteidigung  
Schlagwortliste: internationale Sicherheit | die Vereinigte Staaten | Zweikammersystem | transatlantische Beziehungen | republikanische Partei | Regierungspolitik | Staatschef | Handelsbeziehungen | Zusammenarbeit EU-NATO | Außenpolitik | Wirtschaftsbeziehungen | Populismus | Beziehungen der Union | interparlamentarische Beziehungen | Terrorismus | NATO  
Zusammenfassung: Despite (or because of) Donald Trump’s various campaign statements, it is hard to predict confidently what path his administration will take in a wide range of foreign-policy areas. It is however possible to identify key issues and challenges in EU-US relations during his presidency. This briefing provides an overview of issues where US policy may change sharply during the next four years and what this may mean for the EU. Less interventionism, less commitment to NATO and a retreat from trade liberalization could be central to Trump’s presidency. Transatlantic relations would be affected by US actions such as rapprochement with Russia and a softer line on the Ukraine conflict, alignment with Assad and Putin in Syria, extreme counterterrorism measures, abandoning the Iran nuclear deal, and unconditional support for Israel. Confrontation with China over trade and regional security, and reversal of environmental policies will also have repercussions for the EU. In order to mitigate all these risks, the EU must at least entrench existing cooperation with the US before trying to enhance it. It can The do so by reaffirming European unity and solving threats to its integration, by becoming a better security “producer” and by “thickening” interparlamentary exchanges.

Eingehende Analyse: EN
Regional implications of Iraqi Kurdistan's quest for independence

Strengthened by its victories over ISIL/Da'esh, the government of the autonomous region of Kurdistan in Iraq has announced that it plans to organise a referendum on independence. The deadline is still unclear, as political divisions have led the region to an institutional stalemate. Negotiations with the federal Iraqi government will focus on the territorial scope of the referendum. The Kurdish leaders want to include the 'disputed areas', in particular Kirkuk, in the new state's territory. However, Iraq is not keen to be cut off from this oil-rich region, which is already at the heart of a dispute on the sharing of oil revenues. The status of Mosul after it is recaptured from ISIL/Da'esh is also under discussion. Even if the referendum were to take place and the 'yes' side won, it is not certain that a Kurdish state would emerge. Such a state would be weakened by internal divisions and poor economic conditions. In addition, Syria, Turkey and Iran, neighbouring countries that have complex relations with Iraqi Kurdistan, are worried that an independent Kurdish state would be weakened by internal divisions and poor economic conditions. In addition, Syria, Turkey and Iran,

Nicaragua's post-electoral situation

The landslide victory of Daniel Ortega and his Sandinista National Liberation Front in Nicaragua's 6 November presidential and legislative elections came as no surprise, after the main opposition alliance – whose presidential team had been disqualified by the Supreme Court of Justice – withdrew from the contest. Both the opposition and the international community are worried that the country could drift towards an authoritarian regime.

Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world in 2015

Addressing the numerous pressures on human rights encountered in 2015, in its report, Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) calls on all the EU institutions and the Member States to place human rights at the centre of EU relations with all third countries. It calls upon the Member States to lead by example, by speaking with one voice in support of the indivisibility, interdependence, interrelation and universality of human rights and, in particular, by ratifying all UN international human rights instruments.

European Citizens' Initiative

The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) was introduced as a major innovation in the 2009 Lisbon Treaty. It is a key element of participatory democracy, allowing citizens to play an active role in the EU's democratic life through addressing requests for legislative proposals to the European Commission. Notwithstanding the Commission's right of initiative, the European Parliament and the Council, under Articles 225 and 241 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) respectively, also have the ability to request the Commission submit a legislative proposal. The procedure and conditions for ECIs are governed by Regulation (EU) No 211/2011, in force since April 2012. This was the subject of a first three-yearly review by the Commission in 2015, leading to a debate on the ECI's effectiveness and some suggestions for improvement.

Briefing

For Mosul), they do not want to openly back the fragmentation of the Middle-East, although they consider Iraqi Kurdistan to be a reliable ally in the fight against ISIL/Da'esh (again recently in the battle of Mosul). Yet, the perspective of a Greater Kurdistan with an autonomous region's vitality would encourage their own Kurdish populations to seek greater autonomy. Yet, the perspective of a Greater Kurdistan is remote, since the regional Kurdish landscape is dominated by the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) and its affiliates, which do not share Iraqi Kurdish leaders' ideology or strategic alliances. As for the EU and the great world powers, the referendum were to take place and the 'yes' side won, it is not certain that a Kurdish state would emerge. Such a state would be weakened by internal divisions and poor economic conditions. In addition, Syria, Turkey and Iran, neighbouring countries that have complex relations with Iraqi Kurdistan, are worried that an independent Kurdish state would be weakened by internal divisions and poor economic conditions. In addition, Syria, Turkey and Iran,
Die Rolle der Verfassungsgerichte in der „Multi-Level-Governance“ - Italien: Der Verfassungsgerichtshof

Zusammenfassung

Studie DE, IT

Die Rolle der Verfassungsgerichte in der „Multi-Level-Governance“ - Schweiz: Das Bundesgericht

Zusammenfassung

Studie DE, FR, IT

Die Rolle der Verfassungsgerichte in der „Multi-Level-Governance“ - Belgien: Der Verfassungsgerichtshof

Zusammenfassung

Studie DE, FR, IT

Die Rolle der Verfassungsgerichte in der „Multi-Level-Governance“ - Spanien: Das Verfassungsgericht

Zusammenfassung

Studie ES, DE
Die Rolle der Verfassungsgerichte in der „Multi-Level-Governance“ - Deutschland: Das Bundesverfassungsgericht

Art der Veröffentlichung Studie
Kalenderdatum 30-11-2016


Political parties in Morocco’s 10th parliament

Art der Veröffentlichung Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum 28-11-2016

Zusammenfassung On 7 October 2016, Morocco went to the polls for national parliamentary elections. This was the second time that Morocco had held national elections since the ‘Arab Spring’ had touched it in February 2011. Since the 2011 public protests, a number of constitutional reforms, introduced by King Mohammed VI, have made significant changes to electoral and administrative law. Morocco’s Islamic Justice and Development Party (PJD), which won the national elections in 2011, lost to the Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM) in municipal elections in 2015. On 7 October 2016, the PJD re-emerged as the winner, with PAM in second position. This is an updated version of a note published in June 2015.

The Implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU institutional Framework

Art der Veröffentlichung Studie
Kalenderdatum 22-11-2016

Zusammenfassung The EU institutions are required take into account the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the design and implementation of legislation or policies, both within law- and policymaking internal to the Union and in the external relations of the EU. This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament, to examine how they discharge this duty; it looks into the role of the Charter in the legislative process; in the economic governance of the Union; in the work of EU agencies; in the implementation of EU law by EU Member States; and, in the external relations of the Union, both in trade and investment policies and in the Common Foreign and Security Policy. It also analyses certain gaps in the judicial protection of the Charter and identifies measures through which the potential of the Charter could be further realized.

Quelle : © Europäische Union, 2021 - EP
Does the EU Have the Right Instruments to Finance Assistance in Protracted Crises and the Needs of Upper Middle Income Countries?

Zusammenfassung

This study pays critical attention to two specific issue areas, which the financing instruments ought to be concerned with: First, the EU has developed tools and instruments to react to and prevent 'protracted crises'. The results of this study show that the current set of instruments forms a good basis to the challenges associated with protracted crises. In fact, no new instrument is needed to specifically address protracted crises. However, the operationalisation of instruments should be optimised. There is a clear need to find more sophisticated approaches that can establish a more holistic response to the various dimensions of protracted crises throughout the conflict cycle. In light of this, substantial improvements should be made to the responsiveness, flexibility, coherence and complementarity of the EU response in support of resilience. A critical point is that better incentives should be provided for long-term instruments to flexibly engage in protracted crises, including through support to peacebuilding, conflict prevention, post-crisis reconstruction and resilience. Second, the study focuses on the specific case of Upper Middle Income Countries (UMICs). The study acknowledges the importance and relevance of the 'differentiated approach' while also identifying some of the many problems of concern UMICs: first, the study shows that the Partnership Instrument has so far mainly targeted EU Strategic Partners, while thematic and regional programmes of the DCI hardly fill in the gap left following the graduation of some countries from bilateral aid programmes. The analysis also notes that exceptions which have been granted to some UMICs are strongly problematic. The analysis, however, also points to the fact that the question remains whether these exceptions will be extended to the period 2017-2020. While there is a clear need for a better coherence and coordination, the study argues that there is currently no need for the creation of a new instrument which would exclusively target UMICs.

US elections [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Zusammenfassung

The United States chooses its next president on 8 November, with implications for international relations, security, trade and fight against climate change. The vote follows an acrimonious campaign, which analysts say points to a deeply divided nation on issues such as the US international role, immigration, social protection, taxation as well as trade and industrial policies. This note offers links to recent commentaries and reports published by major international think tanks and other research centres on the US elections.

Kontrolle der US-Regierung durch den Kongress: Mittel und Akteure

Zusammenfassung

An EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights

27-10-2016

Tatjana EVAS | Wouter VAN BALLEGOUW

European Parliament legislative initiative reports drawn up on the basis of Article 225 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union are automatically accompanied by a European Added Value Assessment (EAVA). Such assessments are aimed at evaluating the potential impacts, and identifying the advantages, of proposals made in legislative initiative reports. This EAVA accompanies a resolution based on a legislative initiative report prepared by Parliament’s Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) (rapporteur: Sophie in ’t Veld (ALDE, the Netherlands), presenting recommendations to the Commission on an EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights (P8_TA-PROV (2016) 0409). The main conclusion of the EAVA is that there is a gap between the proclamation of the rights and values listed in Article 2 TEU and actual compliance by EU institutions and Member States, resulting in significant economic, social and political costs. The root causes of this lack of compliance are to be found in certain weaknesses in the existing EU legal and policy framework on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights. These weaknesses could be overcome by the conclusion of an EU Pact for Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights (DRF) in the form of an interinstitutional agreement (IIA). This IIA should lay down arrangements for (i) the development of an annual European report on the state of democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights in the Member States with country-specific recommendations assessing compliance with DRF, and (ii) a policy cycle for DRF, involving EU institutions and national parliaments, with country-specific recommendations aimed at monitoring and enforcing Member State compliance, including a DRF policy cycle within the institutions of the Union. This could be done at relatively low cost, particularly if the right synergies are found with international organisations, whilst at the same time having significant benefits, notably fostering mutual trust and recognition, attracting more investment, and providing higher welfare standards.

Iceland ahead of the parliamentary elections

26-10-2016

Naja BENTZEN

The financial storm that swept Iceland in 2008 has had long-lasting effects on the country’s domestic political climate. Despite the remarkably speedy economic recovery, the post-crash political crisis has continued to evolve. New, alternative political movements have mushroomed, and the anti-establishment Pirate Party is expecting a big boost in the 29 October snap elections.

Indonesia: Security threats to a stable democracy

24-10-2016

Martin RUSSELL

Indonesia is a stable country which has undergone a successful transition to civilian democracy. However, there are still concerns about the military’s continuing strong influence. There are also a number of internal and external threats to stability, although these remain fairly low-level, for now.

Moldova ahead of the presidential election

20-10-2016

Naja BENTZEN

Moldova is facing tough internal and external challenges. The domestic political situation is characterised by chronic instability and massive public protests, which have prompted the decision to hold direct presidential elections on 30 October 2016, the first in more than a decade. Most candidates represent Moldova’s main political parties, reflecting the growing pro-Europe and pro-Russia divide that mirrors the geopolitical tensions in the region, inflamed by the Ukraine crisis. Please click here for the full publication in PDF format.
Der EU-Mechanismus für Demokratie, Rechtsstaatlichkeit und Grundrechte

Art der Veröffentlichung Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum 19-10-2016
Verfasser Anja RADJENOVIC

Politikbereich Europäischer Mehrwert | Demokratie | Annahme von Rechtsvorschriften durch das EP und den Rat

Schlagwortliste Mitgliedstaat der EU | Anwendung des EU-Rechts | Demokratie | Recht des Einzelnen | Grundrechtscharta der Europäischen Union | Rechtsstaat


Auf einen Blick ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, PL
Multimedia EN

Montenegro ahead of the 2016 elections

Art der Veröffentlichung Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum 13-10-2016
Verfasser Velina LILYANOVA

Politikbereich Demokratie

Schlagwortliste Montenegro | Wahlsystem | Mehrparteiensystem | politische Krise | Parlamentswahl

Zusammenfassung On 11 July 2016, Montenegro's President Filip Vujanović announced that the next parliamentary elections would be held on 16 October. They would be the tenth such elections since the introduction of the multiparty system in Montenegro and the fourth since the country regained independence in 2006. Unlike the 2012 elections, those of 2016 will be held in a polarised political context following a series of events that have shaken up the political dynamics since late 2015. For the first time in almost two decades, the ruling party has decided to run alone in the elections.

Auf einen Blick EN
Multimedia EN

Global Trendometer

Art der Veröffentlichung Studie
Kalenderdatum 06-10-2016
Verfasser Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI | Daniele RECHARD | Leopold SCHMERTZING | Jessica Freya WINDLE-WEHRLE | EAMONN NOONAN

Politikbereich Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Vorausplanung | Sozialpolitik | Beschäftigung | Wirtschaft und Währung | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Industrie

Schlagwortliste die Vereinigte Staaten | Digitalisierung | Asien | Mobilkommunikation | China | Wasserressourcen | Internet | Wasserpolitik | Wirtschaftswachstum | soziale Ungleichheit | die Russische Föderation | industrielle Fertigung | digitale Technologie | Naher und Mittlerer Osten | langfristige Prognose

Zusammenfassung With the publication of this inaugural edition of the "Global Trendometer," the EPRS Global Trends Unit seeks to contribute to the process of identifying and addressing medium- and long-term trends, and their possible implications for policy-making in the European Union. Three essays and eight two-page vignettes on different geopolitical, economic, technological and social issues paint a broad-ranging picture of developments that may shape Europe’s future.

Studie EN

What if blockchain technology revolutionised voting?

Art der Veröffentlichung Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum 29-09-2016
Verfasser Philip Nicholas BOUCHER

Politikbereich Vorausplanung | Demokratie

Schlagwortliste partizipative Demokratie | elektronische Abstimmung | Informatikanwendung | digitale Technologie

Zusammenfassung Is blockchain the revolution in security and transparency that is needed to enable e-voting and, if so, what are the implications for the future of democracy? Despite the digitalisation of several important aspects of modern life, elections are still largely conducted offline, on paper. Since the turn of the century, e-voting has been considered a promising and (eventually) inevitable development, which could speed up, simplify and reduce the cost of elections, and might even lead to higher voter turnouts and the development of stronger democracies. E-voting could take many forms: using the internet or a dedicated, isolated network; requiring voters to attend a polling station or allowing unsupervised voting; using existing devices, such as mobile phones and laptops, or requiring specialist equipment. Now we have a further choice: to continue trusting central authorities to manage elections or to use blockchain technology to distribute an open voting record among citizens. Many experts agree that e-voting would require revolutionary developments in security systems. The debate is whether blockchain will represent a transformative or merely incremental development, and what its implications could be for the future of democracy.

Auf einen Blick EN
Multimedia EN
India and China — two emerging Asian giants — have historically been polar opposites in many ways and relations between them have been tense. In recent years, however, their co-operation has been improving and they have signed numerous bilateral agreements. From the EU’s perspective, it is crucial to monitor the relationship between these strategic partners. Not only do these two emerging countries have the two largest populations in the world, but projections suggest that they will together account for a significant share of the world economy by the middle of the century. The EU must be able to meet the regional and even global challenges presented by the rise of China and India.
Good Governance in EU External Relations: What Role for Development Policy in a Changing International Context?

Art der Veröffentlichung Studie
Kalenderdatum 04-07-2016
Externer Autor Christine HACKENESCH
Politikbereich Haushalt | Bewertung von Rechtsvorschriften und politischen Maßnahmen in der Praxis | Globale Ordnungspolitik | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagworte Governance | Entwicklungsland | internationale Rolle der Union | Verteilung der Hilfe | Beziehungen zwischen AKP und EU | Entwicklungshilfe | Voraussetzung für die Beihilfegewährung | dauerhafte Entwicklung | Finanzierung der EU | Demokratisierung | Menschenrechte
Zusammenfassung EU support for governance reforms has gained prominence in the EU’s external relations and particularly in the EU’s development policy. However, the EU’s engagement in this field has come under considerable pressure in recent years. It is by no means automatic that the EU will continue and further increase its engagement in supporting governance reforms. In this context, the objective of this study is to summarise evidence from academic research on why the EU and other donors should support governance reforms and under which conditions EU support positively contributes to governance reforms. Moreover, the study analyses how the EU has aimed at contributing to governance reforms during the past decade, focusing in particular on the Development Cooperation Instrument and the European Development Fund. The study puts emphasis on EU development policy, but places the analysis of governance support through development policy in the broader context of EU external relations. The study makes recommendations related to EU good governance support, to good governance support through the DCI and EDF, to changes in the energy processes in EU external relations, and also in regard to the future of the EU’s relations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

Studie EN
Public expectations and EU policies - Promotion of democracy and peace in the world

According to a new Eurobarometer survey, two thirds of European Union citizens would like to see even stronger EU involvement in the promotion of democracy and peace in the world. Democracy and peace are the fundamental values on which the EU is based and the guiding principles for its external action. The EU has at its disposal a vast array of tools to promote democracy and peace in the world, including its own diplomatic body, development aid and trade conditionality that it can leverage to this purpose. The EU finances a variety of actions that directly or indirectly promote democracy, such as support for governance, elections, civil society and free media, while a specific instrument is dedicated to peace and stability.

Libya after Gaddafi: A challenging transition

Five years after the uprising against Muammar Gaddafi, Libya has finally made a breakthrough towards ending the two-year conflict that has seen the country divided between two rival governments and parliaments, each allied with loose coalitions of armed militias fighting each other. The resulting power vacuum has led, not least, to the rise of ISIL/Da'esh in Libya and, to the country's increasing role as a departure point for migrants hoping to reach Europe. A political solution to reduce the instability in Libya is critical, both for Libya and for its neighbours.

Syria: Turning commitments into action

What started as local anti-government protests in the city of Daraa in 2011 quickly evolved into a popular uprising. The conflict has since cost the lives of 470 000 people and resulted in the displacement of almost 11 million. This is no longer a revolution but an internationalised conflict hijacked by big-power politics, and Syrians and their neighbouring countries are paying the price.

Jordan: A protest movement eclipsed

Low-level protests in Jordan throughout 2011 were met by offers of reform from the King, and subsided as neighbouring countries descended into chaos and civil war. The Syrian refugee crisis has diverted attention away from the causes of the unrest in 2011, but has given rise to new grievances that have the potential to undermine the stability of the country once more.
**Egypt: A failed revolution?**

The most populous of the Arab countries, situated at the crossroads between Africa and the Middle East, Egypt is an important partner for Europe. Since 2004, bilateral EU-Egypt trade has almost tripled, from €11.8 billion to €27.7 billion in 2015. At the same time, the EU and Egypt share many foreign policy concerns, including the Middle East peace process, migration and the fight against terrorism. Under the revised European Neighbourhood Policy, the challenge will be to reconcile growing EU concerns over the deteriorating human-rights situation in post-revolutionary Egypt with the importance of enhancing cooperation with Egypt as a partner for stability in the region.

**Tunisia: Democracy in transition**

Tunisia has taken key steps toward democracy since its Jasmine Revolution, and has so far avoided the violent chaos and/or return to authoritarian government seen in other Arab Spring countries. Tunisians adopted a new constitution in January 2014 and held national elections between October and December 2014, marking the completion of a four-year transition period.

**Die Untersuchungs-ausschüsse und Sonderausschüsse des Parlaments**

This study assesses the important role the social economy plays in the EU. Priority policies identified to reach its full potential include: 1) digital transformation of social economy, 2) enabling EU cross-sectorial regulatory and financial frameworks, and 3) improving definitions and developing indicators - alternatives to GDP - to focus policies on EU added-value.

This document has been commissioned by Policy Department A on behalf of European Parliament’s Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection.
**EU Policies in Tunisia before and after the Revolution**

**Art der Veröffentlichung** Studie
**Kalenderdatum** 21-04-2016

**Externe Autor**
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**Politikbereich** Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten

**Schlagwortliste** Europäische Nachbarschaftspolitik | EU-Politik | politische Lage | dauerhafte Entwicklung | EU-Programm | Wirtschaftsreform | Tunesien | politische Gewalt | Union für den Mittelmeerraum | politische Reform | Finanzinstrument der EU | Demokratisierung | Assoziationsabkommen (EU) | Zivilgesellschaft

**Zusammenfassung**
This study investigates the evolution and potential impacts of EU policies in Tunisia before and after the Revolution using an innovative analytical framework. To do that, the most important milestones in the frameworks of cooperation agreed between the EU and Tunisia and the policies implemented, are described. The impact of such policies before the Revolution and their subsequent evolution, are analysed to highlight the causes and the consequences of the shifting approach of the EU towards Tunisia. Finally, the analysis is complemented with inputs collected via a consultation from key participants across the Tunisian political and civil society landscape. In the pre-Revolution period, EU relations with Tunisia were narrowed down to an exchange of commercial, financial and strategic interests, in line with most development aid programmes across the world. The Tunisian Revolution brought two fundamental dynamics – democratisation and destabilisation – which had broad repercussions on the relations between Tunisia and the EU. These dynamics enhanced the probability of more synergies and complementarities between the two partners’ political projects and the necessity to strengthen financial support, providing the EU with a window of opportunity for enhanced cooperation, underlined in a win-win philosophy, co-development and deeper integration.

**Studie** EN, FR

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**EU-Turkey relations [What Think Tanks are thinking]**

**Art der Veröffentlichung** Auf einen Blick
**Kalenderdatum** 19-04-2016

**Verfasser** Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI

**Politikbereich** Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten

**Schlagwortliste** Informationsverbreitung | politische Lage | EU-Migrationspolitik | die Türkei | Kurdistan-Frage | Flüchtling | Verzeichnis | politische Grundrechte | Abkommen (EU)

**Zusammenfassung**
Relations between the European Union and Turkey gained new momentum last month with an agreement aimed at addressing the migration crisis. One element of the deal is that Turkey shall take back migrants who cross to Greece illegally. The EU would accept Syrian refugees directly from Turkey and compensate it with financial aid, early visa-free travel and further progress in accession talks. The intention of the agreement is to ease pressure on the borderless Schengen area. Yet some critics say the EU should not be forgiving closer ties with Turkey at a time when its regime seems to be becoming increasingly authoritarian in the areas of freedom of expression and assembly. The European Commission’s recent report on Turkey, discussed by the European Parliament on 13 April, calls on Turkey to lift restrictions on media freedom and to stop political interference with the judiciary. This note offers links to recent commentaries and reports from major international think tanks on relations between the EU and Turkey, as well as on political developments in that country. More studies on the topic can be found in a previous edition of ’What Think Tanks are thinking’.

**Auf einen Blick** EN

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**Thailand 2016: Wiederherstellung oder Aufhebung der Demokratie ?**

**Art der Veröffentlichung** Studie
**Kalenderdatum** 18-04-2016

**Verfasser**
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**Politikbereich** Umwelt | Internationaler Handel | Demokratie | Fischerei | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte

**Schlagwortliste** Militärregime | politische Lage | Menschenhandel | Handelsverkehr | Außenpolitik | Staatsstreich | Abkommen (EU) | Wanderarbeitnehmer | ASEAN | Menschenrechte | Demokratie | Thailand | Handelspolitik | Fischereiordnung | Wirtschaftsvertrag

**Zusammenfassung**

**Studie** DE, EN, FR, IT
The Situation of National Minorities in Crimea Following its Annexation by Russia

The Situation of National Minorities in Crimea Following its Annexation by Russia

Art der Veröffentlichung
Studie
Kalenderdatum 08-04-2016
Externe Autor
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Politikbereich
Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste
ethische Diskriminierung | staatliche Gewalt | Minderheitenrecht | Religionsfreiheit | die Ukraine | Gemeinsame Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik | Menschenrechte | politischer Gefangener | Freizügigkeit | internationale Sanktion | nationale Minderheit | die Russische Föderation | politische Grundrechte | militärische Besetzung
Zusammenfassung National minorities in Crimea have been subject to systematic violations of their rights since the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia on 18 March 2014. Documented violations have occurred in the areas of freedom of expression, conscience, and religion; the right to peaceful assembly and association; freedom of the media and access to information; the right to a fair trial and effective remedy; the right to education in one’s native language; and linguistic and cultural rights. The de facto authorities in Crimea have neglected to investigate cases of grave violations of the rights to life, liberty, security, and physical integrity. The response of the international community has been limited. While Western countries pursue non-recognition policies towards Crimea, international sanctions introduced in response to the occupation of Crimea are weak, and there have been no measures taken to address the international humanitarian law and human rights violations in Crimea. Limited support is available to human rights organisations focused on or working in Crimea, and human rights monitors still cannot gain access to Crimea. The European Union, and the European Parliament, in particular, should actively advocate for the establishment of an international human rights monitoring presence in occupied Crimea. Tailor-made support programmes should be offered to Ukrainian government agencies and civil society working towards the protection of the rights of Ukrainian citizens in Crimea. The European Parliament should continue raising the issue of human rights violations in Crimea and monitor individual cases. Furthermore, the Council of the European Union should consider imposing sanctions for the violations of international humanitarian law and human rights in occupied Crimea.

Studie
EN

The Frozen Conflicts of the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Their Impact on the Respect of Human Rights

The Frozen Conflicts of the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Their Impact on the Respect of Human Rights

Art der Veröffentlichung
Studie
Kalenderdatum 08-04-2016
Externe Autor
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Politikbereich
Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste
Europäische Nachbarschaftspolitik | ethische Gruppe | internationale Rolle der Union | Zugang zur Rechtspflege | Autonomiebewegung | die Ukraine | politische Gewalt | Menschenrechte | Sicherheit einer geografischen Region | OSZE | Rechtsberuf | Europol | Georgien | die Russische Föderation | Moldau | Gebietsanspruch | besetztes Gebiet | Aserbaiidschan | Zivilgesellschaft | Beilegung der Streitigkeiten
Zusammenfassung The present study provides a detailed overview of the actual human rights situation in the frozen conflict regions of the EU's Eastern neighbourhood, namely in Crimea, Transnistria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh. The focus of the analysis is on the access to the justice system, as well as on the capacities of the de jure or de facto authorities to administer justice. Particular attention is paid to Crimea because the rapidly worsening human rights situation there affects far more people than the population of the other four frozen conflicts combined. International community actions, as well as the role of civil society in protecting human rights are also analysed.

Studie
EN

Democracy in Africa: Power alternation and presidential term limits

Democracy in Africa: Power alternation and presidential term limits

Art der Veröffentlichung
Briefing
Kalenderdatum 04-04-2016
Verfasser
Ionel ZAMFIR
Politikbereich
Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Schlagwortliste
Afrika | internationale Rolle der Union | Präsidentenregime | politischer Wechsel | politische Lage | Verfassungsdauerung | Wahlmandat | Demokratisierung | Präsidentschaftswahl
Zusammenfassung The democratic landscape in Africa is complex, featuring a mixture of examples of progress, in some areas, and regression in others. While some countries have continuously come closer to high democratic standards, considerably strengthening their democratic systems, others have seen their democratic credentials worsen. A pervasive feature of political systems on the African continent has been the fact that the incumbent presidents and ruling parties tend to win elections, whether fair or not. Since independence, few African states have experienced transfer of presidential and parliamentary power as a result of elections. At the beginning of the 1990s, during the democratisation wave that swept the continent, most African countries introduced constitutional term limits for their presidents. However, ultimately many of these limits were short-lived, as the leaders who initiated them were often themselves later responsible for spearheading constitutional amendments in order to extend their position in power. In several cases, strong opposition from civil society, but also from political actors, was successful in upholding constitutional rules. In others, however, popular opposition was repressed and the will of the heads of state concerned prevailed, sometimes at the cost of prolonged turmoil. In this context the question arises: how essential and useful to democracy are presidential term limits? While the US under the Obama administration has been vocal in defending term limits in Africa, the EU has not taken sides on the issue as such, focusing instead on the respect of constitutional processes when revisions occur.

Briefing
EN
Review of European and National Election Results. Second update

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 26-02-2016
Verfasser: Jacques NANCY
Politikbereich: Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Demokratie
Schlagwortliste: Fraktion (EP) | europäischer Abgeordneter | nationale Wahl | Stimmverteilung | politische Parteien | europäische Wahl | Gliederung nach Geschlecht | Mitgliedstaat der EU | Wahlbeteiligung | Wahlergebnis | Statistik der EU
Zusammenfassung: This document provides a second update of the Review of European and National Elections, published in November 2014 by the Public Opinion Monitoring Unit of DG Communication. The Review was dedicated to the results of the European elections of May 2014 and to the history of 35 years of direct elections to the European Parliament since 1979, as well as to the different national elections. This latest edition addresses the changes in the European Parliament since the first update, published in July 2015. The reader will also find the results of the elections held in Member States since July 2015: five legislative elections (EL, ES, HR, PL, and PT) and one direct presidential election (PT).

Studie EN, FR

Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world in 2014

Art der Veröffentlichung: Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum: 08-12-2015
Verfasser: Joanna APAP
Politikbereich: Demokratie | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste: Flüchtlingshilfe | Tätigkeitsbericht | soziale Verantwortung von Unternehmen | internationale Rolle der Union | EU-Aktion | EU-Migrationspolitik | Menschenhandel | Handelsabkommen (EU) | Gemeinsame Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik | Menschenrechte
Zusammenfassung: Just a few days after the UN's Human Rights Day, on 14 December 2015, the European Parliament (EP) will discuss and vote its annual Resolution on Human Rights and Democracy. Addressing the numerous pressures on human rights encountered in 2014, in its report, Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) calls on all the EU institutions and the Member States to place human rights at the centre of EU relations with all third countries, including its strategic partners and in all high-level statements and meetings.

Auf einen Blick EN

The European Year for Development: Human Rights

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 01-12-2015
Verfasser: Marika LERCH
Politikbereich: Globale Ordnungspolitik | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste: EU-Beihilfe | internationale Rolle der Union | Entwicklungshilfe | soziale Rechte | dauerhafte Entwicklung | Zivilgesellschaft | politische Grundrechte | Menschenrechte
Zusammenfassung: Human rights have become an integral part of most donors' development cooperation. In addition to their intrinsic value, human rights are considered instrumental in achieving sustainable development. Implementing the international development goals related to civil and political rights and governance will be challenging. The EU has gradually refined its policy on integrating human rights into development cooperation. The EU approach includes imposing different forms of conditionality, supporting projects and programmes, and mainstreaming human rights across development actions. Aid to governance and civil society has increased in the last decade, reaching 9 % of the EU’s sectorallocable aid in 2013. Implementing a rights-based approach to development will be decisive, but challenging. The European Parliament, a strong supporter of integrating human rights into development cooperation, has its own toolbox to support human rights abroad.

Briefing EN
Electronic budgeting: Innovative approaches to budgeting

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 27-11-2015
Verfasser: Gianluca SGUEO
Politikbereich: Haushalt | Demokratie
Schlagwörter: elektronische Dokumentenverwaltung | Informationszugang | Informationsverbreitung | Auswirkungen der Informationstechnologie | Verwaltungsformalität | Staatshaushalt | digitale Klut | Zivilgesellschaft | elektronische Verwaltung

Zusammenfassung: There is scarcely any aspect of government activity that does not involve the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs). The EU has supported the building of digital infrastructures and the sharing of best practices on efficient delivery of e-government services for the last 15 years. One of the goals of the EU Digital Action Plan was to increase the take-up of e-government services by 50% of citizens and 80% of businesses by 2015. The introduction of digitalised procedures also affects the budgetary field. Scholars address ICT applications used for budgetary functions, procedures, or services across the budgetary cycle (planning, programming, budgeting, appropriations, control, and evaluation of financial resources), using the term 'e-budgeting'. e-budgeting refers to the digitalisation of budgetary procedures, the diffusion of Open Data (i.e. the diffusion of budgetary information to the public in an open format) and Big Data (i.e. the use of complex databases of budgetary information to inform policy-making). One of the most distinctive features of e-budgeting (and e-government in general) is that it promotes an active role for citizens and civil society organisations. A diffuse movement of activists and civil society organisations champions the use of digital technologies within public decision-making procedures to enhance citizens' participation and to control governmental activities. Please click here for the full publication in PDF format

Briefing: EN

Argentina: A Change of Course

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 25-11-2015
Verfasser: Jesper TVEVAD
Politikbereich: Demokratie
Schlagwörter: nationale Wahl | Zweikammersystem | politische Parteien | wirtschaftliche Entwicklung | Staatschef | Handelsbeziehungen | Wahlergebnis | Außenpolitik | Argentinien | Präsidentschaftswahl | Mercosur | Stimmenverteilung | Beziehungen der Union | Kandidat | Sitzverteilung | politisches Bündnis

Zusammenfassung: On 22 November 2015, Mauricio Macri, candidate of a coalition named 'Let's change' (Cambiemos), was elected president of Argentina. He will assume office on 10 December. Macri received 51.4% of the vote in the second round of the presidential elections. His election ends 12 years of Peronist governments. Macri’s victory owes much to the high number of votes he received in urban centres, particularly in the capital Buenos Aires and the second largest city, Córdoba. Despite Macri’s final victory in the presidential elections, the 25 October parliamentary and provincial polls showed that the Peronist movement remains the principal political force. After the 25 October Congress elections, the Front for Victory (Frente para la Victoria, FpV), currently in government, remains the largest bloc in the new Congress, although it lost its absolute majority in the Chamber of Deputies. Macri faces the challenge of mobilising support in Congress for the new government’s legislative proposals. The most likely scenario is that he will try to establish a coalition with the Peronist factions opposed to President Cristina Fernández and the FpV. The new government is likely to take measures to liberalise and open up the economy. The new government will seek strengthened links with the USA and the EU, and may well push for trade liberalisation in Mercosur. Macri has announced that he will ask for Mercosur’s ‘democratic clause’ to be invoked against Venezuela. Macri has stressed the need to advance towards a Mercosur-EU free trade agreement. Overall, the change of government appears an opportunity for renewed relations between the EU and Argentina.

Briefing: ES, EN

The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 16-11-2015
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Politikbereich: Globale Ordnungspolitik | Landwirtschaft und Entwicklung des ländlichen Raums | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwörter: Investitionspolitik | Agrarreform | Nigeria | Nahrungsmittelressourcen | Unabhängigkeit in der Nahrungsmittelversorgung | Senegal | Äthiopien | Côte d’Ivoire | Saatgut | die Vereinigte Republik Tansania | nachhaltige Landwirtschaft | landwirtschaftlicher Kleinbetrieb | Nahrungsmittelpreis | Malawi | Burkina Faso | landwirtschaftliche Produktivität | Gruppe der am stärksten industrialisierten Länder | Bewirtschaftungsform | Mosambik | Ghana | Bäuerin | Benin

Zusammenfassung: The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa (NFSN) launched in May 2012 under the auspices of the G8 aims to create the conditions that will allow the African countries concerned to improve agricultural productivity and develop their agrifood sector by attracting more private investment in agriculture. The participating countries (Burkina Faso, Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal and Tanzania) adopted ‘country cooperation frameworks’ (CCFs) listing their policy commitments, and companies provided ‘Letters of Intent’ identifying intended investments. While the general objective of the NFSN is sound, certain deficiencies remain: the CCFs are silent on the need to shift to sustainable modes of agricultural production and to support farmers’ seed systems, on the dangers associated with the emergence of a market for land rights, or on the regulation of contract farming; and they are weak on nutrition as well as on the recognition of women’s rights and gender empowerment.

Studie: EN

This study provides a history of budgetary powers and politics in the EU during the period 1957-1978, focusing on the role of what was then still a non-(or indirectly) elected European Parliament. It follows a timeline divided into three periods: (i) beginnings (1957-1964), (ii) preparations for modification of the Treaty (1965-1969), and (iii) the first phase of democratic control (1970-1978). The modifications to the Treaty of Rome, with the two budgetary treaties of 1970 and 1975, were the results of conflicts, diplomacy and compromises. After more than 20 years the balance of power between the institutions had changed; full democratic control had not been achieved, but important progress had been made, and Parliament, though still not directly elected, had gained in influence and respect. This study gives a detailed description of various elements of the budgetary powers shaped by the two treaties, in particular those which would enable the elected Parliament to continue its fight for more influence and greater powers, not only in the budgetary domain but also in legislative and institutional matters too. Please click here for the full publication in PDF format.
Migranten im Mittelmeerraum: Schutz der Menschenrechte

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 29-10-2015


Politikbereich: Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Menschenrechte

Schlagwortliste: Drittland | Statistik | Militärmission der EU | Mitgliedstaat der EU | Ausländerrecht | Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Migrant | Wanderschaft | Flüchtling | Außengrenzen der EU | Menschenrechte | Mittelmeer | Überwachung der Meere | internationale Zusammenarbeit | EU-Migrationspolitik | Internationale Organisation für Migration | internationale Konvention | Schengener Abkommen | UNHCR | Agentur der Europäischen Union für Grundrechte | illegale Zuwanderung | Frontex | Europäisches Unterstützungsbüro für Asylfragen


Die Schutzfunktion des Petitionsausschusses im Kontext der Umsetzung des Übereinkommens der Vereinten Nationen über die Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderungen

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 09-10-2015

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Politikbereich: Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Sozialpolitik | Gleichstellungsfragen, Gleichheit und Vielfalt | Beschäftigung | Petitionen an das Europäische Parlament | Demokratie | Öffentliche Gesundheit | Menschenrechte

Schlagwortliste: Betreuung von Pflegebedürftigen | Konvention UNO | europäische Sozialpolitik | Ausschuss EP | Europa der Bürger | Menschenrechte | Hilfsmittel für Behinderte | soziale Integration der Behinderten

Cuba, the USA and the EU: Forging Closer Ties, Looking to the Future

**Art der Veröffentlichung**
Eingehende Analyse

**Kalenderdatum**
30-09-2015

**Verfasser**
Jesper TVEVAD

**Politikbereich**
Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte

**Schlagwortliste**
die Vereinigte Staaten | Reise | Mitgliedstaat der EU | diplomatische Beziehungen | Handelsbeziehungen | Wirtschaftsreform | Gemeinsame Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik | Menschenrechte | Kuba | Aushandlung von Abkommen (EU) | internationale Sanktion | Demokratie | wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit | Zivilgesellschaft

**Zusammenfassung**
On 1 July 2015, Cuba and the United States of America (USA) re-established formal diplomatic links, the culmination so far of the ground-breaking changes that have taken place in relations between the two countries since December 2014. At the same time, relations between Cuba and the EU are enjoying unprecedented momentum. The change in Cuba-US relations and the strengthening of the EU's links with Cuba represent two processes that are different in nature and scope. Despite the changes in US-Cuba relations, full 'normalisation' remains a distant prospect, mostly due to the US economic embargo against Cuba which is likely to remain in place for the foreseeable future. In contrast, the EU and its Member States – which have full diplomatic, economic, and cooperation relations with Cuba – have moved closer than at any time before to the conclusion of a Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) with Cuba.

Both the US government and the EU recognise that stronger links with Cuba will not spark any immediate transformation of the country or lead to rapid political changes or democratic opening. In this regard, the policies to promote closer relations with Cuba, including the conclusion of an EU-Cuba PDCA, could be characterised as an investment in the future.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: 17 Goals Agreed, Now for the Hard Part

**Art der Veröffentlichung**
Briefing

**Kalenderdatum**
23-09-2015

**Verfasser**
Marika LERCH

**Politikbereich**
Globale Ordnungspolitik | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte

**Schlagwortliste**
Armut | Entwicklungsland | internationale Rolle der Union | Verwendung der Hilfe | Datenerhebung | Entwicklungshilfe | dauerhafte Entwicklung | Finanzierung der Hilfe | Bewertung der Hilfe | Hunger | Menschenrechte

**Zusammenfassung**
After more than two years of consultations and negotiations, 193 UN member states agreed on 2 August 2015 to a new sustainable development agenda that is as ambitious as it is fraught with potential pitfalls. Titled 'Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', the agenda will be formally adopted at the UN summit on 25-27 September in New York. With 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), it aims for an economic and societal transformation, integrating all three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. The sectorial scope of the new agenda is enormous, including areas such as migration, industrialisation and energy. The SDGs are universal in nature, creating responsibilities for all countries, spanning domestic development outcomes, assistance to other countries and global public goods. The EU has played a major role in the process and has fought hard for the inclusion of EU values such as human rights and good governance, and for effective implementation and review processes. The ambitious agenda creates implementation challenges at all levels, including indicators and data collection, communication and outreach, the financing challenge and the balance between universality and national ownership.

The Policy on Gender Equality in Netherlands

**Art der Veröffentlichung**
Eingehende Analyse

**Kalenderdatum**
21-09-2015

**Externe Autor**
Janneke PLANTENGA and Chantal REMERY

**Politikbereich**
Gleichstellungsfragen, Gleichheit und Vielfalt | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte

**Schlagwortliste**
Urlaub aus sozialen Gründen | sexuelle Gewalt | die Niederlande | Prostitution | Lage der Frauen | Frauenarbeit | Gleichheit von Mann und Frau | Fortpflanzungsgesundheit | nationales Recht | Gleichbehandlung | Geburtenkontrolle | Teilzeitarbeit | Gleichheit des Arbeitsentgelts | Kinderbetreuung | Beteiligung der Frauen

**Zusammenfassung**
At the request of the FEMM Committee, this note provides an overview of the existing gender-equality legislation and policies in the Netherlands, focussing on their recent developments and achievements. It covers a range of topics including participation in decision making and labour market, reconciliation of work and family life, eradication of gender-based violence, and women's well-being. The Netherlands has a long tradition in emancipation policies and equality legislation. Important policy issues are the high part-time rate which translates in a relatively low participation rate in full time equivalents and the low share of women in top positions.
European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) was established in 2006 to support projects in the area of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to strengthen the rule of law and democratic reform in countries outside the EU. It provides assistance mainly to civil society organisations, and does not require the consent of national authorities.

The Policy on Gender Equality in Ireland - Update 2015

Upon request by the FEMM Committee, this paper explores changes in gender equality legislation, policies and practices in Ireland with particular emphasis on the period from 2012-2015. Gender equality infrastructure, gender gaps in employment, unemployment, poverty and pay rates are analysed and women's level of participation in political, economic and administrative decision-making in Ireland is detailed. Provision of childcare services, as well as the extent to which gender dimensions are taken into account in health and welfare policies, are also examined.

Workers' Rights, Working Conditions, Third Country and Member State Aspects

The Employment and Social Affairs Committee (EMPL) in the European Parliament covers a broad range of topics. As regards employment, its competences include workers' rights and working conditions, health and safety at work, policies to increase labour market participation, vocational training, the free movement of workers and pensioners. Furthermore, it is responsible for all aspects of social policy comprising social protection and social inclusion as well as for the European Social Fund. This leaflet provides abstracts of a compilation of selected papers prepared by the European Parliament's Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policy. Two other notes cover employment challenges and skills as well as social inclusion and protection.

Employment Challenges and Skills

This leaflet provides abstracts of a compilation of selected papers on Employment challenges and skills prepared by the European Parliament’s Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policy. Two other notes cover Workers’ rights, working conditions, third country aspects as well as Social inclusion and protection.
**Social Inclusion and Protection**

**Art der Veröffentlichung** Briefing

**Kalenderdatum** 09-09-2015

**Verfasser** Marion SCHMID-DRÜNER | Susanne KRAATZ


**Schlagwortliste** Arbeitsmarkt | europäische Sozialpolitik | Ausschuss EP | Kampf gegen die Diskriminierung | Eingliederung in den Arbeitsprozess | Integration der Zuwanderer | soziale Sicherheit | soziale Integration | soziale Integration der Behinderten | Bibliografie

**Zusammenfassung** This leaflet provides abstracts of a compilation of selected papers on Social inclusion and protection prepared by the European Parliament's Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policy. Two other notes cover Employment challenges and skills as well as 'Workers' rights, working conditions, third country aspects.

**Briefing** EN

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**Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - September 2015**

**Art der Veröffentlichung** Auf einen Blick

**Kalenderdatum** 07-09-2015

**Politikbereich** Haushalt | Kultur | Völkerrecht | Lebensmittelsicherheit | Internationales Privatrecht und justizielle Zusammenarbeit in Zivilsachen | Binnenmarkt und Zollunion | Vertrags-, Handels- und Gesellschaftsrecht | Petitionen an das Europäische Parlament | Demokratie | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Menschenrechte

**Schlagwortliste** EU-Politik | Ausschuss EP | Fischfang | Fangkontrolle | gemeinsame Fischereipolitik | Bibliografie

**Zusammenfassung** The Monthly Highlights publication provides an overview, at a glance, of the ongoing work of the policy departments, including a selection of the latest and forthcoming publications, and a list of future events.

**Auf einen Blick** EN

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**Analysis of Political Parties’ and Independent Candidates’ Policies for Gender Balance in the European Parliament after the Elections of 2014**

**Art der Veröffentlichung** Studie

**Kalenderdatum** 03-09-2015

**Externe Autor** Katie McCracken (Opcit Research, London, the UK), Joni Lovenduski (Birkbeck College, University of London, the UK), Sergio Marquez (Opcit Research, London, the UK), Will Parry (Opcit Research, London, the UK), Aleksandra Nizynskia (Gender Equality Observatory, Poland), Rėka Varnagne (Corvinus University, Budapest, Hungary), Dalia Ghiliani (European Social Observatory, Brussels, Belgium) and Virginija Šidlauskienė (Siauliai University, Lithuania)

**Politikbereich** Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Gleichstellung, Vielfalt | Bewertung von Rechtsvorschriften und politischen Maßnahmen in der Praxis | Demokratie

**Schlagwortliste** europäischer Abgeordneter | Frankreich | das Vereinigte Königreich | politische Parteien | Lage der Frauen | Belgien | Fallstudie | Wahlergebnis | Gleichheit von Mann und Frau | Spanien | Fraktion (EP) | Wirkungsstudie | Ungarn | Polen | österreichische Wahl | Kampf gegen die Diskriminierung | Litauen | Massenmedium | Beteiligung der Frauen | Schweden | Malta | Statistik der EU

**Zusammenfassung** Upon request by the FEMM Committee, this study explores the results of the 2014 European Parliament elections in terms of gender balance of MEPs. The study uses case studies and statistical analyses of the election results to establish the main barriers to women being elected. The factors explored include the type of electoral system used, political parties’ candidate list selection processes and strategies used by women political candidates. The study presents recommendations for improving gender balance in the European Parliament.

**Studie** EN

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**e-Government: Anwendung von Technologien zur Verbesserung öffentlicher Dienstleistungen und demokratischer Partizipation**

**Art der Veröffentlichung** Eingehende Analyse

**Kalenderdatum** 01-09-2015

**Verfasser** Ron DAVIES

**Politikbereich** Demokratie

**Schlagwortliste** Binnenmarkt | elektronische Signatur | EU-Aktion | Informationstechnologie | grenzüberschreitender Datenverkehr | Finanzierung der EU | Systemverbund | Datenschutz | elektronische Verwaltung | neue Technologie

**Zusammenfassung** Regierungen setzen e-Government und digitale Regierungssstrategien um, um Effizienz zu erhöhen, die Verwaltungslast für Bürger und Unternehmen zu reduzieren, Wirtschaftswachstum zu fördern und die öffentliche Partizipation am demokratischen öffentlichen Leben zu verbessern. Die Europäische Union vereinfacht Binnenmarkt anbieten, und fördert den Austausch bewährter Verfahren zwischen nationalen, regionalen und örtlichen Behörden in Mitgliedstaaten.

**Eingehende Analyse** DE, EN, FR

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Quelle: © Europäische Union, 2021 - EP
The European Year for Development: Demography and Migration

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 27-08-2015
Verfasser: Manuel MANRIQUE GIL
Politikbereich: Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwörter: Bevölkerungsentwicklung | internationale Statistik | Entwicklungsland | internationale Rolle der Union | Wanderung | dauerhafte Entwicklung | UNO | Flüchtling | demografische Analyse

Zusammenfassung: If current trends continue, the world will have 9.7 billion inhabitants in 2050, but population growth will be unequally distributed. The 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development was a milestone that focused on the well-being of individuals, rather than numerical targets. There has been progress promoting human rights, education, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, but rapid urbanisation and climate change represent new challenges. The international community has recognised the need to promote regular, safe and orderly international migration to harness the potential benefits of migration. Contrary to widespread views, emigration rates rise with economic development until countries reach an upper middle income status. The role migration plays in spurring development should be more widely recognised. Human mobility will be integrated in the post-2015 development agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals will include migration-related targets. The EU is addressing the migration-development nexus in its Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, which is implemented through policy dialogues and cooperation projects in third countries. The European Parliament has insisted that the rights of migrants – particularly women – be part of the post-2015 agenda.

Briefing EN

Die Interparlamentarische Versammlung der ASEAN (AIPA): Ein bevorzugter Ansprechpartner des Europäischen Parlaments in Südostasien

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 20-08-2015
Verfasser: Laurence VANDEWALLE
Politikbereich: Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Schlagwörter: Beobachter | parlamentarische Versammlung | Demokratie | politische Befugnis | interparlamentarische Zusammenarbeit | ASEAN-Staaten | Europäisches Parlament | Bestehen der Institution | regionale Integration | ASEAN | Menschenrechte


Eingehende Analyse DE, EN, FR

Review of European and National Election Results. First update: Changes in the EP since November 2014

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 13-08-2015
Verfasser: Jacques NANCY
Politikbereich: Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Demokratie

Zusammenfassung: This document provides an update of the Review of European and National Elections, published in November 2014 by the Public Opinion Monitoring Unit of DG Communication. The Review was dedicated to the results of the European elections of May 2014 and to the history of 35 years of direct elections to the European Parliament since 1979, as well as to the different national elections. This update addresses the changes in the European Parliament since the first edition, notably the replacement of 14 MEPs and the creation of a new political group. It also takes into account the elections held in Member States since November 2014: five legislative elections (DK, EE, EL, FI and UK) and two direct presidential elections (HR, PL).

Studie EN, FR
The EU's Trade Policy: From Gender-Blind to Gender-Sensitive?

Zusammenfassung
The services of the European Commission are currently reflecting on the follow-up to the Strategy for equality between women and men 2010-2015 (COM (2010) final). The EU's trade policy has not yet been fully integrated into this Strategy, providing an opportunity for the INTA committee to consider whether and how gender issues should be dealt with in the context of the EU's trade policies. Article 8 TFEU provides that "in all its activities, the Union shall aim to eliminate inequalities, and to promote equality between men and women." The trade policy issues that are discussed by the European Parliament's INTA committee can have differing gender impacts across the various sectors of the economy. Understanding the gender dimension of trade agreements better will therefore contribute to better policy making and to ensuring that both sexes can take advantage of the benefits of trade liberalisation and be protected from its negative effects.

Major changes in European public opinion towards the EU since1973

Zusammenfassung
This desk research focusses on the major shifts in European public opinion towards the European Union since 1973, when Eurobarometer was created by Jacques-René Rabier. The results are presented in a timeline and illustrate the evolution of citizens' opinion in the key phases the Union's institutional, political, economic and social development. The main findings on the evolution of public opinion in the last 40 years - from 1973 to 2014 - show that it has gone up and down, notably in response to financial, economic and social crises. The major institutional and political staging-posts in the EU's development have generally improved the perception of the EU. This is particularly true of enlargements and elections to the European Parliament. This analysis shows the overriding influence of the economic and social context on public opinion. This is very well illustrated by the financial and economic crisis which began in 2008, prompting a sharp decline in indicators of support for the EU. However, even in this context of crisis, results show that Europeans remain committed to Europe when it comes to basic EU values.

The Policy on Gender Equality in Denmark

Zusammenfassung
Upon request of the FEMM committee, this in-depth analysis updates a previous note published in October 2011 and describes Danish policies, practices and legislation within the area of women's rights and gender equality, covering the period from October 2011, when the Social Democrat-led government took office, to April 2015. During this period, the focus has been put on gender-based violence, leave policies, pay statistics, gender segregation in the labour market and in education, as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights. Earmarked leave for fathers and gender quota on company boards have been on the agenda but not adopted.
The European Year for Development: Children and Youth

**Briefing**

**Art der Veröffentlichung** Briefing

**Kalenderdatum** 01-07-2015

**Verfasser** Manuel MANRIQUE GIL

**Politikbereich** Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten

**Schlagwörter** Armut | Säuglingssterblichkeit | internationale Rolle der Union | dauerhafte Entwicklung | Jugendschutz | UNO | soziale Ausgrenzung | junger Mensch | Unterernährung | Rechte des Kindes | Gleichheit von Mann und Frau | Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst | Primarstufe | europäische Kulturveranstaltung

**Zusammenfassung** Nearly half of all people living in extreme poverty are aged 18 or under. Children and young people are particularly vulnerable to social exclusion, violence and abuse. In 2014 the European Parliament called on the High Representative of the Union to report back to Parliament every year on the results of the EU's child-focused external action. The Parliament had also previously underlined the urgent need for the Union to pay special attention to the most vulnerable and socially excluded girls and boys. International commitments to improve the lives of children are reflected in various Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly the one on infant mortality. One in four children under five (162 million) remains stunted, risking diminished cognitive and physical development. The Parliament recently called on the Commission to scale up its nutrition-specific commitments. The proposed Sustainable Development Goals include numerous targets to improve the situation of children and youth and represent an important leap forward.

Conflict and Cooperation over Water - The Role of the EU in Ensuring the Realisation of Human Rights

**Studie**

**Art der Veröffentlichung** Studie

**Kalenderdatum** 18-06-2015

**Externe Autor** Inga WINKLER (NYU Center for Human Rights & Global Justice, the United States)

**Politikbereich** Umwelt | Forschungspolitik | Sozialpolitik | Verbraucherschutz | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Regionale Entwicklung | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Öffentliche Gesundheit | Menschenrechte

**Schlagwörter** Grundbedürfnisse | internationale Rolle der Union | Wasserversorgung | soziale Rechte | dauerhafte Entwicklung | UNO | Wassernutzung | Wasserverbrauch | Trinkwasser | internationales Recht | Richtlinie EG | Ägypten | Lateinamerika | Grundwasser | Menschenrechte | sozialer Konflikt | Wasserversorgung | grenzüberschreitende Zusammenarbeit | Kampf gegen die Diskriminierung | Wasserbedarf | Ostafrika | Naher und Mittlerer Osten

**Zusammenfassung** The human right to water has been firmly established and its implications for policy-making have been discussed in many fields. Thus far, this has hardly been the case for conflicts over water. This study discusses what it means to integrate human rights in the context of governing water and addressing conflicts over water. A human rights perspective on conflicts over water will help formulating equitable water governance strategies. To support such developments, the EU should integrate human rights in policies and other measures to address water conflicts at all levels. The EU’s activities should be guided by the human rights principles of non-discrimination and equality; participation and access to information; accountability and access to justice; and a priority for water uses as far as they are necessary for the realisation of human rights. This relates to internal legislation and policies, development cooperation, engagement in transboundary basins, political dialogues with partner countries, international fora such as the UN Human Rights Council, and the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. The European Parliament, specifically, should support such initiatives with resolutions, engagement in UN and inter-parliamentary fora, and enhancement of public awareness.

EU-Turkey relations [What Think Tanks are thinking]

**Auf einen Blick**

**Art der Veröffentlichung** Auf einen Blick

**Kalenderdatum** 15-06-2015

**Verfasser** Marcin CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI

**Politikbereich** Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten

**Schlagwörter** Beziehungen der Union | politische Lage | die Türkei | Informationsverbreitung (EU) | Verzeichnis | Parlamentswahl | Beitritt zur Europäischen Union

**Zusammenfassung** Turkey’s ruling AKP party won the 7 June parliamentary election, but lost its majority in the house, opening the way for talks on a coalition government and plunging the country into uncertainty. The vote ended more than a decade of single-party rule in the EU candidate country and dealt a blow to President Tayyip Erdogan’s ambitions for a more powerful executive role. It is expected to have many implications, including on EU-Turkey relations. This note offers links to commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on recent developments in Turkey, and the relations between the EU and Turkey. Please click here for the full publication in PDF format.
Towards More Effective Global Humanitarian Action: How the EU Can Contribute

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in May 2016 will be the culmination of a global consultation process. The three-year initiative responds to the need to adapt the humanitarian system in order to make humanitarian action more efficient and effective in keeping pace with the rapidly changing context of emergencies. Consultations leading up to the Summit have provided the opportunity to gain perspectives from different regions of the world. As a result, three main priorities have been highlighted: the need for humanitarians to protect and preserve the dignity of people affected by conflict and disaster; a call to find innovative and sustainable ways of meeting people's needs; and a demand from the global South to 'localise' humanitarian response by strengthening local, national and regional capacities to prevent, manage and respond to crisis. There is potential for the European Union (EU) to take a leadership role in the process and influence the WHS outcome. ECHO’s new need assessment tools and the Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) as well as Resilience approaches offer a framework for responding to the challenges posed by protracted crises. This study recommends that the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid be applied as a model for a 'Global Consensus on Humanitarian Action' or a 'Global Compact' recognising the diversity of today's humanitarian response system while taking advantage of all actors' complementary role. Furthermore, the EU and member states must commit to placing protection at the centre of humanitarian action and ensure that the EU’s humanitarian aid is not regarded as a crisis management tool, and allowed to become an instrument of its foreign policy.

Studie EN

Bosnia and Herzegovina: The 'Sejdić-Finci' case

The 7-8 June 2015 Group of Seven (G7) summit in Schloss Elmau (Germany) marked the second meeting of seven leading industrialised nations without Russia since the disbanding of the Group of Eight (G8). The group's smaller configuration – a response to Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea – appears here to stay. The summit provided an opportunity for G7 leaders to discuss a number of topics pertaining to foreign policy, economy, health, energy, climate and sustainable development, Ukraine and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) featured prominently on the meeting's agenda, as did discussions on to the post-2015 development and climate agendas. The revival of the G7 has served to ensure its members’ unity on key policy files, shape joint policy responses and influence EU policies and global governance, particularly through its nexus with the Group of 20 (G20), the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The German presidency of G7 has been praised its inclusive approach ahead of the summit, with consultations conducted with non-governmental stakeholders.

G7 Summit in Schloss Elmau: A Tighter Agenda, with Wider Impact?

EN

Art der Veröffentlichung Studie
Kalenderdatum 15-06-2015
Externe Autor Cristina Churruga Muguruz (Institute of Human Rights, University of Deusto, NOHA Network of Universities in Humanitarian Action, Spain)
Politikbereich Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste humanitäre Hilfe | ECHO | Afrika | internationale Rolle der Union | internationales Treffen | Asien | Finanzierung der Hilfe | Bewertung der Hilfe | Naher und Mittlerer Osten

Zusammenfassung

Towards More Effective Global Humanitarian Action: How the EU Can Contribute

Bosnia and Herzegovina: The 'Sejdić-Finci' case

G7 Summit in Schloss Elmau: A Tighter Agenda, with Wider Impact?
TTIP Negotiations: Challenges and Opportunities for Europe - Compilation of 8 At a Glance Notes

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 09-06-2015
Verfasser: Kendra PENGELLY | Mariusz MACIEJEWSKI | Iveta OZOLINA

Zusammenfassung: Compilation of 8 at-a-glance notes on 'TTIP: Opportunities and challenges', prepared by the Policy Department A for the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection cover 8 sectors:
- services,
- public procurement,
- technical barriers to trade, including standards,
- customs and trade facilitation,
- consumer protection,
- textiles and labelling,
- motor vehicles and engineering, including machinery.

The analyses done on the opportunities and challenges Europe faces with regard to the negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). They examine options of the TTIP from the point of view of EU offensive and defensive interests.

The European Year for Development: Sustainable Growth

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 03-06-2015
Verfasser: Marika LERCH

Zusammenfassung: Economic growth is a key driver of poverty reduction, but its impact on the poor depends on growth patterns and policies. It is increasingly accepted that economic growth that advances development must be both socially inclusive and ecologically sustainable. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are expected to contain a goal on sustainable and inclusive growth. Some have challenged the revived focus on growth, both for ecological reasons and because they argue that wellbeing is not fully reflected in GDP figures. EU development policy has focused on sustainable and inclusive growth since 2011, with more attention devoted to trade, private sector engagement and promoting a favourable business environment. The European Parliament has recognised the role of growth in achieving development objectives, but insists on the need to include the most deprived and vulnerable, and on combating inequality.

2014 European Elections: Profile of voters and non-voters

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 02-06-2015
Verfasser: Jacques NANCY

Zusammenfassung: A few months after the 2014 European elections, the time has come to examine in depth the reasons for participation and abstention in the contest. The Directorate-General for Communication in the European Parliament has commissioned desk research to analyse the electoral behaviour of voters and non-voters, in order to better understand the reasons underlying their decision either to vote or abstain, and to analyse their attitudes and opinions regarding the EU.

This document is based on a post-election survey of more than 27,000 Europeans over the age of 18 (16 in Austria), carried out by TNS Opinion a few days after the vote, between 30 May and 27 June 2014. It is divided in three parts: the desk research on voters and non-voters, and two series of factsheets per EU Member State, one dedicated to voters and another to non-voters. For Belgium, Luxembourg (compulsory vote for both countries) and Malta (high level of turnout), a factsheet on non-voters is not provided, given the low number of non-voters. ***This document is available in all EU official languages in the Eurobarometer page of Europarl.
The European Year for Development: Peace and Stability

Art der Veröffentlichung Briefing
Kalenderdatum 07-05-2015
Verfasser Manuel MANRIQUE GIL
Politikbereich Globale Ordnungspolitik | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste Armutsprogramme der EU | Herbeiführung des Friedens | Militärmissionen der EU | internationale Rolle der Union | die Zentralafrikanische Republik | EEF | Finanzierung der EU | Konfliktprävention | Rechtsstaat | Sahel | Entwicklungshilfe | Horn von Afrika

Zusammenfassung Conflict and poverty have a circular relation: violence negatively affects development and vice versa – poverty is often one of the root causes of conflict, which include poverty, weak governance and human rights abuses. The EU increasingly works to better harmonise its security and development objectives, as well as to coordinate its external policy tools in a 'comprehensive approach'. The European Parliament (EP) has welcomed this cooperation, while also asking that anti-poverty objectives not be marginalised, and that humanitarian aid not serve political ends. The EU has dedicated financial instruments for promoting peace; they include the African Peace Facility and the Instrument contributing to Security and Peace. The EP has also underscored the need for a long-term engagement with fragile states and for ensuring that women participate in resolving conflicts and building democracy.

The Policy on Gender Equality in the Czech Republic

Art der Veröffentlichung Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum 04-05-2015
Externe Autor Kristina Koldinska
Politikbereich Gleichstellungsfragen, Gleichheit und Vielfalt | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste nationale Statistik | Tschechien | häusliche Gewalt | Lage der Frauen | Menschenhandel | Erziehungsurlaub | Frauenarbeit | Gleichheit zwischen Mann und Frau | nationales Recht | Gleichbehandlung | Gleichheit des Arbeitsentgelts | Kinderbetreuung | Beteiligung der Frauen | Entscheidungsprozess

Zusammenfassung Upon request by the FEMM Committee, this report provides an overview of the existing gender-equality legislation and policies in the Czech Republic, focusing on the recent developments and achievements. It discusses gender equality in employment, reconciliation of work and family life, presence of women in decision-making positions, recent measures to fight violence against women, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The Czech Republic is still far from reaching real equality between men and women, in spite of a quite satisfactory level of implementation of EU legislation. In practice and daily life, the country has still a long way to go.

Press freedom in the EU: Legal framework and challenges

Art der Veröffentlichung Briefing
Kalenderdatum 30-04-2015
Verfasser Eva-Maria Alexandrova POPTCHEVA
Politikbereich Demokratie
Schlagwortliste Selbstkontrolle auf freiwilliger Basis | Redefreiheit | Medienpluralismus | Beruf in der Kommunikationsbranche | Europäischer Gerichtshof für Menschenrechte | Berufsethos | Pressefreiheit | Europäische Menschenrechtskonvention | Demokratie | Rechtsprechung (EU)

Zusammenfassung Freedom of expression and information, as well as the freedom of the press, which provides the most powerful platform for the first two, contribute significantly to the formation of public opinion, thus allowing people to make informed choices in their political decisions. These freedoms are therefore essential for democracy, which is one of the fundamental values common to all Member States, on which the European Union is founded (Article 2 TEU). Within the EU legal framework, press freedom is a fundamental right established in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, with its provision closely resembling that on press freedom in the European Convention on Human Rights.

At EU level media freedom was long dealt with purely relative to the Single Market, and thus from a rather economic point of view. However, the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU), for its part, started to see the importance of media pluralism very early, not only for the free movement of services across the EU but also in order to ensure a pluralism in views. The Court’s rulings underlined the importance of media pluralism and media freedom not only for the internal market but also for democracy in the EU.

The European Parliament has repeatedly advocated press freedom and media pluralism in the EU and abroad. It has recently addressed the issue of the effectiveness of press freedom as an EU fundamental right and an objective EU value, in view of the scarce possibility for the EU institutions to act to enforce respect for EU fundamental rights and values by Member States.

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 22-04-2015
Verfasser: Manuel MANRIQUE GIL
Politikbereich: Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Sicherheit und Verteidigung | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste: die Vereinigten Staaten | internationale Rolle der Union | Beziehungen zwischen AKP und EU | dauerhafte Entwicklung | Handelsbeziehungen | Wirtschaftsbeziehungen | Afrikanische Union | China | Sicherheit einer geografischen Region | Auslandsinvestition | Afrika | internationale Zusammenarbeit | Entwicklungshilfe | Übereinkommen von Cotonou | Beilegung der Streitigkeiten
Zusammenfassung: The seventh College-to-College meeting between the European Commission and the African Union Commission underscores the close cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Africa. Institutional and political relations have intensified in recent years, coinciding with a renewed international interest in an African continent whose economic growth in the past decade has been remarkably strong. The United States (US) and China have also recently strengthened their links with Africa. While these three actors frame their relations with Africa in different ways, their interests converge around two broad areas: i) Africa’s economic potential and the need to intensify trade and investment to generate economic growth and development; and ii) concerns about peace and security – and notably the threats posed by armed conflict and terrorist groups. In light of this renewed international interest and other important factors – including the expiry of the Cotonou Agreement in 2020 – the European Parliament should embark on an ambitious and strategic political reflection on the EU’s relations with Africa. Parliament should recognise both the potential and vulnerabilities of the continent, as well as the EU’s own varied interests across policy areas. Alongside other actors, including the US and China, Parliament should also work to ensure that Africa finds its due place in the changing international order.

Surveillance and Censorship: The Impact of Technologies on Human Rights

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 16-04-2015
Externe Autor: Ben WAGNER, Joanna BRONOWICKA, Catheleen BERGER and Thomas BEHRNDT (Centre for Internet and Human Rights, European University Viadrina, Germany)
Politikbereich: Sozialpolitik | Demokratie | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste: Drittland | Kommunikationskontrolle | Rechtspflichtigkeit | Schutz der Privatsphäre | internationale Rolle der Union | Versammlungsfreiheit | Religionsfreiheit | soziale Rechte | internationale Menschenrechtsnormen | Wassenaar-Abkommen | Internet | Exterritorialität | Informationsgesellschaft | OSZE | Auswirkungen der Informationstechnologie | Europarat
Zusammenfassung: As human lives transition online, so do human rights. The main challenge for the European Union and other actors is to transition all human rights to the digital sphere. This report argues that the human rights-based approach can be helpful in focusing discussions about security on individuals rather than states. It provides an overview of countries and companies that pose risks to human rights in the digital sphere. It lists the most relevant international laws and standards, technical standards, business guidelines, Internet principles and policy initiatives that have been crucial in transitioning the human rights regime to the digital sphere. It also analyses the impact of recent EU actions related to Internet and human rights issues. It concludes that different elements of EU strategic policy on human rights and digital policy need be better integrated and coordinated to ensure that technologies have a positive impact on human rights. The report concludes that EU should promote digital rights in national legislation of the third countries, but also in its own digital strategies.

The European Citizens’ Initiative: the experience of the first three years - European Implementation Assessment

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 15-04-2015
Verfasser: Irmgard ANGLMAYER
Politikbereich: Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Bewertung von Rechtsvorschriften und politischen Maßnahmen in der Praxis | Demokratie
Schlagwortliste: Vereinfachung der Rechtsvorschriften | Petition | Verwaltungsformalität | Anwendung des EU-Rechts | politische Mitbestimmung | Gesetzesinitiative | europäische Staatsbürgerschaft
Zusammenfassung: The European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI) has been in operation since April 2012. Observers have identified a number of shortcomings in its implementation, which impact negatively on the effectiveness and acceptance of this relatively new instrument of transnational participatory democracy. Against this background, stakeholders are calling for simplification and a substantial revision of the current ECI framework and its application, including its implementation in the EU Member States.

On 31 March 2015, the Commission presented its first report on the application of the ECI Regulation. While it concluded that it considered the ECI to be fully implemented, it however listed a few areas for improvement.

It is widely expected that this review, together with the European Ombudsman’s recent recommendations, will prompt a revision of that regulation.

This paper seeks to provide a systematic overview of the current weaknesses in the ECI process and puts forward concrete recommendations for a better functioning ECI.
Gleichstellungspolitik in Deutschland

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 15-04-2015
Externe Autor: Elisabeth Botsch
Politikbereich: Gleichstellungsfragen, Gleichheit und Vielfalt | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste: sexuelle Gewalt | häusliche Gewalt | Prostitution | Menschenhandel | Familienpolitik | Erziehung | Beschäftigung | Frauenarbeit | Gleichheit von Mann und Frau | Landesrecht | Deutschland | Fortpflanzungsgesundheit | nationales Recht | Gleichbehandlung | Gleichheit des Arbeitsentgelts | Beteiligung der Frauen | Kinderbetreuung | Entscheidungsprozess | Abtreibung


Candidate Selection Procedures for the European Elections

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 15-04-2015
Externe Autor: PILLET Jean-Benoit, VAN HAUTE Emilie and KELBEL Camille
Politikbereich: Vorausplanung | Demokratie
Schlagwortliste: Fraktion (EP) | europäischer Abgeordneter | politische Parteien | Kandidat | europäische Wahl | Datenerhebung | Wahlkreiserteilung | Mitgliedstaat der EU | vergleichende Studie | Parteiorganisation

Zusammenfassung: The Study provides a systematic and thorough account of candidate selection procedures for the European elections. It covers four aspects: (1) a general overview of candidate selection procedures in the major parties of all EU Member States; (2) a detailed account of the candidate selection procedures for a sample of countries/parties, based on an analysis of the formal and informal practices; (3) an investigation into the relations between national political parties, political groups in the EP, and the European political parties; and (4) the provision of recommendations as to how to improve the democratic quality of candidate selection for the European elections.

History of budgetary powers in the EU. Part I: European Coal and Steel Community 1952-2002

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 13-04-2015
Verfasser: Alfredo DE FEO
Politikbereich: Demokratie

Zusammenfassung: This study is the first part of a series which will analyse inter-institutional relations in the budgetary domain, with a particular focus on the evolution of the role of the European Parliament. The ECSC and its budget was a very interesting case with its specific features – autonomy of the executive, a fiscal mechanism, and the capacity to contract loans and lend money. Was this approach successful? Why were these mechanisms not replicated in the European Community? To what extent did the struggles of the Assembly of the ECSC influence the subsequent Treaties? Those are some of the questions that the study will try to answer. The study will also highlight how the ECSC was ahead of its time, as the solutions found for certain problems were, in some cases, similar to debates decades later. The various studies in the European Union History series are primarily based on documents preserved in, and made available to the public by, the Historical Archives of the European Parliament.
Developing Operational Tools within the EU for a Comprehensive Approach to Prevent Electoral Violence

This paper discusses how EU institutions can better prevent electoral violence through a more coherent approach. Brief background on the root causes and triggers of electoral violence is provided and the role of early warning and conflict analysis in planning a strategic response is considered. The paper addresses the role of EU Election Observation Missions (EOMs) in conflict situations and the need to develop other tools for expressing political support for elections in conflict-affected states, where conditions for effective observation are lacking. The paper also considers the broad range of possible responses (political and technical) that EU institutions can implement to address both long-term structural causes of electoral violence as well as short-term triggers during the election period. The paper makes a number of recommendations including: (i) a more coherent approach across EU institutions to electoral violence; (ii) much earlier attention to elections that are at risk of violence; (iii) a wider range of tools to avoid over-reliance on EU EOMs; (iv) support for a broad range of stakeholders to address both root causes and triggers of electoral violence; and (v) strengthened capacity of EU Delegations to assess the risk of electoral violence and coordinate actions to prevent and mitigate it.

Cost of Corruption in Developing Countries – How Effectively is Aid Being Spent?

Corruption undermines development and reduces the effectiveness of development aid. Illicit financial flows are a consequence of flourishing corrupt practices, often amongst the rich in society. Such flows, estimated at USD1 trillion a year, drain the resources that should be invested in improving developing countries, thus hurting poor people disproportionately.

The EU has invested much in curbing corruption in member-, candidate, accession- and to some extent neighbouring countries, but has so far had a strategic vacuum and minimal operational investments in anti-corruption initiatives in developing countries in general. Emphasis has been on safeguarding own funds, but as the EU often delegates implementation to other actors this is an inefficient and incomplete approach. The EU needs to strengthen national anti-corruption systems in developing countries, and those of its implementing partners. This will require a renewed strategy process with a focus on the special characteristics of developing countries, as well as internal change management efforts to ensure that EU policies are aligned and that EU institutions are adequately resourced to implement their tasks.
The Policy on Gender Equality in Poland - Update March 2015

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 16-03-2015
Externe Autor: Dorota Szelewa (Institute of Social Policy, Warsaw University and ICRA Foundation, Warsaw, Poland)
Politikbereich: Gleichstellungsfragen, Gleichheit und Vielfalt | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste: häusliche Gewalt | Lage der Frauen | Menschenhandel | Erziehungsurlaub | Frauenarbeit | Gleichheit von Mann und Frau | Familienplanung | Polen | Fortpflanzungsgesundheit | Gleichheit des Arbeitsentgelts | Kinderbetreuung | Zugang zur Beschäftigung | politische Mitbestimmung

Zusammenfassung: Upon request of the FEMM committee, this in-depth analysis presents a review of the most important legislation, institutional arrangements and policy programs with regard to gender equality in Poland. In particular, the following policy fields are covered: women in political decision-making, reproductive rights, trafficking in human beings and domestic violence, access to different forms of employment, as well as the policies addressing the reconciliation of work and family life. The final section describes the problem of public attitudes towards gender and gives examples of programs aimed at countering gender stereotypes.

Eingehende Analyse: EN, PL

Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world, 2013

Art der Veröffentlichung: Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum: 06-03-2015
Verfasser: Joanna APAP
Politikbereich: Demokratie | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste: Tätigkeitsbericht | Generalversammlung UNO | parlamentarische Kontrolle | internationale Rolle der Union | Zuständigkeit des EP | Informationsverbreitung (EU) | Demokratie | Gemeinsame Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik | Menschenrechte

Zusammenfassung: Human rights and the promotion of democracy worldwide are top priorities for the European Parliament. They fall under the remit of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and of its Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI), which discusses both topical and standing issues in this field in depth.

Auf einen Blick: EN

The Policy on Gender Equality in Slovenia

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 05-03-2015
Externe Autor: Živa Humer and Saša Panić (Mirovni inštitut / Peace Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia)
Politikbereich: Gleichstellungsfragen, Gleichheit und Vielfalt | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste: Arbeitszeitgestaltung | Slowenien | häusliche Gewalt | Lage der Frauen | Menschenhandel | Erziehungsurlaub | Frauenarbeit | Gleichheit von Mann und Frau | Fortpflanzungsgesundheit | nationales Recht | Gleichbehandlung | Beteiligung der Frauen | Kinderbetreuung | Frauenbewegung | Entscheidungsprozess | künstliche Fortpflanzung | Abtreibung

Zusammenfassung: Upon request by the FEMM Committee, this analysis provides an overview of the existing Slovenian legislation and policies concerning gender equality. It looks into the situation as regards gender equality in several areas, including employment, reconciliation of work and private life, presence of women in decision-making positions, measures to combat gender-based violence and trafficking in human beings, as well as the area of sexual and reproductive rights. While progress in various areas can be noted, there are still gaps that need to be addressed.

Studie: EN, SL

The Policy on Gender Equality in Sweden

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 05-03-2015
Externe Autor: Ann Numhauser-Henning
Politikbereich: Gleichstellungsfragen, Gleichheit und Vielfalt | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste: sexuelle Gewalt | Prostitution | Lage der Frauen | Erziehungsurlaub | soziale Sicherheit | Frauenarbeit | Gleichheit von Mann und Frau | Fortpflanzungsgesundheit | nationales Recht | Gleichbehandlung | Gleichheit des Arbeitsentgelts | Beteiligung der Frauen | Schweden | Entscheidungsprozess | Abtreibung

Zusammenfassung: Upon request of the FEMM committee, this note provides an overview of the situation of women's rights and gender equality in Sweden focussing on recent developments. It notably covers the areas of equal participation in decision-making, women in the labour market, reconciliation of private and professional life, eradication of gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender stereotypes and promotion of gender equality in external development policies.

Studie: EN, SV
The European Year for Development: Women and Girls

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 23-02-2015
Verfasser: Marika LERCH
Politikbereich: Haushalt | Gleichstellungsfragen, Gleichheit und Vielfalt | Globale Ordnungspolitik | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Schlagwortliste: Entwicklungspolitik | sexuelle Diskriminierung | Gleichbehandlung | Entwicklungshilfe | Gewalt | Beteiligung der Frauen | Lage der Frauen | europäische Kulturveranstaltung | Gleichheit von Mann und Frau
Zusammenfassung: Economic and political discrimination undermines women’s opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and marginalisation. International development cooperation recognises the importance of gender equality, to promote both human rights and sustainable development. Official aid focused on gender equality has tripled since 2002. The concrete situation of women and girls varies tremendously between countries and regions. Gender equality is a fundamental principle of European integration, and has been integrated in EU development cooperation. EU development aid focusing on gender equality doubled between 2009 and 2012. The EP has called for a strong focus on women and girls in the post-2015 development framework. Parliament has established internal structures to ensure that gender equality is ‘mainstreamed’ throughout its work.

Briefing EN

Parliament's investigative powers - Committees of inquiry and special committees

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 19-02-2015
Verfasser: Eva-Maria Alexandrova POPTCHEVA
Politikbereich: Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Demokratie
Zusammenfassung: In the aftermath of the ‘LuxLeaks’ scandal relating to tax evasion by multinational companies through Luxembourg, Ireland, Belgium and the Netherlands, Parliament decided to set up a ‘special committee’ to look into unfair tax practices in the EU. 188 MEPs had originally requested a committee be established, but the Conference of Presidents found that the legal conditions to set up a committee of inquiry would not be met in this case. Parliament’s right of inquiry is an important instrument for the exercise of its control functions. Parliament's investigative powers, however, fall short of the powers of committees of inquiry in national parliaments, which have quasi-judicial investigative tools at their disposal. Committees of inquiry are limited to examinations of alleged contraventions and maladministration in the implementation of EU law, thus excluding evidence-gathering about general subjects and inquiries into actions by third-country authorities. ‘Special committees’, on the other hand, can be set up for any parliamentary inquiry and have thus been used more often by Parliament. Although they are not equipped with formal powers, special committees conduct their inquiries using the same investigative mechanisms as committees of inquiry.

The Lisbon Treaty conferred on Parliament the power to propose and adopt a binding regulation on the inquiry rules. A proposal put forward by Parliament during the last parliamentary term met with opposition from both Council and Commission, which claimed that Parliament sought to extend its right of inquiry excessively. The Committee on Constitutional Affairs has appointed a rapporteur to continue the trilogue negotiations in a bid to obtain the consent of the Council and the Commission.

Briefing EN

Afghanistan: human rights situation

Art der Veröffentlichung: Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum: 18-02-2015
Verfasser: Jacques LECARTE
Politikbereich: Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste: Folter | Rede freiheit | politische Lage | Todesstrafe | Lage der Frauen | Rechte der Frau | Menschenrechte | Afghanistan | Ratifizierung eines Abkommens | Terrorismus | Zwangs wanderung | internationale Konvention | Freitod
Zusammenfassung: The human rights gains made over the past 12 years in Afghanistan are increasingly under threat with a resurgence of violence, and women’s rights in particular being degraded. The EU is deeply concerned by the country’s deteriorating situation.

Auf einen Blick EN

Tajikistan: human rights situation

Art der Veröffentlichung: Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum: 18-02-2015
Verfasser: Jacques LECARTE
Politikbereich: Kommunikationskontrolle | Folter | politische Lage | Religionsfreiheit | häusliche Gewalt | Recht der freien Meinungsausübung | Lage der Frauen | Menschenrechte | Tadschikistan | Konvention UNO | politische Opposition | Beziehungen der Union | Unabhängigkeit der Justiz
Schlagwortliste: Entwicklungspolitik | sexuelle Diskriminierung | Gleichbehandlung | Entwicklungshilfe | Gewalt | Beteiligung der Frauen | Lage der Frauen | europäische Kulturveranstaltung | Gleichheit von Mann und Frau
Zusammenfassung: The human rights situation in Tajikistan raises a number of concerns, especially regarding the use of torture and the violation of women's rights. The UN and the EU are closely monitoring the situation.

Auf einen Blick EN
**Turkmenistan: human rights situation**

Since 2007, under the Government of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, no significant improvements regarding human rights and civil liberties in Turkmenistan have been observed by international human rights organisations. The EU is concerned by the situation and closely monitors human rights issues through a permanent dialogue on human rights with Turkmenistan authorities.

**Uzbekistan: human rights situation**

Uzbekistan's human rights record is widely decried. A UN report has described the use of torture as 'systematic'. An EP resolution calls on the EU High Representative, the EEAS and EU Member States to push Uzbekistan to make tangible human rights improvements.

**Kazakhstan: human rights situation**

PDF Version Kazakhstan has a poor human rights record which includes areas of concern such as freedom of expression, women's rights, the prevention of torture and ill-treatment of detainees, the regulatory framework for civil society organisations, and freedom of religion or belief. The European Parliament continues to call on the EU to closely monitor developments in the country.

**Kyrgyzstan: human rights situation**

In a region surrounded by authoritarian regimes, Kyrgyzstan is the only Central Asian country which appears relatively democratic. However, the United Nations (UN) and the EU are calling for further improvements to address human rights concerns such as the need for inter-ethnic reconciliation, and the significant role played by civil society and human rights defenders as key factors for the country's long-term development.
The European Year for Development: Education

**Zusammenfassung**

Access to quality education is essential for development: estimates suggest global poverty could drop by 12% if all children in low income countries could read. The European Parliament has called for gender equality in education and for providing vulnerable groups special attention. The percentage of aid devoted to education has remained constant. While amounts increased between 2002 and 2010, they have begun to decline since. Global net enrolment for primary education grew from 83% to 90% between 2000 and 2012. But progress is uneven: 58 million children are out of school, often because of poverty, location, gender or conflict. Half the children who do not attend school live in regions affected by conflict. The EU institutions spent EUR 4.2 billion on education in 2007-2013. The EP recognises the need to:

- guarantee education for women and girls,
- pay attention to emergency situations, and
- build 'knowledge-based' societies that encourage citizens to participate.

Briefing EN

The European Year for Development: Europe in the World

**Zusammenfassung**

The world has changed in recent years, in ways that have undermined the traditional development model. The new ‘Sustainable Development Goals’ (SDGs) – to be agreed in September 2015 by the UN – will need to reflect these new realities and emerging challenges. A majority of the world's poorest people live in developing countries, where aid represents only a small percentage of all development financing. Aid remains important: its exclusive goal is promoting development, and it composes a large share of low income countries' development financing. The EU's new development policy aims to focus aid on the poorest countries. The European Parliament (EP) has welcomed this, while warning about the criteria used to judged countries' need. Together, the EU and its Member States remain the world's largest donor, although they contribute far less than the 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) to which Member States committed. The EP has called on the EU to meet its commitments and adopt concrete measures to make internal policies coherent with development objectives.

Briefing EN

Democratic Change in Central and Eastern Europe 1989-90

**Zusammenfassung**

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;

Studie EN
**Yemen in Crises: What Role for the EU**

On 16 December 2014 the newly appointed European Commission adopted its Work Programme for the year ahead (2015 CWP). Based on the political guidelines set out by its President, Jean-Claude Juncker, the Programme forms the basis for the Commission’s work in putting these ten priorities into effect. The procedures and timetable governing the European Parliament's role in this annual exercise are well-established and are laid out in detail in the 2010 Framework Agreement between the European Parliament and Commission. Nonetheless, the current exercise takes place in a markedly different context to those in the past, notably as a result of the process by which the Commission President was nominated as candidate and elected to office being more transparent and political than before. This stemmed from the introduction of 'lead candidates' (Spitzenkandidaten) in the 2014 European election campaign, an innovation aimed at giving voters a more direct influence over the future political direction of the European executive.

In comparison with previous years, the 2015 CWP contains relatively few new proposals (only 23), though it also lists a large number of pending proposals to be withdrawn or modified. This reflects the Commission’s stated intention to concentrate its efforts on a smaller number of priorities such as jobs and growth, and to focus on initiatives where it feels that concrete results can be delivered in the near term. Initial reaction from within the EP to the 2015 CWP has been mixed. While a large number of Members have broadly welcomed the thrust towards a slimmed-down package focussing on essentials, concerns have been raised about various issues, notably the scope and content of proposed withdrawals. None of the resolutions tabled by the political groups on the 2015 CWP achieved the majority necessary for adoption at the January I plenary session, so the EP has not adopted a formal position on the matter.

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**Ukraine: Political Parties and the EU**

Ukraine's political landscape mirrors the country's deep divide between the West and Russia. The main result of the parliamentary elections on 26 October 2014 was the victory of Ukraine's pro-European parties. The 'European Ukraine Coalition' took office amid mounting economic and (Russian) military pressure on one side, and urgent calls for reforms and 'lustration' on the other.

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**European Commission's 2015 Work Programme**

**Art der Veröffentlichung:** Briefing

**Kalenderdatum:** 23-01-2015

**Verfasser:** Ariane DEBYSER | Eva-Maria Alexandrova POPTCHEVA | Etienne BASSOT

**Politikbereich:** Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Demokratie

**Schlagwortliste:** Binnenmarkt | Wirtschafts- und Währungsunion | Klimaschutzpolitik | Energiepolitik | EU-Migrationspolitik | Gesetzgebungsprogramm (EU) | Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Handelsabkommen (EU) | Interinstitutionelle Beziehungen (EU) | Vorschlag (EU)

**Zusammenfassung:** On 16 December 2014 the newly appointed European Commission adopted its Work Programme for the year ahead (2015 CWP). Based on the political guidelines set out by its President, Jean-Claude Juncker, the Programme forms the basis for the Commission's work in putting these ten priorities into effect. The procedures and timetable governing the European Parliament's role in this annual exercise are well-established and are laid out in detail in the 2010 Framework Agreement between the European Parliament and Commission. Nonetheless, the current exercise takes place in a markedly different context to those in the past, notably as a result of the process by which the Commission President was nominated as candidate and elected to office being more transparent and political than before. This stemmed from the introduction of 'lead candidates' (Spitzenkandidaten) in the 2014 European election campaign, an innovation aimed at giving voters a more direct influence over the future political direction of the European executive.

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**Quelle:** © Europäische Union, 2021 - EP
Stakeholder, Parliamentary and Third Country Concerns about the EU-Canada Comprehensive Trade and Economic Agreement (CETA)

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 16-12-2014
Verfasser: Wanda TROSZCZYNSKA VAN GENDEREN

Zusammenfassung: The EU-Canada Comprehensive Trade and Economic Agreement (CETA) – covering a plethora of issues, including market access, tariffs and non-tariff barriers – has elicited varied reactions from stakeholders. Business associations on both sides of the Atlantic have strongly supported the deal and its aim to boost economic relations between the partners. On the other hand, some civil society groups, trade unions and agricultural associations have voiced hesitations about some of the deal’s provisions and its impact on the agricultural sector, the job market and quality of public services. CETA negotiations have also provided civil society an opportunity to discuss indirectly related issues, including visa policies, data privacy and the EU ban on the trade in seal products. Both the European and Canadian Parliaments have actively monitored the negotiations and provided opportunities for stakeholders to express their opinions. While consultation and public outreach now appears to have resolved most hurdles, criticism about the negotiations’ transparency and inclusiveness – as well as concerns about the inclusion of investment protection clauses – have not entirely abated. Turkey and Canada’s partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement (the US and Mexico) also have distinct reasons to fear the impact of CETA on their own economies.

Assoziierungsabkommen EU-Georgien

Art der Veröffentlichung: Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum: 05-12-2014
Verfasser: Naja BENTZEN
Politikbereich: Internationaler Handel | Globale Ordnungspolitik | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Sicherheit und Verteidigung
Schlagwortliste: Europäische Nachbarschaftspolitik | Freihandelszone | Wirtschaftsreform | Gemischtes Gremium (EU) | politische Reform | EU-Visumpolitik | Ratifizierung eines Abkommens | Hoheitsrecht | Georgien | die Russische Föderation | Unterzeichnung eines Abkommens | Assoziationsabkommen (EU) | Beilegung der Streitigkeiten


ACP-EU Relations after 2020: State of Play

Art der Veröffentlichung: Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum: 01-12-2014
Verfasser: Manuel MANRIQUE GIL
Politikbereich: Internationaler Handel | Globale Ordnungspolitik | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Schlagwortliste: Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst | Entwicklungspolitik | Süd-Süd-Zusammenarbeit | Beziehungen zwischen AKP und EU | Europäischer Kommissar | Übereinkommen von Cotonou | AKP-EU-Institution

Zusammenfassung: The question of the form of post-2020 relations between the EU and ACP countries will soon acquire political visibility. The ACP group of states has established an Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to examine the options for the future of the ACP group and the post-Cotonou situation. The forthcoming EPG report aims to advance realistic, doable and reachable recommendations that will require political support from the highest level. The EU development Commissioner has noted the possibility of agreeing overarching principles with ACP countries, coupled with specific regional programmes. A public consultation will take place in 2015. A potential division exists between EU Member States favouring the status quo and those seeking to establish a new framework. The JPA should ensure that a strong parliamentary branch is part of the new framework – whatever form the framework takes. An ambitious JPA position could play a role in shaping future ACP-EU relations.

Quelle: © Europäische Union, 2021 - EP
Burkina: One Old Regime Down, More to Fall?

Zusammenfassung
The resignation of Burkina Faso's president Blaise Compaoré in October 2014 should not have come as a surprise. The interplay of several political and socioeconomic factors led to his fall. International actors followed the events closely and urged a consensual approach in the transition negotiations. The role of the military has been central to the changes; it should be watched carefully in the coming months. A civilian president, a prime minister hailing from the Presidential Guard, a 26-member government and a 90-member transitional council will steer the country until the elections, scheduled for November 2015. Events in Burkina Faso are followed in other African countries, where long-standing leaders are also likely to try to stay in power. Burkina, one of the world's poorest countries, needs a genuine transition to ensure a more inclusive and resilient future.

Commitments Made at the Hearing of Federica Mogherini - High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Zusammenfassung
Federica Mogherini, the recently-confirmed High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission, appeared before the European Parliament on 6 October 2014 to answer MEPs' questions. In that hearing and in her answers to the questionnaire prepared for the meeting, High Representative /Vice President Mogherini made a number of statements of interest to the European Parliament. This document provides a summary of her most salient points.

Commitments Made at the Hearing of Johannes Hahn - Commissioner-Designate

Zusammenfassung
Johannes Hahn, the recently-confirmed European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations, appeared before the European Parliament's Committee for Foreign Affairs (AFET) on 30 September 2014 to answer MEPs' questions. In that hearing and in his answers to the questionnaire prepared for the meeting in advance, Commissioner Hahn made a number of statements of interest to the European Parliament. This document provides a summary of his most salient points.
Commitments Made at the Hearings of the Commissioners-Designate, Juncker Commission (November 2014 - October 2019)

This compilation of briefings presents the most salient points and essential commitments made by the commissioners-designate during the hearings held in September/October 2014 before the parliamentary committees. These commitments concern the main on-going legislative procedures, the preparation of future legislative proposals as well as the scrutiny of the implementation of existing legislation. They also touch upon the crucial issue of inter-institutional cooperation.

A Comparative Study of EU and US Approaches to Human Rights in External Relations

Both the European Union (EU) and the United States (US) emphasise the centrality of human rights in their domestic and external policies. Despite their common attachment to human rights and a potential affinity of seemingly common transatlantic approaches to human rights issues in external policies, the EU and the US have diverged considerably in their respective promotion of human rights abroad. Drawing on the historical and legal underpinnings of human rights promotion in the EU and the US, the purpose of the present study is to provide a comparative analysis of how human rights are integrated and mainstreamed into their respective external policies, thereby using case studies such as EU Special Representatives/US Special Envoys, Democracy Promotion, the Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court to contextualise the argument. To this end, the study outlines the intricacies behind the institutional set-up of EU and US external action, and delves into the specificities of human rights-related policy-making in the realm of traditional foreign policy, international trade and international development. The study concludes with the formulation of recommendations for the further integration of human rights in EU external policies, as well as to the future collaboration between the EU and the US on human rights.
The Modernisation of the European Union-Mexico ‘Global Agreement’

Signed in 1997 and in force since 2000, the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement, known as the ‘Global Agreement’, is the cornerstone of the legal framework for relations between the European Union (EU) and Mexico. Currently, the EU and Mexico are exploring possible ways to update and modernise the Agreement, to factor in the transformations that have occurred in the past decade and half. The study addresses how the EU-Mexico relationship has evolved since the entry into force of the Agreement in 2000 and evaluates the results achieved within each of its three main areas (political dialogue, cooperation and trade), as well as in the EU-Mexico Strategic Partnership from 2008. Against that background, it assesses the options for updating the Agreement and provides specific recommendations in this regard. The study focuses in particular on the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), the forum for institutionalised interparliamentary dialogue between the European Parliament and the Mexican Congress. The study examines the JPC’s role in monitoring the implementation of the Global Agreement and EU-Mexico relations in general, and sets out recommendations to improve the Committee’s performance and to strengthen its participation in the process of modernisation of the Agreement.

Will the Afghan Government Deal Provide the Country the Stability it Needs?

Providing a minimum of security to the population and to international agencies will be the new government's highest priority. Violent attacks are on the rise, though government camps may disagree on whether and how to negotiate with the Taliban insurgency. Disputes about the appointments of high officials from different political and ethnic groups may also distract Ghani from one of his principal goals: fighting corruption. The European Parliament could ask the EU to reinstate its support for the new government and reiterate its call that a new EU-Afghan agreement stress democracy and human rights – particularly those of women.
The Situation of Women in the Gulf States

Upon request by the FEMM Committee, this study examines the economic, political and socio-cultural changes which have affected the situation of women in the Gulf region over the last decades. Through an overall analysis and individual country reports, it notably sheds light on similarities and differences concerning women’s emancipation in Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. Gender discrimination is discussed both in law and in practice, focusing on women’s political and economic empowerment, education, migration, family and health.

India: the biggest democracy in the world

With 1.267 million inhabitants, of which 834 million can vote, India is the largest democracy in the world. India is an authentic multicultural country: in Lok Sabha, the lower house, members can speak in 15 different languages!

Civil Society’s Concerns about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

When the EU and the US launched negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in June 2013, civil society was invited to play a ‘constructive and engaged part in defining the content’ of this strategic deal. Interest in the TTIP has gone beyond its expected economic impact: the agreement has been seen by some as a way to strengthen the West’s weakening grip on the world economy, and by others as a tool for big multinationals to secure unfair advantages at the expense of the rest of society. Civil society groups have come forward with various conditions, demands (including stopping the negotiations) and concrete proposals – in most cases to ensure that the TTIP represents their interests. The TTIP requires extremely complex international negotiations, and its final content is still not known. The result will depend on the outcome of the negotiations and the extent to which they respond to civil society’s concerns. However, much will also depend on the way the European Parliament and the Council agree to transpose the provisions of the new deal – if concluded and approved – into existing EU legislation.
Ernennung der Kommission: Rolle des Parlaments vor 1995

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 18-09-2014
Verfasser: Alexandra DEVANTIER
Politikbereich: Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Demokratie


Universal Suffrage in Hong Kong Acquires Chinese Characteristics

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 15-09-2014
Verfasser: Marika ARMANOVICA
Politikbereich: Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwörter: Macau | Hongkong | internationales Abkommen UNO | politische Lage | Wahlorganisation | Taiwan | Wahlreform | politische Agitation | Demokratisierung | politische Grundrechte | China

Zusammenfassung: China's legislature, the People's National Congress (NPC), has made recommendations about the 2017 direct election of Hong Kong's Chief Executive, foreseen in Hong Kong's constitution. Hong Kong's legislature could reject the recommendations, although the NPC has final say. China's authorities have warned that civil disobedience and protestors' calls to respect international standards may have serious consequences. The European Parliament has called for 'international standards' to be respected in Hong Kong's politics. The selection of candidates will be less free. A candidate will now need to gain the support of at least 50 % of the nomination committee. instead of the 12.5 % required in 2012. During public consultations, a number of initiatives were proposed to make the nomination process more democratic. Beijing has insisted that Hong Kong's administrators respect their nation and support China's jurisdiction over Hong Kong. The events in Hong Kong have been echoed in Macao. Beijing sees its relations with Hong Kong as a model for Taiwan, which it also hopes to incorporate into a 'one China, two systems' arrangement. In the past, the European Parliament has adopted positions on electoral reform in Hong Kong. The EP has stated that 'respect for the full autonomy of Hong Kong is one of the key issues upon which to base the development of future relations between the EU and China'.

Policy Departments’ Monthly Highlights - July 2014

Art der Veröffentlichung: Auf einen Blick
Kalenderdatum: 07-07-2014
Politikbereich: Haushalt | Gleichstellungsfragen, Gleichheit und Vielfalt | Binnenmarkt und Zollunion | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Bildung
Schlagwörter: EU-Politik | Arbeitsweise der Organe | Europäisches Parlament | Bibliografie | wissenschaftliches Gutachten

Zusammenfassung: 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.

Auf einen Blick: EN
Minorities in the South Caucasus: New Visibility amid Old Frustrations

Art der Veröffentlichung | Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum | 27-06-2014
Verfasser | Fernando GARCES DE LOS FAYOS TOURNAN
Politikbereich | Demokratie | Menschenrechte
Schlagwörter | Europäische Nachbarschaftspolitik | Armenien | Minderheitenrecht | Religionsfreiheit | soziokulturelle Gruppe | kulturelle Vielfalt | Bevölkerungsaufbau | politische Vertretung | Zugang zur Bildung | Beziehung Kirche/Staat | Georgien | nationale Minderheit | Aserbaidschan | Sprachpolitik

Zusammenfassung
One of the most multi-ethnic regions on Europe’s periphery, the South Caucasus’s bumpy path to democracy has often been accompanied by ethnic conflict, stoked by nationalism. Since acquiring independence from the Soviet Union, secessionist movements have grown among local minorities in the areas surrounding the countries’ new, sovereign borders. The lack of state mechanisms to channel such sentiments has led to violent ethnic clashes with long-lasting consequences. Today still, a lack of experience in conflict resolution and power-sharing between dominant and minority communities hinders the development of common ground and democratic co-existence. Mechanisms which promote political participation, including them in the higher levels of decision-making.

Eingehende Analyse EN

India’s 2014 Legislative Elections: The Lack of Economic Miracles Lands the Congress Party on the Opposition Benches

Art der Veröffentlichung | Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum | 27-05-2014
Verfasser | Elfriede BIERBRAUER | Laurence VANDEWALLE
Politikbereich | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Schlagwörter | Regierungschef | nationale Wahl | Freihandelsabkommen | Regierungspolitik | wirtschaftliche Entwicklung | Indien | Wahlrechts- | Außenpolitik | Parlamentswahl | Aushandlung von Abkommen (EU) | politisches Bündnis | politische Mehrheit | Wahlkampf

Zusammenfassung
The EU’s relationship with India and the floundering bilateral trade negotiations may be reinvigorated by the results of the country’s elections for India’s lower house of parliament – the Lok Sabha – held between 7 April and 12 May 2014. The landslide victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its leader, Narendra Modi, came at the expense of the Congress party; after being in power for all but 18 years since the country’s independence in 1947, Congress obtained only 44 seats – less than 8 % of the total – in the recent ballot. The new Common People’s Party, which performed well in 2013-regional elections in the capital, Delhi, obtained only four seats nationwide.

Negotiations within the BJP and with potential coalition partners are well underway, and the composition of the new Indian government should be known soon. As Modi’s election campaign focussed on domestic issues, and in particular the ailing Indian economy, the BJP-led government’s stance on foreign relations – including on cross-border trade and investment and negotiations with the EU on the stalled free trade agreement – will soon crystallise.

Eingehende Analyse EN

Civil Society and Media in Myanmar/Burma’s Political Transition

Art der Veröffentlichung | Briefing
Kalenderdatum | 22-05-2014
Verfasser | Marika ARMANOVICA
Politikbereich | Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Menschenrechte
Schlagwörter | Governance | Herbeiführung des Friedens | Informationszugang | Nichtregierungorganisation | Birma/Myanmar | Finanzinstrument der EU | Verfassungsränderung | Entwicklungshilfe | Interparlamentarische Beziehungen | Pressefreiheit | Demokratisierung | Zivilgesellschaft

Zusammenfassung
Since Myanmar/Burma launched its political transition began in 2011, civil society in the country has become more active and more visible. The parliament has opened its doors to voices from the outside – although hesitantly and on ad hoc basis. Non-state actors are now involved in revising the constitution, and the result will be pivotal for the future of the country’s democracy. The media in Myanmar/Burma have played an important role in making political processes more transparent. Yet journalists still work in climate of uncertainty and intimidation, while unclear legal provisions discourage the free expression of opinion, especially on the internet. In 2013, the EU adopted a comprehensive framework to support democracy, peace and development in Myanmar/Burma. To attain the policy’s objectives, the country’s diverse and dynamic civil society must be closely involved.

Briefing EN
Egypt: In-Depth Analysis of the Main Elements of the New Constitution

Despite cautious liberalisation in a few limited areas, Egypt’s new constitution of January 2014 does not represent a new democratic departure. The process of its adoption was not inclusive. Public consultations leading to the referendum were selective and weak. According to observation missions the referendum campaign was entirely skewed in favour of a ‘yes’ vote. Key elements of Egypt’s constitution are at odds with international legal obligations and standards. Human rights provisions are not specific in many aspects, leaving crucial aspects to be determined by laws. The military has a significant role; it is not only beyond democratic control, it has a say in civilian matters – an inverse relationship to functional state institutions, societal fragmentation, and the uneven distribution of natural wealth. National reconciliation is a key precondition of successful political and constitutional transition but the process has to date been very difficult one. There are indications, however, that stakeholders in Libya are trying to build consensus on important aspects of the process. The 1951 Constitution, based on a federal framework, offers the best conceptual framework for the recently elected Constituent Assembly. Unlike Egypt and Tunisia, Libya might opt for a parliamentary form of government rather than a semi-presidential system.

Regional Integration in the Mediterranean - Impact and Limits of Community and Bilateral Policies

The economic integration of the south and east Mediterranean partner countries with Europe has made very little progress, just as relations between them are not showing signs of development. The immediate periphery of the Union has not yet become a dynamic area of trade with Europe, and Community aid, which is focused on the commercial aspects, has not managed to stimulate sufficient economic growth in its neighbours to absorb new entrants on to the labour market. This lack of regional economic dynamism is in contrast with the intensity of human relations which has developed over a long period due to the presence of an essentially North African and Turkish diaspora in Europe and the North-South tourist traffic to the Mediterranean, which are undervalued. While the Arab revolutions are a reminder that the movement of ideas and people goes hand in hand with a greater homogeneity of lifestyles and aspirations from a democratic and social viewpoint, little has been done in a Euro- Mediterranean context to encourage this movement, particularly from a social and political standpoint. We should therefore redirect the priorities of European aid from a commercial emphasis to a truly industrial policy and set out a political and social priority for the region.
The political stalemate in Thailand, which has continued for eight years in one form or another, highlights the importance of holding a comprehensive debate about the country's political culture and a thorough re-negotiation of the amnesty bill that would have allowed her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra (deposed in 2006), to return from exile without being imprisoned for corruption.

Between the 2011 general elections, won by the Pheu Thai Party (PTP), and November 2013, Thailand experienced a period of superficial calm. Yet, the divisions between PTP, backed by Thailand’s rural communities, and the opposition, supported mainly by Bangkok’s middle class and by constituencies in the south, remained irreconcilable. The fragile political peace was broken when the government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra’s (PTP) introduced an amnesty bill that would have allowed her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra (deposed in 2006), to return from exile without being imprisoned for corruption. The political stalemate in Thailand, which has continued for eight years in one form or another, highlights the importance of holding a comprehensive debate about the country’s political culture and a thorough re-negotiation of the way in which it is governed. Yet such a prospect appears unlikely in the current situation, as positions are ever more entrenched.

The Lisbon Treaty has rung in a new era of democratic and human rights governance. In an attempt to redress concerns about the EU’s alleged democratic deficit and inability to speak with one voice on cross-cutting issues of human rights, both the empowered European Parliament (EP) and national parliaments (NPs) are meant to ‘contribute actively to the good functioning of the Union’ through inter-parliamentary cooperation (IPC). At the same time, the EU’s action is also poised to systematically ‘put human rights at the heart of all its policies’. Given the role of parliaments as ‘guardians and promoters of human rights’ at a time when their ability to influence the EU legislative process has significantly been enhanced, the question arises whether the EU’s ‘human rights turn’ may act as a catalyst for IPC, and whether this collaboration may, in turn, strengthen the effectiveness and legitimacy of EU human rights policies. To that end, this study maps the increasingly complex network of formal and informal IPC channels in the realm of human rights, assesses their respective strengths and weaknesses, and formulates recommendations to enhance IPC in this regard.

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Ukraine’s Crisis Intensifies: Protests Grow More Radical, the Authorities More Repressive

Art der Veröffentlichung Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum 24-01-2014
Verfasser Fernando GARCES DE LOS FAYOS TOURNAN | Valérie RAMET
Politikbereich Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Schlagwörter Anwendung des Gesetzes | Aushandlung von Abkommen (EU) | politische Opposition | Wahlanfechtungen | öffentliche Ordnung | politische Krise | die Russische Föderation | die Ukraine | Schutz der Grundrechte | Zivilgesellschaft | Gipfeltreffen

Zusammenfassung The first deaths have been reported — along with cases of torture and kidnapping — in two months of anti-government demonstrations and government recalcitrance in Ukraine. Since President Viktor Yanukovych applied the brakes to the country’s advancing Association Agreement with the EU, the country has faced political and popular turmoil, with opposing positions increasingly entrenched and demonstrations increasingly marred by violence. The ruling Party of Regions has de facto retreated from its European orientation with the adoption of repressive legislation curtailling basic freedoms and with President Yanukovych negotiating new agreements with Moscow. Weak in the parliament, the political opposition has appeared divided on the street. By-elections held in December 2013 yielded results at odds with those predicted by exit polls and were criticised by international observers; they may serve as a worrisome portent for presidential elections scheduled for 2015.

The EU’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton has said the EU must work towards a ‘political solution to the current crisis.’ EP President Martin Schulz has taken a particular stance on protestors’ calls for elections, saying that any ‘reasonable President’ who believes his voters stands behind him ‘would consider new elections’. While the EU has not articulated a clear policy on its Ukrainian Eastern Partner, it will need to do so to maintain its credibility as a promoter of democracy and regional actor.

East Africa: Competing Dynamics in a Rapidly Changing Region

Art der Veröffentlichung Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum 17-01-2014
Verfasser Manuel MANRIQUE GIL
Politikbereich Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe
Schlagwörter Sicherheit einer geografischen Region | Seeräuberei | Beziehungen der Union | politische Lage | Terrorismus | afrikanische Organisation | Ostafrika | wirtschaftliche Integration | soziale Lage | Rechtsstaat | Menschenrechte

Zusammenfassung The violence that has engulfed South Sudan since mid-December 2013 and the neighbouring countries’ reactions to the bloodshed largely reflect the dynamics underlying the East African region. Whilst many countries in the region enjoy abundant natural resources (including oil) and / or have recorded strong economic growth, they have failed to bring about structural transformations or to spur sustainable development. Among the many obstacles preventing East Africa from fulfilling its full potential, two of the most important are poor governance and armed conflict – both evident in South Sudan, as well as Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia.

Given the cross-border nature of economic, social and political dynamics in East Africa, advancing regional integration is necessary to promote political stability and socioeconomic development. Investing in regional infrastructure projects is one of the priorities of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for 2014-2020. The EU should also continue to engage with regional organisations to foster economic and political cooperation in various areas, including peace and security, when these can play an important role. The mediation of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in South Sudan is a strong example of the need to involve regional actors in finding a comprehensive and lasting solution to armed conflict.

Another Day of Protests in Bangkok, with No Compromise in Sight

Art der Veröffentlichung Briefing
Kalenderdatum 15-01-2014
Verfasser Marika ARMANOVICA
Politikbereich Demokratie
Schlagwörter vorgezogene Wahl | politische Lage | Verfassungsänderung | Strafvollstreckungsverjährung | politische Agitation | Thailand | politische Gewalt

Zusammenfassung The European Union has called on all parties to seize the opportunity offered by the proposed early elections. Since 2011, Thailand’s government has restored stability and defused tensions... at least on the surface. Yet, the possibility of a new crisis was never excluded. Reforms proposed by the current Prime Minister, Yingluck Shinawatra, have proved controversial within her party and among the opposition. Yingluck withdrew support to a controversial amnesty bill after the Senate rejected it, but failed to stop the brewing conflict. Thailand’s Constitutional Court also ruled that the government’s attempts to re-establish a fully elected Senate were unconstitutional. Despite Yingluck’s dissolution of the Parliament, protestors have continued to demonstrate, demanding the establishment of an unelected ‘people’s council’. Even if a short-term solution can be found, stability will be hard to achieve without a broad discussion on the political order.
**North Korea: Kim Jong-un's Great Purge**

The news of the execution of Jang Song-taek, the second-most highly ranked leader in North Korea’s regime, surprised many outside the country, the event is unlikely to presage dramatic changes within the country. Jang Song-taek was sentenced to death on 12 December 2013 after being arrested during a public debate of the North Korean Politburo. His purge follows a major reshuffling of the army, the reorganisation of the ruling party and the execution of Kim Jong-un’s former fiancée and a group of popular artists.

Jang Song-taek was known to be very close to Beijing and an advocate of economic reforms inspired by Chinese models. With Jang’s execution, Kim Jong-un has reasserted his leadership and sent a clear signal to his country’sclosest – perhaps only – ally, China.

It does not seem that the purge was intended to suppress internal opponents. The country is quiet, the armed forces have been weakened, and the execution of the only credible alternative to Kim Jong-un makes the perspective of a putsch extremely unlikely in the near future.

**The Impact of the 2014 ISAF Forces' Withdrawal from Afghanistan on the Central Asian Region**

As the 2014 NATO drawdown from Afghanistan approaches, the international community increasingly looks towards the impact that a stable or unstable Afghanistan might have on the broader region, including Central Asia. Emphasis is often placed on the threat of radical Islamism and Afghan extremists that could destabilise Central Asia. More realistically though, the risk of spillover stems from a potential collapse of the Afghan security forces, refugee flows or instability in Tajikistan. However, the principal security threats to the Central Asian region stand largely separate from Afghanistan’s future. The main security challenges for the region lie in authoritarian governance, deeply-embedded state corruption, often connected to drug trade, and tensions over water and energy resources. This poses challenges to the European Union’s (EU) policies towards Central Asia. Increased attention and possibly a revision of EU policy to Central Asia are needed, in particular in the fields of the broader security dialogue, practical Security Sector Reform (SSR), including border control programmes; increased national-oriented attention to water-energy-related matters; support for democracy and human rights; and EU development aid.

**A Decisive Victory in Chile’s Presidential Election May Prove Insufficient for Reform**

As expected, Michelle Bachelet, the candidate of the Socialist Party (Partido Socialista, PS) and the centre-left coalition New Majority (Nueva Mayoría, NM), obtained a clear victory in Chile’s presidential elections. Bachelet’s resounding victory underscored voters’ disapproval of the current centre-right government. However, Bachelet did not - as expected - win in the first round of the elections. A high abstention rate means that she received a relatively low number of votes. The high number of candidates points to the loss of legitimacy of the two political alliances which have dominated Chilean politics for more than two decades. The five parties in the NM won the largest majority for a governing alliance since 1997, partly thanks to the inclusion of the Communist Party of Chile (Partido Comunista de Chile, PC). The two blocs’ share of the vote and their seats in Congress has been remarkably stable since 1989, largely because Chile’s bi-nominal electoral system favours two major coalitions. The elections took place against a background of social unrest - particularly the students’ protests - and a general quest for renewal in Chilean society. The NM, advocating comprehensive social and political reforms, turned to the left. Michelle Bachelet and the NM announced a programme with three foci: educational reform, tax reform, and the adoption of a new constitution. However, Bachelet’s government will not have a sufficient majority in Congress to adopt the necessary legislation unless the centre-right opposition agrees. If only limited reform is possible, unfulfilled expectations could be a major challenge in the coming years. Decelerating economic growth could be another challenge, particularly if combined with lowered international prices on copper, Chile’s main export commodity. Agreement on the upgrade of the EU-Chile Association Agreement form 2002 may be reached in the coming years.
Iraq's Deadly Spiral toward a Civil War

In recent months sectarian violence in Iraq has escalated worryingly. More than 6,400 people have been killed across Iraq matters for the entire Middle East. While the only real solutions to Iraq's problems are domestic, international Sunni groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant to gain ground. The situation is compounded by the address the grievances of the Sunni minority and has responded to public protests with a heavy hand, leading militant

Democratic Transitions in Southern Mediterranean Countries

This study analyses to what extent the EU budget support provided to Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria has changed due to the Arab Spring and to what extent the EU budget support has contributed to the democratic transitions in those countries. Furthermore, the study provides information on (i) how resolutions of the European Parliament regarding Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria have been translated into the EU budget support provided to those countries, (ii) how the monitoring and reporting systems of the effects of those budget support operations have been organised and to what extent respect of human rights and gender issues have been taken into account in the budget support programmes.

Iran at a Crossroads: What Will Follow the Nuclear Deal?

The agreement reached in Geneva on Iran's nuclear programme should allow Iran to return to the international scene as a political as well as a trade partner. While the terms of the deal will require attention and effort, hopes in Europe, Iran and the MENA region are running high for the first time in many years. Tehran could soon play the role of constructive regional power, helping resolve a wide range of regional security problems and serving as a motor of economic growth for the entire region. If the country's recently-elected president, Hassan Rouhani, also manages to carry out his ambitious political and economic reform programme, the Iranian people may gain civil rights and enjoy a more prosperous economic future. The EU has a strategic interest in supporting reformist forces within Iran.

Continuing Protests in Ukraine Strain the President and His Party

Several dozen protestors were arrested on Kyiv's Independence Square. A number of protestors and journalist were injured. With the crackdown, pro-EU protests morphed into a wider demonstration of political frustration. While Prime Minister Mykola Azarov and his government survived a no-confidence vote, divisions have grown among members of Ukraine's ruling political class. President Viktor Yanukovych and Prime Minister Azarov have distanced themselves from the crackdown, while continuing to ignore demonstrators' demands. The EU, its Member States and the US unanimously condemned the use force against peaceful demonstrators. A number of non-governmental organisations and NATO also offered their criticism. Yanukovych has asked that Russia participate in EU-Ukraine bilateral talks and that the EU offer greater financial assistance. Commission President José Manuel Barroso and Yanukovych have agreed that a Ukrainian delegation might come to Brussels. The EU has a number of options to weigh, including acting as a mediator and adopting measures. The EP should focus on the implications of the crackdown for Ukraine's democracy.

The Strategic Impact and Cost-Effectiveness of EU Budget Support with Regard to Supporting Democracy.

The EU has a strategic interest in supporting reformist forces within Iran. By carry out his ambitious political and economic reform programme, the Iranian people may gain civil rights and enjoy a more prosperous economic future. The EU has a strategic interest in supporting reformist forces within Iran.

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The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation: Defined – for Better and Worse - by Its Religious Dimension

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is an intergovernmental organisation with a strong religious element that regroups 57 Muslim or predominantly Muslim member states. Its priorities are promoting the interests of Muslim communities across the world and fighting Islamophobia, especially in the Western world. The OIC has a loose parliamentary arm, the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), based in Tehran. The PUIC has a rather limited role and low visibility, as it merely promotes meetings and dialogue among the parliaments of OIC members and encourages the exchange of parliamentary experiences and best practices. In June 2013, the OIC inaugurated a Permanent Mission Office to the EU in Brussels to increase cooperation with the EU. The EU-OIC agenda has included issues related to fighting intolerance and promoting interreligious / intercultural dialogue, as well as human rights and humanitarian assistance. A number of other sensitive issues, such as the rights and protection of Christian and other religious minorities in Muslim countries, have not yet been addressed. Some observers have suggested that the OIC may become more conservative vis-à-vis human rights after January 2014, when a new Secretary-General from Saudi Arabia takes the helm of the organisation.

Syria: Weighing the Risks

Following two and a half years of bloody civil war in Syria, world leaders remain uncertain how to staunch a humanitarian calamity that has left more than 100,000 Syrians dead, 6 million displaced and immeasurable material damage and human suffering. China and Russia have incapacitated the United Nations, and the military conflict in Syria is escalating dangerously. The chemical attack on civilian targets near Damascus on 21 August has refocused the attention of the international community on the crisis, and the United States and France — supported by the Gulf states, Turkey and Israel — are calling for a targeted and limited military intervention to punish the Assad regime. Such action would have unpredictable consequences for the country, the region and world politics. It is unlikely that it would improve the dire situation of the Syrian people or foster a peaceful and democratic future for the country.

The Role of Hezbollah in Post-Conflict Lebanon

The Lebanese Hezbollah is a difficult organisation to grasp; it’s several identities — be it as an Islamic movement, a political party, an armed resistance group or as a terrorist organisation — are nevertheless all intertwined at the Lebanese level. Born in a Lebanese context, operating from a Lebanese territorial point of view, Hezbollah has integrated the Lebanese political system and has built its existence on the liberation of Lebanon. That notwithstanding, its pan-Islamic outlook and its strong narrative have contributed to its reputation as a fundamentally globally acting jihadi organisation. Although Hezbollah has managed to establish itself as a constant feature on the Lebanese political scene, its weapons’ arsenal are now questioned by other Lebanese, and its engagement in Syria fundamentally threaten Lebanese civil peace.
The Implications of EU Antiterrorism Legislation on Post-Conflict Political Processes and on the Standing of the EU as a Mediator in Regional Conflicts

The effects of EU antiterrorism legislation are ambivalent. Banning whole organisations provides hardly an incentive for behavioural change but may strengthen extremism and belligerence. In territories with limited statehood the effects of listing can disrupt essential social and humanitarian services which the organisations offer and for which they are backed by larger parts of the society. The lack of transparent criteria for delisting is another critical issue. As a means of 'prevention' the listing practice seems to be easy to apply, but hardly to remove. Moreover, the sanctions impede efforts by third parties to provide support as mediators and facilitators.

ASEAN Citizens’ Rights: Rule of Law, Judiciary and Law Enforcement

With the ASEAN Charter of 2008, the Association of Southeast Asian Nation’s post Asian Financial Crisis reforms climaxed. The Charter added democracy, respect for human rights, rule of law and good governance to the sovereignty norms dominating the ASEAN Way, the group’s established repository of cooperation norms. The formation of a human rights body and the enactment of an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) strengthened citizens’ rights in the region. However, critics deplore limitations of citizens’ rights due to a concept of context-based rights, limited mandates, legal ambiguities, the reforms’ non-binding nature and the lack of stakeholder participation in the reform process.

At the national level, the implementation record of citizens’ rights is ambiguous. While on the one hand improvements of the rule of law and in the domains of good governance and law enforcement can be identified, there are, on the other hand, still major rhetoric-action gaps, often relegating citizens’ rights to a declaratory level. EU policies should address persisting problems of rights implementation by sensibly responding to ASEAN’s search for international legitimacy and reputation. This entails policies of shaming and social sanctioning in international forums, but also granting due recognition for major improvements.

Assessing the Implementation of the European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders - The Cases of Kyrgyzstan, Thailand and Tunisia

With the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and the formation of the European Action Service, human rights defenders have received renewed attention in EU external relations. In June 2012 the EU launched its Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy including some benchmarked actions to take on behalf of HRDs and calling on EU Delegations and EU Member States missions to prepare human rights country strategies (HRCS) and to update the strategies annually. The 2008 revised European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders (the Guidelines) provide a number of important recommendations for the EU and its Member State missions which have resulted in many good practice actions toward support and protection of HRDs. This study investigates the effective implementation of the Guidelines in Kyrgyzstan, Thailand and Tunisia, primarily from the viewpoints of diplomats and HRDs, with focus on the latter. Findings of this study suggest effective implementation of the Guidelines is uneven across European missions and there needs to be a joining up of the Guidelines’ recommendations with the new HRCS process. Recommendations to the EU and the European Parliament include mainstreaming knowledge of the Guidelines throughout EU sections and missions, taking a more considered approach to engagement with HRDs to create enabling human rights environments and ensuring attention to the most vulnerable HRDs.
High Expectations of the Moderate Cleric’s Victory in Iran

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 14-06-2013
Verfasser: Sandro D'ANGELO

Politikbereich: Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Schlagwortliste: Iran | Innenpolitik | Wahlkampf | Kandidaten | internationale Politik | Kernenergiepolitik | Außenpolitik | Wirtschaftsverhältnisse | absolute Mehrheit | Präsidentschaftswahl | Islamischer Staat

Zusammenfassung: Central cleric Hassan Rowhani wins Iran’s presidential election in a surprise landslide victory, securing 52% of the votes. The Iranian presidential election took place at a time of unprecedented economic isolation. Rowhani’s victory is due to an unprecedented upsurge of mobilisation a mere three days before the vote. President Rowhani will have little leeway in foreign policy matters, these powers belonging to the Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei. Whether Rowhani will be willing to challenge the primacy of the clerical establishment remains to be seen. Voter turnout rose to 72%. Out of the 51 million registered voters, 37.5 million came to the ballot box, with young voters accounting for one third. Haunted by the 2008 chaos, this election’s voter turnout was instrumental in consolidating the foundations of the Islamic Republic. Ayatollah Khamenei played an instrumental role in the election, exercising great influence over the Guardian Council’s vetting process. The Guardian Council disqualified reformist movement candidates. Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei, Ahmadinejad’s heir, was also barred from running. The disqualification of Rafsanjani and Mashaei was a strong indicator of the clerical establishment’s intent to micromanage the election. Recurrent allegations of rigged elections and fraud were further exacerbated by Khamenei’s attempt to engineer the election. While the massive participation by Iranians and the choice of president are a reflection of a participatory electoral process, it is primarily a victory for the Supreme Leader. Khamenei successfully used the elections to legitimise the foundations of the Islamic Republic and redeem the situation after the massive protests of 2009. The electoral outcome will have little impact on Iran’s regional policies, particularly as regards Syria, or on the nuclear issue. The election will, on the other hand, determine the fate of Iranians over the next four years. For Iranians, the election represented an opportunity for a change in leadership and a chance to build a more prosperous future.

Briefing EN

Salafist/Wahhabite Financial Support to Educational, Social and Religious Institutions

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 11-06-2013

Externe Autor: William RACIMORA (European Strategic Intelligence and Security Center - ESISC, Belgium)
Politikbereich: Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Schlagwortliste: Katar | Pakistan | Saudi-Arabien | Beziehungen Kirche/Staat | politische Lage | Indonesien | Terrorismus | Islam | Bosnien und Herzegowina | Tunesien | religiöser Fundamentalismus | Ägypten

Zusammenfassung: In recent years, the impact of funding educational, social and religious institutions by Salafi/Wahhabi networks in the Muslim world has become remarkable. This finding opens a political discourse on the foundations of the rule of law and fundamental institutions such as the justice system, law enforcement apparatus, public administration and social services. Under the tutelage of the Economic Community of Central African States, a National Transitional Council was set up in April to serve as a governing body and constituent assembly for the next 18 months. French and regional forces are on the ground, and the UN is monitoring the developments through its Integrated Peace Building Office in the Central African Republic. Yet the deepening crisis is likely to require stronger and more concerted efforts — both domestic and international — to ensure that the country’s tragic history of violence does not repeat itself.

Eingehende Analyse EN

Can the Central African Republic Escape its Violent Past?

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 04-06-2013
Verfasser: Judit BARNA

Politikbereich: humanitäre Hilfe | Sicherheit einer geografischen Region | Herbeiführung Friedens | die Zentralafrikanische Republik | politische Lage | öffentliche Sicherheit | multinationale Truppe | Jugendressort | Opfer der Zivilbevölkerung | Rechtsstaat | Menschenrechte

Zusammenfassung: The security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) remains volatile two months after the rebel Seleka coalition seized the capital and forced the country’s former president into exile. Rampant violations of humanitarian and human rights law exacerbate the suffering of the population. The Seleka takeover ushered in a total collapse of the rule of law and fundamental institutions such as the justice system, law enforcement apparatus, public administration and social services. Under the tutelage of the Economic Community of Central African States, a National Transitional Council was set up in April to serve as a governing body and constituent assembly for the next 18 months. French and regional forces are on the ground, and the UN is monitoring the developments through its Integrated Peace Building Office in the Central African Republic. Yet the deepening crisis is likely to require stronger and more concerted efforts — both domestic and international — to ensure that the country’s tragic history of violence does not repeat itself.

Eingehende Analyse EN
The Democratic Transition in Guinea Reaches a Critical Point

The optimism that Guineans and their international partners felt two and a half years ago, when the country's junta was replaced by an elected president, has largely given way to frustration and confrontation. The organisation of the long-overdue legislative elections has become the central source of disagreement between the government and the opposition, and protests have grown increasingly violent. Despite international mediation, cross-party dialogue is almost non-existent, and the growing tension may derail the transition and even threaten the country's stability. This is particularly dangerous given Guinea's institutional fragility, exacerbated by political turbulence and violent episodes — most notably, the massacre at the national stadium in Conakry on 28 September 2009, when over 150 people were killed. Despite some progress under the new government, the current impasse is undermining the urgently needed security sector reform, the fight against impunity and planned investments in the country's crucial mining sector.

Cautious Reforms in Saudi Arabia

While a number of recent 'firsts' have suggested that Saudi Arabia may be open to reform, particularly for women, the reforms have not altered the basic structure of the Saudi legal and administrative system. Saudi Arabia's traditional position of leadership within the Islamic and Arab worlds is being seriously challenged. The judicial system is configured to maintain the status quo. Shari'a (Islamic law) is applied by ultraconservative religious leaders, slowing down efforts to reform Saudi society. Saudi Arabian judges apply shari'a (Islamic law) based on their individual interpretations. The judicial system lacks basic safeguards of fairness. Ignoring international and EU condemnation, Saudi Arabia has continued to execute criminals, including minors, for a wide range of offences. In Saudi Arabia, all women are subordinated to a male guardian. They face discrimination and lack of protection. It is important to maintain intensive political dialogue with Saudi Arabia on a wide range of issues, including the country's adherence to universally recognised human rights.

Zimbabwe's 2013 General Elections: A Genuine Wind of Change?

Hopes are high that elections in 2013 will usher in significant political changes in Zimbabwe. Uncertainty and political rivalry necessitate sensitivity from all actors. Since the 2008/2009 crisis, Zimbabwe has been ruled by a coalition government, leading to first signs of socio-economic progress. This year's elections are a source of both optimism and worry. ZANU-PF and the MDC continue to dominate the electoral landscape. ZANU-PF has adopted anti-western rhetoric focusing on 'black empowerment'. Yet the party suffers from corruption, public disappointment and Mugabe's advanced age. The MDC presents itself as a young, energetic alternative to ZANU-PF. Yet its reputation has been weakened by Tsvangirai's behaviour, internal corruption and the inability to improve politics under the GNU. Public opinion has shifted, now slightly favouring ZANU-PF over the MDC. The recent constitutional referendum offers ground for hope, but does not guarantee free and fair elections. Still, the new constitution introduces some important checks and balances. Cooperation under the GNU promises an improved political dialogue. Difficulties remain, including uncertainty about the date, financing and the context of the elections. International observers have watched developments, but hold little leverage. African actors enjoy greater — though still limited — negotiating power with Harare. Contrary to many expectations, a government change may have only a slim impact on democratic quality. Foreign actors need to act very carefully to avoid unintended outcomes.
Recovering Tunisian and Egyptian Assets: Legal Complexity Challenges States in Need

For the EU, recovering the assets of the ousted Tunisian and Egyptian regimes is an issue of political commitment and credibility, with the Union's reputation in Arab Spring countries partly at stake. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (in force since 2005) makes clear that recovering assets is a priority in a coordinated international fight against corruption. There exists a lack of efficient cooperation between 'requesting' and 'requested' states, as well as a paucity of reliable information about the amounts in question. The EU Council has recently adopted a decision to make it easier to share information relating to Egyptian and Tunisian funds in the EU. There are still many procedural problems to tackle, especially in the case of Egypt. An EU special task force could be set up to explore practical ways to better coordinate and exchange best practices between EU Member States and Tunisia and Egypt. The UK is a frontrunner in establishing a central structure facilitating the legal proceedings to recover assets. The European Parliament can send a clear signal of the EU's political commitment to helping Tunisia and Egypt recover their assets.

EU - League of Arab States Relations: Prospects for Closer Parliamentary Cooperation

The League of Arab States, a grouping of 22 Arab states established in 1945, has the potential to become the most important regional organisation in the greater Middle East. The changes triggered by the Arab Spring have led to the reorientation of the League's traditionally conservative policies on established Arab political regimes, while the civil wars in Libya and Syria have highlighted the League's potentially constructive role in supporting transition in the southern Mediterranean. The organisation's newfound relevance has been recognised by the European Union, which has worked to enhance the once-limited bilateral relations. A milestone for the partners' cooperation was the second EU - Arab League Foreign Affairs ministerial meeting, convened in Cairo in November 2012, which resulted in a joint declaration outlining an ambitious work programme in a range of fields.

In parallel, the European Parliament has advanced inter-parliamentary cooperation with the newly-established permanent Arab Parliament composed by representatives of national parliaments. While the Arab Parliament's role is still limited, the organisation has the potential to grow in the future, as the region moves towards more democratic structures of governance. This provides impetus for the European Parliament to be proactive and enhance its cooperation with the Arab Parliament. In addition, closer relations with the Arab Parliament would allow the European Parliament to increase its visibility and interaction with national parliaments in Arab countries.
Franchise and Electoral Participation of Third Country Citizens Residing in the European Union and of EU Citizens Residing in Third Countries

This Study analyses some key trans-border situations in which citizens may find difficulties in exercising their electoral rights – both to vote in elections, and to stand as candidates. It focuses on the electoral rights of EU citizens when resident outside the state where they are citizens, and on the electoral rights of third country citizens resident in the EU Member States. It also covers several complementary issues by examining the consular representation of EU citizens outside the territory of the Union, and also the restrictions placed by the Member States on the access of non-citizens to high public office.

European Endowment for Democracy: hopes and expectations

Following the Arab Spring, the European Union and its Member States have established - on a Polish initiative - the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) in June 2012. The new instrument is aimed at facilitating rapid and flexible funding to political actors in countries on their way towards democratisation, which may not otherwise be able to access EU funding. Reaction to the establishment of EED has varied.

Area C: More than 60 % of the Occupied West Bank Threatened by Israeli Annexation

Under the terms of the 1993 Oslo peace accords, over 60 % of the occupied Palestinian territory in the West Bank remains under full Israeli military and administrative control. Here, in what is known as ‘Area C’, Israel restricts Palestinians’ access to land and resources by instituting systemic segregation, forcibly evicting and displacing Palestinian residents, demolishing civilian property and expanding Israeli settlements. Israeli law applies in the area, and Israeli control is gradually reinforced. Amounting to de facto annexation, the Israeli’s government’s measures are in clear violation of international law. The situation is undermining hopes for a two-state solution, effectively creating a single-state with only isolated ‘islands’ (‘Area A’) under Palestinian rule. The situation has recently grown more dire, as the most committed proponents of Area C’s unilateral annexation have entered Israel’s new government coalition. Although Israel’s encroachment into Area C has long been condemned by the European Union, efforts to improve the situation are continually undermined. Nothing of substance has been accomplished to implement the minimal recommendations set out by the EU’s 2011 report on Area C. While the EU has expressed its concern about the state of affairs, decisive effective action is long overdue.

Regional Tensions Lead to a Power Vacuum in Lebanon

Tamman Salam is in charge of forming a new cabinet in Lebanon after the resignation of Prime Minister Mikati on 22 March 2013. Prime Minister Mikati resigned over his government's failure to adopt a new electoral law and its refusal to extend the mandate of police chief Ashraf Rifi. With no agreement on a new electoral law, forming a new government coalition is impossible. The scheduled June date for elections also appears unlikely. Lebanon has maintained an official policy of disassociation from the Syrian civil war, but the country is seriously affected by the deteriorating crisis. More than 400 000 Syrian refugees reside in Lebanon, and the northern city of Tripoli has suffered from sectarian clashes that have spill over from Syria. Prime Minister-designate Tamman Salam is struggling to form a cabinet, while rival political factions fail to agree on an electoral law. The current parliament’s mandate could be extended beyond June 2013. The European Union should reiterate its support for Lebanon’s independence, territorial integrity and national institutions.
A Call for Peace in Turkey

On 21 March, the jailed leader of the Kurdistan’s Workers’ Party, the PKK, called for a truce with the government of Turkey. For nearly three decades, the ‘Kurdish issue’ has dogged Turkish politicians and the country’s Kurdish minority. PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan repeated the words of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan’s — ‘now let weapons be silenced and ideas talk’ — and added, ‘this is not an end but a new beginning’. In exchange for the PKK fighters’ retreat, Turkey’s 15 million Kurds would gain wider constitutional recognition. The peace process is likely to involve three stages. PM Erdoğan was the first Turkish government leader to address the Kurdish question by proposing to expand Kurds’ rights. His 2009 ‘democratic initiative’ represented a window of opportunity...but the window was rapidly shut. An air strike in 2011 damaged the shaky confidence between the PKK and the Turkish government. Dialogue remained difficult until the end of 2012, when talks were reopened. The EU’s progress reports on Turkey have called for Kurds to enjoy greater rights. The EP has called on Turkey to invest greater efforts in finding a political solution for the Kurdish issue. Necessary reforms — in particular to protect minorities — could put Turkey’s EU accession process on track. The latest developments have made many in Turkey optimistic that this will prove an historic opportunity.

Creating Accountability? Recent Developments in the US’s Policy on Drones

In recent weeks, the debate on the US use of drones in its counter-terrorism operations has intensified. The confirmation of John O. Brennan as the director of CIA — and the much-reported filibuster that interrupted his hearing and focused attention on the issue of drones — has led to a push for political and legal accountability. A recent ruling by the US Court of Appeals has supported the endeavour, and the US administration has invited the Congress to develop a legal framework for drone strikes. In parallel, the UN Special Rapporteur on Counter Terrorism and Human Rights, Ben Emmerson, has investigated the issue, consulting stakeholders and undertaking study trips, most recently to Pakistan. These combined efforts may lead to a deeper global debate about new, rapidly developing arms, tactics and technologies. The EU should engage more actively in the discussion, which bears direct implications for the Union’s security as well as its stance on issues of human rights. The EU can help forge a global consensus about this form of modern warfare, responding to — but also anticipating — its risks and challenges.

Coup in the Central African Republic: Chronicle of a Fall Foretold

After a coalition of rebels entered the capital of the Central African Republic on 24 March, President François Bozizé fled to Cameroon. Bangui, the capital, was plunged into chaos, and the situation there remains volatile. Capping years of violent conflict, an offensive by rebel forces destabilised the country in 2012. Under international pressure, a ceasefire was brokered in January 2013, bringing a short-lived unity government to power. Following the coup, the African Union suspended the Central African Republic's membership and imposed sanctions on rebel leaders. The EU, UN, and US have all condemned the violent coup, while remaining silent on the status of the unpopular ousted president. Even before the latest rebellion, the country faced a deepening humanitarian crisis. It is essential that public order and stability are restored and that the risk of regional spillover contained.

The country’s new self-proclaimed President, Michel Djotodia, has pledged to maintain a power-sharing government. He will need to create a wider, inclusive political and economic model to achieve lasting stability.
Workshop on "Corruption and Human Rights in Third Countries"

**Art der Veröffentlichung:** Eingehende Analyse

**Kalenderdatum:** 14-03-2013

- **Externe Autor:** Gareth SWEENEY (Transparency International), Rafael MARQUES DE MORAIS (Journalist and Angolan anti-corruption campaigner) and Julia PETTENGILL (Henry Jackson Society, London, the UK, Russia Studies Centre)

- **Politikbereich:** Demokratie | Menschenrechte

- **Schlagwortliste:** Geldwäsche | Unabhängigkeit der Justiz | die Russische Föderation | Südafrika | internationale Norm | Zivilgesellschaft | Korruption | Angola | Menschenrechte

**Zusammenfassung:** Defined as abuse of public trust for personal gain, corruption is present in all countries. The participants of this workshop discussed various ways that corruption is linked to human rights violations and examined specific challenges in individual countries such as South Africa, Angola and Russia. The recommendations for the EU included supporting civil society activists more effectively, developing international standards for the independence of anti-corruption bodies, establishing a UN Special Rapporteur, setting anti-corruption benchmarks for bilateral cooperation and monitoring the links of corrupt countries with EU Member States.

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**A Bleak Balance Sheet: The Second Anniversary of Syria’s Civil War**

**Art der Veröffentlichung:** Briefing

**Kalenderdatum:** 13-03-2013

- **Verfasser:** Pekka HAKALA

- **Politikbereich:** Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten

- **Schlagwortliste:** humanitäre Hilfe | Sicherheit einer geografischen Region | Herbeiführung des Friedens | Syrien | Bürgerkrieg | Flüchtling | Gemeinsame Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik | militärische Besetzung

**Zusammenfassung:** While the international community remains unable to solve the two-year-old Syrian crisis, the humanitarian crisis grows: the number of refugees who have fled to neighbouring countries stands at one million. Internally displaced people number three million, and the dead 70 000 — not to mention the damage wrought on cities and villages, including many of great historical and cultural significance. What began as a small pro-democracy protest has evolved into a civil war complicated by sectarian strife. The Syrian opposition lacks unity and includes jihadist elements. So long as the international community also remains divided — and so long as Russia, Iran and Iran’s ally Hezbollah continue to unconditionally support Syrian President Bashar al-Assad — the conflict’s grim statistics are bound to worsen. The EU, which cannot claim to have acted more decisively or righteously than its partners at the UN, is assuming a leading role in delivering humanitarian assistance to the victims of the war within Syria and in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt. Any military intervention is excluded — at least for the time being — but efforts to find a political solution will require cooperating intensively with Russia — a significant challenge, but one that can no longer be set aside.

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**La transition tunisienne en crise**

**Art der Veröffentlichung:** Briefing

**Kalenderdatum:** 01-03-2013

- **Verfasser:** Elyes GHANMI

- **Politikbereich:** Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten

**Zusammenfassung:** La crise actuelle a entraîné des conséquences graves sur le processus de transition. Le nouveau Premier ministre devra former un gouvernement d’ici le 8 mars prochain. En dépit de son image d’homme modéré au sein de son parti Ennahdha, le nouveau Premier ministre est contesté à cause de son bilan au Ministère de l’intérieur. La bipolarisation et les dissensions au sein des partis continueront à structurer la scène politique pour les prochains mois. La méfiance croissante des citoyens à l’égard de la classe politique alimente le risque d’abstention pour les prochaines élections. La crise a entamé le fonctionnement de l’ANC et retardé l’examen de projets de lois importants pour la transition. Cinq partis politiques seraient concernés par les négociations en cours pour former le prochain gouvernement. Le statut de la religion dans la Constitution risque de revenir dans le débat à l’ANC. Un processus de consultation nationale sur le projet de Constitution a été lancé auprès des citoyens pour renforcer la démocratie participative. L’organisation du travail de l’ANC demeure un enjeu d’efficacité pour le fonctionnement de l’assemblée. La gestion du projet d’assistance parlementaire du PNUD, auquel le PE est associé, subit les tensions entre l’ancienne majorité gouvernementale et l’opposition. Les causes sociales et économiques de la révolte de Sidi Bouzid en 2010 persistent. La situation économique en 2012 demeure difficile. Elle enregistre une relative amélioration par rapport à 2011, mais ne retrouve pas ses indicateurs de 2010. Le chômage des diplômés souligne l’inadéquation entre les besoins de l’économie et du marché de l’emploi, d’une part et le système de l’éducation et de la formation professionnelle, d’autre part. Les disparités régionales persistent et menacent la paix sociale. Le futur gouvernement doit renforcer le dialogue social en associant l’UGTT à l’élaboration de ses politiques économiques et sociales. La
The Positions of Russia and China at the UN Security Council in the Light of Recent Crises

Zusammenfassung
In 2011/12 China and Russia cast three vetoes in the Security Council against UN intervention in Syria to prevent government forces suppressing less well-armed oppositionists. This seemed to run counter to the willingness of these states to accept UN intervention in Libya at the beginning of 2011. How should this be explained? It also raised questions about the likely Russian and Chinese response to a possible worsening of the confrontation between the Security Council and Iran over its presumed nuclear programme. The answers derive from the posture of these two states towards the role of the UN in global governance generally, as well as their particular strategic concerns in the UNSC. There are apparent contradictions between the policies of the two states, as well as common threads. Russo-Chinese relations in the UNSC are also structured by the wider context of relations in the General Assembly, and by the efforts by both governments to promote a thickening as well as a harmonisation of foreign policies. But there are significant limitations on the likely extent of that harmonisation.

Kuwait's Political Crisis Deepens

Zusammenfassung
Parliamentary elections were held in Kuwait on 2 December 2012 despite a deepening political crisis and the opposition's call to boycott the polls. The vote had been programmed after a pro-reform parliament, elected in February 2012, was disbanded by the country's Constitutional Court. In a bid to weaken the opposition's influence, Kuwait's Emir changed the electoral system before the election. Kuwait has been experiencing political stalemate for many years, the result of a constitutional struggle between the elected parliament and the ruling family. Questions of corruption and patronage have undercut progress and dialogue since the 1960s. The outcome of the December 2012 elections — a parliament dominated by pro-government members — may further poison the political atmosphere. Today, the opposition is still staging demonstrations, calling the Emir's actions into question and challenging the new parliament's legitimacy.

Human Rights Protection Mechanisms in Africa: Strong Potential, Weak Capacity

Zusammenfassung
The African Union (AU) has three principal mechanisms for protecting human rights on the continent: a Charter, a Commission and a Court all devoted to Human and Peoples' Rights. These are complemented by other specific instruments, by the work of the AU institutions and by various international and national laws. Despite this complex web, human rights are still violated in numerous African countries. The reasons stem from the fact that many legal instruments have not been ratified, that the human rights system suffers from weak capacity and — crucially — that many AU member states lack the political will to improve the situation. Human rights are an important element of AU–EU relations in the framework of the bi-regional Joint Strategy (JAES), although the results of this partnership have so far been disappointing. The new AU Commission, elected in 2012, may be more ready to engage on a substantive dialogue on the matter. The change presents an important opportunity to deepen the dialogue on dedicated human rights forums and to emphasise human rights as an essential element of common AU–EU approaches to other areas, such as development or peace and security in Africa.
Assessing the EU’s Approach to Security Sector Reform (SSR)

Zusammenfassung
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.

Despite Obstacles, Libya’s Transition Advances

Zusammenfassung
Libya’s first free elections since 1952 were held in July 2012 for the country’s 200-member parliament, the General National Congress (GNC). Several months of turmoil followed the appointment of a transitional government, until Libya’s Parliament finally confirmed a cabinet, led by Prime Minister Ali Zeidan, on 31 October 2012. The election of the General National Congress (GNC) was a crucial step in the process of the democratic transition initiated after the Revolution, but Libya still faces daunting challenges. While the country lacks a constitution to build effective state institutions, its first priority must be disarming armed groups and integrating them fully into the national security and military institutions. Security and order are urgently needed across the country. The government must ensure the rule of law against violent crimes, Islamic extremism and terrorist threats. At the same time it must also respond rapidly to various socio-economic demands, as Libyans require better living conditions and basic public services. Finally, in order to preserve national unity, the country needs to tackle the problem of tribal and regional divides.

Somalia : Concluding the Transitional Period or Opening a New One ?

Zusammenfassung
After parliamentary elections ushered in a new government, Somalia seems to have arrived at the end of its transitional period. Yet old problems and challenges remain. Two decades of conflicts and humanitarian crises identify Somalia as a ‘failed state’. The EU is strongly committed to all aspects of Somalia’s peace process. A number of international forces are present in the country. Even if welcome by the international community, Somalia’s recent political process had important shortcomings. A positive outcome of the recent election is the selection of a president with no links to the country’s old ruling class. The government must gain control of the Somali territory. The previous Transitional Federal Government’s lack of legitimacy hampered cooperation on humanitarian aid. To achieve peace, Somalia needs to become a functional state at all levels.
The 2012 South Korean Presidential Election

The two main candidates hailed from the two dominant political parties. 'Economic democratisation' and North Korea policy emerged as key issues. To what extent will Park curb the power of chaebols remains unclear. North Korea will present both a challenge and an opportunity to Park’s presidency. Reconciliation, cooperation and peace in Northeast Asia are among Park’s top priorities. Balancing between the US and China might pose a particular challenge. Voting patterns suggest that South Korea’s familiar policies might be shaken up in the future.

Reproaches Follow North Korea’s ‘Successful’ Launch of a Dysfunctional Satellite

The launch followed an unsuccessful attempt to propel the same sort of satellite into orbit in April. Many foreign governments consider the exercise a test of the country’s ability to launch long-range missiles. The country has gradually increased the range of its missiles. The UN has called on North Korea to suspend its ballistic missile system. North Korea’s technology is mostly borrowed and largely outdated. The satellite launched into orbit appears to outside observers not to be functional... at least for now. Pyongyang may have felt political and social pressures - in addition to military ones - to launch the rocket. The UN Security Council and various countries condemned the move. Even China expressed ‘regret’. This does not mean, however, that Pyongyang will be harshly punished by Beijing, its principal ally and trading partner. But the deeper worry abroad may be the possibility of a burgeoning Asian arms race.

After a Landslide Victory, Japan’s LDP Returns to Power

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is returning to power after three years. The results signal a sharp rejection of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), which has governed only since 2009. These were the first general elections held since Japan’s 2011 ‘triple disaster’. After 54 years of almost unbroken rule, Japan’s LDP government was ousted in 2009. Successive DPJ governments were unable to keep their campaign promises. Frequently shifting governments have not overcome Japan’s prolonged political and economic problems. Although 12 parties campaigned, the real competition was between the LDP, the DPJ and the JRP, with a few additional parties playing a minor role. Small parties could play a role in the coalition government. The stagnant economy, nuclear power and regional relations were the most pressing campaign issues. How to boost the economic growth while controlling the public debt and maintaining public support will be a challenge for any government. Giving up nuclear energy will be costly for Japanese national economy, although this is the preference of most Japanese citizens. Territorial disputes must be treated gently so as not to disrupt Japan’s international trade. Reviving the economy will be Shinzo Abe’s priority. International relations are likely to shift, with Abe seeking to avoid antagonising China. Relations with other Asian nations are also likely to develop.
**Down to the Wire in Bahrain: Last Chance for Real Political Reform**

*Art der Veröffentlichung*  
Eingehende Analyse

*Kalenderdatum*  
17-12-2012

*Verfasser*  
Pekka HAKALA | Elyes GHANMI

*Politikbereich*  
Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte

*Schlagwörter*  
politische Reform | Bahrain | politische Lage | politische Richtung | Repression | politische Agitation | gemeinsame Sicherheits- und Verteidigungspolitik | demografische Analyse | Menschenrechte

**Zusammenfassung**

After months of rising tension and despair in Bahrain, a slight glimmer of hope has appeared: on 7 December, Crown Prince Salman called for dialogue with the country’s opposition to break the political deadlock. His speech was met positively by the centre-left Wa’ad party and al-Wefaq, the largest party representing the country’s Shia population. Up until now, the country’s reform process had reached a stalemate. The national dialogue had been deferred, despite the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry Commission of November 2011, endorsed by King Hamad, the United Nations, the European Union and the United States. The country’s political scene has become increasingly polarised, and the positions of hardliners within the regime and the opposition are increasingly entrenched. The country, its economy and political stability would all benefit from a salutary dose of dialogue and moderation to overcome the vicious circle of violence and provocation.

The EU can contribute to this by conducting a dialogue with the Bahraini authorities and civil society. The Union should support the democratic opposition and moderate factions within the regime: the signatories of the October 2011 Manama Document and Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad.

**Russia and the Common Space on Freedom, Security and Justice**

*Art der Veröffentlichung*  
Studie

*Kalenderdatum*  
14-12-2012

*Externe Autor*  
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Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | Demokratie | Menschenrechte

*Schlagwörter*  
organisiertes Verbrechen | Beziehungen der Union | Verbrechensbekämpfung | EU-Migrationspolitik | Raum der Freiheit, der Sicherheit und des Rechts | die Russische Föderation | Zusammenarbeit der Justizbehörden | Drogenhandel | Einreise von Ausländern | Menschenrechte

**Zusammenfassung**

EU-Russia cooperation in the framework of the Common Space on Freedom, Security and Justice, launched a decade ago in 2003, has borne fruit more in the security aspects than the justice and liberty-related policy areas. The study assesses the uneven cooperation on justice and home affairs between the EU and Russia, while delving into the intersection between cooperation on justice, liberty and security and the promotion of human rights, democracy and rule of law in EU-Russia relations. The study concludes by proposing a set of policy recommendations to the LIBE Committee for playing a more active role in this important field of cooperation between the EU and Russia.

**Threats to Sudan's Stability Mount**

*Art der Veröffentlichung*  
Briefing

*Kalenderdatum*  
11-12-2012

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Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten

*Schlagwörter*  
Sudan | politische Opposition | politische Lage | Südsudan | politische Krise | Rezession | politische Agitation | Staatsstreich | Wirtschaftslage

**Zusammenfassung**

The regime of Sudan's President Omar Al Bashir's regime is facing its most important challenges in recent years. Sudan lost 75% of its oil revenues following the independence of South Sudan. Its economy will contract by 11.2 percent this year. This has encouraged popular protests and reduced the regime’s resources. Army generals and intelligence officers were among the 13 people arrested for plotting a coup d'état in November. The arrests signal a widening rift between hard- and soft-liners in Khartoum. Political opposition is growing, and protests are becoming more frequent. An alliance of armed groups — the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) — was launched in 2011. Sudan is at the crossroads of Africa and the Middle East, and its future trajectory will influence regional dynamics.
Following-Up on Recommendations of EU Election Observation Missions
Art der Veröffentlichung Studie
Kalenderdatum 05-12-2012
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Politikbereich Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Schlagwortliste Beobachter | Delegation EP | Demokratie | Wahlprüfung | Delegation der Union
Zusammenfassung This study concludes that recommendations issued by European Union Election Observation Missions (EU EOM) merit substantiation in applicable international and regional obligations, so as to legitimise their follow-up by EU Delegations in country, as well as by relevant European Parliament Standing Delegations. The study suggests that the status of EU EOM recommendations warrants centralized tracking, in order to allow coordinated follow-up and statistical EEAS reporting to European Parliament. The paper further recommends that the pending revision of the Cotonou Agreement should refer to Africa-Caribbean-Pacific-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly resolutions that enshrine electoral commitments. Further, the study suggests that European Parliament task its Election Observation Delegations with scrutinising direct Budget Support vis-à-vis host country adoption of EU EOM recommendations, as benchmarked in political dialogue and to rests findings to relevant EP Committees. The study finds that in turn, European Parliament could maintain a "watch list" of repeat electoral Deep Democracy offenders. As a last resort, European Parliament could resolve to link approval of Development Cooperation Instrument and European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument funds to adoption of those EU EOM recommendations that aim to protect fundamental rights and freedoms.

EU Action to Strengthen Respect for Human Rights and Democracy in the Process of Political Changes in the Middle East and North Africa
Art der Veröffentlichung Studie
Kalenderdatum 04-12-2012
Externe Autor Richard YOUNGS and Hélène MICHOU (Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior - FRIDE, Spain) ; Case studies : Kristina KAUSCH (Egypt) , Barah MIKAIL (Tunisia) , Hélène MICHOU (Syria) and Ana ECHAGUE (Yemen)
Politikbereich Globale Ordnungspolitik | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste Wirkungsstudie | Beziehungen der Union | EU-Aktion | politische Lage | Nordafrika | Demokratie | politische Agitation | Naher und Mittlerer Osten | Menschenrechte
Zusammenfassung This report evaluates the EU's action to strengthen respect for human rights and democracy in North Africa and the Middle East. Assessing the EU's changing institutional context since the Lisbon Treaty, it examines the major policy initiatives of 2011 in response to the events of the Arab Spring. The Arab Spring illustrated the limitations of the 'stability versus human rights' paradigm, and prompted the EU to promise that support for human rights and democracy would be central to its relations with the MENA-region. Such rhetoric must be matched by detailed action plans which incorporate the promotion of such values. As shown in the four case studies conducted for this report, laudable policy declarations must be implemented not only by tangible increases in budget lines, but also by concrete policy-structures capable of acting forcefully against human rights violations. The appointment of a Special Representative for Human Rights and the creation of the EED and CSF have the potential to achieve such goals, although the exact nature of these initiatives still need to be determined. This report recommends the EU to resolve its internal differences with regards to the region, to intensify its relations with other MENA partners, and suggests ways of enhancing the effectiveness of its policy.

Egypt - A Strategic Partner for the EU
Art der Veröffentlichung Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum 22-11-2012
Verfasser Pekka HAKALA | Elyes GHANMI | Pasquale DE MICCO
Politikbereich Gleichstellung | Fragen, Gleichheit und Vielfalt | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste Beziehungen der Union | Vereinigungsfragen | Pressesprecher | Demokratie | Rechte der Frau | Außenpolitik | Ägypten | Wirtschaftspolitik | Menschenrechte
Zusammenfassung In the most populous Arab nation, Egypt's newly elected officials are working to recapture their country's old role of regional leader, tarnished under the previous regime. The country's political and economic potential is still constrained by the complexity of its transition from authoritarian rule to democracy. After decades of government largely influenced by the military, a new era of political leaders are seeking their political direction. These politicians—for the most part Islamists — enjoy a clear mandate, garnered in a series of free and fair elections. It is essential that the political transition process continue, and that new democratic institutions be established. Egypt's fledgling democracy must be consolidated in a new constitution, also approved by the Egyptian people. Fundamental human rights and the equality of all citizens must be guaranteed, and economic growth jump-started. The EU is Egypt's first trading partner, and the EU would benefit from a greater political alliance with Egypt. Egypt's success in mediating a cease-fire between Hamas and Israel has underscored its role as a principal power in a region profoundly altered by the Arab Awakening. Egypt is a strategic partner for the European Union, and the Union should assume a more palpable presence in the country, deepen its political dialogue and support Egypt's democratic transition and socio-economic development.

Eingehende Analyse EN
Enhancing EU Action to Support Universal Standards for Women’s Rights During Democratic Transitions

The Case of Democratic Transition in the MENA Region

Palestine’s Bid for UN Observer State Status Advances despite EU Hesitation

The M23 and Eastern D.R.Congo: An Intractable Problem or an Opportunity to Engage?
Presidential Elections in Venezuela: Towards 20 Years of Bolivarian Revolution?

President Hugo Chávez won his fourth presidential election, with 55.1% of the vote, almost 11% more than his main opponent, Henrique Capriles, who alleged fraud. The election was marred by allegations of vote-rigging and violence, which continued after the polls closed. The victory of Chávez was seen as a blow to the opposition and a sign of the continued popularity of his brand of socialism.

The elections were heavily influenced by the presence of Chávez, who had been re-elected for a third term in 2012. His popularity remained high, despite allegations of corruption and human rights abuses. The opposition, led by Capriles, was unable to challenge Chávez's dominance and failed to gain significant support.

The victory of Chávez was seen as a setback for the opposition and a sign of the continued popularity of his brand of socialism. The elections were marred by allegations of vote-rigging and violence, which continued after the polls closed. The victory of Chávez was seen as a blow to the opposition and a sign of the continued popularity of his brand of socialism.

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Georgia: after the elections

Zusammenfassung

Thanks to the results of the 1 October 2012 parliamentary elections, Georgia has entered a new era. The opposition party Georgian Dream, led by Bidzina Ivanishvili, won the elections with a clear majority with 83 of the 150 seats. It overcame the incumbent United National Movement (UNM) of Mikheil Saakashvili, who immediately conceded defeat.

"Undemocratic" elections in Belarus

Zusammenfassung

A breakthrough in the frozen EU-Belarus relations had been considered possible in advance of parliamentary elections in Belarus on 23 September 2012. But after the event, commentators noted that international standards had not been respected and the polls were neither fair nor transparent.

The EU Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa: A Critical Assessment of Impact and Opportunities

Zusammenfassung

Adoption of the Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa should open new opportunities for successful engagement in the region. More coherent action creates the opportunity for the EU to be recognised in the region as an actor in its own right, and with the influence that the scale of its engagement should bring. The appointment of an EUSR for the Horn of Africa should allow the EU to speak more clearly with one voice in the region. Doing so would allow the EU to exploit more fully its comparative advantage in the region: as a bloc, it is one of the most significant sources of assistance and investment into the region and an important trade partner. The EU is clearly active across the region, especially through high profile engagement in Somalia and the Sudans. However, quiet engagement in Ethiopia and Eritrea presents the greatest new opportunity to influence constructive shifts in regional security and economic dynamics. This was true before the recent death of Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, and is even more the case now. Strengthening IGAD will also be essential if the region’s potential and the EU’s goals are to be realised.

Is the Financial Crisis the Only Threat to Swaziland’s Regime?

Zusammenfassung

Swaziland is one of the smallest African countries as well as the only absolute monarchy remaining on the continent. Its political system is an anomaly in Southern Africa, the most advanced and progressive region of the sub-Saharan region. The Swazi state has been mired in a deep financial crisis for the last two years. Given that a large segment of the population lives under the poverty line and that the HIV infection rate is one of the highest in the world, the effects of the financial crisis have been severe. The Swazi people, who have traditionally shown great reverence to their monarch, are growing increasingly critical, blaming the crisis on the government’s mismanagement. King Mswati III’s eccentric lifestyle and apparent lack of consideration for the difficulties faced by his people have eroded the regime’s credibility. Political repression has grown. Given the lack of representation built into the country’s political system, and the absence of checks and balances, the possibilities for political evolution in the absence of royal leadership are nearly inexistent.

While the Swazi crisis has not made international headlines recently, the country’s problems persist. The International Monetary Fund left the country in May and, if the announced South African bailout is not agreed by Swaziland due to its conditionality, a peak of the crisis may be expected in late 2012 or early 2013.
**Civil-Military Relations in Guinea-Bissau : An Unresolved Issue**

Following the death of Guinea-Bissau's President Malam Bacai Sanha in January 2012, Prime Minister Carlos Gomez Júnior was widely expected to win the country's presidential elections. Gomez Júnior won the first round of the elections by a significant margin, but the voting process was interrupted by a military coup on 12 April 2012. After the coup was condemned by many regional and international actors, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) deployed intense diplomatic efforts and brokered an agreement with the country's new ‘Military Command’. On 23 May 2012, power was transferred to a transitional civilian government that has been given one year to organise new parliamentary and presidential polls. The negotiations leading to this deal were far from inclusive, however, and the arrangement has been strongly criticised, including by the former leading political party, civil society representatives, the UN and the EU. The transitional government has not been recognised internationally, and the EU has issued calls to restore constitutional order and resume the interrupted presidential elections. Yet as time advances, the status quo seems unlikely to be reversed, at least in the near future. The April coup underscores the power of the military in Guinea-Bissau, whose social and economic development has been constantly undermined by political instability since its independence in 1974.

**Elections in Mexico : The PRI Returns to Government, But without a Legislative Majority**

The Institutional Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Institucional, PRI) and its candidate Enrique Peña Nieto emerged the clear victors of Mexico’s elections on 1 July 2012. While Peña Nieto will take office as President on 1 December, the PRI and its allies did not achieve a majority in the two chambers of Congress, and the new government will have to negotiate with other parties to get support for its proposals. Overall, the elections consolidated Mexico's three-party system. The runner-up in the election, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, the candidate of the left-wing Progressive Movement (Movimiento Progresista) alliance, has refused to recognise the result and has accused the PRI of massive vote-buying. A legal challenge against the result is unlikely to succeed, and it may be difficult to mobilise sustained protests against alleged electoral fraud.

**After the Arab Spring : New Paths for Human Rights and the Internet in European Foreign Policy**

The following briefing paper provides an overview of the actions taken by governments in the MENA region to limit the positive impact of ICTs and the use of ICTs for harmful purposes. It then looks at key cases in the MENA region, analysing the events in Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Libya and Bahrain before and during the Arab Spring. It then develops specific policy recommendations for European foreign policy, which are categorised by priority into short, medium, and long-term initiatives. In conclusion, it suggests that European policy makers have numerous avenues to develop policy solutions that could adequately respond to many of the issues raised during the Arab Spring, in the southern Mediterranean and beyond.

**Egypt’s Transition Back on Track after Mohamed Mursi’s Victory**

Mohamed Mursi’s election marks a milestone in Egypt's transition to democracy. The next step must involve a transfer of power from military to civilian institutions.
Tunisian Transition: Hope in Spite of the Challenges

Sociological Study on the Composition of the Belarusian Society

The Political and Social Developments in Russia in 2012 as a Consequence of its New Role on the Global Stage
The Dawn of Parliamentary Democracy in Egypt

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 08-02-2012
Verfasser: Pekka HAKALA

Zusammenfassung: Egypt's political influence stems from its strategic geographic position, historical and cultural importance and the strength of its diplomacy and military. Egypt's roles in the League of Arab States, the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process and the Nile Basin make the country a critical Middle Eastern and North African partner for the EU and its Member States. Egypt's parliamentary elections gave the Islamist parties a landslide victory — a two-thirds majority in the new People's Assembly. Some concerns have been raised over this majority and its commitment to safeguarding principles of democracy and pluralism in the new constitution, protecting human rights and preserving Egypt's international relations. The current human rights situation in Egypt is worrisome, in particular concerning the use of excessive force, the crackdown on civil society organisations and violence against women. The Egyptian economy is also in a desperate state, with foreign currency reserves down to an alarming level for the EU and its close neighbours as a result of the eurozone crisis, compounded for the South Mediterranean states by the economic consequences of the Arab Spring. While it is implausible that the MFA be massively expanded, this is not the time to dismantle it, and options for its possible improvement are discussed.

Eingehende Analyse
EN

EU Macro-Financial Assistance: A Critical Assessment

Art der Veröffentlichung: Studie
Kalenderdatum: 23-02-2012
Externe Autor: Michael EMERSON (Centre for European Policy Studies - CEPS, Belgium)

Zusammenfassung: This study analyses the ongoing experience of the Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) instrument of the European Union since 2006, and reviews the Commission proposal for a new Framework Regulation to govern its future operations. It considers how the MFA is affected by international conditions and how this affects its achievements in the EU’s objective area of strengthening democracy and pluralism in the new constitution, protecting human rights and preserving Egypt's international relations. The current human rights situation in Egypt is worrisome, in particular concerning the use of excessive force, the crackdown on civil society organisations and violence against women. The Egyptian economy is also in a desperate state, with foreign currency reserves down to an alarming level for the EU and its close neighbours as a result of the eurozone crisis, compounded for the South Mediterranean states by the economic consequences of the Arab Spring. While it is implausible that the MFA be massively expanded, this is not the time to dismantle it, and options for its possible improvement are discussed.

Eingehende Analyse
EN

The Social, Economic, Political and Geo-Strategic Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 21-12-2011
Externe Autor: Michelle PACE (Department of Political Science and International Studies, University of Birmingham, the UK)

Zusammenfassung: The Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) is an exceptional case study in that the Palestinians inhabit an occupied territory and the project of state-building is still in the making. 1 One cannot appreciate the extent of the dire situation in the OPT without bearing this in mind. Since the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 and the Arab-Israeli war of 1967, Palestinians have undergone massively destabilising and profound uncertainties about their political identities.2 The Palestinian dilemma goes back to 1945 when Zionist leaders initiated a campaign for a homeland of their own, demanding all of historic Palestine. Ignoring Arab protests, Washington and Moscow backed a UN resolution calling for Palestine to be divided between Palestinians and Israelis. A war ensured between Israeli and Arab forces (the Arab League threw its support behind the Palestinian resistance). As a nation-in-the-making, Palestine was erased from the map and Israel was created. Many Palestinians were forced out of their homes to make way for the new state of Israel. The six-day war of 1967 drove another wave of Palestinian refugees from their land. These lost lands of Palestine fuelled Palestinian nationalism.3 The Palestinian struggle against the occupation has been considered as a key explanatory factor behind the emergence of the Islamist/secularist dialectic in the Occupied Territory.4 The two most significant political factions in the Palestinian arena are Fatah (meaning ‘Opening’ or ‘Conquest’ and a reverse acronym from the Arabic name Harakat al-Tahrir al-Watani al-Filastini, literally: Palestinian National Liberation Movement), a secular movement and Hamas (Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya, meaning ‘zeal’), the Islamic Resistance Movement.
Supporting Ombudsman Cooperation in the Eastern Partnership Countries

Art der Veröffentlichung
Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum 15-12-2011
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Politikbereich Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste Armenien | Georgien | Moldau | die Ukraine | Aserbaidschan | Europäisches Nachbarschafts- und Partnerschaftsinstrument | Menschenrechtswegung | Zusammenarbeit in Rechtsfragen | Menschenrechte

Zusammenfassung
This study has been commissioned by the European Parliament as an input to the analysis of the international, in particular European Union’s, assistance to national human rights institutions in the countries of the Eastern Partnership. Since the calls on Belarus so far have failed to result in the establishment of such an institution in this country, the study focuses only on Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. While noting the strengthening of the standing and a considerable progress in work of the analyzed institutions, the study refers to the assessments presented by them, as well as to external opinions that emphasize the need to continue programmes of support offered to these institutions. Such support is relevant to both the capacity-building, including networking and exchange of good practices, and ensuring appropriate impact and independence of these institutions within the state structures. In this context, the study proposes several steps to be taken by the EU, and in particular by the European Parliament. The guiding idea of these suggestions is the adoption of a focused and streamlined strategic approach, envisaging a time-frame for the European Union’s engagement which would allow for achieving sustainable results.

Eingehende Analyse EN

Proceedings of the Workshop on "What Perspectives for Stability and Democracy in Pakistan ?"

Art der Veröffentlichung
Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum 12-12-2011
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Politikbereich Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Schlagwortliste Pakistan | Beziehungen der Union | Kaschmir-Frage | Gewaltentrennung | Indien | Demokratie | religiöser Fundamentalismus | sozioökonomische Verhältnisse | regionale Integration

Zusammenfassung
The Policy Department of the European Parliament has organised On behalf of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Delegation for Relations with South Asia a workshop on "Perspectives of stability and democracy in Pakistan". Three speakers were invited to address issues covering domestic socio-political aspects, the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, regional relations and the potential contribution and support to stability, democracy and socio-economic development. Pakistan continues to be a fledgling democracy in transition. The complexities of the Pakistani situation make it difficult for outsiders to understand the different powers at play in the country and to deal with fears about instability. A partnership of the military with the judiciary and the media has emerged, and the military retains its capacity to influence the public discourse and the trust in the effectiveness of a democratic polity in general. The definitive substantial challenge is to cope with continuing tensions between civil and military rule. Positive developments include the 18th and 19th Amendments to the Constitution (which re-establish parliamentary democracy, including aspects of electoral reform), the provinces agreeing on the National Finance Commission Award, the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the recent resumption of talks between India and Pakistan. The development of trust between Pakistan and India will be essential for the longer-term entrenchment of civilian government in Pakistan; this in turn will require some agreement to be forged over Kashmir. Whether this is feasible will depend on political will. The EU should consolidate long-term support for strengthening democracy in Pakistan by the formulation of a strong electoral framework, strengthening of the Pakistani Parliament as an institution and supporting local self governance and devolution of power.

Eingehende Analyse EN

Human Rights in Eastern Partnership Countries

Art der Veröffentlichung
Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum 22-07-2011
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Politikbereich Demokratie | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste Europäische Nachbarschaftspolitik | Demokratisierung | Mittel- und Osteuropa | Zivilgesellschaft | Rechtsstaat | Menschenrechte

Zusammenfassung
The paper gives an account of the state of human rights and democratic institutions in the EaP countries and discusses the EU concepts and tools for human rights and democracy promotion in the region, including the proposals related to the May 2011 ENP Communication (ENPI Civil Society Facility, European Endowment for Democracy, etc.), as well as the role of the Euroest. It concludes the EaP region has not been presenting a bright picture over the last couple of years; with some exceptions, the human right records have deteriorated and the democratic development have been backsliding. It suggests possible ways how the European Parliament could make a better use of the existing and emerging EU tools to promote human rights and democratization of the EaP countries.

Eingehende Analyse EN
The Role of Private Security Companies (PSCs) in CSDP Missions and Operations

While the hiring of Private Security Companies (PSCs) such as Blackwater by the United States (US) has been the most widely reported and debated, the European Union (EU) and its member states are increasingly relying on private contractors in multilateral operations. Among others, the EU has employed private security guards to protect the EUPOL headquarters in Afghanistan, to secure the premises of the EULEX mission in Kosovo and to guard the EUPOL mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo). Due to the growing roles of PSCs in Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operations, the EU and its member states urgently need to consider the possible impact that armed and unarmed security contractors can have on missions and the possible consequences of mission objectives. This report demonstrates that potential negative effects range from decreased democratic accountability and governmental control to the perceptions of contractor impunity and insecurity among the civilian populations of host states. There is no catch-all solution to these problems, and for many governments the advantages of hiring private security contractors, such as the ability to fill urgent capability and personnel gaps, cost-efficiency and specialist expertise, outweigh the disadvantages. Given the current financial and personnel constraints in Europe, it is likely that the use of PSCs will further increase. It is therefore imperative to develop appropriate mechanisms to address the possible problems of such use before they occur. This report develops five specific recommendations for EU action that would help address risks associated with the increasing use of Private Military and Security Companies.

Challenges and Perspectives Concerning Election Reform at the Local Level in Ukraine

Local elections in Ukraine took place on 31 October 31 2010. Being the first under the Presidency of Victor Yanukovych, they were widely regarded as a test for the new administration’s commitment to democratic reform and the principle of democratic self-government. This study examines the challenges and perspectives concerning the election reform at the local level, the shortcomings of the electoral process and how they were reinforced by the current structure of local self-governance in Ukraine. The author argues that political pluralism and fundamental democratic rights in Ukraine have been preserved for the last five years not by the effective functioning of state institutions, the sequestration of powers but by the balance of power of the main political forces. The study focuses on the analysis of the last local and regional elections (up to the level of regions/oblasti) in October 2010 because they showed the main deficits of democracy on the level of local and regional authorities in Ukraine. The study provides recommendations emphasizing the need for a new, comprehensive electoral code and on necessary structural changes in local self-governance with the aim to ensure a functioning system of democratic checks and balances, as well as just and equal representation on all levels of state administration.

The Electoral System of the Russian Federation

This report examines the development of the electoral system in Russia, with a particular emphasis on the evolution of political parties, after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. It analyses changes during the Russian Federation’s three presidential administrations (Yeltsin, Putin, Medvedev) and assesses what role successive presidents have played in moulding the constitutional and legal system to suit their interests. The financing of political parties and election campaigns is discussed, as is the issue of party membership. The sometimes controversial role of the media is examined. The report also considers how the international community has responded to elections in Russia, taking into account reports and statements of the EU, Council of Europe and the ODHIR/OSCE. Finally, it considers the prospects for the future of politics in Russia. This study shows that Russia is far from being a fully functioning democracy. This study points out, how since 1991, the political party system has undergone many changes and parties have emerged and disappeared with great frequency and the electoral system has been manipulated by Russia’s leaders to ensure maintenance of the status quo.
The role of regional human rights mechanisms

Zusammenfassung
Regional human rights protection mechanisms constitute important pillars of the international system for the promotion and protection of human rights. At the current state five regional human rights mechanisms can be distinguished varying significantly from a very advanced human rights protection system to an emerging one. In the Council of Europe area, the European Court of Human Rights, the main human rights protection mechanism, has become a victim of its own success and due to its workload is struggling to remain efficient. The Inter-American system is well developed but the diverting political systems together with the non-permanent and not obligatory character of the Court threaten to undermine the political weight of the system. Even though all essential elements of an effective regional human rights mechanism are put in place in Africa, financial as well as professional support will be crucial to overcome some important structural constraints that affect its effectiveness. Even though the Arab Charter of Human Rights in 2004 and the establishment of the Arab Committee of Human Rights in 2009 are important steps in the Arab World, the charter is in some parts inconsistent with international human rights standards, and it is doubtful whether the members of the Committee are sufficiently independent to address human rights issues effectively. Subregional mechanisms such as the ASEAN mechanism appear to be the most practicable solution in the Asia-Pacific region. However, no underlying human rights instrument such as a Declaration or Convention has been developed for the system so far, and the still predominant ASEAN thinking of limiting human rights discussion by reference to noninterference in internal affairs puts the effectiveness of this system in question.

Studie EN

The decentralization process in Kosovans the creation of the new municipalities: a Kosovo-Albanian and a Kosovo-Serb minority view

Zusammenfassung
The AFET committee has requested two briefing notes on the decentralization process in Kosovo and the creation of the new municipalities, one from the Kosovo Albanian angle and the other from the Kosovo Serb-minority angle. The summary assesses the points of convergence and points of divergence between the two notes. To do so, it follows the set of themes provided by the specifications in order to enable a comparative reading. Overall, both notes agree on the fact that decentralization is a process still in the making in Kosovo. They however emphasize different issues and problems and they also diverge on solutions to be found, especially when it comes to the Northern part of Kosovo and to parallel structures.

Studie EN

Election Observation by the European Parliament in the OSCE Area

Zusammenfassung
This report reviews the role of the European Parliament (EP) in observing elections as a means of assessing democratic development in neighbourhood countries that are also participating States of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), i.e. all Candidate and potential Candidate countries and EU Eastern Partnership countries. The EU has acknowledged that the lead on observing elections in these countries is taken by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) whose long-term missions are often joined by short-term delegations from the EP and other parliamentary bodies to form International Election Observation Missions (IEOMs). The report assesses the framework in which IEOMs operate and the observational methodologies employed by these different institutions. It includes a focus on challenges faced by IEOMs (including criticisms of the role played by ODIHR) to present a common international assessment of an electoral process that is important for establishing EU policy towards these neighbourhood countries. The report also identifies ways in which the EP can take measures to strengthen the effectiveness of IEOMs and to improve its framework for undertaking election observation.

Studie EN
Nonviolent Civic Action in Support of Human Rights and Democracy

Art der Veröffentlichung Studie
Kalenderdatum 12-05-2009
Externe Autor Véronique DUDOUET (Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management, Berlin, Germany) and Howard CLARK (Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Studies, Coventry University, United Kingdom)
Politikbereich Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste Verteilung der Hilfe | Gewaltlosigkeit | Finanzhilfe | Demokratie | Zivilgesellschaft | Menschenrechtsbewegung

Zusammenfassung Nonviolent action is increasingly used by diverse groups around the world to demand human rights, advocate for justice, establish democracy and insist on transparency and accountability in governance. It can serve as an alternative to violent struggle for people facing oppression, undercut the power of extremist and militant armed groups, and contribute to regional security and stability. This study argues that international support for nonviolent movements can be vital, but needs to be based on an understanding of the movement itself, its strategy, circumstances and needs. It must be an extension of, not a replacement for, local strategically-planned nonviolent resistance, and should be informed by close consultation with grass-roots nonviolent movements about what is welcome and appropriate. The authors propose that more should be done to make EU programmes less state-centred and to encourage ‘democratisation-from below’, by supporting the independent organisational capacity of civil society.

EU Policy Towards Belarus and Cuba: a Comparative Analysis

Art der Veröffentlichung Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum 24-02-2009
Externe Autor Joakim KREUTZ (Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala Universitet, Sweden)
Politikbereich Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste Kuba | Beziehungen der Union | internationale Sanktion | Demokratie | Menschenrechtsbewegung | Belarus | Menschenrechte

Zusammenfassung This briefing paper explores the EU policy towards Belarus and Cuba, with a particular focus on the promotion of human rights and democracy.

The Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Freedom of Expression

Art der Veröffentlichung Studie
Kalenderdatum 18-02-2009
Externe Autor Malcolm EVANS
Politikbereich Demokratie | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste Religion | Redefreiheit | Religionsfreiheit | Europäischer Gerichtshof für Menschenrechte | Demokratie | religiöse Gruppe | Meinungsfreiheit | Verleumdung | Menschenrechte

Zusammenfassung Executive summary There is increasing scrutiny of the practice of states in relation to matters of religion or belief and whilst such practice takes place - and is subject to analysis - on many levels, one of the most important issues concerns the manner in which it bears upon the enjoyment of other fundamental rights. Given the importance placed upon the freedom of expression in the western liberal democratic tradition, it is easy to see why the relationship between religion, belief and expression has become so significant an issue and why the manner in which any tensions are addressed tends to assume something of a totemic significance in the eyes of some observers.

Analysis of the EU’s Assistance to Moldova

Art der Veröffentlichung Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum 25-11-2008
Externe Autor Andris Spruds (lead author); Renars Danelsons and Vadim Kononenko (co-authors)
Politikbereich Demokratie | Finanz- und Bankenangelegenheiten | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste Europäische Nachbarschaftspolitik | politische Zusammenarbeit | Pressefreiheit | Finanzhilfe | Moldau | wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit | Demokratisierung | Zivilgesellschaft | Beilegung der Streitigkeiten | Menschenrechte

Zusammenfassung The European Union has intensified its political and economic cooperation with Moldova, which is one of the largest financial recipients from the EU per capita. The EU assistance is increasingly moving towards a sectoral approach. Major projects focus on strengthening democratic institutions and public administration, supporting civil society, human rights and freedom of media, reforming the social assistance and educational system, and improving border control and management. The financial assistance to Moldova has proved to be generally relevant, effective and efficient for Moldova’s modernization process. However, Moldova’s domestic constraints and lack of more strategic vision on the EU side for its relations with Moldova is an essential obstacle in ensuring the EU long-term sustainable contribution to the country’s development and Europeanization.
**Analysis of the EU’s Assistance to Ukraine**

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 29-10-2008

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Politikbereich: Energie | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte

Schlagwortliste: Sicherung der Versorgung | Energieversorgung | Redefreiheit | Finanzhilfe | die Ukraine | Demokratisierung | Rechtsstaat | Menschenrechte

Zusammenfassung: Ukraine has been seen for a long time as a threat-source for Europe for different reasons. Although this approach has been somewhat re-valued after the intensification of the relations between Ukraine and the European Union in the post-Orange Revolution period, EU activities in the country still bear the marks of this previous attitude. A major evidence of this phenomenon is the outstanding share of the energy sector in total EU aid directed to Ukraine; this assistance is also important for Ukraine itself. Also the Ukrainian society and state face enormous challenges that have been even increased by the almost permanent domestic political crisis for about the past two years. These challenges should be addressed in a more active way by the EU, especially regarding the rule of law issue without which the permanent political instability and constitutional crisis cannot be solved.

Eingehende Analyse: EN

**Analysis of the EU’s assistance to Armenia**

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 23-10-2008

Externe Autor: Burcu Gültekin-Punsmann and Graham Avery

Politikbereich: Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte

Schlagwortliste: Governance | Armenien | regionale Zusammenarbeit | institutionelle Reform | Koordinierung der Beihilfen | Finanzhilfe | Demokratie | Aufschlüsselung der EU-Finanzierung | Bewertung der Hilfe | Menschenrechte

Zusammenfassung: Executive summary
Scope of the briefing: This paper provides an analysis of the objectives of cooperation pursued by the EU with regard to Armenia by focusing on the convergence between the objectives and priorities specified in the relevant EU documents. The first section of this briefing provides an overview of the main political, social and economic challenges faced by Armenia and links them with the EU assistance priorities. The second part assesses the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of EU’s assistance. The third section addresses the issues of regional cooperation and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. It takes account particularly of the priority areas of the National Indicative Programme: democracy, rule of law, reform of the judiciary, human rights and fundamental freedoms, media, people to people contacts.

Eingehende Analyse: EN

**Analyse des progrès dans la mise en oeuvre de l’instrument financier pour la Politique de Voisinage en Algérie**

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 29-09-2008

Externe Autor: Cécile Jolly

Politikbereich: Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte


De ce fait, l’essentiel des programmes, en particulier ceux qui sont dotés des budgets les plus élevés, sont à peine entamés. Les projets proposés dans le cadre de l’Initiative européenne pour la démocratie et les droits de l’homme (IEDDH) sont souvent la continuation des programmes préalables et sont moins dotés financièrement. Dans ce contexte particulier, le présent rapport s’attacherà à présenter et discuter plus qu’à évaluer les projets, en proposant des axes d’approfondissement qui paraissent pouvoir être mis en œuvre. Ils s’inscrivent dans le cadre des priorités définies par le document de stratégie élaborée par la Commission et par le programme indicatif national autour de deux axes : la démocratisation du pays (I) et les réformes juridiques en faveur de l’état de droit (II).

Sur le plan de la démocratisation et des droits de l’homme, l’Algérie a peu progressé. En dépit de processus électoraux, le système politique continue d’être dominé par u

Eingehende Analyse: FR
Analyse des progrès dans la mise en oeuvre de l’instrument financier pour la Politique de Voisinage en Jordanie

Zusammenfassung

Eingehende Analyse
FR

Implementation of the ENPI : analysis of the EU's assistance to Russia

Zusammenfassung
Scope of the briefing: The Briefing Paper analyses the EU's assistance to Russia through the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and other external aid instruments in the light of:
• recent political, economic or social developments and emerging policy priorities that may require adjustments to, or re-prioritisation among these objectives;
• the positions stated by the European Parliament in its recent resolutions on issues relevant for EU-Russia relations.

Die rechtlichen Auswirkungen des Verbotsverfahrens der AK Partei in Anbetracht der Rechtsprechung des Europäischen Gerichtshofs fuer Menschenrechte - Parteiverbot in der Türkei - Fall AKP

Zusammenfassung
Die Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi (Partei für Gerechtigkeit und Entwicklung; offizielles Kürzel “Akparti”, ansonsten AKP) wurde im Jahre 2001 durch Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, den ehemaligen Oberbürgermeister von Istanbul, und einer Gruppe von Politikern gegründet, die sich zum Teil aus der verbotenen Refah Partisi (Wohlfahrtspartei), zum Teil aber auch aus anderen Parteigängern, welche nicht durch besondere Nähe zu religiösem Gedankengut aufgefallen waren, Erdogan verfestigte damit sein Profil als ein zwar religiös orientierter, jedoch pragmatischer und den Werten der modernen Demokratie aufgeschlossener Politiker. Er war bereits in der Refah Partisi als moderater Politiker aufgetreten, der mit den ideologischen Grundsätzen eines Necmettin Erbakan wenig gemein hatte. […]

Eingehende Analyse
DE, EN, FR
Analyse des progrès dans la mise en oeuvre de l'instrument financier pour la politique de voisinage en Egypte

Art der Veröffentlichung: Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum: 16-07-2008
Externe Autor: Sophie POMMIER
Politikbereich: Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Eingehende Analyse: FR

'Conflict Traps' - The Economic Dimension and Impact of Natural Resources and Elections on Conflicts

Art der Veröffentlichung: Briefing
Kalenderdatum: 04-07-2008
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Politikbereich: Umwelt | Wirtschaft und Währung | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Schlagwortliste: Armut | natürliche Ressourcen | Wahl | Erhaltung des Friedens | internationale Zusammenarbeit | Umstellungsbeihilfe | Demokratie | Bürgerkrieg | Rohstoffpreis
Zusammenfassung: Introduction
Violent internal conflict inflicts death, disease and displacement upon the mass of ordinary people who are not active participants. It also inflicts large and persistent economic costs, and so is ‘development in reverse’. Finally, it is an illegitimate means of political change whose typical political legacy is deterioration in human rights, and a heightened risk of further violent conflict. Historically, post-conflict situations have had a 40% rate of relapse into civil war within the first decade. The prevention of violent internal conflict is therefore quite properly a key concern of international policy. In this paper I discuss the efficacy of both economic and political interventions. I first review the evidence on the causes of large-scale violent internal conflict. This provides at least some guide to prevention. [...]
Human Rights Dialogue between the European Union and Central America

Art der Veröffentlichung  Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum 12-10-2007
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Politikbereich Demokratie | Entwicklung und humanitäre Hilfe | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste Beziehungen der Union | Politik der Zusammenarbeit | Zentralamerika | Demokratie | Menschenrechte

Zusammenfassung
Political dialogue is today considered to be the European Union's most important instrument for external action. It entails dialogue on equal terms that recognises the different situations of the parties involved and uses cooperation as a common working method.

Eingehende Analyse  ES, EN

The Eastern EU Neighbourhood - an Area of Competing Policies : Shared Neighbourhood Between the EU and Russia

Art der Veröffentlichung  Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum 25-09-2007
Externe Autor Piret Ehin (Trans European Policy Studies Association, coordinating editor and author) and Graham Avery (Trans European Policy Studies Association, co-author)
Politikbereich Energie | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten
Schlagwortliste Europäische Nachbarschaftspolitik | Energieversorgung | europäische Sicherheit | regionale Zusammenarbeit | die Russische Föderation | Gemeinschaft Unabhängiger Staaten | Moldau | die Ukraine | Kaukasusländer | Belarus | Menschenrechte

Eingehende Analyse  EN

Political Dialogue and Human Rights in the Framework of the Cotonou Agreement

Art der Veröffentlichung  Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum 10-07-2007
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Department of Social and Political Sciences
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Lydie Mbangu-Kiala,
European Centre for Development Policy Management
Politikbereich Demokratie in der EU, institutionelle und parlamentarische Rechte | Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste AKP-Staaten | Entwicklungshilfe | Demokratie | Übereinkommen von Cotonou | Aussetzung der Hilfe | Zivilgesellschaft | Rechtsstaat | AKP-EU-Institution | Menschenrechte

Zusammenfassung
The present study analyses the use of the political instruments for the protection of Human Rights, democracy and the rule of law under the Partnership Agreement between the European Union (EU) and the African-Caribbean–Pacific (ACP) countries embedded in the Cotonou Agreement: the consultations under article 96, intensified and regular political dialogue. It briefly outlines the legal provisions of the revised treaty, reviews recent practice, and looks into the involvement of civil society and parliamentary bodies in the political dialogue.

Eingehende Analyse  EN

The EU-Iran Human Rights Dialogue

Art der Veröffentlichung  Eingehende Analyse
Kalenderdatum 18-06-2007
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Politikbereich Demokratie | Auswärtige Angelegenheiten | Menschenrechte
Schlagwortliste Iran | Beziehungen der Union | Demokratie | Recht des Einzelnen | Gemeinsame Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik | Rechtsstaat | Menschenrechte

Zusammenfassung
The briefing paper is divided into four main sections which aim to describe the dialogue process and to submit recommendations for future implementation of the dialogue approach. The first section gives a brief introduction to the historical background for initiating the dialogue with Iran. The second section examines the dialogue itself with regard to its format, participants, methodology, content and timescale. The third section provides a brief overview of the positive and negative results of the dialogue in relation to the set EU benchmarks and finally the fourth section consists of the recommendations put forward by the Danish Institute for Human Rights for future human rights dialogues.

Eingehende Analyse  EN
Implementation of the EIDHR - the Example of EHRAC's Work in Russia / Chechnya

The external dimension of the eu's area of Freedom, Security and Justice in relation to the western Balkan Countries

Les élites arabes - points d'entrée pour des réformes

The External Dimension of the eu's area of freedom, Security and Justice in relation to China, India and Afghanistan
Civil Society under threat: common legal barriers and potential responses

Les indicateurs droits de l'homme et démocratie - Définition et implications

Crisis in Nepal and Response from the International Community

Processus de démocratisation dans le monde arabe: société civile et élections politiques
Democratisation in the Arab World media and Women

Zusammenfassung
This paper explores some recent changes in women's involvement with the Arab media, taking account of developments in different media sectors and media-related fields. In doing so it attempts to track whether the media act as a catalyst or amplifier for social and political change affecting women in Arab countries, or whether the same social forces that structure audiences, values and predispositions also shape the character of media content. That is to say, the paper considers ways in which struggles about women's status may be played out in the media, just as they are in the fields of politics and law.

Human Rights and Democracy Clauses in the EU's International Agreements

Zusammenfassung
This study examines the evolution and current status of the EU’s policy of including human rights and democracy clauses in its international agreements. Based on a close reading of their texts, this study describes the range of ways in which the implementation of these clauses might be improved. In this regard, the emphasis is on the potential use of these clauses within the institutional framework established by the international agreements in which they are contained.

No Lasting Peace and Prosperity Without Democracy and Human Rights - Harnessing Debates on the EU's Future Financial Instruments

Zusammenfassung
This policy paper is the result of a study into the financial instruments available to the European Union for its Democracy and Human Rights activities in third countries and in particular the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

The European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights

Zusammenfassung
The effectiveness and implementation of EU promotion of human rights, democracy, good governance and civil society in its immediate neighbourhood

Spotlight on Democracy Promotion Enhancing the European Neighbourhood Policy

Zusammenfassung
The effectiveness and implementation of EU promotion of human rights, democracy, good governance and civil society in its immediate neighbourhood
The Middle East Peace Process and the European Union

This extensive working paper, prefaced by the President of the Parliament, sets out the historical background of the Arab-Israeli conflict, up to the first Palestinian elections. The various conferences and peace treaties and their importance are described. The evolution of the EU's political position and economic strategy is set out in detail, with the important role played by the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. The working paper illustrates the activities of the interparliamentary delegations are described. A special chapter is consecrated to the mandate of the EU special envoy to the Middle East peace process.

The Price of Non-Peace: The Need for a Strengthened Role for the European Union in the Middle East

As the authors' preface indicates, this document attempts to calculate the price of 'non-peace' in the Middle East. To this end, the authors have gathered information and data on events in the region, in particular between Israel and the Palestinians, from 1993 onwards. They also publish conversations they have had with people with particular experience or understanding of these events. Transcriptions of these conversations provide a framework, and the work is structured in three chapters: Israel, the Palestinian Territories and the international organisations.

The European Parliament and the Human Rights Situation in Latin America

The study is divided into four parts: the first, Human Rights in Latin America, attempts to explain why violations persist despite the existence of elected governments. The second part, Other Human Rights Concerns, shows how legal action has been taken on the rights of women and children at the international, regional and national level. The third part, Democracy and Human Rights: The Vital link, examines the links between human rights performances and democratic consolidation. Finally, The European Union and Human Rights in Latin America shows how the EU has developed a political and foreign policy identity in terms of the promotion of democracy and human rights. The report ends with some recommendations for immediate, medium-term, and long-term action.

The Middle East Peace Process and the European Union

Sets out the historic events which led to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, an essential approach for an understanding of the current situation, before explaining chronologically and in detail the stages which led to the current negotiations, including the proposals and actions of the European institutions since the Madrid Conference. The annexes contain some ten official documents.