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Creation date : 19-04-2024

[European health data space](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-04-2024

Author EVROUX CLEMENT THIERRY

Policy area Consumer Protection | Environment | Industry | Public Health | Research Policy

Keyword communications | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | cross-frontier data flow | data protection | e-Health | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | health | health care system | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | patient's rights | personal data | proposal (EU) | protection of privacy | public health | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The COVID-19 pandemic shone a light on the growing importance of digital health technologies, both to enable remote medical care and to facilitate the health response from international, national and local authorities. The European Commission's May 2022 proposal for a regulation on a European health data space aims to improve individuals' access to and control over their electronic personal data (primary use), while facilitating data re-use for the good of society across the EU (secondary use). The proposal establishes a set of rules, infrastructure and governance mechanisms to promote the primary and secondary use of electronic health data, while ensuring data protection and strengthening cybersecurity. The Commission expects the initiative to have a broad socio-economic impact. Its success is thought to depend not only on the capacity to implement the legal base effectively, but also on broader conditions such as EU-wide connectivity, social trust and digital skills. The European Parliament's Committees on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) adopted their joint report on 28 November 2023. The Council adopted its general approach on 6 December 2023. Parliament voted the report in plenary on 13 December. ENVI and LIBE endorsed the agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations on 9 April 2024. It is due to be put to the vote during the April II 2024 plenary session. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Unitary supplementary protection certificate for plant protection products](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-04-2024

Author BARANÍK Kamil

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary The supplementary protection certificate (SPC) is a specific intellectual property right that extends the basic patent's market exclusivity for plant protection products. The unitary patent became operational in the EU on 1 June 2023, unifying patent protection in all participating Member States. Despite this significant change, SPCs, which are inseparable from patent protection, remain regulated at national level. This fragmented regulatory approach has proven ineffective, leading to excessive administrative costs for SPC applicants, who have to navigate the national laws of each Member State where they seek SPC protection. To address this issue, on 27 April 2023 the Commission submitted a proposal for a regulation introducing a unitary SPC for plant protection products as a complement to the protection offered by the unitary patent. This proposal, coupled with a parallel proposal for an SPC for plant protection products of the same date, seeks to harmonise the process of granting SPCs for plant protection products in the single market. In Parliament, the proposal was assigned to the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI), with Tiemo Wölken (S&D, Germany) as rapporteur. Following the approval of the reports on the two proposals by the Parliament plenary at first reading, Parliament adopted its position for the interinstitutional negotiations. The Council has yet to agree on its negotiating mandate. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[The impact of climate change on cultural heritage](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-04-2024

Author PASIKOWSKA-SCHNASS Magdalena

Policy area Culture | Environment

Summary Climate change, a global phenomenon, affects every aspect of our lives, including cultural heritage in both its forms – tangible and intangible. Extreme weather conditions expose these important elements of our cultural identity to serious threats. These threats must be addressed to protect valuable sites and preserve them for future generations. Research on climate change is not a novelty, but climate change as it relates to cultural heritage is a relatively new area of exploration and policy. The impact of climate change on cultural heritage made its way to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change in Madrid in 2019 (COP25) and has become increasingly visible at subsequent COPs. In 2003, the European Commission became the first European Union institution to launch a research project addressing the intersection of climate change and cultural heritage. Since then, the EU has expanded the scope and scale of its projects in this policy area. The EU's competence in cultural policy is limited to providing funds, which it does in the areas of cooperation, networking, exchange of best practices, research and education. Despite this limitation, EU level policies offer a broad perspective, much needed given the interdisciplinary and global nature of this issue. The dual challenge of climate change and protection of cultural heritage does not often feature clearly in European Parliament resolutions or European Commission policy documents. However, policy instruments are indeed available, and an integrated approach including not only economic, but also social, environmental, sustainability and identity dimensions of this complex issue is well underway.

Briefing [EN](#)

Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights April 2024

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-04-2024

Author OSTANSKA KINGA | SANDERSKI ANDRZEJ

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Employment | Energy | Foreign Affairs | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Industry | Transport

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

Recovery and Resilience Plans: the involvement of stakeholders and their view

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 17-04-2024

Author HANINA KATERYNA | LEHOFER WOLFGANG

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword COSAC | economic conditions | economic independence | economic policy | economic policy | economic recovery | economic transition | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation | European Economic and Social Committee | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | national parliament | parliament | POLITICS

Summary This paper presents findings from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) midterm evaluation, with a particular focus on assessments from various stakeholders regarding its setup and initial implementation. It also builds on the latest activities and assessments by previously published papers summarizing the stakeholders views at the EU, national, regional, and local levels in connection with the national Recovery and Resilience Plans. Additionally, it offers a collection of the most recent opinions and assessments from EU stakeholders, as well as other pertinent institutions and bodies, on the execution of these plans.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

Recovery and Resilience Dialogue with the European Commission 22 April 2024

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 17-04-2024

Author LOI GIACOMO | MAGNUS Marcel | PADILLA OLIVARES FRANCISCO JAVIE | SCHWARCZ András

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Summary Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis and Commissioner Gentiloni are invited to the 15th Recovery and Resilience Dialogue (RRD) under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) Regulation. The previous RRD took place on 5 February 2024. This briefing comments on the Commission's RRF midterm review in section 1, focuses on some of the Commission's recent preliminary assessments related to payment requests submitted by Czechia, Denmark, and Malta in section 2, summarises the state of play of the implementation of the RRF in section 3, touches on the EPPO annual report and recent cases of RRF fraud in section 4, sets out an analysis of the 100 largest recipients of RRF funds per Member State in section 5, and comments on the impact of NGEU related interest payments in section 6.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

The WTO's negotiating function: Towards plurilaterals and new trade challenges

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-04-2024

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area International Trade

Summary A key function of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is to serve for its members as a forum for the negotiation of global trade rules. However, since the WTO's foundation in 1995, WTO members have largely failed to meet their self-defined negotiating objectives as set out in the comprehensive 2001 Doha Development Agenda (DDA). By the time of the 2024 Abu Dhabi Ministerial Conference, WTO members had settled on merely two multilateral agreements in almost 30 years: a 2013 agreement on trade facilitation and a partial agreement on fisheries subsidies, concluded in 2022. As some of the DDA's trade liberalisation items were dropped and negotiations on other items have stalled, subsets of WTO members have found other ways to craft new trade rules outside the WTO: either through bilateral or regional preferential trade agreements or through plurilateral trade negotiations, leading to the fragmentation of rules and questioning of the WTO's legitimacy. Modelled on the successful conclusion in 1997 of the first WTO plurilateral agreement eliminating tariffs on information technology, groups of WTO members led by developed countries set up two separate tracks of plurilateral talks on liberalising trade in services and in environmental goods in 2013 and 2014 respectively. Both stalled in 2016 and virtually ended market access-enhancing efforts within the WTO. In 2017, a group of members launched three initiatives – on domestic services regulation, investment facilitation and e-commerce – to re-invigorate the WTO's negotiating function. The initiatives marked a shift from a new market access-seeking approach to an approach prioritising trade and investment facilitation with a strong development dimension. Albeit more successful, their incorporation into the WTO legal architecture has been challenging given opposition from some members. If opposition were overcome, plurilaterals could be a means of multilateralising new trade rules, as was the case for the 'codes of conduct' under the pre-WTO GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) regime by 1995. To retain legitimacy and relevance, experts suggest that the WTO could do more to leverage its role as a forum for deliberating emerging issues, such as plastics pollution, trade and gender, green and fossil fuel subsidies, trade and industrial policies, carbon border mechanisms and regulatory action, for sustainable trade towards concrete negotiated outcomes.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Collection of studies prepared by Policy Department C for the PEGA Committee

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-04-2024

Author MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Security and Defence

Summary Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA) was set up on 10 March 2022. Chaired by MEP Jeroen LENAERS, PEGA Committee investigated infringements and maladministration in application of EU law in relation to the use of Pegasus and equivalent spyware surveillance software. Spyware and other hacking techniques are critical threats to privacy, data protection and democracy in the EU. They serve oppressive agendas against journalists, political activists and human rights defenders. On 8 May 2023, PEGA Committee adopted its final report (Rapporteur: MEP Sophia IN 'T VELD), after 14 months of hearings, studies and fact-finding missions. Following the PEGA Committee's report, on 15 June 2023, the European Parliament adopted its recommendation calling on the European Commission, the Council, European Ombudsman, the Europol and a number of Member States for a number of actions.

Briefing [EN](#)

India ahead of the 2024 elections

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-04-2024

Author D'AMBROGIO Enrico

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary From 19 April to 1 June 2024, 968 million Indian voters are eligible to elect the members of the Lok Sabha (lower house). Voting is to take more than six weeks in seven phases across states and territories, concluding with a final round on 1 June; the votes are set to be counted on 4 June. Since 1999, elections to the Lok Sabha have coincided with those for the European Parliament. In 2023, India overtook China as the world's most populous country. The government has been able to lower India's poverty rate substantially through efficient delivery of welfare schemes, while other layers of Indian society have steadily improved their situation since Narendra Modi became Prime Minister in 2014. Inequality has not improved significantly, however, and job creation is lagging. India is one of the world's fastest growing economies, and the Modi government has set the goal of becoming a developed country by 2047, the centenary of Indian independence. However, analysts argue that India's economic growth has failed to create the necessary stock of employment, especially for young people. In recent years, India has undergone a major digital transformation. With the landing on the moon in August 2023, India also consolidated its status as a space power. Analysts have expressed concern about the situation of India's democracy and human rights. This includes the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's autonomy, violence and discrimination against Muslims and members of other religious minorities, the rise of Hindu nationalism and abandonment of the country's traditional secularist posture, and the legislation on telecommunications. The year 2023 was an important moment for India's foreign policy and its pursuit of global recognition and growing international stature. India hosted the G-20 Summit, championing the cause of the 'Global South' while projecting India's global leadership. Modi also proposed to host the COP33 Summit in 2028, highlighting New Delhi's commitment to fighting climate change. The EU is India's second largest trading partner and their cooperation is increasing; recently, an EU-India Connectivity Partnership and an EU-India Trade and Technology Council were added. They are currently negotiating three agreements, on free trade, investment protection and geographical indications.

Briefing [EN](#)

Alternative protein sources for food and feed

Publication type Study

Date 17-04-2024

External author DG, EPRS

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Summary Alternative proteins are of increasing interest in terms of their potential to improve food security and reduce the environmental impacts of food and feed production. This study assesses the current state and future prospects of protein production globally and in the EU to 2050, with a focus on conventional and alternative protein sources for food and feed. While projections show increased conventional protein needs up to 2050, climate change necessitates exploring non-linear scenarios and the potential of alternative proteins in the global and EU protein balance. In this context, four sources of alternative proteins – algae, insects, microbial fermentation and cultured meat – are assessed by comparing them to the conventional sources they may replace, in terms of their relative energy needs, environmental impacts, nutritional content, and their potential for being used as substitutes to conventional proteins in food and feed in the EU. The current level of R&D activity, technological and commercial readiness, and industrial capacity of the said alternatives in the EU is also examined. Finally, the study explores regulatory and technical obstacles to and opportunities for development of alternative proteins in Europe, before proposing a set of policy options that may be considered by EU policymakers for targeted support to the growth of the alternative proteins sector.

Study [EN](#)

[Obstetric and gynaecological violence in the EU - Prevalence, legal frameworks and educational guidelines for prevention and elimination](#)

Publication type Study

Date 17-04-2024

External author BRUNELLO Silvia, GAY-BERTHOMIEU Magali, SMILES Beth, BARDHO Eneidia, SCHANTZ Clémence & ROZEE Virginie

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Summary This study presents an overview of how the issue of obstetric and gynaecological violence is currently being apprehended in the EU. Based on research carried out across the EU 27 Member States, it identifies issues and challenges; looks at the legal framework currently applicable to this form of violence; examines ongoing political and legal developments; and gathers initiatives carried out at the national level to improve understanding and prevention of this form of gender-based violence by healthcare professionals and society in general. Finally, it provides recommendations for different stakeholders.

Study [EN](#)

[Microplastic pollution from plastic pellet losses](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author HALLEUX Vivienne

Policy area Environment

Summary During its April II session, Parliament is expected to adopt its first-reading position on a proposal aimed at preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution. The Council has yet to agree its position.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Extension of EU trade benefits to Ukraine](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Summary During its April II plenary session, Parliament is expected to vote on the extension for an additional year of the autonomous trade measures (ATM) that liberalised Ukrainian exports to the EU, to support Ukraine's economy. The proposal includes reinforced safeguards to protect EU farmers in case of market disruption.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Revising rules on packaging and packaging waste](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Policy area Environment

Summary In November 2022, the European Commission presented a proposal for a revision of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD – Directive 94/62/EC). During its April II 2024 plenary session, Parliament is due to vote on the political agreement reached by Council and Parliament negotiators on 4 March 2024.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author STANICEK BRANISLAV

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary The Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans has been designed to support internal reforms in the Western Balkan countries, by providing certain benefits of EU membership even before EU accession. The Facility will provide up to €6 billion over the 2024-2027 period. Parliament is scheduled to vote on the agreed text, resulting from interinstitutional negotiations, during its April II 2024 plenary session.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[EU directive on platform work](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author PAPE Marketa

Policy area Employment | Social Policy

Summary The Parliament is due to vote on the agreement reached with the Council on a new directive that sets minimum standards to improve working conditions for people who work through digital labour platforms. It introduces the first-ever EU rules regulating algorithmic management in the workplace. The directive is the outcome of difficult negotiations and sends a signal to taxi and food delivery drivers and domestic workers that the EU is determined to set straight platforms' use of gig work, albeit with less ambition than in the initial proposal.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[European disability card and European parking card](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author LECERF Marie

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Summary Over time, the European Union has come to pay increasing attention to the issue of free movement for persons with disabilities, which amount to one in four people in the EU. On 6 September 2023, the European Commission launched a legislative initiative to create a European disability card and European parking card, to be recognised in all Member States. The final text agreed in trilogue is to be voted during the April II plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Interinstitutional body for ethical standards](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author KOTANIDIS Silvia

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary Parliament is expected to vote during the April II plenary session on the draft agreement reached on creating an interinstitutional body for ethical standards, following a recommendation due to be debated in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) on 22 April. The agreement is the result of negotiations between eight EU institutions and bodies, based on a Commission proposal responding to Parliament's request. The interinstitutional body for ethical standards would strengthen EU institutions' ethics, integrity and transparency, by ensuring their rules converge, ensuring an institutional ethics culture, and increasing ethical awareness.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Revised rules on advance passenger information](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author DUMBRAVA Costica

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary In December 2021, the European Commission proposed to revise the EU legal framework on the collection and transfer of advance passenger information (API). The current API Directive will be replaced by two regulations: one on the collection and transfer of API for border management purposes, and another on the collection and transfer of API for law enforcement purposes. Following the co-legislators reaching of provisional agreements in March 2024, the Parliament is due to vote on the proposals during its April II plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Draft amending budget No 1/2024: Amendments required following MFF revision](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author MAZUR Sidonia

Policy area Budget

Summary The revision of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework (MFF) necessitates amendments to the EU's 2024 general budget. Draft amending budget No 1/2024 (DAB 1/2024) will raise the 2024 budget by €5.83 billion in commitment appropriations and €4.14 billion in payment appropriations. The MFF headings affected are Heading 5 (Security and defence – €376 million) and Heading 6 (Neighbourhood and the world – €501 million). The new Ukraine Reserve will also be mobilised, with €4.8 billion in commitment appropriations and €3.8 billion in payment appropriations. Parliament's plenary vote on the Council's position is planned for the April II session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

Promoting the repair of goods

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author SPINACI STEFANO

Policy area Consumer Protection | Internal Market and Customs Union

Summary In March 2023, the European Commission proposed a directive on promoting the repair of goods, seeking to mitigate current linear business and consumption patterns, marked by frequent and premature replacement and discarding of goods. The provisional political agreement reached in February 2024 by the Parliament and Council is scheduled for a vote during the April II plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

Ban on products made using forced labour

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author SPINACI STEFANO

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union

Summary In September 2022, the Commission proposed a regulation to ban products made using forced labour from the EU internal market. Alongside national authorities, it will investigate suspicious products posing a higher and more impactful risk of forced labour. Those found to be made with forced labour will be withdrawn from the market. After reaching a provisional agreement on the text with the Council in March 2024, Parliament is due to vote on it during the April II plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

The transfer of proceedings in criminal matters

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author PRPIC Martina

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary In April 2023, the European Commission proposed a regulation on the transfer of criminal proceedings between Member States. The European Parliament is due to vote on the agreement reached between the Parliament and Council during its April II session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

Gigabit infrastructure act

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author DE LUCA Stefano

Policy area Competition law and regulation | Industry

Summary In February 2023, the European Commission proposed a regulation aimed at reducing the cost of deploying gigabit electronic communications networks, and repealing Directive 2014/61/EU (the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive). After three rounds of trilogue meetings, the Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement on the text in February 2024, and now need to formally adopt it. Parliament is scheduled to vote on the text during its second April plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

Anti-money-laundering package

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author BAKOWSKI Piotr

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary During the April II plenary session, Parliament is due to vote on provisional agreements resulting from interinstitutional negotiations on three related EU acts concerning money laundering and terrorist financing.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

Cyber solidarity act

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author CAR POLONA

Summary In April 2023, the European Commission proposed a regulation to strengthen solidarity and capacities in the EU to detect, prepare for and respond to cybersecurity threats and incidents ('cyber solidarity act'). During its April II part-session, the Parliament is set to vote on the agreement reached in negotiations with the Council.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[New economic governance framework](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author HOFLMAYR MARTIN

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Summary On 10 February 2024, the Council and Parliament reached a provisional agreement on a new economic governance framework for the EU, seeking to balance national debt sustainability with sustainable and inclusive growth in all Member States. Parliament is due to vote on the final texts during the April II 2024 session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Net-zero industry act](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Policy area Industry

Summary In March 2023, the European Commission proposed a regulation to strengthen the EU's ecosystem for net-zero technology products manufacturing ('net-zero industry act' – NZIA). During its April II plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote on the political agreement reached by the co-legislators on 6 February 2024.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Banking union](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author HALLAK ISSAM

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Summary Parliament is expected to vote on provisional agreements on amendments to the Capital Requirements Directive (CRD) and to the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR) during the April II plenary session. The CRD and CRR provide the prudential framework in the EU banking single rulebook. The Commission tabled a package of two interconnected proposals to amend the CRR and the CRD in 2021. The objective is two-fold: (i) implement final Basel Agreement arrangements; and (ii) enhance harmonisation of banking supervision in the EU.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Seeds and other plant and forest reproductive material](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author SAJN Nikolina

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Summary On 5 July 2023, the European Commission proposed regulations on the production and marketing of plant reproductive material (PRM) and of forest reproductive material (FRM). The proposals aim to ensure the availability of high quality PRM and FRM, improved sustainability of new varieties and the preservation of genetic diversity that could be vital for adapting EU agriculture and forests to future climate change. The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) adopted its reports on 19 March 2024. Parliament is expected to vote on its first-reading position during the April II plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Revision of the Human Trafficking Directive](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author PRPIC Martina

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary In December 2022, the European Commission proposed to revised Directive 2011/36/EU, the EU's main instrument to combat trafficking in human beings. During its April II session, the European Parliament is due to vote on the agreement reached between Parliament and Council negotiators on the proposal.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Revision of the Schengen Borders Code](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author DUMBRAVA Costica

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary In December 2021, the European Commission proposed to revise the Schengen Borders Code, with a view to strengthening the Schengen area. The revision introduces new rules to address challenges relating to irregular migration, security and public health emergencies. Following the provisional agreement reached by the co-legislators in December 2023, Parliament will vote on the proposal during its April II part-session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[EU rules on combating violence against women](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Summary In March 2022, the Commission proposed a directive to combat violence against women and domestic violence in the EU, and the co-legislators agreed on a compromise text in early 2024. Parliament is set to vote on the text during its April II part-session. The new directive would set minimum standards for criminalising severe forms of violence and for enhancing prevention, access to justice and protection of victims.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Denmark's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-04-2024

Author JENSEN LISELOTTE

Policy area Budget

Keyword Denmark | economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic recovery | economic transition | ECONOMICS | Europe | GEOGRAPHY | political geography | reflation

Summary Denmark's national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) corresponds to 0.2 % of the entire Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), or 0.5 % of Denmark's 2019 gross domestic product (GDP). The financial contribution from the EU totals €1625.9 million. In June 2022, the maximum RRF grant allocation available for Denmark was revised downwards, from €1551.4 million to €1 429 million (- 7.9 %). On 7 November 2023, the Council approved the amended plan, which includes a REPowerEU chapter, adding €196.7 million to the revised amount. This includes an additional REPowerEU grant allocation worth €130.7 million and a transfer of part of the Danish allocation under the Brexit Adjustment Reserve to the plan (€66.0 million). Denmark has so far received 33.4 % of the NRRP resources in the form of pre-financing and one payment; this is slightly below the EU average. A further five payments will depend on progress made in implementing the plan. Denmark requested the second payment on 21 December 2023. The amended plan reinforces green initiatives and seeks to enhance the resilience of the Danish economy and society, devoting 65 % of the RRF grant allocation to the green transition (up from 59 % in the original plan). While there is no change in digital investment, the share of the total increases to 27 % (including REPowerEU) as a result of the change of the overall Danish allocation. In the context of the European Semester, the Commission assessed the implementation of the Danish plan as 'well under way'. The European Parliament participates in interinstitutional forums for cooperation and discussion on NRRP implementation and scrutinises the Commission's work. This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Third edition. The 'NGEU delivery' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

[Current membership of the European Council](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-04-2024

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area Democracy

Summary The European Council consists of the 27 Heads of State or Government of the EU Member States, who are voting members, together with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission, who have no vote (Article 15(2) Treaty on European Union). The chart shows the current members, the national office they hold, their most recent European political affiliation, and the year their membership began.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

Revision of the Ozone Regulation

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-04-2024

Author YOUNGOVA Dessislava

Policy area Environment

Keyword deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | export (EU) | import (EU) | market approval | marketing | natural environment | ozone | pollution control measures | proposal (EU) | reduction of gas emissions | stratospheric pollutant | stratospheric pollution | trade | TRADE | waste management

Summary Stratospheric ozone absorbs ultraviolet radiation from the sun and reduces the overall amount of radiation reaching the Earth's surface. Ozone-depleting substances (ODS) are human-made chemicals that, once emitted, reach the upper atmosphere and destroy the protective ozone layer, causing what is known as the ozone hole. They have significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment and are also greenhouse gases with high global warming potential. Regulation (EC) No 1005/2009 on substances that deplete the ozone layer lays down rules on the production, use, trade, recovery, recycling, reclamation and destruction of ODS and sets out requirements and measures for products and equipment containing these substances. On 5 April 2022, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation on ODS repealing the current one. The aim was to increase the efficiency of the existing measures in order to achieve additional emissions reductions in line with the European Green Deal, to ensure more comprehensive monitoring of ODS, to reduce administrative costs by simplifying the rules, to modernise the licensing system and reduce costs for industry, and to improve the coherence with other pieces of legislation such as Regulation (EU) No 517/2014 on fluorinated greenhouse gases – being revised in parallel. One of the main objectives of the proposal was to prevent emissions from old products and equipment still containing ODS that have to be recovered and destroyed. Parliament and Council adopted their positions on 30 March 2023 and 5 April 2023, respectively. Interinstitutional negotiations concluded on 5 October 2023 with a provisional agreement, adopted by Parliament on 16 January and by Council on 29 January 2024. The regulation was published in the Official Journal on 20 February 2024 and entered into force on 11 March 2024. Fourth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Slovenia's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-04-2024

Author CAR POLONA | SAPALA Magdalena

Policy area Budget | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword coronavirus disease | economic and social cohesion | economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic recovery | economic reform | economic structure | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU aid | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | health | investment | political geography | Slovenia | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | structural adjustment

Summary EU support for the implementation of Slovenia's modified national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) amounts to €2 685.3 million, and includes €1 612.9 million in grants and €1 072.4 million in loans. This amount is by €203.3 million higher than that initially approved and takes into account a June 2022 update of the maximum financial contribution from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), additional loans requested by Slovenia, and non-repayable allocation for REPowerEU made available in 2023. While the overall allocation is only 0.4 % of the total RRF, it stood at 5.5 % of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019 (the RRF being 5.2 % of EU-27 GDP in 2019). With €1 274 per citizen (grants and loans), Slovenia is among the 10 biggest RRF beneficiaries per capita. So far, Slovenia has received €841 million (€531 million in grants and €310 million in loans) in pre-financing and three instalments based on the achievement of 58 milestones and targets (28 % of all to be achieved). The next payment request is scheduled for the second quarter of 2024 and should cover the fourth and fifth instalments (€392.7 million). Slovenia's NRRP tackles both the COVID-19 pandemic's socio-economic consequences and more long-standing challenges identified in the Slovenian development strategy 2030. The plan is strongly focused on the green and digital transitions. Planned spending on these areas meets the compulsory targets, totalling 48.9 % for climate and 20 % for digital (the latter excluding the REPowerEU chapter). Investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable mobility have been further reinforced under the new REPowerEU chapter. Other priority areas include smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and health and welfare. The European Parliament participates in interinstitutional forums for cooperation and discussion on RRF implementation, and scrutinises the European Commission's work. This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Third edition. The 'NGEU delivery' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

[Road safety: Rules on EU-wide driving disqualifications for major traffic offences](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-04-2024

Author KISS Monika

Policy area Transport

Keyword administrative cooperation | common transport policy | cooperation policy | criminal law | cross-border cooperation | driving licence | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU Member State | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | executive power and public service | GEOGRAPHY | information and information processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | penalty | POLITICS | politics and public safety | proposal (EU) | public awareness campaign | road safety | traffic offence | TRANSPORT | transport accident | transport policy

Summary On 1 March 2023, as part of the road safety package, the European Commission published a legislative proposal to help ensure EU-wide application of driving disqualifications. The proposal calls for increased cooperation, harmonisation of legislation, simplification of information exchange, capacity building, and improved public awareness efforts. In order to prevent impunity due to a lack of legislation, the proposal sets out rules to allow better EU-wide enforcement of driver disqualification decisions when drivers commit major traffic offences outside their own country. In the European Parliament, the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) is responsible for the file (rapporteur: Petar Vitanov, S&D, Bulgaria). The TRAN committee adopted its report on 29 November 2023. On 6 February, the Parliament voted in plenary on its first-reading position on the file, to be followed up in the next legislative term. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Outlook for the special European Council meeting on 17-18 April 2024](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-04-2024

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf | PAPUNEN Annastiina

Policy area Democracy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Summary The special European Council meeting on 17-18 April will be an important step towards agreeing on the EU's political priorities for the 2024-2029 period. The three main priorities are likely to centre on 'a strong and secure Europe', 'a prosperous and competitive Europe' and 'a free and democratic Europe'. EU leaders are also expected to adopt lengthy conclusions related to competitiveness, notably addressing the single market and the capital markets union. They will also address the war in Ukraine, and hold a strategic debate on EU-Türkiye relations. They may also discuss developments in the Middle East following Iran's attack on Israel.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Ukrainian agriculture: From Russian invasion to EU integration](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-04-2024

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Foreign Affairs

Summary Ukraine enjoys excellent conditions for agriculture, including around a third of the world's most fertile land. Three crops dominate the country's agricultural production: wheat, maize and sunflower, intended primarily for export. Medium-sized agricultural enterprises lead crop production, although some companies farm as much as 500 000 hectares. This is a direct consequence of Soviet collectivisation, and the agricultural policies adopted after Ukraine's independence in 1991. Only recently did Ukraine start opening up its land market. In 2013, Russia blocked Ukrainian exports to prevent Kyiv from developing closer ties with the EU. Following Moscow's illegal annexation of Crimea and its military aggression in eastern Ukraine, Kyiv signed an association agreement with the EU, which became its primary market. Unlike most of its industrial production, Ukraine's crops remained competitive in the EU market and exports surged. By 2021, agriculture represented 41 % of Ukraine's exports, up from 27 % in 2013. In addition to stealing millions of hectares of land, Russia has inflicted a terrible economic, environmental and human cost on Ukraine. By the end of 2023, the Ukrainian agricultural sector had sustained an estimated US\$80 billion in damages and losses. Rebuilding Ukraine's agriculture is expected to cost US\$56.1 billion, and demining will cost an additional US\$32 billion. Russia also blockaded Ukrainian agricultural exports. The EU Solidarity Lanes, the Black Sea Initiative, and the more recent Ukrainian Corridor have helped to keep Ukraine's economy afloat, and avert a wider global food security crisis. Ukraine applied for EU membership shortly after Russia's full-scale invasion. In December 2023, the European Council authorised the opening of accession negotiations with Ukraine. Historically, agriculture has been a contentious issue in most enlargement negotiations, and integrating Ukraine's sizeable agricultural sector poses a challenge to the EU, especially without prior reform of the common agricultural policy. Despite the early stage of Kyiv's candidacy, some studies have tried to estimate the potential cost and benefits to the EU of Ukraine's eventual membership of the bloc.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Advance passenger information \(API\) to tackle terrorism and serious crime](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-04-2024

Author DUMBRAVA Costica

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword data protection | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | passenger rights | personal data | regulation (EU) | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRANSPORT | transport policy | traveller

Summary In December 2022, the European Commission presented two proposals to revise the rules on the collection and transfer of advance passenger information (API) data – data collected by air carriers at check-in and sent to competent authorities in the country of destination prior to take-off. One of the proposals is for a new regulation on the collection and transfer of API data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime. The proposal seeks to align the rules on the collection and transfer of API data with the rules on the processing of passenger name records – data from air travellers' ticket reservations – in order to increase the effectiveness of the fight against serious crime and terrorism in the EU. The proposal provides uniform criteria for the collection and transfer of API data on extra-EU flights and selected intra-EU flights. It builds on the provisions of another proposal for a regulation on the collection and transfer of API data for enhancing and facilitating external border controls. Both proposals rely on the establishment of a centralised router to enable the transmission of API data between air carriers and the competent national authorities dealing with API data. In March 2024, the European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on the proposal. Following the approval of the agreement by the Council and the responsible committee in Parliament, the agreed text has been tabled for a vote during the April II part-session. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing EN](#)

[Revision of the Driving Licence Directive](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-04-2024

Author KISS Monika

Policy area Transport

Keyword area of freedom, security and justice | digital technology | driving licence | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | free movement of persons | international law | international transport | LAW | organisation of transport | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | road safety | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | tourism | TRANSPORT | transport policy

Summary On 1 March 2023, the European Commission published its legislative proposal on driving licences – a matter of EU competence – with the purpose of enabling the free movement of persons and goods throughout the EU by modernising the driving licence system. This involves making driving licence rules future-proof, improving road safety and simplifying the rules for those wanting to get a driving licence. The proposal provides for accompanied driving for young learners, zero tolerance for drink-driving, better preparation for micro-mobility, and the introduction of digital driving licences. In the European Parliament, the legislative file was assigned to the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) (rapporteur: Karima Delli, Greens/EFA, France). The TRAN committee report was adopted on 7 December 2023. On 28 February, Parliament voted in plenary on its first reading position on the file, to be followed up during the next legislative term. Third edition of a briefing, the first edition of which was drafted by Karin Smit Jacobs. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing EN](#)

[North Macedonia](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-04-2024

Author STANICEK BRANISLAV

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary North Macedonia gained independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991. The country applied for EU membership in March 2004 and was granted EU candidate status in December 2005. As part of the June 2018 Prespa Agreement, the country changed its name to the Republic of North Macedonia, in exchange for Greece ending its veto on its EU and NATO accession. The first intergovernmental conference on 19 July 2022 marked the beginning of accession negotiations. The Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, led by Prime Minister Talat Xhaferi since January 2024, continues to deepen relations with the EU. This 'At a glance' note has been produced at the request of a member of the European Committee of the Regions, in the framework of the cooperation agreement between the Parliament and the Committee.

[At a Glance EN](#)

[Serbia](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-04-2024

Author STANICEK BRANISLAV

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary Serbia, with a population of 6.9 million, has been advancing towards EU accession since 2012, when it received candidate country status. Despite some progress, Serbia still has three major hurdles to overcome: improving internal political dialogue and reforms, reaching a comprehensive normalisation agreement with Kosovo* and ensuring better alignment with EU foreign policy. Although Serbia voted for Russia's suspension from the UN Human Rights Council, it has not applied any of the EU's sanctions on Russia. In April 2022, Aleksandar Vučić was elected for a second term as President, and the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) coalition, led by Vučić, won the parliamentary elections. Snap elections in December 2023 brought the SNS a larger-than-expected victory. This 'At a glance' note has been produced at the request of a member of the European Committee of the Regions, in the framework of the cooperation agreement between the Parliament and the Committee.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[EU sanctions: A key foreign and security policy instrument](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-04-2024

Author IMMENKAMP Beatrix

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary Sanctions have become an increasingly central element of the EU's common and foreign security policy. At present, the EU has over 50 sanctions programmes in place, concerning nearly 40 countries. Unlike the comprehensive trade embargoes used in the past, the EU has moved towards asset freezes and visa bans targeting individual persons and companies, aiming to influence foreign governments while avoiding humanitarian costs for the general population. Other measures in the sanctions 'toolkit' include arms embargoes, sectoral trade and investment restrictions, and suspensions of development aid and trade preferences. The declared purpose of EU sanctions is to uphold the international security order, while also defending human rights and democracy standards by encouraging targeted countries to change their behaviour. Measuring sanctions' effectiveness is difficult, as sanctions alone rarely achieve all their aims, and usually there are other causes to which changes can also be attributed. However, even when this primary purpose is not achieved, sanctions may have useful secondary effects, for example by deterring other actors from similar behaviour. The broader the international support for EU sanctions and the closer the relationship between the EU and the targeted country are, the stronger the prospects for success will be. On the other hand, effectiveness can be undermined by inconsistent application of sanctions standards and by the difficulty of coordinating implementation between multiple stakeholders. The unprecedented scale and scope of sanctions imposed against Russia has put the spotlight on new implementation challenges, including inside the EU's borders. In response, the Council adopted a decision to add the violation of restrictive measures to the list of particularly serious crimes ('EU crimes') under Article 83(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. This is an update of an earlier briefing.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Montenegro](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-04-2024

Author STANICEK BRANISLAV

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary Montenegro began EU accession negotiations in 2012. The European Commission's latest report notes tensions leading to a blocked political system. On 2 April 2023, after securing 59 % of votes in a presidential election run-off, Montenegro's former Economy Minister Jakov Milatović declared victory over the incumbent, Milo Đukanović, who had been president or prime minister for more than three decades. The current pro-European Prime Minister, Milojko Spajić, took office in October 2023. Spajić's government replaced the technical mandate of the previous government, which faced a vote of no confidence in August 2022. This 'At a glance' note has been produced at the request of a member of the European Committee of the Regions, in the framework of the cooperation agreement between the Parliament and the Committee.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

Die unternehmerische Freiheit, eine rechtsvergleichende Perspektive - Deutschland

Publication type Study

Date 12-04-2024

External author EPRS, Comparative Law

Policy area Human Rights

Summary Dieses Dokument ist Teil einer Reihe von Studien, mit denen die unternehmerische Freiheit in verschiedene Rechtsordnungen aus rechtsvergleichender Perspektive dargestellt werden sollen. Nach einer kurzen historischen Einleitung und der Darstellung der einschlägigen Rechtsvorschriften und Rechtsprechung, werden der Inhalt, die Grenzen und die mögliche Entwicklung dieser Freiheit analysiert. Die vorliegende Studie hat den Fall Deutschland zum Gegenstand. In Deutschland ist „unternehmerische Freiheit“ auf der Ebene der Bundesverfassung nicht durch ein einziges, sondern durch verschiedene Grundrechte geschützt. Das Grundgesetz verbürgt sowohl die Berufsfreiheit (Art. 12 Abs. 1 GG) als auch die Vereinigungsfreiheit (Art. 9 Abs. 1 GG), das Eigentum (Art. 14 GG) und die Vertragsfreiheit (Art. 2 Abs. 1 GG) auch für juristische Personen des Privatrechts (Art. 19 Abs. 3 GG). Damit genießt auch die sog. Gewerbefreiheit nicht nur den einfachrechtlichen Schutz des § 1 Gewerbeordnung, sondern weitgehenden verfassungsrechtlichen Schutz. Diese Grundrechte – und nicht eine abstrakte verfassungsrechtliche Vorgabe – sind das Rückgrat der „Wirtschaftsverfassung“ des Grundgesetzes. Neben den Grundrechten bilden das Rechtsstaats-, das Sozialstaats- und das Umweltstaatsprinzip diese Wirtschaftsverfassung. Diese unternehmerischen Freiheiten werden durch ungezählte Normen des Privatrechts (vor allem des Bürgerlichen Rechts, des Handels- und Gesellschaftsrechts, des Wettbewerbsrechts) und des Verwaltungsrechts (und hier vor allem des Gewerbe-, Steuer-, Sozial- und Umweltrechts) bis hin zu autonomem Recht – Unfallverhütungsvorschriften – ausgeformt, d.h. in dialektischer Weise ermöglicht, gestaltet und begrenzt.

Study [DE](#)

Plenary round-up – April I 2024

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-04-2024

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary Approaching the end of the mandate, a number of debates on important legislative proposals took place during the April I 2024 plenary session: on the migration and asylum package, reform of the EU electricity market, and the pharmaceutical package. Members also debated Russia's undemocratic elections, and in particular their extension to the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, allegations of Russian interference in the European Parliament, Chinese police activity in Europe, the rule of law in Hungary, and the rule of law and media freedom in Slovakia. His Majesty King Philippe, King of the Belgians, addressed the Parliament to mark his country's presidency of the Council. Finally, President Roberta Metsola made a statement for International Roma Day.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Türkiye

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-04-2024

Author STANICEK BRANISLAV

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary Türkiye has long been a strategic European Union partner on migration, security, and trade. However, following the attempted coup in 2016, Türkiye's democratic backsliding led the Council to freeze accession negotiations in 2018. Although relations have thawed, the EU is exploring a more realistic framework for bilateral relations. This 'At a glance' note has been produced at the request of a member of the European Committee of the Regions, in the framework of the cooperation agreement between the Parliament and the Committee.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-04-2024

Author STANICEK BRANISLAV

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a population of 3.2 million, became independent from the former Yugoslavia on 3 March 1992, following a referendum that was boycotted by ethnic Serbs. Bosnia and Herzegovina was offered a European Union membership perspective at the EU-Western Balkans summit in Thessaloniki in 2003. Building on the European Commission's recommendation of 12 March 2024, the European Council decided on 21 March to open accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina. This 'At a glance' note has been produced at the request of a member of the European Committee of the Regions, in the framework of the cooperation agreement between the Parliament and the Committee.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Just Transition Fund

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 11-04-2024

Author GOUARDERES Frederic

Summary The Just Transition Fund is a financial instrument within the Cohesion Policy, which seeks to provide support to territories facing serious socio-economic challenges arising from the transition towards climate neutrality. The Just Transition Fund will facilitate the implementation of the European Green Deal, which aims to make the EU climate-neutral by 2050.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Recovery assistance for cohesion and the territories of Europe (REACT-EU)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 11-04-2024

Author GOUARDERES Frederic

Summary REACT-EU is a programme to repair the social and economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to prepare for a green, digital and resilient recovery. REACT-EU seeks to mobilise an additional EUR 47.5 billion from the structural funds for the years 2021 and 2022, and to increase flexibility in cohesion policy spending.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Cohesion Fund

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 11-04-2024

Author SCHWARZ KELLY

Policy area Regional Development

Summary The Cohesion Fund was set up in 1994 and provides funding for environmental and trans-European network projects in the Member States whose gross national income per capita is less than 90% of the EU average.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

The United Kingdom

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 11-04-2024

Author ALVAREZ LOPEZ Maria de la O

Summary The United Kingdom (UK) joined the European Union in 1973, having maintained a long-standing relationship with the bloc since its founding. In 2016, following a referendum, it became the first Member State to end its EU membership. The UK's exit from the EU was governed by a withdrawal agreement signed on 17 October 2019. The trade and cooperation agreement signed on 30 December 2020 defines the framework for the future relationship.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 11-04-2024

Author GOUARDERES Frederic

Policy area Regional Development

Summary The European Union has established a common classification of territorial units for statistics, known as 'NUTS', in order to facilitate the collection, development and publication of harmonised regional statistics in the EU. This hierarchical system is also used for socioeconomic analyses of the regions and the framing of interventions in the context of EU cohesion policy.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Northern Ireland PEACE PLUS programme

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 11-04-2024

Author SCHWARZ KELLY

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Regional Development

Summary The purpose of the EU PEACE PLUS programme is to support peace and reconciliation and to promote social, economic and regional stability and cooperation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Improving EU action to end poverty in developing countries - Cost of non-Europe report](#)

Publication type Study

Date 11-04-2024

Author FERNANDES MEENAKSHI | HEFLICH ALEKSANDRA | NAVARRA Cecilia

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid | European Added Value | Global Governance | International Trade

Summary Progress on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals has been insufficient, not least because of shocks such as the COVID 19 pandemic and recent wars. The cost of this lack of progress is borne by 'least developed countries' – low-income countries with low indicators of socio-economic development, as defined by the UN. This study reviews the European Union's role in policies that affect poverty in these contexts. It identifies 12 challenges that could be addressed to some extent by further EU action on development policy, climate action, trade and global value chains, and by the EU as an actor in multilateral forums, in line with the policy coherence for development principle.

Study [EN](#)

[The European Parliament and the CFSP Budget - The case of the Rapid Deployment Capacity](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-04-2024

Author SCHULZ STEFAN

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Summary Faced with the need to provide long-term support to Ukraine and upgrade its own defence, the EU is revisiting its financing arrangements for the Common Security and Defence component.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Revision of the Schengen Borders Code](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 10-04-2024

Author DUMBRAVA Costica

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword border control | EU migration policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | external border of the EU | illegal migration | internal border of the EU | international law | LAW | migrant | migration | POLITICS | politics and public safety | proposal (EU) | Schengen Agreement | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | travel

Summary In December 2021, the European Commission presented a proposal to amend the Schengen Borders Code, which lays down the rules governing controls at the EU internal and external borders. While debates on the reform of Schengen have been going on for a while, recent challenges – relating to the coronavirus pandemic on the one hand, and attempts to instrumentalise migrants as a way to put pressure on the EU's external borders, on the other – have created new momentum for reform. The Commission's proposal aims to improve the Schengen system's resilience to serious threats, and to adapt it to new challenges. It introduces a new coordination mechanism to deal with health threats at the external borders and a new Schengen safeguard mechanism to provide a common response at the internal borders in situations of threats affecting Member States, including the possibility to transfer irregular migrants apprehended at the internal borders directly back to the competent authorities in the EU country from which it is assumed they just came, without undergoing an individual assessment. Following the provisional agreement reached by the co-legislators in December 2023, Parliament is scheduled to vote on the agreed text during its April II plenary session. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Quantum: What is it and where does the EU stand?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-04-2024

Author DE LUCA Stefano

Policy area Industry | Security and Defence

Summary The emergence of quantum information science and technologies marks a pivotal moment in technological progress. As the strategic importance of quantum gains global recognition, efforts are intensifying to harness its potential while also addressing security and regulatory challenges. With China, the United States and the European Union investing heavily in quantum, the race for technological dominance is well under way.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Targeted CAP amendments on environmental conditionality](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 10-04-2024

Author SAJN Nikolina

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Environment

Summary On 15 March 2024, the Commission put forward a regulation that would amend two regulations concerning the common agricultural policy (CAP) – the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation and the CAP Horizontal Regulation. The proposal is part of the Commission's response to widespread protests by farmers, opposing the CAP's administrative burden and environmental requirements. It was put forward without a formal public consultation and without an impact assessment. The proposal aims to reduce several environmental requirements to which farmers must abide to receive direct payments. The requirement to devote at least 4 % of arable land, at farm level, to non-productive areas or features, including land lying fallow, would no longer be mandatory for CAP beneficiaries. However, Member States would be required to offer a top-up, in the form of eco-schemes, to farmers setting aside land for non-productive features. Member States would be able to demand crop diversification instead of the more demanding crop rotation. They would also be able to introduce exemptions from certain requirements, and temporary derogations in case of extreme weather. The proposal would also eliminate controls and penalties regarding environmental requirements for small farms, and simplify the procedure to amend the national CAP strategic plans for Member States. Organisations representing farmers welcomed the proposed administrative simplification of the CAP, but were divided on the reduction in green requirements. Environmental organisations, meanwhile, criticised the proposal as harmful and undemocratic. The Commission called on the co-legislators to adopt the proposal as fast as possible. In the Council, the Special Committee on Agriculture endorsed the proposal with only minor technical modifications, and called on the Parliament to do the same. Should Parliament decide to apply the urgent procedure, the vote on the proposal would take place during the April II plenary session.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Proposal amending the Solvency II Directive](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 10-04-2024

Author HALLAK ISSAM

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | cross-border dimension | ECONOMICS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial requirements | financial risk | financial solvency | financial supervision | free movement of capital | insurance | insurance company | insurance law | LAW | management | principle of proportionality | proposal (EU) | regions and regional policy | reinsurance | right of establishment | risk management

Summary Directive 2009/138/EC – also known as Solvency II – sets out the prudential regulatory framework for the insurance sector in the EU. The framework aims to establish the single market for insurance services further, while strengthening policyholders' protection. On 22 September 2021, the European Commission tabled a proposal for a directive that would amend Solvency II in essentially three ways: i) lowering regulatory obligations on small and low-risk profile insurance companies, ii) taking into account long-term and climate change risks, and iii) enhancing group-level and cross-border supervision. In the European Parliament, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) was assigned the file on 22 November 2021, with Markus Ferber (EPP, Germany) as rapporteur. After Council and Parliament reached a provisional agreement on the text in December 2023, the ECON committee approved it on 29 January 2024. Parliament is set to vote on the adoption of the text at its April II plenary session, and the Council will put the text to the vote as well. Once adopted, the text will be signed by the co-legislators and published in the Official Journal. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Improving use of rail infrastructure capacity](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-04-2024

Author SOONE Jaan

Policy area Transport

Keyword carriage of goods | directive (EU) | ENERGY | energy efficiency | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | high-speed transport | land transport | organisation of transport | rail transport | reduction of gas emissions | sustainable mobility | TRANSPORT | transport economics | transport policy

Summary In July 2023, the European Commission tabled a package of proposals aimed at greening freight transport. One of these proposals focuses on improving the use of rail infrastructure capacity. The proposed text suggests changes to the rules governing the planning and allocation of railway infrastructure capacity, which are currently outlined in Directive 2012/34/EU and Regulation (EU) No 913/2010. The goal of the changes is to enhance the management of rail infrastructure capacity and traffic as a way to ensure improved service quality, optimised railway network usage, increased traffic capacity and the possibility for the transport sector to contribute to decarbonisation. In the European Parliament, the file was referred to the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN), which appointed Tilly Metz (Greens/EFA, Luxembourg) as rapporteur. The TRAN committee adopted its report on 4 March 2024. Parliament adopted its first-reading position during its March 2024 plenary session. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Urban wastewater treatment: Updating EU rules](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-04-2024

Author HALLEUX Vivienne

Policy area Environment

Keyword construction and town planning | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | extended producer responsibility | health | industrial pollution | pollution control measures | proposal (EU) | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | urban area | wastewater | water pollutant | water pollution | water protection | water treatment

Summary In October 2022, under the European Green Deal, the European Commission tabled a proposal for a recast of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. Dating back to 1991, and instrumental to the achievement of European Union water policy objectives, the directive needs to be updated and adapted to new challenges and realities. The recast proposal would introduce new obligations to do more to control pollution due to rainwater, impose stricter standards for nutrient removal and require advanced treatment for the removal of micro-pollutants. To cover treatment costs, a system of extended producer responsibility (EPR) targeting pharmaceuticals and cosmetics would be set up. To align the directive with the Green Deal's ambitions, an energy neutrality obligation would be introduced for wastewater treatment plants. Water reuse and sludge management requirements would be clarified to enhance circularity. Health parameters would be monitored in wastewater to support public health action. The European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on 29 January 2024. The text was endorsed by Member State representatives on 1 March and by Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety on 11 March 2024. It now awaits formal adoption by the co-legislators. The plenary vote is scheduled for the April I 2024 session. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages in the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Updating the EU rules on urban wastewater treatment](#)

[Recast Eurodac Regulation](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author ORAV Anita

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary Eurodac is a biometric database in which Member States are required to enter the fingerprint data of asylum-seekers or irregular migrants in order to identify where they entered the EU, and whether they have previously submitted asylum applications elsewhere in the EU. In 2016, the Commission proposed to review the Eurodac Regulation to enhance the practical implementation of the Dublin system, facilitate returns and use the database to tackle irregular migration. During the April I plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote its first-reading position on the agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Amending ECRIS-TCN and the interoperability regulations for the purpose of screening](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author DUMBRAVA Costica

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary The Commission's proposal to introduce screening of third-country nationals at the external borders provides for identity and security checks based on the consultation of relevant national and European information systems. To implement these checks, the legal bases of the relevant EU systems for border management and security need to be amended, and Parliament is due to vote on a trilogue agreement on this in April.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Qualification Directive](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author RADJENOVIC Anja

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary The 2015 migration crisis in Europe called into question existing EU legislation on asylum, in particular the criteria according to which asylum applicants can qualify for international protection status, as recognised in the Qualification Directive. In July 2016, the Commission put forward a proposal to replace the directive with a regulation, setting uniform standards for the recognition of people in need of protection and for the rights granted to beneficiaries of international protection. The December 2023 trilogue agreement is scheduled to be voted by Parliament at first reading during the April I plenary session.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Asylum and migration management regulation](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author RADJENOVIC Anja

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary In September 2020, as part of the EU pact on migration and asylum, the European Commission adopted a proposal on asylum and migration management. It would replace the 2013 Dublin Regulation that determines the EU Member State responsible for examining asylum applications. While the proposal 'essentially preserves' the current criteria for determining this responsibility, it would also make additions to the existing regulation, in particular on solidarity and responsibility-sharing for asylum-seekers among Member States. During the April I plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote its first-reading position on the December 2023 agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Screening of third-country nationals at the EU's external borders](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author DUMBRAVA Costica

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary Sustained pressure at the EU's external borders and high numbers of asylum applications have revealed shortcomings at the borders and deficiencies in and imbalances between Member States' asylum systems. In December 2020, the Commission presented a pact on migration and asylum, including a proposal for a regulation establishing a screening procedure for third-country nationals who arrive irregularly at the EU's external borders. The aim is to streamline the EU migration and asylum processes by swiftly identifying and channelling irregular migrants and asylum-seekers into the appropriate procedures. Parliament is to vote in April on the agreement reached by the co-legislators in December.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Soil monitoring and resilience](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author HALLEUX Vivienne

Policy area Environment

Summary Highly diverse, soils host more than 25 % of all biodiversity and are the second largest carbon pool on the planet. During its first April 2024 session, the European Parliament is expected to adopt its position at first reading on a European Commission proposal aimed at establishing the first-ever EU-wide common framework on soils.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Stricter CO standards for heavy-duty vehicles](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author ERBACH Gregor

Policy area Environment | Transport

Summary In February 2023, the European Commission proposed a revision to Regulation (EU) 2019/1242 on CO₂ emission standards for new heavy-duty vehicles in the EU. The proposed changes would broaden the scope of the regulation to include urban buses, coaches, trailers and additional types of lorries. The goal is to reduce, by 2040, the average CO₂ emissions of new heavy-duty vehicles by 90 % compared to 2019 levels. Council adopted its position in October 2023 and Parliament at its November II 2023 session. After a trilogue agreement was reached in January 2024, Parliament is set to vote on the agreed text during its April I 2024 plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Improving EU electricity market design](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author WIDUTO Agnieszka

Policy area Energy

Summary On 14 March 2023, the European Commission proposed an electricity market reform to reduce price volatility for consumers and improve conditions for investors in low-carbon energy. The co-legislators reached a provisional agreement on the proposal to improve the EU's electricity market design in December 2023. The European Parliament will now vote on the agreed text during its April I 2024 plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[EU certification framework for carbon removals](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author JENSEN LISELOTTE

Policy area Environment

Summary Delivering climate neutrality by 2050 will require carbon removals to cover remaining hard-to-abate emissions and to deliver, from 2050, negative emissions as per the EU Climate Law. The proposed certification framework seeks to ensure a transparent and credible governance framework for building trust in EU-certified carbon removals and to incentivise further deployment. The co-legislators reached a provisional agreement in February 2024. The European Parliament is expected to vote on the final text during its April I plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[New EU standards for equality bodies](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Summary During the April I plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote on two proposals to strengthen national equality bodies' powers and mandate to fight discrimination on grounds of sex, race, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Revision of EU pharmaceutical legislation](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Policy area Public Health

Summary During its April I plenary session, the European Parliament is expected to adopt its position at first reading on two Commission proposals to revise the EU's pharmaceutical legislation. The revision seeks to enhance the security of supply of medicine, making medicines more available, accessible and affordable across EU countries, while supporting the attractiveness of the EU pharmaceutical industry by fostering research and innovation.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Discharge for 2022 budget – EU institutions other than the European Commission](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author PETERS TIM ULRICH

Policy area Budgetary Control

Summary During the April I plenary session, the European Parliament is scheduled to vote on the discharge for the implementation of the 2022 EU budget. Its Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) recommends granting discharge for the implementation of eight administrative sections of the EU budget and for the European Public Prosecutor's Office. CONT recommends postponing the decision to grant discharge for the European Council and the Council.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Discharge for 2022 budget: Commission \(including RRF\), executive agencies and EDFs](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author KOWALD KAROLINE

Policy area Budgetary Control

Summary During the April I plenary session, Parliament is to decide on granting discharge for the 2022 financial year to the different institutions and bodies of the EU. As part of this procedure, it will vote on the report covering the Commission. Since 2021, the discharge procedure also applies to the grant component of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) under the recovery instrument. A chapter on the RRF is thus included in the report on the Commission. Separate discharge is granted to the Commission concerning the management of the European Development Funds (EDFs). The Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) recommends that Parliament grant discharge to the Commission, all six executive agencies and the EDFs for the implementation of the 2022 budget.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[New procedural rules to strengthen GDPR enforcement in cross-border cases](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author LUYTEN KATRIEN

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary Ever since the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) became applicable in 2018, the European Parliament and civil society organisations have been flagging shortcomings regarding enforcement procedures in cases of cross-border processing of personal data. The European Commission has therefore proposed new rules to address the disparate procedural approaches followed by the different national data protection authorities. Parliament is due to vote on its position during the April I plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Common procedure for asylum](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author ORAV Anita

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary The 2020 European Commission proposal for a common asylum procedure regulation seeks to establish a harmonised common EU procedure for asylum, to reduce differences in recognition rates between Member States, discourage secondary movements, and ensure the same procedural guarantees across the EU. Processing asylum claims should be faster, with shorter limits for manifestly unfounded or inadmissible asylum requests made at EU borders. During the April I plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote its first-reading position on the December 2023 agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Crisis and force majeure regulation](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author ORAV Anita

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary In 2020, the European Commission proposed a new pact on asylum and migration, which includes a proposal for a regulation dealing with crisis and force majeure in the area of migration and asylum. The aim is to establish a mechanism for dealing with mass irregular arrivals of migrants in a Member State. The December 2023 agreement is scheduled to be voted by Parliament at first reading during the April I plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Reform of the Reception Conditions Directive](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author RADJENOVIC Anja

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary The 2015 migration crisis in the EU revealed wide divergence in the level of reception conditions provided to asylum-seekers by Member States. In July 2016, the Commission put forward a proposal to replace the current Reception Conditions Directive, to ensure that asylum-seekers can benefit from harmonised and dignified reception standards throughout the EU. Parliament is due to vote its first-reading position on the text, provisionally agreed with the Council in December 2023, during its April I plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[EU resettlement framework](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author RADJENOVIC Anja

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary Many migrants and refugees trying to come to Europe risk their lives by embarking on perilous sea journeys to escape persecution, conflict, instability and poverty. On 13 July 2016, as part of the reform of the Common European Asylum System, the European Commission presented a proposal for a regulation establishing an EU resettlement framework, to provide safe and legal ways into the EU for displaced persons in clear need of international protection. During the April I plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote its first-reading position on the December 2023 agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Implementing the 'Parliament 2024' reforms](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author MANKO Rafał

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary During its April I session, Parliament is due to vote on amendments to its Rules of Procedure on the basis of the report adopted by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO). The report translates into legal rules the recommendations made by the 'Parliament 2024' working group after discussion throughout 2023.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Maritime accident investigation review](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author GULLENTOPS Mathias Mathieu

Policy area Transport

Summary On 1 June 2023, the European Commission presented the maritime safety package, including a proposal to amend Directive 2009/18/EC establishing the fundamental principles governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector. The aim of this revision is to take account of legal, environmental and technological developments since the adoption of the directive. Parliament is expected to vote on the provisional agreement reached during trilogue negotiations during its April I 2024 plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Discharge for 2022 budget: EU decentralised agencies and joint undertakings](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author TOFT SØREN SEBASTIAN

Policy area Budgetary Control

Summary During the April I plenary session, as part of the discharge procedure for the 2022 financial year, the European Parliament is due to vote on discharge for 33 EU decentralised agencies and 9 joint undertakings. The Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) recommends granting discharge to all decentralised agencies, bodies and joint undertakings, and presents some observations to further improve sound financial management.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Hydrogen and decarbonised gas market package](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author DULIAN Monika

Policy area Energy | Environment | Internal Market and Customs Union

Summary During the April I plenary session, the European Parliament is expected to vote on two provisional agreements reached with the Council on the hydrogen and decarbonised gas markets package, which would recast the 2009 EU Gas Directive and the 2009 EU Gas Regulation. These agreements resulting from interinstitutional negotiations, endorsed by the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) in January 2024, substantially amend the texts originally proposed by the European Commission.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Establishing a return border procedure](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-04-2024

Author ORAV Anita

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary In 2020, the European Commission presented a revised proposal for an asylum procedure regulation, which seeks to establish a harmonised common EU procedure. During interinstitutional negotiations, a separate act was agreed for the return border procedure. During the April I plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote its first-reading position on the December 2023 political agreement reached by the co-legislators.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Resilience of Democracy and European Elections against New Challenge](#)

Publication type Study

Date 08-04-2024

External author Edoardo BRESSANELLI & Samuele BERNARDI

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Democracy | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee, identifies new challenges to democratic resilience and electoral processes, systematically mapping the EU responses to counter them. The study focuses both on external and internal challenges and assesses the responses of the Union particularly in the run-up to the 2024 European Parliament elections. It also provides specific policy recommendations to further enhance the protection of democracy in the Union.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Analysis of the 100 largest recipients of RRF funds per Member State](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-04-2024

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Summary This briefing provides background information for the Committee on Budgetary Control on the information currently available concerning the 100 largest recipients of funds from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF).

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[EU-Western Balkans relations: Macroeconomic situation and EU financial support](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-04-2024

Author LECLERC GABIJA | STANICEK BRANISLAV

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary In 2003, at the Thessaloniki Summit, the European Council set out its determination to fully support the EU perspective of the Western Balkan countries. However, in the context of relatively limited progress in implementing reforms needed to align with the EU, none have joined since Croatia's accession in 2013, since when the region has been confronted by 'enlargement fatigue' and increasing Russian and Chinese interference. Responding to these challenges, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who took office in November 2019, defined a new EU external policy strategy as a tool that 'stabilises its neighbourhood and accelerates enlargement'. Several political initiatives followed, to accelerate the Western Balkans' EU integration. These have included the reformed enlargement policy, endorsed in February 2020, adopting the third Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) programme, for 2021-2027, with an allocation of over €14 billion, and the latest proposal of the Reform and Growth Facility (the Facility) (€6 billion) under the new Growth Plan for the Western Balkans. Together, IPA III funds and the Facility will constitute the main financing instruments for the region, helping to increase socio-economic convergence with the EU. President von der Leyen said that the Facility 'could double the economy of the Western Balkans in the next 10 years'. The Facility is a tangible result of the new 'gradual integration approach' endorsed by the European Council in June 2022. It aims to provide benefits of EU membership, even before accession to the EU, particularly through participation in the 'four freedoms' of goods, capital, services and people. The proposal for the Facility of 8 November 2023 links fulfilment of reform commitments with access to funding, incentivising reforms while allowing the Western Balkans to benefit from key areas of the single market. The Facility is set to complement the IPA III thematic allocation approach, by focusing on the specific determinants of social and economic growth. The European Parliament supports the enlargement policy as a strategic investment for peace and security. It has endorsed recent enlargement policy reforms, including a gradual approach. Parliament is scheduled to hold a debate and vote on the legislative resolution on the Facility for the Western Balkans during its second April 2024 plenary session.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[An analysis of the newly proposed rules to strengthen GDPR enforcement in cross-border cases](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-04-2024

Author MILDEBRATH Hendrik Alexander

Policy area Democracy

Summary After years of pressure from civil society organisations and the European Parliament, in 2023 the European Commission tabled a proposal to improve the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) cross-border enforcement procedure. The proposal lays out detailed and innovative rules that would promote harmonisation, yet this analysis shows that more could be done to deliver on the promise of strong and timely enforcement. It follows from the nature of the Commission's targeted approach that the scope of the envisaged regulation is limited and therefore some GDPR enforcement issues would remain outside its boundaries. It is much less apparent whether the proposed rules would achieve their desired effect. Building on two related EPRS briefings that explain the proposal's logic, context and reception, this analysis uncovers a host of shortcomings. Contrary to political announcements, the proposal may actually slow down cross-border enforcement and deepen discord among supervisory authorities, not least by introducing additional procedural steps and ambiguous terms and by weakening the role of the supervisory authorities concerned and that of the European Data Protection Board.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Protecting animals during transport](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-04-2024

Author FRIZBERG DIETER

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Environment | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Fisheries | Public Health | Transport

Summary The impact assessment (IA) defines the problems, their drivers, the objectives and the options of the initiative in a robust intervention logic. It is based on several sources, including the 'fitness check' of current EU animal welfare legislation, an external supporting study and stakeholder feedback. The IA presents a range of policy options; however, for some options, it does not provide alternatives. The assessment of the options' impacts (economic, social, environmental, animal welfare) is qualitative and quantitative with a multi-criteria decision analysis and a supply chain analysis assessing the cumulative impacts of the packages of options. The outcome of the supply chain analysis fed into modelling impacts on production levels, consumer prices, exports and imports. Territorial impacts could have been explored in more depth, given the uneven implementation of the current legislation and potential different starting positions in Member States. Data limitations and uncertainties are addressed transparently throughout the IA. The IA is transparent about diverging stakeholder views, for instance on exports of live animals and maximum journey times.

Briefing [EN](#)

[A visual presentation of the newly proposed rules to strengthen GDPR enforcement in cross-border cases](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-04-2024

Author MILDEBRATH Hendrik Alexander

Policy area Democracy

Summary After years of pressure from civil society organisations and the European Parliament, in July 2023 the Commission tabled a proposal to improve the GDPR cross-border enforcement procedure. The proposal consists of rules that are detailed and innovative, yet also quite complex, especially when dealing with the various phases of the GDPR cooperation and consistency mechanism. To help convey an in-depth understanding and facilitate a critical discussion, this briefing tabulates the envisaged procedure. In doing so, it shows that a granular approach to promoting harmonisation is possible and that the Commission's approach is worth considering. Nevertheless, the briefing also highlights various shortcomings of the proposal. These and other aspects are analysed more extensively in two other EPRS publications: an analysis of the newly proposed rules to strengthen GDPR enforcement in cross-border cases, and a legislative briefing on the Commission proposal laying out these rules.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Single European Sky 2+ package](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-04-2024

Author SOONE Jaan

Policy area Transport

Keyword air and space transport | air safety | air space | air traffic control | common transport policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | EU institutions and European civil service | Eurocontrol | European Aviation Safety Agency | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | proposal (EU) | Single European Sky | TRANSPORT | transport policy

Summary The Single European Sky (SES) initiative seeks to make EU airspace less fragmented and to improve air traffic management in terms of safety, capacity, cost-efficiency and the environment. Its current regulatory framework is based on two legislative packages: SES I (adopted in 2004), which set up the principal legal framework, and SES II (adopted in 2009), which aimed to tackle substantial air traffic growth, increase safety, and reduce costs and delays and the impact of air traffic on the environment. Nonetheless, European airspace remains fragmented, costly and inefficient. The European Commission presented a revision of the SES in 2013 (the SES 2+ package). While the Parliament adopted its first-reading position in March 2014, in December 2014 the Council agreed only a partial general approach, owing to disagreement between the UK and Spain over the application of the text to Gibraltar airport. With Brexit having removed this blockage, the Commission has amended its initial proposal. Following lengthy negotiations, the Council and Parliament negotiating teams reached a provisional agreement at early second reading on 6 March 2024. This now needs formal adoption by both institutions. Third edition of a briefing originally drafted by Maria Niestadt. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Revision of the Port State Control Directive

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-04-2024

Author GULLENTOPS Mathias Mathieu

Policy area Transport

Keyword directive (EU) | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | harbour installation | maritime and inland waterway transport | maritime safety | maritime shipping | ship's passport | TRANSPORT | transport policy | vessel

Summary On 1 June 2023, the European Commission presented a legislative package to modernise and reinforce maritime rules on safety and pollution prevention. The package contains proposals to revise five legal acts, including the Port State Control Directive (PSCD). The aim is to update them so that they are in line with the requirements of the International Maritime Organization and the regional organisation for port state control set up under the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The proposal refers to the inspection of foreign ships in national ports, to verify that the ships' condition complies with international regulations, including for crews. The PSCD would be extended to cover additional international rules such as new conventions on ballast water and removal of wrecks, and updated rules under the Paris MoU. It would give more importance to ships' environmental performance in determining their risk profile, and boost Member States' capacity to detect and address cases of non-compliance with standards and rules on safety, environmental protection and pollution prevention. The scope would be extended to fishing vessels. The European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) adopted its report on 7 December 2023. On 27 February 2024, Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement, which was endorsed by TRAN on 20 March 2024. Parliament is expected to vote on the text during its April I 2024 session. Third edition of a briefing originally drafted by Karin Smit-Jacobs and subsequently updated by Monika Kiss. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

The European Council in 2022: Overview of dynamics, discussions and decisions

Publication type Study

Date 05-04-2024

External author DG, EPRS; Dinan, Desmond

Policy area Democracy

Summary Russia's invasion of Ukraine, including the military build-up before the invasion began on 24 February, dominated every one of the nine meetings of the European Council in 2022. It affected most issues with which the European Council dealt during the year, ranging from energy policy to the broader economy, to security and defence, to enlargement, to external relations. The extent of the EU's humanitarian, economic, political (notably in the form of EU candidacy), and even military assistance to Ukraine was extraordinary. But it came at a cost for the European Council, as leaders grappled with the nature, amount, and timing of the EU's support, and with the ancillary energy crisis and economic distress. Many eastern European leaders, passionate in their support for Ukraine and critical of what they saw as the long-standing naivety towards Russia of several of their western European counterparts, chafed at the traditional leadership in the European Council of France, Germany, and the fabled Franco-German engine. By the end of 2022, the European Council had taken many consequential decisions in the shadow of a large-scale war raging just outside the EU's eastern border. The fallout from that war was bound to affect not only the EU as an entity, but also the European Council as an institution.

Study [EN](#)

Cross-border exchange of information on road safety-related traffic offences

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-04-2024

Author SOONE Jaan

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Transport

Keyword communications | cooperation policy | criminal law | cross-border cooperation | cross-frontier data flow | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU Member State | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | GEOGRAPHY | information and information processing | information system | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | proposal (EU) | road safety | traffic offence | TRANSPORT | transport policy | vehicle registration

Summary Road safety has improved significantly in the EU, with the number of road fatalities falling by more than 60 % in the last 20 years. However, improvements in road safety fell short of the EU goals of decreasing the number of road deaths by 50 % between 2001 and 2010, and by an additional 50 % between 2011 and 2020. Directive (EU) 2015/413 facilitating cross-border exchange of information on road safety-related traffic offences – the Cross-border Enforcement (CBE) Directive – is one of the pillars of the policy framework to improve road safety in the EU. It aims to help improve road safety by tackling the relative impunity of non-resident drivers. The revision, announced in the European Commission's sustainable and smart mobility strategy in 2020, seeks to address key shortcomings in existing rules. According to Commission estimates, 40 % of cross-border offences are committed with impunity, either because the offender is not identified or because the fine is not enforced. The Commission tabled its proposal to revise the CBE Directive on 1 March 2023 as part of the road safety package. In the European Parliament, the file was assigned to the Committee on Transport and Tourism (rapporteur: Kosma Złotowski, ECR, Poland). Following interinstitutional negotiations, the Parliament and Council negotiators reached a provisional agreement on the final wording of the text on 12 March 2024. This must now be formally approved by the Parliament and Council. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Protection of workers: Limit values for lead and diisocyanates](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-04-2024

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Policy area Public Health

Keyword chemical compound | chemistry | deterioration of the environment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENVIRONMENT | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | health risk | INDUSTRY | iron, steel and other metal industries | lead | occupational safety | organisation of work and working conditions | proposal (EU) | reproductive health | respiratory disease | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | toxic substance

Summary As part of its fight against harmful substances, on 13 February 2023 the European Commission tabled a proposal for a directive aimed at protecting workers' health by lowering occupational exposure to lead and diisocyanates. In Parliament, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, which is responsible for the file, adopted its report on 7 September 2023. The mandate to enter into interinstitutional negotiations was endorsed by the plenary the following week. On 14 November 2023, Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement. Parliament approved the agreed text on 7 February 2024; the Council followed on 26 February 2024. The final act was signed on 13 March 2024. The directive sets, for the first time, occupational limit values for diisocyanates, while revising the limit values for lead for the first time in more than 40 years. It also includes a review mechanism to guarantee regular revisions from now on to make sure that those limit values will be regularly updated, taking into account the latest scientific data. Fourth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[EU-Egypt Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 05-04-2024

Author STANICEK BRANISLAV

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen met with President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi of Egypt, in Cairo on 17 March 2024, joined by the prime ministers of Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Greece and Italy. This meeting sealed the €7.4 billion EU-Egypt Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership (the Partnership) to help boost Egypt's faltering economy and avert another migration crisis in Europe. Critics have raised concerns over the declared urgency of disbursing funds under this partnership without the approval of the European Parliament, as well as over Egypt's poor human rights record and the dubious effects of such partnerships on irregular migration.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Revision of the Flag State Requirements Directive](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-04-2024

Author GULLENTOPS Mathias Mathieu

Policy area Transport

Keyword directive (EU) | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | International Maritime Organisation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | maritime and inland waterway transport | maritime safety | ship's flag | TRANSPORT | transport policy | United Nations

Summary On 1 June 2023, the European Commission presented a maritime safety package, including a proposal on a revised directive for compliance with flag state requirements. Revision of the rules is needed to take account of digitalisation, improve inspections and cooperation between flag states, and align with international rules on safety, pollution prevention, and working conditions, through inspections and surveys. This is to ensure EU flag states discharge their international law obligations. The proposal covers requirements for flag state inspections, based on International Maritime Organization rules. The objective is to improve maritime safety and reduce the risk of environmental pollution, ensuring that EU flag states continue to provide high quality shipping services. The proposal facilitates information sharing between flag states on the results of inspections and compliance issues in general. The European Maritime Safety Agency is to support this cooperation through revised training programmes for flag state inspectors. The European Parliament's Transport and Tourism Committee (TRAN) adopted its report on 7 December 2023. On 27 February 2024, Parliament and Council negotiators reached a provisional agreement on the conditions under which flag and port states check if vessels are safe to sail. On 20 March 2024, the TRAN committee endorsed the provisional agreement, which is now scheduled for a plenary vote during the April I 2024 part-session. Third edition of a briefing originally drafted by Karin Smit Jacobs and subsequently updated by Monika Kiss. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Revision of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-04-2024

Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Keyword circular economy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | proposal (EU) | recycled product | sustainable product

Summary Most goods require packaging at several stages of their product life. Today, the diversity of packaging items and materials is considerable. Between 2009 and 2020, the total mass of packaging waste generated in the EU rose by 20 %. The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD – Directive 94/62/EC) lays down measures to prevent the production of packaging waste, and to promote reuse of packaging and recycling and other forms of recovering packaging waste. It also sets out the requirements that all packaging placed on the EU market must meet. These provisions are designed to reduce the disposal of packaging waste and to promote a more circular economy. As part of the European Green Deal and the new circular economy action plan, the European Commission put forward a revision of the PPWD in November 2022. The initiative's objective is to ensure that all packaging is reusable or recyclable in an economically feasible way by 2030. The aim is to reinforce the essential requirements for packaging to ensure its reuse and recycling, boost the uptake of recycled content, and improve the requirements' enforceability. Measures are also envisaged to tackle over-packaging and reduce packaging waste. On 4 March 2024, the Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on the new regulation. This agreement still needs to be formally approved by both institutions. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing EN](#)

Multimedia [Boosting packaging re-use](#)

[Recycling packaging waste](#)

[Revision of the Directive on Ship-source Pollution](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-04-2024

Author GULLENTOPS Mathias Mathieu

Policy area Transport

Keyword deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | International Maritime Organisation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | marine pollution | maritime and inland waterway transport | pollution from ships | prevention of pollution | TRANSPORT | United Nations | vessel | water protection

Summary On 1 June 2023, the European Commission presented a legislative package to modernise and reinforce maritime rules on safety and pollution prevention. It contained proposals for the revision of five legislative acts, including the Directive on Ship-source Pollution. The aim is to combat pollution from maritime ships, thereby preventing all ship-owners and operators, regardless of the ship's flag, from releasing any type of illegal discharge into European seas, in line with International Maritime Organization rules. The proposal contains a robust framework for penalties for infringements, and their application. In addition, there would be an extended range of substances classified as polluting, and enforcement would be strengthened. Within the European Parliament, the file was assigned to the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN). The committee adopted its report on 17 November 2023. The Fisheries Committee (PECH) submitted an opinion on 15 November 2023. Parliament's plenary confirmed the TRAN committee's decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations on 22 November 2023. The Council adopted its general approach on 4 December 2023. On 15 February 2024, Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement in the interinstitutional negotiations. The agreement was endorsed by the TRAN committee on 4 March 2024. It is now scheduled for a plenary vote during the April I 2024 part-session. Third edition of a briefing originally drafted by Karin Smit-Jacobs and subsequently updated by Monika Kiss. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing EN](#)

[Revised rules on the European Maritime Safety Agency \(EMSA\)](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-04-2024

Author GULLENTOPS Mathias Mathieu

Policy area Transport

Keyword deterioration of the environment | digital transformation | ENVIRONMENT | EU institutions and European civil service | European Maritime Safety Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | international law | LAW | marine pollution | maritime safety | maritime surveillance | operation of the Institutions | pollution from ships | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | sustainable mobility | technology and technical regulations | TRANSPORT | transport accident | transport policy

Summary On 1 June 2023, the European Commission presented the maritime safety package, focused on introducing modernised maritime safety and security rules on port state and flag state control, maritime accident investigation and ship source pollution. The package also includes a proposal to revise the Regulation on the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). The revised regulation would give EMSA new and more numerous tasks since the last major revision of its mandate in 2013 and aim to make it 'future proof'. It seeks to take better account of EMSA's current tasks and objectives, which means that the agency would be legally mandated to fulfil these and provide EU Member States and the Commission with technical, operational and scientific assistance, to ensure maritime safety, security and the maritime sector's green and digital transition. The agency would also be provided with adequate human and financial resources to fulfil its role. The European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN), responsible for the file, adopted its on 7 December 2023, along with a mandate to open interinstitutional negotiations. During the March 2024 plenary session, Parliament adopted its first-reading position. The file will now be left to be followed up by the new Parliament after the European elections on 6-9 June 2024. Third edition of a briefing originally drafted by Karin Smit-Jacobs and subsequently updated by Monika Kiss. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing EN](#)

[Medical Devices and In Vitro Medical Devices Regulations: Transitional provisions](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-04-2024

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Policy area Public Health

Summary On 23 January 2024, the European Commission put forward a proposal for a regulation amending Regulations (EU) 2017/745 and (EU) 2017/746, to give manufacturers time to apply the EU legislation on, respectively, medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices (IVDs) under certain conditions, without compromising safety requirements. IVDs are non-invasive tests used on biological samples (such as blood, urine or tissues) to determine the status of a person's health. A considerable number of IVDs currently on the market do not yet comply with the new rules adopted in 2017, nor have they been replaced by new devices. The situation is especially critical for high-risk IVDs, used, for example, to test for infections in blood and organ donations. The proposed regulation aims to address risks of IVD shortages in the EU and speed up the launch of some elements of the European database on medical devices (Eudamed). The proposal is now with the co-legislators. In the Council, Coreper agreed on the text of the proposal without amendments on 14 February 2024. In the European Parliament, the file was assigned to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. It is expected to be voted during the April II plenary, under the urgent procedure – Rule 163 of the Rules of Procedure. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Italy's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-04-2024

Author D'ALFONSO Alessandro

Policy area Budget | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword coronavirus disease | economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic recovery | economic reform | economic structure | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU aid | Europe | European Semester | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | health | investment | Italy | monetary economics | political geography | recommendation (EU) | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | structural adjustment

Summary In absolute figures, Italy's national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) is the largest national plan under the ground-breaking Next Generation EU (NGEU) instrument. In December 2023, a revision brought about various changes to the plan: it is now endowed with EU resources worth €194.4 billion in grants and loans, representing 26.1 % of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), or 10.8 % of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019 (the RRF being 5.2 % of EU 27 GDP in 2019). A slight upward revision of Italy's grant allocation in June 2022 and the inclusion of a new energy-focused REPowerEU chapter resulted in a €2.9 billion increase on the initial plan. In addition, Italy has earmarked national resources worth €30.6 billion to strengthen a vast programme of reforms and investment designed to promote Italy's economic recovery, while addressing a number of structural weaknesses and pursuing major objectives such as the green transition and digital transformation. Measures under the plan are to be completed by 2026. Italy has so far received 52.7 % of the resources (€102.5 billion in pre-financing and four payments for both grants and loans); this is well above the EU average (34.5 %). Another six payments each for grants and loans will depend on further progress in implementation. At the end of 2023, Italy had spent €43 billion or 22 % of the EU resources available for its NRRP, which suggests the importance of the period through to August 2026 for full implementation, not least of its investment measures. A major advocate of creating a common EU recovery instrument, the European Parliament participates in interinstitutional forums for cooperation and discussion on its implementation and scrutinises the European Commission's work. This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Sixth edition. The 'NGEU delivery' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

[Revision of EU pharmaceutical legislation](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-04-2024

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Policy area Public Health

Keyword antimicrobial resistance | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | EU institutions and European civil service | European Medicines Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | innovation | market approval | marketing | medicinal product | pharmaceutical legislation | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | public health | research and intellectual property | security of supply | shortage | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | trade | TRADE

Summary On 26 April 2023, the European Commission put forward a 'pharmaceutical package' to revise the EU's pharmaceutical legislation and make medicines more available, accessible and affordable, while supporting the competitiveness and attractiveness of the EU pharmaceutical industry, with higher environmental standards. The package includes proposals for a new directive and a new regulation, which would replace the existing pharmaceutical legislation, including the legislation on medicines for children and for rare diseases. The European Parliament is expected to vote on its position at first reading during its April I plenary session. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Amendments to MiFID II and MiFIR: The EU's markets in financial instruments

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-04-2024

Author HALLAK ISSAM

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword capital market | disclosure of information | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial instrument | financial legislation | financial supervision | financial transaction | free movement of capital | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | investment company | proposal (EU) | share | TRADE | trade licence | trade policy

Summary The Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID) and the Markets in Financial Instruments Regulation (MiFIR) are the principal texts regulating investment services and financial markets activities in the EU. Following a European Commission proposal to amend the MiFID and the MiFIR, a provisional trilogue agreement was reached on 29 June 2023, and the final act was published in March 2024. The new rules establish an EU-wide consolidated tape for EU financial markets, as well as making changes to their market structure so as to increase their transparency and competitiveness. Consolidated tape is a high-speed electronic system that reports the latest price and volume data on transactions. Fourth edition of a briefing originally drafted by Angelos Delivorias. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Outcome of the meetings of EU leaders, 21-22 March 2024

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-04-2024

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf | TORPEY REBECCA MARY

Policy area Democracy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Summary At the March European Council meeting, discussions focussed on the war in Ukraine, security and defence, the Middle East and enlargement. With a new sense of urgency, EU leaders reiterated their steadfast support for Ukraine, calling on the Council to rapidly adopt an eighth support package for Ukraine. Regarding security and defence, they agreed on the need to increase defence readiness and boost the defence industry, but did not agree on ways of promoting the defence sector. On the Middle East, EU leaders finally agreed on a common message, notably calling for an 'immediate humanitarian pause leading to a sustainable ceasefire'. On enlargement, they decided to open accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina. EU leaders also adopted conclusions on migration, agriculture and the European Semester. The meeting was followed by a Euro Summit.

Briefing [EN](#)

The notion of constitutional identity and its role in European integration

Publication type Study

Date 02-04-2024

External author Christophe MAES

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Summary Since the introduction of Article 4(2) of the Treaty on European Union, the meaning and function of the notion of constitutional identity have become an important point of contention. This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the AFCO Committee, examines what the concept of constitutional identity means and how it has been understood in various EU Member States. It assesses the impact of this concept on the relations between the EU and its Member States. Finally, the study evaluates how the notion of constitutional identity can play a role in future EU integration.

Study [EN](#)

The Court of Auditors

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 27-03-2024

Author MILICEVIC Vera

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Summary The European Court of Auditors (ECA) is in charge of the audit of EU finances. As the EU's external auditor, it contributes to improving EU financial management and acts as the independent guardian of the financial interests of the citizens of the Union.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

AI investment: EU and global indicators

Publication type At a Glance

Date 27-03-2024

Author MADIEGA Tambiama André

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union

Summary Economic indicators show that the United States (US) is the front-runner for both private investment in artificial intelligence (AI) and venture capital in generative AI, followed by China. US companies are also developing most of the large languages models (LLMs) underpinning AI innovation. EU start-ups are beginning to scale up.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Artificial intelligence \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 27-03-2024

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area [Research Policy](#)

Summary The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act moved close to final adoption when the European Parliament voted in favour of the text on 13 March. It will become law after the final endorsement of the Council of the European Union, making the Union the first major world power to adopt horizontal legislation governing AI. The act defines the rules for using and selling artificial intelligence systems in the EU, and regulates general-purpose AI tools such as ChatGPT and AI-based biometric surveillance. It also requires much more transparency than up to now in high-risk AI systems, and delineates unacceptable risks of AI. This note offers links to recent reports and commentaries from some major international think tanks and research institutes on artificial intelligence. More publications on the topic can be found in a previous edition of What think tanks are thinking.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Recent threats in the Red Sea: Economic impact on the region and on the EU](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 27-03-2024

Author DELIVORIAS Angelos

Policy area [Economics and Monetary Issues](#) | [International Trade](#)

Summary Since mid-November 2023, the Iran-backed Houthi militia, which controls large parts of Yemen, has attacked numerous Western commercial ships near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea. In response, major shipping companies have temporarily suspended Suez transits and diverted their trade. This diversion coincides with decreasing freight in another maritime chokepoint, the Panama Canal, provoked by lowered water levels. Rounding South Africa via the Cape of Good Hope is the shortest alternative route for travel by ship between Asia and Europe, a route that increases shipping time by 10 to 14 days. Shipping prices had already been on the rise recently, owing to increased fuel and insurance costs. The diversion has caused delays that have disrupted global supply chains, with certain companies choosing to halt production in their factories. If the situation persists or worsens, it could further affect energy supplies and prices, all this potentially contributing to higher inflation. This could, in turn, hamper the efforts of central banks to achieve a 'soft landing'. If, in addition, United States (US) and European Union (EU) central banks decide to keep interest rates high, developing countries will have to pay premium prices for international debt, raising repayment risks for many countries in Africa that have maturity deadlines this year. The attacks have reduced income from maritime fees and could affect commodity exports for some countries in the region, worsening an already precarious economic situation. If the situation persists or worsens, it could also impact trade for other countries in east Africa and aggravate food security challenges, generating social unrest in countries in the region. In addition to the attacks on ships, there are suspicions that the Houthis have been involved in damage to submarine communications cables. This damage – to what is categorised as critical infrastructure – could represent a significant cost to the EU and other economies. Following calls by the European Parliament and Council, the European Commission has recently adopted a recommendation on the security and resilience of submarine cable infrastructures.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[The European Parliament and the origins of environmental policy](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 27-03-2024

External author [Guest author: Jan-Henrik Meyer](#)

Policy area [Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council](#) | [Environment](#)

Keyword [climate change](#) | [climate change policy](#) | [deterioration of the environment](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental impact](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [environmental protection](#) | [EU environmental policy](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EU strategy](#) | [European construction](#) | [European Parliament](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#)

Summary Drawing on a wide array of sources and literature, this study examines the role of the European Parliament in the establishment of the European Community's environmental policy. It argues that Parliament played a key role in placing this nascent policy issue on the agenda. It influenced the definition of what the policy should include, what it should focus on, and which instruments should be used to address environmental problems. In this process, Parliament filtered ideas, issues and political objectives from national and international debates into the European Community.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Executive summary](#) [EN](#)

[The European Parliament and the origins of consumer policy](#)

Publication type Study

Date 27-03-2024

External author Guest authors: Liesbeth van de Grift and Koen van Zon

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Consumer Protection

Keyword common market | consumer goods | consumer protection | consumption | economic structure | ECONOMICS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | food safety | food standard | health | single market | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary Drawing on a wide array of sources and literature, this study examines the role of the European Parliament in the establishment of the European Community's consumer policy. It argues that Parliament played a key role in placing this nascent policy issue on the agenda. It influenced the definition of what the policy should include, what it should focus on, and which instruments should be used to address the problems facing European consumers. In this process, Parliament filtered ideas, issues and political objectives from national and international debates into the European Community.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Executive summary](#) [EN](#)

[The European Parliament and the origins of social policy](#)

Publication type Study

Date 27-03-2024

External author Guest author: Mechthild Roos

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Social Policy

Keyword EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | European social policy | EUROPEAN UNION | LAW | rights and freedoms | social affairs | social framework | social legislation | social life | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social rights | social structure

Summary Drawing on a wide array of sources and literature, this study examines the role of the European Parliament in the establishment of the European Community's social policy. It argues that Parliament played a key role in placing this nascent policy issue on the agenda. It influenced the definition of what the policy should include, what it should focus on, and which instruments should be used to address social problems. In this process, Parliament filtered ideas, issues and political objectives from national and international debates into the European Community.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Executive summary](#) [EN](#)

[Intergovernmental decision-making procedures](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 26-03-2024

Author ERIKSSON Eeva

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Summary In the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), as well as in several other fields such as enhanced cooperation, certain appointments and treaty revision, the decision-making procedure is different from that prevailing in the ordinary legislative procedure. The dominant feature in these fields is a stronger component of intergovernmental cooperation. The challenge of the public debt crisis has led to increased use of such decision-making mechanisms, notably in the framework of European economic governance.

[EU Fact Sheets](#) [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[The principle of subsidiarity](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 26-03-2024

Author ERIKSSON Eeva

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Summary In areas in which the European Union does not have exclusive competence, the principle of subsidiarity, laid down in the Treaty on European Union, defines the circumstances in which it is preferable for action to be taken by the Union, rather than the Member States.

[EU Fact Sheets](#) [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[A Union certification framework for carbon removals](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-03-2024

Author JENSEN LISELOTTE

Policy area Environment

Keyword carbon capture and storage | circular economy | climate change | deterioration of the environment | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental law | environmental policy | EU environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | greenhouse gas | pollution control measures | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | reduction of gas emissions | technology and technical regulations

Summary On 30 November 2022, as part of the European Green Deal, the European Commission presented the legislative proposal for a Union certification framework for carbon removals. The initiative was first announced in the March 2020 new circular economy action plan and again highlighted in the climate target plan, as well as in the 'fit for 55' revision of the Regulation on land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF), as an essential tool to drive progress towards the 2050 climate neutrality target. The stated aim of the initiative is to ensure high-quality EU certified carbon removals, through a transparent and credible governance framework. This would open up the possibility for further investments towards carbon removal activities and increased deployment. The European Parliament adopted its position during the November II 2023 plenary session, and the Council adopted its general approach on 17 November 2023. A provisional agreement was reached on 20 February 2024, and subsequently endorsed by Member States on 8 March 2024 and by Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) on 11 March 2024. The vote in plenary is scheduled for the April I 2024 part-session. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing EN](#)

Multimedia [A Union certification framework for carbon removals](#)

[Fit for 55 package: Reducing methane emissions in the energy sector](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-03-2024

Author MORGADO SIMOES HENRIQUE ANDRE

Policy area Energy | Environment

Keyword coal and mining industries | coal industry | deterioration of the environment | ENERGY | energy market | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU energy policy | EU environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | gas | greenhouse gas | hydrocarbon | import (EU) | oil industry | oil industry | proposal (EU) | reduction of gas emissions | trade | TRADE

Summary On 15 December 2021, the Commission presented a proposal to regulate methane emissions reductions in the energy sector. The proposal is part of the second batch of proposals in the 'fit for 55' package, seeking to align EU climate and energy laws with the EU Climate Law's 2030 target. The proposal addresses gaps in the current legislation: those relating to methane emissions from upstream exploration and the production of oil and fossil gas, but also those from the gathering and processing of fossil gas, the transmission, distribution and underground storage of gas, and liquid gas terminals operating with fossil and/or renewable methane. In Parliament, the proposal was referred to the Committees on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). On 26 April 2023, they adopted their joint report, which introduced several amendments to the proposal. Parliament adopted its position for the trilogue negotiations on 9 May 2023, without changes to the joint committee report. On 15 November 2023, Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement on the proposal. Coreper endorsed it on 15 December 2023 and ENVI and ITRE on 11 January 2024. Parliament is expected to vote on the agreed text during its April I plenary session. Fourth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages in the legislative procedure.

[Briefing EN](#)

[Enhancing research security](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-03-2024

Author EVROUX CLEMENT THIERRY

Policy area Research Policy

Summary On 24 January 2024, the European Commission tabled a proposal for a Council recommendation on enhancing research security. The procedure does not require the European Parliament's involvement. Research security refers to the safeguarding of scientific activities against misuse and undue influence by third countries or non-state actors. Risks to research include the illicit transfer of knowledge or technology resulting in a threat to the EU's security or undermining its values. Competence for identifying and managing these risks lies with several public bodies, including national authorities and academic institutions. Research security is therefore distinct from research integrity, which seeks to safeguard the reliability and honesty of knowledge creation by individual scientists and academic institutions in line with scientific standards. Against a backdrop of global challenges, including climate transition and geopolitical tensions such as Russia's war on Ukraine, the current economic situation is highlighting the risks inherent in international cooperation in science and technology and the need for the EU to build resilience by reducing vulnerability to foreign interference. While research and innovation (R&I) are an EU asset, in that they can generate knowledge and solutions to global challenges, they also require an appropriate framework to balance the benefits of openness with the need for safeguards regarding research integrity and the dissemination and exploitation of knowledge, technology and know how. The proposed recommendation, adopted as part of the economic security package, is expected to help establish an EU-wide level playing field in research security in line with the objectives set by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union for the European research area (ERA): developing the EU's scientific and technological base and ensuring the free circulation of knowledge. With the inclusion of an EU definition of research security, the proposal seeks to prevent the fragmentation of the ERA that could result from diverging national approaches on research security. This approach, empowering the main academic and industrial actors in research creation, should also comply with the principles underpinning research in the EU, such as academic freedom.

[Briefing EN](#)

[EU-China relations: De-risking or de-coupling – the future of the EU strategy towards China](#)

Publication type Study

Date 26-03-2024

External author Andreea BRINZA, Una Aleksandra BĚRZIŇA-ČERENKOVA, Philippe LE CORRE, John SEAMAN, Richard TURCSÁNYI, Stefan VLADISAVLJEV

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary To evaluate the European Union's (EU) policy framework towards China, this study analyses the varied facets of bilateral relations and the EU's approach towards China, including its policy of de-risking, together with issues relating to China's domestic politics and foreign policy. It highlights the need for the EU to adopt a coherent vision and a comprehensive and consistent long-term China strategy that can guide its future actions towards China and on the world stage. Based on its findings, it also provides a series of specific recommendations for the EU on the numerous topics analysed in the study.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Gender mainstreaming in EU trade agreements](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-03-2024

Author SHREEVES Rosamund

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Human Rights | International Trade

Summary International trade is not gender neutral. Both inside and outside Europe, trade liberalisation has gender differentiated impacts, stemming from women and men's unequal access to resources and their different positions on labour markets, in households and in society. The challenge for EU policy makers is therefore to ensure that both women and men in the EU and partner countries enjoy gains from trade agreements and are protected from negative impacts and, more broadly, that EU trade policy contributes to promoting gender equality, one of the EU's core values. The EU has committed to promoting gender equality in all its policies and has established specific mechanisms in its trade policy to enforce women's labour and human rights. Under the current Commission, there has been a shift towards more explicit inclusion of gender in EU trade policy and trade agreements, illustrated in the inclusion in recent agreements of the first dedicated articles and chapter on trade and gender equality. Sustainable impact assessments and ex post evaluations, with guidelines for taking gendered effects into account, are seen as positive means of informing trade negotiations and assessing impacts of trade agreements. Nonetheless, experts and civil society have identified a number of challenges and potential areas for improvement, not least the need for better data. The European Parliament has asked for gender mainstreaming in EU trade agreements to be reinforced, calling for gender issues to be taken into account throughout the texts and during negotiations. Parliament is particularly keen for all trade agreements to include dedicated chapters on gender equality and women's empowerment, with binding and enforceable gender provisions and provisions for proper monitoring and compliance. It has also called for comprehensive ex ante and ex post gender analysis of potential and actual impacts, and for gender balanced representation and gender expertise on trade negotiating teams and the bodies established to advise on, monitor and assess the implementation of trade agreements.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Understanding EU action on Roma inclusion](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 25-03-2024

Author LECERF Marie

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword civil society | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ethnic discrimination | EU action | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | LAW | marginalisation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | racial discrimination | report | rights and freedoms | Roma | social affairs | social framework | social integration | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The Roma are Europe's largest ethnic minority. Out of an estimated total of 10 to 12 million Roma in Europe as a whole, some 6 million live in the European Union (EU) and most of them are citizens of an EU Member State. A significant number of Roma people live in very poor socio-economic conditions. The social exclusion, discrimination and segregation they face are mutually reinforcing. Their restricted access to education and difficulties entering the labour market result in low income and poor health compared with non-Roma people. Since the mid-1990s, the EU has been stressing the need for better Roma inclusion. In 2011, a key EU initiative was launched with the adoption of an EU framework for national Roma integration strategies up to 2020. The aim was to tackle the socio-economic exclusion of and discrimination against Roma, by promoting equal access in four key areas: education, employment, health and housing. When the framework came to an end, in early October 2020 the European Commission adopted a new strategy for 2021 to 2030. Through this new strategy, Member States were invited to tackle the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on Roma people. In March 2021, the Council adopted a recommendation on Roma equality, inclusion and participation, replacing an earlier one from 2013. This recommendation encouraged Member States to adopt strategic frameworks for the inclusion of Roma communities. The EU also supports Member States in their duty to improve the lives of all vulnerable people, including Roma people, through the European structural and investment funds and other funding instruments. Issues relating to the promotion of democratic values and practices, and economic, social and cultural rights for Roma people have received particular attention from civil society organisations, while Parliament has been advocating for Roma inclusion since the 1990s. This is an update of a briefing published in April 2023.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Implications of the Digital Transformation on Different Social Groups

Publication type Study

Date 25-03-2024

External author MAZZONI Leonardo, BOTTA Marco, CARLINI Roberta, FILISTRUCCHI Lapo, MENENDEZ GONZALEZ Natalia, PARCU Pier Luigi

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Consumer Protection | Democracy | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Petitions to the European Parliament | Social Policy | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the PETI Committee, analyses the impact of digitalization on vulnerable social groups in terms of lower income and education, age, people affected by disabilities, minority ethnic groups and people living in remote/isolated geographic areas. It includes a review of the relevant academic literature, secondary data analysis, as well as three case studies focused on digital inequality in e-commerce and digital financial services. The study reviews the EU legislations relevant in the policy areas that are the object of the case studies and elaborates some recommendations on the actions that the EU could undertake to tackle the digital divide affecting vulnerable social groups.

Study [EN](#)

Voting from abroad in European Parliament elections

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-03-2024

Author CIRLIG Carmen-Cristina | MENTZELOPOULOU Maria-Margarita

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword electoral law | electoral procedure and voting | EU institutions and European civil service | European election | European electoral system | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | LAW | POLITICS | right to vote | rights and freedoms | voting method

Summary Across the European Union (EU), national provisions regarding the right to vote for citizens living abroad are not consistent. However, recent legislative changes seem to suggest a positive trend towards allowing out-of-country voting in most EU Member States. When it comes to voting from abroad, countries need to carefully assess and address various issues. These include: the identification of potential voters; how to inform them about their right to vote and stand as a candidate from abroad; the design and implementation of timely registration processes; the training of staff in diplomatic missions (for in-person voting in consular and diplomatic missions); the design and implementation of secure voting procedures, as well as the possible transportation of ballots from abroad. Against this backdrop, the legal and practical arrangements for voting in the European elections for citizens who live or are temporarily outside their home Member State vary greatly between the Member States. Most allow voting at embassies or consulates abroad, several allow citizens living abroad to vote by post, a few allow voting by proxy, and one (Estonia) allows electronic voting. On the other hand, Czechia, Ireland, Malta and Slovakia do not permit their citizens to vote in the European elections from abroad. Ahead of the European elections in June 2024, this briefing provides an overview of the national provisions concerning voting from abroad in the 27 EU Member States. This briefing is an update of one published in September 2023. The latest elections-related statistical information about the Member States is from August 2023, with the exception of Greece and Belgium, for which it was updated in March 2024.

Briefing [EN](#)

European Council: Facts and figures

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-03-2024

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area Democracy

Summary The European Council brings together the Heads of State or Government of the 27 EU Member States in regular meetings which seek to define the overall political direction and priorities of the European Union. This briefing offers a selection of key facts and figures about this institution, detailing its membership, role, activities, political composition and development over time.

Briefing [EN](#)

Performance framework for the EU budget - Concepts and practices

Publication type Study

Date 22-03-2024

External author Iain BEGG, Francesco CORTI, Alessandro LISCAI, Stefan KAH

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Summary Performance-based budgeting has latterly become integral to the governance of EU spending. This study looks at the principles behind this approach and explores how it is being implemented in Cohesion Policy and the Recovery and Resilience Facility. The analysis reveals marked differences between how performance-based budgeting functions in these two frameworks and sheds light on both benefits and drawbacks in their implementation.

Study [EN](#)

[Preventing and countering the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and stay in the EU](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-03-2024

Author RADJENOVIC Anja

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary In November 2023, the Commission proposed a directive to modernise and strengthen the legal framework on the fight against migrant smuggling. The proposal addresses the steady rise in irregular arrivals in the EU and the rise in smuggling on all main EU entry routes. The current directive defining the offence of facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence in the EU, and the framework decision on strengthening of the penal framework have both been widely criticised for their failure to provide legal certainty and uniformity of implementation. Parliament has been the main critic of these legal acts since their adoption in 2002. Many human rights players have also warned that the overly broad definition of migrant smuggling has resulted in the investigation and prosecution of innocent people, be they smuggled migrants or individuals providing humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants. To clearly define and effectively sanction migrant smuggling, the Commission would replace the existing rules with others focused on criminal offences, penalties for natural persons, liability of and sanctions for legal persons, but also on jurisdiction, prevention, investigation and data collection. In Parliament, the file has been assigned to the LIBE committee, with Birgit Sippel (S&D, Germany) as rapporteur. The next expected step is the publication of a draft report. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing EN](#)

[Harmonising transfer pricing rules within the EU](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 21-03-2024

Author BAERT Pieter

Policy area International Trade | Taxation

Summary The pricing of goods and services traded within a multinational group is known as 'transfer pricing'. The prices charged on such transactions affect the allocation of income among the different entities of the multinational group (and consequently, the taxable profits of each country). To ensure that transactions between group entities are priced in a way that reflects their fair market value – i.e. as if the transactions were made between independent entities – countries have put in place strict transfer pricing rules. While these rules are established at the national level, EU Member States generally align with the (non-binding) OECD Guidelines. However, the number of transfer pricing tax disputes has risen over the years, with both tax authorities and companies dedicating significant time and resources to resolving such cases. On 12 September 2023, the European Commission tabled a proposal for harmonising transfer pricing rules within the EU. The main goal is to establish a common approach at the EU level towards transfer pricing and define key transfer pricing principles to be incorporated into EU law. The European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) has drawn up a (non-binding) report, which is expected to be put to the vote during Parliament's April I plenary session (10-11 April). Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing EN](#)

[Revision of EU marketing standards for certain 'breakfast' directives](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 21-03-2024

Author KATSAROVA Ivana

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Food Safety

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | designation of origin | directive (EU) | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | food safety | food systems | foodstuff | foodstuff | health | marketing | quality control of agricultural products | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary Over time, EU food markets have evolved significantly, driven by innovation and changes in consumer demand and expectations. Taking this shift into account, on 21 April 2023 the European Commission proposed to update some of the rules governing a set of directives on food products – the 'breakfast' directives. Changes include introducing stricter origin labelling for honey, increasing the fruit content in jams, reducing sugar in fruit juice and clearing the way for the production of lactose-free evaporated milk. Following the vote on the report by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), Parliament adopted its position on the proposal with 522 votes in favour, 13 against and 65 abstentions on 12 December 2023. Strengthening the Commission's text, the plenary approved measures to protect consumers and beekeepers from adulterated honey, and to facilitate informed consumer choices through increased transparency. On 30 January 2024, Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement, which was endorsed by ENVI on 14 February 2024. The text has now to be approved formally by Parliament and the Council. The new legislation will enter into force 20 days after its formal adoption. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing EN](#)

[The common agricultural policy – instruments and reforms](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 20-03-2024

Author MILICEVIC Vera

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Summary The common agricultural policy (CAP) has undergone six major reforms, the most recent of which were in 2013 (for the 2014-2020 financial period) and 2021 (for the 2023-2027 financial period). The latest reform and new legislation came into force in January 2023.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Three Eastern Partnership neighbours: Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 20-03-2024

Author CARMONA Florian | CSASZI LEVENTE | CUEVAS HERMAN Vanessa

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary The EU's Eastern Partnership policy, established in 2009, covers six post-Soviet states: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. It was created to support political, social and economic reform efforts in these countries with the aim of increasing democratisation and good governance, energy security, environmental protection, and economic and social development. All the members except Belarus participate in the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Improving the working conditions of platform workers](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-03-2024

Author PAPE Marketa

Policy area Employment

Keyword digital transformation | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU employment policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | labour law | labour law and labour relations | labour market | online platform worker | organisation of work and working conditions | personnel management and staff remuneration | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | self-employed person | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social security | staff | technology and technical regulations | working conditions

Summary On 11 March 2024, employment and social affairs ministers from the EU Member States endorsed the agreement reached with the European Parliament in February 2024 on the platform work directive. The directive introduces the presumption of employment – to be applied following national rules – as well as the first EU rules to regulate algorithmic management in the workplace. Platform work is an umbrella concept covering a heterogeneous group of economic activities completed through a digital platform. Platform workers' rights are not enshrined in EU labour law and this is increasingly leading to problems relating to various aspects of their work and human development. To remedy this situation, the European Commission submitted a proposal for a directive aimed at improving the working conditions of platform workers, clarifying their employment status, and establishing the first EU rules for the use of artificial intelligence in the workplace. Fifth edition of a briefing originally drafted by Monika Kiss. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Improving the working conditions of platform workers](#)

[Revision of the European Works Councils Directive: Stronger social dialogue in a multinational context](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-03-2024

Author PAPE Marketa

Policy area Employment | Social Policy

Summary European Works Councils (EWCs) are bodies that should guarantee employees the right to be consulted on important issues in large multinational companies active in multiple EU countries. The possibility to set up EWCs was introduced 30 years ago and the rules were revised in 2009. However, with limited rights to information and little influence, EWCs have been criticised for being ineffective, on account of unclear definitions, non-dissuasive sanctions and ineffective access to justice. In February 2023, the European Parliament called for legislative action to address the shortcomings identified and strengthen the functioning of EWCs. In response, the European Commission consulted European social partners and put forward a proposal in January 2024 to revise the 2009 directive. The European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs is preparing a report, with a view to securing a mandate for interinstitutional negotiations in the next legislative term. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Screening of third-country nationals at the EU's external borders](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-03-2024

Author DUMBRAVA Costica

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword biometrics | border control | cooperation policy | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | external border of the EU | foreign national | Frontex | illegal migration | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | migration | natural and applied sciences | POLITICS | politics and public safety | proposal (EU) | Schengen Information System | SCIENCE | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | third country

Summary In September 2020, the Commission put forward a new pact on migration and asylum, setting out a comprehensive approach to European Union (EU) migration policies that links external borders, asylum, return systems, the Schengen area of free movement and the external dimension of migration. The pact includes a proposal for a new regulation on the screening of third-country nationals at external borders aiming to clarify and streamline the rules on dealing with third-country nationals who are not authorised to enter or stay in the EU. The proposal would introduce a pre-entry screening procedure allowing national authorities at external borders to channel irregular third-country nationals to the appropriate procedure, i.e. asylum or return procedures. The screening would start with preliminary health and vulnerability checks and finish with the transmission of a debriefing form to the appropriate authorities. The proposal would provide for the establishment, by each Member State, of an independent monitoring mechanism for fundamental rights. Following the provisional agreement reached by the Parliament and the Council in December 2023, the agreed text of the new regulation has been tabled for a vote in the April I plenary session. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Haiti in a spiral of violence](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-03-2024

Author JUTTEN Marc

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary The multidimensional crisis and spiralling violence in Haiti has reached its peak, with criminal gangs in control of 80 % of the capital Port-au-Prince. On 11 March 2024, Prime Minister Ariel Henry announced his resignation. Hopes lie with a transitional governance arrangement that was agreed at a meeting in Jamaica between Haitian stakeholders, CARICOM and representatives from the international community. The installation of the Transitional Presidential Council is a precondition set by Kenya to lead the Multinational Security Support Mission to Haiti authorised by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in October 2023.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Toy safety regulation](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-03-2024

Author EVROUX CLEMENT THIERRY

Policy area Consumer Protection

Keyword child | child protection | consumption | demography and population | EC conformity marking | European standard | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | INDUSTRY | market approval | marketing | miscellaneous industries | product safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | safety standard | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technical specification | technology and technical regulations | toy industry | TRADE

Summary On 28 July 2023, the European Commission adopted a proposal to revise EU toy safety legislation, by introducing a new regulation and repealing Directive 2009/48/EC. The proposal pursues two main objectives: a) achieving a higher level of child protection, including from the most harmful substances; and b) reducing the number of non-compliant and unsafe toys on the EU market. In relation to the first objective, the proposal extends the definition of health to children's psychological and mental health and to their wellbeing and cognitive development. It also extends the current ban on substances classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic for reproduction to include endocrine disruptors, and chemicals that are toxic to a specific organ or affect the immune, neurological or respiratory system. The proposal's second objective is to establish a digital product passport to facilitate traceability. In the European Parliament, the file was referred to the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO). It adopted its report on the proposal unanimously in February 2024. Parliament voted on the report during its March 2024 plenary session, setting its first reading position for trilogue negotiations with the Council during the next term. The working party on technical harmonisation in the Council has begun its examination of the proposal. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Multimedia [Toy safety regulation](#)

The European Council and the economic governance review

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-03-2024

Author PAPUNEN Annastiina

Policy area Democracy

Summary The update of the EU's fiscal rules is almost complete – in time to be adopted ahead of the legislative break for the 2024 European elections. There has been a long-standing need to update the EU economic governance framework to make it better suited to the current and future challenges the EU is facing. The existing rules have formed over time since the 1992 Maastricht Treaty. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 saw the activation of the 'general escape clause' in the rules, giving Member States flexibility with their national budgets at a time of crisis. The validity of the clause was extended owing to the start of the war in Ukraine, but it was finally deactivated at the end of 2023. Since the beginning of 2023, the European Council had been calling for work on the economic governance review to be concluded by the end of 2023, so that the new rules could apply from the start of 2024 without transitional arrangements. The Commission published a package of legislative proposals in April 2023, which upheld the key reference values limiting government deficits to 3 % of gross domestic product (GDP), and debt levels to 60 % of GDP, as defined in the Maastricht Treaty. The Swedish, Spanish and Belgian Presidencies of the Council of the EU have taken the work forward. There have, however, been differences of views on the review process among the EU Member States. Germany, the largest EU Member State by population and one of the EU's key economic engines, has led a more fiscally prudent grouping, with proposals such as quantitative benchmarks and safeguards. The other approach, pushed by countries such as France, has been to stress the need for investment and flexibility. The whole process was not finalised by the end of 2023, as the European Council had requested, but Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and the Council of the EU adopted their respective positions in December 2023, thus enabling interinstitutional negotiations to start in January, once Parliament had confirmed its negotiating mandate. A political agreement was reached in February 2024. The aim is to have the new framework in place before the European elections in June 2024 and to start applying the rules from 2025. The first national plans outlining expenditure, reforms and investment in line with these new rules are expected to be prepared by 20 September 2024. This briefing looks at the process that led to the political agreement on the new rules, and at how the European Council has contributed to it through the guidance given in its conclusions.

Briefing [EN](#)

Soil monitoring and resilience directive

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-03-2024

Author HALLEUX Vivienne

Policy area Environment

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | conservation of resources | cultivation of agricultural land | degradation of the environment | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental law | environmental monitoring | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | natural environment | proposal (EU) | soil improvement | soil protection | soil resources

Summary Currently, there is no EU-wide legislation specifically on soil, although many policy instruments relevant to soil protection are in place. Under the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030, part of the European Green Deal, the European Commission presented a new EU soil strategy for 2030, with the aim of having all EU soil ecosystems in a healthy condition by 2050. To achieve this objective, on 5 July 2023 it tabled a proposal for a soil monitoring and resilience directive, laying down measures for monitoring and assessing soil health, based on a common definition of what constitutes healthy soil, for managing soils sustainably, and for tackling contaminated sites. While stakeholders agree on the need for a soil monitoring framework, concerns have been raised about the indicators chosen to describe and assess soil health, provisions on land take, the lack of a roadmap, plans and intermediate targets to achieve the overarching 2050 objective, application of the polluter pays principle, and funding available to support land owners and managers. Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), responsible for the file, adopted its legislative report on 11 March 2024. The text awaits a vote during the first April 2024 plenary session, with a view to setting Parliament's position at first reading. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[African Union–European Union cooperation on health](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-03-2024

Author LECLERC GABIJA

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Public Health

Summary In line with its 2022 global health strategy (GHS), the expansion of international partnerships on health is a priority for the European Union (EU). As the 2020 Africa strategy underlines, the African continent, including at regional and national levels, is one of the EU's strategic partners, not least on health. Nevertheless, it was not until February 2022, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, that health was explicitly included as one of the strategic priorities of the EU–African Union (AU) partnership. Since then, AU–EU cooperation on health has evolved. In February 2024, the partners confirmed their intention to enhance their health partnership, and identify new areas of joint work within the frameworks provided by the EU GHS and the AU New Public Health Order. Five Team Europe initiatives (TEIs) underpin the EU's cooperation with African partners on health. The focus is on sustainable strengthening of the African architecture for health security and pandemic preparedness with the 'One Health' approach; enhancing Africa-based public health capacity, including through digital health; local production of health products; and improving sexual and reproductive health. The TEIs are supported by investment from the Global Gateway Africa–Europe investment package. The EU is also committed to the EU–Africa Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking under the Horizon Europe research and innovation funding programme. Despite significant progress in EU–African cooperation on health during the past few years, several divergences and points of contention exist. For instance, both the EU and African partners state their commitment towards their shared goal of equity and equitable access to health products; however, their stance on making this priority operational diverges, and arguably constitutes the main friction point in the relations. The ongoing negotiations at the World Health Organization aiming to strengthen international health security highlight persisting issues. The European Parliament advocates an ambitious and comprehensive AU–EU health agenda. Parliament has for instance called for prioritisation of health in AU–EU relations, technology transfer, enhanced financing, and a focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights and a 'One Health' approach.

Briefing [EN](#)

[La libertad de empresa, una perspectiva de Derecho Comparado - España](#)

Publication type Study

Date 20-03-2024

External author EPRS, Comparative Law

Policy area Human Rights

Summary Este documento se integra en una serie de estudios que, desde una perspectiva de Derecho Comparado, tienen como objeto el análisis de la libertad de empresa en los diferentes ordenamientos jurídicos de la Unión Europea. Tras la explicación de su normativa y jurisprudencia, se examina el contenido, los límites y su posible evolución. La Constitución española de 1978 regula la libertad de empresa dentro del Capítulo II del Título I dedicado a los "Derechos y Libertades"; concretamente, en su artículo 38. En el mismo precepto se reconoce, paralelamente, la economía de mercado y su defensa, encomendadas ambas a los distintos poderes públicos, junto con la productividad, de acuerdo con las exigencias de la economía general y, en su caso, de la planificación. La ordenación de la libertad de empresa es transversal y está condicionada, principalmente, por seis realidades: 1) Los límites impuestos por la configuración de España como un Estado social (art. 1.1 CE); 2) La defensa de otros derechos y bienes constitucionales igualmente recogidos en la Constitución y que el Tribunal Constitucional ha perfilado al hilo de su jurisprudencia; 3) Las tensiones competenciales entre el Estado y las Comunidades Autónomas a la hora de reglamentar y ejecutar diversas políticas sobre la materia; 4) Los conflictos entre los derechos de los trabajadores y el margen de dirección del empleador en el momento de preservar su contenido esencial; 5) El límite del artículo 128.2 CE, al constitucionalizar, además de la libertad de empresa, la iniciativa pública en la actividad económica y la reserva mediante ley al sector público de recursos o servicios esenciales; y 6) El cumplimiento y respeto, lógicamente, a toda una amplia normativa comunitaria que sobre la libertad de empresa han promulgado las distintas instituciones de la Unión Europea. La combinación de estos seis factores, entre otros no tan determinantes, ha dado lugar a un complejo entramado normativo y jurisprudencial que ha desarrollado y tutela de forma eficaz, con carácter general, el derecho a la libertad de empresa en España.

Study [ES](#)

[Children's participation in the democratic life of the EU](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-03-2024

Author DEL MONTE Micaela | MENTZELOPOULOU Maria-Margarita

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary Present-day European children have been through a lot: a global pandemic, a global financial crisis and wars in the EU's neighbouring regions. In just a few years, once they become adults, they will have to face the consequences of the decisions taken today. Therefore whether these decisions have to do with the protection of the environment, public health policies or demographics, governments should seek to ensure that children are sufficiently empowered to contribute to responsible choices for their generation's future. According to EU and international instruments, children have the right to be heard and to have a say in all decisions that may affect them and their well-being, whether in their home, community, school, or in legal and administrative matters. Ensuring children's right to express their views on matters relevant to them is a key objective of the European Union. Children's participation can take many forms, in ways that are adapted to their age and maturity; for instance they can express their views through writing and speech but also through painting and drawing. The upcoming European elections in June 2024 further highlight the importance of engaging children in the EU's democratic processes. Four Member States (Belgium, Germany, Malta and Austria) allow their 16-year-old citizens to vote. Stakeholders call for more extensive consultations with children while stressing the need to make policy and decision making in areas concerning children both accessible and child-friendly. An open and inclusive consultation would provide children with the opportunity to contribute to the definition of new policy priorities and to the evaluation and revision of existing measures. This briefing looks at the international and EU policy framework relevant to children's participation in democratic life. It also gives practical examples of how this participation is enabled through local youth parliaments, municipal children's councils and ad hoc consultations.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Revision of the Weights and Dimensions Directive](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-03-2024

Author SOONE Jaan

Policy area Transport

Keyword carbon neutrality | carriage of goods | deterioration of the environment | directive (EU) | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | greenhouse gas | international road transport | land transport | motor vehicle pollution | organisation of transport | TRANSPORT | weight and size

Summary In July 2023, the Commission tabled a package of proposals for the greening of freight transport. Among the three proposals is one on the revision of the Weights and Dimensions Directive, which sets limits for heavy goods vehicles in international road transport. The proposal seeks to further promote use of zero-emission trucks by allowing these to exceed the standard weight limits. It also seeks to clarify the rules on use of heavier and longer vehicles in cross-border transport operations between countries where such vehicles are allowed, promote intermodal transport and simplify administrative procedures, while also improving enforcement of the rules. In the European Parliament, the file has been referred to the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN), which has appointed Isabel García Muñoz (S&D, Spain) as rapporteur. She published her draft report on 20 October 2023. The TRAN committee adopted its report on 14 February. Parliament adopted its first reading position during the March 2024 plenary session. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Anti-money-laundering authority \(AMLA\): Countering money laundering and the financing of terrorism](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-03-2024

Author REMEUR Cécile

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword banking supervision | criminal law | economic offence | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fight against crime | FINANCE | financial institution | financial institutions and credit | financial supervision | financial transaction | free movement of capital | LAW | money laundering | operation of the Institutions | POLITICS | politics and public safety | proposal (EU) | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | terrorism financing

Summary In July 2021, the European Commission tabled a proposal to establish a new EU authority to counter money laundering and the financing of terrorism (AMLA). This was part of a legislative package aimed at implementing the 2020 action plan for a comprehensive Union policy on preventing money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The AMLA would be the centre of an integrated system, composed of the authority itself and national authorities with an AML/CFT supervisory mandate. It would also support EU financial intelligence units (FIUs) and establish a cooperation mechanism among them. In the European Parliament, the file was referred to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE). The co rapporteurs' draft report was voted on 28 March 2023 and the plenary mandate on 17 April 2023. The Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement in December 2023, and the decision on the seat was taken by a joint vote on 22 February 2024. Fourth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure. The first edition was written by Carla Stamegna.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Proposal on welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-03-2024

Author VINCI CLAUDIA

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Summary In the framework of the 'farm to fork' strategy, the Commission committed to a complete overhaul of the animal welfare rules. Accordingly, on 7 December 2023 it published a proposal on the welfare and traceability of dogs and cats, together with a proposal for a new regulation on animal welfare in transport. At present, the rules on the protection of dog and cat welfare across the EU are not harmonised. The proposal therefore aims to establish EU standards for the breeding, housing and handling of pets in breeding establishments, pet shops and shelters. To combat the illegal trade in dogs and cats – a ruthless practice that is flourishing through online sales – the Commission seeks to reinforce the traceability of dogs and cats by introducing mandatory identification and registration in national databases. In the European Parliament, the file has been assigned to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI), with Veronika Vrecionová (ECR, Czechia) as rapporteur.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Key Issues in the European Council - State of play in March 2024](#)

Publication type Study

Date 18-03-2024

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf | PAPUNEN Annastiina | TORPEY REBECCA MARY

Policy area Democracy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs | International Trade | Security and Defence | Social Policy

Summary This EPRS publication, 'Key issues in the European Council', which is updated every quarter to coincide with European Council meetings, seeks to provide an overview of the institution's activities on major EU issues. It analyses 12 broad policy areas, explaining the legal and political background, the main priorities and orientations defined by the European Council and the results of its involvement to date, as well as some of the future challenges in each policy field.

Study [EN](#)

France's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-03-2024

Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Policy area Budget | Coronavirus

Keyword economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic recovery | economic transition | ECONOMICS | EU growth strategy | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | France | GEOGRAPHY | political geography | reflation

Summary France's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) is a subpart of 'France Relance', a larger recovery strategy France adopted in 2020 at national level, worth €100 billion in total (4.1 % of France's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019). The NRRP had an initial value of €40.9 billion (total costs), while the plan as amended in 2023 is worth €41.9 billion. Under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), at the core of the Next Generation EU (NGEU) instrument, France's RRF grant allocation decreased from €39.4 billion to €37.4 billion, following the June 2022 update. In April 2023, France submitted a request to amend its NRRP – partly in order to take into account the decrease in the EU's financial contribution, but also to add a new REPowerEU chapter, which comes with an additional grant allocation of €2.3 billion. France also requested to transfer a portion of its share of the Brexit Adjustment Reserve to its plan (€504 million). With these funds, the overall EU financial contribution to the French amended plan amounts to €40.2 billion in grants, with the rest to be covered by national means. France has not requested loans. The RRF resources allocated to France represent 5.3 % of the entire RRF resources for the EU, and 1.6 % of the country's GDP in 2019 (the RRF representing 5.2 % of EU-27 GDP in 2019). Measures under the plan are to be completed by 2026. So far, France has received €23.4 billion. The next payments will depend on progress in implementing the plan. The European Parliament, which was a major advocate of the creation of a common EU recovery instrument, participates in interinstitutional forums for cooperation and discussion on its implementation and scrutinises the European Commission's work. This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Fourth edition. The 'NGEU delivery' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans.

Briefing [EN](#), [FR](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

Belgium's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-03-2024

Author HALLAK ISSAM

Policy area Budget

Keyword Belgium | economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic recovery | economic transition | ECONOMICS | Europe | GEOGRAPHY | political geography | reflation

Summary The EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is the core component of Next Generation EU, a temporary recovery instrument that allows the European Commission to raise funds to help the economic and social recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. By promoting the sustainable and inclusive recovery that ensures the green and digital transitions make progress, the RRF is consistent with the Commission's priorities. Belgium's initial maximum contribution to finance its national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) was set to €5 924 million in grants. However, the maximum financial contribution was updated in June 2022 and reduced to €4 523 million. In addition, the non-repayable allocation for the REPowerEU chapter to reinforce the NRRP's energy dimension is set at €281 million. Belgium also submitted a reasoned request to transfer part of its provisional allocation from the resources of the Brexit Adjustment Reserve to the RRF (€228 million). Finally, Belgium requested a loan support of €264 million. The overall EU financial contribution to the amended Belgian NRRP stands thus at €5 298 million; it represents 0.7 % of the entire RRF, and 1.1 % of Belgium's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019. The Council approved Belgium's amended NRRP on 8 December 2023. In total, Belgium received €915.1 million in pre-financing: 13 % of the initial NRRP (€770 million, all grants) in 2021, and 20 % of the REPowerEU chapter (€102.1 million in grants, €43 million in loans) in January 2024. The European Parliament, which was a major advocate of creating a common EU recovery instrument, participates in interinstitutional forums for cooperation and discussion on RRF implementation and scrutinises the European Commission's work. This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Second edition. The 'NGEU delivery' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans.

Briefing [EN](#), [FR](#), [NL](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

[Cyprus's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-03-2024

Author DELIVORIAS Angelos

Policy area Budget

Keyword Cyprus | economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic recovery | economic transition | ECONOMICS | Europe | GEOGRAPHY | political geography | reflation

Summary In absolute figures, Cyprus's amended national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) has increased by €20 million to a total of €1.22 billion. Cyprus decided to use its allocation under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) predominantly in grants (€1 005 million), with €200.3 million in loans. In September 2023, Cyprus submitted a request to amend its NRRP, to which it added a new REPowerEU chapter, with an additional REPowerEU grant allocation of €52.5 million. It also requested to transfer a portion of its share of the Brexit Adjustment Reserve to its plan (€52 million). With these funds, and cutting some measures (as a result of the 2022 decrease in the allocation), the overall EU financial contribution to the amended plan amounts to €1 024 billion in grants (loans remain the same). These resources represent around 0.2 % of the entire RRF, and are equal to 5.15 % of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019. They underpin reforms and investments that aim to promote the recovery of the Cypriot economy, while addressing structural weaknesses and pursuing major objectives such as the green transition and the digital transformation. The revised plan has a stronger focus on the digital (24.6 % of the funds vs 23 % before) and green (45 %, vs 41 % before) transitions. Measures under Cyprus's plan are to be completed in 2026. Cyprus has so far received 19.8 % of the resources in the form of pre-financing and one payment for grants and loans (below the EU average). The remaining amounts will be paid depending on the implementation of the remaining 68 milestones and 121 targets. The European Parliament, which was a major advocate for the creation of a common EU recovery instrument, participates in interinstitutional forums for cooperation and discussion on its implementation and scrutinises the work of the European Commission. This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Third edition. The 'NGEU delivery' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans.

Briefing [EL](#), [EN](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

[Public hearing with Dominique Laboureix, Chair of the Single Resolution Board - 21 March 2024](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-03-2024

Author MAGNUS Marcel | SPITZER Kai Gereon

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Summary This briefing has been prepared for the public hearing with the Chair of the Single Resolution Board (SRB), Dominique Laboureix, scheduled for 21 March 2024. This briefing addresses:

- New SRM strategy: Vision 2028
- Single Resolution Fund at target level
- Liquidity and liquidity in resolution
- MREL dashboard Q3/2023
- List of consultations and requests to the industry.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Outlook for the meetings of EU leaders, 21-22 March 2024](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-03-2024

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area Democracy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Summary At the 21-22 March European Council meeting, discussions will focus on Ukraine, security and defence, the Middle East and enlargement. Concerning security and defence, EU leaders will consider the new European defence industrial strategy presented by the European Commission. On Ukraine, they are expected to reiterate their commitment to supporting the country, and welcome the establishment of a Ukraine Assistance Fund regarding military aid as well as the 13th package of sanctions against Russia. The leaders may also discuss anew the use of revenues from frozen Russian assets to help Ukraine. As the Middle East remains a delicate topic, with differing positions, concrete conclusions with clear positions are unlikely. On enlargement, EU leaders will probably welcome the Commission's recommendation to open negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina. As is usual in the spring, EU leaders will endorse the policy priorities of the annual sustainable growth survey, and meet in an inclusive Euro Summit format.

Briefing [EN](#)

[EU assistance to Ukraine and scrutiny of the EU financing provided](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-03-2024

Author HAASE Diana | SCHWARCZ András

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Summary The Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) will hold an exchange of views with the parliamentary Committees on Budget and on Anti-corruption Policies of the Ukrainian Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, on 20 March 2024. This briefing provides background information for that debate.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Bulgaria's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 18-03-2024

Author DOBREVA Alina | LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area [Budget](#)

Keyword [Bulgaria](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [economic and social cohesion](#) | [economic conditions](#) | [economic geography](#) | [economic policy](#) | [economic recovery](#) | [economic reform](#) | [economic structure](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [epidemic](#) | [EU aid](#) | [EU finance](#) | [EU financial instrument](#) | [Europe](#) | [European grant construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financing and investment](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [health](#) | [investment](#) | [political geography](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [structural adjustment](#)

Summary Under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), the EU response to the crisis triggered by the pandemic, Bulgaria was initially allocated €6 267.3 million in grants. In line with the RRF Regulation, on 30 June 2022, the European Commission recalculated the maximum grant amounts for all Member States; this resulted in a just over 9 % cut for Bulgaria, lowering the total to €5 688.8 million. To take this into account, as well as factor in the impact of inflation, Bulgaria submitted a modified national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP), removing and downscaling several measures. The updated plan has an estimated cost of €6 185.3 million; the financing above the maximum RRF financial contribution is expected to be supplemented with national (and private) co-financing. Bulgaria has not yet submitted a REPowerEU chapter, for which another €480.1 million in grants are available. Bulgaria's NRRP ranks eighth as a share of grants relative to gross domestic product (GDP) – 9.3 % of its 2019 GDP from 10.2 % originally (the RRF amounting to 5.2 % of EU-27 2019 GDP). RRF funds have to be paid out by end-2026. Bulgaria has so far received one payment worth €1 369 million, which the Commission disbursed on 16 December 2022. The Bulgarian NRRP aims to address the main challenges and systemic weaknesses of Bulgaria's economy. It builds on the national development programme BULGARIA 2030, which proposes solutions for medium-term growth by setting strategic objectives, such as accelerated economic development, demographic upswing and reduced inequalities. The NRRP extends the scope of reforms and investment while ensuring coherence with measures planned under EU cohesion policy. Bulgaria is one of the main beneficiaries of EU funds (measured as a share of GDP) over the 2021-2027 financing period, and complementarity with RRF resources is relevant in several fields. 57.5 % of the NRRP support is for climate objectives, making Bulgaria's plan one of the greenest; 23.1 % supports digital objectives. Both green and digital spending targets laid down in the RRF Regulation have thus been exceeded. The European Parliament participates in interinstitutional forums for cooperation and discussion on the implementation of the RRF, and scrutinises the Commission's work. This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Third edition. The 'NGEU delivery' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

[Overly reliant on central bank funding? Consequences of exiting TLTRO](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 18-03-2024

External author Florian HEIDER & Jonas SCHLEGEL

Policy area [Economics and Monetary Issues](#)

Summary This study analyses potential consequences of exiting the Targeted Long-Term Refinancing Operations (TLTRO) of the European Central Bank (ECB). Thanks to its asset purchase programs, the Eurosystem still holds plenty of reserves even with a full exit from the TLTROs. This explains why voluntary and mandatory repayments of TLTRO III borrowing went smoothly. Nevertheless, the more liquidity is drained from the banking system, the more important becomes interbank market borrowing and lending, ideally between euro area member states. Right now, the usual fault lines of the euro area show up. The German banking system has plenty of reserves while there are first signs of aggregate scarcity in the Italian banking system. This does not need to be a source of concern if the interbank market can be sufficiently reactivated. Moreover, the ECB has several tools to address possible future liquidity shortages. This document was provided/prepared by the Economic Governance and EMU scrutiny Unit at the request of the ECON Committee.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Lithuania's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-03-2024

Author SAULNIER JEROME LEON

Policy area Budget | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic reconstruction | economic recovery | economic reform | economic structure | economic transition | ECONOMICS | EU aid | EU investment | Europe | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | Lithuania | political geography

Summary Under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), Lithuania's national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) had an initial value of €2 224 million. In June 2022, Lithuania's grant allocation was revised downwards to €2 100 million (- 5.6 %). In October 2023, however, Lithuania submitted a request to amend its NRRP, which includes an additional grant allocation of €193.7 million for a new REPowerEU chapter and a loan request worth €1 551.7 million. Lithuania also requested to transfer a portion of its share of the Brexit Adjustment Reserve to its plan (€4.7 million). Together, these additional resources have brought the overall EU contribution to Lithuania's amended NRRP to €3 849 million. These resources represent 0.5 % of the entire RRF, equal to 7.9 % of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019. In November 2023, the Council adopted an amending implementing decision by which it gave the green light to Lithuania's modified plan. The new plan contains 31 reforms and 10 investments including the REPowerEU chapter with one reform and three investments. Apart from the added chapter, the other modifications submitted by Lithuania affect 46 measures of the initial plan. Moreover, Lithuania proposed to add six new measures (three investments and three reforms), to be funded by additional loan support. Measures under the current NRRP are to be completed by 2026. Lithuania has so far received 25.5 % of the resources (in the form of pre-financing and one grant payment). Further payments will depend on progress made in implementing the plan. Lithuania's NRRP is consistent with the challenges and priorities identified in the European Semester, the annual cycle for coordinating and monitoring each EU country's economic policies. The European Parliament participates in interinstitutional forums for cooperation and discussion on the implementation of the RRF and continues to scrutinise the European Commission's work. This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Third edition. The 'National Recovery and Resilience Plans in the EU' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans.

Briefing [EN](#), [LT](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

[Capital Markets Union: Ten Years Later](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 18-03-2024

External author Nicolas VÉRON

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Summary The European Union's project of capital markets union (CMU) has disappointed in its first decade. The best way to revitalise it is to focus on supervisory integration through in-depth reform and further empowerment of the European Securities and Markets Authority. If, conversely, more integrated supervision cannot be achieved, then it may be time to discard the CMU slogan altogether. This document was provided by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the ECON Committee.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Latvia's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-03-2024

Author SAULNIER JEROME LEON

Policy area Budget | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic recovery | economic transition | ECONOMICS | Europe | GEOGRAPHY | Latvia | political geography | reflation

Summary Under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), Latvia's national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) had an initial value of €1 826 million. In June 2022, Latvia's grant allocation was revised slightly upwards to €1 835 million. In September 2023, Latvia submitted a request to amend its NRRP, to which it added a REPowerEU chapter endowed with an additional grant allocation of €124 million. It also requested to transfer a portion of its share of the Brexit Adjustment Reserve to its plan (€11 million). The other modifications submitted by Latvia affect 35 measures of the initial plan. In December 2023, the Council adopted an amending implementing decision by which it gave the green light to Latvia's modified plan. It confirmed that Latvia is now set to receive non-repayable financial support amounting to €1 969 million, including for the new REPowerEU chapter. These resources represent 0.3 % of the entire RRF, equal to 6.4 % of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019. Latvia has not requested RRF loans. The new plan contains 25 reforms and 63 investment measures. Measures under the current plan are to be completed by 2026. Latvia has so far received 24 % of the resources (in the form of pre-financing and one payment of grants). A further five payments for grants will depend on progress made in implementing the plan. Latvia's plan is consistent with the challenges and priorities identified in the European Semester, the annual cycle of coordination and monitoring of each EU country's economic policies. The European Parliament participates in interinstitutional forums for cooperation and discussion on the implementation of the RRF and continues to scrutinise the European Commission's work. This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Third edition. The 'NGEU delivery' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans.

Briefing [EN](#), [LV](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

[Public hearing with Claudia Buch, Chair of the ECB / SSM Supervisory Board - 21 March 2024](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-03-2024

Author MAGNUS Marcel | SPITZER Kai Gereon

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Summary This briefing has been prepared for the public hearing with the Chair of the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM), Claudia Buch, scheduled for 21 March 2024.

This briefing addresses:

- SSM priorities in the transition between chairpersons
- Overly reliant on central bank funding?
- SREP results 2023
- Latest supervisory banking statistics
- Stress-testing banks' ability to recover from a cyberattack
- Updated guide to internal models
- Significant banks' exposures to Commercial Real Estate.

Briefing [EN](#)

[HOT – A head office tax system for small companies](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-03-2024

Author BAERT Pieter

Policy area Taxation

Keyword administrative formalities | area of freedom, security and justice | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | corporation tax | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | POLITICS | small and medium-sized enterprises | tax law | tax system | taxation

Summary When businesses start operating across borders, they are faced with a new and unfamiliar corporate tax system in each EU Member State. As a result, businesses with cross-border activities have to spend time and resources on understanding and complying with complex local corporate tax rules. This represents a significant administrative burden, in particular for small companies. To lower tax compliance costs, the European Commission tabled on 12 September 2023 a proposal for a Council directive to establish a head office tax system (HOT) for small businesses. Under HOT, micro-enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises operating exclusively through permanent establishments would be able to continue to apply their national corporate tax rules – i.e. the rules they are already most familiar with – when they expand across borders. They would also be able to file a single tax return in the Member State of their head office, rather than separate tax returns in the different Member States. This would cut compliance costs and remove an important barrier to the cross-border expansion of small companies in the single market. The proposal is subject to a special legislative procedure, requiring unanimous support in Council, following consultation of the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee. The European Parliament is due to vote its (non-binding) report during the April I plenary session. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Romania's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-03-2024

Author MILEUSNIC MARIN

Policy area Budget

Keyword economic conditions | economic geography | economic independence | economic policy | economic policy | economic recovery | economic reform | economic structure | economic transition | ECONOMICS | Europe | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | political geography | Romania

Summary Romania's national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) represents an ambitious agenda of reforms and investment aimed at mitigating the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19, energy and cost-of-living crises. The amended plan – approved by the Council on 8 December 2023 – amounts to €28.5 billion or 12.8 % of the country's 2019 gross domestic product (GDP). This includes the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) grants of €12.1 billion (cut by 14.9 % following the June 2022 revision of the allocation), REPowerEU grants worth €1.4 billion, the transfer of Romania's share (€43.2 million) from the Brexit Adjustment Reserve to its NRRP, and the RRF loan allocation already fully committed under the initial version of the plan (€14.9 billion). The measures in the plan, to be implemented by 2026, also seek to facilitate the country's green and digital transition. The new REPowerEU chapter comes with seven investment and two reform measures, which –together with the remaining NRRP measures – devote €12.6 billion (44.1 % of the plan) to the green transition. Digital projects have been endowed with 21.9 % of the NRRP resources (excluding the REPowerEU chapter). Romania has so far received €9.5 billion of RRF resources, including two payments and the pre-financing. On 15 December 2023, the country submitted its third payment request of €2 billion (net of pre-financing); the European Commission is currently assessing it. According to the Commission's evaluation in the 2023 European Semester, implementation of the NRRP is under way, albeit with a rising risk of delays. The European Parliament continues to guarantee transparency and provide accountability for EU citizens by engaging in interinstitutional dialogues on the implementation of the RRF and scrutinising the Commission's work. This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Fourth edition. The 'NGEU delivery' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans. The author would like to thank Lucia Sanchez Cabanillas, trainee in the Next Generation EU Monitoring Service, for her research assistance

Briefing [EN](#), [RO](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

[Slovakia's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-03-2024

Author SAPALA Magdalena | STANICEK BRANISLAV

Policy area Budget

Keyword coronavirus disease | economic and social cohesion | economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic recovery | economic reform | economic structure | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU aid | EU finance | EU financial instrument | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | health | investment | political geography | Slovakia | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | structural adjustment

Summary On 11 July 2023, the Council approved Slovakia's amended national recovery and resilience plan (NRRP, Plán obnovy) and allocated €6 408.5 million in grants for its implementation (Slovakia did not request loans). The allocation is €79.4 million higher than that initially approved (6 July 2021). The difference results from a 2022 update of the maximum financial contribution from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), which reflects changes in real gross domestic product (GDP) over time, and the inclusion of a REPowerEU chapter to reinforce the plan's energy dimension. While the allocation represents only 0.9 % of the total RRF, it stood at 6.8 % of the country's GDP in 2019 (the RRF being 5.2 % of EU-27 GDP in 2019). Slovakia's allocation per capita amounts to €1 179. So far, Slovakia has received €2 673.1 million in pre-financing, and three payments for grants based on milestones and targets achieved. This represents 41.7 % of the total allocation including REPowerEU and is the third best result in the payment ranking, after France and Italy. The request for the fourth instalment (worth €799 million, net of pre-financing), submitted to the Commission on 18 December 2023, is currently under examination. According to the indicative calendar of payment requests under the plan, there should be nine requests in total, and the fifth should be submitted in the third quarter of 2024. Slovakia's modified NRRP includes 64 reforms and 64 investments, designed to tackle both the pandemic's socio-economic consequences and the long-term challenges identified by the Slovak national integrated reform plan, Modern and successful Slovakia. NRRP measures are organised around six strategic priorities: green economy; education; science, research and innovation; health; efficient public administration and digitalisation; and energy (REPowerEU). The plan is strongly focused on the green transition and digital transformation, to which 45.7 % and 20.5 % of the resources are allocated respectively. The European Parliament participates in interinstitutional forums for cooperation and discussion on RRF implementation, and scrutinises the Commission's work. This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Third edition. The 'Monitoring EU recovery' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans.

Briefing [EN](#), [SK](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

[Count Emissions EU: Measuring emissions from transport services](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-03-2024

Author SOONE Jaan

Keyword ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | pollution control measures | proposal (EU)

Summary In July 2023, the European Commission tabled a package of three proposals for the greening of freight transport. Among them is a proposal for a single methodology for calculating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transport services, referred to as CountEmissionsEU. The initiative covers both freight and passenger transport. It aims to ensure that the GHG emissions data provided regarding transport services are reliable and accurate, to allow fair comparison between transport services. It establishes a methodological framework but does not govern where it has to be used. Nonetheless, if an organisation decides to calculate and disclose information on GHG emissions from transport services it needs to use the methodology provided. To avoid extra red tape for small and medium-sized enterprises, the proposal exempts these companies from mandatory verification of adherence to the rules. In the European Parliament, the file is being dealt with through the joint committee procedure, involving the Committees on Transport and Tourism and on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. The committees adopted their joint report on 4 March 2024. Parliament is expected to vote on its first-reading position during a forthcoming plenary session.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Expansion of BRICS: A quest for greater global influence?](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-03-2024

Author JUTTEN Marc

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Global Governance

Summary On 1 January 2024, BRICS – the intergovernmental organisation comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – admitted four new members: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates. The group's decision to open the door to new members was taken at its Johannesburg summit in August 2023, sparking a debate about its growing international influence. According to estimates, BRICS+, as the organisation has been informally called since its expansion, now accounts for 37.3 % of world GDP, or more than half as much as the EU (14.5 %). However, besides an increase in economic power the new members could bring potential conflicts (Saudi Arabia/Iran or Egypt/Ethiopia) into the group, making the reaching of consensus on common political positions more difficult. Since the new members would only contribute roughly 4 % to the group's cumulative GDP, the significance of the expansion should be seen beyond the purely economic effect, in the form of greater influence for the group and for developing countries as a whole within international organisations such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization and the Bretton Woods institutions. The EU engages with BRICS+ countries individually. For instance, it has strategic partnerships with Brazil, India and South Africa, and is negotiating a free trade agreement with India. On the other hand, current conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza show the divergent approaches to security taken by the EU and BRICS+. The European Parliament has stressed that further political dialogue with the BRICS countries is needed, including on an individual basis. In an exchange of views with European Commission representatives in October 2023, Members of the Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA) underlined the need to keep an eye on the group's expansion, especially considering the effect of a potential BRICS+ currency and the consequences for EU trade policy.

Briefing [EN](#)

Main activities of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs 2019-2024

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-03-2024

Author PAPE Marketa

Policy area Employment | Social Policy

Summary The European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission proclaimed the European Pillar of Social Rights in 2017. Spelled out in 20 principles, the social pillar has since served as a compass towards building a stronger social Europe. In the related action plan, the Commission set out concrete initiatives and, after the Porto Social Summit of May 2021, EU lawmakers committed to headline targets for 2030 regarding employment, training, and poverty. Consequently, this legislative term has seen concrete steps towards implementing the pillar, with the Commission tabling a number of proposals for recommendations and several directives that were subsequently negotiated by EU lawmakers and where Parliament sought to assert its positions. The preparatory work for these negotiations was done by Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Rights (EMPL), alone or together with other parliamentary committees. Without attempting a thorough end-of-term overview or an in-depth analysis of achievements, this briefing sketches out Parliament's main activities in this legislative term that bear the signature of the EMPL committee. After a glimpse at successfully concluded legislative files relating to the world of work, equality between men and women, health and safety at work, skills and EU funding, it looks at legislative own-initiative resolutions and demands put forward by the EMPL committee. With the European elections approaching and several files still ongoing, the time has also come to look forward to some EMPL-related issues that are likely to fill the agenda of the next legislative term. Owing to space constraints, this text cannot do justice to the broad variety of challenges to which the EMPL committee has devoted its energy and expertise, leaving aside, for instance, the work done in relation to the integration of third-country nationals into the labour market and the equal treatment of persons with disabilities. Nor does it examine in detail the dynamics of Parliament's resolutions that help to push social issues into the EU political spotlight.

Briefing [EN](#)

Research for PECH Committee - Policy options for strengthening the competitiveness of the EU fisheries and aquaculture sector

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-03-2024

External author Martin ARANDA, Leire ARANTZAMENDI, Margarita ANDRES, Ane IRIONDO, Gorka GABIÑA, Gabriela OANTA, José Manuel SOBRINO-HEREDIA & Bertrand LE GALLIC

Policy area Consumer Protection | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Fisheries | Food Safety | Forward Planning | Internal Market and Customs Union | International Trade

Summary The EU fisheries and aquaculture products (FAPs) market is largely dependent on external producers. Some of the imports entering the EU market come from countries with lenient regulations. This study gives an overview on existing competitiveness indicators. It shows main trends in the EU's FAPs supply through extra-EU imports and identifies the main internal and external factors affecting the sector's competitiveness. The research presents four case studies and an assessment of options for adaptations to the internal and external policy framework. Finally, it provides a series of recommendations for strengthening the competitiveness of the EU fisheries and aquaculture sector in the future.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Plenary round-up – March 2024

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-03-2024

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary Among the highlights of the March 2024 plenary session were the debates on preparation of the European Council meeting on 21 and 22 March 2024; the need to address urgent concerns regarding Ukrainian children forcibly deported to Russia, and the need to ensure the stability of EU agricultural production and impose sanctions on imports of Russian and Belarussian food and agricultural products to the EU. Members also debated the return of Romanian national treasure illegally appropriated by Russia. Other important debates took place, inter alia, on: deteriorating living conditions in the EU; a healthy lifestyle and active ageing; the inclusion of the right to abortion in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights; rising anti-LGBTIQ rhetoric and violence; and EU climate risk assessment. Members also discussed the annual designation of European capitals for children, and the Commission's treatment of requests for public access to documents. Representatives of the world cup-winning Spanish women's national football team participated in Parliament's official celebration to mark International Women's Day. The last 'This is Europe' debate for this term followed a speech by Petteri Orpo, Prime Minister of Finland.

At a Glance [EN](#)

['This is Europe' debate in the European Parliament: Speech by Petteri Orpo, Prime Minister of Finland, 13 March 2024](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 14-03-2024

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area Democracy

Summary 'This is Europe' – an initiative proposed by the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola – consists of a series of debates with EU leaders to discuss their visions for the future of the European Union. The trilogy of resilience, competitiveness and security was at the centre of the vision of Europe that the Prime Minister of Finland, Petteri Orpo, shared with the European Parliament on 13 March 2024. Regarding competitiveness, he mentioned the single market, State aid, trade and economic governance. On security, he argued that the concept not only included security and defence, but also border protection and preparedness to make the EU more resilient. Orpo also emphasised that, for Finland, 'the EU is the most important political and economic frame of reference and community of values', and stressed that EU leaders had to 'fight against any pessimism and show an example and leadership'.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[EU defence industry programme and strategy](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 14-03-2024

Author CLAPP SEBASTIAN

Policy area Security and Defence

Summary On 5 March 2024, the Commission adopted the first-ever European defence industrial strategy (EDIS), which sets a long-term goal of achieving EU defence industrial readiness, and proposed a defence industry programme (EDIP) regulation. Experts laud its ambition, noting that its success will require political and financial buy-in.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Economic, social and territorial cohesion](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 14-03-2024

Author SCHWARZ KELLY

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Summary In order to promote its overall harmonious development, the European Union is strengthening its economic, social and territorial cohesion. In particular, the EU aims to reduce disparities between the levels of development of its various regions. Special attention is paid to rural areas, areas affected by industrial transition and regions that suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps, such as the northernmost regions with very low population density, as well as island, cross-border and mountainous regions.

[EU Fact Sheets](#) [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Coordination for EU Competitiveness](#)

Publication type Study

Date 14-03-2024

External author David PINKUS, Jean PISANI-FERRY, Simone TAGLIAPIETRA, Reinhilde VEUGELERS, Georg ZACHMANN & Jeromin ZETTELMEYER

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Summary This paper reviews the state of EU competitiveness and introduces a strategy to improve it, based on medium-term, sector-level coordination of Member State reform policies and/or investments. The idea is illustrated with two examples: an investment and reform programme to create a single EU electricity market and an Advanced Research Projects Agency (EU-ARPA). This document was provided/prepared by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the ECON Committee..

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Stronger role for Europol to fight migrant smuggling and human trafficking](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-03-2024

Author LUYTEN KATRIEN

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary In November 2023, the European Commission presented a proposal to reinforce the role of Europol, the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, in the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings. With detections of irregular border crossings at the EU's external borders at their highest levels since 2016 and demand for migration facilitation services following suit, the Commission sees an urgent need to step up the prevention, detection and investigation of these crimes. Europol's mandate was already reinforced in 2022, allowing the agency to step up its expertise and operational capabilities. The new proposal seeks to improve inter-agency cooperation on migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, strengthen coordination at EU level by setting out specific strategic tasks for Europol's European Centre Against Migrant Smuggling, improve information sharing with the agency, reinforce Member States' resources to prevent and combat these crimes, and reinforce Europol's support through operational task forces and deployments for operational support. In the European Parliament, the proposal was assigned to the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and Jeroen Lenaers (EPP, Netherlands) was appointed as rapporteur. His report, once adopted, will form the basis for negotiations with the Council.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[President Biden's 2024 State of the Union address](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 14-03-2024

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary On 7 March 2024, the President of the United States (US), Joe Biden, used his State of the Union (SOTU) address to a joint session of the 118th US Congress (2023-2024) to start his re-election campaign in earnest. Biden has been trailing Donald Trump, his only remaining Republican challenger in the presidential race, in polls in six swing states that Biden won in 2020 and where several thousand voters are expected to decide the outcome of the US elections on 5 November 2024. The SOTU was an opportunity for the President to tout his achievements and set out his vision for a second term in stark contrast to that of Trump, whom he referred to as his 'predecessor' rather than by name. With his age seen by many as a liability, Biden's performance seemed more relevant than the substance of his speech, and was widely perceived as a forceful demonstration of his readiness to fight.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[EU anti-coercion instrument](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-03-2024

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area International Trade

Keyword economic conditions | economic policy | economic policy | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EU policy | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | international affairs | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy

Summary It is widely held that geopolitical tensions in the world are on the rise. One of the clear indicators of this phenomenon is the increasing use of economic tools for the pursuit of strategic and geopolitical goals. This can take the form of coercion used by one country against another through restrictions on trade or investment in order to interfere with their sovereign choices. In response to the EU and its Member States becoming the target of deliberate economic coercion in recent years, on 8 December 2021 the Commission published a proposal for the adoption of an anti-coercion instrument that would allow the EU to respond more effectively to such challenges on a global scale. While the new framework is primarily designed to deter economic coercive action through dialogue and engagement, it also allows – as a last resort – retaliation, with countermeasures comprising a wide range of restrictions relating to trade, investment and funding. While there is broad support for creating a legislative tool to address the growing problem of economic coercion, expert opinions were divided as regards the severity of countermeasures and the manner of establishing when they should be imposed. The Parliament adopted its position in plenary in October 2022, and trilogue negotiations concluded successfully in June 2023. Parliament approved the agreement in plenary by a large majority on 3 October 2023 and the final act was signed on 22 November 2023. The regulation entered into force on 27 December 2023.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Maritime security: Situation in the Red Sea and EU response](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 14-03-2024

Author CLAPP SEBASTIAN

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Summary The Iran-backed Houthi militia, which controls large parts of Yemen, has attacked numerous commercial ships in the Red Sea since mid-November 2023 'in solidarity with the Palestinians'. This poses a significant threat to the global economy, and has led to an escalation of tensions in the Middle East. The United States has launched an international operation in the Red Sea to protect commercial vessels and keep this vital shipping route open. The EU launched its own 'purely defensive' mission, EUNAVFOR Operation ASPIDES, on 19 February 2024.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Gender Mainstreaming in the parliamentary work of the LIBE Committee](#)

Publication type Study

Date 14-03-2024

External author SAMEK LODOVICI Manuela, LOI Daniela, CRIPPA Alessandra, PESCE Flavia, CHARRY CAMARGO Maria Juliana & FERRARI Elena

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Social Policy

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee, is aimed at assessing the state of implementation of gender mainstreaming activities in the parliamentary work of the LIBE Committee and, particularly, it analyses the adoption of a gender mainstreaming and intersectional approach in LIBE's legislative and non-legislative work in the 2021–2022 period.

Study [EN](#)

[EU-US Trade and Technology Council](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 14-03-2024

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area International Trade

Summary The EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC) has met five times since 2021, aiming to boost transatlantic cooperation and alignment. The latest meeting on 30-31 January 2024 was a lower-key interim event paving the way for the next TTC in April. Experts see its usefulness, but call for reform of the TTC so that it can be permanent.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[EU migration and borders: Key facts and figures](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-03-2024

Author DUMBRAVA Costica

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary Is the EU facing a migration crisis? Are the EU's borders on the brink of collapse because of increased irregular migration? Would border fences help to stop or reduce irregular migration? How many of the world's refugees and asylum seekers are headed towards the EU? Are the protection claims of asylum seekers genuine, or is subterfuge used to gain access to the EU? And what happened with the Ukrainian citizens fleeing the war into the EU? These are among the most common and important questions shaping the current discussion around migration and borders in the EU. This briefing provides an overview of key trends and figures on migration, borders and asylum in the EU. The analysis critically situates these topics in the broader global and historical context, providing a synthetic, data rich and accessible presentation of major issues. The analysis leads to several interesting findings that may challenge common perceptions about migration and borders in the EU, including the following. The majority of migrants enter the EU through legitimate legal channels. Most irregular migrants do not cross the EU's external borders irregularly. There are significantly more legal migrants than irregular migrants in the EU. Building fences at the EU's external borders does not seem to reduce irregular entries. The view of a dramatic increase in the number of migrants and refugees is contested. The EU's share of the world's refugees and asylum seekers remains limited. Reducing or stopping immigration would worsen the EU's demographic challenges. The EU's temporary protection scheme showed the Union's capacity to provide protection swiftly to a significant number of people in need.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Examples of Parliament's impact: 2019 to 2024 - Illustrating the powers of the European Parliament](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 13-03-2024

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence | BAERT Pieter | CAPRILE ANNA | CAR POLONA | DEL MONTE Micaela | EVROUX CLEMENT THIERRY | GILL SARAH | JENSEN LISELOTTE | KISS Monika | KOTANIDIS Silvia | LAANINEN Tarja | LUYTEN KATRIEN | MANKO Rafał | MILDEBRATH Hendrik Alexander | Niestadt Maria | PAPE Marketa | PARI MARIANNA | PRZETACZNIK Jakub | SAPALA Magdalena | SHREEVES Rosamund | SOONE Jaan

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary As the European Union's only directly elected institution, the European Parliament stands at the heart of European representative democracy, the foundation upon which the EU is built. Since its creation, the Parliament's powers have evolved significantly, and it is now a fully fledged legislative body and forum for discussion and engagement, whose influence is felt in virtually all areas of EU activity. This paper offers an overview of the European Parliament's main powers, demonstrating how they interact, and illustrating through practical examples from the ninth parliamentary term (2019-2024) the various ways in which Parliament uses those powers in its daily work.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Review of the rules on the protection of animals during transport](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-03-2024

Author VINCI CLAUDIA

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Summary In December 2023, the Commission presented a proposal on the protection of animals during transport, with a view to replacing and updating Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. This proposal, along with another on welfare and traceability of dogs and cats, is part of a legislative package to reform the current EU rules on animal welfare. The reform was announced in 2020 with the launch of the 'farm to fork' strategy, which aims to create a fairer, healthier and more environmentally friendly food system. The proposed text introduces stricter rules regarding travel times, the minimum space between animals, transport conditions for vulnerable animals, transportation in extreme temperatures, safeguarding of animals transported to third countries, the utilisation of technological systems and the protection of cats and dogs in commercial transport. In the European Parliament, the file has been assigned to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) and to the Committee of Transport and Tourism (TRAN), with Daniel Buda (EPP, Romania) and Anna Deparnay-Grunenberg (Greens/EFA, Germany) as co-rapporteurs. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing EN](#)

[Classification, labelling and packaging of chemical substances and mixtures](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-03-2024

Author HALLEUX Vivienne

Policy area Environment

Keyword chemical product | chemicals legislation | chemistry | classification | dangerous substance | deterioration of the environment | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | INDUSTRY | labelling | marketing | packaging | proposal (EU) | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary In December 2022, the European Commission proposed a revision of the Regulation on the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, one of the two cornerstones of the EU's framework regulating chemicals. The revision, announced in the EU chemicals strategy for sustainability, notably seeks to identify and classify hazardous chemicals more comprehensively; improve communication on chemical hazards and the notification of relevant information to poison centres for emergency health response; and address online sales more effectively. Industry has expressed particular concern about the proposed rules for classifying multi-constituent substances, grouping substances for harmonised classification and labelling, and label formatting. Non-governmental organisations, mainly supportive of the revision, stress the need to set deadlines, cover further hazards and nanoforms of substances, and do more to limit animal testing. The European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on the file on 5 December 2023. The agreed text was endorsed by Member State representatives on 22 December 2023 and by the ENVI committee on 11 January 2024. It now awaits formal adoption by the co-legislators. The vote in plenary is scheduled for the second April 2024 session. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing EN](#)

[Minimum breaks and rest periods in occasional road passenger transport](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-03-2024

Author KISS Monika

Policy area Transport

Keyword carriage of passengers | drivers | driving period | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | inland transport | international road transport | land transport | organisation of transport | organisation of work and working conditions | proposal (EU) | rest period | road safety | TRANSPORT | transport policy | working conditions

Summary The current Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 on minimum breaks and rest periods for road freight and passenger transport drivers does not take into account the nature of occasional bus and coach services, and their drivers' specific needs. The European Commission has therefore proposed to amend this legislation and to introduce more flexible rules on splitting up breaks and taking daily and weekly rest periods. In the European Parliament, the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) is responsible for the file. The TRAN report was adopted in committee on 16 November 2023 and voted in plenary on 12 December 2023. The Council agreed its position on 4 December 2023. Interinstitutional negotiations resulted in a provisional agreement, which was approved in committee on 14 February 2024 and is scheduled for a plenary vote during the March session. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing EN](#)

[EU-Taiwan ties after Taiwan's 2024 elections](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 13-03-2024

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary The EU adheres to a one-China policy that recognises the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the sole legitimate government of China. It does not therefore maintain diplomatic ties with Taiwan. The EU nonetheless shares with Taiwan common interests and values, including democracy, the rule of law and human rights. The general elections held in Taiwan in January 2024 once again testified to the maturity of the island's democracy. The EU engages Taiwan in a number of policy areas, notably on trade and investment. In its resolutions, the European Parliament has, among other things, called repeatedly for closer cooperation with Taiwan, notably for the negotiation of agreements on supply chain resilience and bilateral investment relations.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Russia's 2024 presidential election: What is at stake and what is not](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-03-2024

Author CAPRILE ANNA

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary On 15-17 March 2024, more than two years into the unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression on Ukraine, and one month after the sudden death in custody of the opposition leader Alexei Navalny, Russia will hold its presidential election. Over 110 million Russian citizens, including more than 6 million living in Ukrainian territories temporarily occupied by Russia, are invited to take part in what is largely seen as a carefully staged legitimisation ritual for Vladimir Putin's reappointment to a fifth term in office, until 2030. Putin has been in power, as either president or prime minister, since the last day of 1999; and Russia has been at war for 19 of his 24 years at the helm. The constitutional changes of 2020 allowed Putin to stand for a fifth term, and possibly for a sixth term in 2030. He is running for re election without any meaningful opposition, after barring the two anti-war candidates who stood for election despite the restrictions, and against a backdrop of a virtually total closure of the civic space, draconian repression of public dissent and suppressed freedom of expression. The reappointment of Vladimir Putin seems inexorable. The objective of the Kremlin, however, is not just victory, but a landslide result, both in turnout and percentage of votes. This would legitimise Putin's legacy and his war of aggression, relegating the remaining opposition to an even more marginalised role, and allowing Putin to implement, unchecked, his vision for the next six years. Recent changes to Russia's electoral laws make it virtually impossible to conduct any meaningful monitoring, and have significantly restricted the role of the media. Observers from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe will not be present, as was previously the case with the September 2021 parliamentary elections. A number of civil society organisations and personalities have called on the international community not to recognise the results as legitimate; this demand was also made by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in October 2023.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Alternative dispute resolution](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-03-2024

Author EVROUX CLEMENT THIERRY

Policy area Consumer Protection

Keyword alternative dispute resolution | consumer protection | consumption | digital content | digital single market | electronic commerce | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | goods and services | international trade | justice | LAW | marketing | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | provision of services | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | trade dispute

Summary Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) is defined as a process allowing complaints to be settled out of court with the assistance of an impartial dispute resolution body. On 17 October 2023, the European Commission adopted proposals for a directive amending several directives pertaining to consumer rights and ADR, in which the notion of complaint relates to situations where a relation between a consumer and a trader gives rise to a complaint from the consumer. Through ADR, consumers are able to settle a complaint against a trader for breach of contract, outside court procedures, assisted by impartial, neutral dispute mediation, arbitration or conciliation. Since 2013, the share of e commerce in the EU economy has increased significantly, up from 2 % to 4 % of EU GDP, increasing the relevance of ADR for consumers. Each year, circa 300 000 eligible disputes between consumers and traders are examined by ADR entities, with resolution rates between 17 % and 100 % across the Member States. The Commission proposal pursues three objectives, to: adapt the ADR legislative framework to digital markets; facilitate the use of ADR in cross-border disputes; and simplify ADR procedures. In the European Parliament, the file was referred to the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection. The committee adopted its report unanimously on 22 February 2024Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.. On 13 March 2024, Parliament adopted the report as its first reading position with 605 votes in favour, 7 votes against and 13 abstentions.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Insurance recovery and resolution directive

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-03-2024

Author HALLAK ISSAM

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword approximation of laws | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | ECONOMICS | EU action | EU banking union | EU finance | EU financial instrument | European construction | European territorial cooperation | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | insurance | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | monetary economics | regions and regional policy | regulation (EU)

Summary In 2020, the Commission launched a review of the Solvency II Directive, the EU's legal prudential regulatory framework for (re-)insurance companies, which entered into force in 2016. As one output of the review, the Commission made a proposal in September 2021 for a new directive establishing a framework for recovery and resolution of insurance companies – the 'IRRD proposal'. The IRRD proposal would establish harmonised recovery and resolution tools and procedures, with enhanced cross-border cooperation between national authorities. The proposal adopts the 'pre emptive' approach whereby insurance companies must submit plans to the supervisory authorities, which would be given powers to implement resolutions. The proposal also sets out a range of tools for resolutions. In the European Parliament, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), in charge of the file, adopted its report in July 2023. Following trilogue negotiations, the co-legislators reached an inter-institutional provisional agreement on 14 December 2023, which the ECON committee approved on 29 January 2024. The next steps include the adoption of the text by the Parliament's plenary and by the Council. Once adopted, it will be signed by the Council and the Parliament and published in the Official Journal. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

The role (and accountability) of the President of the Eurogroup

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-03-2024

Author HAGELSTAM Kajus | LEHOFER WOLFGANG | LOI GIACOMO

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword administrative transparency | civil law | EU institutions and European civil service | Eurogroup (euro area) | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | LAW | liability | monetary relations | POLITICS | president of an institution | transparency in decision-making

Summary This briefing paper provides an overview of the role and mandate of the Eurogroup and the role and accountability of its President, including the procedures for his/her appointment. This paper includes the following sections: 1) The role of the Permanent President of the Eurogroup; 2) The President of Eurogroup and the European Parliament; 3) The role and mandate of the Eurogroup; and 4) Eurogroup transparency. The paper will be regularly updated.

Briefing [EN](#)

CO emission performance standards and reporting obligations for new heavy-duty vehicles

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-03-2024

Author ERBACH Gregor

Policy area Environment | Transport

Keyword air quality | atmosphere | atmospheric pollutant | carbon | carbon capture and storage | carbon neutrality | chemistry | deterioration of the environment | ecological footprint | emission allowance | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | INDUSTRY | natural environment | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technology and technical regulations

Summary Road transport is a major contributor to climate change. CO2 emissions from heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) have grown steadily, and account for over a quarter of road transport CO2 emissions. On 14 February 2023, the European Commission tabled a legislative proposal to revise Regulation (EU) 2019/1242 setting CO2 emission standards for new HDVs in the EU. The proposed revision would expand the scope of the regulation to include urban buses, coaches, trailers and additional types of lorries. The average CO2 emissions of trucks and coaches, compared with 2019 levels, would have to fall by 45 % from 2030, by 65 % from 2035, and by 90 % from 2040 onwards. The proposal sets a target date when all newly registered urban buses would have to be zero-emission vehicles. In the European Parliament, the proposal was referred to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. The Parliament adopted its position during the November II 2023 session. In January 2024, the co-legislators reached a provisional agreement on the proposal. The Parliament and Council need now to formally adopt the text. Fourth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [CO2 emission performance standards and reporting obligations for new heavy-duty vehicles](#)

[Lessons learned from the implementation of crisis response tools at EU level - Part 1: Assessing implementation and implications](#)

Publication type Study

Date 13-03-2024

External author Tamás KISS-GÁLFALVI, Cinzia ALCIDI, Alexandre OUNNAS, Eulalia RUBIO, Harry CRICHTON-MILLER & Damir GOJSIC

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Summary As the EU grapples with successive crises, there is mounting pressure to develop swift and robust crisis response mechanisms. This study, divided into two parts, aims to enrich this discourse by examining four instruments – SURE, CRII, CRII+ and REACT-EU – introduced as a response to the pandemic. This paper forms the output of the first phase of the study and aims to distil lessons learned from the design and implementation of these instruments.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Future-proofing the EU's global health strategy](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 13-03-2024

Author MAHIEU VIRGINIA NOELLE

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid | Human Rights | Public Health

Summary The new EU global health strategy, adopted by the European Commission on 30 November 2022, has been positioned as a crucial element of EU external policy, geopolitical influence and strategic autonomy. However, maintaining the long term commitment necessary for achieving global health ambitions in turbulent times remains challenging. Against this backdrop, in 2023 the Policy Foresight Unit of the European Parliamentary Research Service conducted a foresight exercise involving external experts to explore the new strategy's resilience to diverse crisis scenarios. The outcomes of this analysis emphasise the need to prioritise prevention measures, foster multilateral cooperation and build local capacity. They underscore the interdependency of sectors in addressing global health challenges, and highlight how investment in global health today could help to mitigate future crises and enhance the strategic autonomy of both the EU and its partners.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Revision of the Construction Products Regulation](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-03-2024

Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword building and public works | building industry | building permit | construction and town planning | construction costs | digital transformation | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | INDUSTRY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | launching of a product | marketing | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | quality standard | regulation (EU) | revision of an agreement | single market | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | TRADE

Summary The Construction Products Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 305/2011, CPR) has applied fully since 1 July 2013. Its objective is to achieve the proper functioning of the internal market for construction products (such as waterproofing sheets, thermal insulation foams, chimneys and wood-based panels for permanent incorporation in construction works), by means of harmonised rules for their marketing in the EU. The CPR, which provides a common technical language to assess the performance of construction products, enables Member States to define the legal requirements for construction works. On 30 March 2022, the Commission put forward a proposal to revise the CPR. The proposal is part of a package with several other sectoral proposals aimed at making sustainable products the norm in the EU and boosting circular business models. The stated aims of the proposal are to improve the functioning of the internal market for construction products, address the implementation challenges that still exist at national level (particularly regarding market surveillance), simplify the legal framework and support the green and digital transition in the sector. On 13 December 2023, the Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on the proposal. Parliament is expected to vote on the agreed text, which requires formal adoption by both institutions, during its plenary session in April 2024. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Parental Child Abductions to Third Countries](#)

Publication type Study

Date 12-03-2024

External author Marilyn FREEMAN

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Human Rights | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Public international law

Summary Cross-border parental child abductions in the EU are governed by The 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and (except for Denmark) the Brussels II-ter Regulation. Countries outside of the EU may or may not be Contracting States to 'the Convention', but will not be bound by Brussels II-ter. Research has found that the often negative, long-lasting impact of abduction may continue throughout the lifecycle of those who have been abducted. It may also affect future generations of society. This means that every effort to deter abduction should be made. Where that is not possible, the 1980 Hague Child Abduction Convention should be nurtured to support its application in contemporary society. Specialist mediation should be encouraged in relation to international child abduction generally, and specifically in relation to Third Countries which are not Contracting States to 'the Convention'. This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the JURI Committee.

Study [EN](#)

[Monetary Dialogue in February 2024- Summary of parliamentary scrutiny activities](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-03-2024

Author HANINA KATERYNA | LOI GIACOMO | MIESKOLAINEN MILJA | SABOL MAJA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Summary This briefing provides a summary of all scrutiny activities of the European Parliament related to euro area monetary policy in the period between December 2023 and February 2024. For a recap of the key monetary policy developments and decisions taken by the European Central Bank in that period, please refer to our briefing published ahead of the 15 February Monetary Dialogue. We publish these documents regularly ahead and after each Monetary Dialogue with the European Central Bank.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Understanding cybercrime](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-03-2024

Author MURPHY COLIN MICHAEL

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary Cybercrime is a major threat to society that generates billions of euros for its perpetrators. It is a form of crime that is continuing to grow, with criminals showing increasing sophistication and resourcefulness. These criminal activities occur at all levels of society and take many forms, from investment fraud to phishing and the creation of bogus entities, including fake charities. The rise in the use of digital solutions for everyday activities in business and public services is matched by the number of digital devices being used by citizens. People are now connecting to numerous digital accounts and are spending more time online than ever before. Coupled with this, cyberattacks and digital scams are on the rise. Not only is the number of incidents growing, but the complexity and the subsequent negative impact is also increasing. Cybercrime can be relatively simple in appearance, such as spurious emails and text messages, or complex, involving a number of actors spreading malicious content through entire business or public service systems in order to block access for ransom purposes or to disable critical entities for ideological reasons. The EU is active in tackling cybersecurity and cybercrime, as demonstrated by its cybersecurity strategy. It has a number of pieces of legislation in place or in the pipeline to tackle vulnerabilities, increase the resilience of essential services and address associated cybersecurity risks. Likewise, EU agencies are proactively dealing with the threat posed by cybercrime by supporting Member States and stakeholders in addressing emerging threats and strengthening resilience.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Establishing the Ukraine Facility: Financing Ukraine's recovery and its path to EU accession](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-03-2024

Author PETERS TIM ULRICH

Policy area Budget

Keyword accession criteria | accession negotiations | common foreign and security policy | economic conditions | economic geography | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EU candidate countries | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political geography | Russo-Ukrainian issue | Ukraine

Summary The Ukraine Facility supports Ukraine, its recovery and its path to EU accession, allocating up to €50 billion for 2024 to 2027. Regulation (EU) 2024/792 establishing the Ukraine Facility was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in February 2024. The EU budget is supposed to finance the Facility's €17 billion in grants and guarantee its €33 billion in loans. Additional financing is expected to come from frozen Russian assets. In the negotiations with the Council, the European Parliament managed to secure enhanced democratic control of the Facility by strengthening the rights of the European Parliament and the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, while increasing transparency through the systematic involvement of Ukraine's civil society and through the publication of the recipients of EU funds. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#), [XL](#)

[Artificial intelligence act](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-03-2024

Author MADIEGA Tambiama André

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Consumer Protection | Intellectual Property Law | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword artificial intelligence | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | digital technology | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | innovation | management | new technology | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | research and intellectual property | risk management | robotics | technology and technical regulations

Summary European Union lawmakers reached a political agreement on the draft artificial intelligence (AI) act in December 2023. Proposed by the European Commission in April 2021, the draft AI act, the first binding worldwide horizontal regulation on AI, sets a common framework for the use and supply of AI systems in the EU. It offers a classification for AI systems with different requirements and obligations tailored on a 'risk-based approach'. Some AI systems presenting 'unacceptable' risks are prohibited. A wide range of 'high-risk' AI systems that can have a detrimental impact on people's health, safety or on their fundamental rights are authorised, but subject to a set of requirements and obligations to gain access to the EU market. AI systems posing limited risks because of their lack of transparency will be subject to information and transparency requirements, while AI systems presenting only minimal risk for people will not be subject to further obligations. The regulation also provides specific rules for general purpose AI (GPAI) models and lays down more stringent requirements for GPAI models with 'high-impact capabilities' that could pose a systemic risk and have a significant impact on the internal market. The provisional agreement has been endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives of EU Member States and by Parliament's two lead committees. Parliament's plenary vote on the final agreement is scheduled for the March plenary session. The AI act must also be endorsed by Council and published in the EU's Official Journal before entering into force. Third edition. 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages of the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Multimedia [Artificial intelligence act](#)

[Victims of terrorism: EU response](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-03-2024

Author LUYTEN KATRIEN

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword area of freedom, security and justice | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | cooperation policy | criminal law | crisis management | cross-border cooperation | directive (EU) | EC Directive | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EP resolution | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | fight against crime | help for victims | indemnification | information and information processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | management | POLITICS | politics and public safety | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | terrorism

Summary On 11 March, Europe honours all those who have lost their lives or loved ones to terror. The European Day of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism was inaugurated after the 2004 Madrid bombings. Protecting victims of terrorism is an essential part of the EU's efforts to address all dimensions of the terrorist threat. In response to the attacks that have hit Europe over the past two decades, the EU has strengthened its rules and sanctions relating to terrorist activities. Ongoing EU action seeks to ensure better protection and support for victims of terrorism (regardless of their nationality or where in the EU they were attacked), to promote remembrance practices as a tool for countering radicalisation, and to improve information exchange regarding cross border victims in the event of a terrorist attack.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Federalism in the European Parliament: From Ventotene to the Spinelli Group](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-03-2024

Author KAISER WOLFRAM KARL WILHELM

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary Following the conclusion of the Conference on the Future of Europe in May 2022, it remains to be seen whether the European Union will embark on substantial Treaty reform in the future. Federalists are pushing for such reform, however, and they have organised themselves for this purpose in the European Parliament ever since Altiero Spinelli created the 'Crocodile Club' in 1980. His key role in defining and advocating a constitution for a federal Europe – from his co-authored 1941 Ventotene Manifesto, through to his engagement in the Union of European Federalists and his crucial role in the drafting of the 1984 Draft Treaty on European Union – explains the choice of name of the present-day Spinelli Group. This briefing traces the organisation and networking of European federalists and their impact on European integration from outside and inside the Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Parliament (as it called itself from 1962 onwards) of today's European Union. It demonstrates how federalists and their constitutional ideas embedded in draft constitutions, which were never ratified, nevertheless strongly impacted Treaty reform and the EU's constitutionalisation in the long run.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Council recommendations on the Economic Policy of the Euro Area - March 2024](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 08-03-2024

Author LOI GIACOMO | MIESKOLAINEN MILJA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester

Summary This note looks at the 2024 recommendation on the economic policies of the euro area proposed by the Commission and agreed by the Council. The note provides a review of the euro area recommendations from an institutional perspective and includes broad comparisons to earlier recommendations, in order to illustrate how policy concerns have evolved over time. This note will be updated in light of relevant developments.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Implementation of the 2023 euro area recommendations](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 08-03-2024

Author LOI GIACOMO | MIESKOLAINEN MILJA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester

Summary This note provides an overview of the implementation of the 2023 Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area proposed by the Commission and agreed by the Council. It makes use of public information and proxies such as on how the Eurogroup has integrated euro area recommendations' concerns in their "thematic discussions" and work programmes. This note will be updated in light of relevant developments.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Foreign interference and EU preparedness](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-03-2024

Author MILDEBRATH Hendrik Alexander

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary Amid escalating geopolitical tensions, deepening political polarisation and widespread adoption of advanced technology, the EU faces the threat of foreign interference. Elections to the European Parliament and in many Member States emphasise the need to defend against foreign interference in a critical time for our democracies.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Research for the AGRI Committee - The dependency of the EU's food system on inputs and their sources.](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-03-2024

External author Alberico LOI, Mario GENTILE, Dylan BRADLEY, Maria CHRISTODOULOU, John BRACKEN, Marja KNUUTTILA, Jyrki NIEMI & Henrik WEJBERG

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Budget | International Trade | Transport

Summary This study analyses the vulnerabilities of the EU food system regarding inputs, describing the tools to secure those inputs and make the EU less dependent on foreign suppliers. It provides recommendations for appropriate measures to increase the EU food system's resilience to disruptions in trade flows and price increases of imported inputs.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Banking Union](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 07-03-2024

Author MAGNUS Marcel

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Summary The Banking Union is based on a proposal that the European Commission presented in 2012, a few years after the severe financial crisis had started to unfold in the EU. The key innovation was to transfer responsibility for the day-to-day supervision of the largest banks in the euro area from national to European level. From then on, the European Central Bank (ECB) was put in charge of both monetary policy and supervisory tasks, even though it needed to keep them strictly separate. Another institution – the Single Resolution Board (SRB) – was set up at European level to deal with the failure of large banks. A third element, a European deposit insurance scheme, has often been called for, including by the European Parliament, but has so far not been put in place.

[EU Fact Sheets](#) [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[European Social Fund Plus](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 07-03-2024

Author MAKAY Monika

Policy area Social Policy

Summary The European Social Fund (ESF) was set up under the Treaty of Rome with a view to improving workers' mobility and employment opportunities. Its tasks and operational rules were subsequently revised to reflect developments in the economic and employment situation in the Member States, as well as the evolution of the political priorities defined at EU level.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[European Parliament work in the fields of impact assessment and European added value - Activity Report for 2023](#)

Publication type Study

Date 07-03-2024

Author HILLER WOLFGANG

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Summary This activity report summarises and explains the work undertaken by the European Parliament in the fields of impact assessment and European added value between January and December 2023. It details the support given by the Directorate for Impact Assessment and Foresight within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) to assist parliamentary committees in their oversight and scrutiny of the executive in the fields of ex-ante impact assessment, European added value, and ex post evaluation of EU law and policy in practice. It also outlines the wider horizontal support offered to the institution as a whole with regard to the policy cycle. During the 12 months under review, the Directorate published 120 substantive pieces of work, all of which can be accessed via hyperlinks in this report.

Study [EN](#)

[Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights March 2024](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-03-2024

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Budget | Budgetary Control | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Employment | Fisheries | Food Safety | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights | Social Policy

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Revision of the European Works Councils Directive](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 07-03-2024

Author CAPDEVILA PENALVA Josefina

Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Summary The impact assessment (IA) was prepared after the evaluation, so the 'evaluation first' principle was properly followed. This IA relies on an external IA supporting study, a two-stage stakeholder consultation and independent research. The problem definition is clear and is accompanied by a problem tree, but there is a lack of solid evidence of what has worked and what has not. The IA presents 10 policy options; these are cumulative and some of the options do not seem to be relevant policy alternatives. The preferred option is discussed extensively in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and proportionality. The IA assesses the economic, social and fundamental rights impacts of all policy options. It also provides a competitiveness check, and concludes that the effect on competitiveness is negligible, but the incidence of legal actions or financial penalties is debatable. There is no SME test performed for this initiative because of the dimension of 'Community-scale undertakings'. The IA includes a sensitivity analysis and acknowledges limitations and uncertainties concerning quantification and cost data collection.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Adapting liability rules to artificial intelligence](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 07-03-2024

Author FRIZBERG DIETER

Policy area Consumer Protection | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters

Summary The impact assessment (IA) defines the problems, their drivers, the objectives and the options of the initiative in a robust intervention logic. It explains the initiative's coherence with ongoing legislation. However, the interplay between the initiative and, in particular, the artificial intelligence act and the revised Product Liability Directive with regard to their scope of application and the likely evolution of the problems appear to be addressed insufficiently. The IA is based on several sources, including the European Parliament's legislative own-initiative resolution on a civil liability regime for artificial intelligence, stakeholder consultations, supporting studies and desk research. The IA presents a range of cumulative policy options; it is however questionable whether they fully qualify as alternative options under the Better Regulation Guidelines. The assessment of the options' impacts (economic, social, environmental, fundamental rights) is mainly qualitative owing to considerable data limitations, which are addressed transparently throughout the IA.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Fit for 55 package](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 06-03-2024

Author ERBACH Gregor | JENSEN LISELOTTE

Policy area Environment

Keyword carbon neutrality | deterioration of the environment | ENERGY | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental tax | EU Emissions Trading Scheme | EU energy policy | EU environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | greenhouse gas | pollution control measures | proposal (EU) | renewable energy | soft energy | TRANSPORT | transport policy | transport policy

Summary The 'fit for 55' package of July and December 2021 was designed to realise the European Climate Law objectives: climate neutrality by 2050 and a 55 % reduction of net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030, compared with 1990 levels. It consisted of 13 interlinked proposals to revise existing EU climate and energy laws, and six new legislative proposals. All proposals, except the Energy Taxation Directive, have been adopted or agreed by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. The package seeks to accelerate emissions reductions in the sectors covered by the EU emissions trading system (ETS) and those covered by the Effort-sharing Regulation, and to increase carbon removals in the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector. This is an update of a briefing first published in June 2022.

Briefing [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#)

[EU's financial rules \(recast\)](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-03-2024

Author PARI MARIANNA

Policy area Budget

Summary In May 2022, the European Commission published a proposal to adjust and align the EU's financial rules to the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework. The Parliament and Council have now reached a provisional agreement on a new version of the EU's financial rules, enhancing the EU's financial interests. The new rules will ensure that EU funding is more transparent, more digital and clearly reflects the Union's values, as defended by Parliament. Parliament is due to vote on the provisional agreement during its March plenary session.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Parliament's guidelines for the 2025 EU budget: Section III – European Commission](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-03-2024

Author MAZUR Sidonia

Policy area Budget

Summary The 2025 EU budget will be the fifth under the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2021 to 2027. It will also be the first annual procedure that will fully apply and implement the new provisions under the recently revised MFF. The European Parliament contributes to the shaping of proposals for the forthcoming year's European Union budget through the adoption of its 'guidelines'. The draft guidelines, as adopted by the Committee on Budgets on 4 March 2024, outline Parliament's goals and priorities, in particular to have a people-centred 2025 budget. Parliament is expected to adopt its guidelines during the March plenary session, before the Commission adopts its proposal with the draft 2025 budget in late spring or early summer.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Design package](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-03-2024

Author DE LUCA Stefano

Policy area Industry

Summary In November 2022, the European Commission tabled a pair of proposals as part of a 'design package', as a step towards coherent rules fit for purpose in today's digital age and more efficient for applicants. The first proposal was the amendment of the Community Design Regulation and the second, the recast of the Design Directive. During its March 2024 plenary session, the European Parliament is set to vote on the political agreement on both files reached in trilogue negotiations with the Council.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Amending the Waste Framework Directive](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-03-2024

Author KATSAROVA Ivana

Policy area Food Safety

Summary In March, Parliament is due to vote on the report adopted by its Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) on a proposal for a targeted revision of EU waste rules to speed up the fight against food waste and to involve textile producers in the fight against the waste of used clothes and shoes.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[European media freedom act](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-03-2024

Author LAANINEN Tarja

Policy area Culture

Summary On 15 December 2023, the co-legislators reached a provisional agreement on a regulation establishing a common framework for media services in the internal market (European Media Freedom Act). The Committee on Culture and Education has endorsed the text which is now due to be voted in plenary in March. The EMFA is a historic step, as it will set the first EU-level rules on media freedom, pluralism and the protection of journalists.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[European cross-border associations](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-03-2024

Author MAŃKO Rafał

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Social Policy

Summary Responding to repeated calls from the European Parliament to propose common Union-wide rules to facilitate the cross-border activity of non-profit organisations (NPOs), the Commission has proposed a directive on European cross-border associations (ECBAs). Parliament is due to vote on the report on this proposal, submitted by its Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI), during its March plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Freezing and confiscation of criminal money](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-03-2024

Author MURPHY COLIN MICHAEL

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary The European Commission proposed to amend Directive 2014/42 on the freezing and confiscation of the proceeds of crime in order to strengthen the EU's asset recovery and confiscation rules. The aim is to modernise the legal framework in order to tackle the low rates of freezing and confiscation of criminal profits. After three rounds of interinstitutional negotiations, the Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement on the draft directive on 12 December 2023. Parliament is due to vote in plenary in March on the provisional agreement.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

['Green claims' directive](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-03-2024

Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Policy area Environment

Summary In March 2023, the Commission proposed a directive on green claims. During its March plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote on the report adopted jointly on 14 February 2024 by its Committees on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Compulsory licensing of patents](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-03-2024

Author MAŃKO Rafał

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary In 2023, the Commission submitted six patent-related legislative initiatives aimed at helping companies, in particular SMEs, make the most of their inventions and of new technologies, and contribute to the EU's competitiveness and technological sovereignty. In March, Parliament is due to adopt its first-reading position on one of these initiatives, a new regulation on the compulsory licensing of patents for crisis management.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Establishing an EU customs data hub and an EU customs authority](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-03-2024

Author BAERT Pieter

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union

Summary In May 2023, the European Commission tabled a customs reform package. Key to the reform is the proposal to establish an EU customs authority, which would oversee a new EU customs data hub. This would entail a more centralised and digitalised approach to customs, which should lower compliance costs for traders and ensure a more efficient, fraud-proof customs union. The proposal follows the ordinary legislative procedure. Parliament is due to vote on its first-reading report during the March plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Harmonisation of criminal offences and penalties for the violation of EU sanctions](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-03-2024

Author CIRLIG Carmen-Cristina | PRPIC Martina

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary In December 2022, the European Commission tabled a proposal for a directive laying out harmonised rules on criminal offences and penalties for the violation of Union (EU) restrictive measures. During its March plenary session, Parliament is due to vote on the political agreement reached in negotiations with the Council.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Revised rules on the European Maritime Safety Agency \(EMSA\)](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-03-2024

Author GULLENTOPS Mathias Mathieu

Policy area Transport

Summary On 1 June 2023, the European Commission presented the maritime safety package, which includes a proposal to revise the framework of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and repeal its founding regulation, Regulation (EC) No 1406/2002. The proposal would update EMSA's mandate to better reflect the agency's evolving role in different areas of maritime transport, and to secure adequate human and financial resources to fulfil this role. Parliament is due to vote its first-reading position on the file during its March 2024 plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Revised EU rules on industrial pollution](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-03-2024

Author HALLEUX Vivienne

Policy area Environment

Summary During its March plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote on the provisional political agreement reached with the Council on updated EU rules to prevent and control pollution from industry. The agreement, endorsed by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) on 11 January 2024, substantially amends the text originally proposed by the European Commission.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Toy safety](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-03-2024

Author EVROUX CLEMENT THIERRY

Policy area Consumer Protection

Summary On 28 July 2023, the European Commission adopted a proposal to revise EU toy safety legislation. It has two main objectives: achieving a higher level of child protection, and reducing the number of non-compliant and unsafe toys on the EU market. The European Parliament's Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) adopted its report on the proposal unanimously in February 2024. The report is scheduled for a plenary vote in March, which would set Parliament's first-reading position.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Non-road mobile machinery circulating on public roads](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date [06-03-2024](#)

Author [RAGONNAUD Guillaume](#)

Policy area [Internal Market and Customs Union](#)

Keyword [approval](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [harmonisation of standards](#) | [INDUSTRY](#) | [land transport](#) | [machinery](#) | [market approval](#) | [market supervision](#) | [marketing](#) | [mechanical engineering](#) | [PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH](#) | [proposal \(EU\)](#) | [road network](#) | [road safety](#) | [single market](#) | [technical specification](#) | [technology and technical regulations](#) | [TRADE](#) | [trade policy](#) | [TRANSPORT](#) | [transport policy](#)

Summary The single market celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2023. Although it has generally been a success story, a number of challenges remain. For instance, there is still no EU-wide harmonisation of the technical requirements for the road circulation of non-road mobile machinery. This has a negative effect on the functioning of the single market. This sector covers a broad range of machinery fitted with the means for self-propulsion – such as combine harvesters, excavators, ride-on mowers and forklifts – and that may need to circulate on the road to go from one workplace to another. On 23 March 2023, the Commission presented a proposal for a regulation that would set out the requirements for the EU type approval and placing on the market of non-road mobile machinery intended to circulate on public roads. It would also lay down rules and procedures on market surveillance of non-road mobile machinery. Stakeholders have broadly welcomed the proposal. The Parliament and Council reached a political agreement on 21 February 2024. This agreement now needs to be endorsed, and formally adopted by both institutions. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Research for PECH Committee - Policy options for strengthening the competitiveness of the EU fisheries and aquaculture sector](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date [06-03-2024](#)

External author [Martin ARANDA](#), [Leire ARANTZAMENDI](#), [Margarita ANDRES](#), [Ane IRIONDO](#), [Gorka GABIÑA](#), [Gabriela OANTA](#), [José Manuel SOBRINO-HEREDIA](#) & [Bertrand LE GALLIC](#)

Policy area [Consumer Protection](#) | [Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice](#) | [Fisheries](#) | [Food Safety](#) | [Forward Planning](#) | [Internal Market and Customs Union](#) | [International Trade](#)

Summary The EU fisheries and aquaculture products (FAPs) market is largely dependent on external producers. Some of the imports entering the EU market come from countries with lenient regulations. This study gives an overview on existing competitiveness measures. It shows main trends in the EU's FAPs supply through extra-EU imports and identifies the main internal and external factors affecting the sector's competitiveness. The research presents four case studies and an assessment of options for adaptations to the internal and external policy framework. Finally, it provides a series of recommendations for strengthening the competitiveness of the EU fisheries and aquaculture sector in the future.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Executive summary](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)

[Jacques Delors' legacy \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date [06-03-2024](#)

Author [CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin](#)

Policy area [EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law](#)

Summary Jacques Delors, a passionate advocate of European integration, is widely considered to be the father of the European single market and the economic and monetary union. Previously a trade union activist, French Finance Minister, and MEP in the first directly elected European Parliament, he served three terms as the President of the European Commission, from 1985 to 1995. Jacques Delors died on 27 December 2023, aged 98. Following his death, he leaves behind a huge legacy, with numerous commentators underlining his role as one of the architects of today's EU. It was during his term in office that the Member States signed the Single European Act in 1986 and the Maastricht Treaty in 1992, which paved the way for the transformation of the European Economic Community, and other pre-EU organisations, into the European Union. This note gathers links to the recent publications and commentaries from many international think tanks on Jacques Delors' life and legacy.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Net-zero industry act](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 06-03-2024

Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Policy area Industry

Keyword clean technology | ENERGY | energy consumption | energy policy | energy use | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | production | production capacity | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technology and technical regulations

Summary The deployment of clean energy technologies required to support the achievement of Europe's 2030 and 2050 climate targets is considerable. Europe already largely imports these technologies, and like many third countries is increasing efforts to expand clean energy manufacturing capacity to reduce strategic dependencies for key products. On 16 March 2023, the Commission put forward a proposal for a 'net-zero industry act' that aims to expand the manufacturing capacity of net-zero technologies in the EU and enhance the resilience of its energy system. The proposed regulation would set up enabling conditions for the manufacturing of 10 net-zero technologies (through streamlined administrative processes and access to regulatory sandboxes and European net-zero industry academies). Eight 'strategic' net-zero technologies would gain additional benefits (even shorter administrative processes, facilitated access to markets, and administrative support to access finance). The proposed regulation would aim to ensure that, by 2030, the manufacturing capacity in the EU for these strategic net-zero technologies reaches an overall benchmark of at least 40 % of the EU's annual deployment needs. It would also set an EU level target for annual CO2 injection capacity by 2030 (50 million tonnes). On 6 February 2024, the Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on the new regulation. This agreement must now be formally approved by both institutions. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Net-zero industry act](#)

[Women in politics in the EU: State of play in 2024](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 06-03-2024

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Summary One hundred years after women won the right to vote in elections or were first elected to parliament in some EU Member States, they continue to be under-represented in politics and public life. This is true whether looking at the composition of the European Parliament or that of national parliaments, governments and local assemblies. On the other hand, gender balance in politics benefits not only women and female politicians but also political parties themselves and the rest of society. Women form half the population and deserve to be better represented in power structures. There is now solid evidence about what hinders or enables women's participation and representation, with political parties and the media serving a dual role in this respect. The EU has committed to achieving gender balance in political representation and participation as a matter of justice, equality and democracy. Practical recommendations have been made for achieving this goal, including specific actions to be taken by the EU institutions, national governments, political parties, civil society and the media. A number of pivotal elections are taking place across the world this year, leading to a renewed focus on gender equality and women's participation in politics. Gender equality is one of the issues expected to take centre stage in political debates. Mainstream parties are pushing for further progress in this area, while some populist and radical political forces are campaigning for a renewed emphasis on family and traditional social roles for women and men. Women's rights (for instance, reproductive rights), could even prove decisive in determining the outcome of certain elections. This is an update of a briefing from March 2023 by Rosamund Shreeves and Ionel Zamfir.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Policy priorities and initiatives for financing EU's growth model and withstanding global challenges?](#)

Publication type Study

Date 06-03-2024

External author Paul Van Den Noord

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Summary Becoming ever more exposed to global developments that transcend the powers of national governments, the European Union needs to widen the spectrum of strategic public goods it provides. To avoid fruitless conflicts over the 'juste retour', this should be funded by new permanent EU fiscal resources, with an appropriate mix of taxation and debt issuance, and underpinned by proper democratic governance. Not only would this advance the Union's strategic goals but also yield benefits for economic stability, convergence and growth. This document was provided/prepared by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the ECON Committee.

Study [EN](#)

[Cost of non-Europe in health policy](#)

Publication type Study

Date 06-03-2024

Author FERNANDES MEENAKSHI | KAMMERHOFER-SCHLEGEL Christa

Policy area European Added Value

Summary The European Union stepped up its action in the area of health – a shared competence between the EU and its Member States – in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. Yet, the EU lacks a joint health policy that recognises health as a public good. This study investigates three areas where there is high added-value potential from a joint EU health policy: research and development; the availability of prescription medicines; and preventive healthcare. EU action in these areas could generate benefits for the economy (in particular the EU's health industries), society (through improved health and quality of life for patients and less absenteeism for employers) and fundamental rights (the right to timely access to healthcare). The EU could also help to reduce the carbon and environmental footprint of the healthcare sector. An EU health policy that speaks with one voice is especially advantageous in light of the ageing population, digitalisation and rapid technological change.

Study [EN](#)

[Legal fiction of non-entry in EU asylum policy: Implications of the new Screening Regulation](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-03-2024

Author ORAV Anita

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary The fiction of 'non-entry' is a claim that states use in border management to deny the legal arrival of third-country nationals on their territory, regardless of their physical presence, until granted entry by a border or immigration officer. It is usually applied in transit zones at international airports between arrival gates and passport control, signifying that the persons who have arrived have not yet entered the territory of the destination country. Although physically present, they are not considered to have legally entered the state's official territory until they have undergone the necessary clearance. In the EU, all Member States make use of the fiction of non-entry in transit zones at ports of entry, but usually in a non-asylum context. In 2018, Germany was one of the first countries to extend this concept to include land crossings. Since the mass arrival of asylum-seekers in 2015-2016, other EU Member States have also increasingly looked into ways of using this claim to inhibit asylum-seekers' entry to their territory and thereby avoid the obligation under international law to provide asylum-seekers with certain protection and aid. This, however, may lead to a risk of refoulement, as the fiction of non-entry limits asylum-seekers' mobility and access to rights and procedures, including the asylum procedure. The Screening Regulation is a legislative measure proposed as part of the EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum, which aims to establish a pre-entry screening procedure applicable to third-country nationals before they are authorised to enter the territory. The use of the fiction of non-entry in EU legislation raises several concerns, such as the responsibility of the Member States, the asylum-seekers' restricted access to rights, the use of detention, and possible violations of human rights.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Establishing an EU customs data hub and an EU customs authority](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-03-2024

Author BAERT Pieter

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union | International Trade

Keyword consumer protection | consumption | customs union | EU customs procedure | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | international trade | tariff policy | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy | World Customs Organisation | world organisations

Summary Today's massive increase in trade volumes, combined with the need to do border checks for compliance with the growing number of EU standards and to stay abreast of the continuously evolving trade strategies, has put EU customs authorities under a lot of pressure. Concerns have been raised that the EU's customs union is burdened by an uneven level of digitalisation across Member States, suboptimal coordination between the national authorities and overall complexity. This situation creates high administrative compliance costs for traders while providing criminals with opportunities to commit fraud. To tackle these issues, the European Commission tabled a customs reform package on 17 May 2023. Key to the reform is the establishment of an EU customs authority, which would oversee a new customs data hub. The aim is to adopt a more centralised and digitalised approach to customs that should lower compliance costs for traders, free up resources for national authorities and ensure a more efficient, strengthened and fraud-proof customs union. The proposal is subject to the ordinary legislative procedure and therefore requires the support of both the Council of the EU and the European Parliament. Within Parliament, the file has been assigned to the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer protection, with Deirdre Clune (EPP, Ireland) as rapporteur. Her report was adopted by the IMCO committee on 22 February 2024. Parliament is expected to vote on the report during its March plenary, at first reading. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

'Green claims' directive: Protecting consumers from greenwashing

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-03-2024

Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword consumer protection | consumption | designation of origin | directive (EU) | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | greenwashing | labelling | marketing | TRADE

Summary In the absence of specific rules on claims regarding the 'green' nature of products, how can consumers be sure that such claims are reliable, comparable and verifiable throughout the EU? On 22 March 2023, the European Commission put forward a proposal for a directive on green claims. The proposed directive would require companies to substantiate the voluntary green claims they make in business-to-consumer commercial practices, by complying with a number of requirements regarding their assessment (e.g. taking a life-cycle perspective). The proposal is now in the hands of the co-legislators. In Parliament, the file was allocated jointly to the Committees on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) and on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI). Parliament is expected to vote on the report adopted jointly by ENVI and IMCO during its 2024 March plenary session. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Green claims' directive: Protecting consumers from greenwashing](#)

Excessive and concentrated exposures to third-country central counterparties

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-03-2024

Author HALLAK ISSAM

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword budget | capital market | credit institution | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial control | financial derivative | financial institutions and credit | financial legislation | financial supervision | financial transaction | free movement of capital | investment company | monetary economics | private-sector liquidity | proposal (EU) | securities

Summary On 7 December 2022, the European Commission made two proposals to amend EU legislation on derivative markets. The objective is to reduce the excessive and concentrated exposure of EU financial institutions to third-country central counterparties (CCPs). CCPs are clearing platforms that mitigate counterparty risks on derivative instruments by demanding collateral. Among other things, the proposals would require EU financial institutions to retain a portion of mandatory CCP derivative trading, to be handled through EU CCPs. The regulations would also grant other non-banking institutions further access to EU CCPs. The proposals seek to establish additional controls over third-country CCPs posing systemic risks, while making EU CCPs more attractive. In Parliament, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) is responsible for the files. The rapporteur is Danuta Hübner (EPP, Poland); she tabled her draft reports in June 2023. The Council adopted its mandate in December 2023 and the co-legislators reached a provisional agreement on 7 February 2024. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-03-2024

Author HALLEUX Vivienne

Policy area Environment

Keyword air quality | carbon neutrality | circular economy | deterioration of the environment | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | industrial pollution | proposal (EU) | soil pollution | waste management

Summary Covering some 52 000 large agro-industrial installations EU-wide, the Industrial Emissions Directive is the main EU instrument regulating industrial pollutant emissions. The proposal for a revision, tabled in April 2022, seeks to bring it into line with the EU's zero pollution ambition, energy, climate and circular economy policy goals under the European Green Deal. The main changes include expanding its scope, strengthening permit requirements, and adding measures to foster innovation. Stakeholders' reactions were mixed: industry and farming representatives expressed concerns about the proposal's added complexity, timeliness and practical implementation. Non-governmental organisations criticised the missed opportunity to make the directive fit for climate protection, and the proposed new regime for intensive livestock rearing. The European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on the file on 29 November 2023. The agreed text was endorsed by Member State representatives on 15 December 2023 and by Parliament's Environment Committee on 11 January 2024. It now awaits formal adoption by the co-legislators. The vote in plenary is scheduled for the March 2024 session. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [DE](#), [EN](#)

[The EU as a « Union of Equality »?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 05-03-2024

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Summary This briefing, drafted by the Policy Department on Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs in the view of the LIBE Workshop on "The EU as a Union of Equality?" organised for the LIBE Committee, aims at providing relevant information and updates on the various strategies, action plans and strategic frameworks launched by the Commission under the Union of Equality umbrella, as well as on other equality directives, framework decisions and initiatives falling under the same remit.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Establishing an industrial emissions portal](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-03-2024

Author HALLEUX Vivienne

Policy area Environment

Keyword access to information | deterioration of the environment | directory | disclosure of information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental monitoring | environmental policy | environmental protection | EU environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | industrial pollution | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | pollutant | pollution control measures | proposal (EU) | waste management

Summary The European Green Deal envisages a review of measures addressing pollution from large industrial installations, with a view to aligning existing legislation with the EU's zero pollution ambition, and energy, climate and circular economy policy goals. On 5 April 2022, the European Commission tabled a proposal to revise the Industrial Emissions Directive, the main European Union instrument regulating pollutant emissions from industry, together with a proposal to revise the Regulation establishing the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register, relating to environmental information. The proposal seeks to upgrade the existing register to a more comprehensive and integrated industrial emissions portal, enabling more accurate monitoring of the environmental performance of large industrial activities. The main changes proposed include better alignment with the Industrial Emissions Directive, both in terms of activities covered and reporting level; inclusion of reporting on the use of resources; and integration in the database of additional relevant environmental data reported under other related EU legislation. The European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on the file on 29 November 2023. The agreed text was endorsed by Member State representatives on 15 December 2023 and by Parliament's Environment Committee on 11 January 2024. It now awaits formal adoption by the co-legislators. The vote in plenary is scheduled for the March 2024 session. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Gender equality in sport](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 04-03-2024

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Summary Strongly associated with masculinity, sport is one of the most gender unequal social institutions in modern society and has traditionally been dominated by men in terms of both participation and governance. Women were excluded from the first modern Olympic Games, held in Athens in 1896, and were only allowed to gradually start joining in four years later. Even though women's presence and involvement in the Olympic Movement have progressively evolved, girls and women across the world still get fewer opportunities and less investment, training and corporate and media attention when they play sport.

At a Glance [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[What if the problem with cars was not their method of propulsion?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 04-03-2024

Author GARCIA HIGUERA ANDRES

Policy area Environment | Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union | International Trade | Research Policy | Transport

Summary The European automotive industry is striving to adapt to market changes driven by the dual green and digital transition. Electrification has become the main strategy for reducing CO2 emissions, especially in urban traffic. At the same time, the average size and weight of cars have greatly increased. Big electric cars are the trend, but are they really the solution? Could better planning and optimisation of resources help?

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Renewable energy in the EU](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 04-03-2024

Author WIDUTO Agnieszka

Policy area Energy

Keyword [directive \(EU\)](#) | [ENERGY](#) | [energy crisis](#) | [energy market](#) | [energy policy](#) | [EU action](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [price increase](#) | [price of energy](#) | [prices](#) | [renewable energy](#) | [soft energy](#)

Summary Due to the recent energy crisis, there is a growing focus on renewable energy sources within the European Union (EU) as a possible solution to challenges such as energy security and high prices. The 2023 Renewable Energy Directive (RED) requires the EU to achieve a 42.5 % share of renewable energy sources (RES) in gross final energy consumption by 2030. As of 2022, the EU has reached a 23 % share of renewables in its energy consumption. In analysing the EU's energy landscape, it is crucial to note that the EU currently produces less than half of the energy required to meet domestic demand. In 2022, 62.5 % of energy consumed in the EU was imported. While the EU lacks a specific target for the share of renewables in production, in 2022, renewable sources already accounted for 43.2 % of the EU's primary energy production. Ongoing efforts aim to accelerate the rollout of renewables, including by simplifying permit-granting procedures. This infographic presents the share of renewables consumed and produced across the EU's energy market – compared with other energy sources and, where possible, by renewable energy source. Boosting investment in renewables is also an important part of the electricity market reform, therefore the infographic illustrates the share of different renewable energy sources in the EU electricity mix.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Research for the AGRI Committee - The dependency of the EU's food system on inputs and their sources](#)

Publication type Study

Date 04-03-2024

External author Alberico LOI, Mario GENTILE, Dylan BRADLEY, Maria CHRISTODOULOU, John BRACKEN, Marja KNUUTTILA, Jyrki NIEMI & Henrik WEJBERG

Policy area [Agriculture and Rural Development](#) | [Budget](#) | [International Trade](#) | [Transport](#)

Summary This study analyses the vulnerabilities of the EU food system regarding inputs, describing the tools to secure those inputs and make the EU less dependent on foreign suppliers. It provides recommendations for appropriate measures to increase the EU food system's resilience to disruptions in trade flows and price increases of imported inputs.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Executive summary](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)

[European capability development planning](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 04-03-2024

Author CLAPP SEBASTIAN

Policy area [Security and Defence](#)

Summary Defence planning (including capability development planning) is the process of establishing the military forces and equipment that a state or alliance determines are required to meet its objectives or to counteract threats. There are three major capability development processes within the European Union: each Member State's national planning; the NATO defence planning process, where applicable; and the EU's planning, which has evolved gradually since the 1999 Helsinki European Council meeting and now consists of numerous components.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Combating foreign interference in elections](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 01-03-2024

Author CLAPP SEBASTIAN

Policy area [Foreign Affairs](#)

Summary Although it has always existed, foreign interference in election processes has become increasingly prevalent, exacerbated by new technologies and widespread social media use and increased geopolitical rivalry. The EU and UK have recently increased efforts – also involving other partners – to combat foreign interference.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Skyrocketing obesity in children: why everybody should be concerned?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 01-03-2024

Author KATSAROVA Ivana

Policy area Public Health

Summary Nearly 400 million children around the world are projected to live with obesity by 2035. Worryingly, that is double the number in 2020. 'Our children are increasingly growing up in environments that make it very difficult for them to eat well and be active. This is a root cause of the obesity epidemic', argued Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, Regional Director for the World Health Organization (WHO) in Europe. Worryingly, child obesity often carries through to adolescence and is likely to endure into adulthood. Based on current trends and looking exclusively at obesity in the WHO European region, which covers 53 countries across Europe and Central Asia, the World Obesity Atlas 2023 projects that between 2020 and 2035, there will be a 61 % increase in the number of boys living with obesity and a 57 % increase in the number of girls living with obesity. A total of 17 million boys and 11 million girls aged 5-19 in the region will be living with obesity in 2035.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[EU-UK cooperation on migration and asylum](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 01-03-2024

Author ORAV Anita

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary The free movement of people between the EU and the UK ended on 1 January 2021, with the end of the transitional period set out in the Withdrawal Agreement, signed in January 2020. The EU and UK both apply their own migration and asylum systems, with ad hoc cooperation on various aspects of migration.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Plenary round-up – February II 2024](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 01-03-2024

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary The highlight of the February II 2024 plenary session was the address by Yulia Navalnaya, widow of the assassinated Russian opposition activist and 2021 Sakharov Prize laureate Alexey Navalny. Important debates took place on European security and defence and the war in Gaza. Members adopted a large number of provisional agreements reached in interinstitutional negotiations. Members also adopted several agreements at first reading, on which negotiations with the Council would be required in the new legislative term.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Which European Public Goods?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-03-2024

External author CHARLES WYPLOSZ

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Summary The recent stunning geopolitical events have prompted a wave of initiatives and proposals that seek to endow the European Union with responsibilities currently exercised at the national level. The present study examines which proposals match the principles of fiscal federalism to be considered properly as European public goods. This document was provided/prepared by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the ECON Committee.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Strategic autonomy and the future of nuclear energy in the EU](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 29-02-2024

Author GUEDES FERREIRA VASCO NUNO

Policy area Energy

Summary Nuclear energy and the promise of cost-effective small modular reactors (SMRs) is high on the EU's policy agenda, against the backdrop of a difficult global geopolitical context and the Union's energy security and climate ambitions. The EU is building a comprehensive strategy for the development and deployment of SMRs, acknowledging their potential benefits and challenges. Innovative nuclear technologies are of significant strategic value, with major steps being taken to increase the supply of advanced nuclear fuels and research and innovation capacities in this area.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Revision of the trans-European transport network guidelines](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 29-02-2024

Author KISS Monika

Policy area Regional Development | Transport

Keyword common transport policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | organisation of transport | project of common interest | proposal (EU) | sustainable mobility | trans-European network | TRANSPORT | transport infrastructure | transport network | transport planning | transport policy

Summary To support its economy, provide mobility for people and goods and ensure the connectivity of all regions, while also limiting negative impacts on climate and environment, the EU has been building a multimodal transport network across its territory: the trans-European transport network (TEN-T). TEN-T construction is supported by EU funding, an example of which is the dedicated Connecting Europe Facility programme. In December 2021, after evaluating progress in TEN-T implementation, the European Commission put forward a proposal on the revised TEN-T guidelines to ensure sustainable connectivity through a reliable and high-quality infrastructure network aligned with the objectives of the European Green Deal. In May 2022, the Commission published an amended version of this proposal, extending transport corridors to Ukraine and Moldova and withdrawing plans that included Russia and Belarus. The European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism adopted its report on the proposal on 13 April 2023; the Council adopted its general approach on 5 December 2022. The EP position was endorsed in plenary on 19 April, and trilogue negotiations are now ongoing. Fourth edition. The first edition, published in March 2022, was drafted by Marketa Pape. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Research for TRAN Committee – Trends, challenges and opportunities in the EU transport labour market](#)

Publication type Study

Date 29-02-2024

External author Andrea BROUGHTON, Jasper TANIS, Marco BRAMBILLA, Eckhard VOSS and Katrin VITOLS

Policy area Transport

Summary The study provides a comprehensive review of the transport labour market trends in the EU, the challenges and the future prospects that transport workers and undertakings are confronted with, notably for digitalisation, automation and decarbonisation processes. The study describes the impacts on the EU transport labour market in terms of number of jobs, job structure by age, workers' skills, working conditions, shortage of workers and attractiveness of the occupations. A stakeholder consultation complements the findings of the literature review.

Study [EN](#)

Executive summary [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)

[The future of digitalisation in budgetary control](#)

Publication type Study

Date 27-02-2024

External author James RAMPTON, Marta DIMAURO, Christine STEDTNITZ, Jana VENCOVSKÁ, Laura GRANITO, Vítězslav TITL

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control, explores new technological developments that are being or could be applied in the field of budgetary control and how these could be used to enhance the prevention of fraud and corruption and ensure sound financial management of EU funds. New technological developments covered by the study include big data analytics, artificial intelligence, digital platforms, robotic process automation, distributed ledger technologies (blockchain) and satellite imagery.

Study [EN](#)

Executive summary [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[International Women's Day 2024 - Women in Sport](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 27-02-2024

External author Martina SCHONARD, Alina-Theresa SCHNEDL

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Forward Planning | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword cooperation in the field of education | cooperation policy | demography and population | education | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | equal treatment | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | position of women | rights and freedoms | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sport | woman | youth policy

Briefing [EN](#)

[The Role of the European Council in the EU Constitutional Structure](#)

Publication type Study

Date 27-02-2024

External author AKBİK Adina, DAWSON Mark

Policy area Democracy | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | EU policy | European construction | European Council | EUROPEAN UNION | interinstitutional relations | interinstitutional relations (EU) | POLITICS | politics and public safety

Summary This study examines the evolving role of the European Council in the EU's constitutional structure. As the study demonstrates, the increasing tendency of the European Council to instruct other EU institutions and its limited accountability have established an increasing gap between its de jure role under the EU Treaties and its de facto power in the larger system of EU governance. This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the AFCO Committee.

Study [EN](#)

[Blueprint for a future joint European degree](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 27-02-2024

Author BINDER Krisztina

Policy area Education

Keyword area of freedom, security and justice | diploma | documentation | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | education policy | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | higher education | organisation of teaching | student mobility | teaching | thesis

Summary The European Commission plans to adopt a communication on a European degree in the first quarter of 2024. A future joint European degree could provide a framework to facilitate the development of joint programmes and the delivery of joint degrees offered by multiple higher education institutions across Europe. As a first step, a joint European degree label based on co-created European criteria is being piloted through Erasmus+ projects. Any further steps towards the development of a possible joint degree based on co-created European criteria will be explored with the Member States and stakeholders.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[EP Academic Freedom Monitor 2023](#)

Publication type Study

Date 27-02-2024

External author DG, EPRS

Policy area Education

Summary Academic freedom is widely acknowledged both as a fundamental value of present-day higher education and science, and as a prerequisite for well-functioning democratic societies. Yet in recent years, major concerns about the state of academic freedom in the European Union have been raised by various stakeholders. The European Parliament launched an annual EP Academic Freedom Monitor in 2022, aimed at helping to strengthen the protection of academic freedom in the European Union. This report presents the 2023 edition of the EP Academic Freedom Monitor, consisting of two studies and their joint key findings and proposed policy options. The first study, entitled 'Systematising existing measurements of academic freedom in EU Member States', has used various monitors and other measurements across the EU Member States to identify the main challenges and threats to, and worries about, academic freedom in the EU. The second study, entitled 'Academic freedom across the EU 2023: Latest trends analysis', has analysed the main threats to academic freedom and their impacts in ten EU Member States. The study is conducted as a qualitative analysis of several data, with input from stakeholder organisations and academic experts. On the basis of the two studies, this report proposes EU-level policy options for legislative and non-legislative initiatives to support academic freedom in the EU.

Study [EN](#)

[The European Parliament, its powers, and the 1979 European elections](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-02-2024

Author PITTOORS Gilles

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword competence of the institution | electoral procedure and voting | EU competence | EU institutions and European civil service | EU law | EU policy | European construction | European election | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | policymaking | political framework | POLITICS | politics and public safety | powers of the EP | separation of powers

Summary This briefing traces the evolution of the debates on the European Parliament's powers, and their (dis)connection to the organisation of the first direct European elections in 1979. It spans the period leading up to 1979, and also assesses the aftermath of these landmark elections. It shows that well into the 1970s, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) put great effort into de coupling the debates on organising Parliament's direct elections from those on expanding its institutional powers. MEPs' main fear was that demanding both as a package deal would be too much for Member State governments to swallow, creating a risk of ending up with neither. Separately pursuing more powers and direct elections was considered the smarter strategy. Yet by the end of the 1970s, with progress being made on both fronts, it had become difficult for MEPs to maintain this distinction. Increasingly, MEPs pushed a discourse of a self reinforcing, virtuous circle of empowerment and elections. They developed this discourse further after the 1979 elections, when a disappointingly low voter turnout dictated a re coupling of the issues in order to maintain the momentum of the Parliament's growing empowerment. The briefing concludes by connecting this historical debate to contemporary issues, highlighting how the question of Parliament's powers has become intimately connected with questions of democracy, representation and elections.

[Briefing EN](#)

[The use of strategic foresight in Commission impact assessments: Existing practices and the way forward](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-02-2024

Author ANGHEL Suzana Elena

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU policy | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | evaluation method | executive power and public service | foresight | impact study | policymaking | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property

Summary Strategic foresight was identified as a political priority by the European Commission back in 2019, and was integrated into the EU's better regulation guidelines in 2021. It allows practitioners to anticipate alternative futures and, hence, represents a key tool for the EU to future-proof its policies and legislation. Its relevance spans the policy cycle, being of interest ex ante to impact assessments (IAs) and ex post to evaluations. This briefing examines the use of strategic foresight by the Commission in its IAs. It analyses the practices that emerged between January 2020 and December 2023, allowing a comparison between the period prior to January 2022, when foresight became a better regulation tool, with the period since then. The analysis shows that, despite a progressive increase in the number of IAs featuring a foresight component, practices continue to vary greatly across the Commission Directorates-General responsible for these IAs, in terms of methodology, clarity and consistency. Nine of the 63 IAs analysed in this briefing were supported by dedicated studies using foresight methodology. The majority of these studies were conducted by the Joint Research Centre, the Commission's internal science and knowledge service, which provides a broad offer to assist the use of foresight, including training and research. Two studies were commissioned to external contractors. Foresight studies require time and resources. They should be systematically conducted when a foresight approach adds value to the examination of the topic at stake. Foresight methods include the analysis of megatrends and scenario planning. The Commission's Regulatory Scrutiny Board (RSB) ensures quality control of the Commission's IA work. Besides advising on the IA process and expressing its opinion on the quality of each individual draft IA, it also gives an annual account of progress on better law-making. In its opinions, the RSB inter alia stressed the need for consistency in the use of foresight throughout IA reports, calling for foresight to be integrated into the sections on problem definition and policy options.

[Briefing EN](#)

[The European Parliament and foreign and security policy: The 1991 Pöttering report](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-02-2024

Author KAISER WOLFRAM KARL WILHELM

External author Berger, Jonah

Keyword common security and defence policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European organisations | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | Western European Union

Summary The European Parliament has, for a long time, demanded a more integrated and purposeful European foreign, security, and defence policy. It has also argued for an enhanced role for itself in this policy field. With the European Union facing multiple external challenges, it is timely to explore Parliament's long-standing demands for a more robust collective approach to issues such as defence and arms procurement. In June 1991, the European Parliament adopted the Political Affairs Committee report on 'The outlook for a European security policy: The significance of a European security policy and its implications for European Political Union'. The resolution endorsing the report represented Parliament's only statement on foreign and security policy during the intergovernmental conferences that, inter alia, led to the creation of the common foreign and security policy in the Maastricht Treaty. This briefing examines the report's proposals and discusses the political strategy employed by the rapporteur, Hans-Gert Pöttering. It explores the disagreements in Parliament over the future common foreign and security policy. The briefing shows that, while the report was unsuccessful in changing the intergovernmental character of European foreign and security policy in the short term, it nevertheless impacted the EU's foreign policy priorities, most notably through its proposals on disarmament policy. It also helped create a longer-term trajectory for the growing institutionalisation of and common action in foreign, security, and defence policy.

[Briefing EN](#)

[Internal Market Emergency and Resilience Act \(IMERA\)](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 26-02-2024

Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | consumer protection | consumption | crisis management | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic policy | economic policy | economic recession | ECONOMICS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | management | market protection | single market | TRADE | trade policy

Summary In 2023, the EU celebrated the 30th anniversary of the single market. Recent shocks have shown not only how vulnerable to crises the single market is, but also the extent to which the EU economy relies on a well-functioning single market. It is now considered to be a key driver of EU resilience. In September 2022, the Commission put forward a single market emergency instrument (SMEI) package. It includes one main proposal for a regulation establishing a SMEI, and two accompanying proposals amending harmonised product legislation to ensure that strategic goods can be marketed quickly to address shortages in the event of market crises. The main proposal establishes measures for contingency planning, such as an early warning system. A 'vigilance mode' could be activated after a threat has been identified. If a wide-ranging crisis hits the single market, an 'emergency mode' could be triggered. The co-legislators reached a provisional agreement on the package on 1 February 2024, after four trilogue meetings. This agreement still needs to be formally approved by both institutions. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Multimedia [Protecting the single market in future crises](#)

[Alexei Navalny: Anti-corruption campaigner, opposition leader and Kremlin victim](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 23-02-2024

Author CAPRILE ANNA

Policy area Human Rights

Keyword economic geography | Europe | GEOGRAPHY | political geography | Russia

Summary The sudden death of political activist and Sakharov Prize laureate Alexei Navalny on 16 February 2024, in a maximum-security Russian penal colony where he was serving a draconian jail sentence, has met with widespread international condemnation and a wave of mourning both inside and outside the Russian Federation. Yulia Navalnaya – Navalny's widow – is due to address the European Parliament during the February II plenary session, and MEPs will subsequently debate and vote on a resolution on Navalny's murder and the need for the EU to support political prisoners and oppressed civil society in the Russian Federation.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[People with disabilities and the European elections](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 23-02-2024

Author LECERF Marie

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword area of freedom, security and justice | disabled person | electoral law | electoral procedure and voting | European construction | European election | EUROPEAN UNION | human rights | LAW | POLITICS | right to vote | rights and freedoms | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary People with disabilities still find it hard to participate in elections in the European Union. This infographic compares national practices aimed at helping people with disabilities exercise their electoral rights in the EU.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[I principi di eguaglianza e di non discriminazione, una prospettiva di diritto comparato: Italia](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 23-02-2024

External author EPRS, Comparative Law

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Summary Questo studio fa parte di un progetto più ampio, il cui scopo è quello di analizzare, nella prospettiva del diritto comparato, i principi di eguaglianza e di non discriminazione in diversi Stati ed organizzazioni internazionali. Il presente studio è dedicato all'Italia. Dopo un breve inquadramento storico, vengono esaminate le norme giuridiche che hanno interessato il principio di eguaglianza, nelle sue varie forme, nella Repubblica italiana. Il punto di partenza è, ovviamente, la Costituzione, mentre le altre fonti sono ordinate in ragione della tematica che, di volta in volta, disciplinano. Particolare enfasi è attribuita alla giurisprudenza. Poiché non è possibile prendere in considerazione la ricchezza del materiale nella sua interezza, sono stati selezionati alcuni casi particolarmente rilevanti. Si conclude identificando le principali aree problematiche che devono ancora essere affrontate. Questo documento è la seconda edizione di uno studio originariamente pubblicato in italiano dalla Biblioteca di diritto comparato nell'ottobre 2020. Questa versione, a cura della Biblioteca di diritto comparato del Parlamento europeo, aggiorna la versione precedente e compara l'ordinamento italiano con altri ordinamenti attraverso le note dell'editore (NdE).

[Study](#) [IT](#)

[Increasing the competitiveness of the intermodal transport](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-02-2024

Author TUOMINEN ULLA-MARI

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | common transport policy | competitiveness | TRANSPORT | transport policy

Summary The impact assessment (IA) sufficiently substantiates the need for a revision of the CTD, and provides a well-evidenced problem definition relying on various data sources. It presents a sufficient range of policy options, which appear to present self-standing alternatives. The IA qualitatively and quantitatively assesses all policy options' economic, social and environmental impacts, and explains the methods used in detail. It openly explains limitations in the analysis, for instance regarding employment consequences in the road transport sector and quantification of the impacts specifically for SMEs. As the initiative is relevant to SMEs, an SME test was performed. However, SMEs are not differentiated by size-classes (micro, small and medium enterprises) in the analysis, and overall, SMEs could have been discussed more. In the comparison of options, the IA could have clarified the scoring and the coherence assessment. Likewise, the arguments for the choice of the preferred option would have benefited from further clarification. The summary of stakeholder consultations describes stakeholders' views on the problems, objectives and different measures; however, the IA does not provide a description of the stakeholder groups' views on the policy options.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[European defence, strategic autonomy and NATO \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-02-2024

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Summary The European Commission's President, Ursula von der Leyen, announced on 16 February that she would soon put forward a strategy for the European defence industry, designed to strengthen military production and arms supply. Russia's full-scale attack on Ukraine two years ago reignited the EU's push towards strengthening its defence capabilities and cooperation. The European Parliament and President von der Leyen, among others, believe that the EU should strive towards establishing a fully fledged 'European Defence Union', following on from a number of ground breaking initiatives and significant growth in military spending. The discussion on the need for the EU to become more self-reliant in defence has intensified in response to comments made by Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee for the 2024 US presidential election, who suggested that the United States might disregard NATO's Article 5 collective defence clause and not protect from a potential Russian invasion those NATO allies who are not spending enough on defence. This note gathers links to recent publications and commentaries from many international think tanks on EU defence issues. Earlier analyses of Russia's war on Ukraine can be found in a previous edition of the 'What Think Tanks are Thinking' series.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Two years of war: The state of the Ukrainian economy in ten charts.](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-02-2024

Author RAKIC Drazen

Keyword EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION

Summary After enduring the devastating impact of Russia's full-scale military aggression over the course of two years, the Ukrainian economy has shown resilience but also faces challenges going forward. The future course, intensity and duration of the war are uncertain. Ukraine has nevertheless, with the help of international partners, been simultaneously bolstering its economy at war and planning for the future transition to a more stable environment. This paper uses ten charts to summarise the key economic issues at stake.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Legal options for confiscation of Russian state assets to support the reconstruction of Ukraine](#)

Publication type Study

Date 23-02-2024

External author DG, EPRS; Webb, Philippa (Philippa Mahal)

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword common foreign and security policy | economic geography | EU relations | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international agreement | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | political geography | Russia | Ukraine

Summary This report analyses the options under international law for the confiscation of Russian state assets to support Ukraine's reconstruction. It focuses on Russian Central Bank assets, US\$300 billion of which are frozen in various jurisdictions. The report considers four avenues for overcoming Russia's immunity from enforcement: avoidance of immunity through purely executive or legislative action; justification for the breach of international law on the grounds that it is a countermeasure; evolution of international law to lift immunity from enforcement upon, for example, a finding of aggression by a United Nations principal organ; and an exception in international law for the enforcement of international judgments. The report addresses proposals based on third-party countermeasures and collective self-defence. It assesses six options under current review: enforcement of European Court of Human Rights judgments; an international treaty setting up a compensation commission; taxing windfall contributions; placing Russian state assets into an escrow account as collateral; identifying Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism; and the establishment of an investment 'common fund'. In conclusion, the report presents a risk assessment of each option, noting that (i) confiscation based on third-party countermeasures with a conditional element and (ii) confiscation based on the enforcement of international judgments against Russia are most likely to comply with international law.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Economic impact of Russia's war on Ukraine: European Council response](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-02-2024

Author PAPUNEN Annastiina

Keyword economic geography | Europe | GEOGRAPHY | political geography | Russia | Ukraine

Summary Thursday, 24 February 2022 was a turning point in European history. Overnight, Russia launched a brutal war of aggression on Ukraine, an independent European nation. Two years after the start of the war, its negative effects have been far-reaching. In addition to the harrowing human cost of the war, the economic impact has been devastating in Ukraine itself, but also substantial for the European Union and the world more widely. In the EU, the economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic has been slower than expected because of the war in Ukraine. The European Commission's 2021 Autumn Forecast predicted 4.3 % growth in gross domestic product (GDP) for the EU for 2022, and 2.5 % for 2023, but growth finally registered at 3.5 % for 2022 and an estimated 0.5 % for 2023. The EU also experienced a severe energy and a cost-of-living crisis in 2022, with ripple effects that are still being felt today. The increasing price of energy resulted in exceptionally high inflation figures in autumn 2022, especially in October 2022. This created difficult framework conditions for both EU citizens and companies. Furthermore, to bring inflation down to the 2 % target level, the European Central Bank began to raise its interest rates, with considerable impact, particularly on citizens and companies with large variable-rate loans. This briefing looks at the economic impact Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine has had on the European Union over the last 24 months, and analyses how the European Council has responded to limit the negative economic effects of the war. EU leaders followed the developing situation closely and reacted immediately to the Russian attack in February 2022. In addition to sanctions prepared in coordination with EU allies, the EU leaders also tasked the European Commission to prepare contingency measures. At an informal meeting in Versailles, EU leaders adopted a declaration in which they stressed the need to strengthen the EU economic base and the single market. They also took steps towards encouraging open strategic autonomy, aimed at allowing the EU to stand on its own two feet in the new and rapidly changing geopolitical situation. Since then, Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine and its impact have been rolling agenda items at European Council meetings. Furthermore, the EU and its Member States have supported Ukraine and Ukrainians with almost €88 billion (figures from January 2024), including financial, economic, diplomatic, humanitarian and military aid. At its December 2023 meeting, the European Council decided to open accession talks with Ukraine.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Establishing the Ukraine Facility](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 22-02-2024

Author PETERS TIM ULRICH

Policy area Budget

Keyword common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | financial aid | foreign aid | GEOGRAPHY | humanitarian aid | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political geography | Russo-Ukrainian issue | Ukraine | war

Summary The Ukraine Facility will support Ukraine, its recovery and its path to EU accession, with up to €50 billion in grants and loans provided in the years 2024 to 2027. On 6 February 2024, the European Parliament and the Council came to a political agreement on the establishment of the Ukraine Facility, following up on the agreement in the European Council on the revision of the EU's multiannual financial framework (MFF). The MFF should finance the grants and guarantee the loans of the Facility. Additional financing is expected to come from frozen Russian assets. The European Parliament managed to secure an enhanced role for the European and Ukrainian Parliaments as well as Ukrainian civil society in scrutinising the use of the Facility.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Parliament's consent to the revision of the 2021-2027 MFF](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 22-02-2024

Author PARI MARIANNA

Policy area Budget

Keyword EU finance | EU financial instrument | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial policy | financing and investment | free movement of capital | medium-term financing | multiannual financial framework

Summary During the February II session, Parliament is due to vote on giving consent to the first-ever revision of the EU's multiannual financial framework (MFF). That revision will provide €21 billion of additional funds, including €17 billion for Ukraine. Parliament has repeatedly demanded that the EU's long-term budget be revised urgently, to enable the EU to rise effectively to the challenges it faces. The agreement reached between Parliament and the Council ensures stable medium-term financial support to Ukraine and additional funds for migration. It also establishes a mechanism to secure the repayments related to the EU recovery instrument. Parliament's consent requires a majority of its component Members, i.e. 353 votes.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Strategic technologies for Europe platform](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 22-02-2024

Author MILEUSNIC MARIN | RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Policy area Budget | Industry

Keyword biotechnology | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU finance | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fund (EU) | globalisation | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | technology | technology and technical regulations

Summary In June 2023, the European Commission published a proposal for a regulation establishing a new platform for strategic technologies for Europe (STEP). After three rounds of trilogue meetings, the Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement on the text on 7 February 2024, and now need to formally adopt it. Parliament is due to vote on the text during its second February plenary session.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[New EU-UK customs controls: The Border Target Operating Model](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 22-02-2024

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword agreement (EU) | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION

Summary Following the entry into force of the EU-UK Trade Cooperation Agreement (TCA) in 2021, and the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU customs union, the trading of goods between the parties has become more burdensome. This has been manifested in trade figures, with UK imports to and exports from the EU both shrinking after Brexit. This year marks another phase in the introduction of administrative burdens on trade – in the form of additional customs rules and checks when exporting goods, particularly agricultural goods, to the UK – with the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) being gradually implemented by the UK.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Violence against women active in politics in the EU: A serious obstacle to political participation](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-02-2024

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Keyword criminal law | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | female work | LAW | sexual violence

Summary Women continue to be under-represented in EU countries at all levels of political decision-making as well as in political parties. The origins of this situation are complex, but one reason stands out: violence against women active in politics discourages many women from entering the political arena. Female politicians are exposed to two severe and intersecting forms of violence: political violence and gender-based violence. Violence against people active in politics, whether men or women, is a major obstacle to the exercise of political rights and freedoms, and a serious violation of basic human rights. The increasing polarisation of liberal societies has been accompanied by rising violence against political stakeholders. However, this is only half the story. Violence against women in politics needs to be understood and addressed in a distinct manner. When political violence targets women just because they are women, when it takes sexist and sexualised forms and when it seeks to discourage women generally from taking part in political life, there is a gender dimension. This form of violence can also often be a backlash against women's greater presence in political life. Violence against women in politics takes multiple forms, from physical attacks to psychological and symbolic abuse, including sexual and sexist comments, online hate speech and sexual harassment, etc. Women surveyed tend to consider the impact of this type of violence significant in terms of psychological discomfort. They also feel less ready to defend certain positions. At EU level, several measures seek to combat violence against women in politics, either indirectly or specifically. The legislative proposal for combating violence against women covers crimes that also affect politicians, while the proposal to criminalise hate speech would also address the issue.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Commission's fourth annual rule of law report](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 22-02-2024

Author MAŃKO Rafał

Policy area Democracy | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword area of freedom, security and justice | communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | freedom of the press | human rights | LAW | pluralism in the media | rights and freedoms

Summary In July 2023, the Commission adopted its fourth annual rule of law report, covering judicial independence, the anti-corruption framework, media freedom and checks and balances in all Member States. As in previous years, the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) has tabled a motion for a resolution on the report, highlighting progress and identifying areas for possible further improvement.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Revision of the Package Travel Directive](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 21-02-2024

Author JANSEN Talander Hugo

Keyword carriage of passengers | organisation of transport | passenger rights | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRANSPORT | transport policy | travel agency

Summary EU package travel rules protect travellers who have booked two or more travel services together – typically, a flight and a hotel room. Since the 1990s, the EU has been setting norms in this travel industry sector, to protect consumers and define obligations for package organisers. Since 2004, regulations specific to the mode of transport (such as air, rail or coach) for passenger rights have also gradually been adopted at EU level, creating a comprehensive, albeit not always coherent, framework for passenger rights. The current EU Package Travel Directive (Directive 2015/2302 – the PTD), which adapted the scope of traveller protection to market and technological developments, entered into application in July 2018. The directive has been under review since November 2023, after a limited but particularly testing period of application that saw the bankruptcy of travel agencies company Thomas Cook in 2019, and the COVID-19 pandemic immediately after. Evaluations conducted by the European Commission and the European Parliament, summarised in this briefing, show that the PTD has been partially effective in meeting its objectives (to ensure a high and uniform level of protection for travellers in the EU, and to support the proper functioning of the internal market) and the needs of consumers and traders. Ongoing reforms seek to make the PTD more resilient to large-scale disruptions by adding certain clarifications, on the definition of packages for example, and to increase the level of traveller protection with new rules on vouchers, faster refund deadlines, and a limit on prepayments.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Annual report on implementation of the common security and defence policy, 2023](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author CLAPP SEBASTIAN

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword air and space transport | common security and defence policy | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | maritime safety | Palestine question | Russo-Ukrainian issue | space technology | TRANSPORT | transport policy

Summary During the second February plenary session, the European Parliament will vote on its 2023 annual report on implementation of the common security and defence policy (CSDP). This year's report reflects ground breaking developments in EU defence since 2022. Its main areas of focus include Russia's war on Ukraine and the EU's response, the situation in the Middle East, implementation of the Strategic Compass and EU defence initiatives.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Parliament's negotiating position on the standard essential patents regulation](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author MADIEGA Tambiama André

Policy area Intellectual Property Law

Keyword directive (EU) | EU institutions and European civil service | European patent | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union Intellectual Property Office | European Union law | patent law | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | technology | technology and technical regulations

Summary On 27 April 2023, the Commission submitted its proposal for a regulation on standard essential patents (SEPs). During its second February 2024 plenary session, Parliament is to vote on the report adopted by its Committee on Legal Affairs. This would set Parliament's position for trilogue negotiations with the Council on the proposal.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Transparency and targeting of political advertising](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author BARANÍK Kamil

Policy area Democracy

Keyword area of freedom, security and justice | democracy | digital technology | election campaign publicity | electoral procedure and voting | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | multiparty system | political framework | political parties | political party | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technology and technical regulations

Summary On 6 November 2023, the Parliament and Council reached a provisional political agreement on a draft regulation on transparency and targeting of political advertising. The Parliament is due to vote at first reading during its February II plenary session. The Council is then expected to finalise the legislative procedure at first reading. Following their formal adoption, the new rules will start applying 18 months after their entry into force. However, those on the non-discriminatory provision of cross-border political advertising (including for European political parties and political groups) will take effect in time for the forthcoming European Parliament elections.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Protecting the environment through criminal law](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author CIRLIG Carmen-Cristina

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary Environmental crime is a serious, organised criminal activity in the European Union. To tackle the problem more effectively, in 2021, the European Commission proposed a revision of Directive 2008/99/EC on the protection of the environment through criminal law. Parliament is expected to vote on the political agreement reached with the Council on the proposed directive during its February II plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Faster and safer tax excess relief \('FASTER'\)](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author BAERT Pieter

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues | Taxation

Keyword capital markets union | digital technology | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign investment | free movement of capital | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | stock exchange | tax harmonisation | tax system | taxation | technology and technical regulations

Summary In June 2023, the Commission tabled a proposal ('FASTER') to make withholding tax procedures in the EU more efficient and secure for cross-border investors and Member State tax administrations, to the benefit of the EU capital markets union. The Council must vote unanimously, after consulting the Parliament, to adopt the directive. Parliament is due to vote its (non-binding) report during the February II plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Nature restoration regulation](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author HALLEUX Vivienne

Policy area Environment

Keyword biodiversity | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | natural environment | nature restoration

Summary During its February II plenary session, the European Parliament is expected to vote on the provisional agreement reached in trilogue on the 'nature restoration law', which aims to bring degraded ecosystems back to health across the EU. The agreement, endorsed by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) on 29 November 2023, substantially amends the text originally proposed by the European Commission.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Regulation on detergents and surfactants](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Policy area Environment

Keyword biodegradability | chemistry | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental risk prevention | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | food safety | health | INDUSTRY | polishing and scouring preparations | public hygiene | regulation (EU) | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | waste

Summary On 28 April 2023, the Commission made a proposal to update the EU framework on detergents and surfactants. During its February II plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote on the report adopted on 14 February 2024 by its Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI).

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Data collection and sharing relating to short-term accommodation rental services](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author Niestadt Maria

Policy area Consumer Protection | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword collaborative economy | construction and town planning | digitisation | documentation | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | hotel industry | labour market | online platform worker | property leasing | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary During the February II plenary session, Parliament is set to vote on a provisional agreement reached between the European Parliament and the Council on the proposed regulation on data collection and sharing relating to short-term accommodation rental services. The proposal aims to facilitate registration of hosts and their short-term rental units (such as houses, apartments and rooms). It also aims to reduce inconsistencies in how online platforms share data with public authorities, and help to increase consumer confidence in these services.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Supplementary protection certificates for plant protection products](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author BARANÍK Kamil

Policy area Democracy

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | approval | chemistry | cultivation of agricultural land | INDUSTRY | intellectual property | means of agricultural production | pesticides industry | plant health product | plant health treatment | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | technology and technical regulations

Summary During the February II plenary session, the European Parliament is expected to adopt its first-reading positions on two legislative files – a proposed regulation on the unitary supplementary protection certificate for plant protection products and a proposed recast regulation on supplementary protection certificates for plant protection products. The proposals are part of a broader initiative to harmonise patent protection within the single market.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Revision of the Driving Licence Directive](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author KISS Monika

Policy area Transport

Keyword freedom of movement | land transport | LAW | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public safety | rights and freedoms | road safety | road transport | sustainable mobility | TRANSPORT | transport policy

Summary As part of the EU's Vision Zero (zero deaths on EU roads by 2050) and the European sustainable and smart mobility strategy, the European Commission proposed to revise the Driving Licence Directive. The aim is to find the right balance between improving road safety for all road users, ensuring freedom of movement, and easing the administrative burden through harmonising Member States' procedures. In the European Parliament, the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) adopted its report on 7 December 2023, and Members are expected to agree the Parliament's position on the file during the February II plenary session, which would enable Parliament's negotiators to open discussions with the Council on the proposal.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[EU-Chile agreements](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area International Trade

Keyword association agreement (EU) | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION

Summary On 13 December 2023, the EU and Chile signed an advanced framework agreement (AFA) with a view to modernising and replacing the 2002 association agreement which currently governs their relations. During its February II plenary session, the European Parliament will decide on whether to consent to the EU's conclusion of the AFA, which has two parts: i) political dialogue and cooperation; and ii) trade and investment. As the AFA falls under shared competence, ratification by each EU Member State is also required. Parliament will also vote on giving consent to conclusion of an interim trade agreement (ITA), with the trade and investment provisions of the AFA under the EU's exclusive competence. The ITA would apply until the AFA's ratification is completed.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Human rights and democracy in the world: Assessing EU action in 2022](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author SHREEVES Rosamund

Policy area Democracy | Human Rights

Keyword common foreign and security policy | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION

Summary The latest annual review of EU external action to promote human rights and democracy, covering 2022, highlights a worsening environment, marked by Russia's war on Ukraine, multiple conflicts and emerging challenges. During its February II plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote on its own yearly report on human rights and democracy in the world, responding to the annual report from the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and recommending future EU action.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author SAJN Nikolina

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Summary On 31 March 2022, the Commission proposed a regulation on geographical indications (GIs) for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products. The proposal aims to replace three regulations that currently govern the rules on GIs, with the aim of simplifying and expediting the procedures, increasing sustainability of GI products, and improving their protection online. During the February II plenary session, Parliament is due to debate and vote on the provisional agreement on the proposal reached with the Council.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Annual report on implementation of the common foreign and security policy, 2023](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author STANICEK BRANISLAV

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | multiannual financial framework

Summary The EU's common foreign and security policy (CFSP) contributes to the Union's objectives of preserving peace, strengthening international security, promoting international cooperation, and developing and consolidating democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The European Parliament's Committee for Foreign Affairs (AFET) adopted its annual report on the implementation of the CFSP on 28 November 2023. The report highlights the need for stronger, more ambitious and credible EU action on the world stage, in the face of the threat posed to the rules-based international order and peace by autocratic regimes and their alliances. Parliament is scheduled to hold a debate and vote on the report during its second February 2024 plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Supplementary protection certificates for medicinal products](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author LECLERC GABIJA

Policy area Consumer Protection | Public Health

Keyword approval | falsified medicine | health | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations

Summary During its February II session, the European Parliament is expected to vote its first-reading position on two legislative proposals: a draft recast regulation on the supplementary protection certificate (SPC) and a draft regulation on the unitary SPC, both concerning medicinal products. These parallel proposals are part of a broader package on improving intellectual property rights.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Protection against wholesale energy market manipulation](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author WIDUTO Agnieszka

Policy area Industry

Keyword ENERGY | energy market | energy policy | renewable energy | soft energy

Summary The electricity market reform proposed in the aftermath of the energy crisis includes a proposal to improve energy market transparency, enhance the role of regulatory bodies and ensure protection against market manipulation. The co-legislators reached a provisional agreement in November 2023. The European Parliament is due to vote on the agreed text during its February II 2024 plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Ten ways that Europe could do more for you - Mapping the cost of non-Europe](#)

Publication type Study

Date 21-02-2024

Author ALBUQUERQUE ARENGA MARGARIDA | CENTRONE MARCO | CESNOVAR CHRISTOF ERICH | FERNANDES MEENAKSHI | HEFLICH ALEKSANDRA | JANCOVA LENKA | KAMMERHOFER-SCHLEGEL Christa | NAVARRA Cecilia | PANELLA Lauro | SAULNIER JEROME LEON

Policy area Democracy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Environment | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Industry | Social Policy

Summary Global challenges – including climate change, geopolitical conflict, erosion of democratic principles and social inequalities – affect people's daily lives and future prospects. A collective European response over the next 10 years could help to address these challenges – and offer benefits worth up to €3 trillion a year. This represents around 18 % of EU gross domestic product (GDP), equivalent to €6 700 per citizen every year. Referring to the European Parliament's work during the 2019-2024 term, our research has identified action in 10 policy areas that could unleash Europe's potential – without the need for Treaty change.

Study [EN](#)

Executive summary [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Multimedia [Mapping the cost of non-Europe: Europe could offer more buying power](#)

[Mapping the cost of non-Europe: Europe could strengthen the single market](#)

[Mapping the cost of non-Europe: Europe could uphold citizens' rights and equality](#)

[Mapping the cost of non-Europe: Europe could better ensure public goods for all](#)

[Ukraine: Military state of play – February 2024](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author CLAPP SEBASTIAN | PRZETACZNIK Jakub

Summary Two years after the start of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, the war appears to be at a stalemate. While Ukraine successfully recaptured large parts of its territory in the summer and autumn of 2022, the 2023 counter-offensive was not successful in liberating the whole of Ukraine and the war has turned into one of attrition. The European Union and United States have provided Ukraine with substantial military assistance, but continued military support is facing political challenges in both the EU and the US and its fate remains uncertain.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[EU-Seychelles Agreement: Access for Seychelles fishing vessels to the waters of Mayotte](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2024

Author SCHOLAERT FREDERIK

Policy area Fisheries

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | fisheries | fishing agreement | fishing regulations | sea fish

Summary During its February II part-session, the European Parliament is due to vote on giving its consent to the conclusion of a fisheries agreement granting Seychelles vessels access to the waters of the French overseas department of Mayotte. The new 6-year agreement continues the existing reciprocal fisheries arrangements between the EU and Seychelles.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Defence of Democracy package

Publication type Briefing

Date 21-02-2024

Author RAKSTELYTE AUSRA

Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Keyword consumer protection | consumption | cooperation policy | democracy | domestic market | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | impact study | interest group | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | political framework | POLITICS | politics and public safety | single market | third country | TRADE | trade policy

Summary The initiative results from growing concern that openness of European societies is being exploited for covert interference from foreign governments to manipulate decision-making processes and public opinion in the EU. The impact assessment (IA) clearly defines two problems relating to interest representation activities carried out on behalf of third countries: obstacles to the internal market due to fragmented regulation, and the unknown magnitude, trends and actors of these activities. It considers a non-legislative policy option (PO) along with two legislative sub-options, targeting all third countries and all activities carried out on behalf of governments and affiliates. After examining the POs' economic, social and fundamental rights impacts, as well as geopolitical implications, the IA chooses the legislative PO2.1 as the most effective, efficient, coherent and proportionate. PO2.1 seeks to harmonise requirements in the internal market on transparency requirements for entities carrying out interest representation activities on behalf of third-country entities. While the IA expects the initiative to have moderately negative impact on fundamental rights, it justifies this with over-riding public interest and proposes several safeguards. Similarly, regarding possibly negative geopolitical implications, the IA points to differentiating very clearly between the initiative and 'foreign agent laws', and discusses mitigating measures such as diplomatic exchanges and information activities. Economic impacts on entities are expected to be positive, with cost savings from harmonised rules and a levelled playing field expected to compensate compliance costs. The citizens are expected to benefit from improved information, transparency and trust in the democratic system. Nevertheless, the IA's methodology poses some questions concerning the SME test, the use of 'qualitative cost-benefit analysis' to identify economic impacts, and the use of stakeholder views in the analysis.

Briefing [EN](#)

Revision of Directive 2011/93/EU on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-02-2024

Author HUEMER MARIE-ASTRID

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword child | child pornography | child protection | communications | criminal law | demography and population | directive (EU) | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fight against crime | help for victims | Internet | judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the EU | LAW | paedophilia | protection of privacy | rights and freedoms | sexual violence | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary In September 2021, the Commission launched a REFIT initiative to assess the implementation of Directive 2011/93/EU on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, with a view to revising it. This appraisal takes stock of reports published by the Commission, positions adopted and analyses submitted by EU institutions and agencies, and the relevant European Court of Human Rights case law. The directive requires the EU Member States to criminalise a series of offences, including online child sexual abuse. Yet, it does not cover all of the related technological issues or provide clues on how to reconcile respect for fundamental rights with the urgent need to combat sexual abuse against children. The directive must be understood within the broader frame of applicable EU legislation, including the proposed regulation on online child sexual abuse currently under discussion. Analysis demonstrates a need to amend the directive, with a focus on stronger preventive measures, educational programmes and assistance to victims, and more efficient investigation and prosecution mechanisms including through international cooperation.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Revision of the EU's Waste Shipment Regulation](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-02-2024

Author HALLEUX Vivienne

Policy area Environment

Keyword circular economy | cross-border transport | deterioration of the environment | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | export (EU) | export of waste | health | intra-EU transport | organisation of transport | proposal (EU) | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | trade | TRADE | TRANSPORT | waste management

Summary On 17 November 2021, the European Commission tabled a proposal to revise EU rules on shipments of waste. The proposed regulation seeks to ease shipments of waste for reuse and recycling in the EU, to support the transition to a circular economy; ensure that waste exported from the EU is managed in an environmentally sound manner in the destination countries; and step up enforcement to counteract illegal shipments of waste. While supporting the proposed streamlining and digitalisation of procedures, stakeholders have stressed the need for significant improvements to ensure that the new regulation fulfils its objectives, in particular as regards exports of waste. The European Parliament adopted its position on the proposed regulation on 17 January 2023. Strengthening the Commission's text, notably on transparency, monitoring, and assessment of sound waste management in third countries, Parliament's negotiating mandate proposes putting an end to plastic waste exports outside the EU and EFTA countries. The Council adopted its general approach on 24 May 2023. Interinstitutional negotiations concluded on 17 November 2023 with a provisional agreement. The agreed text, endorsed by Member State representatives on 6 December 2023 and by the ENVI committee on 11 January 2024, now awaits formal adoption by Parliament and the Council. The vote in plenary is scheduled for the February II session. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing EN](#)

Multimedia [Revision of the EU's Waste Shipment Regulation](#)

[EU economic developments and projections](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-02-2024

Author LOI GIACOMO | MIESKOLAINEN MILJA | SABOL MAJA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Summary This briefing provides a summary of the recent economic developments in the EU Member States and gives an overview of relevant economic projections forecasted by major international and EU institutions. Annex 1 includes latest GDP data and forecasts for all EU Member States and Annex 2 the latest inflation data and developments.

[Briefing EN](#)

[Revision of the anti-smuggling package](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-02-2024

Author AHAMAD MADATALI HANNAH NAFIZE

Keyword area of freedom, security and justice | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION

Summary The revision of the anti smuggling package includes two proposals presented by the Commission in November 2023, revising and amending existing European Union (EU) legislation. The first is a proposal for a directive of the Parliament and of the Council laying down minimum rules to prevent and counter the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and stay in the EU, replacing Directive 2002/90/EC and Decision 2002/946/JHA (known collectively as the 'facilitators package'). The second is a proposal for a regulation of the Parliament and of the Council on enhancing police cooperation in relation to the prevention, detection and investigation of migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, and on enhancing Europol's support to preventing and combating such crimes, and amending Regulation 2016/794/EU (which set up the rules for Europol). According to the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), migrant smuggling comprises the recruitment and transportation of irregular migrants as core activities. Criminal networks often cooperate on various parts of the smuggling routes. According to the European Migrant Smuggling Centre, developments in the EU's geographic proximity and in countries of transit and origin have influenced migrant smuggling operations in the EU. In her September 2023 State of the Union address, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, called for an update of the EU's 20+ year old legislative framework countering migrant smuggling. She also called for strengthening governance on migrant smuggling and reinforcing the competences of EU agencies working in this area.

[Briefing EN](#)

[The Next Goal: euro area banking integration](#)

Publication type Study

Date 20-02-2024

External author Ignazio ANGELONI

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | European Banking Authority | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | monetary economics | monetary relations

Summary In its first ten years (2014-2023), the banking union was successful in its prudential agenda but failed spectacularly in its underlying objective: establishing a single banking market in the euro area. This goal is now more important than ever, and easier to attain than at any time in the last decade. To make progress, cross-border banks should receive a specific treatment within general banking union legislation. Suggestions are made on how to make such regulatory carve-out effective and legally sound.

[Study EN](#)

[European Peace Facility: Continued EU military assistance to Ukraine](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 20-02-2024

Author BILQUIN Bruno

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | defence | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | financial aid | firearms and munitions | foreign aid | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military cooperation | Russo-Ukrainian issue | war

Summary Almost two years since Russia began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, EU military assistance under the European Peace Facility (EPF) is lagging. The special European Council meeting of 1 February 2024 invited the Council to agree by early March 2024 to amend the regulation establishing the EPF, in order to increase its financial ceiling.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Latin America outlook: Issues to watch in 2024](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 20-02-2024

Author JUTTEN Marc

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | common foreign and security policy | economic geography | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political geography | Venezuela

Summary This year's EPRS outlook for Latin America focuses on key developments in the region, a partner of significant importance for the European Union (EU). As part of its efforts to foster alliances around the globe, the EU has been striving since 2022 to revive relations with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and 2023 was crucial for EU relations with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The leaders' summit that took place in Brussels on 17-18 July 2023 under the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU – eight years after the last fully fledged bi-regional summit – tried to give new impetus to the bi-regional partnership. 2024 will be a key year for the EU and its partners in terms of keeping up momentum and following up on the summit's commitments. Latin America will see six presidential elections in 2024: in El Salvador, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela. The 2023 trend to vote out incumbents in favour of anti-establishment candidates, seen recently in Argentina and Guatemala, is unlikely to continue. Another focus of this year's outlook is the security situation in the Andean region, in particular Ecuador and Colombia. Ecuador, a long-time anchor of stability in the region, has experienced an explosion of violence caused by internationally operating narco gangs. For Colombia, 2024 will be decisive as regards President Gustavo Petro's 'total peace' plan. Analysts will also be keeping a close eye on how Argentina – Latin America's third-largest economy and G20 member – develops under the country's new president, right-wing populist Javier Milei. The main question is whether Argentinians will accept drastic austerity reforms, or whether these and hyperinflation will push the country towards mass demonstrations and political turmoil. Lastly, as to the economic outlook for Latin America, forecasts do not foresee any big leaps in 2024. Overall, the LAC countries are expected to stay on a path of low growth.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[European elections 2024: Rules of a pan-European democratic event](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 19-02-2024

Author DE GROOT DAVID ARMAND JACQUES GERA | KOTANIDIS Silvia

Keyword electoral procedure and voting | European election | European electoral system | POLITICS

Summary In June 2024, around 400 million EU citizens go to the polls to elect the Members of the European Parliament's 10th legislature. As the only EU institution that represents EU citizens, elections to the European Parliament are therefore major democratic events, and the only one at EU level that resembles national democratic electoral consultation. European elections, however, differ from the national version, as they are part of a context of multi-tier government, sometimes perceived as 'second order elections'. The main difference is that the European elections are a rather fragmented exercise, since a great part of the electoral process, including the way in which the right to vote is exercised, remains subject to national rules. In addition, the lack of a real transnational forum in which to debate European (as opposed to national) issues during European elections is one reason why European elections have failed to earn attention comparable to national elections, despite the prominent role the European Parliament has acquired in European policy-making in recent decades. A number of reforms have been put forward over the years. Measures to harmonise rules or mechanisms that would personalise the elections and hence bring more visibility to the candidates and their campaigns have been proposed. Two reforms are pending. In one case, to harmonise a few aspects of the electoral process. In the other, to make additional deeper reforms with the introduction of a Union-wide constituency. A repeat of the lead candidate process (a political rather than a legal practice), is also likely to be attempted for the 2024 elections. This briefing explores the legal framework of the EU electoral rules, highlighting which aspects are governed by national rules, and describes the innovations the reforms currently on the table could bring. It also analyses decisions on the composition of Parliament and initiatives to strengthen the resilience of the electoral process.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

EU and US strategies towards sub-Saharan Africa: EU-US Explainer

Publication type At a Glance

Date 19-02-2024

Author BENTZEN Naja | PICHON Eric

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary Conflict, food insecurity and climate shocks, among other crises, have destabilised African countries in recent years and curbed economic activity. Nevertheless, sub-Saharan Africa is seen as an emerging geopolitical force; and the European Union (EU) and the United States (US) are actively reframing their partnerships with the region.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

EU-US relations after the Inflation Reduction Act, and the challenges ahead

Publication type Study

Date 19-02-2024

External author Stokes, Bruce

Keyword America | economic conditions | economic geography | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | inflation | international affairs | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | political geography | United States

Summary EPRS invites leading experts and commentators to share their thinking and insights on important topics of relevance to debate in the European institutions. In this paper, Bruce Stokes, visiting senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and associate fellow at Chatham House, offers an overview of US-EU relations since the passage of the US Inflation Reduction Act in 2022. This paper is based on the author's interviews with leading European and US experts and published analysis by major think tanks and journalists on both sides of the Atlantic. The paper discusses current efforts to manage longstanding pre-IRA disputes, the Trade and Technology Council, the US Chips and Science Act and the EU's response, looming issues such as CBAM and critical minerals, and how politics in both the US and Europe may affect the handling of these issues.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

FASTER – Faster and safer tax excess relief

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-02-2024

Author BAERT Pieter

Keyword double taxation | FINANCE | financing and investment | investment abroad | taxation

Summary When an EU resident makes an investment in securities in another Member State, the payments received in return (dividends or interest) are normally subject to a withholding tax in the country of the investment (source country), before being subject to tax in the resident's country. In order to eliminate double taxation, the investor has to submit a refund claim on the excess tax withheld by the source country. Today, however, these relief procedures are cumbersome, unharmonised, and often paper-based. This discourages investors from making investments in another EU Member State, to the detriment of capital markets union and growth of EU businesses. The system also leaves room for fraudsters to claim refunds on taxes they never paid in the first place. To address this issue, the European Commission tabled the FASTER proposal on 19 June 2023. Under the proposal, Member States would be given a choice between applying either a 'relief at source' system and/or a 'quick refund' system, with both procedures accelerating and facilitating withholding tax relief for the investor, thereby promoting cross-border investment in the EU. In addition, a number of safeguards to stop tax abuse, in particular cum-ex fraud, are introduced. The proposal is subject to the special legislative procedure, requiring unanimous support in Council, following consultation of the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee. Parliament is due to vote on its (non-binding) report during the February II plenary. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Resettlement of refugees: EU framework](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-02-2024

Author RADJENOVIC Anja

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword cooperation policy | criminal law | economic analysis | economic geography | ECONOMICS | EU migration policy | EU statistics | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | external border of the EU | foreign national | GEOGRAPHY | Greece | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Italy | LAW | migration | migration control | ordinary legislative procedure | political geography | proposal (EU) | refugee | regulation (EU) | removal | right of asylum | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | stateless person | third country

Summary On 13 July 2016, as part of the reform of the common European asylum system and the long-term policy on better migration management, the European Commission presented a proposal to provide for a permanent framework with standard common procedures for resettlement across the EU, to complement current national and multilateral resettlement initiatives. Resettlement is a tool to help displaced persons in need of protection reach Europe safely and legally, and receive protection for as long as necessary. It is a durable solution that includes selection and transfer of refugees from a country where they seek protection to another country. In addition to providing refugees with international protection, its aim is to strengthen solidarity and responsibility-sharing between countries. For a resettlement to take place, the United Nations Refugee Agency has to determine an applicant is a refugee according to the 1951 Geneva Convention, and has to identify resettlement as the most appropriate solution. Although the European Parliament and the Council reached a partial provisional agreement on the proposal in summer 2018, the Council was unable to endorse it, nor could it agree on a mandate for further negotiations. The co-legislators finally reached an agreement on 15 December 2022. On 8 February 2024, Coreper approved the provisional agreement, which will now have to be formally adopted by both institutions before it can enter into force. Fifth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Strategic technologies for Europe platform \(STEP\)](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-02-2024

Author MILEUSNIC MARIN | RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Summary In June 2023, the European Commission tabled a proposal for a regulation establishing a new platform for strategic technologies for Europe (STEP). STEP would rely on the reallocation of funds under existing EU instruments. It would also come with an additional budget of €10 billion under the EU's multiannual financial framework (MFF). Overall, the platform could leverage up to €160 billion in investment. STEP would direct funding to strategic projects that develop or manufacture deep and digital technologies, clean technologies and biotechnologies, and strengthen their value chains. This would help the EU not only to meet the challenges of the green and digital transitions but also to limit or prevent strategic dependencies. STEP would be a test for possible further steps towards a European sovereignty fund. On 7 February 2024, the Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on the proposal. The agreed text requires formal adoption by both institutions. Parliament is due to vote on it during its second plenary session of February 2024. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Multimedia [Strategic technologies for Europe platform \(STEP\)](#)

[Research for PECH Committee - Increasing selectivity in EU fisheries - State of play and best practices](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-02-2024

External author Laurence FAUCONNET

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Fisheries

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | aquatic ecosystem | catch of fish | catch quota | common fisheries policy | ENVIRONMENT | fisheries | fishing area | fishing net | natural environment

Summary This At a glance note summarises the study 'Increasing selectivity in EU fisheries – State of play and best practices'. The note highlights the main findings of the study, in particular as regards the existing technical and tactical selectivity measures to reduce unwanted catches, the best practices identified from projects that have successfully improved selectivity, and the analysis of the use of EU funding for promoting selectivity developments. The note also provides policy recommendations on potential actions to improve the selectivity of EU fisheries.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[The European Social Security Pass \(ESSPASS\) - A Digital Enforcement Tool for Labour Rights?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-02-2024

External author Sacha GARBEN

Keyword European social policy | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

Combating late payment

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-02-2024

Author ANGLMAYER Irmgard

Policy area Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | civil law | commercial transaction | contract terms | deadline for payment | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | impact study | LAW | marketing | proposal (EU) | small and medium-sized enterprises | TRADE

Summary Presented as part of the 'SME relief package', the initiative aims to tighten the EU's late payment framework and improve its enforcement. It proposes, among other things, to convert the current Late Payment Directive into a regulation, a move that several national parliaments contested. National parliaments also raised subsidiarity and proportionality concerns on several provisions. The impact assessment (IA) adequately justifies the need to revise the late payment framework, and substantiates the envisaged change of legal instrument. Overall, it presents a clear intervention logic. It puts forward three well-developed policy options (each with sub-options). Because of the initiative's high relevance for SMEs, a comprehensive SME test was carried out, in addition to a competitiveness check. The focus of the impact analysis lies clearly on economic impacts. The IA draws on a wide range of evidence (including relevant studies, surveys and market analyses) and broad stakeholder input (including from SMEs). It builds on qualitative and quantitative data and is transparent about data limitations. The wide evidence base somewhat compensates for the fact that the Commission's 2015 evaluation is rather dated. That fact that no separate evaluation was carried out prior to the revision is not fully in line with the 'evaluate first' principle. Of note, the Commission's open public consultation, which ran in parallel with the feedback to the inception IA, lasted merely 9 weeks (instead of the mandatory 12 weeks), without the IA disclosing the reasons for the shortened period. The IA provides a vast amount of background information and additional explanations in annexes (26 in total) and appears broadly coherent with the legislative proposal.

Briefing [EN](#)

Euro area monetary policy: Quarterly overview, February 2024

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 14-02-2024

Author LOI GIACOMO | RAKIC Drazen | SABOL MAJA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | euro | euro area | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial stability | fiscal policy | free movement of capital | monetary economics | monetary policy | monetary relations | taxation

Summary This briefing paper was prepared ahead of the Monetary Dialogue between the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and the European Central Bank (ECB) President on Thursday, 15 February. It provides a summary of key monetary policy developments and decisions taken by the ECB's Governing Council. This is the last Monetary Dialogue of the 9th legislative term.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

The ECB in the age of turbulence

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 14-02-2024

External author Paolo CANOFARI, Giovanni DI BARTOLOMEO

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | euro | euro area | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial stability | fiscal policy | free movement of capital | monetary economics | monetary policy | monetary relations | taxation

Summary This study discusses the ECB's response to the recent crises, detailing interventions, new tools, and strategy shifts. It evaluates the effects of such crises on inflation expectations and financial stability across major European economies, offering insights into the euro area's policy dynamics and challenges. This document was provided by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with the ECB President on February 15 2024.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Bigtech finance, the EU's growth model and global challenges

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 14-02-2024

External author Scott JAMES, Lucia QUAGLIA

Keyword FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial services

Summary 'Bigtech finance' – i.e. the provision of financial services by large digital conglomerates - has considerable implications for the EU's growth model and raises multiple regulatory concerns about financial stability; competition and market concentration; data protection; cybersecurity and operational resilience. Bigtechs also have potential geostrategic implications because the largest digital platforms are headquartered outside the EU. To address these global challenges, this study makes recommendations aimed at strengthening the regulation of Bigtech finance internationally and in the EU. This document was provided/prepared by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the ECON Committee.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[EU pact on migration and asylum: State of play](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-02-2024

Author DUMBRAVA Costica | LUYTEN KATRIEN | ORAV Anita | RADJENOVIC Anja

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword aid to refugees | asylum seeker | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | external border of the EU | illegal migration | international affairs | international agreement | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | migration | right of asylum | social affairs | social change | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | welfare

Summary In 2016, with unprecedented numbers of irregular migrants and asylum-seekers arriving in the EU, the European Commission proposed a package of reforms to the common European asylum system (CEAS). In June 2018, a broad provisional agreement was reached between the European Parliament and the presidency of the Council of the EU on several of the reform proposals. However, the agreement did not get the necessary support from the Member States. The reform stalled owing to persistent disagreements among the Member States on how to apply the principle of solidarity in practice and share their responsibilities in the area of asylum in a fair manner. In September 2020, the Commission sought to revive the reform by putting forward a new pact on migration and asylum, offering a comprehensive approach aimed at strengthening and integrating key EU policies on migration, asylum and border management. The pact builds on and amends the previous reform proposals. In line with the gradual approach proposed by the French Presidency of the Council in June 2022, the Member States reached agreement on several aspects of the reform relating to the screening and registration of migrants arriving at the EU's external borders. Following an agreement in the Council in June 2023 on two key proposals, the negotiations between the Parliament and the Council resumed, leading to a political agreement on the major reform files in December 2023. On 8 February 2024, the Permanent Representatives to the European Union of the governments of the Member States (Coreper) approved the provisional agreement. The files now have to be formally adopted by the Parliament and the Council. It is expected that the reform will be finalised before the 2024 European elections, as previously agreed by the co-legislators. This is a further update of a briefing originally published in December 2022.

Briefing [EN](#), [PL](#)

[Social and youth housing in the EU](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-02-2024

Author PAPE Marketa

Policy area Social Policy

Keyword construction and town planning | ECONOMICS | FINANCE | fundamental rights | homelessness | LAW | national accounts | price increase | prices | right to housing | rights and freedoms | social affairs | social facilities | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social security | standard of living | subsidised housing | youth policy

Summary Access to housing in the EU has become problematic in recent years. Demography and urbanisation-related structural factors, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine, soaring energy prices, the cost-of-living crisis and (already high) housing prices that keep rising are preventing many people from accessing decent housing solutions. The lack of affordable housing supply only adds to this situation. These difficulties affect not only low- but now also middle-income households, as well as specific vulnerable groups, among them young people. Overall, there is not enough 'social housing' provision in the EU to meet increased demand. While both the EU and the United Nations recognise the right to housing, the longstanding crisis in housing affordability has had an adverse impact on people's living standards, well-being and social inclusion. This is especially the case with young people, many of whom are struggling to access any form of decent housing, in particular in cities. Throughout the EU, the number of young people experiencing homelessness is on the rise. The primary responsibility for housing policies in the EU lies with the Member States, while the concrete provision of social housing is often ensured by regions and cities. The EU has no direct competence in the area of housing and only a limited scope of action to address social issues, yet it provides relevant guidance and funding. Furthermore, certain EU rules have an indirect impact on housing provision. This briefing provides an inexhaustive overview of what is being done across the EU to improve housing affordability in general, with a specific focus on making housing accessible to young people. Several recent developments could be seen as paving the way to a new approach to the provision of affordable housing in the EU.

Briefing [EL](#), [EN](#)

[A mathematical formula for determining the EP composition](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 13-02-2024

External author RAMÍREZ GONZÁLEZ Victoriano

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword electoral procedure and voting | EU body | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | European election | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | parliamentary seat | POLITICS

Summary This briefing, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the AFCO Committee, provides proposals for a formula for an allocation system for the future distribution of EP seats among the member states that is in line with the distribution criteria as laid down in Article 14(2) TEU and allows for a distribution of seats that is objective, fair, durable and transparent.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[A permanent system for seat allocation in the EP - Reconciling degressive proportionality and electoral equality through proportional completion](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 13-02-2024

External author MÜLLER Manuel

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword electoral procedure and voting | electoral quota | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | European election | EUROPEAN UNION | Member of the European Parliament | parliamentary election | POLITICS

Summary This paper, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the AFCO Committee, proposes a permanent system for the allocation of seats in the European Parliament that ensures transnational electoral equality even under the conditions of increasing degressivity of national quotas. This is achieved through a system of proportional completion using a new EU-wide seat quota.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Power Compromise - An objective, fair, durable and transparent fix for the EP composition](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-02-2024

External author PUKELSHEIM Friedrich, GRIMMET Geoffrey

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword economic geography | electoral procedure and voting | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | European election | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | Member of the European Parliament | parliamentary seat | POLITICS

Summary This briefing, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the AFCO Committee, provides proposals for a formula/allocation system for the future distribution of EP seats among the member states that is in line with the distribution criteria as laid down in Article 14(2) TEU and allows for a distribution of seats that is objective, fair, durable and transparent.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Strategic lawsuits against public participation \(SLAPPs\)](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-02-2024

Author MANKO Rafał

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword communications | communications profession | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | freedom of communication | freedom of expression | human rights | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | judicial cooperation in civil matters in the EU | judicial proceedings | justice | LAW | participatory democracy | political framework | political involvement | POLITICS | politics and public safety | proposal (EU) | right to justice | rights and freedoms

Summary On 29 November 2023, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU reached a compromise on the proposed directive to protect journalists and human rights activists from abusive cross-border civil proceedings, known as strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs). The directive's aim is to enable judges to identify SLAPPs and order their early dismissal, and thus spare the journalists or activists targeted by such proceedings the need to defend the manifestly unfounded claim brought against them in bad faith with the sole purpose of harassing them. The main changes to the original proposal include a broadening of the scope of application of the directive through two new inclusive definitions – for 'cross-border implications' and 'public participation' – and the introduction of a rule on reimbursement of legal costs incurred by a SLAPP victim, unless it is shown that such costs were excessive. Although journalists are also targeted by criminal SLAPPs, this directive would only apply to civil litigation, and only in cross-border cases. Parliament is expected to approve the compromise text during its session in the week of 26 February 2024, which would allow it to be published in the Official Journal in the spring. The EU Member States will then have 2 years to implement the directive, that is, by 2026. Fourth edition. The first two editions were written by Micaela Del Monte and Maria Díaz Crego, and the third was updated by Rafał Mańko. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Cyber solidarity act

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-02-2024

Author CAR POLONA

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council

Keyword communications | computer crime | critical infrastructure security | data collection | digital single market | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | fight against crime | information and information processing | information security | information technology | information technology and data processing | information warfare | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | POLITICS | politics and public safety | proposal (EU) | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Russia's war against Ukraine has revealed the extent of our dependency on digital technology and the fragility of the digital space. It has triggered a surge in cyberattacks that have been particularly disruptive when targeting critical infrastructure – such as energy, health or finance – because of the increasing reliance on information technology, rendering this infrastructure all the more vulnerable. Against this backdrop, the Commission has proposed a regulation on a cyber solidarity act that would address the urgent need to strengthen solidarity and EU capacities to detect, prepare for and respond to cybersecurity threats and incidents. The proposed regulation envisages the establishment of a framework based on three pillars. The first is a European cyber shield – a platform of national and cross-border security operations centres. The second is a cybersecurity emergency mechanism that would support – including financially – preparedness, response and mutual assistance actions among Member States by creating a European cybersecurity reserve of trusted providers. The third is a cybersecurity incident review mechanism to assess and review significant or large-scale incidents. In Parliament, the file was assigned to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), where Lina Gálvez Muñoz (S&D, Spain) was appointed rapporteur. The Council and the Parliament are currently in negotiations to finalise the text. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Sailing in all weather conditions the next 25 years: challenges for the euro

Publication type Study

Date 13-02-2024

External author Christophe BLOT, Jérôme CREEL, Hubert KEMPF, Sandrine LEVASSEUR, Xavier RAGOT, Francesco SARACENO

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | euro | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial stability | fiscal policy | free movement of capital | monetary economics | monetary policy | monetary relations | taxation

Summary Over the past 25 years, the euro faced various crises, prompting a reassessment of its governance. Concerns arise regarding the ECB's exposure to risk and the necessity of deep reforms for managing growing ecological, financial, and geo-economic risks. Despite initial achievements like the banking union, challenges persist, such as financial instability and economic fragmentation. Policymakers must address these risks through enhanced monetary and macroprudential policies, fiscal coordination, and supply-side fiscal measures to navigate digitalisation and environmental challenges effectively. This document was provided by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) ahead of the Sailing in all weather conditions the next 25 years: challenges for the euro Monetary Dialogue with the ECB President on 15 February 2024.

Study [EN](#)

Russia in Africa: An atlas

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-02-2024

Author CAPRILE ANNA | PICHON Eric

Keyword cooperation policy | Europe | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | military cooperation | political geography | SCIENCE | Ukraine

Summary This series of maps illustrates Russia's expanding diplomatic, economic and military engagement across the African continent. It also provides a visual representation of the deployment of hybrid tools, such as information manipulation campaigns, and the multi faceted presence of the paramilitary company Wagner, both of which are integral parts of Russia's current strategy in Africa. Russia's full scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and the subsequent open confrontation with the West in all arenas, has put the spotlight on the African continent again as an area of geopolitical rivalry. Russia's current engagement on the continent seeks to break the diplomatic and economic isolation imposed by the West, to reassert its own relevance on the international stage as the champion of the new 'polycentric world', and to advance its geo strategic ambitions in mining, energy and military presence in key areas, such as the Red Sea and the Mediterranean. Russia made significant diplomatic efforts to ensure a high turnout at the second Russia Africa summit, held in Saint Petersburg in July 2023, which was well attended but by significantly fewer Heads of State than the first summit, in 2019. However, the 2023 summit failed to address several African leaders' concerns about the impact of the war in Ukraine on their countries' economies. As evidenced in votes on recent United Nations (UN) resolutions, the African countries' positions on the war vary greatly. Russia's expanding influence in Africa also plays out through non official channels, such as the use of private military companies (such as the Wagner Group) and information manipulation campaigns. Russia has concluded military cooperation agreements with 43 African countries, and is a major, though declining, arms supplier to Africa. This cooperation is not linked to democratic pledges, and in multiple African countries hit by coups, Russia has continued or strengthened its military cooperation. Beyond arms, Russia's trade with Africa is relatively insignificant compared with other trade partners. Russia's presence is stronger in the African mining and energy markets, notably through mining concessions to Wagner associated companies, and it has signed nuclear cooperation agreements with 20 countries, with plans to build nuclear plants in Egypt and Nigeria.

Briefing [EN](#)

[EU nature restoration regulation: Setting binding targets for healthy ecosystems](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-02-2024

Author HALLEUX Vivienne

Keyword biodiversity | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental policy | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | food safety | health | natural environment | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary As announced in the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030, on 22 June 2022 the European Commission tabled a proposal for a nature restoration regulation. The proposed regulation would set multiple binding restoration targets and obligations across a broad range of ecosystems, from forests and agricultural land to urban areas, rivers and marine habitats, complementing other existing legal instruments. Altogether, these nature restoration measures should cover at least 20 % of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030, and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050. Member States would be required to develop nature restoration plans to reach these targets at national level. While nature restoration enjoys strong public support, the proposal has raised concerns among stakeholders as regards the enforceability and achievability of the targets, the economic and social implications, the protection of property rights and the financial support for restoration. The European Parliament adopted its position on the proposed regulation on 12 July 2023. The Council adopted its general approach on the file on 20 June 2023. Interinstitutional negotiations concluded on 9 November 2023 with a provisional agreement substantially amending the Commission's original proposal. The agreed text, endorsed by Member State representatives on 22 November 2023, and by the ENVI committee on 29 November 2023, now awaits formal adoption by Parliament and the Council. The vote in plenary is scheduled during the February II session. Fourth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages in the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[International Agreements in Progress: Modernisation of the trade pillar of the EU-Chile Association Agreement](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-02-2024

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area International Trade

Summary On 9 December 2022, 20 years after the signature of the EU-Chile Association Agreement in 2002, the EU and Chile reached an agreement in principle on a new EU-Chile Advanced Framework Agreement, which comprises modernised trade and political and cooperation pillars. Negotiations were launched to modernise the 2002 Association Agreement, including its trade pillar, in November 2017, based on a Council negotiating mandate, which was the first-ever to have been published to enhance transparency and inclusiveness prior to the start of negotiations. Although the trade pillar had operated smoothly and led to a significant expansion of bilateral trade in goods and services and investment, Chile and the EU agreed to broaden and deepen it to unlock untapped potential, break new ground and keep pace with new trade and investment patterns in a global competitive environment that has fundamentally changed with the growing global footprint of countries such as China. As the EU-Chile Advanced Framework Agreement comprises provisions falling under both the EU's exclusive competence and shared competence with EU Member States, an EU-Chile interim free trade agreement was extracted from the comprehensive agreement to undergo an EU-only ratification process, while the EU-Chile Advanced Framework Agreement as a whole will also have to be ratified by all EU Member States in accordance with their constitutional requirements. The former will expire, once the latter has entered into force. Following their legal revision and translation, the agreements were signed by the parties on 13 December 2023, and then submitted to the European Parliament for consent Third edition. The 'International Agreements in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the process, from initial discussions through to ratification.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[International Agreements in Progress: Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya \(East African Community\)](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-02-2024

Author PICHON Eric

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword cooperation policy | East African Community | EU institutions and European civil service | EU relations | European Association for Cooperation | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-European organisations | foreign policy | international affairs | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security

Summary On 18 December 2023, the EU and Kenya signed an economic partnership agreement (EPA). The European Parliament has to give its consent for it to enter fully into force. The EU Kenya EPA will immediately provide duty-free, quota-free EU market access to all exports from Kenya, combined with a partial and gradual opening of the Kenyan market to imports from the EU. The text of the agreement includes binding provisions on trade and sustainable development, and a transparent dispute resolution mechanism. All other East African Community (EAC) countries – including South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia, which accessed the EAC in 2016, 2022 and 2023 respectively – can join the agreement if they so wish. This agreement builds on negotiations for an EPA with the EAC partner states at the time – Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda – which were finalised in October 2014. The EAC initially envisaged the EU-EAC EPA as a bloc-to-bloc agreement – i.e. the EPA could only enter into force after having been ratified by all EAC partners. However, Kenya has been the only EAC country to ratify the EU-EAC EPA in order not to lose free access to the EU market (all other EAC partner states have the status of least developed countries, and as such enjoy duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market). For a time, the EU EAC EPA signing and ratification process was stalled because of discussions on the agreement's consequences for East African economies, but the EAC eventually agreed to Kenya entering negotiations to implement a bilateral EPA with the EU. Parliament is expected to vote on giving consent to the EPA at its February II plenary session. Fourth edition. To view earlier editions of this briefing, please see the EPRS blog.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Research for REGI committee - Regional connectivity through an adequate transport infrastructure](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-02-2024

External author Eduardo MEDEIROS

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Industry | Regional Development | Social Policy | Transport

Keyword Cohesion Fund | ECONOMICS | EU finance | EU policy | EU regional policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | land transport | rail network | regional development | regions and regional policy | road network | trans-European network | TRANSPORT | transport infrastructure | transport policy

Summary This At a glance note summaries the study focusing on regional connectivity through an adequate transport infrastructure. The study provides an overview of the aspects of regional connectivity through adequate cohesion policy investments in rail and road transport infrastructures, mostly in the programming period 2014-2020. In detail, this analysis covers all types of transport-related investments (for goods and people) financed from the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund. Moreover, the study provides concrete policy recommendations relevant to EU decision-makers on how to improve future EU Cohesion Policy investment in the domain of regional connectivity.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Digitalising cross-border judicial cooperation](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-02-2024

Author MAŃKO Rafał

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword access to the courts | communications | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | decentralised cooperation | digitisation | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | information and information processing | information system | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | judicial cooperation in civil matters in the EU | judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the EU | justice | LAW | proposal (EU) | telecommunications

Summary On 23 November 2023, the European Parliament approved the compromise reached with the Council in July 2023 on the European Commission proposal for a horizontal regulation on digitalisation of judicial cooperation and access to justice, intended to apply to both civil and criminal cross-border proceedings within the EU. The regulation, proposed back in December 2021, will supplement horizontally, rather than replace, existing rules on the digital delivery of documents, digital hearings and other uses of information technology for cross-border judicial cooperation. In principle, Member States' competent judicial or other authorities will be obliged to use digital channels of communication; for individuals, their use would be optional. The co-legislators' changes to the original proposal include: i) modifications to the definitions, including a new definition of 'videoconferencing' and a modified definition of 'competent authority'; ii) specification of situations where alternative means of communication may be used; iii) the possibility to use a decentralised system also between national authorities of one country; iv) better protection of private parties' rights; (v) detailed rules on consent to use electronic means for hearing in criminal matters; and vi) a new rule on training of justice professionals. The regulation, published in the Official Journal of the EU on 27 December 2023, will apply from 1 May 2025. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Revision of the Directive on investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-02-2024

Author KISS Monika

Policy area Transport

Keyword ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | marine environment | maritime and inland waterway transport | maritime safety | maritime transport | natural environment | proposal (EU) | TRANSPORT | transport accident | transport policy

Summary On 1 June 2023, the European Commission published a proposal seeking to update the Directive on investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector, in order to take into account changes in the international maritime regulatory environment and technological developments in the maritime sector in recent years. The proposal also seeks to achieve an improved concentration of resources and to address shortages in expertise. Within the European Parliament, the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) is handling the file, with Caroline Nagtegaal (Renew, Netherlands) as rapporteur. The Council of the EU published its general approach on 4 December 2023 and the TRAN committee adopted its report on 7 December 2023. The plenary gave the go-ahead for interinstitutional negotiations on 13 December 2023. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Research for PECH Committee - Increasing selectivity in EU fisheries - State of play and best practices](#)

Publication type Study

Date 12-02-2024

External author Laurence FAUCONNET

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Fisheries

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | catch quota | common fisheries policy | fisheries | fishery product | fishery resources | fishing grounds | fishing net | quantity of fish landed | sustainable fisheries

Summary This study provides an overview of the current state of play in selectivity developments in EU fisheries by i) outlining the existing technical (gear) and tactical selectivity measures to reduce unwanted catches; ii) identifying best practices from projects that have successfully improved selectivity; and iii) analysing how EU funding have been used by Member States for promoting increased selectivity. Based on these results, policy recommendations for EU policymakers on potential actions to improve the selectivity of EU fisheries are provided.

Study [EN](#)

Executive summary [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)

[Standards of quality and safety for substances of human origin intended for human application](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-02-2024

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Keyword blood transfusion | cytology | health | natural and applied sciences | SCIENCE | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | stem cell | substance of human origin

Summary On 14 July 2022, the European Commission tabled a proposal to update and expand EU legislation on blood, tissues and cells. The aim is to establish high standards of quality and safety for substances of human origin (SoHOs) intended for human application, to improve the protection of donors, recipients, and offspring born from medically assisted reproduction, and to ensure that the legislation can respond to future challenges. The European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) adopted its report on the proposal on 18 July 2023. On 12 September 2023, Parliament adopted amendments to the proposal, forming its negotiating mandate. Interinstitutional negotiations began on 6 November 2023. On 14 December 2023, Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement on the proposal. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[EU 'farm to fork' strategy: State of play](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-02-2024

Author ROSSI Rachele | SAJN Nikolina

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Food Safety

Keyword agri-foodstuffs | agri-foodstuffs | AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | common agricultural policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU initiative | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | food security | foodstuff | foodstuff | health | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | supply chain | sustainable agriculture | sustainable development | trade agreement (EU)

Summary The 'farm to fork' strategy is about building sustainable EU food systems, in line with the EU's Green Deal. Launched in May 2020, its elements are moving at different speeds, with much debate on its objectives and priorities. The EU institutions are helping to shape the various elements of the strategy. This is an update of an 'at a glance' note first published in October 2021.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[First-ever revision of the EU's long-term budget: Agreement between Parliament and Council](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-02-2024

Author KOWALD KAROLINE | PARI MARIANNA

Keyword cooperation policy | distribution of EU funding | EU budget | EU expenditure | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | financing of aid | financing policy | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Summary For the first time ever, the European Parliament and the Council have agreed to revise the ceilings of the EU's multiannual financial framework. The agreement affects the remaining years of the current financial period: 2024 to 2027. The European Parliament had demanded a revision to enable the EU to rise to its challenges effectively. At the special European Council meeting on 1 February 2024, the EU Heads of State or Government reached a highly anticipated decision on the revision following the deadlock of their December meeting. This opened the way for the final negotiations with Parliament and, on 6 February, the negotiators reached a political agreement. Parliament is expected to vote on giving its consent during its 26-29 February plenary session. The core element of the political agreement is the decision to establish predictable and stable financial support for Ukraine, totalling €50 billion from 2024 to 2027. The funds will be provided through a new framework, the Ukraine Facility, endowed with €33 billion in loans, guaranteed by the EU budget, and €17 billion in grants, financed by the EU budget through a special instrument. In addition to the financial support for Ukraine, the EU budget will provide €14.6 billion to cope with migration needs, support key technologies and enhance the EU budget's flexibility, of which €10.6 billion originates from a redeployment of funds. The overall reinforcement of the EU budget amounts to €31.6 billion in grants for current priorities, with €21 billion in 'fresh money' from the Member States. This includes the €17 billion that will go to the Ukraine Facility. As requested by the European Parliament, a mechanism will be introduced over and above the budget's ceilings to cover over-runs in the borrowing costs of the EU's recovery fund, Next Generation EU. In negotiations with the Council, Parliament also secured the smooth implementation of the EU4Health programme.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Energy Community: Creating an integrated pan-European energy market](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-02-2024

Author DULIAN Monika

Policy area Energy

Keyword cooperation policy | ENERGY | Energy Community | energy cooperation | energy crisis | energy law | energy market | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU energy policy | EU environmental policy | Europe | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | political geography | Russo-Ukrainian issue | Ukraine | world organisations

Summary The Energy Community is an international organisation facilitating energy cooperation; it brings together the EU and neighbouring countries. Established by the Treaty establishing the Energy Community, signed in 2005 in Athens, Greece, it has been in force since 2006. The treaty's validity has been extended twice, most recently until 2036. The signatories to the treaty are the EU and nine contracting parties: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine. There are also three permanent observers: Armenia, Norway and Türkiye. EU Member States may become participants in the Energy Community. The Treaty establishing the Energy Community is designed to bring the contracting parties closer to the EU by facilitating reform and gradually extending the EU *acquis* on energy, environment and climate to their respective territories. The Energy Community's objectives as defined by the treaty include: building a regulatory and market framework enabling investment in power generation and networks; creating an integrated energy market in the region (including infrastructure) compatible with the EU energy market; ensuring energy supply security; and promoting climate friendly energy sources. The climate and energy policies of the Energy Community countries are those enshrined in the EU Green Deal and are reflected in their commitment to the Decarbonisation Roadmap, based primarily on the 2030 energy and climate targets. In response to the energy crisis following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Energy Community contracting parties implemented emergency regulations (on gas storage and solidarity). The European Community is also active in supporting Ukraine through the Ukraine Support Task Force, which provides equipment needed to repair damage to energy systems caused by the war. To finance this activity, the Energy Community set up the Ukraine Energy Support Fund. Ensuring that Ukraine's reconstruction and recovery is in line with the EU Green Deal could become a centrepiece of the Energy Community's mission in the coming years.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

['This is Europe' debate in the European Parliament: Speech by Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania, 7 February 2024](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 09-02-2024

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area Democracy

Keyword democracy | electoral procedure and voting | EU strategy | European construction | European election | EUROPEAN UNION | political framework | POLITICS

Summary 'This is Europe' – an initiative proposed by the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola – consists of a series of debates with EU leaders to discuss their visions for the future of the European Union. EU unity was a central theme in the address of the President of Romania, Klaus Iohannis, to the European Parliament on 7 February 2024. Iohannis also emphasised the EU's values and model of democracy, pointing to the European elections as a key moment in the continent's democratic process. For the Romanian President, the EU must assume a leading global role in maintaining the international order, as a precondition for preserving our way of life and the EU's values. In that context, he sees the strengthening of the EU's internal resilience as a fundamental condition for a stronger Union and for its increased geopolitical role. Iohannis stressed the benefits of EU membership whilst outlining how enlargement makes the EU more attractive. Finally, he emphasised the need to streamline the EU's decision-making capacity and – without excluding changes to the Treaties eventually – to use all available possibilities under the existing Treaties to smooth decision-making.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[From past shocks to future uncertainties: navigating 25 years of euro area challenges](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 09-02-2024

External author Daniel GROS, Farzaneh SHAMSAKHAR

Summary The euro area has been subject to a series of very different shocks, some of which, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, were unprecedented. While the ECB's reaction to these deflationary shocks was vigorous, it persisted too long with its expansionary measures and failed to see their inflationary impact when energy prices shot up. The future is likely to bring new challenges, but climate change might not be the most important threat to price and financial stability. This document was provided by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with the ECB President on 15 February 2024.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[The situation of Article 2 TEU values in Denmark](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 09-02-2024

Author MARZOCCHI Ottavio | SCHNEDL ALINA-THERESA | WIKSTRÖM AVARIA AMANDA VICTORIA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword democracy | Denmark | economic geography | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | rule of law | Treaty on European Union

Summary This briefing, written by the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs - Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group, examines the situation of Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights in Denmark and how the values of Article 2 of the TEU are respected and implemented in the country.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[The situation of Article 2 TEU values in Estonia](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 09-02-2024

Author MARZOCCHI Ottavio | SCHNEDL ALINA-THERESA | WIKSTRÖM AVARIA AMANDA VICTORIA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword area of freedom, security and justice | corruption | criminal law | democracy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fundamental rights | LAW | political framework | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | rule of law | Treaty on European Union

Summary This briefing, written by the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs - Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group, examines the situation of Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights in Estonia and how the values of Article 2 of the TEU are respected and implemented in the country.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[ECB monetary policy: Past, present and future](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 09-02-2024

External author Kerstin BERNOTH, Sara DIETZ, Rosa LASTRA, Atanas PEKANOV

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword EU banking union | euro | euro area | FINANCE | financial stability | free movement of capital | monetary economics | monetary policy | monetary relations

Summary This paper considers the past, present, and future of the ECB monetary policy. Looking backwards, the ECB has succeeded in navigating through several crises. Looking forward, the paper examines some of the main challenges confronting the ECB in the years ahead with climate change, digitalisation, inequality, sovereign indebtedness, and the completion of Banking Union complicating the pursuit of the price stability primary objective. This document was provided by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with the ECB President on 15 February 2024.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Plenary round-up – February I 2024](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 09-02-2024

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | common agricultural policy | common foreign and security policy | EU budget | EU finance | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION

Summary A highlight of the February I 2024 plenary session was the debate on the conclusions of the special European Council meeting on 1 February, at which leaders reached agreement on EU funding, in particular for Ukraine. That was followed by a debate with the Council and Commission on the need for unwavering EU support for Ukraine, after two years of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Members also debated empowering farmers and rural communities and ensuring sustainable and fairly rewarded EU agriculture. Further debates took place on the Commission's new communication on the EU2040 climate target, the state of EU solar industry in the light of unfair competition, and water crisis and droughts in the EU and the need for a sustainable, resilient water strategy for Europe. Members discussed the Dentsu tracking case and the Commission's lack of transparency with regard to the tobacco industry. They discussed the situation of prisoners in Hungarian jails, allegations of Russian interference in EU democratic processes and the need to fight rising antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred. Debates took place on quality traineeships in the EU and the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Abbé Pierre's appeal to address homelessness. Other debates took place on international issues: the situation in Haiti on the eve of the deployment of the United Nations Multinational Security Support Mission, further repression against democracy in Venezuela, the state of play of the implementation of the Global Gateway, and multilateral negotiations in view of the World Trade Organization's 13th Ministerial Conference, in Abu Dhabi. Finally, a 'This is Europe' debate was held with the President of Romania, Klaus Iohannis.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Financing of the CAP: facts and figures](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 08-02-2024

Author MILICEVIC Vera

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Summary For many years, the common agricultural policy (CAP) was financed from a single fund, the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), which on 1 January 2007 was replaced by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The CAP 2023-2027 regulation introduces a new delivery model (strategic plan) for all CAP expenditure.

[EU Fact Sheets](#) [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Revising the fisheries control system](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-02-2024

Author SCHOLAERT FREDERIK

Policy area Fisheries

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | common fisheries policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European Fisheries Control Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fisheries | fishing controls | fishing fleet | fishing licence | fishing permit | proposal (EU)

Summary The EU has adopted a regulation introducing new rules on fisheries control. The act amends five regulations, of which Council Regulation (EC) 1224/2009 (the Control Regulation) forms the core of the EU fisheries control system. The revision is the result of a long process. In May 2018, the European Commission tabled the proposal as the last major component of the 2013 revision of the common fisheries policy. The European Parliament and the Council adopted their positions in March and June 2021 respectively, opening the way to interinstitutional negotiations. An agreement was reached at the 12th political trilogue held on 30 May 2023. Some of the main changes introduced by the proposal and supported in the agreement include tracking of all fishing vessels, electronic reporting of all catches, monitoring of recreational fisheries, improving (digital) traceability along the supply chain and harmonising sanctions across the EU. On control of the landing obligation via on-board closed-circuit television cameras for vessels at high risk of non compliance, the co-legislators agreed that this provision would only apply to vessels of 18 metres length or more. Parliament and Council also agreed on more flexible tolerance margins as regards catch weight estimates on board, in particular for small pelagic and tuna species. The agreement was approved by the European Parliament on 17 October 2023. After adoption by the Council, the act was signed by the co-legislators and published in the Official Journal of the EU on 20 December 2023. It entered into force 20 days later, on 9 January 2024. Most provisions apply after two or four years, to allow time for implementation. Fifth edition of a briefing originally drafted by Irina Popescu. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Capital markets union: Overview and state of play

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-02-2024

Author HALLAK ISSAM

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | Economic and Monetary Union | EU competition policy | EU market | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | monetary economics | single market | TRADE | trade policy

Summary The capital markets union (CMU) is an EU political project aimed at 'de-fragmenting' the markets for corporate financing. The primary objective is to ensure that firms with comparable characteristics obtain comparable financing conditions – especially as regards costs and volumes – regardless of the Member State in which they are located. The objective to de-fragment capital markets is influenced by the context of European monetary union and the single market for goods and services; fragmented financial markets have adverse effects on the conduct of euro monetary policy, as well as on fair competition between EU firms – the level-playing field. The second major objective of the CMU is to expand the financial means and instruments available to EU corporations through wider de-fragmented EU capital markets offered to EU companies, as well as regulatory intervention. This aspect is of greater relevance to the financing of innovation and would be reflected in the 'attractiveness' of the EU capital markets to both firms seeking funding and investors. The first major CMU policy action agenda was set out in 2015, and the second in 2020. Actions address a wide range of aspects of EU capital markets, and seek three objectives: a) transparency and centralisation of information, b) removal of cross-border obstacles for investment within the EU, and c) regulatory tools to expand financing resources and financial instruments. Although the EU's 2020 CMU action plan is ongoing, major measures have already been adopted, such as the EU consolidated tape (a source of information on price forming for transactions in financial instruments). Steps towards an effectively integrated EU capital market are therefore being taken one by one, taking Member States' specificities into consideration. In the meantime, the incompletely integrated EU capital markets maintain economic discrepancies and divergences between EU Member States, while EU firms with significant innovation and growth potential may continue to lack the financial investment they need from the private sector.

Briefing [EN](#)

Recast EU directive on gas and hydrogen markets

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-02-2024

Author DULIAN Monika | WILSON Alex Benjamin

Policy area Energy

Keyword carbon neutrality | chemistry | construction and town planning | cooperation policy | ENERGY | energy cooperation | energy grid | energy market | energy policy | energy transport | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU energy policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | gas supply | hydrogen | INDUSTRY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | natural gas | oil industry | proposal (EU) | renewable energy | security of supply | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | soft energy | trade | TRADE

Summary On 15 December 2021, the Commission adopted a legislative proposal to recast the 2009 EU Gas Directive as part of the proposed hydrogen and decarbonised gas markets package. This reflects the EU's growing climate ambitions, as set out in the European Green Deal and its 'fit for 55' package. The proposal aims to support the decarbonisation of the energy sector by ramping up the production of renewable gases and hydrogen, and facilitating their integration in EU energy networks. The recast directive would refine the principles of the existing Gas Directive and fully extend their scope to cover hydrogen networks. In the European Parliament, the file was referred to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) in 2022. The committee report was adopted on 9 February 2023 and endorsed at the plenary session of 15 March 2023. The Council adopted its general approach on 28 March 2023. Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement on 28 November 2023. The agreement envisages separation of gas and hydrogen supply and generation from the operation of transmission networks, thus retaining both the horizontal and vertical unbundling regime. The agreement retains the Commission's proposal that long-term contracts for fossil gas should be phased out by 2049. Parliament and the Council must now approve the provisional agreement. Third edition of a briefing originally written by Alex Wilson. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Intelligent road transport systems](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-02-2024

Author KISS Monika

Policy area Transport

Keyword combined transport | common transport policy | digital transformation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | information and information processing | information system | information technology and data processing | intelligent transport system | land transport | organisation of transport | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | road safety | road transport | sustainable mobility | systems interconnection | technology and technical regulations | TRANSPORT | transport infrastructure | transport policy

Summary The European Commission proposed changes to the existing EU rules on the deployment of intelligent transport systems (ITS) in road transport. The objective of the proposal was to expand the scope of the existing EU rules to cover new and emerging challenges and to make essential ITS services mandatory across the EU. The proposal sought to resolve problems stemming from the lack of interoperability and continuity of the existing applications and services, but also from the low level of availability and sharing of the data supporting ITS services. Finally, it aimed to ensure effective concertation and cooperation among stakeholders. The Commission adopted the proposal on 14 December 2021. Within the Council, the Working Party on Transport – Intermodal Questions and Networks carried out the preparatory work, and the Council adopted its general approach on 2 June 2022. In the European Parliament, the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) took the lead on the file. The committee's report was tabled for plenary on 29 October 2022 and its decision to enter interinstitutional negotiations was confirmed by the plenary on 21 November 2022. A provisional agreement was reached on 8 June 2023 and voted in plenary on 3 October 2023. The final act was signed on 22 November 2023 and the directive was published in the Official Journal on 30 November 2023. Fourth edition of a briefing originally drafted by Marketa Pape. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Intelligent road transport systems](#)

[The situation of young carers in Europe](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 08-02-2024

Author GOODGER SAMUEL | KENNEDY AOIFE

Policy area Forward Planning | Social Policy

Keyword care economy | demography and population | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | home help | labour market | long-term care | personnel management and staff remuneration | professional career | social affairs | social assistance | social policy | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | young person | young worker | youth employment

Summary Young carers (YCs) are children under the age of 18 providing informal, unpaid and often unrecognised care to members of the household suffering from disabilities or otherwise requiring regular care. This in-depth analysis reviews a range of literature on legal recognition, stakeholder awareness and policies adopted at different levels in the EU regarding YCs. The aim is to provide readers with an appropriate evidence base and inform policy action in this area.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Amending the Statute of the Court of Justice of the EU: Reform of the preliminary reference procedure](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 07-02-2024

Author MAŃKO Rafał

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword appeal | area of freedom, security and justice | Court of Justice (EU) | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | General Court (EU) | justice | LAW | preliminary issue | preliminary ruling procedure | proposal (EU)

Summary On 24 January 2024, the Committee on Legal Affairs approved the compromise text of a proposal to amend the Statute of the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU). The reform will transfer preliminary reference cases (Article 267 of the Treaty on Functioning of the European Union – TFEU) from the Court of Justice (CJ) to the General Court (GC) in five distinct areas (VAT; excise duties; the Customs Code and tariff; passengers' rights to compensation and assistance; and the greenhouse gas emissions allowance trading scheme). Parliament has managed to secure the inclusion in the compromise text of a number of significant amendments. All new preliminary references will be systematically notified not only to the Commission, Member States and the institution, body or agency that authored the challenged act, but also to the Parliament, Council and European Central Bank (ECB). These institutions will be allowed to submit observations in the procedure, although, in the case of Parliament and the ECB, only if they consider that they have a 'particular interest' in the case. The GC will have not only ad hoc advocates general (AGs), but also one or more permanent AGs, which it will elect – from among its judges – for a three year term, renewable once. The permanent AGs will assist the GC only in preliminary ruling cases, and will not perform judicial duties while working as AGs. Despite the transfer of certain preliminary references to the GC, the CJ will nonetheless retain jurisdiction in cases that raise 'independent questions relating to the interpretation of primary law, public international law, general principles of Union law or the Charter of Fundamental Rights'. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[New economic governance rules](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 07-02-2024

Author HOFLMAYR MARTIN

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword economic governance (EU) | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU investment | FINANCE | financing and investment | fiscal policy | monetary economics | public finance | public finance and budget policy | stability pact | taxation

Summary On 26 April 2023, the European Commission published a package of three proposals to revise the EU's economic governance framework: a regulation to replace the current preventive arm of the stability and growth pact (SGP), an amending Council regulation on the corrective arm of the SGP, and an amending Council directive to strengthen the role of independent fiscal institutions. The main proposal on the preventive arm is to be adopted through the ordinary legislative procedure with the European Parliament and the Council as co-legislators. The reform proposals would see the Commission bilaterally negotiating a fiscal-structural plan with Member States, with a minimum 4-year horizon; possible extension of the fiscal adjustment path to seven years would provide an incentive to include investment and reform commitments. Greater political buy-in and better Member State ownership of the medium-term plan is also envisaged. Both reference values – the 3 % deficit-to-GDP and 60 % debt-to-GDP ratios – would remain unchanged, the proposal introduces three additional safeguards: two numerical requirements over the agreed plan's horizon and a minimum fiscal adjustment of 0.5 % of GDP per annum if a country is expected to be above the 3 % deficit ratio threshold in an excessive deficit procedure. Both the European Parliament and the Council have adopted their mandates on the preventive arm of the SGP, paving the way to interinstitutional negotiations, which started in January 2024. These might revolve around three main topics: safeguards, the role of independent fiscal institutions, and transitory provisions. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[EU tax achievements: Looking back \(and forward\)](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-02-2024

Author BAERT Pieter

Policy area Taxation

Keyword economic conditions | economic policy | economic recession | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | FINANCE | public finance | public finance and budget policy | State aid | tax law | tax relief | taxation

Summary EU Member States' public finances have been under considerable strain owing to both the COVID-19 pandemic and the twin energy-cost-of-living crisis. To bolster EU economies in the wake of these challenging times, various initiatives were taken forward at EU level to simplify tax compliance for businesses operating across borders, and to ensure that taxpayers were paying their fair share. As the current Commission's mandate approaches its conclusion, this briefing looks at some notable achievements and anticipates potential future action in the field of taxation.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Ecodesign for sustainable products](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 07-02-2024

Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Policy area Consumer Protection | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword circular economy | consumption | ecodesign | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy efficiency | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | maintenance | product life | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | single market | sustainable product | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | waste recycling

Summary Most products are not designed with their life cycle environmental impacts in mind, and it is difficult for consumers and economic operators to make sustainable choices when buying products. The EU still lacks an overarching legislative framework laying down rules for sustainable production and consumption of all products. Ecodesign refers to the integration of environmental sustainability considerations into the characteristics of a product, and into processes throughout its value chain. On 30 March 2022, the European Commission put forward a proposal for a regulation establishing a framework for setting ecodesign requirements for sustainable products. The proposed regulation would lay down rules applying to all products on the internal market, with the aim of making them more durable, reusable, repairable, upgradable, recyclable and generally less harmful to the environment. The regulation would include rules on a digital product passport, green public procurement and a ban on the destruction of unsold goods. The co-legislators reached a provisional agreement on 5 December 2023, after three trilogues. This agreement still needs to be formally approved by both institutions. It was approved by Coreper on 22 December 2023, and by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) on 11 January 2024. It must now be adopted by Parliament in plenary and then by the Council. Third edition of a briefing originally drafted (first version) by Nikolina Sajn. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[The Euro at 25: Fit for purpose?](#)

Publication type Study

Date 07-02-2024

External author Lucrezia REICHLIN, Jean PISANI-FERRY, Jeromin ZETTELMEYER

Keyword Economic and Monetary Union | EU institutions and European civil service | European Central Bank | European Central Bank opinion | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial stability | free movement of capital | monetary economics | monetary policy

Summary This paper reviews the record of European Central Bank policymaking since the 2010-12 euro crisis in order to develop recommendations on: (1) the ECB's future monetary policy strategy, (2) its operational framework, and (3) the governance of European Economic and Monetary Union. This document was provided by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with the ECB President on 15 February 2024.

Study [EN](#)

[EU – UK rules of origin for electric vehicles and batteries](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-02-2024

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area International Trade

Keyword designation of origin | economic geography | electric vehicle | electricity storage device | electronics and electrical engineering | Europe | GEOGRAPHY | INDUSTRY | international trade | marketing | organisation of transport | originating product | political geography | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy | TRANSPORT | United Kingdom

Summary The EU and the UK are key automotive trading partners. After the UK left the EU, the two parties concluded a Trade and Cooperation Agreement, committing them among other things to a progressive increase in the EU and UK content in the electric vehicles (EVs) and EV batteries they trade, to avoid tariffs. As the European EV batteries sector is not sufficiently developed, the parties have agreed to extend the current rules until 2027.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Package travel and linked travel arrangements: Improving protection for travellers](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 07-02-2024

Author EVROUX CLEMENT THIERRY

Policy area Consumer Protection

Summary On 29 November 2023, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a directive amending Directive (EU) 2015/2302 on package travel and linked travel arrangements, to improve protection for travellers and simplify and clarify certain aspects of the current directive. The Commission announced in a 2020 communication on a new consumer agenda that it would look into revising the directive following the turmoil caused by the mass cancellations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposal is the result of two years of stakeholder consultations and a reassessment of the current rules. The main changes focus on securing travellers' rights and improving insolvency protection. Other key changes include extending the directive's scope to lay down rules on contracts between package organisers and service providers. In the European Parliament, the file has been referred to the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO). A rapporteur was appointed on 8 January 2024. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Nomination for a Member of the European Court of Auditors: Italy](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-02-2024

Author FRANKE Michaela

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword economic geography | EU body | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European Court of Auditors | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | Italy | political geography

Summary This note describes the treaty provisions and appointment procedure for ECA members at EU level. In addition, it provides information on the national nomination procedure for the ECA member in Italy and the country's candidate.

At a Glance [EN](#)

European media freedom act

Publication type Briefing

Date 06-02-2024

Author LAANINEN Tarja

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Culture | Democracy

Keyword advertising | communications | communications industry | consumption | dissemination of information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | freedom of the press | LAW | marketing | mass media | pluralism in the media | provision of services | regulation of telecommunications | rights and freedoms | service | single market | TRADE

Summary An independent media is a pillar of democracy and an important part of the economy, helping to shape public opinion and hold those in power to account. In recent years, however, there have been increasingly worrying trends across the European Union (EU), as documented in the annual rule of law reports by the European Commission, and by other tools such as the Media Pluralism Monitor. Tabled on 16 September 2022, the proposed European media freedom act (EMFA) would introduce a new set of rules to promote media pluralism and independence across the EU. The aim is to prevent political interference in editorial decisions and ensure transparency of media ownership. The proposed act seeks to protect journalists from having to disclose their sources and from the use of spyware against them. It also sets requirements for audience measurement systems and transparent allocation of state advertising. Media content would be better protected against online content removal, and a new European board for media services would be established. The Council and Parliament reached a political agreement on 15 December 2023. The Council (at Coreper level) endorsed the agreed text on 19 January 2024. Parliament's plenary vote is scheduled for March 2024. Fourth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages in the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [European media freedom act](#)

Data collection and sharing relating to short-term accommodation rental services

Publication type Briefing

Date 06-02-2024

Author Niestadt Maria

Keyword consumer protection | consumption | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | regulation (EU) | TRADE

Summary On 7 November 2022, the European Commission published a proposal for a regulation on data collection and sharing relating to short-term accommodation rental services. The proposal contributes to the Commission's priority of making the EU fit for the digital age. To build a future-ready economy that works for people and builds on the recent Digital Services Act, the proposal regulates online platforms that connect hosts and guests for short-term accommodation rentals. The regulation should facilitate the registration of hosts and their short-term rental properties and reduce inconsistencies in how online platforms share data. Platforms would have to check whether hosts register their units and share data about rented nights and guests with public authorities. The regulation should also help to avoid large volumes of differing data requests imposing a heavy burden on online platforms, thereby impairing their ability to offer services across the single market. It should also increase consumer confidence in these services. The European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on the file on 16 November 2023. The text has still to be endorsed by the Parliament's plenary and by the Council before it can be adopted and published in the EU's Official Journal.

Briefing [EN](#)

Forest reproductive material

Publication type Briefing

Date 06-02-2024

Author SAJN Nikolina

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Environment

Keyword agricultural activity | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | forest | forestry | market approval | marketing | means of agricultural production | plant propagation | seed | seedling | TRADE

Summary On 5 July 2023, the European Commission put forward a proposal for a regulation on the production and marketing of forest reproductive material (FRM) to replace the current FRM Council Directive. The proposal would widen the scope of the current legislation to include not only FRM intended for forestry purposes, but also FRM intended for biodiversity conservation, restoration of forest ecosystems and climate adaptation and mitigation. The proposal would specify the rules for the production and marketing of FRM intended for conserving forest genetic resources and would for the first time require that potential buyers be provided with information on the suitability of FRM for current and future climatic and ecological conditions. Member States would have to establish contingency plans to ensure a sufficient supply of FRM in cases of extreme weather events, wildfires and disease and pest outbreaks. In the European Parliament, the file has been referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, where discussions on the rapporteur's draft report are ongoing. In the Council, the proposal is being examined by the working party on genetic resources and innovation in agriculture. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Special reports by the European Court of Auditors: A rolling checklist of recent findings](#)

Publication type Study

Date 06-02-2024

Author BINDER ECKHARD

Keyword accounting | auditing | budget | budgetary reserve (EU) | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | public finance and budget policy

Summary This publication seeks to assist the Members of the European Parliament Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) in their work relating to the 2022 discharge procedure, scrutinising how the general budget of the European Union is spent. It is based on a sample of 13 special reports by the European Court of Auditors (ECA), which were presented during CONT committee meetings in the 12 months from December 2022 to November 2023, and for which the committee secretariat prepared working documents. The analysis provides a general overview of the ECA's mandate and the emerging role of performance auditing. The main body of the study comprises a selection of tables covering each ECA special report. The tables gather published information to provide a concise and useful summary.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Preview of the World Trade Organization's 2024 Ministerial Conference](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-02-2024

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Keyword climate change | deterioration of the environment | electronic commerce | ENVIRONMENT | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | marketing | summit meeting | TRADE

Summary The World Trade Organization (WTO) will hold its 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) in Abu Dhabi from 26 to 29 February 2024. Priority items on the MC13 agenda are likely to include the reform of the WTO's dispute settlement function; new disciplines to eliminate fisheries subsidies that encourage overfishing and overcapacity, to complement the multilateral Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies adopted at MC12 in June 2022 and currently under ratification; the integration of the plurilateral Investment Facilitation Agreement into the WTO legal architecture; and the extension of the e-commerce moratorium. WTO members are set to endorse formally the WTO accession of Comoros and Timor-Leste, increasing the organisation's membership to 166.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Digital labelling of EU fertilising products](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 06-02-2024

Author EVROUX CLEMENT THIERRY

Policy area Food Safety | Industry | Research Policy

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | chemical fertiliser | consumer protection | consumption | designation of origin | digital technology | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | labelling | marketing | means of agricultural production | organic fertiliser | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | single market | technology and technical regulations | TRADE

Summary On 27 February 2023, the European Commission published a proposal for a regulation to allow voluntary digital labelling of EU fertilising products. This initiative follows similar EU legislative initiatives establishing the digital labelling of goods in other economic sectors, such as batteries. The rationale for digital labelling is provided by the deployment of digital solutions, such as QR codes, that can lower the cost of labelling while facilitating the updating of content, and also by the increasing complexity of physical labelling, which can prove difficult to read. Against this backdrop, the proposal introduces a set of voluntary digital labelling schemes for EU fertilising products. The schemes' requirements depend on the packaging arrangements and the users of the products (economic operators or end-users). The proposal also introduces a single set of technological requirements for all established labels, to ensure that labels are accessible free of charge, including for vulnerable groups. In Parliament, the file was assigned to the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection. On 25 October 2023, the Committee adopted the report unanimously with 39 votes in favour and one abstention. It includes amendments to improve the accessibility of digital labels, in particular for people with disabilities, as well as for vulnerable individuals. On 17 November 2023, Coreper agreed to the text of the Council negotiating mandate. Second edition. 'EU legislation in progress' briefings are updated at key stages in the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

Social expenditure in the Recovery and Resilience Facility

Publication type Briefing

Date 06-02-2024

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Budget

Keyword economic and social cohesion | economic conditions | economic independence | economic policy | economic policy | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EU finance | EU financial instrument | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | social affairs | social budget | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Prompted by the pandemic and the resulting crisis, the EU set up a recovery instrument – Next Generation EU (NGEU) – to help Member States address the downturn. NGEU's main funding tool – the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) – has made available €723 billion in grants and loans to EU Member States for reform and investment in six priority areas, addressing common challenges. Focusing on the RRF's social dimension, this briefing looks at how the facility is helping not only to address the direct impact of the pandemic, but also to build social resilience in the longer term. The RRF's general objective is to promote the EU's economic, social and territorial cohesion. To achieve this, the RRF aims to mitigate the social and economic impact of the crisis, in particular on women, so as to contribute to upward economic and social convergence, to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and to high quality employment creation. Unlike for the climate and digital objectives, the RRF does not set minimum spending targets for social expenditure. It does, however, include an important social investment component. In its annual report on the RRF from September 2023, the Commission estimates that around 28 % of the funds allocated (approximately €139.8 billion) have been directed towards social objectives. The 27 national recovery and resilience plans adopted by the Member States, and now being implemented, include a wide range of reforms and investments with social objectives in the areas of education and childcare, employment, social policy and health. They fall largely under three of the six RRF pillars: social and territorial cohesion; health, economic, social and institutional resilience; and policies for the next generation. To monitor progress, the Commission has adopted a methodology for reporting on social expenditure, including on children and youth, and a number of common indicators. Although a number of analyses acknowledge the RRF's strong social investment dimension and its contribution to achieving the EU's main social objectives, at this stage of implementation, there is limited data and it is difficult to assess whether the RRF measures are having the desired impact.

Briefing [EN](#)

Croatia's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-02-2024

Author MILEUSNIC MARIN

Policy area Budget

Keyword coronavirus disease | Croatia | economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic recovery | economic reform | economic structure | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU aid | EU finance | EU financial instrument | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | health | investment | political geography | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | structural adjustment

Summary Croatia's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) is an ambitious outline of reforms and investment designed to mitigate the pandemic's socioeconomic fallout. Following the December 2023 amendment of the Croatian NRRP, to which a REPowerEU chapter was added, the plan's worth reached €10 040.7 million (or 18.5 % of national gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019), an increase of over 59 % compared with the original (2021) version of the plan, which was worth €6 297 million in grants only. The amended plan comes with a grant allocation of €5 779.4 million and a freshly requested loan allocation of €4 254.2 million (of which more than 62 % is for the REPowerEU chapter). The grant part includes the June 2022 downward revision of Croatia's grant allocation of €785.1 million and the country's REPowerEU grant allocation of €269 million. In addition, Croatia has requested a €7.2 million transfer from its share of the Brexit Adjustment Reserve to its NRRP. So far, Croatia has received €3 503.1 million of RRF resources (34.9 % of the amended NRRP) in the form of pre financing and three grant instalments. The fourth payment request (grants) is being assessed by the Commission. The measures in the amended plan are designed to help Croatia overcome the socioeconomic ramifications of both the pandemic and the energy crisis, as well as to address the consequences of the two devastating earthquakes of 2020. The plan focuses on the green transition by devoting over 39 % of the resources to it. It also fosters the digital transformation by committing 20.1 % of the funds (excluding the REPowerEU chapter) to digital projects. In the context of the European Semester, the Commission assessed the implementation of the Croatian plan as 'well under way'. The European Parliament continues to ensure transparency and accountability through interinstitutional dialogues on RRF implementation, and scrutiny of the Commission's work. This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Third edition. The 'NGEU delivery' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

Workshop: Preventing EU funds from reaching sanctioned individuals or entities

Publication type Study

Date 05-02-2024

Author JAMES Eleanor Remo

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword common foreign and security policy | distribution of EU funding | economic geography | economic sanctions | EU finance | EU relations | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international sanctions | military sanctions | political geography | Russia

Summary Sanctions are an essential tool to safeguard EU values and interests, but how can the EU enforce them and protect its budget in the process? With a particular focus on the EU-Russia sanctions, this work-shop looked at the issue from various perspectives, including trade sanctions, criminalising sanctions circumvention, asset freezing and tracing final beneficiaries of EU funds.

Study [EN](#)

[Situation in Serbia following the 2023 elections](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 05-02-2024

Author STANICEK BRANISLAV

Summary On 17 December 2023, Serbia held snap parliamentary elections, just 20 months after the last ones. President Aleksandar Vučić had called early elections after what had been an adverse year for his ruling Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), marked by two mass shootings in May 2023 and a clash between Serb paramilitaries and the Kosovo police near the Banjska Monastery in northern Kosovo on 24 September 2023. The elections brought the SNS a larger-than-expected victory. While alleged electoral irregularities sparked a protest movement led by a coalition of opposition parties, Serbia against Violence, the SNS's strong performance will boost its chances of staying ahead of the opposition in the spring round of local elections as well.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Research for REGI committee - Regional connectivity through an adequate transport infrastructure](#)

Publication type Study

Date 05-02-2024

External author Eduardo MEDEIROS

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Industry | Regional Development | Social Policy | Transport

Summary This study provides an overview of the aspects of regional connectivity through adequate cohesion policy investments in rail and road transport infrastructures, mostly in the programming period 2014-2020. In detail, this analysis covers all types of transport-related investments (for goods and people) financed from the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund. Moreover, the study provides concrete policy recommendations relevant to EU decision-makers on how to improve future EU Cohesion Policy investment in the domain of regional connectivity.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Executive summary](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PT](#)

[The euro at 25 and what's next for the ECB?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 05-02-2024

External author Karl WHELAN

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | euro | euro area | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | Eurosystem | FINANCE | fiscal policy | monetary economics | monetary policy | monetary relations | money | taxation

Summary The euro has proved to be remarkably resilient and is popular with the EU's citizens. This paper reviews the reasons for this and argues that the euro project is more resilient now due to several institutional changes. It also discusses how the ECB's monetary policy has evolved over time, its policy stance in recent years and some of the ways in which it may need to change in the future. This document was provided by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with the ECB President on 15 February 2024.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Zero tolerance for female genital mutilation](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 05-02-2024

Author SHREEVES Rosamund

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword children's rights | competence of the Member States | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | gender equality | health | international law | LAW | reproductive health | right of asylum | right to physical integrity | rights and freedoms | sexual mutilation | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | violence | women's rights

Summary As part of broader efforts to combat all forms of violence against women and girls, the European Union (EU) is committed to working collectively to eradicate female genital mutilation (FGM) and to supporting its Member States' efforts in this field. The European Commission assesses EU measures to combat FGM every year, on or around 6 February – the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation. This publication is a further update of an 'at a glance' note originally published in January 2015.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

Equality between men and women

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 02-02-2024

Author SCHONARD Martina

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Summary Equality between women and men is one of the objectives of the European Union. Over time, legislation, case law and changes to the Treaties have helped consolidate this principle and its implementation in the EU. The European Parliament has always been a fervent defender of the principle of equality between men and women.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Poland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-02-2024

Author SAPALA Magdalena | SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Budget

Keyword coronavirus disease | economic and social cohesion | economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic recovery | economic reform | economic structure | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU aid | EU finance | EU financial instrument | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | health | investment | Poland | political geography | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | structural adjustment

Summary In nominal terms, Poland is the third biggest beneficiary of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), after Italy and Spain. EU support for implementing Poland's amended National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) – Krajowy Plan Odbudowy – amounts to €59.8 billion, and includes €25.3 billion in grants and €34.5 billion in loans. The amount is €24.5 billion (+ 69 %) higher than the one initially approved and takes into account a 2022 update of the maximum financial contribution, additional loans requested by Poland and the non-repayable allocation for REPowerEU made available in 2023. Poland's allocation represents 8 % of the total RRF and stood at 11.2 % of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019 (the RRF being 5.2 % of EU-27 GDP in 2019). RRF support per capita for Poland totals €1 584 (up from €935 initially). Poland's amended NRRP includes 55 reforms and 56 investments, and is strongly focused on the green transition and changes in energy production and consumption. The biggest components are dedicated to REPowerEU (42 % of the total allocation) and green energy and energy intensity reduction (26 %). Other priority areas include competitiveness of the economy, healthcare, well-functioning public institutions and the judiciary. Poland was not eligible for pre-financing of the initial allocation, owing to the plan's late approval. However, on 28 December 2023, after approval of the modified plan, Poland received €5 billion of pre-financing for the REPowerEU chapter. The remaining amount must be disbursed by the end of 2026 and will depend on progress in implementing the plan. No instalments can be paid until the commitments concerning the reforms of the judicial system ('super milestones') are satisfactorily fulfilled. On 15 December 2023, Poland requested the first payment relating to 37 milestones and 1 target, including on the judicial reforms. The European Parliament participates in interinstitutional forums for cooperation and discussion on RRF implementation, and scrutinises the European Commission's work. This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Second edition. The 'NGEU delivery' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans.

Briefing [EN](#), [PL](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

Ireland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-02-2024

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Budget

Keyword coronavirus disease | economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic recovery | economic reform | economic structure | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU aid | Europe | European Semester | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | health | investment | Ireland | monetary economics | political geography | recommendation (EU) | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | structural adjustment

Summary Ireland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) is small compared with most Member States' plans. In absolute terms and per capita, it has the second smallest allocation (after Luxembourg) under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). Following the European Commission's update of national allocations, the initial €989 million allocation has been adjusted to €914.4 million in grants, to be disbursed in five instalments. Ireland has not yet submitted a REPowerEU chapter. It asked to amend its plan twice, in May and October 2023, cutting two measures and updating several others. Ireland requested its first payment in September 2023. Relative to the size of its economy, Ireland's RRF grants are not large: they are equivalent to around 0.3 % of the country's 2019 gross domestic product (GDP), while the total RRF amounts to 5.2 % of 2019 EU 27 GDP. Given also that spending will be spread over the years up to 2026, the RRF is not expected to have a significant direct impact on Ireland's key macroeconomic indicators. The European Commission estimates that it could increase Ireland's GDP by 0.3 0.5 % by 2026. A more significant indirect impact is expected from the overall boost to the EU economy and the associated cross-border spillover effects. The plan's overall objective is to contribute to a sustainable, equitable, green and digital recovery. It complements the government's broader domestic recovery efforts under the economic recovery plan, underpinned by the national development plan (NDP) of €165 billion, for 2021 to 2030. Although the RRF allocation amounts to less than 1 % of the total NDP investment, it will contribute to key reforms and investments. With 42 % of funding allocated for climate and 34.2 % for digital measures, the NRRP's 14 investment and 9 reform projects will also focus on strategic EU priorities. The European Parliament participates in interinstitutional forums for cooperation and discussion on the implementation of the RRF, and scrutinises the European Commission's work. This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Third edition. The 'NGEU delivery' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans.

Briefing [EN](#), [GA](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

Compulsory licensing of patents for crisis management

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-02-2024

Author MILDEBRATH Hendrik Alexander

Policy area Intellectual Property Law

Keyword coronavirus disease | epidemic | health | intellectual property | pharmaceutical product | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | security of supply | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | trade | TRADE

Summary The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for a resilient healthcare system but also for quick access to inventions and technologies in challenging situations. To address this need, in April 2023 the Commission submitted a proposal for a regulation on compulsory licensing for crisis management. The aim is to secure the rapid deployment of patent-protected inventions in times of crisis or emergency, without eroding patent protection as an incentive to innovate. The proposal lays down rules and procedures for granting Union compulsory licences and supervising the law's implementation. The envisaged law would empower the Commission to grant licences of EU-wide validity for patents, patent applications, supplementary protection certificates and utility models. Additionally, the Commission could take (vaguely defined) 'additional measures complementing the Union compulsory licence to ensure it achieves its objective'. Views on the proposal diverge. Civil society organisations support a broad application of the compulsory licensing scheme, whereas industry organisations advocate narrow application. Opinions differ on 1) the need for legislative intervention; 2) the events authorising the use of compulsory licences; 3) whether compulsory licensing should be conditional on failed prior negotiations for voluntary licences; 4) whether the disclosure of know-how or trade secrets is warranted under certain circumstances; 5) at what level remuneration and sanctions should be capped; 6) how advisory bodies should be composed; 7) which role potential licensees should play in initiating and engaging in the compulsory licensing procedure. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Digital euro

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-02-2024

Author CAPDEVILA PENALVA Josefina

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword economic analysis | ECONOMICS | euro area | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial transaction | free movement of capital | impact study | monetary economics | monetary relations | money | proposal (EU) | regulation of transactions | TRADE | trade policy

Summary On 28 June 2023, the European Commission presented a legislative package to establish a digital form of central bank money to complement its physical form (banknotes and coins) and laid out the rules and conditions for its use. The IA supporting the proposals is based on extensive internal and external expertise, including tailored ECB advice and JRC input on analytical methods and simulations. It presents a wide range of options to address the problems identified, but it is difficult to identify the pros and cons of these options. The IA follows the Better Regulation criteria and presents the assessment of impacts in terms of effectiveness, efficiency and coherence, but the dense and long technical analysis is of limited accessibility for non-expert readers. As such, the IA should have been more comprehensive and clear regarding the suitability of the digital euro and the feasibility of the options.

Briefing [EN](#)

Establishing an EU talent Pool

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-02-2024

Author EFTHYMIADOU Andriana

Summary The problem definition and problem drivers in the impact assessment (IA) appear to be well-supported by evidence. The IA provides a well-structured analysis of the existing situation and the likelihood for the problem to persist. The IA identifies the initiative's general and specific objectives, which appear to be specific, achievable, relevant and time-bound, but not measurable, as recommended by the Better Regulation Toolbox 'S.M.A.R.T.' criteria. The IA does not define more detailed operational objectives as recommended by the BRG; instead, it provides a list of performance monitoring indicators directly linked to the specific objectives. The IA provides a sufficient range and description of the policy options. It offers an assessment of the options and presents the intervention logic in a clear and transparent manner, where the options are linked to the problem drivers and the specific objectives and their drivers. The IA analyses, in a comprehensive and balanced manner, qualitatively and, where possible, quantitatively, the main expected economic, social and fundamental rights, and environmental impacts, covering specifically effectiveness, efficiency and coherence. The IA explains how the preferred option would contribute to the SDGs; however, additional SDGs (e.g. SDG 5 on gender equality) should have been examined. The analysis of impacts on third and developing countries would have benefited from more attention, given the strong external dimension of the proposal. The IA provides a comprehensive summary of the preferred option's (PO2) costs and benefits for the affected stakeholder groups. It is transparent about data uncertainties and assumptions. Stakeholders were widely consulted and their views were taken into account. The preferred option enjoys broad stakeholder support, with any divergent views sufficiently presented in the dedicated annex of the IA. Overall, the annex on stakeholder consultation appears to be very informative and comprehensive; however, the feedback from this consultation strategy could have been better reflected in the IA, particularly regarding the available policy options and their potential impacts. A SME test was carried out. However, it appears that no targeted SME consultation was conducted. The Commission made efforts to take the RSB's comments into account, but some weaknesses remain (for example, as regards the description of the specific objectives in S.M.A.R.T. terms, and a more in-depth analysis of the impacts on third and developing countries).

Briefing [EN](#)

Outcome of the special European Council meeting of 1 February 2024

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-02-2024

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area Democracy

Keyword common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | EU budget | EU finance | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | financial aid | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | military cooperation | political geography | Ukraine

Summary EU leaders reached a swift and unanimous decision on the long-term EU budget at the special European Council meeting of 1 February, sending a strong and united message on the EU's continued support for Ukraine. Altogether, the European Council agreed to reinforce new priorities by €64.6 billion in a revised EU multiannual financial framework (MFF). Next to the MFF, leaders discussed the EU's military support to Ukraine, calling on the Council to agree to a European Peace Facility top-up by March 2024, and welcomed the agreement on the use of profits from frozen Russian assets to support the reconstruction of Ukraine. Leaders also discussed the situation in the Middle East, but again no conclusions were issued.

Briefing [EN](#)

Finland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-02-2024

Author TENHUNEN Susanna

Policy area Budget

Keyword economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic recovery | economic transition | ECONOMICS | Europe | Finland | GEOGRAPHY | political geography | refutation

Summary Finland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) is part of the national sustainable growth programme and its main source of financing. Next Generation EU (NGEU) – the EU's response to the social and economic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic – initially envisaged an allocation of €2 090 million in grants to Finland under its Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). Following the update of all national allocations in June 2022, Finland's share was reviewed downwards to €1 820 million in grants. Consequently, the plan was revised to reflect these changes by reducing investments and replacing them partly with national support. A second revision added a REPowerEU chapter, under which Finland is to receive a maximum of €127 million in non-repayable financial support for energy-related reforms and investment. Finland's NRRP now totals €1 949 million, is worth 0.8 % of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019 and represents 0.3 % of the entire RRF. In terms of absolute numbers and per capita, it is among the lowest third of NGEU grant allocations by Member States. Finland has allocated 52.3 % of its NRRP to the green transition, in the service of its ambition to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035, while digital expenditure accounts for 28.9 % of the overall resources in the plan. The plan thus exceeds the minimum allocations required by the RRF Regulation, which are 37 % for the green transition and 20 % for digital transformation (the latter does not apply to the REPowerEU chapter). Finland has received pre-financing of about €271 million, representing 13 % of the plan's initial value in January 2022. The next payments, in six instalments, will depend on progress in implementing the plan. The first payment request for €273 million was submitted in November 2023. Finland has also asked for pre-financing of €25 million from the REPowerEU allocation. The European Parliament, which was a major advocate of the creation of a common EU recovery instrument, participates in interinstitutional forums for cooperation and discussion on its implementation and scrutinises the European Commission's work. This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Second edition. The 'NGEU delivery' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans.

Briefing [EN](#), [FI](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

Czechia's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-02-2024

Author PAPE Marketa

Policy area Budget

Keyword Czechia | economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic recovery | economic transition | ECONOMICS | EU aid | EU investment | Europe | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | political geography

Summary Under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), Czechia's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) had an initial value of €7 036 million in grants only. In June 2022, Czechia's initial RRF grant allocation was revised upwards to €7 673.7 million (+ 9.1 %). In June 2023, Czechia submitted a request to modify its NRRP. The amended plan amounts to a total of €9 231.3 million. It now includes a new REPowerEU chapter with an additional grant allocation of €680.5 million. Czechia also requested to transfer its remaining share of the Brexit Adjustment Reserve to its plan (€54.9 million). The total grant contribution to the amended plan amounts to €8 409.2 million. In addition, Czechia has requested a €818.1 million loan support, to further stimulate private investment in the green and digital transition. The EU contribution, grants and loans combined, totals €9 227.3 million, i.e. 4.1 % of the country's 2019 gross domestic product (GDP). Czechia's NRRP is a programme of reforms and investment to help the recovery of the Czech economy, while advancing the green and digital transition and addressing several structural weaknesses. Measures under the plan are to be completed by 2026. The European Commission has assessed the implementation of the plan as under way, albeit with risk of some delays. So far, Czechia has received €1 990 million (21.6 % of the modified plan), of which €915 million in pre-financing, €147 million in REPowerEU pre-financing and €928 million for the first grant payment. In December 2023, Czechia requested the second and third payments, amounting to €702 million (net of pre-financing). This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Third edition. The 'NGEU delivery' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans.

Briefing [CS](#), [EN](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

The European Parliament: electoral procedures

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-02-2024

Author MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Summary The procedures for electing the European Parliament are governed both by European legislation laying down rules common to all Member States and by specific national provisions, which vary from one state to another. The common provisions lay down the principle of proportional representation, rules on thresholds and certain incompatibilities with the Member of the European Parliament mandate. Many other important matters, such as the exact electoral system used and the number of constituencies, are governed by national laws.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

The ubiquitous digital single market

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-02-2024

Author DE BONO JORDAN | MARTINELLO BARBARA | RATCLIFF Christina

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union | Research Policy

Summary The digital single market benefits the economy, reduces environmental impacts and enhances quality of life through e-commerce and e-governance. With services transitioning from fixed to mobile platforms, this shift necessitates an EU framework for cloud computing, cross-border content access and seamless mobile data, while ensuring privacy and cybersecurity. The European digital single market was vital during the COVID-19 crisis. The Digital Services and Digital Markets Acts will significantly transform the market in the coming years.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Intellectual, industrial and commercial property

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-02-2024

Author BUX Udo | MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area Industry | Intellectual Property Law

Summary Intellectual property includes all exclusive rights to intellectual creations. It encompasses two types of rights: industrial property, which includes inventions (patents), trademarks, industrial designs and models and designations of origin, and copyright, which includes artistic and literary property. Since the entry into force of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) in 2009, the EU has had explicit competence for intellectual property rights (Article 118).

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

The common agricultural policy (CAP) and the Treaty

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-02-2024

Author MILICEVIC Vera

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Summary Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Rome, Member States' agricultural policies were replaced by intervention mechanisms at Community level. The foundations of the common agricultural policy (CAP) have remained unchanged since the Treaty of Rome, with the exception of rules relating to the decision-making procedure. The Treaty of Lisbon recognised codecision as the 'ordinary legislative procedure' for the CAP, in place of the consultation procedure.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Rail transport

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-02-2024

Author PERNICE Davide

Policy area Transport

Summary EU rail transport policy is geared towards the creation of a single European railway area. Three packages and a recast were adopted in the space of 10 years following the opening-up of the railway sector to competition in 2001. A fourth package, designed to complete the single European railway area, was adopted in April 2016 (the technical pillar) and in December 2016 (the market pillar).

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Affordable communications for businesses and consumers](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-02-2024

Author DE BONO JORDAN | MARTINELLO BARBARA | POLLUVEER KRISTI | RATCLIFF Christina

Policy area Research Policy

Summary Information and communication technologies (ICTs), as well as data services, now surpass traditional telephone services in importance for both consumers and businesses. With the surge in on-demand content and 4G/5G growth, the EU has introduced a telecommunications regulatory framework. This encompasses all types of telecommunications, including broadcasting. Research indicates that these services contribute EUR 86.1 billion to the EU's GDP annually, with new measures potentially adding another EUR 40 billion.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Digital agenda for Europe](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-02-2024

Author DE BONO JORDAN | MARTINELLO BARBARA | POLLUVEER KRISTI | RATCLIFF Christina

Policy area Research Policy

Summary Digital service platforms and emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) profoundly influence our societal landscape. These innovations have redefined how we communicate, shop and access information online, making them daily essentials. The European digital agenda for 2020-2030 addresses these shifts. It prioritises establishing secure digital spaces, ensuring fair competition in digital markets and enhancing Europe's digital sovereignty, all while aiming for climate neutrality by 2050.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Sweden's National Recovery and Resilience Plan: Latest state of play](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-02-2024

Author BINDER ECKHARD

Policy area Budget

Keyword coronavirus disease | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | epidemic | Europe | GEOGRAPHY | health | political geography | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | structural adjustment | Sweden

Summary The total volume of Sweden's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) increased from an initial €3 289 million to €3 502 million in the revised version. The NRRP is of comparatively limited scope, and exclusively in the form of grants, as Sweden did not apply for loans. The revised amount represents 0.5 % of the entire Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), equal to 0.7 % of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019 (the RRF representing 5.2 % of EU-27 GDP in 2019). 'Sweden's recovery plan' – the Swedish NRRP – is financed by the Next Generation EU (NGEU) recovery instrument. Sweden will receive payments in five instalments, contingent upon progress in implementing the plan. The total amount of grants under the RRF was subject to revision in June 2022, which reduced the final amount allocated to Sweden to €3 181 million. Adding to this its REPowerEU grant allocation of €198 million and the requested transfer of €66 million of its share of the Brexit Adjustment Reserve to the NRRP, the overall amended plan now includes €3 445.7 million in EU grants. The difference between the EU grants and the total value of the plan (€57 million) is to be covered by national financing. The amended plan allots 43.6 % of resources to climate related objectives, surpassing the minimum target of 37 % set in the RRF Regulation. At 23.1 %, its allocation for digital expenditure also exceeds the threshold, which was set at 20 % of resources (excluding the REPowerEU chapter). The European Parliament has been a major supporter of establishing a common EU recovery instrument, and takes part in interinstitutional settings to cooperate, discuss and scrutinise implementation of the European Commission's work. This briefing is one in a series covering all EU Member States. Second edition. The 'NGEU delivery' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the lifecycle of the plans.

Briefing [EN](#), [SV](#)

Multimedia [Interactive infographic: EU recovery instrument](#)

[EU framework on alternative dispute resolution for consumers](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-02-2024

Author TENHUNEN Susanna

Policy area Consumer Protection

Keyword alternative dispute resolution | civil law | civil law | civil proceedings | commercial law | consumer law | consumption | directive (EU) | electronic commerce | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | justice | LAW | marketing | regulation (EU) | settlement of disputes | TRADE | trade dispute | trade policy

Summary Directive (2013/11/EU) on alternative dispute resolution for consumer disputes (the 'ADR Directive') provides an out-of-court solution for consumers to resolve disputes on goods and services purchased from traders established in the single market. Together with Regulation (EU) No 524/2013 on online dispute resolution for consumer disputes (the 'ODR Regulation'), the ADR Directive forms a horizontal EU-level framework for alternative dispute resolution. The significant increase of online sales, in particular during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as contractual challenges exposed by the energy crisis, have highlighted the continued importance of an effective, low-cost and fair way to resolve disputes between consumers and traders. Typically, these disputes concern return of money, reparation of faulty products, or termination of a contract based on unfair terms. Although the ADR mechanisms are deemed a clear improvement for consumers, the digitalisation of the consumer market, the complexity of the procedures and lack of awareness challenge the existing ADR architecture adopted in 2013. Despite successive updates, the ODR platform has reportedly not achieved its objectives. On 17 October 2023, the European Commission therefore proposed to introduce targeted amendments to the ADR Directive and to repeal the ODR Regulation. It also put forward a new recommendation setting quality requirements for online marketplaces and EU trade associations providing dispute resolution systems. In addition to aiming for a modernised ADR framework, these proposals for revision contribute to the Better Regulation simplification and burden reduction targets. During the ninth legislature, the European Parliament has addressed ADR in the context of policies having consumer protection – including access to redress – at their core. These include, among other policies, automated decision-making. In addition, Parliament has dealt with several petitions from citizens relating to the implementation and application of the ADR mechanisms in practice. Preliminary rulings of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) have clarified the interpretation of certain provisions of the ADR Directive and thus facilitated legal certainty.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Recast EU Regulation on Gas and Hydrogen Networks](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-02-2024

Author DULIAN Monika

Policy area Energy

Keyword adaptation to climate change | carbon neutrality | chemistry | construction and town planning | ENERGY | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | gas | gas industry | gas supply | hydrogen | INDUSTRY | oil industry | proposal (EU) | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary On 15 December 2021, the European Commission adopted a legislative proposal to recast the 2009 EU Gas Regulation as part of the hydrogen and decarbonised gas markets package. This reflects the EU's growing climate ambitions, as outlined in the European Green Deal and its 'fit for 55' package. The proposal seeks to support the decarbonisation of the energy sector by increasing the production of renewable gases and hydrogen across the EU, and facilitating their integration in existing or new gas networks. It would create an EU legislative framework for hydrogen networks. In the European Parliament, the file was referred to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), which adopted its report on 9 February 2023. The report was endorsed at the plenary session of 15 March 2023. The Council adopted its general approach on 28 March 2023. The Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on 8 December 2023. Among other provisions, the agreement enshrines in legislation the voluntary demand aggregation mechanism for gas, as proposed by Parliament. The regulation includes the possibility for Member States to restrict imports of gas from Russia and Belarus, whether via pipeline or LNG. The Parliament and the Council now need to approve the provisional agreement. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure. The first edition was drafted by Alex Wilson.

Briefing [EN](#)

Enhancing the protection of human rights defenders (HRDs): Facilitating access to the EU and supporting HRDs from third countries

Publication type Study

Date 01-02-2024

External author Elspeth GUILD; Niovi VAVOULA; Vasiliki APATZIDOU

Policy area Human Rights

Keyword cooperation policy | directive (EU) | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU aid | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | EU visa policy | European External Action Service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | external border of the EU | free movement of persons | human rights | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | migrant | migration | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | third country

Summary This study provides a comprehensive exploration of measures aimed at facilitating access to and expanding support for human rights defenders (HRDs) in the European Union (EU). Its introduction deals with the fundamental issue of defining HRDs which, in turn, will enable visa, borders and migration officers to apply the various recommendations here proposed. The subsequent section delves into the EU's Visa Code and Handbook, proposing substantial changes to accommodate the needs of HRDs seeking entry and short stays in the EU. For longer stays, the study examines available options within the existing legal migration acquis and possibilities offered by the Temporary Protection Directive. It also proposes a self-standing proposal for a Directive that aims to deal with HRDs' extended stays in the EU. Socio-economic assistance for HRDs is then discussed by proposing specific possibilities for additional measures, resources and policies at the EU level. The impact of digitalisation and EU databases on HRDs is also examined. Lastly, it presents recommendations categorised as soft-law and hard-law, providing a robust framework to safeguard HRDs and facilitate their access to the EU.

Study [EN](#)

The age of reason?

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-02-2024

External author Charles WYPLOSZ

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | euro | euro area | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial stability | fiscal policy | free movement of capital | monetary economics | monetary policy | monetary relations | taxation

Summary At age 25, the euro has been a historical success, but it has not yet reached an adult stage. The ECB has made much progress and can do more on its own. Its next monetary policy strategy, to be announced in 2025, is an opportunity that should not be missed. Much more is needed from member governments, which are still reluctant to grant the ECB what it needs to become a normal central bank. This document was provided by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with the ECB President on 15 February 2024.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Recovery and Resilience Dialogue with the European Commission_ 5 February 2024

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-02-2024

Author DE LEMOS PEIXOTO SAMUEL | LEHOFER WOLFGANG | LOI GIACOMO | MAGNUS Marcel

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword economic conditions | economic independence | economic policy | economic policy | economic reconstruction | economic recovery | economic transition | ECONOMICS | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Summary Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis and Commissioner Gentiloni are invited to the 14th Recovery and Resilience Dialogue (RRD) under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) Regulation. The previous RRD took place on 11 December 2023. This briefing describes the state of play of the implementation of the RRF, and then focusses on the Commission's recent preliminary assessments of milestones and targets related to payment requests submitted by Portugal, Germany, France, Slovakia, and Italy.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[The European disability card and European parking card](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-02-2024

Author LECERF Marie

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword construction and town planning | disabled person | European social policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | free movement of persons | health | health card | international law | LAW | parking area | proposal (EU) | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary One in four people in the European Union has some form of disability. Over time, the EU has paid more attention to the issue of free movement for persons with disabilities, and in February 2016 launched a European disability card scheme as a pilot project in eight Member States. Based on the experience and assessment of the EU disability card pilot project and the European parking card for persons with disabilities, the European Commission launched a legislative initiative on 6 September 2023 to create a European disability card, to be recognised in all Member States. On 31 October 2023, the Commission put forward a second proposal for a directive extending the cards to third-country nationals (the 'follow-up proposal'). On 27 November 2023, the Council agreed its general approach. On 11 January 2024, the Employment and Social Affairs Committee (EMPL) adopted its report and a decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations based on that report. The Parliament mandate was endorsed in plenary during the January 2024 session and interinstitutional negotiations were launched on 17 January. The first trilogue took place on 25 January 2024 at the Council. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Interoperable Europe act](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-02-2024

Author Niestadt Maria

Policy area Global Governance

Keyword administrative cooperation | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | data processing | digital transformation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic government | European Interoperability Framework | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | executive power and public service | information and information processing | information system | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | public sector | public service | technology and technical regulations

Summary In November 2022, the European Commission published a proposal for a regulation laying down measures for a high level of public sector interoperability across the Union (the interoperable Europe act). The initiative seeks to ensure a consistent, human-centric EU approach to interoperability, create an interoperability governance structure that helps public administrations and the private sector to work together, and establish an ecosystem of interoperability solutions for the EU's public sector. The proposal should also cut red tape for citizens and businesses. The proposal is now with the co-legislators. The Parliament adopted its position on the proposed regulation in September 2023, and the Council did so in October 2023. Shortly afterwards, in November 2023, the co-legislators reached a provisional agreement on the text (since endorsed by the ITRE committee and the Committee of Permanent Representatives of EU Member States). While maintaining the main points of the Commission proposal, the co-legislators have clarified several points, such as the scope of the regulation, its objectives, and the conditions of the mandatory interoperability assessment. Parliament's plenary vote on the final agreement is scheduled for the February I plenary session. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages during the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Interoperable Europe act](#)

[Research for TRAN Committee - Trends, challenges and opportunities in the EU transport labour market](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 01-02-2024

External author Andrea BROUGHTON, Jasper TANIS, Marco BRAMBILLA, Eckhard VOSS and Katrin VITOLS

Policy area Transport

Summary This At a glance note summarises the study on Trends, challenges and opportunities in the EU transport labour market. This study provides a comprehensive review of the transport labour market trends in the EU, the challenges and the future prospects that transport workers and undertakings are confronted with, notably for digitalisation, automation and decarbonisation processes. The study describes the impacts on the EU transport labour market in terms of number of jobs, job structure by age, workers' skills, working conditions, shortage of workers and attractiveness of the occupations. A stakeholder consultation complements the findings of the literature review.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[The ECB and the integrity of the euro area: Past and future](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-02-2024

External author Luigi BONATTI, Andrea FRACASSO, Roberto TAMBORINI

Keyword euro area | FINANCE | monetary relations

Summary The key lesson of the first twenty five years of the euro is that the ECB is embedded in an incomplete and flawed institutional context. Its role has increasingly emerged as an integration agency in the face of existential threats to the euro. The way the world is going to change will put the ECB's status under further stress. The next strategy review will need to address structural changes adding new policy trade-offs to the old ones. The sooner the euro-area governance is reformed leaving politics and dogmatism aside, the better. This document was provided by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with the ECB President on 15 February 2024.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Euro@25: Where has the euro area been? Where does it go from here?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-02-2024

External author Pierre SIKLOS

Keyword FINANCE | monetary economics | monetary policy

Summary When it comes to the euro, policy makers should not follow the expression: "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". A review of the first 25 years of the euro suggests that mistakes were made. Yet, the ECB has also been remarkably adaptable under difficult circumstances. Improvements to the resilience of the euro area are possible. This paper looks back over an eventful quarter century and offer a peak into the euro area's possible future challenges. This document was provided by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with the ECB President on 15 February 2024.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Pakistan's 2024 elections](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 01-02-2024

Author D'AMBROGIO Enrico

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | common foreign and security policy | culture and religion | democracy | economic geography | electoral procedure and voting | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | Islam | Pakistan | parliamentary election | political framework | POLITICS | rule of law | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary A fragile democracy located in south Asia, Pakistan, the sixth most populous country in the world, is to hold elections to its lower house on 8 February 2024. The elections take place against a backdrop of multiple crises and political arrests, including former prime minister Imran Khan, banned from running despite his popularity. Three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has returned to the country from exile in time to potentially secure a fourth term with the powerful military establishment's endorsement.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 31-01-2024

Author KATSAROVA Ivana

Policy area Environment | Food Safety

Keyword agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | EU law | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | genetic database | health | natural and applied sciences | plant breeding | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | research | research and intellectual property | SCIENCE | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | transgenic plant

Summary In February, Parliament will vote on the report adopted by its Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) on a proposal regulating plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques. The text as voted will form Parliament's position for negotiations with the Council, which has still to agree on its position.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Transposing Atlantic tuna fisheries measures](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 31-01-2024

Author SCHOLAERT FREDERIK

Policy area Fisheries

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | Atlantic Ocean | ENVIRONMENT | fisheries | fishing regulations | natural environment | observation | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | sea fish

Summary The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is an intergovernmental fisheries management organisation responsible for tuna and tuna-like fish stocks in the Atlantic Ocean. During the February plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote on an agreement with the Council of the EU to transpose a number of binding ICCAT measures into EU law.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Interaction between the European Council and the European Parliament: The European Parliament President at European Council meetings](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 31-01-2024

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area Democracy

Keyword EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | European Council | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | institutional cooperation | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | POLITICS | politics and public safety | summit meeting | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

Summary The European Parliament President's opening remarks at European Council meetings are one of the two most visible and frequent interactions between Parliament and the European Council. While the European Parliament President is not a member of the European Council and does not remain for the entirety of the meeting, his or her participation is significant nonetheless. Meetings of the European Council, which includes the 27 EU leaders and the presidents of the European Council and the European Commission, are the only regular occasion when the highest level representatives of the three main EU institutions come together on a cross party political basis. Through the intervention of its President, Parliament can communicate its views on critical topics early in the policy process and highlight topics important to the Parliament which are not on the European Council's agenda, thus reminding EU Heads of State or Government of their salience. Originally, the European Parliament President's intervention was an ad hoc and informal matter. Over time it became a regular feature and was eventually codified in the EU Treaties. Article 235(2) TFEU spells out that 'the President of the European Parliament may be invited to be heard by the European Council'. Each Parliament President has brought a personal approach to their interactions with the European Council, with some seeing their role as more ceremonial, and others as more political. On occasion, Presidents have stayed at meetings after delivering their speech, either for an entire working session or even a full meeting. Such exceptions were often related to debates on institutional issues. Today, the EU Heads of State or Government seem to appreciate the President of Parliament's participation, as indicated by the lively discussions that follow the President's intervention, with real exchanges of views taking place. Shorter interventions, as well as the Parliament President's investment in constructive bilateral relations with the members of the European Council can provide a partial explanation for this. Currently, the European Parliament President is not just a permanent guest at the European Council's meetings, but considered a peer (i.e. a leader in the EU's governance system) – revealing how relations between the European Council and the European Parliament have developed over the years.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Waste from electrical and electronic equipment](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 31-01-2024

Author EVROUX CLEMENT THIERRY

Policy area Environment

Keyword clean technology | deterioration of the environment | directive (EU) | electrical equipment | electronic waste | electronics and electrical engineering | ENERGY | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | INDUSTRY | prevention of pollution | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | soft energy | solar collector | technology and technical regulations

Summary Following the Court of Justice of the European Union's 2022 judgment, declaring Directive 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) partially invalid, the European Commission proposed to align the directive with the judgment. The co-legislators reached a provisional agreement in November 2023. The agreed text now requires formal adoption by both institutions, and is set for a plenary vote in February 2024.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Instant payments in euro](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 31-01-2024

Author SPINACI STEFANO

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword criminal law | economic offence | electronic money | euro | FINANCE | financial policy | free movement of capital | intra-EU payment | LAW | monetary economics | monetary policy | monetary relations | payment system

Summary To ensure affordable, secure instant payments in euro that conform to rules on sanctions and financial crime, the European Commission proposed a regulation in October 2022. The new rules would mean citizens and businesses would pay standard transfer prices for instant money transfers. A provisional political agreement reached between the Parliament and Council is scheduled for vote during the February I plenary session.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Automated data exchange for police cooperation](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 31-01-2024

Author BAKOWSKI Piotr

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword code of conduct | criminal procedure | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | Europol | exchange of information | information and information processing | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | justice | LAW

Summary In order to modernise the Prüm framework, in 2021 the Commission presented a proposal for a regulation on automated data exchange for police cooperation, which is part of the 'EU police cooperation code' package. During the February I plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote the final text of this regulation.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Protection of workers: Limit values for lead and diisocyanates](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 31-01-2024

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Policy area Public Health

Keyword chemistry | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | iron, steel and other metal industries | lead | mineral compound | occupational health | organisation of work and working conditions | plastics industry | processing industry

Summary In February 2023, the Commission put forward a proposal for a directive aimed at revising the existing limit values for lead, and introducing, for the first time, limit values for diisocyanates, aimed at achieving a high level of protection of workers' health and safety. On 14 November 2023, the co-legislators reached a provisional agreement on the proposal. The agreed text, which requires formal adoption by both institutions, is expected to be put to a plenary vote in February.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[The Gulf region: Economic indicators and trade with EU](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 31-01-2024

Author MACSAI GYORGYI

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword Asia and Oceania | economic analysis | economic indicator | economic statistics | ECONOMICS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | female work | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | gross domestic product | Gulf States | marketing | monetary relations | national accounts | TRADE | trade balance | trade statistics | unemployment

Summary This infographic examines some economic differences and similarities among countries of the Gulf region and the EU, like GDP growth, GDP per capita and female labour force participation rate. In terms of trade, the Gulf region stands already as an important source of oil and gas for the EU, these products contributing almost two-third of total imports of the latter from the Gulf region.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Alternative dispute resolution for consumers](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 31-01-2024

Author ANGLMAYER Irmgard

Policy area Consumer Protection | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword alternative dispute resolution | area of freedom, security and justice | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | consumer law | consumer policy | consumption | directive (EU) | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | justice | LAW | TRADE

Summary The impact assessment (IA) underpinning the revision of the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) framework presents a robust intervention logic. It puts forward four policy options (including a non-regulatory option) with varying degrees of ambition; however, the description of the different policy options would have benefited from more depth and detail. The IA assesses the policy options in terms of their economic, social and environmental impacts and their effects on fundamental rights. While large parts of the analysis are mainly qualitative, the section on economic impacts is also supported by quantitative data and estimations. Although the IA acknowledges that most businesses concerned are SMEs, the impact on SMEs is not further assessed. Similarly, more reflection on the impact of extending the directive's scope to third-country traders would have been warranted. The IA's evidence base appears solid: in addition to a comprehensive stakeholder consultation, it drew on an ex-post evaluation (conducted 'back to back' with the IA), Commission reports on the application of the current ADR/ODR framework, and several highly relevant and up to-date studies. The legislative proposal appears to follow broadly the IA's preferred option, despite some clear differences.

Briefing [EN](#)

[The citizens of the Union and their rights](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 30-01-2024

Author BUX Udo | MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary Individual citizens' rights and European citizenship are enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (EUCFR), the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and Article 9 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU). They are essential factors in the formation of a European identity. In the event of a serious breach of basic values of the Union, a Member State can be sanctioned.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Sport](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 30-01-2024

Author ISKRA Katarzyna Anna

Policy area Culture

Summary Sport is a field in which the EU's responsibilities are relatively new, having only been acquired with the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon in December 2009. The EU is responsible for the development of evidence-based policy and for fostering cooperation and managing initiatives in support of physical activity and sport across Europe. A specific budget line was established for the first time under the first Erasmus+ programme (2014-2020) to support projects and networks relating to sport.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Macroeconomic surveillance](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 30-01-2024

Author DE LEMOS PEIXOTO SAMUEL | SABOL MAJA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Summary Over the past decade, the EU has experienced major macroeconomic imbalances (which exacerbated the negative effects of the financial crisis that began in 2008) and serious divergences in competitiveness (which prevented the effective use of common monetary policy measures). In 2011, the EU set up the macroeconomic imbalance procedure (MIP) – a surveillance and enforcement procedure intended to facilitate the early identification and correction of such imbalances in Member States, paying specific attention to imbalances with potential spill-over effects on other Member States.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[The internal market: general principles](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 30-01-2024

Author DE BONO JORDAN | MARTINELLO BARBARA | RATCLIFF Christina

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union

Summary The internal market is an area of prosperity and freedom, providing access to goods, services, jobs, business opportunities and culture. Continuous efforts ensure its further expansion bringing benefits for EU consumers and businesses. The digital market opens up opportunities to boost the economy via e-commerce and cuts red tape through e-governance. However, challenges still persist, for example, in the way in which COVID-19 reintroduced obstacles to the four freedoms (free movement of goods, services, capital and persons).

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights February 2024](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 30-01-2024

Author SANDERSKI ANDRZEJ

Policy area Environment | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Foreign Affairs

At a Glance [EN](#)

[The path to 6G](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-01-2024

Author DE LUCA Stefano

Keyword communications | digital transformation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | innovation | mobile communication | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | technology and technical regulations

Summary The European Union needs high-performing digital connectivity infrastructure to give all citizens the best access to digital services and to maintain prosperity. In the relentless pursuit of innovation and connectivity, the development of mobile communications technologies has been a defining force in shaping the way we communicate, work, and live. As the 2030s approach, the groundwork for the next frontier in mobile communications is being laid – the era of 6G. Building upon the successes and advances of previous mobile generations, 6G promises to revolutionise the connectivity landscape. From ultra-high data rates and low-latency communication to the integration of artificial intelligence, 6G is poised to reshape the way we interact with the digital world. However, with the promise of unprecedented capabilities comes a host of challenges. Critical aspects that demand attention in the development of 6G networks are privacy and cybersecurity. As 6G aims to push the boundaries of connectivity, enabling innovations such as holographic communication, seamless extended reality, and the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) on a massive scale, the potential risks to privacy and cybersecurity are magnified (e.g. mass data collection). Another critical aspect is its environmental footprint. While 6G aims for energy efficiency, the increasing demand for data and connectivity may still pose challenges related to energy consumption. Balancing technological progress with environmental considerations remains a key objective for the development of 6G. Countries and companies that lead in 6G development and deployment are expected to gain a competitive edge in terms of technological innovation, economic growth, and influence in shaping global standards. The global race to 6G has already begun.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [The path to 6G](#)

[Developments up to the Single European Act](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 29-01-2024

Author MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Summary The main developments of the early Treaties are related to the creation of Community own resources, the reinforcement of the budgetary powers of Parliament, election of MEPs by direct universal suffrage and the setting-up of the European Monetary System (EMS). The entry into force of the Single European Act in 1986, which substantially altered the Treaty of Rome, bolstered the notion of integration by creating a large internal market.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Maritime transport: strategic approach](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 29-01-2024

Author DEBYSER Ariane

Policy area Transport

Summary EU regulations on maritime transport focus on the application of the principle of free movement of services and the correct application of competition rules, while ensuring a high level of safety, good working conditions and environmental standards.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Consumer protection measures

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 29-01-2024

Author DE BONO JORDAN | MARTINELLO BARBARA | RATCLIFF Christina

Policy area Consumer Protection

Summary European measures for consumer protection are intended to protect the health, safety, and economic and legal interests of European consumers, wherever they live, travel or shop in the EU. EU provisions regulate both physical transactions and e-commerce, and contain rules of general applicability together with provisions targeting specific products, including medicines, genetically modified organisms, tobacco products, cosmetics, toys and explosives.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Competences of the Court of Justice of the European Union

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 29-01-2024

Author BUX Udo | MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Summary This fact sheet describes the competences of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), which consists of two courts, the Court of Justice proper and the General Court, and offers various means of redress, as laid down in Article 19 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), Articles 251-281 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), Article 136 Euratom, and Protocol No 3 annexed to the Treaties on the Statute of the Court of Justice of the European Union.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

The future of EU financing for Ukraine: Options ahead of the 1 February European Council meeting

Publication type At a Glance

Date 29-01-2024

Author PETERS TIM ULRICH

Policy area Budget | Foreign Affairs

Keyword common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU finance | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | financing of aid | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | multiannual financial framework | political geography | Russo-Ukrainian issue | State aid | Ukraine

Summary Due to the veto of one Member State, the EU failed to agree on a €50 billion financial support package for Ukraine at the European Council meeting of 14 and 15 December 2023. As the EU's current financial support for Ukraine through the macro-financial assistance package MFA+ ran out at the end of 2023, a new solution is urgently needed to provide the necessary funding to Ukraine. While an agreement among all 27 Member States and within the EU's multiannual financial framework is highly preferable, the EU has options to provide the necessary financial support to Ukraine in spite of the persisting veto of one Member State.

At a Glance [EN](#)

The global reach of the EU's approach to digital transformation

Publication type Briefing

Date 29-01-2024

Author Niestadt Maria

Keyword artificial intelligence | consumer protection | consumption | democracy | digital economy | digital single market | digital transformation | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | fundamental rights | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | LAW | personal data | political framework | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | rights and freedoms | technological change | technology and technical regulations | TRADE

Summary The EU's approach to digital transformation is rooted in protecting fundamental rights, sustainability, ethics and fairness. With this human-centric vision of the digital economy and society, the EU seeks to empower citizens and businesses, regardless of their size. In the EU's view, the internet should remain open, fair, inclusive and focused on people. Digital technologies should work for citizens and help them to engage in society. Companies should be able to compete on equal terms, and consumers should be confident that their rights are respected. The European Commission has published a number of strategies and action plans recently that outline the EU's vision for the digital future and set concrete targets for achieving it. The Commission has also proposed several digital regulations, including the artificial intelligence act, the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act. These regulations are intended to ensure a safe online environment and fair and open digital markets, strengthen Europe's competitiveness, improve algorithmic transparency and give citizens better control over how they share their personal data. Although some of these regulations have not yet been adopted, and others have been in force for only a short time, they are expected to have impact not only in the EU but also beyond its borders. For instance, several regulations target businesses – regardless of where they are based – that offer services to EU citizens or businesses. In addition, through the phenomenon known as 'the Brussels effect', these rules may influence tech business practices and national legislation around the world. The EU is an active participant in developing global digital cooperation and global governance frameworks for specific areas. Various international organisations are developing instruments to ensure that people and businesses can take advantage of artificial intelligence's benefits and limit negative consequences. In these global negotiations, the EU promotes respect for various fundamental rights and freedoms, as well as compatibility with EU law.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Wind energy in the EU](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 29-01-2024

Author WIDUTO Agnieszka

Policy area Energy

Keyword ENERGY | energy consumption | energy policy | energy statistics | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU energy policy | EU environmental policy | renewable energy | soft energy | wind energy

Summary Renewable energy plays a crucial role in the context of EU climate targets and energy security needs. Wind energy will be central to accelerating the roll-out of renewables and the green transition outlined in the European Green Deal and the REPowerEU plan. In 2022, the total installed wind power capacity in the EU reached 204 GW (gigawatts), most of which was onshore (92 %). The European Commission estimates that new EU target of at least 42.5 % renewable energy in energy consumption by 2030 will require installed capacity to grow to over 500 GW by 2030. Although the EU is a global leader in some offshore technologies, the wind sector struggles with many challenges. These include insufficient and uncertain demand, slow and complex permit application processes, supply risks linked to raw materials, high inflation and commodity prices, more pressure from international competitors and limited availability of a skilled workforce. The EU has made several regulatory responses to these challenges. The recently revised Renewable Energy Directive not only raised the target for the renewables share in EU energy consumption but also introduced provisions streamlining permit application procedures. The revised TEN-E (Trans-European Networks for Energy) framework supports cooperation on cross-border projects, while the newly announced wind power package seeks to strengthen the EU wind industry and further develop offshore wind. The electricity market reform and the grids action plan are helping boost the integration of renewables into electricity networks. The net-zero industry act will improve the manufacturing capacity of wind as a net-zero technology; and the critical raw materials act addresses some of the issues linked to EU dependency on supply from third countries. The successful deployment of wind energy will also have to take into account public acceptance (which is higher for offshore wind), the impact of wind installations on biodiversity and the environment, and co-existence with other economic activities such as fisheries. In addition, more investment is needed in new technologies, such as floating wind and hybrid projects (combining wind with solar, hydrogen or battery production).

Briefing [EN](#)

[Revision of the EU's long-term budget: State of play ahead of the 1 February European Council meeting](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 29-01-2024

Author KOWALD KAROLINE | PARI MARIANNA

Policy area Budget

Keyword budget | budgetary procedure | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU aid | EU budget | EU finance | EU financial instrument | EU migration policy | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | migration | multiannual financial framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Having failed to agree on the revision of the EU's 2021-2027 budget at the December European Council meeting, Member States will attempt to break the impasse at an extraordinary meeting on 1 February 2024.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Parliament's powers: Designating the seats of EU decentralised agencies](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 29-01-2024

Author DEL MONTE Micaela

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword competence of the institution | decentralisation | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | legislative period | legislative power | parliament | political framework | POLITICS | politics and public safety | seat of institution

Summary There are no provisions in the EU Treaties or in secondary EU law on the procedure for deciding on the location of an EU agency. Article 341 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) refers only to the EU institutions. This legal vacuum has generated different practices over time and power struggles among the Member States. The most recent example of conflicting national interests was the case of the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU, representatives of the governments of the Member States decided to relocate the agency from London to Amsterdam, but the decision was challenged by Italy and the Municipality of Milan. Subsequent rulings of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) clarified its lack of jurisdiction over decisions of Member States' government representatives. These political decisions have no legal effect under EU law. The Court nevertheless took the opportunity to provide clear indications about how Article 341 TFEU should be interpreted. According to the Court, it is for the EU legislature, and not the Member States, to decide on the location of the EU agencies, because Article 341 TFEU is applicable to EU institutions only, and they are clearly listed in Article 13 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU). While the decision of the EU legislature implies a certain degree of political choice, it is nevertheless subject to judicial review. The Court's clarification was welcomed by Parliament, which in two resolutions, in 2018 and 2019, had complained about its lack of involvement in the selection procedure for locating agency's seats, and demanded a role in the evaluation of criteria, on an equal footing with the Commission and the Council. At the time of writing, the European Parliament and the Council are in the process of deciding the location of the Anti-Money-Laundering Agency (AMLA).

Briefing [EN](#)

[Recast of Directive 2003/109/EC: Status of third-country nationals who are long term residents in the EU](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 29-01-2024

Author ORAV Anita

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | foreign national | integration of migrants | international law | LAW | migration | proposal (EU) | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Directive 2003/109/EC sets out the rights of third-country nationals who are long-term residents in the EU, the areas in which they can be granted equal treatment with EU citizens, and the conditions for moving to another EU Member State. It aims to facilitate the attainment of the EU internal market and the integration of migrants in host societies. As assessed in implementation reports, the EU long-term resident status is currently under-used, and third-country nationals lack information about the status and the rights attached to it. There is also competition between the EU and national permits. To address these shortcomings, the European Commission on 27 April 2022 presented a proposal to recast the Directive 2003/109/EC, as part of its legal migration policy reform. The European Parliament and the Council have each adopted their negotiating mandates and have entered into interinstitutional negotiations. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Outlook for the special European Council meeting on 1 February 2024](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 26-01-2024

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area Democracy

Keyword EU budget | EU finance | EU financial instrument | EU policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial policy | financing and investment | financing policy | free movement of capital | multiannual financial framework

Summary The main objective of the special European Council meeting on 1 February 2024 is to finalise EU leaders' position on the revision of the multiannual financial framework (MFF). While the aim is to reach an agreement among all 27 Member States, alternatives could be used based on an agreement of 26 Member States. EU leaders may also use the meeting to raise other topics – notably, the war in Ukraine and the possible use of frozen Russian assets, next steps in the enlargement process, security and defence and external relations.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Sources and scope of European Union law](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 26-01-2024

Author BUX Udo | MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters

Summary The European Union has legal personality and as such its own legal order which is separate from international law. Furthermore, EU law has direct or indirect effect on the laws of its Member States and becomes part of the legal system of each Member State. The European Union is in itself a source of law. The legal order is usually divided into primary legislation (the Treaties and general legal principles), secondary legislation (based on the Treaties) and supplementary law.

[EU Fact Sheets](#) [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Judicial cooperation in civil matters](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 26-01-2024

Author BUX Udo | MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary Free movement of goods, services, capital and people across borders is constantly on the increase. In civil law matters with cross-border implications, the European Union is developing judicial cooperation, thus building bridges between the different legal systems. Its main objectives are legal certainty and easy and effective access to justice, implying identification of the competent jurisdiction, clear designation of the applicable law and speedy and effective recognition and enforcement procedures.

[EU Fact Sheets](#) [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Norway to mine part of the Arctic seabed](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 26-01-2024

Author DELIVORIAS Angelos

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword [Arctic](#) | [biodiversity](#) | [economic geography](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [EU strategy](#) | [Europe](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [natural environment](#) | [Norway](#) | [political geography](#) | [sea-bed](#) | [underwater mineral resources](#)

Summary On 9 January 2024, the Norwegian Parliament (Stortinget) endorsed the government's proposal to allow exploration for the possible extraction of seabed minerals on the Norwegian continental shelf. Extraction licences for businesses will require further parliamentary approval. The aim is to mine important critical raw materials that are increasingly needed for the green and digital transitions, and the defence and aerospace sector. However, these developments have raised concerns in the country and beyond, as the practice risks hurting the deep-sea ecosystem, the fishing industry and coastal communities.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[La liberté d'entreprise, une perspective de droit comparé : Union européenne](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 26-01-2024

External author EPRS, Comparative Law

Policy area Human Rights

Summary Ce document s'intègre dans une série d'études qui, avec une perspective de droit comparé, visent à faire une présentation de la liberté d'entreprise dans différents ordres juridiques. Après avoir expliqué le droit positif et la jurisprudence d'application, le contenu, les limites et la possible évolution de cette liberté sont examinés. La présente étude a pour objet le cas de l'Union européenne. La liberté d'entreprise a toujours eu des effets en droit de l'Union européenne car les Communautés européennes ont été établies dans un contexte d'économie de marché. C'est avec l'adoption de la Charte des droits fondamentaux qu'elle a été consacrée dans ces termes exacts. Les dispositions pertinentes des traités et du droit dérivé et la jurisprudence sont pour l'essentiel consacrées aux limites de la liberté d'entreprise, résultant de la nécessité de protéger d'autres intérêts, publics ou privés.

[Study](#) [FR](#)

[Revision of Directive 2009/38/EC on European works councils](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 26-01-2024

Author HAHNKAMPER-VANDENBULCKE Nora

Policy area [Social Policy](#) | [Transposition and Implementation of Law](#)

Keyword [EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS](#) | [equal treatment](#) | [labour law and labour relations](#) | [LAW](#) | [rights and freedoms](#) | [social affairs](#) | [social dialogue \(EU\)](#) | [social policy](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [workers' representation](#)

Summary The EU internal market has, over the years, led to a 'transnationalisation' of companies and groups of companies, i.e. the expansion of their operations to multiple EU Member States. However, procedures for informing and consulting employees in the Member States are often not geared towards the transnational structure of the company that takes the decisions affecting those employees. This may lead to the unequal treatment of employees affected by decisions in the same undertaking or group of undertakings, and hamper workers' representation and social dialogue at international level. In 1994, the EU therefore adopted Directive 94/45/EC, requiring undertakings or groups of undertakings operating in two or more Member States to set up European works councils (EWCs). EWCs represent employees in multinational companies of a certain size and are intended as a platform for exchanges on transnational matters between employees and employers' representatives across EU Member States and European Economic Area (EEA) countries. In 2009, recast Directive 2009/38/EC (the EWC Directive) sought to address several shortcomings, counter the declining trend in the creation of EWCs and clarify several key concepts. However, a 2016 ex-post evaluation identified major weaknesses in the implementation of the EWC Directive regarding, among other things, the consultation process of EWCs and the means for workers' representatives to enforce their rights. In February 2023, the European Parliament called on the European Commission to revise the EWC Directive. Around a year later, on 24 January 2024, this call was followed up by a Commission proposal.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Definitions of rape in the legislation of EU Member States](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 26-01-2024

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area [Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity](#)

Keyword [criminal law](#) | [EU law](#) | [EU law - national law](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [gender equality](#) | [human rights](#) | [LAW](#) | [legislative procedure](#) | [parliamentary proceedings](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [politics and public safety](#) | [rights and freedoms](#) | [sexual harassment](#) | [sexual violence](#) | [women's movement](#) | [women's rights](#)

Summary This comparative analysis of the national legislation on rape in European Union Member States provides an overview of legal provisions with a focus on the notion of consent. According to the proposed EU directive on violence against women and domestic violence, lack of consent from victims of rape should be made a constitutive element of the crime.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Latest on Russia's war on Ukraine \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-01-2024

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Keyword EU restrictive measure | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | think tank

Summary As Russia's brutal and unprovoked war on Ukraine approaches the two-year mark in February, the front lines have remained virtually static for several months. On 17 January, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged Ukraine and its people to seize the initiative to help determine the course of the war and secure more extensive international support. Earlier, Zelenskyy expressed confidence that the key aid from Washington, delayed by infighting in the US Congress, would soon be forthcoming. EU Member States have agreed on a partial negotiation mandate to start talks with the European Parliament on a €50 billion aid package for Ukraine, but one Member State, Hungary, is raising obstacles. The European Union is also preparing a 13th package of sanctions against Russia. With Russia continuing to shell Ukrainian cities and infrastructure, drones – reportedly Ukrainian – hit a major gas export terminal near the city of St Petersburg, halting its operation. This note gathers links to the recent publications and commentaries from many international think tanks on Russia's war on Ukraine. Earlier analyses on the war can be found in a previous edition of the 'What Think Tanks are Thinking' series.

Briefing [EN](#)

[An area of freedom, security and justice: general aspects](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 25-01-2024

Author BUX Udo | MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary The Treaties attach great importance to the creation of an area of freedom, security and justice. In 2009, several important new features were introduced: a more efficient and democratic decision-making procedure that comes in response to the abolition of the old pillar structure; increased powers for the Court of Justice of the EU; and a new role for national parliaments. Basic rights are strengthened by the legally binding Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Public procurement contracts](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 25-01-2024

Author DE BONO JORDAN | MARTINELLO BARBARA | RATCLIFF Christina

Policy area Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Internal Market and Customs Union

Summary Public authorities enter into contracts for works and services accounting for a trading volume of EUR 2.448 billion in the EU, making public procurement a major driver of economic growth, job creation, and innovation. The public procurement package adopted in 2014 adds EUR 2.88 billion annually to EU GDP. Furthermore, EU directives concerning public procurement have fostered an increase in total award values, which rose from under EUR 200 billion in 2009 to approximately EUR 525 billion in 2017.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Economic Dialogue with the other EU Institutions under the European Semester Cycles during the 9th legislative term - State of play October 2023](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 25-01-2024

Author HAGELSTAM Kajus

Policy area Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword Council of the European Union | economic governance (EU) | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | Eurogroup (euro area) | European Commission | European Semester | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | monetary economics | monetary relations

Summary This document provides an overview of Economic Dialogues with the other institutions of the European Union that has taken place in the competent committee(s) of the European Parliament since September 2019 under the European Semester for economic policy coordination. It also lists the Recovery and Resilience Dialogues with the European Commission as undertaken by the competent committee(s) since the entry of force of the Recovery and Resilience Facility in 2021. It also includes an overview of the respective legal bases for these dialogues.

Briefing [EN](#)

[The EU's digital trade policy](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 25-01-2024

Author JUTTEN Marc

Policy area International Trade

Keyword civil law | common commercial policy | communications | cross-frontier data flow | data protection | digital contract | digital single market | digital technology | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | international law | international trade law | LAW | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | trade policy

Summary Digital trade has become a key element in the EU's trade policy. Every modern trade agreement that the EU has concluded contains a dedicated digital trade chapter. The digital trade provisions in EU trade agreements have evolved over time, which reflects the increasing role digital trade plays today in the world economy. While there is no clear measurement of digital trade yet, the OECD estimates nevertheless that digital trade represents around 25 % (in 2020) of total trade. The EU, as the world's largest exporter and importer of digitally deliverable services, has a strong market position. Therefore, the development towards more digital trade provides opportunities for European consumers and the economy. In order to exploit the full potential of digital trade, it is essential to overcome fragmentation and set international standards and common digital trade rules. The EU aims to shape digital trade rules at the WTO and through free trade agreements. Moreover, the EU's digital trade policy is an important instrument for its green and digital transition. The European Commission stated in its 2021 'Trade Policy Review – An Open, Sustainable and Assertive Trade Policy' that the Union's (multilateral and bilateral) trade policy – as a priority – should support Europe's green and digital agenda and pursue the objective of ensuring a leading position for the EU in digital trade. The key difference between digital trade and traditional trade is the prominence of cross-border data flows. The free flow of data is key for economic growth and can increase the benefits from digital trade. However, certain data are considered 'sensitive' and require protection and/or specific processing conditions. The absence of comprehensive, binding multilateral rules specifically for cross-border data flows and privacy is challenging. That is why 87 WTO Members, including EU Member States, are currently engaged in e-commerce negotiations at the WTO. Most recently, the EU started to strengthen its digital ties with like-minded partners. In April 2023, the Council of the EU authorised the Commission to open negotiations on digital trade principles with Singapore and the Republic of Korea.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [The EU's digital trade policy](#)

[Research for REGI Committee - Cohesion Policy in the outermost regions](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 25-01-2024

External author Ambre MAUCORPS, Mário José Amaral FORTUNA, Tomás LOPES CAVALHEIRO PONCE DENTINHO, Philippe JEAN-PIERRE, Sergio MORENO GIL & Patricia PICAZO PERAL

Policy area Regional Development

Keyword cooperation policy | economic and social cohesion | ECONOMICS | EU policy | EU regional policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | regional cooperation | regions and regional policy | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | socioeconomic conditions

Summary This At a glance note summarises the study focusing on EU Cohesion Policy in the nine outermost regions. The study first outlines the geographic, climate, socio-economic, demographic and administrative characteristics of these regions and further analyses the vulnerabilities affecting their convergence processes. It pays particular attention to the implementation of EU Cohesion Policy and the use of place-based approaches to foster their economic growth. Finally, it reviews the importance of Article 349 of the TFEU and concludes with recommendations for its wider application.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Continuation of the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 25-01-2024

Author EVROUX CLEMENT THIERRY

Policy area Research Policy

Keyword cooperation policy | economic geography | ECONOMICS | eligibility criteria | ENVIRONMENT | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | Framework Programme for Research and Development | GEOGRAPHY | innovation | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Mediterranean region (EU) | Mediterranean third countries | natural environment | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | regions and regional policy | research and development | research and intellectual property | scientific cooperation | self-sufficiency in food | water resources

Summary In 2023, the Commission adopted a proposal for a decision of the Parliament and of the Council amending Decision (EU) 2017/1324, to ensure the EU's continued participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon Europe. A partnership between the EU and 19 states, including 11 EU Member States, PRIMA seeks to build research and innovation capacities, and to develop knowledge and common innovative solutions for sustainable agro-food systems and integrated water provision and management in the Mediterranean area. PRIMA is funded by the EU (€220 million from Horizon 2020, to be paid by December 2024), and the participating states (the same amount or more, to be paid by 2028). The proposal provides another €105 million of funding to PRIMA from the EU and as much or more from the states. It also aligns PRIMA's funding cycle with Horizon Europe's (2021-2027), yet preserves PRIMA's goals and implementation logic. The Council adopted its negotiating mandate in September 2023. Based on the ITRE committee's report, the co-legislators reached a provisional political agreement on 13 December 2023. The agreed text extends the list of participating states to include an additional EU Member State, Bulgaria. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Newly proposed rules to strengthen GDPR enforcement in cross-border cases](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 24-01-2024

Author MILDEBRATH Hendrik Alexander

Keyword [LAW](#) | [protection of privacy](#) | [rights and freedoms](#)

Summary Ever since the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) became applicable in May 2018, the European Parliament and civil society organisations have been flagging deficits in its enforcement and pushing for better implementation, but little has changed. To address the situation, in July 2023 the Commission tabled a proposal aimed at improving GDPR enforcement. The proposal seeks to support the smooth functioning and timely completion of enforcement procedures in cases of cross-border processing. To this end, the Commission suggests harmonising parties' procedural rights, streamlining and frontloading cooperation among supervisory authorities, and detailing the GDPR's dispute resolution mechanism. Views on the Commission proposal diverge. Digital rights organisations advocate for enhanced complainant rights, an equal say for the lead supervisory authority and the supervisory authorities concerned on the substance of enforcement decisions, a stronger role for the European Data Protection Board (EDPB), new mechanisms to facilitate cross-country enforcement, and stricter deadlines. Industry and allied organisations favour increased transparency for the parties under investigation, a stronger role for the lead supervisory authority and lesser roles for the supervisory authorities concerned and the EDPB. The Parliament and the Council are in the process of assessing whether the Commission's proposal presents an adequate response and are working on their respective positions. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages in the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Combating child sexual abuse](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 24-01-2024

Author COLLOVA Claudio

Summary This briefing provides a pre-legislative synthesis of the positions of national, regional and local governmental organisations on the European Commission's forthcoming proposal on the revision of the Combating Child Sexual Abuse Directive. It forms part of an EPRS series offering a summary of the pre-legislative state of play and advance consultation on a range of key Commission priorities during its five-year term in office. It seeks to present the current state of affairs, to examine how existing policy is working on the ground, and to identify best practice and ideas for the future on the part of governmental organisations at all levels of the European system of multilevel governance.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Forest monitoring and resilience in the EU](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 24-01-2024

Author FRIZBERG DIETER

Policy area [Agriculture and Rural Development](#) | [Energy](#) | [Environment](#)

Keyword [AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES](#) | [agroforestry](#) | [biodiversity](#) | [deforestation](#) | [deterioration of the environment](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [environmental protection](#) | [EU strategy](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [farming systems](#) | [forestry](#) | [forestry development](#) | [natural environment](#) | [sustainable forest management](#)

Summary The problem definition in the impact assessment (IA) appears to be well-supported by evidence. The description of the policy options is balanced, albeit sometimes lacking in detail. The assessment of the options' impacts (economic, social and environmental) is mainly qualitative, with only limited quantified estimates of costs and benefits. Data limitations and uncertainties could have been described in more detail. The IA consistently presents the stakeholders' views on the problems, their drivers, the objectives and the policy options. It is transparent about diverging views of the different stakeholder groups, for instance on the overall support for the initiative of an EU framework on forest monitoring and strategic plans, and the need for harmonised forest data and information. An SME test was carried out to measure potential impacts on small and medium-sized enterprises. The IA concludes that the present initiative is not relevant for SMEs in terms of its potential negative impacts, and considers that the preferred option creates economic opportunities for SMEs, e.g. possibilities for SMEs active in acquiring and processing satellite imagery, data processing, and providing services relating to forests and forestry.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Research for AGRI Committee - Rural Areas - Levels of support and impact on competitiveness of farms](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 23-01-2024

External author [Monika BECK](#), [Patrick VAN BUNNEN](#), [Sarah BODART](#), [Arndt MÜNCH](#), [Helene GORNY](#) & [Manon BADOUIX](#)

Policy area [Agriculture and Rural Development](#)

Keyword [agricultural holding](#) | [agricultural policy](#) | [agricultural structures and production](#) | [AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES](#) | [aid to agriculture](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [business organisation](#) | [common agricultural policy](#) | [competitiveness](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [farm modernisation](#) | [farmer](#) | [farming systems](#) | [regions and regional policy](#) | [rural development](#) | [rural region](#)

Summary This At a glance note summarises the study analysing how the CAP and state aid support farm competitiveness, including the role of young farmers and women. Challenges and drivers of EU farm competitiveness are identified. Key competitiveness indicators are analysed and their limitations are considered. The level of CAP support to competitiveness is assessed, with a comparison of the 2014-2022 and 2023-2027 programming periods. The study illustrates the Member States' differentiated approaches to supporting competitiveness.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[SFDR: Draft delegated act \(RTS\) amending the Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2022/1288](#)

Publication type Study

Date 23-01-2024

Author CHAILLET GAELE CHARLOTTE | STRNAD VOJTĚCH

Policy area Environment | Financial and Banking Issues | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword delegation of power | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU finance | EU financing | EU investment | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial market | financing and investment | free movement of capital | POLITICS | regulation (EU) | sustainable development | sustainable finance

Summary Following the Commission's adoption of the Action plan on Sustainable Finance in 2018 with the aim to foster investment in sustainable projects and incorporate sustainability in financial advice, the SFDR was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in November 2019. It aims to provide investors who seek to put their money into companies and projects focusing on sustainable development with the necessary information. Furthermore, the SFDR allows investors to assess the integration of sustainability risks into the business decision process. In April 2022, the Commission adopted a delegated act under the SFDR and mandated the European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs: EBA, EIOPA and ESMA) to review certain aspects of the operation of the delegated act, focusing, amongst other topics, on the disclosures of principal adverse impacts (PAI) of investment decisions on sustainability factors and of financial products' decarbonisation targets. The ESAs asked to prolong the initial deadline of April 2023 by six months and published the final draft on RTS in December 2023. The Commission now has three months to decide whether to endorse the draft RTS as proposed, or to adopt it with modifications. In November 2023, ECON coordinators decided to hold a scrutiny session on the matter, to allow the European Parliament to scrutinise the developments concerning the SFDR delegated act.

Study [EN](#)

[European Parliament: relations with the national parliaments](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 22-01-2024

Author ERIKSSON Eeva

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Summary Moves towards closer European integration have altered the role of the national parliaments. A number of instruments for cooperation between the European Parliament and the national parliaments have been introduced with a view to guaranteeing effective democratic scrutiny of European legislation at all levels. This trend has been reinforced by provisions introduced by the Lisbon Treaty.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[The European Commission](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 22-01-2024

Author MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Summary The Commission is the EU institution that has the monopoly on legislative initiative and important executive powers in policies such as competition and external trade. It is the principal executive body of the European Union and is formed by a College of members composed of one Commissioner per Member State. The Commission oversees the application of Union law and respect for the Treaties by the Member States; it also chairs the committees responsible for the implementation of EU law. The former comitology system has been replaced by new legal instruments, namely implementing and delegated acts.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Asylum Policy](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 22-01-2024

Author ROVENTA-GRIVEI GIORGIANA

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Human Rights

Summary The aim of the EU's asylum policy is to offer appropriate status to any non-EU national requiring international protection in one of the Member States and ensure compliance with the principle of non-refoulement[1]. To this end, the EU is striving to develop a Common European Asylum System.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Renewable energy

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 22-01-2024

Author CIUCCI MATTEO

Policy area Energy | Environment

Summary Renewable sources of energy (wind power, solar power, hydroelectric power, ocean energy, geothermal energy, biomass and biofuels) are alternatives to fossil fuels that help cut greenhouse gas emissions, diversify the energy supply and reduce dependence on unreliable and volatile fossil fuel markets, particularly oil and gas. EU legislation to promote renewables has evolved significantly over the past 15 years. In 2021, renewable energy accounted for 21.8% of the EU's gross final energy consumption. In 2023, the co-legislators increased the EU renewable energy target for 2030 to 42.5%, with the aim of achieving 45%.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Free movement of goods

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 22-01-2024

Author DE BONO JORDAN | MARTINELLO BARBARA | RATCLIFF Christina

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union

Summary The free movement of goods was bolstered by eliminating customs duties as well as other non-tariff barriers. Principles like mutual recognition and standardisation further advanced the internal market. The 2008 New Legislative Framework enhanced the movement of goods, EU market surveillance, and the CE (European Conformity) mark. Yet, challenges on internal market harmonisation remain, as the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors can still hinder the full free movement of goods.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Trans-European Networks – guidelines

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 22-01-2024

Author DEBYSER Ariane | POLLUVEER KRISTI

Policy area Energy | Regional Development | Transport

Summary The trans-European networks (TENs) in transport, energy and telecommunications are developed to connect the regions of the EU and to contribute to the growth of the internal market and employment. They strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion. The trans-European transport network (TEN-T) has evolved over time, including a fundamental reform in 2013 and a major revision proposed in 2021. The energy infrastructure (TEN-E) guidelines were adapted to the European Green Deal in 2022.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

The Court of Justice of the European Union

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 22-01-2024

Author BUX Udo | MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Summary The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) is one of the EU's seven institutions. It consists of two courts of law: the Court of Justice proper and the General Court. It is responsible for the jurisdiction of the European Union. The courts ensure the correct interpretation and application of primary and secondary EU law in the EU. They review the legality of acts of the EU institutions and decide whether Member States have fulfilled their obligations under primary and secondary law. The Court of Justice also provides interpretations of EU law when so requested by national judges.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Research for REGI committee - Cohesion Policy in the outermost regions

Publication type Study

Date 22-01-2024

External author Ambre MAUCORPS, Mário José Amaral FORTUNA, Tomás LOPES CAVALHEIRO PONCE DENTINHO, Philippe JEAN-PIERRE, Sergio MORENO GIL & Patricia PICAZO PERAL

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Economics and Monetary Issues | Employment | Energy | Environment | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Regional Development | Social Policy | Tourism | Transport

Keyword Cohesion Fund | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | ECONOMICS | EU finance | EU policy | European construction | European Region | European Regional Development Fund | European territorial cooperation | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | regions and regional policy

Summary This study focuses on EU Cohesion Policy in the nine outermost regions. It first outlines the geographic, climate, socio-economic, demographic and administrative characteristics of these regions and further analyses the vulnerabilities affecting their convergence processes. It pays particular attention to the implementation of EU Cohesion Policy and the use of place-based approaches to foster their economic growth. Finally, it reviews the importance of Article 349 of the TFEU and concludes with recommendations for its wider application..

Study [EN](#)

Executive summary [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PT](#), [PL](#)

[International Holocaust Remembrance Day: The fragility of freedom](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-01-2024

Author PASIKOWSKA-SCHNASS Magdalena

Policy area Culture

Keyword antisemitism | collective memory | commemoration | crime against humanity | criminal law | culture and religion | historic site | humanities | Jew | Judaism | LAW | modern history | protection of freedoms | rights and freedoms | SCIENCE | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | victim | world history

Summary 'Auschwitz didn't appear from nowhere', remarked Marian Turski, Holocaust survivor and child prisoner in the Auschwitz death camp, in January 2020 at the solemn ceremony on International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The former Auschwitz prisoner described the path from tiny hardships in everyday life and growing discrimination and persecution laws, to the genocide of Jews, the Holocaust. The consecutive stages of shrinking freedom can be summarised as 10 stages of genocide, in a process that could happen anywhere, with perpetrators potentially from all walks of life and ethnicities. However, anyone with enough courage can stop it at any stage. Every year in January, the EU institutions honour the memory of the victims of the Holocaust and pay tribute to the survivors, of whom fewer and fewer remain to bear witness to the horrors of the Nazi persecutions. The EU bears a responsibility to keep the painful memory of those darkest days in Europe's history alive. Repeating 'Never again' is not enough, and that is why the EU, which emerged from the ashes of World War Two, and is based on the principles of peace, freedom, human dignity and fundamental rights, has a duty to protect minorities, the Jewish minority in particular, from discrimination, hate speech and violence. The EU strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, the nomination of the coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, European Parliament resolutions condemning growing antisemitism and warning against neo-Nazi organisations making their come back across the EU, all demonstrate the EU's awareness of these dangerous phenomena and its determination to halt them.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Research for AGRI Committee - Rural Areas - Levels of support and impact on competitiveness of farms](#)

Publication type Study

Date 19-01-2024

External author Monika BECK, Patrick VAN BUNNEN, Sarah BODART, Arndt MÜNCH, Helene GORNY & Manon BADOUIX

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Keyword adaptation to climate change | agricultural policy | agricultural production policy | agricultural structure | agricultural structures and production | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | aid to agriculture | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | economic structure | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | farm income | farming sector | farming systems | regional farm policy | regions and regional policy | rural region | young farmer

Summary This study analyses how the CAP and state aid support farm competitiveness, including the role of young farmers and women. Challenges and drivers of EU farm competitiveness are identified. Key competitiveness indicators are analysed and their limitations are considered. The level of CAP support to competitiveness is assessed, with a comparison of the 2014-2022 and 2023-2027 programming periods. The study illustrates the Member States' differentiated approaches to supporting competitiveness.

Study [EN](#)

Executive summary [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)

[Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive: Fit for 55 package](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 19-01-2024

Author DULIAN Monika

Policy area Energy

Keyword building | building and public works | building services | construction and town planning | ENERGY | energy consumption | energy efficiency | energy policy | energy saving | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental standard | EU energy policy | EU environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | improvement of housing | INDUSTRY | proposal (EU) | reduction of gas emissions | renewable energy | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | soft energy

Summary On 15 December 2021, the European Commission adopted a major revision (recast) of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), as part of the 'fit for 55' package. This package is a core part of the European Green Deal, which aims to set the EU firmly on the path towards net zero GHG emissions (climate neutrality) by 2050. The recast EPBD seeks to accelerate building renovation rates, reduce GHG emissions and energy consumption, and promote the uptake of renewable energy in buildings. The file was referred to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), which appointed Ciarán Cuffe (Greens/EFA, Ireland) as its rapporteur. The Parliament adopted its position, based on the ITRE committee's report, in plenary on 14 March 2023. The Council had agreed on its general approach (negotiating position) on 25 October 2022. Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on 7 December 2023, which now needs to be formally adopted. It states that all new buildings should be zero-emission as of 2030; new buildings occupied or owned by the public sector should be zero-emission as of 2028. Member States will have to ensure a reduction in the average primary energy used in residential buildings of at least 16 % by 2030 and in a range between 20-22 % by 2035. Member States will be required to renovate the 16 % worst-performing non-residential buildings by 2030 and the worst-performing 26 % by 2033 on the basis of minimum energy performance requirements. Third edition of a briefing originally drafted by Alex Wilson. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Research for REGI, CONT and BUDG Committees - Cohesion Policy Calendar \(2021-2027 and 2014-2020 Programming Periods\) January 2024 update](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 19-01-2024

Author HAASE Diana

Policy area Budget | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword ECONOMICS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EU regional policy | EUROPEAN UNION | interinstitutional relations (EU) | regions and regional policy

Summary The implementation timetable for cohesion policy is defined largely by its legislative framework. In order to be able to plan parliamentary work and exercise systematic scrutiny of policy implementation and of the Commission's work, it is essential to have an overview of the timing of different steps in policy implementation in the coming years. This type of briefing was first published (and subsequently updated) in 2014 covering the 2014-2020 programming period. This version includes the policy actions of the 2021-27 period, while still indicating the last steps of the 2014-20 period. It includes a detailed (but non-exhaustive) timetable of policy actions in 2024, together with an overview of major actions for the remainder of the programming period, from 2025. Given its contribution to cohesion in the European Union, policy actions under the Recovery and Resilience Facility are now included in the calendar.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Research for PECH Committee - Training and social security schemes for fishers - State of play and perspectives in the EU](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 19-01-2024

External author Milena ARIAS SCHREIBER, Arne KINDS & Sebastian VILLASANTE

Policy area Employment | Fisheries | Forward Planning | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | Community fisheries | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | European standard | fisheries | fisherman | fishing regulations | organisation of work and working conditions | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | recognition of diplomas | recognition of vocational training qualifications | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social security | technology and technical regulations | vocational training | working conditions

Summary This At a glance note summarises the study on Training and social security schemes for fishers. The study presents the current state of play of the mutual recognition of certificates of competency of EU fishers and the functioning of the social security schemes that cover them. Based on the analysis of these topics, the study discusses the impact of the current situation on the mobility of fishers, on the fishing sector's working risks and security and ultimately on the attractiveness of the fishing sector to the EU workforce.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Plenary round-up – January I 2024](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 19-01-2024

Author SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | Asia and Oceania | civil law | common fisheries policy | corporate finance | debt | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Ombudsman | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | fisheries | GEOGRAPHY | green economy | India | LAW | reduction of gas emissions | strategic partnership (EU)

Summary The first January 2024 plenary session opened with a statement by Parliament's President, Roberta Metsola, commemorating Jacques Delors, the former Commission President, who passed away on 27 December. The highlight of the session was the presentation by Prime Minister Alexander De Croo of the programme of activities of the Belgian Presidency of the Council. There was also a debate on the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 14-15 December 2023 and on the preparation of the special European Council meeting on 1 February, together with the situation in Hungary and frozen EU funds. Further debates took place on the review of the economic governance framework; the recent ecological catastrophe involving plastic pellets lost off a ship and its impact on micro-plastic pollution in the maritime and coastal habitats; addressing urgent skills shortages and finding the right talents to boost job creation; improving the socio-economic situation of farmers and rural areas; ensuring fair incomes, food security and a just transition; the revision of the European Labour Authority's mandate; and the fight against the resurgence of neo-fascism in Europe, in particular following the parade that took place in Rome on 7 January. Several debates were held on international issues: keeping commitments and delivering military assistance to Ukraine; the humanitarian situation in Gaza, the need to reach a ceasefire and the risks of regional escalation; the need for an EU and international response to the Houthi attacks in the Red Sea and for continued support to the Yemeni peace process; the state of emergency in Ecuador; and Norway's recent decision to advance seabed mining in the Arctic. Finally, Jan-Christoph Oetjen (Renew, Germany) was elected a Vice-President of Parliament, replacing Nicola Beer.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

Extraterritorial processing of asylum claims

Publication type Briefing

Date 19-01-2024

Author LECLERC GABIJA | MENTZELOPOULOU Maria-Margarita | ORAV Anita

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword asylum seeker | border control | EU migration policy | fundamental rights | human rights | international law | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | migration | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary In the past decade, continuous migration and asylum pressure on European Union Member States has made the external dimension of the EU's approach to migration management all the more important. The need to address challenges relating to external border management has reoriented EU migration policy towards extended and stricter border controls, combined with the externalisation of migration management through cooperation with third countries. In this context, the external processing of asylum claims has also been put forward as a possibility. External processing entails applications for international protection being processed beyond the EU's external borders, in third countries. An individual processed externally whose claim was successful would then, in theory, be resettled to an EU Member State. Asylum is governed by international, EU and national laws. Both EU and national asylum legislation must be aligned with the international legal framework. Although EU law does not provide for the processing of asylum applications outside the EU, the idea of 'transit' or 'processing' centres in third countries has been recurrent over the years. Examples of externalisation procedures can be found around the world. Some non-EU countries, such as Australia and the United States, have practical experience of the extra-territorial processing of asylum claims. Back in 1986, Denmark tabled a draft resolution in the United Nations (UN) General Assembly to create UN centres where asylum claims could be processed, in order to coordinate the resettlement of refugees among all states. Later, in 2001 and 2002, when the EU experienced the first peak of migrant arrivals in the EU, this was followed by a series of proposals involving the external processing of asylum requests. Extraterritorial processing was first put forward by the United Kingdom in 2003, while Germany proposed the establishment of asylum centres in North Africa in 2005. Another upsurge of arrivals was experienced from 2014 to 2016; this led – among other things – to the signature of the EU-Turkey Statement. The series of proposals made over the years with a view to externalising migration policies, have raised concerns, not least in relation to the human rights implications, asylum procedures and EU and international law.

Briefing [EN](#)

The European Investment Bank

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 18-01-2024

Author SCHEINERT CHRISTIAN

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Financial and Banking Issues

Summary The European Investment Bank (EIB) furthers the objectives of the European Union by providing long-term project funding, guarantees and advice. It supports projects both within and outside the EU. Its shareholders are the Member States of the EU. The EIB is the majority shareholder in the European Investment Fund (EIF), and the two organisations together make up the EIB Group.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

The European Union and its trade partners

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 18-01-2024

Author IGLER WOLFGANG

Policy area International Trade

Summary Over the years, the EU has been moving away from the production of labour-intensive, low-value products in order to specialise in higher-value, branded goods. With its open economy, trade is essential to the EU. To overcome barriers to trade and level the playing field for its businesses, the Union negotiates a number of free trade agreements (FTAs). The EU is also a founder of and key player in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Innovation policy

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 18-01-2024

Author POLLUVEER KRISTI

Policy area Industry | Research Policy

Summary Innovation plays an increasingly important role in our economy. As well as benefiting the EU's consumers and workers, it is essential to creating better jobs, building a greener society, and improving our quality of life. It is also key to maintaining the EU's competitiveness on global markets. Innovation policy is the interface between research and technological development policy and industrial policy and aims to create a framework conducive to bringing ideas to market.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

The Western Balkans

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 18-01-2024

Author DE MUNTER André

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary The EU has developed a policy to support the gradual integration of the Western Balkan countries with the Union. On 1 July 2013, Croatia became the first of the seven countries to join, and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia have candidate country status. Accession negotiations and chapters have been opened with Montenegro and Serbia, negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia were opened in July 2022, and Kosovo submitted its application for EU membership in December 2022.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Transatlantic relations: the US and Canada

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 18-01-2024

Author PEIJNENBURG LEON | TURUNEN TUULA KAARINA

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary The EU, the US and Canada share the values of democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and economic and political freedom, and have common foreign policy and security concerns. Close cooperation and strategic relations with the US and Canada remain a priority for the EU.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

The Enlargement of the Union

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 18-01-2024

Author DE MUNTER André

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary On 1 July 2013, Croatia became the 28th (now 27th) Member State of the European Union. Since then, no other countries have joined the EU, and the UK left the EU on 31 January 2020. Accession negotiations and chapters have been opened with Montenegro, Serbia and Türkiye. Albania and North Macedonia opened accession negotiations in July 2022. In December 2022, Bosnia and Herzegovina obtained candidate country status and Kosovo submitted its application for EU membership. In June 2022, the EU granted candidate country status to Ukraine and Moldova. On 8 November 2023, the Commission recommended that the Council open accession negotiations with Moldova and Ukraine (5.5.6).

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Maritime security: Situation in the Red Sea and EU response

Publication type At a Glance

Date 18-01-2024

Author CLAPP SEBASTIAN

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | civil war | common foreign and security policy | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | international trade | maritime safety | natural environment | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | Red Sea | regional security | TRADE | TRANSPORT | transport policy | Yemen

Summary The Iran-backed Houthi militia, which controls large parts of Yemen, has attacked numerous commercial ships in the Red Sea since mid-November 2023 'in solidarity with the Palestinians'. This poses a significant threat to the global economy, and has led to an escalation of tensions in the Middle East. The United States has launched an international operation in the Red Sea to protect commercial vessels and keep this vital shipping route open, and the EU granted preliminary support to its own mission on 16 January 2024. On 12 January, the US and United Kingdom launched direct strikes on Houthi targets in Yemen. The Houthis have vowed to retaliate.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Enforcement of EU law in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice Policy.

Publication type Study

Date 18-01-2024

External author MORIJN John

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword application of EU law | application of the law | area of freedom, security and justice | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | LAW | political framework | POLITICS | rule of law | sources and branches of the law

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee, provides a quantitative and qualitative analysis of how EU law in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSJ) is currently enforced. It discusses traditional enforcement tools like infringement actions, budgetary conditionalities and other policy-based monitoring and evaluation methods. Based on this it formulates policy recommendations to further improve AFSJ-enforcement in a comprehensive manner.

Study [EN](#)

Executive summary [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)

Revision of the EU legislation on design protection

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-01-2024

Author DE LUCA Stefano

Policy area Intellectual Property Law | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword codification of EU law | designs and models | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union Intellectual Property Office | European Union law | INDUSTRY | mechanical engineering | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | research and intellectual property | single market | spare part | trademark law

Summary The proposals to amend Council Regulation (EC) No 6/2002 (the Community Design Regulation) and in parallel to recast Directive 98/71/EC (the Design Directive) aim to align the design protection system in the EU with the digital age and make it more accessible and efficient for applicants. In terms of digitalisation, the proposed update of the requirements for representing designs would allow applicants to file new digital design types (e.g. by using 3D printing technologies). In terms of efficiency, the proposals aim to make the application procedures cheaper and simpler, the registration procedures faster, while also ensuring greater predictability and legal certainty for individual designers, SMEs and design-intensive industries looking for design protection in the EU. Within the European Parliament, the files have been assigned to the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI), with Gilles Lebreton as rapporteur. The committee's decisions to enter into interinstitutional negotiations were confirmed by plenary in November 2023 while the Council agreed on general approaches to the proposals in September 2023. The Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on 5 December 2023, which now needs to be confirmed and formally adopted by both institutions. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Crisis and force majeure regulation

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-01-2024

Author ORAV Anita

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword cooperation policy | EU migration policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | foreign national | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | legislative procedure | migration | migration control | migratory movement | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | proposal (EU) | return migration | right of asylum | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | stateless person | third country

Summary In September 2020, the European Commission proposed a new pact on asylum and migration, which includes a proposal for a regulation dealing with crisis and force majeure in the area of migration and asylum. The proposal aims to establish a mechanism for dealing with mass influxes and irregular arrivals of third-country nationals in a Member State. The proposed regulation sets out a solidarity mechanism procedure, allowing derogations from the Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (AMMR) as regards the procedural timeframes. Other derogations from the AMMR concern crisis situations, more specifically the asylum crisis management procedure, the return crisis management procedure, and the registration of international protection applications. On 20 December 2023, European Parliament and Council negotiators reached a provisional agreement on this proposal, which will be followed up in technical meetings before the agreement can be endorsed by the parliamentary committee and by the Member States. It will then need to be formally adopted by both Parliament and the Council. Second edition of a briefing originally drafted by Nikolai Atanassov. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Multilateral cooperation on fisheries management in the North-East Atlantic Ocean](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 18-01-2024

Author SCHOLAERT FREDERIK

Policy area Fisheries

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | Atlantic Ocean | common fisheries policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | fisheries | fishing regulations | international affairs | international agreement | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | natural environment | protection of animals | sea fishing

Summary The North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) is an intergovernmental fisheries management organisation responsible for fishery resources in the North-East Atlantic, particularly in international waters. As a member, the EU incorporates NEAFC decisions into Union law. In January 2024, the European Parliament's Committee on Fisheries is due to vote on a proposal to integrate the NEAFC rules into a new regulation.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[United States approach to artificial intelligence](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 17-01-2024

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Consumer Protection

Keyword America | artificial intelligence | cybernetics | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | GEOGRAPHY | information and information processing | natural and applied sciences | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | redevelopment aid | SCIENCE | technological change | technology and technical regulations | United States

Summary While efforts to regulate artificial intelligence (AI) both globally and in the United States intensify, the prospects for broad Congress-passed legislation remain doubtful. In October 2023, President Biden issued a wide-reaching executive order on safe, secure and trustworthy AI. It is a positive step, but implementation will be challenging.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Economic Dialogue with the President of the ECOFIN](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 17-01-2024

Author DE LEMOS PEIXOTO SAMUEL | LOI GIACOMO | MAGNUS Marcel | SABOL MAJA | SPITZER Kai Gereon

Keyword Ecofin | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial policy | free movement of capital | head of State | political framework | POLITICS

Summary Vincent Van Peteghem, Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium and Minister of Finance is participating in the ECON Committee in his capacity of President of the ECOFIN Council during the Belgian Presidency (January - June 2024). In accordance with the Treaty of the Union, "Member States shall regard their economic policies as a matter of common concern and shall coordinate them within the Council". This document provides an overview of the Belgian Presidency priorities in ECON matters, including the Council's work relating to the implementation of the European Semester for economic coordination, notably the application of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, and other policy streams relevant to the EU single market and the deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union, including the review of the EU economic governance framework.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[2024 Recommendations on the economic policy of the Euro Area: A comparison of Commission and Council texts \(the 'comply or explain' principle\)](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 17-01-2024

Author LOI GIACOMO | MIESKOLAINEN MILJA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | Ecofin | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU competition policy | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | monetary economics | monetary policy | monetary relations | recommendation

Summary This document compares the draft 2024 Recommendation for the economic policy of the Euro Area proposed by the European Commission on 21 November 2023 with the 2023 Euro Area Recommendation approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 16 January 2023.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Reform of the Qualification Directive](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-01-2024

Author RADJENOVIC Anja

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword drafting of EU law | EU migration policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | international law | LAW | migration | residence permit | right of asylum | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The 2015 refugee and migrant crisis in Europe has called into question existing EU legislation on asylum, in particular the criteria according to which applicants for international protection can qualify for refugee or subsidiary protection status, as recognised in the Qualification Directive. Although national asylum rules are more closely aligned than they were, major differences in approach persist across the EU. This can lead asylum-seekers to claim refuge in Member States whose asylum systems appear to be more generous, rather than in the Member State officially responsible for their asylum applications. The Commission's proposal of 13 July 2016 proposes to replace the Qualification Directive with a regulation, setting uniform standards for the recognition of people in need of protection and for the rights granted to beneficiaries of international protection. The Parliament and the Council reached provisional agreement on the text in June 2018. After being blocked since 2018, the two institutions reached a final agreement on the regulation on 15 December 2022. However, the agreed text has not been formally adopted, pending progress on other related proposals in the asylum and migration field. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Progress on implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 17-01-2024

External author Gabrielle Aubert

Policy area Energy | Transport

Keyword biodiversity | cooperation policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental cooperation | environmental monitoring | environmental policy | EU environmental policy | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | natural environment

Summary This document provides an overview of developments to date on the GBF, milestones and timeline for implementation, and critical issues currently affecting discussions and progress prior to COP16.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Energy efficiency](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 16-01-2024

Author CIUCCI MATTEO

Policy area Energy

Summary Energy efficiency is a strategic priority of the Energy Union, which is built on the 'energy efficiency first' principle. Energy efficiency measures are recognised as means for achieving a sustainable energy supply, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, improving security of supply, reducing import bills and promoting European competitiveness. EU legislation on energy efficiency has evolved significantly over the past 15 years. In 2023, the co-legislators increased the energy efficiency target, i.e. the target for reducing the EU's final energy consumption, to 11.7% by 2030.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[The mutual recognition of diplomas](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 16-01-2024

Author DE BONO JORDAN | MARTINELLO BARBARA | RATCLIFF Christina

Policy area Education | Internal Market and Customs Union

Summary The freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services are cornerstones of the single market, enabling the mobility of businesses and professionals throughout the EU. In order to implement these freedoms, diplomas and qualifications issued nationally need to be widely recognised. Different measures for harmonisation and mutual recognition have been adopted, and further legislation on the subject is underway.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Russia](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 16-01-2024

Author CUEVAS HERMAN Vanessa

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Summary EU-Russia relations have been strained since 2014 because of Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea, support for separatist groups in eastern Ukraine, destabilisation policies in the neighbourhood, disinformation and interference campaigns and internal human rights violations. After Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, the remaining political, cultural and scientific cooperation was suspended.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Company law

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 16-01-2024

Author BUX Udo | MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law

Summary European company law is partially codified in Directive (EU) 2017/1132, and Member States continue to operate separate company acts, which are amended from time to time to comply with EU directives and regulations. Ongoing efforts towards establishing a modern and efficient company law and corporate governance framework for European undertakings, investors and employees aim to improve the business environment in the EU.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Public health

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 16-01-2024

Author CURMEI MARIA-MIRELA | KURRER CHRISTIAN MARTIN

Policy area Public Health

Summary Public health policy has recently taken centre stage in EU policymaking with the COVID-19 pandemic, Parliament's making cancer one of its areas of focus, and the push towards a stronger European Health Union. The European Health Union initiative addresses immediate and future health concerns, including the COVID-19 crisis, building resilience against cross-border health threats, implementing the Beating Cancer Plan, advancing the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe, and enhancing digital health.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Management of the external borders

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 16-01-2024

Author MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Human Rights

Summary The EU's border management policy has needed to adapt to significant developments, such as the unprecedented arrival of refugees and irregular migrants, and since mid-2015 a series of shortcomings in EU policies on external borders and migration have come to light. The challenges linked to the increase in mixed migration flows into the EU, the COVID-19 pandemic and heightened security concerns have triggered a new period of activity in EU external border protection, which also has an impact on its internal borders.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Culture

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 16-01-2024

Author ISKRA Katarzyna Anna

Policy area Culture

Summary The European Union's action in the field of culture supplements the cultural policy of the Member States in various areas, such as the preservation of European cultural heritage, cooperation between various countries' cultural institutions and the promotion of mobility among creative workers. The cultural sector is also affected by provisions of the Treaties that do not explicitly pertain to culture.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-01-2024

Author SAJN Nikolina

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | agricultural activity | agricultural policy | agricultural product | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | beverages and sugar | consumer information | consumption | designation of origin | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | foodstuff | foodstuff | labelling | marketing | product designation | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | quality control of agricultural products | research and intellectual property | spirits | TRADE | trademark | wine

Summary On 24 October 2023, negotiators from the Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement on the Commission's proposal for a regulation on geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products. The text still has to be formally adopted by the Parliament and Council. The agreed text would bring together in a single legal document the provisions setting out the procedures for registering geographical indications (GIs) for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products that are currently spread over three regulations. It would increase the powers and responsibilities of producer groups, lay down rules on sustainability practices, clarify rules on the use of GI products as ingredients, and improve the protection of GI products online. The Commission would remain in charge of the management of geographical indications, with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) only providing technical assistance and maintaining the GI register. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Towards a common EU system for returns](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-01-2024

Author DUMBRAVA Costica | RADJENOVIC Anja

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword asylum seeker | common foreign and security policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign national | fundamental rights | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | migration | migration policy | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary An effective return policy that removes from the EU third-country nationals who do not have the right to stay on EU territory is key for ensuring the consistency and credibility of the EU's migration policies. Such a return policy requires common rules and procedures in the EU Member States, implemented in accordance with fundamental rights obligations and respecting the principle of non-refoulement, as well as a robust cooperation framework with third countries that are willing to accept returnees. Efforts to increase the number of returns have been a continuous element of EU migration policy for the past 20 years. However, the return of third-country nationals remains a challenge, as only about one in three persons who are ordered to leave the EU are effectively returned to a third country. The limited effectiveness of the return policy is due to several challenges that the EU and Member States face when carrying out return procedures. Those challenges relate to difficulties in implementing return procedures in the Member States (internal dimension) as well as a lack of cooperation on readmission by third countries (external dimension). Since the 2015 peak in arrivals of asylum-seekers and irregular migrants, the EU and its Member States have significantly stepped up efforts to build a more efficient return policy. Broad changes have been made in the internal and external dimensions of EU return policy, which include strengthening the EU legislative framework on return and putting in place operational and practical tools. The European Parliament has consistently stressed the need to improve the effectiveness of the EU's return policy, insisting on full compliance with fundamental and procedural rights. It has also stressed the importance of concluding formal EU readmission agreements with third countries, coupled with EU parliamentary scrutiny and judicial oversight.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Fisheries control](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 15-01-2024

Author POPESCU Irina

Policy area Fisheries

Summary The EU fisheries control system aims to ensure compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy. Its efficiency is widely recognised as a necessary condition for a successful policy. Fisheries control is a competence of Member States, which are responsible for controlling their fishing and related activities, while the Commission verifies how they fulfil their responsibilities.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Personal data protection

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 15-01-2024

Author MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary Protection of personal data and respect for private life are European fundamental rights. The European Parliament has always insisted on the need to strike a balance between enhancing security and safeguarding human rights, including data protection and privacy. New EU data protection rules strengthening citizens' rights and simplifying rules for companies in the digital age took effect in May 2018. Research prepared for the European Parliament indicates that EU legislation related to regulating data flows contributes EUR 51.6 billion annually to GDP in the European Union. Research prepared for the European Parliament's Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA Committee) confirms the importance of data protection for defending democracy and individual freedoms in the EU.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Medicines and Medical Devices

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 15-01-2024

Author CURMEI MARIA-MIRELA | KURRER CHRISTIAN MARTIN

Policy area Industry | Public Health

Summary Medicines and medical devices are subject to the rules of the single market and have a direct impact on people's health. A robust legal framework is in place to protect public health and guarantee the safety of these products. Access to affordable medicines, the fight against antimicrobial resistance, the ethical conduct of clinical trials, the use of artificial intelligence in medical devices and incentives to research and development are just some of the key issues the EU deals with in this field.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Police cooperation

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 15-01-2024

Author DAVOLI Alessandro

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Summary The EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) is a central plank of the EU's broader internal security architecture. Law enforcement cooperation and policies are still developing, with a special focus on countering terrorism, cybercrime and other serious and organised forms of crime. The main goal is to achieve a safer Europe for the benefit of everyone in the EU, in compliance with fundamental rights and data protection rules, as requested several times by Parliament.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

Policy for research and technological development

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 15-01-2024

Author POLLUVEER KRISTI

Policy area Research Policy

Summary EU policy for research and technological development (RTD) has been an important area of European legislation since the start, and was extended in the 1980s with a European framework programme for research. In 2014, most EU research funding came under the umbrella of Horizon 2020, which covered the period 2014-2020 and aimed at ensuring the EU's global competitiveness. Its successor Horizon Europe, the current EU research and innovation programme, was launched in 2021 for the period 2021-2027.

EU Fact Sheets [BG](#), [CS](#), [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [GA](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [LT](#), [LV](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#), [ET](#), [HR](#), [MT](#), [PL](#), [SK](#), [SL](#)

[Plants produced using new genomic techniques](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 15-01-2024

Author KATSAROVA Ivana

Policy area Food Safety

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | cultivation of agricultural land | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | food safety | foodstuff | genetic database | health | natural and applied sciences | organic farming | organic product | plant breeding | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | SCIENCE | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | transgenic plant

Summary On 5 July 2023, the Commission tabled a proposal for a regulation on certain new genomic techniques (NGTs). It establishes two categories of plants obtained by NGTs: plants comparable to naturally occurring or conventional plants, and plants with modifications that are more complex. The two categories will be subject to different requirements to reach the market, taking into account their differing characteristics and risk profiles. Feedback from stakeholders is mixed. While industry interest groups have hailed the 'game-changing proposals' bringing innovation in plant breeding, the organic food and farming movement have criticised the Commission's plan to take NGTs out of the existing legal framework, as it could leave organic food systems unprotected. In Parliament, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), responsible for the file under the co-decision procedure, discussed the draft report prepared by Jessica Polfjård (EPP, Sweden) on 7 November 2023. The vote in committee is scheduled for 24 January 2024. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages in the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Research for PECH Committee - Training and social security schemes for fishers - State of play and perspectives in the EU.](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 15-01-2024

External author Milena ARIAS SCHREIBER, Arne KINDS & Sebastian VILLASANTE

Policy area Employment | Fisheries | Forward Planning | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | fisheries | fisherman | labour market | professional qualifications | recognition of vocational training qualifications | social affairs | social policy | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This study presents the current state of play of the mutual recognition of certificates of competency of EU fishers and the functioning of the social security schemes that cover them. Based on the analysis of these topics, the study discusses the impact of the current situation on the mobility of fishers, on the fishing sector's working risks and security and ultimately on the attractiveness of the fishing sector to the EU workforce.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Executive summary](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)

[Application of the 'One in, one out' approach – and its impact on businesses - Study in Focus](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 15-01-2024

External author James EAGER, Elias NACER & Loïc DOUVILLÉ

Summary The original full study analyses the implementation of the 'one in, one out' (OIOO) approach by the European Commission. The OIOO approach is a regulatory offsetting mechanism and methodology that was introduced into the Commission's policy making process in 2021 and documented in the amendments to the Better Regulation Guidelines and Toolbox (November 2021). Given the aims of the OIOO approach, the study also considers its anticipated impact on the EU regulatory burden and on the competitiveness of European businesses and especially SMEs. This study takes stock of the implementation of the regulatory offsetting mechanism known as the 'one in, one out' (OIOO) approach by the European Commission. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE).

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Second revision of payment services in the EU](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 15-01-2024

Author KRAMER Esther

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Keyword consumption | electronic banking | electronic money | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | intra-EU payment | monetary economics | payable service | regulation (EU) | TRADE

Summary The IA underpins the proposal for the second revision of the Payment Services Directive with relevant internal and external expertise. Despite some weaknesses in the definition of objectives, it follows a clear intervention logic, based on four problem areas. To tackle these, 16 options and combinations of options are assessed, 12 of which are selected for the final package of preferred options. While the analysis is clear and logical overall, the details of the measures under the options and of the additional technical measures and clarifications (assessed in annexes) could have been presented in a more coherent and inclusive manner. This would have made the IA's technical elements more accessible for non-experts. The IA's focus is on economic and societal impacts. Given its relevance for the identified problems and users' trust in payment services, cybersecurity could have been assessed in more depth.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Plant Health: Revision of Regulation \(EU\) 2016/2031 on protective measures against plant pests](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-01-2024

Author KARAMFILOVA Ekaterina

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | cultivation of agricultural land | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | plant health treatment | regulation (EU)

Summary Plants in good health are essential to the European Union's economy and society and are therefore regulated at EU level. Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 (the 'Plant Health Regulation') provides early-stage measures to prevent pests from entering the EU, or to eradicate them immediately if found present on EU territory, thus ensuring a uniform level of phytosanitary protection within the EU territory. The regulation also seeks to level the playing field for EU producers and traders in plant and plant products on the EU internal market and sets out measures on imports to the EU from third countries. In December 2021, the Commission published two reports presenting findings on the implementation of key provisions of the regulation, namely on imports and on the extension of the plant passport requirement to all plants for planting. Included in its 2024 work programme, on 17 October 2023, the Commission submitted a proposal for a revision of the Plant Health Regulation. It addresses, on the one hand, some of the implementation challenges identified by the above-mentioned reports and experiences collected during the first years of implementation of the regulation, and, on the other hand, the general commitment made by the Commission to simplify the EU legislation by rationalising certain reporting obligations. This implementation appraisal presents key findings on the implementation of the regulation to inform European Parliament decision-making on the Commission proposal for revision.

[Briefing EN](#)

[Updating the European digital identity framework](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-01-2024

Author NEGREIRO ACHIAGA Maria Del Mar | Niestadt Maria

Policy area Industry

Keyword data protection | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | information and information processing | information security | information technology and data processing

Summary The 2014 Regulation on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market (eIDAS Regulation or eIDAS) was the first digital identity legislation to pave the way for cross-border electronic identification, authentication and website certification across the EU. While the application of eIDAS has had a mixed record, the pandemic has fuelled demand for eIDAS solutions that are capable of ensuring broader access to public and private services. On 3 June 2021, the European Commission put forward a proposal to update the European digital identity framework. This would allow citizens across the EU to identify and authenticate themselves online (through their European digital identity wallet), share digital documents or prove a specific identity attribute such as age. In parallel, the Commission adopted a recommendation to design a toolbox supporting the framework so as to avoid fragmentation and barriers due to diverging standards. After the European Parliament and the Council of the EU approved their negotiating positions on the proposal in March 2023 and December 2022 respectively, they reached a provisional agreement on the creation of a pan-European digital identity framework on 8 November 2023. Both now need to formally adopt the text before it is published in the Official Journal of the EU and enters into force. Fourth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing EN](#)

Multimedia [Updating the European digital identity framework](#)

[Application of the 'One in, one out' approach – and its impact on businesses](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-01-2024

External author James EAGER, Elias NACER & Loïc DOUVILLÉ

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | small and medium-sized enterprises

Summary This study takes stock of the implementation of the regulatory offsetting mechanism known as the 'one in, one out' (OIOO) approach by the European Commission. Overall, this mechanism was found to be relevant and useful to address the issue of managing the EU regulatory burden on businesses. While there has been a clear commitment from the Commission to ensuring the OIOO approach is applied effectively, there remains scope for the Commission to increase the transparency underpinning its methodology. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE).

[Study EN](#)

[Banking union: Overview and state of play](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-01-2024

Author HALLAK ISSAM

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword banking supervision | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | competition policy | EU banking union | EU finance | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | fund (EU) | monetary economics | single market

Summary The banking union is a regulatory framework that establishes a single prudential rulebook for banks, and – for banks the failure of which it is considered would have a significant impact – a single supervisor and a Single Resolution Fund. Created as a policy response to the 2007-2008 banking crisis, banking union is essential for European monetary union and the level playing field in the EU single market for goods and services. The lessons learned during the banking crisis were a key foundation for banking union. One of its major objectives is to disentangle the link between banks and their Member State – also known as the bank–sovereign 'nexus' or 'doom loop' – and to safeguard identical refinancing conditions for banks with identical characteristics, regardless of the Member State in which they are headquartered. The latter aim also seeks to indirectly benefit fair competition in the single market: banks typically pass through their own financing conditions to the lending conditions they offer to firms. By enhancing convergence of the financing conditions of EU banks with identical characteristics, the banking union would therefore also enhance convergence of the financing conditions of EU firms with identical characteristics. This, in turn, helps prevent economic fragmentation within the EU. The banking union is at a relatively advanced stage. It has set up an EU-level layer of decisions, in particular as regards the application ('supervision') of the rules ('regulation'). This provides for information provision from banks and consistent application of the regulation. It also provides for the creation of 'safety net' funds financed by the industry pro-rata to covered bonds. Two pillars, namely the single supervisory mechanism and the single resolution mechanism, are in force and operational. The third pillar – the single depository insurance scheme – has yet to be completed and enacted. The banking union rulebook is still subject to modifications, to align with international standards. The rules on resolution and the deposit insurance scheme are being modified, to meet their aim of avoiding state interventions and coping with the absence of a single deposit insurance.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Improving the design of the EU electricity market](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-01-2024

Author WIDUTO Agnieszka

Policy area Energy

Keyword construction and town planning | consumer protection | consumption | cooperation policy | electricity supply | ENERGY | energy cooperation | energy efficiency | energy policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | market stabilisation | market supervision | price increase | price of energy | prices | proposal (EU) | renewable energy | security of supply | single market | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | soft energy | trade | TRADE | trade policy

Summary On 14 March 2023, the European Commission proposed a reform of the EU electricity market, with the aim of reducing price volatility for consumers and creating favourable conditions for investors in low-carbon energy. The reform includes two legislative proposals – one on electricity market design (EMD) and the other on protection against wholesale energy market manipulation (REMIT). The reform would improve consumer protection by offering more fixed-price contracts and enhancing supplier obligations, and incentivising energy communities, self-consumption and renewable energy sharing. It would support the use of more long-term instruments such as power purchase agreements and contracts for difference, and improve integration and liquidity in forward markets. It also enhances flexibility solutions such as demand response and storage. Furthermore, it aims to improve market monitoring and transparency, and protection against manipulation. The European Parliament voted on both files during its September 2023 plenary session. Interinstitutional negotiations on REMIT concluded in an agreement on 16 November, and those on EMD on 14 December 2023. The agreed texts now need to be formally adopted. Fourth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages in the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Revamping the EU electricity market](#)

[Due Diligence in EU Institutions' Own-Account Procurement: Rules and Practices](#)

Publication type Study

Date 12-01-2024

External author Claire METHVEN O'BRIEN, Roberto CARANTA

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU body | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | human rights | LAW | public procurement | rights and freedoms | sustainable product | TRADE | trade policy

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT), investigates whether EU institutions implement human rights and sustainability due diligence when they purchase goods and services. Based on documentary analysis and interviews, this study finds that sustainability due diligence is lacking in procurement carried out by the European Parliament, the European Commission and the EU agencies. Accordingly, it makes recommendations to promote better integration of due diligence into the procurement of goods and services by the EU institutions.

Study [EN](#)

Executive summary [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Russia's war on Ukraine: Implications for the Arctic](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 11-01-2024

Author [LECLERC GABIJA](#)

Policy area [Foreign Affairs](#)

Keyword [adaptation to climate change](#) | [climate change](#) | [common foreign and security policy](#) | [deterioration of the environment](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [economic consequence](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [geopolitics](#) | [humanities](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [Russo-Ukrainian issue](#) | [SCIENCE](#) | [war](#)

Summary Russia's brutal war of aggression against Ukraine may not be taking place geographically in the Arctic, but it has already had a plethora of impacts on the circumpolar north, the repercussions of which are likely to spread well beyond the region. First, the war has negatively affected cooperation, as activities with Russia in the framework of regional forums such as the Arctic Council (AC), the Barents Euro-Atlantic Council (BEAC), the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and the Northern Dimension have either been significantly scaled down or suspended. The repercussions of curtailed scientific cooperation, which has been a hallmark of Arctic exceptionalism for decades, are feared to be especially serious, in a context where unprecedented climate change necessitates urgent joint circumpolar action. In parallel, Russia's war on Ukraine has had a negative impact on the indigenous peoples of the Arctic, with those living in Russia most affected. With the return of full-blown war to European soil, as well as the implications of climate change, heated geopolitics has also returned to the 'high north'. Russia's aggression has been a catalyst for two Nordic countries – Finland and Sweden – to apply for membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), reinforcing the Arctic dimension of the alliance. This development is set to strengthen NATO in the region; however, the intensifying hybrid threats and a non-conventional military build-up by Russia are likely to further increase tensions in the Arctic. Russia's isolation and the effects of economic sanctions imposed owing to its military aggression also create room for possible new dynamics and alliances in the region in the context of the changing power balance and China's rising ambitions there. These developments are of great concern for the EU, which – in line with its Arctic policy outlined in successive Commission communications and Council conclusions – has been actively involved in matters relevant to the Arctic. The consequences of scaled-down cooperation on climate change, the environment and livelihoods, and the changes in the security environment and China's ambitions, all touch upon core interests of the EU. Through its resolutions, the European Parliament has been advocating for enhanced protection for the Arctic region, for 'peaceful cooperation while taking into account the new security realities', and for a stronger EU policy in the Arctic that is better adapted to the current geopolitical situation.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Gender aspects of the rising cost of living and the impact of the energy crisis](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 11-01-2024

External author [Mariëlle FEENSTRA](#), [Cecilia LARYEA](#) & [Ana STOJILOVSKA](#)

Policy area [Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity](#) | [Social Policy](#)

Keyword [aid to disadvantaged groups](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [low income](#) | [national accounts](#) | [social protection](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary This study analysis, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the FEMM Committee, scratched the surface of the hidden face of the gendered impact of the rising cost of living and the ongoing energy crisis in the European Union. Scratching the surface, because the real impact is not easy to measure, and data have only been collected recently. What is clear is that the permanent gender inequality in society impacts how people can absorb shocks inflicted by crisis.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Executive summary](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)

[Multilateral financial assistance to Ukraine - January 2024](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 11-01-2024

Author [RAKIC Drazen](#)

Policy area [Budget](#) | [Economics and Monetary Issues](#) | [Financial and Banking Issues](#) | [Foreign Affairs](#) | [Global Governance](#)

Keyword [cooperation policy](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EU relations](#) | [Europe](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [exchange rate](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financial aid](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [gross domestic product](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [military intervention](#) | [monetary economics](#) | [national accounts](#) | [political geography](#) | [Russo-Ukrainian issue](#) | [Ukraine](#)

Summary This paper provides a snapshot of multilateral financial assistance provided to Ukraine since the start of the Russian invasion in February 2022 by the European Union and its bodies (European Investment Bank), international financial institutions (International Monetary Fund, World Bank Group, and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) and groups of bilateral creditors ("The Group of Creditors of Ukraine"). The paper aims to increase understanding and support scrutiny of international financial assistance to Ukraine. The Annex provides information on the conditions attached to EU and IMF loans.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [EN](#)

[Debt-equity bias reduction allowance \(DEBRA\)](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-01-2024

Author BAERT Pieter

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Taxation

Keyword civil law | debt | debt reduction | discount rate | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial policy | free movement of capital | indebtedness | interest | LAW | monetary relations | public debt | public finance and budget policy | tax | tax on capital | tax relief | taxation

Summary In most countries in the European Union (EU) and in the rest of the world, debt is treated more favourably from a tax perspective than equity, with interest payments on loans generally being tax deductible. In contrast, costs relating to equity financing, such as dividends, are mostly non-tax deductible. This unequal treatment of debt and equity leads to a bias towards debt in businesses' investment decisions and can lead to high levels of indebtedness in the EU corporate sector. On 11 May 2022, to support the creation of a harmonised tax environment that places debt and equity financing on an equal footing in the EU, the European Commission tabled a proposal for a debt–equity bias reduction allowance (DEBRA). The directive introduces both a tax allowance on increases in company equity and a limitation of the tax deductibility of interest payments. To enter into force, the proposal requires the Council's unanimous support, following consultation of the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee. In December 2022, the Council stated that negotiations would be temporarily 'suspended' and reassessed at a later stage in the broader context of other upcoming reforms in the area of corporate taxation. The European Parliament is expected to vote on its (non-binding) report during its January 2024 plenary session. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Parliament's response to the fisheries package](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-01-2024

Author SCHOLAERT FREDERIK

Policy area Fisheries

Keyword agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | aquaculture | common fisheries policy | common organisation of markets | fisheries | fishery product | fishing agreement | fishing regulations | fishing statistics | sea fishing

Summary During its January plenary session, Parliament will debate and vote on three own-initiative reports on the common fisheries policy (CFP), taking stock 10 years after the last fisheries policy reform and responding to the Commission's evaluation of the policy. The reports will help shape the debate on the future of the CFP.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Empowering consumers for the green transition](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-01-2024

Author EVROUX CLEMENT THIERRY

Policy area Consumer Protection

Keyword civil law | consumer information | consumer law | consumption | eco-label | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | guarantee | information technology and data processing | LAW | marketing | producer's liability | proposal (EU) | software | TRADE | unfair terms of contract

Summary The European Commission proposed to raise the level of protection provided to consumers against unfair commercial practices. On 19 September 2023, the co-legislators reached a provisional agreement on the proposal to amend the two key directives in this area. This agreement has been endorsed by the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO), and Parliament is expected to vote on the agreed text during its plenary session in January 2024.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Review of the F-gas Regulation](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-01-2024

Author MORGADO SIMOES HENRIQUE ANDRE

Policy area Environment

Keyword deterioration of the environment | ENERGY | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | global warming | greenhouse gas | hydrocarbon | oil industry | reduction of gas emissions | regulation (EU) | stratospheric pollutant

Summary On 5 April 2022, the European Commission presented a proposal for a regulation on fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-gases) to repeal the current F-gas Regulation. The proposal seeks to reduce F-gas emissions further. It would change the existing quota system, gradually reducing the supply of hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) to the EU market, to 2.4 % of 2015 levels by 2048. It would also ban F-gases in specific applications, and update the rules on implementing best practice, leak-checking, record-keeping, training, waste treatment and penalties. On 30 March 2023, the European Parliament adopted its position, and on 5 October 2023, the co-legislators reached a provisional agreement. Parliament is expected to vote on the final text during its January I plenary session.

[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)