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Creation date : 17-04-2024

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

[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 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](#)

[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](#)

[European health data space](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-12-2023

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 by international, national and local authorities. At the same time, personal health data have been key for containment measures such as the EU digital COVID certificate. The Commission's May 2022 proposal for a regulation on a European health data space aims to improve individuals' access to and control of 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, from improving individuals' health conditions to facilitating uptake of evidence-based policy-making. Its success is thought to depend on broader conditions such as EU-wide connectivity, social trust and digital skills. Parliament's Committees on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and 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 is expected to vote the report in plenary on 13 December, with a view to setting its position for trilogue negotiations. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Improving public access to medicines and promoting pharmaceutical innovation](#)

Publication type Study

Date 23-11-2023

External author DG, EPRS

Policy area Public Health

Keyword antibiotic | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | generic drug | health | medical research | pharmaceutical legislation | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Health is a fundamental human right, and achieving equality in access to medicines is crucial for ensuring public health. The current system of innovation strongly relies on the private sector, while remuneration of innovation is mainly based on exclusivities. This system presents several issues, such as innovation being driven by market size, the partial misalignment between industry's research and development (R&D) priorities and public health goals, access constraints, and the scarcity of disruptive innovations. In this context, this study analyses the impact of different R&D incentive mechanisms and alternative frameworks that may contribute to pharmaceutical innovation and public health. In particular, the study analyses the implications for innovation and accessibility, in terms both of prices and of availability. Based on an extensive review of the literature combined with interviews with expert stakeholders, the study offers a range of policy options. These seek to ensure the development of accessible drugs in all clinical areas, improve availability, price and research and development cost transparency, and ensure preparedness in the event of emergencies. Policy options suggested include strengthening EU coordination on intellectual property rights and medicine procurement, reducing the length of exclusivities, and introducing specific incentives (subscription models) de-linked from market size for specific unmet medical needs (antimicrobials and rare diseases with extremely low prevalence). A further suggestion is the creation of a public infrastructure active throughout the whole drug research and development process. A combination of policies would exceed the sum of its components, by generating additional synergies.

Study [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)

Annex 1 [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)

[Sustainable use of plant protection products](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-11-2023

Author HALLEUX Vivienne

Policy area Environment

Keyword agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | environmental protection | EU environmental policy | health | means of agricultural production | natural environment | pest | pesticide | pesticide residue | plant health control | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Under the farm to fork strategy, part of the European Green Deal, the EU has set itself a double target: a 50 % reduction in the overall use of and risk from chemical plant protection products, and a 50 % reduction in the use of more hazardous ones by 2030. The proposal for a regulation tabled by the European Commission on 22 June 2022, which would replace the 2009 sustainable use directive, would require Member States to contribute collectively to achieving these EU-wide targets through the adoption and attainment of binding national targets. To protect biodiversity and citizens' health, the use of all plant protection products would be banned in specific, sensitive areas, with limited derogations. Monitoring and reporting obligations would be strengthened. Stakeholders are strongly divided on the proposal. While environmental organisations are pushing for more ambition, the farming community is concerned about the lack of alternatives for farmers, the broad coverage of sensitive areas, and consequences for business continuity. Indicators used to track progress towards the targets are also subject to criticisms from various sides. In Parliament, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), responsible for the file, adopted its report on 24 October 2023, substantially amending the Commission text. The report awaits a vote in plenary during the November II session, with a view to setting Parliament's position for negotiations with the Council. The Council has still to agree on a general approach. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Sustainable use of plant protection products](#)

[The potential impact of the unitary Supplementary Protection Certificate on access to health technologies](#)

Publication type Study

Date 28-09-2023

External author Thyra DE JONGH, Bregtje KAMPHUIS, Sven BOSTYN & Alfred RADAUER

Policy area Coronavirus | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Public Health

Keyword EU market | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | health certificate | medical device | medicinal product | patent | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | research and intellectual property | single market | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | tariff policy | TRADE | trade policy

Summary In April 2023, the European Commission adopted regulatory proposals introducing a Unitary Supplementary Protection Certificate (SPC) and a centralised assessment procedure for SPCs for medicinal products. This study analyses the potential impacts of these proposals on access to medicines, the administrative burden to applicants and the cost to national health systems. This document was prepared by Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the JURI Committee.

Study [EN](#)

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

[Lessons learned from COVID-19 and recommendations for the future](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 05-07-2023

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Policy area Public Health

Keyword committee report | coronavirus disease | democracy | disease surveillance | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | EP Committee | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | fundamental rights | health | LAW | parliamentary proceedings | political framework | POLITICS | public health | rights and freedoms | social framework | social impact | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary During the July plenary session, the European Parliament is expected to discuss the final report of its Special Committee on the COVID-19 pandemic, and vote on a series of recommendations to improve EU preparedness for future health emergencies.

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

[Stepping up EU action to combat antimicrobial resistance: The 'One Health' approach](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-07-2023

Author ANTUNES LUISA | EVROUX CLEMENT THIERRY

Policy area Public Health | Research Policy

Keyword antimicrobial resistance | disease prevention | free medical care | health | health care | infectious disease | pharmaceutical industry | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Antimicrobial resistance (the ability of a microorganism to survive in the presence of a medicine designed to inhibit or kill it) is threatening the capacity to prevent and cure infectious diseases. In the European Union, it causes an estimated 35 000 deaths per year, and places an annual financial burden of €1.1 billion on healthcare systems. In 2019, the World Health Organization declared antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to be one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity. On 26 April 2023, the European Commission published a proposal for a Council recommendation on stepping up EU action to combat AMR. This proposal complements two other legislative proposals, together making up the EU pharmaceutical package. It provides for a holistic preparedness and response framework to curb AMR, through a One Health approach, ensuring the inclusion of human, animal and plant health, as well as their interactions with the environment. Three main priorities underpin the proposal: infection prevention, prudent use of antimicrobials (including the objective of reducing human consumption of antibiotics in the Union by 20 % by 2030), and research and development to ensure access to appropriate medical countermeasures. The European Parliament adopted a resolution welcoming the proposal on 1 June. The Council of the EU adopted the recommendation on 13 June 2023.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Revising the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-03-2023

Author VIKOLAINEN Vera

Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Keyword construction and town planning | deterioration of the environment | EC Directive | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | impact study | industrial pollution | pollution control measures | proposal (EU) | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | urban area | wastewater | water pollutant | water pollution | water protection | water treatment

Summary The impact assessment's strong points include a well-substantiated problem definition, an evidence base that appears to be recent and relevant, and a broad stakeholder consultation, the results of which were put to good use. However, the report's weak points limit its potential to inform decision-making clearly. Firstly, there appears to be a mismatch between the problem description, the objectives and the options of the IA. Secondly, the IA does not explain in sufficient detail why no alternatives were available to address certain problem drivers, and the resulting analysis of the options alongside the measures does not clarify what the real policy alternatives are. Thirdly, the content and choice of the preferred package of options are not entirely evident from the IA, as only the options, but not the measures, were compared based on the mandatory criteria of efficiency, effectiveness and coherence. Finally, the IA focuses on economic and environmental impacts, leaving impacts on health and competitiveness unaddressed.

Briefing [EN](#)

[The European public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic: Lessons for future cross border health threats](#)

Publication type Study

Date 17-02-2023

Policy area Coronavirus | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Public Health

Keyword consumption | coronavirus disease | cross-border dimension | disease surveillance | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU competence | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | product quality | public health | regions and regional policy | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | vaccination | vaccine

Summary This study was drawn up to support the work of the European Parliament's Special Committee on the COVID 19 pandemic. It examines the European Union's public health response to the COVID 19 pandemic across the following five pillars: (1) the EU vaccines strategy and national vaccination strategies; (2) independent scientific evidence on vaccine effectiveness; (3) the EU public health response to COVID 19, addressing the EU framework for crisis response; (4) the EU's prevention and preparedness efforts for future health threats; and (5) considerations regarding EU competences in public health. By assessing the lessons of the COVID 19 pandemic, the current state of play, challenges, and opportunities for improvement in EU public health governance, a series of recommendations are proposed to strengthen the EU's resilience and preparedness for future cross-border health threats.

Study [EN](#)

[Building up resilience to cross-border health threats: Moving towards a European health union](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-02-2023

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Policy area Coronavirus | Public Health

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cooperation policy | coronavirus disease | crisis management | cross-border cooperation | disease prevention | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | emergency aid | epidemic | epidemiology | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | health | information and information processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | proposal (EU) | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary On 11 November 2020, the European Commission put forward a proposal for a regulation on serious cross-border threats to health. In the light of lessons learned from the coronavirus crisis, it aimed to strengthen the EU's health security by revising Decision 1082/2013/EU (the 'Cross-Border Health Threats Decision'). The proposal was presented in a package that also included proposals to strengthen the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA), as first steps towards a European health union (these regulations were adopted on 24 November 2022 and 25 January 2022 respectively). The Council and Parliament adopted their positions on the proposal on, respectively, 23 July 2021 and 14 September 2021 (with some additional amendments on 11 November 2021). Interinstitutional negotiations, launched in 11 November 2021, concluded in June 2022 with a provisional agreement. Parliament approved the agreed text on 4 October 2022, followed by the Council on 24 October 2022; the final act was signed on 23 November 2022. The regulation will help the EU to better anticipate, react and respond to a health threat (not only infectious, but also environmental, foodborne or chemical) in a coordinated way, at EU and national level. Fourth edition of a briefing originally drafted by Nicole Scholz. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [The future of EU borders in times of pandemic](#)

[Towards a new EU pharmaceutical strategy](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-12-2022

Author ANTUNES LUISA

Policy area Public Health

Keyword EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | health care | medical research | pharmaceutical industry | pharmaceutical legislation | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | therapeutics

Summary The European Commission plans to launch its revised EU pharmaceutical package in the first quarter of 2023. Ahead of its release, two recent STOA studies offer insight to inform upcoming Parliamentary discussions. Fragmentation of EU health research and development, lack of transparency and a translation gap between public investment and clinical output are among the weaknesses identified. Possible solutions include the creation of large-scale European biomedical infrastructure, and a series of targeted strategies to improve EU health research coordination and reprioritise areas of unmet therapeutic need.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Multimedia [Towards a new EU pharmaceutical strategy](#)

[Impact of COVID-19 measures on democracy and fundamental rights - Best practices and lessons learned in the Member States and third countries](#)

Publication type Study

Date 12-12-2022

External author Joelle GROGAN, CEU Democracy Institute, Hungary

Policy area Coronavirus | Democracy | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Human Rights | Public Health

Keyword coronavirus disease | democracy | epidemic | fundamental rights | health | health certificate | LAW | political framework | POLITICS | public health | rights and freedoms | rule of law | social framework | social impact | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | tariff policy | TRADE | vaccination

Summary This research study examines the impact of COVID-19 measures on democracy and fundamental rights in the EU. It considers what best practices have been evidenced, and the lessons that can be learned from comparative experience within EU Member States as well as relevant third countries. It examines pandemic governance in the EU and its Member States during the COVID-19 pandemic between 2020 and 2022. It describes how the COVID-19 pandemic was addressed by EU Member States, either in terms of declaring a state of emergency or similar regimes, or using emergency powers or emergency health legislation, or normal legislation. This study was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the special committee on the COVID-19 pandemic: lessons learned and recommendations for the future (COVI).

Study [EN](#)

[The European Health Data Space](#)

Publication type Study

Date 08-12-2022

External author J. Scott MARCUS, Bertin MARTENS, Christophe CARUGATI, Anne BUCHER, and Ilsa GODLOVITCH

Policy area Industry | Research Policy

Keyword data protection | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | health care | health service | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | LAW | medical data | proposal (EU) | protection of privacy | public health | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This research paper provides an assessment of the legislative proposal for “The European Health Data Space”, including linkages with other EU measures and with Member State rules and laws. It also includes recommendations on further steps needed in order to achieve, facilitate and improve health data sharing, exchange and re-use across the EU.

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

[What if quantum technologies were to revolutionise healthcare?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-12-2022

Author MAHIEU VIRGINIA NOELLE

Policy area Public Health

Keyword communications | data protection | e-Health | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | health | health care | health technology | information and information processing | information security | information technology and data processing | public health | quantum technology | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Quantum technologies could be a game-changer in the digital transformation of health care. By enabling much faster and more complex data analysis, they could open the door to the accelerated discovery and development of novel therapeutics, improved diagnostics and treatments, including for rare and complex diseases, genuinely personalised medicine, and better data-driven health policy planning. However, as is also the case in other sectors, quantum technologies come with risks, particularly to cybersecurity and data privacy, as well as economics, trade, and global competition. The EU legislators need to prepare the health technology assessment process for the possible changes that this developing technology could entail.

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

[Regulation on nature restoration](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-12-2022

Author FRIZBERG DIETER

Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Keyword biodiversity | demography and population | ecosystem | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | food safety | generation renewal | health | natural environment | public health | regulation (EU) | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The IA examines the problem's nature and scale comprehensively. It offers a broad and realistic range of policy options and presents the stakeholders' views on the options transparently. It gives a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the economic, social and environmental impacts, referring to the evaluation of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 that ran in parallel to the IA, as well as an external support study, stakeholder consultations and various duly referenced data sources. It is open about limitations and uncertainties, such as risks that could potentially limit the benefits of ecosystem restoration. It states that for some ecosystems there was insufficient data to allow a quantitative estimation of costs and benefits. The IA does not quantify the costs and benefits of the policy options for SMEs, and does not discuss competitiveness substantially.

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

[World AIDS Day 2022: 1 December](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 30-11-2022

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Policy area Public Health

Keyword AIDS | disease prevention | health | health care | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | medical diagnosis | medical research | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | therapeutics | UNAIDS | United Nations

Summary World AIDS Day, proclaimed by the United Nations in 1988, takes place each year on 1 December. The aim is to raise awareness, fight prejudice, encourage progress in prevention, and improve treatment around the world. Although infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is preventable, significant HIV transmission remains a challenge to EU Member States' health systems. This year's theme 'Equalize' underlines the urgent need to address the inequalities that are holding back progress in ending acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), and give equal access to essential HIV services.

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

[What if a 'Trojan horse' strategy could help address antimicrobial resistance?](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 16-11-2022

Author ANTUNES LUISA

Policy area [Consumer Protection](#) | [Environment](#) | [Food Safety](#) | [Forward Planning](#) | [Industry](#) | [Internal Market and Customs Union](#) | [Public Health](#) | [Research Policy](#)

Keyword [antibiotic](#) | [antimicrobial resistance](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financing and investment](#) | [health](#) | [infectious disease](#) | [investment](#) | [medical research](#) | [PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH](#) | [public health](#) | [research and development](#) | [research and intellectual property](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary Antimicrobial-resistant infections are predicted to become the second biggest cause of death worldwide by 2050. Despite increasing investment in the development of new antimicrobials, awareness campaigns on antimicrobial misuse and abuse, and monitoring of antimicrobial use and resistance in animals, humans and the environment, antimicrobial resistance continues to grow and the last three decades have not seen even one novel antimicrobial class reach the market. Could the answer lie in a 'Trojan horse' strategy to disrupt a natural physiological process common to all bacteria?

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

Multimedia [What if a 'Trojan horse' strategy could help address antimicrobial resistance?](#)

[World Diabetes Day 2022](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 11-11-2022

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Policy area [Public Health](#)

Keyword [chronic illness](#) | [diabetes](#) | [disease prevention](#) | [health](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [politics and public safety](#) | [public awareness campaign](#) | [public health](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [therapeutics](#)

Summary On the occasion of World Diabetes Day, the European Parliament is expected to hold a debate on prevention, management and better care of diabetes in the EU during the November II plenary session. World Diabetes Day – marked every year on 14 November – was proclaimed by the United Nations in 2007 to raise awareness of diabetes and related complications, and to promote prevention and care, including through education. This is an update of an 'at a glance' note from November 2021.

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

[The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine on EU cohesion Part II: Overview and outlook](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 25-10-2022

External author [Spatial Foresight](#): Kai BÖHME, Sabine ZILLMER, Sebastian HANS
t33: Dea HRELJA, Alessandro VALENZA, Arianna MORI

Policy area [Regional Development](#)

Keyword [coronavirus disease](#) | [economic and social cohesion](#) | [epidemic](#) | [Europe](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [health](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [political geography](#) | [public health](#) | [social framework](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [socioeconomic conditions](#) | [Ukraine](#) | [war](#)

Summary The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and a range of mega-trends affect Europe's pathway and exacerbate vulnerabilities for many places and societal groups. They risk accelerating disparities between places and people. Cohesion Policy proved to be a highly flexible instrument, reacting quickly and effectively against the effects of the pandemic. For the 2021-27 period it seems programmes are adopting a 'back to normality' approach. To address cohesion challenges ahead and ensure the crises result in a green, digital and just transition, Cohesion Policy has to adjust.

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

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

[Tracking the EU Commissioners' commitments - Von der Leyen Commission, 2019 - 2024: Stella Kyriakides](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 20-09-2022

Keyword [deterioration of the environment](#) | [e-Health](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EU strategy](#) | [European Commissioner](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [food safety](#) | [food waste](#) | [health](#) | [health care](#) | [medicinal product](#) | [precautionary principle](#) | [PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH](#) | [protection of animals](#) | [public health](#) | [quality of life](#) | [research and intellectual property](#) | [social framework](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary This briefing follows up the commitments made by the commissioner since 2019.

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

['This is Europe' debate in the European Parliament: Speech by Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of Croatia, on 22 June 2022](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 28-06-2022

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Agriculture and Rural Development | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget | Budgetary Control | Competition law and regulation | Consumer Protection | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Coronavirus | Culture | Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Economics and Monetary Issues | Education | Employment | Energy | Environment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | European Added Value | European Semester | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Financial and Banking Issues | Fisheries | Food Safety | Foreign Affairs | Forward Planning | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Global Governance | Human Rights | Industry | Intellectual Property Law | Internal Market and Customs Union | International Trade | Petitions to the European Parliament | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Public Health | Public international law | Regional Development | Research Policy | Security and Defence | Social Policy | Taxation | Tourism | Transport | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword Croatia | economic geography | EU candidate countries | Europe | European conference | European construction | European integration | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | GEOGRAPHY | head of government | health | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military intervention | political geography | POLITICS | public health | Russia | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Ukraine | Western Balkans

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. On 22 June, the Prime Minister of Croatia, Andrej Plenković, was the third EU leader to address the Parliament since its Conference of Presidents endorsed the initiative on 28 April. Mr Plenković considered Croatia to be at the centre of EU integration and expressed his support for more shared competences in the area of health cooperation as well as for EU enlargement to Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and the Western Balkans, especially Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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

[World Bicycle Day](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 01-06-2022

Author KISS Monika

Policy area Transport

Keyword economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU aid | EU finance | European Structural and Investment Funds | EUROPEAN UNION | health | land transport | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | reduction of gas emissions | road safety | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sustainable mobility | TRANSPORT | transport infrastructure | transport policy | two-wheeled vehicle

Summary In 2018, the United Nations declared 3 June World Bicycle Day. Cycling represents a growing share of mobility. It is a healthy, green and flexible means of transport that helps achieve savings and generate jobs. However, a lot remains to be done when it comes to safety and suitable cycling infrastructure across the EU. Although the regulatory framework on cycling is determined at Member State level, with concrete action shaped locally, the EU provides best practice advice and financial support for infrastructure development. For its part, the European Parliament has regularly highlighted the importance of cycling and supported it as a means of transport.

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

[Right to health, a comparative law perspective - Canada](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 24-05-2022

External author Prof Dr Derek J. JONES, McGill University

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Coronavirus | Democracy | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights | Public Health | Public international law | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword America | Canada | comparative law | coronavirus disease | economic analysis | economic consequence | economic geography | ECONOMICS | epidemic | fundamental rights | GEOGRAPHY | health | health service | LAW | political geography | public health | right to health | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sources and branches of the law

Summary This study forms part of a larger Comparative Law project which seeks to present the right to health in a broad range of legal systems around the world. After analyzing applicable constitutional sources, federal legislation and leading case law, the definition and content, scope and limits, and evolution of Canada's right to health are explored. The subject of this study is the Canadian legal system. This study begins with an overview of selected historic dangers to Canada's health, challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, and how such historic tragedies help contextualize and nurture national health needs and duties towards emergence of a right to health. It then explores leading constitutional, statutory and jurisprudential developments at the confluence of health law and human rights as sources of a right to health. While a right to health is not expressly enumerated in the Canadian Constitution, diverse fundamental rights of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms have been significant drivers of access to medically necessary services and a protectorate of health-related values. Many such rights have proved pivotal in Canada's early Covid litigation. As well, federal human rights law, federal legislation on health services and national public health and safety regulations, underscore the vital role that such laws play in accessing, protecting and promoting human health. The document concludes with an exploration of the contours of the right to health – its definitions, scope and breadth, and its interface with fundamental rights to liberty, security of the person, equality, bodily integrity, privacy, etc. Such Charter rights have reformed Canadian law on abortion, euthanasia, health information privacy, solitary confinement. The study suggests that Canada's right to health encompasses and transcends access to health care. The right is not static; but, dynamic and iterative. It continues to evolve on a spectrum from a narrow right to health services, to a right to health protection, towards a broader right to determinants of health. The right draws on and synergizes with correlative, health-related dignitary rights. Together, they comprise facets of a right to health in diverse contexts. As they advance, a more robust and developed right to health seems likely to emerge in Canadian law.

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

[Amending Annexes IV and V to the EU Regulation on Persistent Organic Pollutants](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 27-04-2022

Author YOUNGOVA Dessislava

Policy area Environment

Keyword chemistry | dangerous substance | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | INDUSTRY | international affairs | international convention | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | market approval | marketing | organic chemical | organic pollution | pollution control measures | public health | regulation (EU) | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | waste management

Summary Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 on persistent organic pollutants (POPs Regulation) aims at eliminating or restricting production and use of these toxic substances and their release into the air, water and soil, and regulating waste containing or contaminated by them. The POPs Regulation implements EU commitments under international legal acts such as the Stockholm Convention on POPs. On 28 October 2021, the European Commission adopted a legislative proposal to review Annexes IV and V on waste management. The European Parliament is expected to vote on the proposal during the May I plenary session, fixing its position for trilogue talks.

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

[Nutrient profiles: A 'farm to fork' strategy initiative takes shape](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 26-04-2022

Author LAANINEN Tarja

Policy area Food Safety

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | beverages and sugar | consumer information | consumption | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | fats | foodstuff | foodstuff | health | labelling | marketing | nutrition | processed agricultural produce | product designation | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sugar | TRADE | vitamin

Summary The European Commission is planning to establish 'nutrient profiles', that is, maximum amounts for nutrients such as fat, sugar and/or salt in foods, above which the use of nutrition or health claims would be restricted or forbidden. For example, breakfast cereals exceeding a sugar limit could no longer advertise their fibre or vitamin content. The Commission was already tasked with setting nutrient profiles to restrict the promotion of food high in fat, sugar and/or salt under the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation ('Claims Regulation') adopted in 2006. Now, in accordance with the action plan accompanying the EU's 'farm to fork' strategy, the Commission will submit a proposal on nutrient profiles by the end of 2022. The proposal will form part of a wider package revising EU legislation on food information supplied to consumers, together with proposals on front-of-pack nutrition labelling, origin labelling, date marking, and labelling of alcoholic beverages. In the same package, the Commission also intends to solve a problem that has long been puzzling manufacturers and consumers in the herbal and plant products market, namely, that the same product can be classified both as a herbal medicine and as a food, depending on the Member State in which it is sold. While most consumer organisations and health advocates strongly support the idea of introducing nutrient profiles, opponents caution against overly simplistic labels that punish certain food groups and lead health-conscious individuals to avoid them. The European Parliament has stressed that food information is a potent tool for empowering consumers.

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

[Review of the Waste Shipment Regulation](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 11-04-2022

Author VETTORAZZI STEFANO

Policy area [Environment](#)

Keyword [circular economy](#) | [cross-border transport](#) | [deterioration of the environment](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [economic policy](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [environmental protection](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [export \(EU\)](#) | [export of waste](#) | [health](#) | [impact study](#) | [import \(EU\)](#) | [intra-EU transport](#) | [organisation of transport](#) | [proposal \(EU\)](#) | [public health](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [trade](#) | [TRADE](#) | [TRANSPORT](#) | [waste management](#)

Summary The IA convincingly illustrates the identified problems, although their scale is not always supported by estimates, or the source of some of the estimates is not provided. When discussing how the situation would evolve without further action, the IA neither discusses the evolution of each problem identified nor any other existing or upcoming EU initiatives that could lead to improvements. The general objectives appear to be consistent with the problems identified, and the specific objectives comply broadly with the SMART criteria. The retained options tackle the problems' drivers identified progressively, although it is unclear why some of the policy measures identified under Options 2 or 3 were not taken up under the preferred Option 4. The IA appears to assess the main economic, social, and environmental impacts for each policy measure comprehensively, quantifying them whenever possible, and otherwise providing a qualitative assessment. However, the analysis on SMEs is quite limited, and the IA does not provide any explanation as to why competitiveness was not considered. Moreover, despite it likely being relevant, the IA does not appear to have dealt with the impact on third/developing countries sufficiently and systematically. Overall, the monitoring framework envisaged appears to be adequate, although more clarity as to the choice of identifying indicators for only two specific objectives would have been beneficial. Stakeholders were consulted extensively and their opinions systematically reported. The efforts undertaken to provide quantitative support for the analysis performed appear to be convincing, and the IA appears to have addressed the RSB's comments satisfactorily. Finally, the proposal appears to be consistent with the analysis carried out in the IA.

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

[Improving urgency procedures and crisis preparedness within the European Parliament and EU institutions](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 31-03-2022

External author MAURER Andreas

Policy area [Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council](#) | [Democracy](#) | [EU Democracy](#), [Institutional and Parliamentary Law](#) | [EU Law: Legal System and Acts](#) | [Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice](#)

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [crisis management](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [economic consequence](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [epidemic](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [European Parliament](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [health](#) | [institutional cooperation](#) | [management](#) | [parliament](#) | [parliamentary proceedings](#) | [parliamentary sitting](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [politics and public safety](#) | [powers of parliament](#) | [public health](#) | [social framework](#) | [social impact](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [state of emergency](#)

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the AFCO Committee, analyses the obstacles to democratic, transparent and efficient decision-making in urgency situations at the EU level, with a specific focus on the European Parliament. It provides a systematic overview of Parliament's role and functions as well as the interinstitutional cooperation during recent crisis situations and concludes with proposals on how to improve the existing set-up and Parliament's internal procedures.

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

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

[Research for TRAN Committee - Relaunching transport and tourism in the EU after COVID-19 - Part VI - Public transport](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 17-03-2022

Author DEBYSER Ariane | LECARTE Jacques | PERNICE Davide

Policy area [Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice](#) | [Tourism](#) | [Transport](#)

Keyword [coronavirus disease](#) | [disease prevention](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [economic consequence](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [epidemic](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financing and investment](#) | [health](#) | [investment](#) | [land transport](#) | [organisation of transport](#) | [public health](#) | [public transport](#) | [rail transport](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [TRANSPORT](#) | [transport infrastructure](#) | [transport policy](#)

Summary This At a glance note summarises the study on Relaunching transport and tourism in the EU after COVID-19: Public transport

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

[Legal issues surrounding compulsory Covid-19 vaccination](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-03-2022

Author DE GROOT DAVID ARMAND JACQUES GERA | DIAZ CREGO Maria | DUMBRAVA Costica | KOTANIDIS Silvia | MENTZELOPOULOU Maria-Margarita

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Coronavirus | Human Rights

Keyword coronavirus disease | disease surveillance | epidemic | health | health certificate | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | tariff policy | TRADE | vaccination | vaccine

Summary The authorisation of the first Covid-19 vaccines by the European Commission in December 2020 dovetailed with EU Member States' efforts to roll out mass vaccination campaigns to halt the spread of the coronavirus. Amid rising numbers of Covid-19 cases and fears surrounding what might be the impact of the Omicron variant, those efforts were renewed at the end of 2021, including the roll-out of booster doses and vaccines for children. However, despite progress in some Member States, as of March 2022, only 72 % of the EU population is fully vaccinated (primary course). Low vaccination rates have sparked debates around how to increase vaccine uptake. On 1 December 2021, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said it was time for the EU to 'think about mandatory vaccination'. Two weeks later, the European Council reiterated the 'vital importance of vaccination in the fight against the pandemic', suggesting the need to step up vaccination campaigns and address vaccine hesitancy. Although there is no common approach to mandatory vaccination against Covid-19 at EU level, some Member States are trying to increase vaccine uptake among their populations by making vaccination compulsory. For the time being, only three Member States are imposing a vaccination mandate on all adults (Austria) or on specific age groups (Greece and Italy), although Austria has just decided to postpone the application of the obligation. Other Member States require certain categories of workers, e.g. in healthcare or public services, to get vaccinated so as to be able to continue exercising their professional activities (Germany, Greece, France, Italy, Latvia and Hungary), or allow employers to impose such a mandate on their employees (Estonia and, until 6 March 2022, Hungary). Finally, in some other Member States, access to certain public spaces is only possible for those fully vaccinated or having recovered from Covid-19 (Germany, France, Italy and Latvia). This briefing looks at the experiences of selected Member States imposing compulsory vaccination for Covid-19 and analyses the EU legal framework applicable to those national rules. It has been written with the contribution of the Directorate for Legislative Acts within the Directorate-General for the Presidency.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Plenary round-up – February 2022](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 18-02-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agricultural activity | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | animal welfare | cancer | common foreign and security policy | deterioration of the environment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENERGY | ENVIRONMENT | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | human rights | LAW | motor vehicle pollution | occupational health | organisation of work and working conditions | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | public health | renewable energy | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | soft energy

Summary The February 2022 plenary session in Strasbourg took place at a time of considerable international tension. Members debated statements by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borrell (HR/VP), on EU-Russia relations, European security and Russia's military threat against Ukraine. Parliament debated Council and Commission statements on the cyber-surveillance of politicians, prosecutors, lawyers and journalists, and others in EU Member States. Members also debated the HR/VPs statement on EU-Africa relations, and in a formal sitting, heard an address by Iván Duque Márquez, President of Colombia. A debate was held on the consequences of the European Court of Justice ruling on rule of law conditionality. Parliament celebrated the 20th anniversary of the euro, in the presence of Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-02-2022

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Policy area Public Health

Keyword cancer | clinical trial | disease prevention | FINANCE | financing and investment | health | health care | investment | medical examination | medical research | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | therapeutics

Summary During the February plenary session, Parliament is expected to debate the final report of its Special Committee on Beating Cancer, and vote on a series of recommendations, calling for specific policy measures in this crucial area of public health.

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

[What if we killed all microorganisms in our bodies?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 04-02-2022

Author QUAGLIO Gianluca

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Consumer Protection | Food Safety | Public Health

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | antibiotic | antimicrobial resistance | consumption | disease prevention | eating habits | EU institutions and European civil service | European Food Safety Authority | EUROPEAN UNION | food safety | foodstuff | functional food | health | human nutrition | microorganism | natural and applied sciences | public health | SCIENCE | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary Scientific evidence indicates that beneficial microorganisms (that live in nearly ubiquitous communities called microbiota) are an essential component of human health, and could be a new frontier for personalised medicine to fight non-communicable diseases and improve human health. For their potential benefits to reach society, the EU should consider standardisation, protocols, and a regulatory framework to support research and innovation.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Multimedia [What if we killed all microorganisms in our bodies?](#)

[Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - January 2022](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 14-01-2022

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Budget | Budgetary Control | Environment | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Fisheries | International Trade | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Public international law | Transport

Keyword agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | budget | budgetary control | digital technology | EU budget | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-European organisations | FINANCE | fisheries | health | international affairs | international agreement | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Mercosur | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sustainable agriculture | sustainable fisheries | technology and technical regulations | trade agreement (EU)

Summary The Monthly Highlights publication provides an overview, at a glance, of the on-going work of the policy departments, including a selection of the latest and forthcoming publications, and a list of future events.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[What if xenotransplantation was the answer to the donor organ shortage?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 13-01-2022

Author QUAGLIO Gianluca

Policy area Consumer Protection | Public Health

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | bio-ethics | disease prevention | genetically modified organism | health | immunology | means of agricultural production | organ transplant | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | swine | technology and technical regulations | zoonosis

Summary Xenotransplantation, defined as the transplantation of animal derived organs and cells into humans, is currently a very active focus of research as it overrides some of the obstacles encountered with tissue engineering, such as vascularization and innervation. The resurgence of interest in xenotransplantation is mainly attributed to the improvement of gene editing techniques (such as CRISPR/Cas9), since genetically engineered animals have been generated to overcome organ rejection. However, xenotransplantation also raises multiple biological and ethical questions that should be taken into consideration.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Multimedia [What if xenotransplantation made up for the shortage of organ donation?](#)

[Reinforced role for European Medicines Agency](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 13-01-2022

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Policy area Public Health

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | crisis management | disease prevention | drug surveillance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Medicines Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | health | management | medical device | medical research | medicinal product | public health | security of supply | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | trade | TRADE

Summary As part of building a European Health Union, as well as in response to the Covid 19 pandemic, the European Commission proposed in November 2020 to reinforce the European Medicines Agency's role in crisis preparedness and the management of medicines and medical devices. The proposed regulation seeks to better anticipate possible shortages and to ensure timely development of high-quality medicinal solutions, to allow the EU to react to health crises more quickly, efficiently, and in a coordinated manner. The agreement on the proposal reached in trilogue negotiations now needs to be confirmed by the European Parliament.

At a Glance [EN](#)

European pharmaceutical research and development: Could public infrastructure overcome market failures?

Publication type Study

Date 21-12-2021

External author DG, EPRS

Policy area Consumer Protection | Forward Planning | Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union | Public Health | Research Policy

Keyword coronavirus disease | epidemic | health | medical research | pharmaceutical expenses | pharmaceutical industry | pharmacy | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | technology assessment

Summary With a focus on research and development in the area of innovative medicines, this study discusses a new European approach to pharmaceutical policy. After examining the European pharmaceutical sector's features, and the strengths and weaknesses of the current research and business model, the study explores the need for and the concept of a European infrastructure with a long-term transboundary mission. Any such European medicines infrastructure should focus on threats and areas of research and development that are underinvested under the current business model. More specifically, the study uses an extensive literature review and a targeted survey of international experts from science, industry, public health and government institutions, to investigate the feasibility of different options in terms of the scope of the mission, and legal, organisational and financial arrangements for establishing such a European infrastructure. On the basis of their research, the authors present a range of policy options. The most ambitious of these considers a Europe-wide public infrastructure equipped with budgetary autonomy and home-grown research and development capacity. This organisation would be tasked with building a portfolio of new medicines and related biomedical technologies up to the delivery stage, over the course of 30 years, in partnership with third-party research centres at national or European level and with companies. It would be the most important global player in biomedical innovation in the world.

Study [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)

Annex 1 [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)

Annex 2 [EN](#)

Boosting cooperation on health technology assessment

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-12-2021

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Policy area Public Health

Keyword cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | health | health care | information and information processing | innovation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | medical device | medical science | patient's rights | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | public health | research and intellectual property | scientific cooperation | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | technology assessment

Summary The European Commission has proposed a regulation on health technology assessment (HTA). HTA is a research-based tool that supports decision-making in healthcare by assessing the added value of a given health technology compared to others. The proposal would provide the basis for permanent EU-level cooperation in four areas. Member States would still be responsible for assessing the non-clinical (economic, ethical, social, etc.) aspects of health technology, and for pricing and reimbursement. While Member States could choose to delay participation in the joint work until three years after the rules enter into force, it would become mandatory after six years. The European Parliament adopted its final position at first reading on 14 February 2019. In the Council, work was carried out under seven consecutive presidencies. On 22 June 2021, the co-legislators reached a provisional agreement in interinstitutional trilogue negotiations. The Council's Permanent Representatives Committee endorsed the provisional agreement on 30 June 2021. Parliament's ENVI committee voted in favour of the text on 13 July 2021. The Council formally adopted its first-reading position on 9 November 2021. On 30 November 2021, ENVI adopted its recommendation for second reading, which is to be debated and voted during the December plenary session. The regulation, once adopted, will start to apply three years after its entry into force. Fifth edition of a briefing originally drafted by Nicole Scholz. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Pollution and the spread of Covid-19](#)

Publication type Study

Date 09-12-2021

External author DG, EPRS

Policy area Coronavirus | Environment | Forward Planning | Public Health

Keyword agri-foodstuffs | AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | air quality | atmospheric pollutant | coronavirus disease | deterioration of the environment | disease prevention | disease surveillance | ENVIRONMENT | epidemic | epidemiology | food-borne disease | health | meat processing industry | medical research | polluted area | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Epidemiological studies of Covid-19 have, in most cases, provided inconclusive results to date regarding the role of air pollution in the transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the geographical spread of the disease, both regionally and globally. The present review analysed just under 6 000 articles published up to 31 May 2021, looking at the role of pollution and air quality factors in the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and in the geographical differences in Covid-19 propagation. A body of evidence shows that chronic and short-term exposure to different fractions of aerosols and types of air pollution exacerbates symptoms, affects co-morbidities and increases mortality rates for respiratory diseases similar to Covid 19, as well as for Covid-19. Although other pathways can contribute, the airborne route is likely to be the dominant mode. There is consistent and increasing evidence that SARS-CoV-2 spreads by airborne transmission, and it is possible that different variants have different environmental sensitivities. Safer indoor environments are required, not only to protect unvaccinated people and those for whom vaccines fail, but also to deter vaccine-resistant variants or novel airborne threats that may appear at any time. The public health community, governments and health agencies should act accordingly, referring to this mode as the principal mode of transmission in their recommendations and statements, enhancing associated research and improving monitoring networks.

Study [EN](#)

Annex [EN](#)

[EU cooperation on health technology assessment](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-12-2021

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Policy area Public Health

Keyword cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | health care | health technology | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | medical device | medical science | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | public health | scientific cooperation | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | technology assessment

Summary During the December plenary session, the European Parliament is expected to vote at second reading on a European Commission proposal to strengthen EU-level cooperation among Member States on assessing health technologies. Improved cooperation would profit national health systems and producers of medicines and medical devices, as approval procedures would be simplified, while also benefiting patients thanks to innovative, safe and effective health technologies becoming available more quickly.

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

[Research for TRAN Committee: Relaunching transport and tourism in the EU after COVID-19 - Tourism sector](#)

Publication type Study

Date 19-11-2021

External author Ljubica KNEZEVIC CVELBAR, Maria RODRIGUES, Tharsis TEOH, Barbara ANTONUCCI, Nicole CUTRUFO, Lidia MARONGIU

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Coronavirus | Tourism | Transport

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | epidemic | financial loss | health | health certificate | public health | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | tariff policy | TRADE | travel

Summary This thematic briefing provides the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) with an overview of the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism sector, as well as policy recommendations to address the challenges emerging from the crisis.

Study [EN](#)

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

[World Diabetes Day 2021](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-11-2021

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Policy area Public Health

Keyword chronic illness | consumption | diabetes | disease prevention | eating habits | EU institutions and European civil service | European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control | EUROPEAN UNION | health | health care | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary World Diabetes Day – marked every year on 14 November – was proclaimed by the United Nations in 2007 to raise awareness of diabetes and related complications, and to promote prevention and care, including through education. World Diabetes Day also offers an opportunity to evaluate progress in the EU.

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

[Research for REGI Committee - Cross-border cooperation in healthcare](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-11-2021

Author DIETZEN Stephan Klaus | LECARTE Jacques

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Regional Development

Keyword cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | directive (EU) | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | health care | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | marketing | patient's rights | provision of services | public health | rights and freedoms | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social rights | social security | TRADE

Summary This At a glance note summarises the study that analyses the role of Cohesion Policy as regards cross-border cooperation in healthcare, with a particular focus on the 2014-2020 Interreg V-A programmes. The study also reviews the issue of governance related to such projects and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, it identifies possible solutions and puts forward policy recommendations to facilitate patient and healthcare staff flows, to improve the cross-border supply of healthcare and to support cross-border mutual development.

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

[European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority \(HERA\): Pre-legislative synthesis of national, regional and local positions on the European Commission's initiative](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-10-2021

Author COLLOVA Claudio | QUAGLIO Gianluca

Policy area Public Health

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cooperation policy | crisis management | cross-border cooperation | emergency aid | emergency medical treatment | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | health | health care | health care system | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | national competent authority | political framework | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public authorities | public health | rule under emergency powers | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This Briefing forms part of an EPRS series which offers a synthesis of the pre-legislative state-of-play and advance consultation on a range of key European Commission priorities during the latter's five-year term in office. It seeks to summarise the state of affairs in the relevant policy field, examine how existing policy is working on the ground, and identify best practice and ideas for the future on the part of governmental organisations at all levels of European system of multilevel governance. This analysis of the positions of partner organisations at EU, national, regional and local levels suggests that they would like the following main considerations to be reflected in discussion of the legislative proposal to establish an emergency framework for a European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA): * Governmental organisations at all levels advocate a robust operational and infrastructural framework, with a long-term vision, a coherent legal structure and efficient decision-making procedures. They generally favour a comprehensive impact assessment in advance of the establishment of HERA. * Public authorities at national, regional and local levels suggest that the HERA should develop a strong relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO). Some governmental organisations especially stress the need for robust links with developing countries. * Public authorities agree on the need for a clear interface between HERA, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA). A further issue is the relationship between HERA and existing EU operational crisis management mechanisms, where national authorities recommend avoiding duplication of work. They also suggest taking into account regional and local circumstances in a coordinated crisis response. * Many governmental organisations hold a rather positive view of the interaction between the EU and the national levels, where HERA could have a beneficial coordinating role, although some public authorities have expressed concern about possible conflicts of competence between national and EU levels in the health sector.

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

Multimedia [The future of EU borders in times of pandemic](#)

[What if new drug delivery methods revolutionised medicine?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 13-10-2021

Author QUAGLIO Gianluca

Policy area Research Policy

Keyword consumption | disease prevention | health | medical research | medicinal product | nanotechnology | product safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | therapeutics | TRADE

Summary Nanoparticles lie at the heart of a new method for delivering medicines inside the body – and they were crucial to the success of the Covid-19 mRNA vaccines. This new drug delivery method and others could transform the way we treat disease, potentially boosting the treatment of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and HIV, among others. Insulin and Covid-19 vaccines might even become available as pills. Can the European Union stay on top of this trend? And what challenges lie ahead?

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

Multimedia [What if novel drug delivery methods revolutionised medicine?](#)

[Alcohol labelling](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 30-09-2021

Author [LAANINEN Tarja](#)

Policy area [Food Safety](#)

Keyword [AGRI-FOODSTUFFS](#) | [alcohol consumption](#) | [alcoholic beverage](#) | [beverages and sugar](#) | [cancer](#) | [consumer information](#) | [consumption](#) | [disease prevention](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [health](#) | [labelling](#) | [marketing](#) | [nutrition](#) | [product designation](#) | [public health](#) | [quality label](#) | [regulation \(EU\)](#) | [social affairs](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [TRADE](#)

Summary In its Europe's Beating Cancer plan, published in February 2021, the European Commission suggests – among other initiatives concerning cancer prevention – several actions concerning alcoholic beverages, such as limiting online advertising and promotion, and reviewing European Union (EU) legislation on the taxation of alcohol. Also among the proposals is mandatory labelling of ingredients and nutrient content on alcoholic beverages by the end of 2022. Health warnings on labels should follow by the end of 2023. First attempts to label ingredients of alcoholic drinks were already made in the late 1970s, however the Council was not able to agree on any of the proposed models. Furthermore, alcoholic drinks containing more than 1.2 % by volume of alcohol (ABV) are exempted from the obligation, set on other drinks and foodstuffs, to list the ingredients and make a nutritional declaration on the label. The European Commission adopted a report in 2017, concluding that it had 'not found objective grounds that would justify' the absence of information on ingredients and nutritional information on alcoholic beverages. Following on from the Commission's report, the European associations representing the alcoholic beverages sectors presented their self-regulation proposal in March 2018, suggesting that some sectors would list all ingredients on labels, while others could use online means of communication instead. Stakeholders have differing views on the desirability and feasibility of listings on-label; some would prefer this information to be allowed to be given off-label through QR-codes, apps or websites, while others absolutely insist that alcoholic drinks should be no different from other sectors of the food and drink industry. The European Parliament has called on the European Commission to consider a health warning and calorie content on alcoholic beverage labels. This is an update of a Briefing published in April 2021.

[Briefing EN](#)

Multimedia [Alcohol labelling](#)

[The Human Right to Drinking Water: Impact of large-scale agriculture and industry](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 30-09-2021

External author •[Dr Naho MIRUMACHI](#)
•[Dr Aleksandra DUDA](#)
•[Jagoda GREGULSKA](#)
•[Joanna SMĘTEK](#)

Policy area [Development and Humanitarian Aid](#) | [Environment](#) | [Food Safety](#) | [Foreign Affairs](#) | [Human Rights](#) | [International Trade](#)

Keyword [agricultural policy](#) | [agricultural policy](#) | [AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES](#) | [case study](#) | [deterioration of the environment](#) | [documentation](#) | [drinking water](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [health](#) | [human rights](#) | [impact study](#) | [industrial policy](#) | [industrial structures and policy](#) | [INDUSTRY](#) | [LAW](#) | [natural environment](#) | [public health](#) | [rights and freedoms](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [use of water](#) | [water pollution](#) | [water quality](#) | [water resources](#)

Summary Access to safe drinking water is a human right. It is indispensable to a healthy, dignified and productive life. However, a significant proportion of the global population is not able to enjoy this human right. The purpose of this in-depth analysis is to consider the impacts of large-scale agricultural activity and industry on the progressive realisation of the human right to drinking water. In particular, it considers how the European Union and the European Parliament can better support non-EU countries to realise this human right. States and businesses have obligations and responsibilities towards citizens to ensure safe drinking water. However, fulfilling these obligations and responsibilities is in contention with competing water uses and economic considerations and marred by poor enabling environments and power dynamics. Achieving the human right to drinking water needs to be considered in the context of trade-offs emerging from the water-food-energy nexus where water use in one sector can have impacts on others. Virtual water embedded in the trade of agricultural goods demonstrates that demand for food can affect local water availability, posing challenges to ensuring the human right to drinking water in these places. Existing good practices focus on better recognition of obligations and responsibilities through a human rights-based approach, improved assessments of impacts, enhanced stakeholder engagement and mechanisms for due diligence. There are opportunities for the EU to extend the discussion on the human right to drinking water with other interlinked rights, noting the complex and integrated impacts of water resources.

[In-Depth Analysis EN](#)

[Research for TRAN - Committee: Relaunching transport and tourism in the EU after COVID-19 - Part III:](#)

[Aviation sector](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 27-09-2021

Author DEBYSER Ariane | LECARTE Jacques | PERNICE Davide

External author ORIGINAL STUDY

PANTEIA: Maria RODRIGUES, Emilia SANDRI, Ljubica KNEZEVIC, Tharsis TEOH
Università degli Studi Roma Tre: Barbara ANTONUCCI, Nicole CUTRUFO, Lidia MARONGIU

Policy area Coronavirus | Tourism | Transport

Keyword air and space transport | air transport | carriage of goods | carriage of passengers | coronavirus disease | disease prevention | economic analysis | economic consequence | economic policy | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU aid | health | health certificate | organisation of transport | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | tariff policy | TRADE | TRANSPORT

Summary This thematic briefing provides the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) with an overview of the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic on the aviation sector, as well as policy recommendations to address the challenges emerging from the crisis.

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

[EU Health data centre and a common data strategy for public health](#)

Publication type Study

Date 21-09-2021

External author DG, EPRS This study has been written by Henrique Martins of ISCTE-Lisbon University Institute and Faculty of Medical Sciences, UBI Portugal, at the request of the Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA) and managed by the Scientific Foresight Unit, within the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS) of the Secretariat of the European Parliament.

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Public Health

Keyword artificial intelligence | communications | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | cross-frontier data flow | data collection | disease prevention | e-Health | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | exchange of information | health | health care system | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | medical data | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Regarding health data, its availability and comparability, the Covid-19 pandemic revealed that the EU has no clear health data architecture. The lack of harmonisation in these practices and the absence of an EU-level centre for data analysis and use to support a better response to public health crises is the focus of this study. Through extensive desk review, interviews with key actors, and enquiry into experiences from outside the EU/EEA area, this study highlights that the EU must have the capacity to use data very effectively in order to make data-supported public health policy proposals and inform political decisions. The possible functions and characteristics of an EU health data centre are outlined. The centre can only fulfil its mandate if it has the power and competency to influence Member State public-health-relevant data ecosystems and institutionally link with their national level actors. The institutional structure, its possible activities and in particular its usage of advanced technologies such as AI are examined in detail.

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

[Annex](#) [EN](#)

[Remaining active in spite of the pandemic](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-09-2021

Author KATSAROVA Ivana

Policy area Culture | Education

Keyword consumption | coronavirus disease | eating habits | epidemic | health | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sport | TRADE

Summary This year, the seventh edition of the European Week of Sport (23-30 September) will kick off again in unusual circumstances. The official opening will take place on 23 September at Lake Bled (Slovenia) and will be centred around three core themes – joy, resilience and inter-generations – thus bringing the Week to life through inspirational and real-life stories. The lockdown measures put in place to curb the coronavirus pandemic have made the initiative more necessary than ever. Indeed, while pre-pandemic levels of physical activity were generally low, lockdown has had the unintended consequence of reducing this activity even further.

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

[Plenary round-up – September 2021](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 17-09-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword disease prevention | economic geography | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU relations | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | health | labour market | labour shortage | LAW | political geography | proposal (EU) | public health | rights and freedoms | Russia | sexual discrimination | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU | work permit

Summary During the September 2021 plenary session in Strasbourg, Parliament held a number of debates, including on legislative proposals for health and disease prevention, and the Brexit Adjustment Reserve; as well as on natural disasters in Europe; the Pegasus spyware scandal; media freedom; and on further deterioration of the rule of law in Poland. Members debated Commission and Council statements on the July 2021 'Fit for 55' package of legislative proposals, in the light of the latest IPCC report. Council presented its position on the draft general EU budget for 2022, ahead of the Parliament voting its position during the October II session. Parliament also debated statements from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borell, on the situation in Afghanistan and in Lebanon. A number of other resolutions and legislative acts were adopted, inter alia on: the instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA III); a new EU-China strategy; fair working conditions, rights and social protection for platform workers; and on guidelines for Member States' employment policies.

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

[World Trade Organization TRIPS waiver to tackle coronavirus](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 16-09-2021

Author TITIEVSKAIA Jana

Policy area Coronavirus | International Trade

Keyword coronavirus disease | disease prevention | epidemic | export restriction | health | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | patent | patents licence | pharmaceutical industry | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | research and intellectual property | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | TRIPS | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary The coronavirus pandemic has rekindled the global debate on whether the multilateral trade regime for intellectual property rights (IPR) protection limits access to essential medical products. Despite embedded flexibilities in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), India and South Africa, co-sponsored by a large number of developing countries, submitted an initial proposal for a temporary waiver in response to Covid-19 in October 2020, followed by a revised proposal in May 2021, which continues to divide opinion. The US administration voiced its support for a vaccines waiver. EU leaders indicated an openness to discussion, while putting forward an alternative plan with a focus on limiting export restrictions, compulsory licensing and using the existing TRIPS flexibilities.

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

[Boosting the European Union's defences against cross-border health threats](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 08-09-2021

Author SCHOLZ Nicole

Policy area Coronavirus | Public Health

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cooperation policy | crisis management | cross-border cooperation | disease prevention | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | epidemiology | EU institutions and European civil service | European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control | European Medicines Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | health | information and information processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | proposal (EU) | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary On 11 November 2020, the European Commission adopted a proposal on serious cross-border threats to health. The proposed regulation aims to strengthen existing structures and mechanisms for better protection, prevention, preparedness and response against all health hazards at EU level. The European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted its report on 13 July 2021. This is due to be voted during the September plenary session, thus setting Parliament's negotiating position and opening the way for interinstitutional negotiations.

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

[Priority dossiers under the Slovenian EU Council Presidency](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 21-06-2021

Author ATTARD LUCIENNE

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword climate change policy | digital technology | economic conditions | economic geography | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU Council Presidency | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | Europe | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | health | information security | information technology and data processing | migration | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | rule of law | Slovenia | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations

Summary Slovenia will, in the second half of 2021, hold its second Presidency of the Council of the EU since joining the EU in 2004. It will conclude the work of the Trio Presidency composed of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia. Slovenia is a democratic parliamentary republic with a proportional electoral system. The Slovenian parliament is bicameral, made up of the National Assembly (composed of 90 members) and the National Council (composed of 40 members). In the National Assembly, there are 88 representatives of political parties and two representatives of the Italian and Hungarian national communities, the latter two elected to represent their interests. The National Assembly elects the Prime Minister and the government. The current government is a four-party coalition, made up of the Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS); the Modern Centre Party (SMC), the Democratic Party of Slovenian Pensioners (DeSUS) and New Slovenia—Christian Democrats (NSi). The Prime Minister, Mr Janez Janša from the Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS), was elected to office on 3 March 2020. The next general elections in Slovenia will take place no later than 5 June 2022. Other political parties represented in parliament are the List of Marjan Šarec (LMS), Social Democrats (SD), Party of Alenka Bratušek (SAB), The Left, and the Slovenian National Party (SNS).

Briefing [EN](#)

[Global Health Summit](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-05-2021

Author SCHOLZ Nicole

Policy area Coronavirus | Public Health

Keyword capital city | construction and town planning | cooperation policy | coronavirus disease | disease prevention | economic geography | epidemic | Europe | G20 | GEOGRAPHY | health | international affairs | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Italy | political geography | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summit meeting | world organisations

Summary The Global Health Summit – jointly hosted by the European Commission and Italy, as chair of the Group of Twenty (G20) – will take place on 21 May 2021 in Rome. Bringing together leaders, heads of international and regional organisations and representatives of global health bodies, it will provide a platform for sharing lessons learned from the coronavirus pandemic. The discussions will feed into a declaration of principles that can guide multilateral cooperation and joint action to prevent future health crises. Meanwhile, in a parallel process initiated by European Council President Charles Michel, world leaders are calling for an international treaty on pandemics.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[The informal economy and coronavirus in Latin America](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-05-2021

Author GOMEZ RAMIREZ Enrique

Policy area Coronavirus | Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | cooperation policy | coronavirus disease | development aid | economic conditions | economic policy | economic recovery | economic structure | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU aid | GEOGRAPHY | health | International Labour Organisation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Latin America | national accounts | poverty | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | underground economy | United Nations

Summary The coronavirus pandemic has resulted in Latin America's worst economic and social crisis in decades, with a disproportionate impact on informal workers. The informal economy describes economic activity by workers or economic units that is not or only insufficiently covered by formal legal or practical arrangements. Although it is on the decline in Latin America, the informal economy still accounts for slightly over half of all jobs in the region. To counteract the spread of Covid-19, various confinement measures were implemented in Latin American countries. These lockdowns have had a substantial effect on earnings in the informal economy, some estimations show income contraction of up to 80 %. By its very nature, the informal economy leaves workers vulnerable to external shocks. Inadequate or non-existent social safety nets mean that income losses can quickly lead to poverty or death. Despite several Latin American countries being classified as high- or upper middle-income countries, large parts of the region's inhabitants lack access to health care. For those who do have access, out-of-pocket expenses are high. Furthermore, many public hospitals are overstrained and lack the qualified staff to deal with a health crisis. The pre-existing levels of high inequality have been aggravated since the start of the pandemic. Various economic and social policy responses have been implemented to alleviate the current circumstances. Nevertheless, limited fiscal space and a lack of state capacity weakens the effectiveness of such policies. The situation is worsened by an expected slow economic recovery: estimates project a return to pre-pandemic levels of aggregate output only by the end of 2023. The European Union has pledged €918 million to support the region under the Team Europe package.

Briefing [EN](#)

The coronavirus pandemic in Latin America

Publication type At a Glance

Date 28-04-2021

Author GOMEZ RAMIREZ Enrique

Policy area Coronavirus | Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cooperation policy | coronavirus disease | crisis management | ECONOMICS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | epidemic | financial aid | GEOGRAPHY | health | human rights | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Latin America | LAW | management | national accounts | poverty | public health | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | unemployment | vaccination

Summary Latin America is among the world's regions worst affected by Covid-19, and its economies, employment and even human rights are already suffering seriously, and are expected to continue to do so. Governments and international organisations, including the EU, are making efforts to mitigate the consequences, but the results remain uncertain. This is an update of an 'At a glance' note from October 2020.

At a Glance [EN](#)

EU4Health programme

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-04-2021

Author SCHOLZ Nicole

Policy area Coronavirus | Public Health

Keyword cancer | coronavirus disease | disease prevention | epidemic | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | health care system | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary On 28 May 2020, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation on a new health programme (EU4Health) for 2021 to 2027. Announced as part of the Next Generation EU (NGEU) recovery instrument, according to the Commission, the EU4Health programme is intended to boost the EU's preparedness for major cross-border health threats and improve health systems' resilience. EU4Health would be a stand-alone, dedicated funding programme with an originally proposed budget of €10.4 billion (in current prices). However, during the negotiations on the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework (MFF) and NGEU, the budget for EU4Health was revised downwards, with the July 2020 European Council conclusions allocating the programme €1.7 billion. On 14 December 2020, Parliament and Council reached a provisional agreement on the programme, including a budget of €5.1 billion. Stakeholders had broadly welcomed the proposal, but generally regretted the European Council's reduction of the financial envelope allocated to it. The co-legislators' December agreement on an increased budget was thus positively received. After adoption by the Parliament and Council in March 2021, based on the text agreed in trilogue, the final act was signed by the presidents of the co-legislators on 24 March 2021. Regulation (EU) 2021/522 entered into force on 27 March 2021 and applies retroactively from 1 January 2021. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Europe's Beating Cancer plan: Quick overview and initial reactions

Publication type Briefing

Date 24-03-2021

Author SCHOLZ Nicole

Policy area Public Health

Keyword cancer | disease prevention | dissemination of information | documentation | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU aid | EU finance | EU financial instrument | EU initiative | EU investment | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | health | health care | innovation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public awareness campaign | public health | research and intellectual property | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | therapeutics

Summary On 3 February 2021, the European Commission presented Europe's Beating Cancer plan, slightly delayed on account of the pandemic. The plan is a key European Union (EU) public health initiative and a cornerstone of the European health union process launched in November 2020. Responsibility for health lies primarily with the governments of the individual EU Member States. Europe's Beating Cancer plan sets out actions to support, coordinate or supplement Member States' efforts at every stage of the disease: from prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment, to an improved quality of life for cancer patients and survivors. Cross-cutting themes include research and innovation, digital and personalised medicine, and action to reduce cancer inequalities across the EU. A particular focus will be on childhood cancers. The plan consists of 10 flagship initiatives and 32 supporting actions, to be rolled out over the coming years. Implementation will be monitored by means of a roadmap and progress indicators, and the Commission will establish an EU cancer plan implementation group. With a €4 billion budget, the plan will make use of all available funding instruments, including the new EU4Health programme, Horizon Europe, and the Digital Europe programme. EU institutional actors and public and private stakeholders have widely commented on Europe's Beating Cancer plan. While non-governmental organisations and industry associations broadly welcome the plan and its ambition, some have criticised specific elements. The European Parliament's Special Committee on Cancer is working on an own-initiative report that will be Parliament's contribution to Europe's Beating Cancer plan. Health and Food Safety Commissioner Stella Kyriakides has stressed that Parliament and its special committee has played an important role in shaping the plan, and will also be instrumental during its implementation.

Briefing [EN](#)

[The impact of the coronavirus crisis on Roma and Travellers](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 23-03-2021

Author LECERF Marie

Policy area [Coronavirus](#) | [Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity](#)

Keyword [aid to disadvantaged groups](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [epidemic](#) | [EU finance](#) | [EU strategy](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [health](#) | [migration](#) | [nomadism](#) | [public health](#) | [Roma](#) | [social affairs](#) | [social framework](#) | [social impact](#) | [social integration](#) | [social protection](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [support mechanism](#)

Summary The EU's Roma and Traveller communities are among those most at risk of contracting Covid-19. This only adds to the multiple difficulties they face as regards employment, education, housing and health, compounded by discrimination and anti-Gypsyism. To tackle this situation, the European Commission has introduced targeted measures and provided financial support. The European Parliament has repeatedly expressed its deep concern about the conditions of the Roma and people of other backgrounds during the ongoing pandemic.

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

[Plenary round-up – March I 2021](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 12-03-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

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

Keyword [agenda](#) | [AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [epidemic](#) | [EU initiative](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EU investment](#) | [EU programme](#) | [European construction](#) | [European Ombudsman](#) | [European Parliament](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financing and investment](#) | [fisheries](#) | [fishing controls](#) | [health](#) | [parliamentary proceedings](#) | [parliamentary session](#) | [political framework](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [public health](#) | [rule of law](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary The highlight of the March I 2021 plenary session was the official signature of the Joint Declaration on the Conference on the Future of Europe, allowing the Conference's work finally to get under way. Another important point was the celebration of International Women's Day, which was held just before the start of the session, with Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States of America, and Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand, addressing the plenary in video messages, and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, also participating, in the chamber. The main debates held during the session concerned the economic impact of the Covid 19 pandemic – focusing on investment, competitiveness and skills, as well as the proposed action plan for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, in preparation for the Social Summit in Porto in May. Members also discussed the application of the rule of law conditionality mechanism, respect for the partnership principle in the preparation and implementation of national recovery and resilience plans, and ensuring good governance of the expenditure of EU funding. Proposals on the European Semester annual strategies, corporate due diligence and corporate accountability, as well as the InvestEU and EU4Health programmes, were also debated and voted. Parliament also adopted a resolution declaring the EU an LGBTIQ Freedom Zone. Members debated government attempts to silence free media in Poland, Hungary and Slovenia. Debates were held on reforming the EU policy framework to end tax avoidance in the EU following the OpenLux revelations. Members debated statements by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borell, on the current political situation in Georgia and on the continuing conflict in Syria.

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

[Coronavirus: Vaccination debates \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 05-03-2021

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area [Coronavirus](#)

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [economic conditions](#) | [economic consequence](#) | [economic recovery](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [epidemic](#) | [health](#) | [INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS](#) | [management](#) | [public health](#) | [risk management](#) | [security of supply](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [trade](#) | [TRADE](#) | [United Nations](#) | [vaccination](#) | [vaccine](#) | [World Health Organisation](#)

Summary As the second wave of the coronavirus passes, numbers of new infections and the death rate are currently both in decline globally. At the same time, countries across the world have begun vaccination programmes. In parallel, fears that the impact of the disease will continue, as some new, highly contagious mutations of the virus have spread, have led governments to adopt additional preventive border restrictions and lockdowns. Among many debates on the subject, two stand out – the slower vaccination rate in the EU compared to the UK and US, and the imbalance between rich and poor countries in the availability of vaccines, with a third debate, on vaccination passports, emerging rapidly. This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports from international think tanks on the pandemic and related issues. A previous item from this series on the coronavirus was published in February 2021.

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

EU4Health programme 2021-2027

Publication type At a Glance

Date 03-03-2021

Author SCHOLZ Nicole

Policy area Coronavirus | Public Health

Keyword cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | disease prevention | EU finance | EU financing | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | health care system | illness | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | multiannual financial framework | proposal (EU) | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary On 28 May 2020, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation on the establishment of a programme for the Union's action in the field of health for the 2021-2027 period (EU4Health programme). Interinstitutional negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council were concluded on 14 December 2020 with a provisional agreement on the programme, including a budget of €5.1 billion. Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety endorsed the final compromise on 15 January 2021. Parliament's first-reading vote is expected during the March I plenary session.

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

The impact of COVID-19 on the Internal Market (At A Glance - Study In Focus)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 01-03-2021

External author J. Scott MARCUS et al.

Policy area Consumer Protection | Coronavirus | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | consumer protection | consumption | coronavirus disease | crisis management | epidemic | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | free movement of goods | free movement of persons | health | international law | international trade | LAW | management | medical device | public health | single market | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | vaccine

Summary This At A Glance summarises the key findings of the original study, which assesses the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the Internal Market and consumer protection, including the impact of measures introduced at national and EU level to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic. What further measures should be considered in order to reinforce the resilience of the EU's Internal Market in the face of future crises? This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

At a Glance [EN](#)

Coronavirus: Uncertainty and discontent [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-02-2021

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Coronavirus | Public Health

Keyword coronavirus disease | disease prevention | documentation | economic analysis | economic analysis | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | public health | report | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summarising | vaccine

Summary As the latest wave of the coronavirus pandemic intensifies and some highly infectious new mutations of the virus spread, a growing number of countries have increased restrictions on travel and some lockdowns have been intensified. Whilst a series of vaccines are progressively gaining official approval, and their roll-out has started, pharmaceutical companies struggle with production capacity issues, the effectiveness of the vaccines on mutations is still uncertain, and a broader debate is opening up on the global fairness of vaccine distribution beyond the 'first' world. This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports from international think tanks on the coronavirus and related issues. More studies on the topics can be found in a previous edition in this series, published in December 2020.

Briefing [EN](#)

[How the COVID-19 crisis has affected security and defence-related aspects of the EU](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 27-01-2021

External author Christoph O. Meyer, Sophia Besch, Prof. Martin Bricknell, Dr Ben Jones
Christoph O. MEYER, Martin BRICKNELL, Ramon PACHECO PARDO, Ben JONES.

Policy area Coronavirus | Foreign Affairs | Public Health | Security and Defence

Keyword armed forces | common security and defence policy | cooperation policy | coronavirus disease | defence | epidemic | European construction | European defence policy | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | geopolitics | health | humanities | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | public health | SCIENCE | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | third country

Summary This paper looks at how the COVID-19 pandemic has directly and indirectly affected European security and defence. It documents how missions and operations of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) were directly impacted. It finds that COVID-19 has accentuated already recognised capacity shortfalls of the CSDP, such as strategic airlift, secure communications and command and control. Defence spending through EU instruments, and to a lesser extent at national level, has come under pressure although it may still escape post-2008 style cuts. The pandemic revealed the vulnerabilities of Member States' infrastructure and supply chains, and the limited competences of the EU in supporting Member States' management of public health emergencies. COVID-19 tends to act as a threat multiplier and source of instability, particularly in low-income countries already affected by socio-economic imbalances and governance problems. The pandemic is likely to accelerate existing trends, including the declining share of the US and the EU in the world economy compared to Asia, intensifying concerns about China's growing assertiveness, growing attention to IT security and cyber capabilities, and the interconnection between conventional and unconventional security risks. This analysis also looks at which lessons the EU should learn in order to better manage and prepare for such crises. At a strategic level, the EU needs to invest in lesson learning exercises with the European Parliament playing a key role in making the learning publicly accessible. It should also be proactive in shaping international discourses about international governance and the role of the EU post COVID-19. Furthermore, the paper elaborates 19 short and longer-term recommendations, for instance, on how CSDP missions can become more resilient in public health emergencies and which capability shortfalls need addressing most; how defence spending can be made more efficient and better targeted; or how the EU can help to better coordinate military support to civilian authorities. Finally, it advocates investment in health intelligence and better managing the biosecurity risks arising from growing access to dual-use technologies. The EU should forge a preventive approach to future pandemics and associated risks and embrace a comprehensive approach to security and resilience. Yet, one should not lose sight of the distinctive function of the CSDP and what it can currently deliver.

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

[Research for TRAN Committee-Sustainable and smart urban transport](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 26-01-2021

Author DEBYSER Ariane | LECARTE Jacques | MELLAR Balazs | PERNICE Davide

External author Università degli Studi Roma Tre: Giacomo Lozzi, Edoardo Marcucci, Valerio Gatta
Panteia B.V: Maria Rodrigues, Tharsis Teoh, Carolina Ramos, Eline Jonkers

Policy area Transport

Keyword common transport policy | distribution of EU funding | enhanced cooperation | EU finance | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | fund (EU) | health | organisation of transport | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sustainable mobility | trans-European network | TRANSPORT | transport infrastructure | transport network | transport policy | urban transport

Summary Recent trends and developments indicate a growing user-centric approach to mobility, prioritising individual needs and users' interests. Disruptive emerging technologies and shared mobility solutions bring new stakeholders to the urban ecosystem. COVID-19 has changed behaviours, with walking, cycling and private car use increasing. E-commerce demand has increased significantly, and contactless solutions are still preferred.

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

[Revision of the Drinking Water Directive](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 25-01-2021

Author LAANINEN Tarja

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

Keyword circular economy | construction and town planning | consumer protection | consumption | deterioration of the environment | drinking water | EC Directive | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | human nutrition | natural environment | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | public health | quality standard | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | water management | water pollution | water protection | water supply

Summary On 1 February 2018, the European Commission published a proposal for a recast of the Directive on the quality of water intended for human consumption (the Drinking Water Directive). The proposal responded to the European Citizens' Initiative, Right2Water, and built on a fitness check which concluded that the 20-year old directive is fit for purpose, but needs updating. The main elements of the proposal consist of updating the water quality standards, introducing a risk-based approach to the monitoring of water, improving information provided to consumers, harmonising the standards for products in contact with drinking water, and improving access to water. In the European Parliament, the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) adopted its report in September 2018. The Parliament concluded its first reading in plenary in March 2019. A new rapporteur was appointed at the beginning of the new parliamentary term, and agreement was reached on the text in trilogue negotiations on 18 December 2019. The Parliament voted to adopt the text at second reading on 15 December 2020. The directive was published in the Official Journal on 23 December 2020, and the Member States have until 12 January 2023 to transpose it into national legislation. Fifth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

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

[What if artificial intelligence in medical imaging could accelerate Covid-19 treatment?](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 21-12-2020

Author KRITIKOS Michail

Policy area [Consumer Protection](#) | [Employment](#) | [EU Law: Legal System and Acts](#) | [Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice](#) | [Forward Planning](#) | [Internal Market and Customs Union](#) | [Public Health](#) | [Research Policy](#) | [Transport](#)

Keyword [artificial intelligence](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [cybernetics](#) | [data protection](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [epidemic](#) | [health](#) | [information and information processing](#) | [information security](#) | [information technology and data processing](#) | [medical device](#) | [medical diagnosis](#) | [natural and applied sciences](#) | [new technology](#) | [PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH](#) | [public health](#) | [SCIENCE](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [technology and technical regulations](#)

Summary Thermal imaging cameras are currently being installed in office buildings, hospitals, shopping malls, schools and airports as a means of detecting people with fever-like symptoms. Given that these cameras are not necessarily designed to operate as medical devices, there are questions about their suitability in the context of the current pandemic. This note provides an overview of the use of thermal imaging empowered with artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, its suitability in the context of the current pandemic and the core technical limitations of this technology. The main legal responses and ethical concerns related to the use of AI in the context of thermal imaging at entry points to identify and triage people who may have elevated temperatures are also examined.

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

[What if AI could improve thermal imaging, to help fight coronavirus?](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 21-12-2020

Author KRITIKOS Michail

Policy area [Consumer Protection](#) | [Coronavirus](#) | [Employment](#) | [EU Law: Legal System and Acts](#) | [Forward Planning](#) | [Public Health](#) | [Research Policy](#)

Keyword [artificial intelligence](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [data protection](#) | [deterioration of the environment](#) | [disease prevention](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [epidemic](#) | [health](#) | [information and information processing](#) | [information security](#) | [information technology and data processing](#) | [medical device](#) | [new technology](#) | [non-ionising radiation](#) | [PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH](#) | [public health](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [technology and technical regulations](#)

Summary Thermal imaging cameras are currently being installed in office buildings, hospitals, shopping malls, schools and airports as a means of detecting people with fever-like symptoms. Given that these cameras are not necessarily designed to operate as medical devices, there are questions about their suitability in the context of the current pandemic. This note provides an overview of the use of thermal imaging empowered with artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, its suitability in the context of the current pandemic and the core technical limitations of this technology. The main legal responses and ethical concerns related to the use of AI in the context of thermal imaging at entry points to identify and triage people who may have elevated temperatures are also examined.

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

Multimedia [What if AI could assist thermal imaging in fighting coronavirus?](#)

[What if AI-powered passenger locator forms could help stop the spread of Covid-19?](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 21-12-2020

Author KRITIKOS Michail

Policy area [Consumer Protection](#) | [EU Law: Legal System and Acts](#) | [Forward Planning](#) | [Internal Market and Customs Union](#) | [Public Health](#) | [Tourism](#) | [Transport](#)

Keyword [artificial intelligence](#) | [carriage of passengers](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [data collection](#) | [disease prevention](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [epidemic](#) | [health](#) | [information and information processing](#) | [information technology and data processing](#) | [new technology](#) | [organisation of transport](#) | [passenger rights](#) | [personal data](#) | [PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH](#) | [public health](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [technology and technical regulations](#) | [TRANSPORT](#) | [transport policy](#)

Summary As decisions about who should get tested in an airport are important from public health and privacy perspectives, contact tracing and targeted testing based on AI-powered PLFs should be subject to thorough validation and accountability requirements so as to gain public trust and acceptance.

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

Research for AGRI Committee - The challenge of land abandonment after 2020 and options for mitigating measures

Publication type Study

Date 21-12-2020

Author NEGRE François

External author ÖIR GmbH: C.ANDRONIC, M. DERSZNIAK-NOIRJEAN, M. GAUPP-BERGHUSEN, C.H. HSIUNG, A. MÜNCH, B. SCHUH / BAB: T. DAX, Ingrid MACHOLD, K. SCHROLL / RegioGro: S. BRKANOVIC

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Forward Planning | Regional Development

Keyword abandoned land | adaptation to climate change | agricultural policy | agricultural region | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | analysis of causes | climate change | common agricultural policy | cultivation of agricultural land | deterioration of the environment | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | globalisation | health | less-favoured agricultural area | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | regions and regional policy | research and intellectual property | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This study examines the phenomenon of land abandonment, its consequences and mitigation options. Using quantitative data, it provides an overview of the possible future evolution of land abandonment in the EU by 2030, its historical evolution and current state of play. Based on desk research and case studies, this research project carries out an analysis of the drivers and effects of the phenomenon, considers mitigating actions to be implemented through EU policies, notably the CAP and outlines different scenarios about land use changes, using as variables climate change, the globalisation of markets and a major health crisis.

Study [EN](#)

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

Annex 1 [EN](#)

Webinar proceedings: Mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-12-2020

Author CIUCCI MATTEO

Policy area Coronavirus | Public Health

Keyword coronavirus disease | e-Health | epidemic | health | health care system | health costs | mental health | mental illness | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This briefing summarises presentations delivered by the invited experts during a remote webinar on "Mental health" organised on 10 November 2020 by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the ENVI committee.

Briefing [EN](#)

Coronavirus testing: Contributing to efforts to stem the second wave

Publication type Briefing

Date 07-12-2020

Author SCHOLZ Nicole

Policy area Coronavirus | Public Health

Keyword coronavirus disease | disease prevention | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control | EUROPEAN UNION | health | health technology | medical device | medical diagnosis | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic remains a major threat to public health in the European Union (EU). Testing is considered an essential aspect of the response to the pandemic. There are different types of coronavirus tests, each having its own merits and limitations. The timing of tests is also critical. Among the tests that detect current infection, (rapid) antigen tests have recently come to the fore. In view of a resurgence of coronavirus cases, the European Commission adopted on 28 October 2020 a recommendation for a common EU testing approach for Covid-19. It addresses key points linked to testing capacities and resources, as well as rapid antigen tests. This was followed on 18 November by a recommendation on the use of rapid antigen tests for the diagnosis of Covid-19, which provides guidance on how to select rapid antigen tests, when they are appropriate and who should perform them. It also calls for validation and mutual recognition of tests and their results. EU and international public health bodies, including the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the World Health Organization, have given testing recommendations and outlined strategies and objectives. Several Member States have started to use rapid antigen tests in practice. Testing policies range from testing only people who both have symptoms and also meet specific criteria, to testing anyone with symptoms, to open public testing, including asymptomatic people. In a September 2020 resolution, the European Parliament called for the adoption and implementation of a common testing strategy under which test results would be recognised in all Member States. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, coronavirus testing has rapidly evolved and will continue to play an important role. New methods are emerging, including 'out of the box' options.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Coronavirus: The battle continues \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-12-2020

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Coronavirus

Keyword coronavirus disease | developing countries | documentation | economic conditions | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | health | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | report | research and intellectual property | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | think tank | vaccination | vaccine

Summary As the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic appears to be peaking in Europe, governments and citizens are buoyed by the successful human trials of several vaccines which their producers hope to be able to distribute widely over the coming months. There is growing expectation that, as these vaccines start to become available to the general public in coming months, daily life may gradually return to normal, or at least to a 'new normal', during the course of 2021. Meanwhile, many regions of the world continue in some form of lockdown to stave off the second wave. The political debate on health policy is currently focussed not only on priorities for distributing the vaccine in the advanced economies, such as those of the EU, but on how to make it available to poorer countries too, as scientists underline that the virus knows no borders. This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on pandemic-related issues. Earlier think tank studies on the issue can be found in the 'What Think Tanks are Thinking' of 10 November.

Briefing [EN](#)

[The Global HIV/AIDS epidemic](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 30-11-2020

Author RUSSELL Martin

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Public Health

Keyword AIDS | disease prevention | epidemic | health | health care | immunology | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | therapeutics

Summary In the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, World Aids Day on 1 December is a timely reminder of the need for continued efforts to tackle other global health problems. Since the first cases were recorded in 1981, the disease has claimed 33 million lives worldwide. New infections and deaths are steadily declining but there are still huge disparities and challenges to meeting the UN target of ending the epidemic by 2030.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Europe's Beating Cancer plan - Pre-legislative synthesis of national, regional and local positions on the European Commission proposal](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-11-2020

Author SCHOLZ Nicole | ZUMER KLEMEN

Policy area Public Health

Keyword cancer | carcinogenic substance | deterioration of the environment | disease prevention | ENVIRONMENT | EU action | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | health care | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | quality of life | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | therapeutics

Summary This briefing forms part of an EPRS series offering syntheses of the pre-legislative state of play and consultation on key European Commission priorities during the current five-year term. It summarises the state of affairs in the relevant policy field, examines how the existing policy is working on the ground, and, where possible, identifies best practice and ideas for the future on the part of governmental organisations at all levels of European system of multilevel governance. EPRS analysis of the positions of partner organisations at European, national, regional and local levels suggests that they would like the following main considerations to be reflected in discussion of the forthcoming Europe's Beating Cancer plan: * Submissions from all four levels of governance highlight the EU's key role in prevention, including as regards cancer-causing environmental factors and tobacco consumption. Input obtained refers to the active role Europe's local and regional actors can play in putting prevention into practice. * European and national levels point to predictive diagnostic tools and novel approaches in cancer medicine. Regional actors advocate for closer cooperation between primary care and hospital care in early diagnosis. Both the regional and local levels would like the EU to help improve screening. * Equitable access to cancer care is featured across all levels. National input raises the issue of availability and affordability of medicines. The local level underscores the merits of ambulatory care, and sees a role for the EU in the creation of local coordination platforms for doctors and patients. * The European level addresses cancer after-care in the local community and cancer survivorship and rehabilitation. Both the regional and local levels recommend fostering personalised care and follow-up for cancer patients. * European and national input stresses the importance of EU-wide cancer research cooperation, information sharing and better deployment of (big) data. Attention is drawn to improving information, communication, education and awareness-raising for both the wider public and healthcare professionals, with regional input encouraging the development of new technologies to ease doctor-patient communication. * All levels would like Europe's Beating Cancer plan to address health inequalities in cancer. EU-level action is considered key to help reduce socioeconomic and geographical disparities, and tackle differences in cancer prevalence and survival rates. A 'health in all policies' approach is supported.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Towards a common EU approach to lifting coronavirus-related restrictions on freedom of movement](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-11-2020

Author DUMBRAVA Costica

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Coronavirus

Keyword border control | coronavirus disease | disease prevention | disease surveillance | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | freedom of movement | health | information technology and data processing | internal border of the EU | international law | LAW | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public health | remote sensing | rights and freedoms | Schengen Agreement | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | software

Summary In an effort to tackle the second wave of the coronavirus outbreak, EU Member States started reinstating restrictions on the freedom of movement in October 2020. To prevent a new series of severe and uncoordinated restrictions at countries' internal borders similar to those of March this year, there have been renewed efforts at the EU level to establish a coordinated approach towards coronavirus-related restrictions on movement. While the focus is now on the ongoing health crisis, concerns about the functioning of the Schengen area of free movement predate the pandemic. As recent terrorist attacks in Europe remind us, scant progress and unfinished reforms in the area of migration, external borders and security both weaken and threaten to undo the important achievements of Schengen cooperation. This briefing discusses the key steps taken by the EU to develop a common response to the above challenges and thus to safeguard the Schengen area. It provides an overview of the main restrictions on movement imposed by EU and Schengen countries as of 25 November 2020. Since contact-tracing apps have been promoted as a key tool in combating the pandemic and restoring freedom of movement, this briefing also provides an overview of the existing coronavirus applications in the EU Member States and their interoperability across borders.

Briefing [EN](#)

[European Commission work programme 2021](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 25-11-2020

Author HAHNKAMPER-VANDENBULCKE Nora | VETTORAZZI STEFANO

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword action programme | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | disease prevention | economic conditions | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU growth strategy | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | legislative initiative | management | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This briefing, which focuses on legislative initiatives only, is intended as a background overview for parliamentary committees (and their respective secretariats) which are planning their activities in relation to the European Commission work programme for 2021 (CWP 2021), adopted on 19 October 2020. It provides an overview of the CWP 2021 with regard to its structure and key aspects, and includes information on two types of EPRS publications that might be of interest to the relevant committees in their consideration of the upcoming legislative proposals: initial appraisals of Commission impact assessments (provided by the Ex-Ante Impact Assessment Unit, IMPA) and implementation appraisals (provided by the Ex-Post Evaluation Unit, EVAL). The annex to the briefing provides, inter alia, a tentative indication of the committee concerned by the 82 legislative files included in the CWP 2021.

Briefing [EN](#)

[What if we could renew all our cells?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-11-2020

Author QUAGLIO Gianluca

Policy area Consumer Protection | Forward Planning | Industry | Public Health | Research Policy

Keyword bio-ethics | biotechnology | cytology | drug surveillance | health | health care | medicinal product | natural and applied sciences | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | SCIENCE | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | stem cell | technology and technical regulations | therapeutics

Summary Regenerative medicine (RM) is an interdisciplinary field that applies engineering and life science techniques to restore tissues and organs damaged by age, disease or trauma, as well as those with congenital defects. Promising data supports the future capability of using RM across a wide array of organ systems and contexts, including surface wounds, cardiovascular diseases and traumas and treatments for certain types of cancer.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Multimedia [What if we could renew all our cells?](#)

[Amending Budget No 9/2020: Mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 19-11-2020

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area [Budget](#)

Keyword [amending budget](#) | [budget](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [civil defence](#) | [cooperation policy](#) | [crisis management](#) | [Croatia](#) | [deterioration of the environment](#) | [economic geography](#) | [emergency aid](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [EU budget](#) | [EU expenditure](#) | [EU finance](#) | [Europe](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union Solidarity Fund](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [health](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [management](#) | [natural disaster](#) | [Poland](#) | [political geography](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [politics and public safety](#) | [public health](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary Draft Amending Budget N°9/2020 (DAB 9/2020) accompanies the proposal to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) for a total of €823.5 million to provide assistance to Croatia and Poland in relation to natural disasters, and advance payments to seven Member States relating to a public health emergency. DAB 9/2020 proposes to enter in the 2020 general budget a total of €734.6 million in commitments and payments, after deducting the advance already paid to Croatia. The European Parliament is set to vote on the Council position on DAB 9/2020 and on the proposal to mobilise the EUSF during the November II plenary session.

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

[The EU's new health programme: EU4Health](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 05-11-2020

Author SCHOLZ Nicole

Policy area [Coronavirus](#) | [Public Health](#)

Keyword [budget](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [disease prevention](#) | [epidemic](#) | [EU expenditure](#) | [EU finance](#) | [EU programme](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [health](#) | [health care system](#) | [proposal \(EU\)](#) | [public finance and budget policy](#) | [public health](#) | [regulation \(EU\)](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary On 28 May 2020, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation on the establishment of a programme for the Union's action in the field of health for the 2021-2027 period (EU4Health programme). It was announced as part of the Next Generation EU recovery instrument, aimed at countering the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The July European Council meeting reduced the programme's budget from the initially proposed €9.4 billion to €1.7 billion. In its report, European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety proposes, inter alia, to restore EU4Health's initial budget. Parliament is expected to vote on the report during the November I plenary session. This would open the way for trilogue negotiations.

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

[The coronavirus pandemic in Latin America](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 30-10-2020

Author GOMEZ RAMIREZ Enrique

Policy area [Coronavirus](#) | [Foreign Affairs](#)

Keyword [America](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [cooperation policy](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [crisis management](#) | [disease prevention](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [economic consequence](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [epidemic](#) | [financial aid](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [health](#) | [humanitarian aid](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [Latin America](#) | [management](#) | [public health](#) | [social framework](#) | [social impact](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary Latin America is among the regions of the world worst affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and its economies, employment and even human rights will suffer seriously. Governments, and regional and international organisations, including the EU, are making efforts to mitigate the consequences, but the results remain uncertain.

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

[EU agricultural policy and health: Some historical and contemporary issues](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 23-10-2020

Author MCELDOWNEY James

Policy area [Agriculture and Rural Development](#) | [Coronavirus](#) | [Public Health](#)

Keyword [AGRI-FOODSTUFFS](#) | [agricultural policy](#) | [AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES](#) | [common agricultural policy](#) | [consumer protection](#) | [consumption](#) | [foodstuff](#) | [foodstuff](#) | [health](#) | [nutrition](#) | [public health](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [TRADE](#)

Summary This paper examines the links between agriculture and health in the EU. Following an explanation of the links between agriculture, nutrition and diet, a chronology of some of the key studies and developments in this field is provided. This begins with an examination of efforts in the early 1970s to address high rates of cardiovascular disease before moving onto more recent assessments of the role of the EU's common agricultural policy in relation to nutrition-related public health matters, and the extent to which the policy has influenced current dietary patterns. A brief overview is provided of the health status of EU citizens, including some key features and trends in EU health, diets and nutrition. The paper also takes account of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, including its implications for health considerations across all policies. Drawing on the range of studies and commentaries consulted, the paper concludes with a number of ways in which agriculture and agricultural policies can address or have an impact on the EU's public health challenges.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#)

[RESEARCH FOR REGI COMMITTEE - EU Cohesion Policy in non-urban areas](#)

Publication type Study

Date 30-09-2020

External author Stefan KAH, Neli GEORGIEVA, Liliana FONSECA - EPRC

Policy area Regional Development | Social Policy

Keyword agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | common agricultural policy | documentation | economic and social cohesion | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EU regional policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | public health | regions and regional policy | research report | rural development | rural region | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This study looks at the role of EU Cohesion Policy in non-urban (rural) areas. It analyses the challenges of these areas and discusses the extent and thematic orientation of rural Cohesion Policy funding. The study then presents the relationship between Cohesion Policy and CAP, before giving an overview of the role of Cohesion Policy for healthcare. It also reflects on the implications of Cohesion Policy proposals post-2020 for rural areas, before providing final conclusions and recommendations for a long-term policy vision.

Study [EN](#)

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

[Impact of noise pollution on residents of large cities, with special regard to noise pollution from aircrafts](#)

Publication type Study

Date 30-09-2020

External author Ted ELLIFF, Michele CREMASCI, Violaine HUCK - ENVISA, Paris

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Petitions to the European Parliament | Transport

Keyword air and space transport | aircraft | airport | civil aviation | construction and town planning | deterioration of the environment | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | health | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | metropolis | noise level | noise pollution | noise protection | parliament | petition | POLITICS | public health | research report | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRANSPORT | United Nations | World Health Organisation

Summary This study, provided by the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the Committee on Petitions, aims to provide a clear and simple overview to the non-expert reader, on the Impact of aircrafts noise pollution on residents of large cities, as well as to give recommendations addressed to the most relevant actors.

Noise is one of the most important problems linked to aviation. It can lead to health issues, as well as to negative social and economic effects. Examples of health issues produced by aviation are sleep disturbance, community annoyance, cardiovascular disease, and mental health problems.

Study [EN](#)

[A European week of sport... like no other](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-09-2020

Author KATSAROVA Ivana

Policy area Coronavirus | Culture

Keyword EU sport policy | health | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This year, the sixth round of the European Week of Sport (23-30 September) will kick off in unusual circumstances. The lockdown measures put in place to curb the coronavirus pandemic have made the initiative more necessary than ever.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Replacement of individual Commissioners](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 08-09-2020

Author DEL MONTE Micaela | DIAZ CREGO Maria

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword appointment of members | Asia and Oceania | China | coronavirus disease | economic geography | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European Commissioner | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | General Court (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | health | Ireland | judgment of the Court (EU) | political geography | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Treaty on European Union | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

Summary On 26 August 2020, Commissioner Phil Hogan tendered his resignation to the President of the European Commission following controversy over his participation in an Oireachtas (Irish Parliament) Golf Society dinner attended by more than 80 people, despite the applicable Irish public health guidelines adopted to contain the spread of Covid-19 limiting gatherings to a fraction of that number. In addition, questions were raised as to whether he had complied with applicable restrictions on movements after his arrival in Ireland. Although President Ursula von der Leyen had not formally requested his resignation, she accepted it and thanked Commissioner Hogan for 'his tireless and successful work' during the current mandate as Trade Commissioner and in his previous mandate as Agriculture and Rural Development Commissioner. Consequently, the procedure to replace him has started, with President von der Leyen requesting that the Irish government propose both a female and a male candidate. On 4 September, the Irish government proposed two candidates to replace Phil Hogan: Mairead McGuinness, current European Parliament First Vice-President, and Andrew McDowell, a recent European Investment Bank Vice-President. On 8 September, President von der Leyen announced she had chosen Mairead McGuinness, and that she would take over financial services, financial stability and the capital markets union from Valdis Dombrovskis. The latter would take the trade portfolio permanently (having already taken it temporarily in the meantime), while continuing in his role of Executive Vice-President. Parliament is now expected to organise hearings with both.

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

[Ten opportunities for Europe post-coronavirus: Exploring potential for progress in EU policy-making](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 29-07-2020

Author BASSOT Etienne

Policy area Coronavirus | Education | Employment | Environment | Industry | Public Health | Security and Defence | Transport

Keyword climate change | coronavirus disease | deterioration of the environment | distance learning | economic conditions | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic commerce | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | epidemic | EU environmental policy | EU industrial policy | European security | health | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | marketing | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sustainable mobility | teleworking | TRADE | TRANSPORT | transport policy

Summary Whilst much commentary and analysis has understandably been focused on reaction to, and mitigation of, the immediate impact of the coronavirus crisis in Europe and worldwide, relatively little attention has been paid to areas of potential opportunity which the crisis may offer to improve policy for the future. This EPRS analysis looks at ten areas which may offer potential for progress, including working more closely together on health policy, using climate action to promote a sustainable recovery, re-thinking the world of work, future-proofing education, harnessing e commerce and championing European values and multilateralism.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#)

Multimedia [Ten opportunities for Europe post-coronavirus](#)

[EU public health policy](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 27-07-2020

Author QUAGLIO Gianluca

Policy area Coronavirus | Public Health

Keyword coronavirus disease | disease prevention | epidemic | health | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This paper explains the origins and current role of public health policy at European Union level, details how the Union has responded to the 2020 coronavirus pandemic to date, and analyses the European Commission's recent proposal for a flagship policy initiative in this field, the EU4Health programme, which could represent a 'paradigm shift' in how the EU deals with health. It then goes on to explore a range of possible further initiatives that could be taken to over the medium- to long-term to strengthen healthcare system across Europe. In the context of the Franco-German proposition that the EU should acquire some form of 'health sovereignty', it looks at the possibility of developing a more comprehensive vision for, and strengthening of, public health policy, in order to better respond to current and future needs.

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

States of emergency in response to the coronavirus crisis: Situation in certain Member States IV

Publication type Briefing

Date 07-07-2020

Author CUNDERLIKOVA Zuzana | DEL MONTE Micaela | ECKERT GIANNA | KOTANIDIS Silvia | LANGOVA VENDULA | RAKOVSKA Violeta

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

Keyword Asia and Oceania | China | coronavirus disease | Cyprus | Czechia | economic geography | epidemic | Europe | GEOGRAPHY | Greece | health | Ireland | Lithuania | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public health | Slovakia | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | state of emergency

Summary With the virulence of the coronavirus pandemic gradually diminishing, and in the light of the restrictive measures adopted by Member States, attention remains on the way chosen by the various states to respond to the crisis. With states at various stages of relaxing emergency constraints, the effects of the coronavirus pandemic are likely to last in terms of health, economic, social, psychological and possibly even political impact. Although public attention is now turned towards the widely differing measures that states are taking in order to live with the virus, new challenges are emerging as international and domestic traffic, trade and free movement of people are re-established, having been all but frozen. In this context, it is still necessary to complete the overview of Member States' constitutional frameworks in response to the coronavirus pandemic with the hope that this might offer some guidance or insight, should a comparable crisis arise in the future. This is the last in a series of four briefings and completes the comparative overview of Member States' institutional responses to the coronavirus crisis by analysing the legislation of Cyprus, Czechia, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania and Slovakia. The first in the series gave an overview of the responses in Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Spain, the second covered Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Malta, Romania and Slovenia, while the third covered Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden.

Briefing [EN](#)

Performing arts: Emerging from confinement

Publication type At a Glance

Date 29-06-2020

Author PASIKOWSKA-SCHNASS Magdalena

Policy area Coronavirus | Culture

Keyword Asia and Oceania | China | coronavirus disease | cultural policy | culture and religion | economic geography | epidemic | EU Member State | GEOGRAPHY | health | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | performing arts | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Unesco | United Nations

Summary In the EU as elsewhere in the world, the performing arts were among the first sectors to be hit by measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus, and are now among the last to reopen. As the confinement measures are relaxed, the focus now is on supporting the performing arts and finding a way to re-engage with live audiences.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Coronavirus and prisons in the EU: Member-State measures to reduce spread of the virus

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-06-2020

Author CIRLIG Carmen-Cristina | DEL MONTE Micaela | LUYTEN KATRIEN | VORONOVA Sofija

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Coronavirus

Keyword coronavirus disease | criminal law | disease prevention | epidemic | health | LAW | penal institution | prisoner | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The coronavirus crisis has put huge pressure on European prisons, already often affected by chronic overcrowding and poor healthcare services. Ensuring strict sanitary conditions, adequate health monitoring and the necessary distancing to prevent an outbreak in these closed environments – particularly vulnerable to contagion – has been a considerable challenge for most, if not all EU Member States. Starting from March 2020, as lockdowns and states of emergency gradually came into force across Europe, EU Member States have taken a number of containment measures to protect prisoners' health. These measures have consisted mostly of suspending all visits and regular activities in order to limit contacts among detainees and also between detainees and the outside world. Transfers of prisoners between EU countries have been put on hold as well. Improved sanitary measures have been taken in detention centres, in terms of both personal hygiene and cleanliness of premises. At the same time, several Member States have sought to reduce overcrowding, by limiting entries and increasing exits, for instance by postponing the execution of sentences or using alternatives to detention. However, according to the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, at least half the Member States did not seek alternatives to detention. This briefing looks into the various measures adopted by Member States between early March and the end of May 2020 in response to the challenges posed to the Union's prisons by the coronavirus crisis. While, at the time of writing, containment measures in many Member States are gradually being eased, the long-term impact of the pandemic on prison conditions and populations remains to be seen.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-06-2020

External author Norbert COUESPEL et al.

Policy area Environment | Forward Planning | Public Health

Keyword cancer | disease prevention | health | medical research | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This study provides an overview of the current state-of-play in Europe in respect to the fight against cancer. It focuses in particular on four main areas: causation of cancer; cancer screening and early diagnosis; access to cancer treatment, care and research; and rare and childhood cancers. It provides key findings and recommendations in each of these areas.
This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI).

Study [EN](#), [FR](#), [PL](#)

[What if AI could advance the science surrounding dementia?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-06-2020

Author VAN WOENSEL Lieve

Policy area Consumer Protection | Forward Planning | Public Health | Research Policy

Keyword artificial intelligence | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | health | information and information processing | medical diagnosis | mental illness | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Artificial intelligence could help in the fight against dementia, a rapidly growing public health problem! Which AI applications in dementia diagnosis and treatment are already under way, and what are future directions and implications? What if, in the future, we could have access to human brains like Google maps? What if we could backup our minds and restore it when needed, such as in the case of getting dementia?

At a Glance [EN](#)

Multimedia [What if AI could advance the science surrounding dementia?](#)

[Which 'new normal' after coronavirus? \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-05-2020

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Coronavirus | Public Health

Keyword coronavirus disease | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | epidemic | health | impact study | public health | social framework | social impact | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Many countries are now beginning to relax their strict confinement measures as the infection, hospitalisation and death rates from the coronavirus all fall. However, the impact of such moves is being monitored very closely, in order to try to forestall any second wave of infection. Meanwhile, debate intensifies about whether people's previous life-styles and working practices, especially in richer industrialised countries, will be radically changed and/or remain sustainable in the emerging 'new normal'. In parallel, the possibility of finding a vaccine, and using other modern technology applications, to overcome the virus is being intensively discussed. Analysts are also looking at the disease's specific impact in the poorest regions of the world, notably in sub-Saharan Africa. This note offers links to recent commentaries and reports from international think tanks on coronavirus and related issues. Earlier publications on the topic can be found in the previous item in this series, published by EPRS on 8 May.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Potentially negative effects of internet use](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 13-05-2020

Author QUAGLIO Gianluca

Policy area Consumer Protection | Culture | Education | Forward Planning | Public Health | Social Policy

Keyword communications | digital literacy | digital single market | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | gambling addiction | health | human relations | impact of information technology | impact study | information and information processing | information security | information technology and data processing | Internet | personal development | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | social affairs | social behaviour | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary It is increasingly recognised that the internet, in spite of all its benefits to society, can also be correlated with significant harms to individuals and society. Some of these harms have been studied extensively, particularly harms to privacy, harms associated with security and cybercrime, and harms resulting from digital divides. This report covers less studied but equally important harms: harms associated with internet use that concern the health, well-being a functioning of individuals, and the impact on social structures and institutions. The ultimate aim of the study is to develop concrete policy options to be considered by the EU Institutions and Member States, to mitigate negative effects of the internet for European citizens.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Multimedia [Potentially negative effects of internet use](#)

[The role of armed forces in the fight against coronavirus](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-04-2020

Author LATICI Tania

Policy area Coronavirus | Foreign Affairs | Public Health | Security and Defence

Keyword armed forces | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | defence | epidemic | health | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary While armed forces may find it difficult to distance themselves from what is perceived as their primary mission, the coronavirus pandemic largely challenges society's vision of their role. This has been showcased through the vital contributions of the military to civilian authorities' responses to contain and stop the spread of coronavirus. Exchanging guns for bags of food supplies and disinfectant spray, military personnel have been among the first responders in the coronavirus pandemic. Whether distributing food, building hospitals or shelters for the homeless, European armed forces were mobilised early. Trained to react quickly in highly dangerous conditions, the military carried out missions of repatriation and evacuation of citizens and transported medical supplies and protective equipment. Almost all European Union (EU) Member States have mobilised their armed forces in one way or another. Discouraging post-crisis economic projections indicate that the impact of the coronavirus pandemic will not spare the defence sector, nor will it weaken geopolitical tensions. With resources further under strain, countries' abilities to meet the EU's defence ambitions with the required investments is under question. However, current EU defence initiatives, if appropriately financed, could see the EU being better prepared to face future pandemics among other threats. Examples include various projects under the permanent structured cooperation (PESCO) mechanism, as well as the European Defence Fund, whose precursor already envisioned pandemic-relevant projects. While EU missions and operations abroad continue, they too have seen their activities limited. However, this has not stopped the EU from deploying staff to help locals in host countries to tackle the virus. In coordination with the EU, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has also provided vital assistance to Allies and partners. Its disaster relief coordination centre, as well as the strategic lift platform and rapid air mobility mechanism, successfully ensured the swift provision of essential equipment and supplies. Around the world, armed forces have demonstrated their added value by closely assisting authorities and citizens in battling the pandemic.

Briefing [EN](#)

[What if we could fight antibiotic resistance with probiotics?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 23-04-2020

Author QUAGLIO Gianluca

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Environment | Food Safety | Forward Planning | Public Health

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | antibiotic | antimicrobial resistance | foodstuff | functional food | health | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Recent research suggests that the future combat against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) may involve probiotic-based approaches. Their use in our microbial ecosystems, including humans, animals and the healthcare environment, may provide a novel approach which deserves exploration.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Multimedia [What if we could fight antibiotic resistance with probiotics?](#)

[Water reuse: Setting minimum requirements](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-04-2020

Author HALLEUX Vivienne

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Environment

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | construction and town planning | cultivation of agricultural land | deterioration of the environment | drafting of EU law | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | irrigation | natural environment | proposal (EU) | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | use of water | wastewater | water consumption | water requirements | water resources | water supply | water treatment

Summary Although freshwater is relatively abundant in the European Union (EU), water stress occurs in many areas, particularly in the Mediterranean region and parts of the Atlantic region, with environmental and economic impacts. In May 2018, the European Commission put forward a proposal for a regulation setting EU-wide standards that reclaimed water would need to meet in order to be used for agricultural irrigation, with the aim of encouraging greater use of reclaimed water and contributing to alleviating water scarcity. The Commission estimates that the proposal could increase water reuse in agricultural irrigation from 1.7 billion m³ to 6.6 billion m³ per year, thereby reducing water stress by 5 %. The European Parliament adopted its first-reading position on 12 February 2019, and the Council agreed on a general approach on 26 June 2019. Trilogue negotiations concluded with a provisional agreement on 2 December. The agreed text, endorsed by the ENVI committee on 21 January 2020, was adopted at first reading by the Council on 7 April. It now returns to the Parliament for final adoption at second reading. Second edition of a briefing originally drafted by Didier Bourguignon. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Novel Coronavirus Outbreak - State of Play, and the EU's Public Health Response](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 07-04-2020

Author LAKY Zsuzsanna

Policy area [Public Health](#)

Keyword [coronavirus disease](#) | [disease prevention](#) | [epidemic](#) | [health](#) | [public health](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary The novel coronavirus pandemic spreads globally, and the whole world, including the countries of the European Union are facing a serious public health, economic and financial, and social crises. This paper takes stock of how the pandemic evolved, and what response action the Union has taken and prepares to take, in the field of public health. It follows up on the briefing which was published in February 2020.

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

[Financial assistance for countries seriously affected by a major public health emergency](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 24-03-2020

Author VAN LIEROP Christiaan

Policy area [Coronavirus](#) | [Economics and Monetary Issues](#) | [Public Health](#)

Keyword [Asia and Oceania](#) | [China](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [distribution of EU funding](#) | [economic geography](#) | [eligibility criteria](#) | [epidemic](#) | [EU finance](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [European Union Solidarity Fund](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [health](#) | [proposal \(EU\)](#) | [public health](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary With much of Europe in the grip of the novel coronavirus, the European Commission announced a series of measures on 13 March 2020 to help countries cope with the socio-economic impact of the crisis. As part of this package, the Commission proposes extending the scope of the EU Solidarity Fund to include major public health emergencies, providing valuable additional support. The proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council is due to be voted during the extraordinary plenary session organised on 26 March to enable the adoption of this and two other specific measures.

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

[Suspension of EU rules on airport slot allocation](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 24-03-2020

Author DEBYSER Ariane

Policy area [Coronavirus](#) | [Transport](#)

Keyword [air and space transport](#) | [airline](#) | [airport](#) | [Asia and Oceania](#) | [charges for use of infrastructure](#) | [China](#) | [civil aviation](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [EC Regulation](#) | [economic geography](#) | [epidemic](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [health](#) | [proposal \(EU\)](#) | [public health](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [TRANSPORT](#) | [transport policy](#)

Summary On 13 March 2020, the European Commission adopted a legislative proposal to amend Regulation 95/93 on common rules for the allocation of slots at EU airports. The proposal responds to the rapid spread of cases of COVID 19, which has led to a substantial drop in the number of flights and forward bookings. It seeks to support airlines by temporarily suspending slot usage rules. The proposal is expected to be voted during the extraordinary plenary session being held on 26 March to enable the adoption of this and two other specific measures.

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

[European Union response to coronavirus threat](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 23-03-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE

Policy area [Coronavirus](#) | [Public Health](#)

Keyword [coronavirus disease](#) | [disease prevention](#) | [economic policy](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [epidemic](#) | [EU aid](#) | [health](#) | [public health](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [vaccine](#)

Summary Spreading swiftly from the initial November 2019 outbreak in China to pandemic proportions in just a few short months, COVID-19 has led to a need for stringent emergency public health measures to save lives across the world. Organising and providing healthcare in the European Union (EU) is a Member State prerogative and responsibility. However within the limits of its powers, the EU has nevertheless acted quickly to help limit the spread of the virus, ensure medical equipment is available, boost the search for a vaccine and aid Member States to withstand the social and economic impact.

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

Outcome of the video-conference call of EU Heads of State or Government on 17 March 2020

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-03-2020

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword communications | coronavirus disease | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | European Council | EUROPEAN UNION | external border of the EU | free movement of persons | health | internal border of the EU | international law | LAW | medical device | medical research | migration | public health | repatriation grant | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | socioeconomic conditions | videophone conference

Summary On 17 March, the members of the European Council held a video-conference concerning the measures taken to fight the COVID-19 outbreak. European leaders felt the need for a coordinated approach, as individual They followed up on the four lines of action to contain the spread of the disease agreed at their video-meeting on 10 March, and discussed more in depth the EU's external and internal border management.

Briefing [EN](#)

Workshop proceedings "Cancer prevention-modifiable risk factors"

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-03-2020

Author LAKY Zsuzsanna

Policy area Public Health

Keyword cancer | disease prevention | health | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary On 18 February 2020, the Health Working Group of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) held a workshop on cancer prevention, focussing on modifiable risk factors. Dolores Montserrat and Sara Cerdas MEPs, the Co-Chairs of the Health Working Group, presided over the meeting. This briefing summarises the presentations that were delivered by the invited experts.

Briefing [EN](#)

Addressing health inequalities in the European Union: Concepts, action, state of play

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 19-02-2020

Author SCHOLZ Nicole

Policy area Public Health

Keyword EU institutions and European civil service | Eurofound | European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control | EUROPEAN UNION | health | health care system | health service | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | OECD | public health | right to health | rights and freedoms | social framework | social inequality | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | United Nations | UNO | World Health Organisation | world organisations

Summary Tackling socially determined inequalities in health, both between and within European Union (EU) Member States, is still a major challenge. This analysis describes the main concepts and gives examples for health inequalities across the EU. It then presents an overview of the work accomplished at international and EU levels. It shows, in particular, how the EU institutions, bodies and agencies have contributed to reducing health inequalities, notwithstanding that Member States have the main responsibility for health policy. The analysis then goes on to depict stakeholder views, before closing with an outlook on avenues for further action.

In-Depth Analysis [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#)

Multimedia [Addressing health inequalities in the European Union: Concepts, action, state of play](#)

Novel Coronavirus Outbreak - State of play with the epidemics; preparedness and response measurers

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-02-2020

Author LAKY Zsuzsanna

Policy area Public Health

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | disease prevention | epidemic | EU policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | management | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Following the extraordinary Council meeting of health ministers on 13 February 2020, this paper summarises the latest available information on the novel coronavirus outbreak, and the Union's preparedness and response actions. It is an extended and updated version of the "At a Glance" overview, published on 14 February 2020.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Europe's Beating Cancer plan: Launch of an EU-wide debate](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 31-01-2020

Author SCHOLZ Nicole

Policy area Public Health

Keyword cancer | disease prevention | health | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary On 4 February 2020, on the occasion of World Cancer Day, the European Commission will initiate a broad stakeholder debate on the proposed Europe's Beating Cancer plan, to be rolled out towards the end of the year. The launch event will be held in the European Parliament in Brussels, supported by the MEPs Against Cancer Interest Group. It will bring together political leaders, representatives from international organisations, health ministries, leading academics, scientists and health professionals, the private sector and non-governmental organisations, and cancer patients and survivors.

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

[Commitments made at the hearing of Stella KYRIAKIDES, Commissioner-designate - Health](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-11-2019

Author AMANATIDIS Georgios

Policy area Food Safety | Forward Planning | Public Health

Keyword agricultural activity | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | animal health | antimicrobial resistance | appointment of members | consumer information | consumption | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | food safety | health | oral question | parliament | parliamentary proceedings | plant health legislation | POLITICS | public health | public hearing | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | vaccination

Summary The commissioner-designate, Stella Kyriakides, appeared before the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee of the European Parliament on 01 October 2019 to answer MEPs' questions. During the hearing, she made a number of oral commitments which are highlighted in this document. These commitments refer to her portfolio, as described in the mission letter sent to her by Ursula von der Leyen, President-elect of the European Commission, including "protecting and promoting public health" and "food safety and animal and plant health".

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

[Study in Focus on EU Public Health Policies - State of play, current and future challenges](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-11-2019

External author Nikolai PUSHKAREV, Fiona GODFREY, Sascha MARSCHANG, Zoltán, MASSAY-KOSUBEK, Yannis NATSIS, Ann Marie BORG, Vivana GALLI

Policy area Forward Planning | Public Health

Keyword consumer information | consumption | disease prevention | EU policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | nutrition | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary This study provides an outlook on the topics that may shape the ENVI Committee's public health agenda during the new legislature. It describes key public health definitions, principles and concepts, discusses the EU's powers to act on health, and presents an overview of health policy developments and challenges. This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety of the European Parliament.

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

[Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Stella Kyriakides - Health](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author LAANINEN Tarja | SCHOLZ Nicole

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Environment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Food Safety | Public Health

Keyword agricultural activity | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | animal health | appointment of members | candidate | consent procedure | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | food safety | health | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | plant health legislation | POLITICS | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summarising

Summary This briefing is one in a set looking at the Commissioners-designate and their portfolios as put forward by Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen. Each candidate faces a three-hour public hearing, organised by one or more parliamentary committees. After that process, those committees will judge the candidates' suitability for the role based on 'their general competence, European commitment and personal independence', as well as their 'knowledge of their prospective portfolio and their communication skills'. At the end of the hearings process, Parliament votes on the proposed Commission as a bloc, and under the Treaties may only reject the entire College of Commissioners, rather than individual candidates. The Briefing provides an overview of key issues in the portfolio areas, as well as Parliament's activity in the last term in that field. It also includes a brief introduction to the candidate.

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

EU sports policy: Going faster, aiming higher, reaching further

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-09-2019

Author HALLEUX Vivienne | KATSAROVA Ivana

Policy area Culture | Education

Keyword EU sport policy | health | public health | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Sport has a growing impact both on the European Union (EU) economy and on society as a whole. Over 7 million people work in sport-related jobs, and sport-related goods and services amount to nearly 3 % of total EU gross value added. It was not until 2009, with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, that the Union received a clear mandate to build up and implement an EU-coordinated sports policy supported by a specific budget, and to develop cooperation with international bodies in the area of sport. However, EU competence in sport is limited and only allows the EU to support, coordinate or complement sports policy measures taken by national governments. This rules out the adoption of legislation or any other legally binding measure. The EU has therefore opted to act via 'soft' policy tools, such as guidelines, recommendations and – most importantly – funding, to support its sport-related objectives. Over the years, the EU has been actively involved in tackling transnational issues such as doping, match-fixing and lack of physical activity. In recent years, various health-related EU initiatives have grown increasingly popular. In 2018, the European Week of Sport attracted nearly 14 million people to over 50 000 events across Europe, with the Western Balkans and the countries from the Eastern Partnership joining the initiative in 2019. The #BeActive Night, a new feature first introduced in 2018, will continue encouraging participants to discover and try the different sports activities available in their area. None of this would have been possible without the introduction of a specific budget for sport, in which the European Parliament played a key role. As the popularity of sport-related initiatives grows, so do the Commission's plans and ambitions for the broader role of sport in society. The executive's proposal for the 2021-2027 Erasmus programme confirms this ambition. Accordingly, the amount available for Erasmus would be doubled, to reach €30 billion, with €550 million dedicated to sport.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [EU Sports policy: Going faster, aiming higher, reaching further](#)

EU Public Health Policies: State of play, current and future challenges

Publication type Study

Date 17-09-2019

External author Nikolai PUSHKAREV, Fiona GODFREY, Sascha MARSCHANG, Zoltán, MASSAY-KOSUBEK, Yannis NATSIS, Ann Marie BORG, Viviana GALLI

Policy area Forward Planning | Public Health

Keyword antimicrobial resistance | disease prevention | EP Committee | EU competence | EU institutions and European civil service | EU policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | health care | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This study provides an outlook on the topics that may shape the ENVI Committee's public health agenda during the new legislature. It describes key public health definitions, principles and concepts, discusses the EU's powers to act on health, and presents an overview of health policy developments and challenges. This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety of the European Parliament.

Study [EN](#)

EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Environmental protection

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-06-2019

Author BOURGUIGNON Didier | HALLEUX Vivienne

Policy area Environment

Keyword air quality | circular economy | climate change | deterioration of the environment | distribution of EU funding | economic analysis | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU environmental policy | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | proposal (EU) | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | statistics | sustainable development | waste management

Summary Through its environmental policy, the European Union (EU) has been improving Europeans' well-being since 1972. Today, the aim of EU environmental policy is to ensure that by 2050 we are living well, within the limits of the planet. To reach this goal, the EU is striving to move towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient economy, to safeguard biodiversity and to protect human health through legislation on air quality, chemicals, climate, nature, waste and water. Although this policy is delivering concrete benefits (such as a wide network of Natura 2000 protected areas, lower greenhouse gas emissions, increased resource recycling, and cleaner air and water), the outlook for the European environment 20 years from now shows a bleaker picture. Yet transitioning to sustainability could deliver a number of benefits beyond environmental protection, from jobs and economic activity to well-being and health. In a recent poll conducted for the European Parliament, three quarters of EU citizens expressed support for increased EU action on environmental protection. Since 2014, efforts have been made in a number of areas, including waste management (for example new recycling targets, restrictions on plastic carrier bags, action on plastics, measures to tackle marine litter); climate (for example the 2030 greenhouse gas emission targets, and measures to decarbonise the transport sector); nature (primarily to improve the way EU rules on biodiversity protection are implemented); and air quality (new rules on maximum amounts of five key air pollutants that EU countries can emit into the atmosphere). The European Parliament has advocated ambitious policies in many of these areas. In the future, EU environment and climate spending is expected to rise. The Commission is proposing to boost the share of EU spending contributing to climate objectives from 20 % to 25 %, while Parliament has called for this share to be set at 30 %. In the coming years, policies are expected to focus on climate action, nature protection, air quality, the circular economy and pesticides. This is an update of an earlier briefing issued in advance of the 2019 European elections.

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

Multimedia [EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Environmental protection](#)

[Policy Department Services \(ENVI in Focus\)](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-06-2019

Author OHLIGER Tina

Policy area Environment | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Public Health

Keyword committee (EU) | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | food safety | health | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | research and intellectual property | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | think tank

Summary Policy Department A provides high-quality expertise, up-to-date analysis and independent research to the committees it supports: ECON, EMPL, ENVI, ITRE and IMCO. This brochure focuses on the Policy Department services for the ENVI Committee.

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

[Study in focus: Sampling points for air quality](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 02-04-2019

Author OHLIGER Tina

Policy area Environment | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword air quality | atmospheric pollutant | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental monitoring | environmental policy | health | pollution control measures | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Air quality monitoring at fixed sites is a major instrument provided for in the Ambient Air Quality Directive to check compliance with limit or target values, which have been set for the protection of human health. This study analyses the criteria for the location of monitoring sites in five Member States to identify ambiguous provisions that might lead to different assessments of air pollution exposure.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Farming without plant protection products](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 04-03-2019

External author DG, EPRS

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Consumer Protection | Environment | Food Safety | Forward Planning | Public Health | Research Policy

Keyword agricultural policy | agricultural productivity | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | cultivation of agricultural land | farming systems | health | means of agricultural production | organic farming | plant health product | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sustainable agriculture

Summary Plant Protection Products (PPPs) are often perceived by consumers as very harmful for human health and for the environment. The tendency in the EU policy is to stimulate the reduction of PPPs. Can we maintain high yield with less PPPs? This paper presents the current state of the art regarding the role of PPPs in securing global food production, preserving biodiversity and supporting farmer's income. The role of various stakeholders on the current perception of risk by the general public is given and promising alternative and more sustainable strategies to further reduce PPP use. This report is meant as a background document to support the debate that will take place during the workshop 'Farming without plant protection products?', 6 March 2019, which contrasts the contents of this report with perspectives from conventional agriculture, the stance of organic farmers and the viewpoint of consumers.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Harmful internet use - Part II: Impact on culture and society](#)

Publication type Study

Date 31-01-2019

External author DG, EPRS

Policy area Culture | Education | Public Health | Social Policy

Keyword communications | computer crime | disinformation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | health | human relations | information technology and data processing | Internet | public health | social affairs | social framework | social impact | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary It is increasingly recognised that the internet, in spite of all its benefits to society, can also be correlated with significant harms to individuals and society. Some of these harms have been studied extensively, particularly harms to privacy, harms associated with security and cybercrime, and harms resulting from digital divides. This report covers less studied but equally important harms: harms associated with internet use that concern the health, well-being and functioning of individuals, and the impact on social structures and institutions. The Part II of the study addresses the harms of the internet at society level. The harms that are revised are among others: harms to cognitive development, information overload, harmful effects on knowledge and belief and harms to social relationships. The ultimate aim of the study is to develop concrete policy options to be considered by the EU Institutions and Member States, to mitigate harmful effects of the internet for European citizens.

Study [EN](#)

Annex 1 [EN](#)

[Harmful internet use - Part I: Internet addiction and problematic use](#)

Publication type Study

Date 31-01-2019

External author DG, EPRS

Policy area Culture | Education | Public Health | Social Policy

Keyword communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | gambling addiction | health | Internet | mental illness | online game | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary It is increasingly recognised that the internet, in spite of all its benefits to society, can also be correlated with significant harms to individuals and society. Some of these harms have been studied extensively, particularly harms to privacy, harms associated with security and cybercrime, and harms resulting from digital divides. This report covers less studied but equally important harms: harms associated with internet use that concern the health, well-being and functioning of individuals, and the impact on social structures and institutions. The Part I of the study addresses the issue of the maladaptive use of the internet at individual level, including virtual social networks, video games and other potentially addictive types of interactive media content. The three problems which emerged from the study were: generalised internet addiction, online gaming addiction and online gambling addiction. The ultimate aim of the study is to develop concrete policy options to be considered by the EU Institutions and Member States, to mitigate harmful effects of the internet for European citizens.

Study [EN](#)

Annex 1 [EN](#)

[EU authorisation procedure for pesticides](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-01-2019

Author BOURGUIGNON Didier

Policy area Environment

Keyword agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | health | means of agricultural production | pesticide | plant health legislation | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary In the wake of controversy over the renewal of the approval of glyphosate, the European Parliament set up in February 2018 a special committee on the Union's authorisation procedure for pesticides. The Parliament is expected to vote in plenary on the special committee's recommendations in January 2019.

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

[Transparency of EU risk assessment in food chain](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 05-12-2018

Author LAANINEN Tarja

Policy area Consumer Protection | Food Safety

Keyword agri-foodstuffs | agri-foodstuffs | AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Food Safety Authority | EUROPEAN UNION | food safety | health | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Following controversies surrounding the authorisation and renewal of certain sensitive products, such as active substances in plant protection products (glyphosate, neonicotinoids) and genetically modified organisms (GMOs), the European Commission proposed to revise the transparency rules in these policy areas. The European Parliament is expected to vote during its December plenary session on the report of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee, and on a mandate to start interinstitutional negotiations.

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

[Climate change \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-11-2018

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Environment

Keyword air quality | America | biodiversity | climate change | deterioration of the environment | economic conditions | economic geography | economic growth | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental policy | GEOGRAPHY | health | international affairs | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | natural environment | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | research and intellectual property | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | think tank | UN Conference | United States

Summary World leaders are preparing for the 'COP 24' summit on tackling climate change in Katowice, Poland, in December, which is meant to debate how to implement the 2015 Paris Agreement. Meanwhile, a United Nations report has called for more measures to cut emissions of greenhouse gases: On 8 October, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its latest findings, which indicate that limiting global warming to the 1.5°C increase agreed in Paris would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society. This note brings together commentaries, analyses and studies by major international think tanks and research institutes on climate talks and wider issues relating to climate change. Earlier publications on the issue can be found in a previous edition of 'What Think Tanks are Thinking' published in November 2017.

Briefing [EN](#)

[What if 'nudging' good habits could make us healthier?](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 19-10-2018

Author KULJANIC Nera

Policy area [Consumer Protection](#) | [Economics and Monetary Issues](#) | [Industry](#) | [Internal Market and Customs Union](#) | [Public Health](#)

Keyword [agri-foodstuffs](#) | [AGRI-FOODSTUFFS](#) | [consumer protection](#) | [consumption](#) | [food industry](#) | [health](#) | [nutrition](#) | [public health](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [TRADE](#)

Summary The link between high consumption of trans fats, sugar and salt, found in high amounts in processed food, and an increased risk of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), type 2 diabetes and various cancers is well established. In the current food market, calorie-rich, processed food, wrapped with ambiguous labels, is readily available, cheap and heavily promoted. But what if consumers could be prompted to make healthier food choices?

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

Multimedia [What if nudging good habits could make us healthier?](#)

[Revision of the Drinking Water Directive](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 17-10-2018

Author LAANINEN Tarja

Policy area [Consumer Protection](#) | [Environment](#) | [Food Safety](#)

Keyword [consumer protection](#) | [consumption](#) | [drinking water](#) | [EC Directive](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [health](#) | [natural environment](#) | [PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH](#) | [public health](#) | [quality standard](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [technology and technical regulations](#) | [TRADE](#)

Summary In February 2018, the European Commission adopted a proposal to recast the Drinking Water Directive. The proposal updates water quality standards and aims to improve access to drinking water for all. During the October II plenary session, the Parliament is due to vote on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) committee's report and on the opening of interinstitutional (trilogue) negotiations.

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

[Ready, steady, go: European Week of Sport 2018](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 17-09-2018

Author KATSAROVA Ivana

Policy area [Culture](#) | [Education](#) | [Public Health](#)

Keyword [EU sport policy](#) | [health](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [politics and public safety](#) | [public awareness campaign](#) | [public health](#) | [social affairs](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary The low levels of physical activity among both children and adults in the European Union (EU) are alarming, and have become a matter of great concern to policy-makers. To raise awareness of the role and benefits of sport and physical activity, the European Commission launched the European Week of Sport back in 2015. The fourth annual round of the event will officially kick off in Vienna's Prater Park on 22 September this year.

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

[Setting minimum requirements for water reuse](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 06-09-2018

Author VIKOLAINEN Vera

Policy area [Agriculture and Rural Development](#) | [Environment](#) | [Ex-ante Impact Assessment](#) | [Food Safety](#)

Keyword [AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES](#) | [construction and town planning](#) | [cultivation of agricultural land](#) | [deterioration of the environment](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [economic geography](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [environmental protection](#) | [EU Member State](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [health](#) | [impact study](#) | [irrigation](#) | [natural environment](#) | [proposal \(EU\)](#) | [public health](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [use of water](#) | [wastewater](#) | [water consumption](#) | [water requirements](#) | [water resources](#) | [water supply](#) | [water treatment](#)

Summary The Commission proposal aims to increase the uptake of water reuse for agricultural irrigation. The supporting impact assessment (IA) is based on extensive data and analysis. The range of options, the scope and the analysis of impacts, and the stakeholder consultation seem to have been done in line with the Better Regulation Guidelines. However, the objectives set in the IA are not time-bound, nor measurable. Furthermore, proportionality of the options and the presentation of the problem could be improved.

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

[Air quality: Pollution sources and impacts, EU legislation and international agreements](#)

Publication type Study

Date 10-07-2018

Author BOURGUIGNON Didier

Policy area Environment

Keyword air quality | cooperation policy | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental cooperation | environmental impact | environmental policy | EU environmental policy | EU law | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | pollution control | prevention of pollution | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Outdoor air pollution is caused by the emission of harmful substances from natural sources and human activities. It has a number of adverse effects on human health and the environment, and subsequently on society and the economy. Air pollution can be transported or formed over long distances and can affect large areas. Effective air quality policies require action and cooperation beyond the local and national levels, on a European and global scale. This publication presents key air pollutants, lists natural sources of air pollution, and details emissions from human activities by sector. It describes adverse effects on human health, the environment and the climate, as well as socio-economic impacts. In addition, it provides an overview of international agreements and European Union legislation setting air quality standards, lowering national emissions of pollutants, and reducing emissions of pollutants at specific sources. Furthermore, this publication briefly describes the state of implementation of key EU legislation related to air quality. Finally, it reflects the position of the European Parliament and stakeholders on the policy area.

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

[Strengthening EU cooperation on health technology assessment](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-06-2018

Author VETTORAZZI STEFANO

Policy area Public Health

Keyword cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | health | health care | impact study | information and information processing | innovation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | market access | medical device | medical science | patient's rights | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | public health | research and intellectual property | scientific cooperation | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | technology assessment | TRADE | trade policy

Summary The impact assessment (IA) accompanying the Commission proposal on strengthening EU cooperation on Health Technology Assessment clearly defines the problem, as well as the general and specific objectives. However, the IA does not appear to have succeeded in presenting a very convincing range of options. The analysis of impacts focuses on the economic dimension, which is consistent with the manner in which the problems have been defined. In light of the reported concentration of SMEs in the medical technologies sector (95 %), more emphasis could have been put on analysing the impacts of the retained options on them. The stakeholders' views have been illustrated in a satisfactory way. The evidence included or referenced in the IA is copious and up to date. The IA appears to have addressed most of the RSB's recommendations. Finally, the legislative proposal appears to be consistent with the analysis carried out in the IA.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Revision of the drinking water directive](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 27-03-2018

Author KRAMER Esther

Policy area Environment

Keyword circular economy | construction and town planning | consumer protection | consumption | deterioration of the environment | drinking water | EC Directive | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | human nutrition | natural environment | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | quality standard | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | water management | water pollution | water protection | water supply

Summary This note seeks to provide an initial analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the European Commission's impact assessment (IA) accompanying the above proposal, submitted on 1 February 2018 and referred to the European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI).

Briefing [EN](#)

[Waste Management in Europe: Main Problems Identified in EU Petitions and Best Practices \(updated version\)](#)

Publication type Study

Date 13-03-2018

Author Mussa Giorgio

External author Martin GIERSCH; Francesca MONTEVECCHI; Christian NEUBAUER; Umweltbundesamt GmbH

Policy area Petitions to the European Parliament

Keyword deterioration of the environment | EAEC | EAEC Treaty | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | parliament | petition | POLITICS | prevention of pollution | public health | radioactive waste | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | storage of waste | waste recycling

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the PETI Committee examines the application and proper transposition of European environmental law on waste by Member States, that is one of the recurrent topics addressed by the Committee on Petitions, which collects complaints from citizens in this matter and call for respect of the rule of law. Waste management concerns all activities and actions that are required to manage waste, from its generation to its final disposal. This includes the collection, transport, treatment and disposal of waste, together with monitoring and regulation. This study is an updated version of the previous research from 2011. Based on the results from 2011, new petitions from 2013 to 2016 were analysed with the aim to update the main findings and recommendations on the crucial areas of complaints. The results of the recently carried out assessment show that most of the analysed petitions still relate to deficits in the waste management system, the operating of existing installations (mainly landfills) and the permitting procedure for new facilities. In addition, two petitions address the improper management of radioactive waste which constitutes a new area of complaint (EURATOM Treaty) compared to the analysis in 2011. For all the main areas covered, best practice examples and recommendations for better approaches in future were updated and reviewed.

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

[Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - February 2018](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 05-02-2018

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget | Budgetary Control | Culture | Foreign Affairs | International Trade | Public Health | Transport

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | carriage of goods | China | conflict of interest | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | Europe | European official | EUROPEAN UNION | fight against crime | GEOGRAPHY | globalisation | health | labour law and labour relations | organisation of transport | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public health | Russia | Serbia | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | staff regulations (EU) | terrorism | TRANSPORT | United States

Summary The Monthly Highlights publication provides an overview, at a glance, of the on-going work of the policy departments, including a selection of the latest and forthcoming publications, and a list of future events.

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

[The use of chip implants for workers](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-01-2018

External author Richard Graveling, Thomas Winski, Ken Dixon

Policy area Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Employment | Forward Planning | Social Policy

Keyword data collection | data protection | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic component | electronics and electrical engineering | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | health | human rights | INDUSTRY | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | labour market | LAW | occupational safety | organisation of work and working conditions | protection of privacy | public health | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | worker (EU)

Summary This paper explains the technology of RFID chip implants; explores current applications, and considers legal, ethical, health, and security issues relating to their potential use in the workplace. The study was commissioned by Policy Department A for the Employment and Social Affairs Committee (EMPL).

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

[Stronger Bacteria. Weaker Antimicrobial, The fight against antimicrobial resistance in Europe through research, and the Andalusian PIRASOA program. Two examples of examples of success still to be completed](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 11-01-2018

External author José Miguel Cisneros

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Public Health

Keyword Andalusia | antimicrobial resistance | case study | documentation | drug surveillance | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | executive power and public service | GEOGRAPHY | health | health care system | natural and applied sciences | pharmacology | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | public-private partnership | regions of EU Member States | research and intellectual property | research programme | SCIENCE | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The research is the key to the fight against Antimicrobial Resistance, but funding against the AMR in Europe is not acceptable because of the magnitude of the health problem. In this context, in Andalusia (Spain), the PIRASOA Programme has been successfully implemented and developed, integrated into the daily clinical practice. The preliminary outcomes show a reduction of antimicrobial consumption and antimicrobial resistance and an improvement of antimicrobial prescription profile and. However, it is necessary to maintain professional motivation and more technical and human resources.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Limits and Potentials of the Public Health Programme](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-12-2017

External author Mariana DATES
Ms Micol TEDESCHI

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Public Health

Keyword distribution of EU funding | economic geography | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | EU office or agency | EU programme | European Commission | European conference | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | Framework Programme for Research and Development | GEOGRAPHY | health | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | orphan disease | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | research and intellectual property | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This document summarises the presentations and discussion taking place at the workshop organised by Policy Department A on the limits and opportunities of the Third Public Health Programme, held at the European Parliament in Brussels.
The aim of the workshop was to inform the Members of the ENVI Committee and all participants on the limits and potentials of the Public Health Programme, and to have an overview of the outcomes and impact the Third Health Programme had for EU institutions, Member States and individual organisations/projects in its first half (2014-2017). Firstly, the institutional perspectives from DG SANTE and Chafea were presented. The results of the mid-term evaluation of the Programme were discussed, both emphasising the overall positive result of the evaluation and highlighting the areas of improvement and lessons learnt from the two previous health programmes. Next steps to overcome the current limits were also outlined. Secondly, the focus was on the experience of Member States, which confirmed the value of the Programme for their National contexts, insisting, however, on the need to increase the available budget in order to achieve the targeted objectives. Finally, presentations were given by organisations and projects that have successfully utilised funds from the Health Programme.

Study [EN](#)

[What if we could 3D-print our own body parts](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-11-2017

Author BOUCHER Philip Nicholas

Policy area Consumer Protection | Food Safety | Forward Planning | Public Health | Research Policy

Keyword 3D printing | bio-ethics | dental medicine | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | experiment on humans | health | information technology and data processing | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | research and development | research and intellectual property | scientific progress | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | telemedicine

Summary The 3D-printing sector has proven its commercial viability in recent years, reaching the high street and, indeed, many homes. The technology is already used in some medical domains, such as dentistry and prosthetics, and many scientists are now exploring methods of printing biological materials – even if reports about lifesaving 3D-printed hearts are certainly premature.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Multimedia [What if we could 3D-print body parts?](#)

EU summer-time arrangements under Directive 2000/84/EC: Ex-post Impact Assessment

Publication type Study

Date 25-10-2017

Author ANGLMAYER Irmgard

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Internal Market and Customs Union | Transport | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword agricultural production | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | approximation of laws | EC Directive | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy policy | energy saving | EU policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | farming systems | health | impact study | industrial policy | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | land transport | parliament | petition | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public health | public safety | road transport | single market | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sport | summertime | TRANSPORT | transport policy | transport safety

Summary The purpose of summer time is to capitalise on natural daylight. By turning the clock one hour forward as the days get longer in spring, sunset is delayed by this same hour, until the clock is set back again in autumn. This practice is applied in over 60 countries worldwide. In the EU, Member States draw on a long tradition of daylight saving time (DST), and many have developed their own DST schemes. Harmonisation attempts began in the 1970s, to facilitate the effective operation of the internal market. Today, the uniform EU-wide application of DST is governed by Directive 2000/84/EC; most European third countries have aligned their summer-time schemes with that of the EU. Much academic research has been invested in examining the benefits and inconveniences of DST. It appears that: - summer time benefits the internal market (notably the transport sector) and outdoor leisure activities, and it also generates marginal savings in energy consumption; - the impact on other economic sectors remains largely inconclusive; - with regard to inconveniences, health research associates DST with disruption to the human biorhythm ('circadian rhythm').

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

Autoimmune Diseases – Modern Diseases

Publication type Study

Date 23-10-2017

External author Mr Matteo MASCOLO
Ms Alicia MCNEILL
Ms Meena FERNANDES

Policy area Public Health | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword disease prevention | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | geographical distribution | health | immunology | medical data | medical diagnosis | medical research | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | research and intellectual property | scientific progress | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This report summarises the presentations and discussions of a workshop on "Autoimmune Diseases – Modern Diseases", held at the European Parliament in Brussels on Monday 25 September 2017. The aim of the workshop was to provide background and technical information and advice to the members of the ENVI Committee on the latest findings and trends in the field of autoimmune diseases, specifically concerning treatment and prevention of such diseases. The current state of play of autoimmune diseases in Europe was highlighted during the first part of the workshop. Presentations focused on the public health perspective, and the possible causes of autoimmune diseases. The second part of the workshop focused on treatment and prevention of autoimmune diseases. This included presentations looking at the situation outside the US, and a focus on the lupus as a case study.

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

Complementary and alternative therapies for patients today and tomorrow

Publication type Study

Date 23-10-2017

External author Alexandra SCHNEIDERS, Matteo MASCOLO, Alicia MCNEILL, Meena FERNANDES

Policy area Public Health

Keyword alternative medicine | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | geographical distribution | health | medical data | medical diagnosis | medical research | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | research and intellectual property | scientific progress | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | therapeutics

Summary This report summarises the presentations and discussions of a workshop on "Complementary and Alternative Therapies for Patients Today and Tomorrow", held at the European Parliament in Brussels on Monday 16 October 2017. The aim of the workshop was to provide background and technical information and advice to the members of the ENVI Committee on the latest findings and trends in the field of complementary and alternative therapies. The current state of play of complementary and alternative therapies in Europe was highlighted during the first part of the workshop. Presentations focused on CAM in practice and academic research. The second part of the workshop focused on the policy and legal framework in Europe and the integration of CAM into EU healthcare systems.

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

Cleaner air for Europe: EU efforts to fight air pollution

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-06-2017

Author HEFLICH ALEKSANDRA

Policy area Environment | European Added Value | Public Health

Keyword acidification | atmosphere | atmospheric pollutant | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental law | environmental policy | EU emission allowance | health | natural environment | public health | respiratory disease | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Air pollution knows no borders. Wind can carry pollutants over thousands of kilometres. Poor air quality impacts negatively on human health, ecosystems, crop yields and buildings. It is one of the main environmental causes of premature death, having claimed 5.5 million lives globally and over 430 000 in the EU in 2013. The European Commission estimates the cost of air pollution linked to the degradation of health in European society to amount to €330 billion to €940 billion per year. Developed since 1970 in the wake of acid rain fall that had been destroying European forests and polluting freshwaters, EU air quality policy, in combination with technological change, has contributed to reducing air pollution substantially.

Briefing [EN](#)

Technological innovation strategies in substance use disorders

Publication type Study

Date 30-03-2017

Author QUAGLIO Gianluca

External author Giovanni Esposito, European Brain Council (EBC): Chapter 6 (drawing up of the questionnaire, gathering of responses, analyse of the results and writing the report).

Policy area Public Health | Research Policy

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | alcoholism | dissemination of information | documentation | drug addiction | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | new technology | plant product | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | tobacco

Summary Drug disorders are complex social and health problems that affect millions of people in the EU. In the last two decades, we have witnessed an extraordinary growth in computer and mobile technologies available to the general public. Researchers in the field of drug addiction have started to exploit the growth of the internet and new technologies, and an increasing number of interventions designed to promote changes in substance use disorders are now available. The study includes an extensive critical literature review on the potential of new technologies for drug addiction management. A survey among European experts in the field of addiction was also carried out. New technologies have the potential to provide parallel/alternative instruments of information, prevention and treatment for substance use disorders. They have the capacity to reach populations that have not traditionally been in treatment. Despite encouraging progress, new technologies need to be evaluated with caution. Across research studies, there are methodological difficulties, such as a lack of common definitions, selection biases and inappropriate research designs, which require further investigation. To date, new technologies have the potential to affect, and perhaps deeply transform, existing models of health care delivery in the field of addiction.

Study [EN](#)

Freshwater protection: EU policy and the status of freshwater systems

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-02-2017

Author ALTMAYER Anne

Policy area Environment

Keyword biodiversity | data collection | deterioration of the environment | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | EU institutions and European civil service | European Environment Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | freshwater ecosystem | groundwater | health | information technology and data processing | natural environment | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | quality standard | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | water pollutant

Summary Freshwater ecosystems are particularly rich in biodiversity and fulfil important ecosystem services. However, the continuing presence of pollutants still raises concerns for public health, as well as for nature conservation. Surface water bodies and groundwater alike are threatened by synthetic and also naturally occurring substances that can have a negative impact on the aquatic environment and on human health. Increased temperature and over-abstraction of water are further causes for concern. Meanwhile, heavy modifications to the natural flow and physical changes to water bodies can also cause serious disturbances to water ecosystems. With the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the EU adopted comprehensive legislation for the protection of water within the EU. Under the directive, Member States are required to achieve good status in all bodies of surface water and groundwater by 2015, or 2027 at the latest. Unfortunately, despite considerable improvements in water quality, this goal was not achieved by the end of 2015 as hoped.

In-Depth Analysis [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#)

[European Union action on cancer](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 02-02-2017

Author SCHOLZ Nicole

Policy area Public Health

Keyword cancer | disease prevention | health | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | medical research | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | United Nations | World Health Organisation

Summary Cancer is a major public health concern in terms of disease burden and economic cost. Prevention and early detection are key. The European Union (EU) contributes to tackling cancer with awareness-raising, guidance, and investment in research, as well as information and coordination. This 'At a glance' note updates an earlier version of October 2015: PE 569.037.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Reducing air pollution - National emission ceilings for air pollutants](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-01-2017

Author BOURGUIGNON Didier

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Environment

Keyword air quality | atmospheric pollutant | deterioration of the environment | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | EU Member State | eutrophication | GEOGRAPHY | health | health costs | international affairs | international agreement | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | pollution control | public health | reduction of gas emissions | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Despite significant progress in recent decades, air pollution levels in the European Union still have adverse impacts on the environment and on health. The European Commission estimates that health-related costs of air pollution in the EU range from 390 to 940 billion euros per year. The proposed directive, which would replace the current National Emission Ceilings Directive, sets binding national reduction objectives for six air pollutants (SO₂, NO_x, NMVOCs, NH₃, PM_{2.5} and CH₄) to be met by 2020 and 2030. It will also implement the Gothenburg Protocol as amended in 2012. The European Commission estimates that implementation costs would range from 2.2 to 3.3 billion euros per year. After completion of the legislative procedure at first reading in the European Parliament and the Council, the presidents of the co-legislators signed the final act on 14 December 2016. Member States are required to transpose the new directive into national law by 1 July 2018. This briefing updates an earlier edition, of 6 October 2016: PE 589.821.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Bioeconomy: Challenges and opportunities](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 19-01-2017

Author BOURGUIGNON Didier

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Environment | Industry

Keyword agri-foodstuffs | AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | bio-industry | biomass | deterioration of the environment | economic conditions | economic growth | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | food industry | greenhouse gas | health | import substitution | innovation | natural environment | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | renewable resources | research and intellectual property | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | trade policy

Summary The bioeconomy refers to the production and extraction of renewable biological resources and their conversion into food and feed, bio-based products and bioenergy. Although primarily based on activities carried out, in some form, for centuries or millennia (such as farming, fisheries or forestry), the bioeconomy emerged in the past decade as a knowledge-driven concept aimed at meeting a number of today's challenges. In the European Union (EU), the bioeconomy sectors have an annual turnover of about €2 trillion and employ between 17 and 19 million people. They use almost three quarters of the EU land area. A stronger bioeconomy could trigger growth and jobs, and reduce dependency on imports. It could contribute to optimising the use of biological resources, which remain finite although they are renewable. However, it could also create competition between uses and technologies at various levels. Besides, the amount of available biomass remains disputed. A bioeconomy could contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving public health. However, it could also trigger new greenhouse gas emissions and induce adverse impacts on the environment. The EU policy framework for the bioeconomy is spread across a number of policies (agriculture, forestry, fisheries, climate, circular economy and research). Although a bioeconomy strategy from 2012 aims to ensure policy coherence, inconsistencies remain. The EU provides funding to innovative bioeconomy activities through the framework programme for research (Horizon 2020) and a range of other instruments. The European Parliament has been supportive of the bioeconomy strategy, while highlighting the need for sustainability and policy coherence.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Human health implications of organic food and organic agriculture](#)

Publication type Study

Date 20-12-2016

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Public Health | Research Policy

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | allergy | antibiotic | cadmium | cultivation of agricultural land | fertiliser | foodstuff | health | human nutrition | INDUSTRY | iron, steel and other metal industries | means of agricultural production | nutritional disease | organic farming | organic product | pesticide | plant health treatment | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This study reviews existing scientific evidence regarding the impact of organic food on human health from an EU perspective, with a focus on public health. The development of environmentally sustainable and healthy food systems is an international priority. The study examines how organic food and organic agriculture can contribute to this in relation to public health. Human and animal studies directly addressing the health effects of organic food are reviewed. Furthermore, evidence linking principles and rules of organic production to human health effects is discussed.

Study [EN](#)

[More action needed on antibiotic resistance](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 09-11-2016

Author SCHOLZ Nicole

Policy area Public Health

Keyword antibiotic | antimicrobial resistance | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | health | innovation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | medical diagnosis | microorganism | natural and applied sciences | POLITICS | politics and public safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public awareness campaign | public health | research and development | research and intellectual property | SCIENCE | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | United Nations | World Health Organisation | World Intellectual Property Organisation | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary The rise of antimicrobial resistance – when bacteria and other microorganisms become resistant to the treatments used against the infections they cause – is a pressing public health issue. Cross-sector efforts, particularly awareness-raising, are being intensified, both in the EU and globally. This 'At a glance' note updates an earlier version of June 2015: PE 559.484.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Food contact materials](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 27-09-2016

Author LAANINEN Tarja

Policy area Food Safety

Keyword assessment | chemicals legislation | chemistry | consumer protection | consumption | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | endocrine disease | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental risk prevention | EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | food safety | health | INDUSTRY | marketing | organisation of teaching | packaging product | parliament | parliamentary committee | plastics | political framework | POLITICS | power of implementation | public health | report | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary Food is considered to be one of the most important sources of human exposure to chemicals. The safety of materials coming into contact with food should therefore be carefully evaluated, as chemicals from these can migrate into food. The European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) has drafted an own-initiative report highlighting the problems related to the implementation of the Food Contact Materials Regulation, and this is due to be debated during the October I plenary session.

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

[Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-09-2016

External author Katie McCracken, Sergio Márquez, Sarah Priest, Ana Fitzsimons and Kasturi Torchia (Opcit Research)

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword Denmark | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | educational system | EU Member State | Europe | gender equality | gender reassignment | GEOGRAPHY | health | humanities | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | organisation of teaching | political geography | public health | rights and freedoms | SCIENCE | sex education | sexual discrimination | sexuality | sexually transmitted disease | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Spain | teaching | United Kingdom | United Nations | World Health Organisation

Summary Upon request by the FEMM Committee this study updates knowledge on the provision of sexual education and reproductive rights in the European Union. It involved a review of recent research and data on sexual and reproductive health, and case studies in Denmark, Spain and the United Kingdom. Good quality sexual and relationship education (SRE) reduces risk of sexually transmitted infection, unplanned pregnancy and sexual exploitation amongst young people. However, the implementation of sex and relationship education is inconsistent across Member States.

Study [EN](#)

The 42nd G7 Summit

Publication type At a Glance

Date 23-05-2016

Author LAZAROU Eleni

Policy area Global Governance

Keyword aid to refugees | Asia and Oceania | climate change policy | cooperation policy | development policy | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | group of leading industrialised countries | health | international affairs | international conflict | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international security | investment policy | Japan | LAW | monetary crisis | monetary relations | political geography | public health | rights and freedoms | Russia | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summit meeting | the EU's international role | women's rights | world organisations

Summary On 26 and 27 May 2016, the G7 will hold its 42nd summit in Ise-Shima, Japan. The summit is expected to focus on developments in conflict regions and the refugee crisis, on global growth and on the sustainable development goals. The EU will be represented by Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, and Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Animal health law: Rules on transmissible animal diseases

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-03-2016

Author ROJEK Beata

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Agriculture and Rural Development | Food Safety | Public Health

Keyword agricultural activity | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | animal disease | animal welfare | antimicrobial resistance | disease prevention | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | LAW | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | public health | research and intellectual property | simplification of legislation | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sources and branches of the law | traceability | veterinary legislation

Summary Transmissible animal diseases can have a significant impact on animal and public health and on the economy. Current EU legislation in the field developed over decades and consists of a large number of acts. In an evaluation initiated by the Commission, the legislation was assessed as generally well-functioning and effective, but also as complex and lacking an overarching strategy. The rules, often adopted in response to crises, focus on combating diseases rather than on prevention.

The Commission has proposed to create a single regulatory framework for rules related to the control of transmissible animal diseases. Most current provisions would be adapted, aligned and made more coherent. The proposed regulation would introduce prioritisation and categorisation of diseases, clarify responsibilities and place stronger focus on disease prevention. Most of the existing acts would be repealed.

After trilogues in view of an early second reading agreement, Parliament approved the agreed text during its plenary session on 8 March 2016.

This briefing updates an earlier edition, of 23 February 2016 – PE 577.977.

Briefing [EN](#)

Animal health law: Rules on transmissible animal diseases

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-02-2016

Author ROJEK Beata

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Agriculture and Rural Development | Food Safety | Public Health

Keyword agricultural activity | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | animal disease | animal welfare | disease prevention | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | LAW | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | public health | research and intellectual property | simplification of legislation | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sources and branches of the law | traceability | veterinary legislation

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After trilogues in view of an early second reading agreement, Parliament is expected to vote in plenary to confirm the agreed text in March 2016.

A more recent edition of this document is available. Find it by searching by the document title at this address: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/home.html>

Briefing [EN](#)

The public health dimension of the European migrant crisis

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-01-2016

Author SCHOLZ Nicole

Policy area Public Health

Keyword aid to refugees | cooperation policy | Council of the European Union | emergency medical treatment | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control | European Commission | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | first aid | health | health risk | immigration | infectious disease | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | mental health | migration | position of women | public health | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | United Nations | World Health Organisation

Summary Europe is currently experiencing an unprecedented influx of refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants. European Union Member States are faced with a pressing need to address, among other issues, the resulting public health consequences. The challenges for public health authorities relate to migrants' individual health problems, whether these affect the resident population, and how to respond adequately to their needs, including providing access to healthcare. The risk of an outbreak of infectious diseases resulting from the arrival of migrant populations is extremely low. These diseases are primarily associated with poverty, and refugees and migrants are exposed mainly to infectious diseases that are common in Europe, independently of migration. In terms of an immediate public health response, the World Health Organization recommends a triage of migrants, followed by proper diagnosis and treatment targeting specific groups. It advocates full access to high-quality care for all migrants, irrespective of their legal status. In the longer term, it stresses the need to ensure that national health systems are adequately prepared. The European Parliament has repeatedly emphasised the importance of providing healthcare to vulnerable groups such as migrants, independently of their legal status. The European Commission has mobilised emergency funding and supports projects under the European Union Health Programme. Moreover, it recently introduced the 'personal health record' for establishing migrants' medical needs, to be made available in locations where groups of migrants enter the European Union. In addition, the European Centre for Disease Control has issued expert scientific advice.

Briefing [EN](#)

The precautionary principle: Definitions, applications and governance

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 09-12-2015

Author BOURGUIGNON Didier

Policy area Environment

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cost-benefit analysis | cost-effectiveness analysis | decision-making | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental risk prevention | executive power and public service | governance | health | interpretation of the law | LAW | management | POLITICS | precautionary principle | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | research and intellectual property | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sources and branches of the law

Summary The precautionary principle enables decision-makers to adopt precautionary measures when scientific evidence about an environmental or human health hazard is uncertain and the stakes are high. It first emerged during the 1970s and has since been enshrined in a number of international treaties on the environment, in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the national legislation of certain Member States. The precautionary principle divides opinions. To some, it is unscientific and an obstacle to progress. To others, it is an approach that protects human health and the environment. Different stakeholders, experts and jurisdictions apply different definitions of the principle, mainly depending on the degree of scientific uncertainty required for the authorities to take action. Although most experts agree that the precautionary principle does not call for specific measures (such as a ban or reversal of the burden of proof), opinions are divided on the method for determining when to apply precautionary measures. The application of the precautionary principle presents many opportunities as well as challenges. The precautionary principle is closely linked to governance. This has three aspects: risk governance (risk assessment, management and communication), science-policy interfaces and the link between precaution and innovation.

In-Depth Analysis [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#)

How the EU budget is spent: Health Programme

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-12-2015

Author PARRY Matthew | SCHOLZ Nicole

Policy area Budget | Public Health

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | Framework Programme for Research and Development | health | management | medical research | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | project evaluation | public contract | public health | research and intellectual property | research project | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | trade policy

Summary The European Union's third Health Programme for 2014-2020 is designed to complement, support and add value to the policies of the Member States to improve the health of EU citizens and reduce health inequalities, whilst respecting national autonomy in delivering health services and medical care. Its €449 million seven-year budget represents a substantial increase on the €321.5 million financial envelope for the 2008-2013 Health Programme.

Briefing [EN](#)

South Africa's uneasy social convergence

Publication type At a Glance

Date 19-11-2015

Author LATEK Marta

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Africa | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | AIDS | anti-discriminatory measure | apartheid | democratisation | digital divide | economic geography | ECONOMICS | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | education policy | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | employment policy | executive power and public service | farming systems | GEOGRAPHY | health | information and information processing | land reform | LAW | national accounts | pauperisation | POLITICS | poverty | public health | public service | rights and freedoms | social affairs | social framework | social inequality | social policy | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | South Africa

Summary Despite its redistributive post-apartheid social policies, South Africa still faces substantial challenges. While most white citizens enjoy comparable living standards to those of the richest Western countries, one fifth of the population (mostly black) lives in extreme poverty. Government policies aimed at establishing social justice have achieved varying results. Deteriorating economic prospects have made expectations of social equity increasingly difficult to meet.

At a Glance [EN](#)

The ILVA Industrial Site in Taranto

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-10-2015

External author Grazia Maria Vagliasindi (University of Cania) and Christiane Gerstetter (Ecologic Institute)

Policy area Environment | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword Apulia | competence of the Member States | criminal law | deterioration of the environment | economic analysis | economic consequence | economic geography | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental liability | environmental monitoring | environmental offence | environmental policy | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | health | industrial pollution | INDUSTRY | infringement of EU law | iron and steel industry | iron, steel and other metal industries | Italy | LAW | political geography | public health | regions of EU Member States | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This in-depth analysis summarises information on the case of environmental non-compliance of the ILVA steel plant situated in Taranto, Southern Italy. It discusses the economic importance of the plant and the environmental and health impacts resulting from its operation. It also presents an overview of actions taken in relation to the plant by EU bodies and Italian authorities and courts so far. This report was provided by Policy Department A for the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI).

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

The Role of Sport in Fostering Open and Inclusive Societies

Publication type Study

Date 15-09-2015

External author Ian Henry (Centre of Olympic Studies & Research, Loughborough University)

Policy area Culture | Education | Forward Planning

Keyword anti-discriminatory measure | cultural pluralism | culture and religion | deepening of the European Union | European construction | European identity | EUROPEAN UNION | health | integration of migrants | LAW | migration | POLITICS | politics and public safety | professional sport | public awareness campaign | public health | rights and freedoms | social affairs | social integration | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social role | sporting event

Summary TThis briefing paper provides an overview of models of the roles sport can play in different intercultural and multicultural policy approaches. It highlights in particular the relationship between intercultural and multicultural approaches in the development of social capital among marginal groups in society. Central to the discussion is the adoption of a realist approach to identifying causal mechanisms which bring about social change, and the place of Intergroup Contact Theory in explaining the potential for the development of intercultural understanding through sport.

Study [EN](#)

[EU sport policy: An overview](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 03-09-2015

Author HALLEUX Vivienne

Policy area Culture

Keyword corruption | criminal law | cultural transmission | culture and religion | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | fund (EU) | health | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | LAW | performance drugs | physical education | public health | social affairs | social framework | social impact | social integration | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sport | teaching

Summary Sport is a field in which the EU's responsibilities are new. The Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force in December 2009, grants the Union a supporting competence, meaning that legally binding measures are excluded. EU scope for intervention is further limited by the need to take the specific nature of sport into account and to respect the autonomy of sport organisations, which are traditionally in charge of regulating and organising their sport. In policy-making, the EU thus relies on soft power, i.e. on dialogue and cooperation, as well as incentive measures, taking the form of financial support for projects and networks. If one had to sum up the EU approach in one word, 'guidance' would probably be the most appropriate. Concrete achievements so far include mainly policy recommendations and guiding principles addressed to Member States and sport stakeholders. In the international context, where the Council of Europe, long active in the field of sport, already plays a prominent role, the EU seeks to strengthen unity and foster convergence between its Member States, with a view to arriving at coordinated positions on transnational issues, including the fight against doping and match-fixing.

In-Depth Analysis [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#)

[The 41st G7 Summit](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 22-05-2015

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Global Governance

Keyword climate change policy | development policy | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | Germany | group of leading industrialised countries | health | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international security | ministerial meeting | monetary crisis | monetary relations | political geography | public health | Russia | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summit meeting | the EU's international role | world organisations

Summary On 7 and 8 June 2015, the G7 will hold its 41st summit in Bavaria, Germany. The Group will meet for the second successive year without Russia, whose membership of the G8 was suspended following its annexation of Crimea. The agenda includes issues of global interest, among them development and environmental protection.

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

[Cycling mobility in the EU](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-05-2015

Author PAPE Marketa

Policy area Regional Development | Tourism | Transport

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | climate change policy | construction and town planning | cost-benefit analysis | cycle track | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | equitable tourism | EU finance | EU Member State | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | fund (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | health | land transport | public health | road safety | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sustainable mobility | tourism policy | town planning | trans-European network | TRANSPORT | transport infrastructure | transport policy | two-wheeled vehicle

Summary As an everyday activity for millions of Europeans, cycling is increasing in importance in European society. In economic and social terms, it influences or impacts upon transport, mobility, environment and climate change, the economy and tourism. Currently, no cycling strategy exists at EU level. Cycling policies are a matter for Member States, which provide the regulatory frameworks and – in many cases – country-wide cycling programmes, while concrete actions are generated mostly at local or regional levels, notably in cities. Nevertheless, the EU has taken an active role in cycling promotion, trying to make the best use of this mode of transport, including in efforts to achieve Europe 2020 strategy targets. Accordingly, a number of EU policies and programmes take cycling into account. The EU's overall approach aims to bring about a lasting change in people's behaviour, in favour of more cycling. To attain this goal, several different aspects of cycling promotion could benefit from coordinated development. EU support consists principally of guidance, exchange of best practice, and financial support, oriented towards local and regional authorities promoting a stronger culture of cycling mobility. More and more people use cycling for their everyday travel. As a means of transport over short distances, cycling brings certain economic, environmental and health-related benefits. In parallel, cycling for leisure and tourism is also evolving, thanks to a growing network of cycle paths. One of the most visible cycling developments is taking place in cities, where recent trends such as the introduction of bicycle sharing systems, electric bicycles and cargo bikes, are transforming the cityscape and contributing to a broader acceptance of cycling in society. For its part, the European Parliament contributes to cycling promotion with continuous active support. Stakeholders are already looking ahead and aiming for a coordinated EU approach to cycling.

Briefing [EN](#)

[The European Year for Development: Health](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 26-03-2015

Author CLAROS GIMENO Eulalia | LERCH Marika

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid | Education | Public Health

Keyword Africa | Asia and Oceania | cooperation policy | demography and population | development aid | disease prevention | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU aid | GEOGRAPHY | health | health expenditure | infant mortality | infectious disease | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | life expectancy | national accounts | national income | poverty | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | South Asia | sub-Saharan Africa | sustainable development

Summary Although enjoying the highest possible standard of health is a human right, millions of people suffer from preventable and curable diseases. The Millennium Development Goals strongly emphasised health, leading to increased investment in the health sector. Major progress has been made in reducing child and maternal mortality, and in combatting communicable diseases, but several regions will not meet the health targets. The Ebola outbreak has drawn attention to the need for international cooperation in health matters. The European Parliament is very conscious of the lessons learnt from the Ebola crisis. The Sustainable Development Goals are likely to include new health considerations and to propose universal health coverage. Promoting and supporting equitable access to health care is a focus of EU development cooperation. EU aid in areas such as nutrition, water and sanitation and climate change also improves health. Parliament considers health a fundamental right and has called for clear financial thresholds to ensure that sufficient EU aid goes to health and education.

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

[Complementary Impact Assessment on interactions between EU air quality policy and climate and energy policy](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 04-11-2014

External author This study has been performed by Markus Amann, Chris Heyes, Gregor Kiesewetter, Wolfgang Schöpp and Fabian Wagner of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Laxenburg, Austria, at the request of the Impact Assessment Unit of the Directorate for Impact Assessment and European Added Value, within the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services (DG EPRS) of the General Secretariat of the European Parliament.

Policy area Energy | Environment | Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Keyword accounting | air quality | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cost-benefit analysis | deterioration of the environment | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy efficiency | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | health | impact study | pollution control measures | public health | quality of the environment | reduction of gas emissions | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This study was undertaken at the request of the European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. It provides a complementary impact assessment, exploring the interactions between the European Union's air quality policy and the proposed EU climate and energy policy. It shows that reduced consumption of polluting fuels resulting from the climate and energy targets that have been put forward by the European Commission in early 2014 (i.e., a 40% reduction in GHGs, a share of 27% renewables, and a 30% improvement of energy efficiency compared to the 2007 baseline), would reduce premature mortality from fine particulate matter in the EU and make further air quality improvements less costly.

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

[Public Health in the EU: State-of-Play and Key Policy Challenges for the Hearings of Commissioner-Designates, Brussels, 24 & 25 September 2014](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 15-10-2014

External author Yoline KUIPERS CAVACO (Milieu Ltd) and Vinciane QUOIBACH (Elleze)

Policy area Public Health | Social Policy

Keyword budget | chronic illness | demography and population | drug addiction | economic conditions | economic recession | ECONOMICS | EU finance | EU financing | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | health | health care system | health costs | infectious disease | medical research | population ageing | population statistics | public expenditure | public health | social affairs | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social security | telemedicine

Summary Citizen's health is a core value of the EU (Art.168, TFEU). While EU public health policy complements national policies, it encourages cooperation across countries and facilitates coordination. Particularly, EU public health policy generates economies of scale by pooling resources to tackle common challenges, such as pandemics or the risk factors associated with chronic diseases. The EU brings added value in fostering research and improving health outcomes through frameworks such as Horizon2020 and the third multi-annual Health Programme. This document was provided by Policy Department A in view of the Hearings of Commissioner-Designates of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee (ENVI).

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

[The European Union's response to Ebola](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-09-2014

Author LECERF Marie

Policy area Environment | Food Safety | Public Health

Keyword Africa | cooperation policy | disease prevention | ECHO | economic geography | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | Guinea | health | health aid | humanitarian aid | infectious disease | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Liberia | medical research | Nigeria | non-governmental organisation | non-governmental organisations | public health | Senegal | Sierra Leone | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | United Nations | World Health Organisation

Summary A number of West African countries are currently experiencing the worst Ebola epidemic in history. As the situation continues to deteriorate rapidly, the European Commission has stepped up its response since March 2014 and is now pledging more than €147 million in response to the devastating human, sanitary, economic and political effects of this crisis for the region. Since the beginning of the epidemic, the European Parliament has shown its concern as regards this critical situation.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[The Policy on Gender Equality in Italy](#)

Publication type Study

Date 14-03-2014

External author Annalisa Rosselli (Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Italy)

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | child care | criminal law | decision-making | economic geography | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | Europe | family | family policy | female unemployment | female work | gender equality | GEOGRAPHY | health | Italy | LAW | management | national law | participation of women | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | position of women | public health | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination | sexual violence | social affairs | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sources and branches of the law | welfare | women's movement

Summary Upon request of the FEMM committee, this note provides an overview of the existing gender-equality legislation and policies in Italy, focussing on their recent developments and achievements in the last decades. It discusses gender equality in employment, reconciliation of work and family life, presence of women in decision-making positions, recent measures to fight violence against women, and health and reproductive rights. Italy is still far from reaching satisfactory results, in spite of relevant progress under the pressure of women's movement, civil society and European legislation.

Study [EN](#), [IT](#)

[Food Safety and Public Health Situation in Serbia](#)

Publication type Study

Date 09-10-2013

External author Food Safety Situation in Serbia:
S. Keenan (Campden BRI) and John Hammond (Campden BRI) ,
Public Health Situation in Serbia:
Vesna Bjegović-Mikanović, Jennifer McGuinn (Milieu Ltd.) and Damir Petrović (Milieu Ltd.)

Policy area Food Safety | Public Health

Keyword agricultural activity | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | animal disease | consumer protection | consumption | economic geography | Europe | food inspection | food safety | food standard | GEOGRAPHY | health | plant health control | political geography | public health | Serbia | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | veterinary inspection | veterinary medicine

Summary This note is composed of two parts.
Part one reviews the Serbian food and drink industry, the organisations and controls involved in food safety, food safety concerns, the risk management and risk communication of animal diseases and finally the status of preparation of Serbia against the acquis in the area of food safety.
Part two provides an overview of the public health situation in Serbia. It presents the health status of the population and its determinants, and describes the Serbian health care system. It also provides information on the status of, and challenges with regard to, the implementation of the EU acquis.

Study [EN](#)

[Proceedings of the Workshop on "Childhood Vaccination and Immunisation"](#)

Publication type Study

Date 16-09-2013

External author Piotr Kramarz (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control) ,
Masoud Dara (WHO/Europe TB and M/XDR-TB programme) ,
Amy McConville (TB patient) ,
Daniel Brasseur (European Medicines Agency) ,
Radu Botgros (European Medicines Agency) ,
Ronald de Groot (European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases) ,
Andreas Schultz (Tropical Medicine and Infectious diseases , Médecins du Monde Germany)

Policy area Public Health

Keyword child | demography and population | health | health costs | infectious disease | medical research | medicinal product | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | vaccination | vaccine

Summary This report summarises the presentations and discussions at the Workshop on "Childhood Vaccination and Immunisation", held at the European Parliament in Brussels, on Wednesday 19 June 2013. The aim of the workshop was to provide a forum for discussion on vaccine-preventable diseases (in particular measles and tuberculosis) that still pose significant threats to public health in Europe.
The workshop was hosted by MEP Ms Glenis WILLMOTT (S&D, UK) and MEP Mr Alojz PETERLE (EPP, SL), Co-chairs of the Health Working Group within the ENVI Committee.

Study [EN](#)

[Food Safety and Public Health Situation in Ireland](#)

Publication type Study

Date 19-03-2013

External author Food Safety Situation in Ireland :
S. KEENAN and John HAMMOND (Campden BRI) ,
Public Health Situation in Ireland :
Colette CUNNINGHAM (RN RM), Ivan PERRY (FRCP, FRCPI, MFPHM, MFPHMI), Monica GUARINONI (Milieu Ltd.)
and Katalyn CSÁSZÁR (Milieu Ltd.)

Policy area Food Safety | Public Health

Keyword agri-foodstuffs | AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | agro-industry | animal product | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | Food and Veterinary Office | food industry | food inspection | food safety | foodstuff | GEOGRAPHY | health | health care system | health expenditure | horsemeat | illness | Ireland | meat product | political geography | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This briefing note provides an overview of the public health situation in Ireland. It presents the health status of the population, reviews determinants of health and highlights the major burden of disease. It describes the health care system and looks at some of the current healthcare challenges, especially those related to financing healthcare during a recession. It also looks at the future and at some of the government's proposals for a sustainable and equitable healthcare service to the people of Ireland.

Study [EN](#)

[Disease Mongering \(Pseudo-Disease Promotion\)](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-11-2012

Author SOSA IUDICISSA Marcelo | TEJEDOR DEL REAL Purificacion

Policy area Consumer Protection | Industry | Public Health

Keyword conflict of interest | consumer protection | consumption | disease prevention | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Medicines Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | health | health service | labour law and labour relations | pharmaceutical industry | pharmaceutical product | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary Disease mongering is the promotion of pseudo-diseases by the pharmaceutical industry aiming at economic benefit. Medical equipment manufacturers, insurance companies, doctors or patient groups may also use it for monetary gain or influence. It has increased in parallel with society's 'medicalisation' and the growth of the pharmaceutical complex. Due to massive investments in marketing and lobbying, ample use of internet and media, and the emergence of new markets, it is becoming a matter of concern, and policy makers should be aware of its perils and consequences.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction on the Environment and on Human Health – 2012 Update](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-10-2012

External author Matthias ALTMANN, Werner Weindorf and Werner ZITTEL (Ludwig-Bölkow-Systemtechnik GmbH) , Stefan LECHTENBÖHMER (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy)

Policy area Energy | Environment | Petitions to the European Parliament | Public Health

Keyword deterioration of the environment | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | extraction of oil | health | impact study | natural gas | oil industry | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | toxic substance | wastewater | water management | water pollution

Summary This study discusses the possible impacts of hydraulic fracturing on the environment and on human health updating a study published in 2011. Detailed studies of environmental risks arising from unconventional gas extraction activities have been published recently on European and national levels substantially broadening and deepening the scientific basis. However, knowledge and availability of information are still limited. High risks are identified in a number of environmental aspects, notably when taking into account the cumulative risks of multiple installations typical for unconventional gas activities.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Proceedings of the Workshop on "Packaging of Unhealthy Products"](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-10-2012

External author Paul Trott (Innovation Management at University of Portsmouth, UK and Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Technical University of Delft, NL) , Constantine Vardavas (Centre of Global Tobacco Control at the Harvard School of Public Health, EL) , Alberto Alemanno (HEC Paris, Georgetown University Law Centre, FR) , Ruth Veale (BEUC, the European Consumer's Organisation) , Eric Poudellet (European Commission, DG SANCO) and Danielle Hanekuyk (European Commission, DG ENTR)

Policy area Consumer Protection | Public Health

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | consumer behaviour | consumer information | consumption | dangerous substance | deterioration of the environment | disease prevention | ENVIRONMENT | health | labelling | marketing | packaging | plant product | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | tobacco | TRADE

Summary This report summarises the presentations and discussions at the Workshop on Packaging of Unhealthy Products, held at the European Parliament in Brussels, on Wednesday 19 September 2012. The aim of the workshop was to exchange views on the marketing power of packaging, its effects on consumers' behaviour, the role of packaging in health promotion and disease prevention as well as on the regulatory framework applicable to the packaging of unhealthy products. The workshop was hosted by MEP Glenis Willmott (S&D, UK) and MEP Alojz Peterle (EPP, SL), Co-chairs of the Health Working Group within the ENVI Committee.

Study [EN](#)

[Food Safety and Public Health Situation in Croatia](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-10-2012

External author Food Safety situation in Croatia : S. Keenan (Campden BRI), J. Hammond (Campden BRI) and D. Leeks (Campden BRI) , Public Health situation in Croatia : Selma Šogorić (MD MPH PhD), Luka Kovačić (MD MPH PhD), Aleksandar Džakuća (MD PhD), Catherine Ganzleben (Milieu), Monica Guarinoni (Milieu) and Alice Belin (Milieu)

Policy area Food Safety | Public Health

Keyword agricultural activity | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | animal disease | Community acquis | Croatia | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental risk prevention | EP delegation | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | food inspection | food safety | GEOGRAPHY | health | health care system | political geography | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This briefing document provides in two separate reports an overview of the Croatian situation respectively in the fields of Food Safety and Public Health. As regards the food safety, the note reviews the Croatian food and drink industry, the organisation and official controls involved in food safety, the risk management and risk communication of animal diseases and, the status of the preparation of Croatia against the acquis in the area of food safety. Concerning the public health situation, the note presents the health status of the population, reviews determinants of health and describes the Croatian health care system. It also provides information on the status of, and challenges with regard to, the implementation of the EU acquis.

Study [EN](#)

[Is the Financial Crisis the Only Threat to Swaziland's Regime ?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 07-09-2012

Author GARCES DE LOS FAYOS TOURNAN Fernando

Policy area Democracy | Human Rights | Public Health

Keyword Africa | economic geography | ECONOMICS | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | health | human rights | international loan | LAW | monetary crisis | monetary relations | monarchy | national accounts | political framework | POLITICS | politics and public safety | poverty | public debt | public finance and budget policy | public health | repression | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Swaziland

Summary Swaziland is one of the smallest African countries as well as the only absolute monarchy remaining on the continent. Its political system is an anomaly in Southern Africa, the most advanced and progressive region of the sub-Saharan region. The Swazi state has been mired in a deep financial crisis for the last two years. Given that a large segment of the population lives under the poverty line and that the HIV infection rate is one of the highest in the world, the effects of the financial crisis have been severe. The Swazi people, who have traditionally shown great reverence to their monarch, are growing increasingly critical, blaming the crisis on the government's mismanagement. King Mswati III's eccentric lifestyle and apparent lack of consideration for the difficulties faced by his people have eroded the regime's credibility. Political repression has grown. Given the lack of representation built into the country's political system, and the absence of checks and balances, the possibilities for political evolution in the absence of royal leadership are nearly inexistent. While the Swazi crisis has not made international headlines recently, the country's problems persist. The International Monetary Fund left the country in May and, if the announced South African bailout is not agreed by Swaziland due to its conditionality, a peak of the crisis may be expected in late 2012 or early 2013.

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

[Proceedings of the Workshop on the "Mid-Term Review and Evaluation of the EU Health Strategy"](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-06-2012

External author Andrzej Rys (DG SANCO, European Commission) ,
Antonyia Parvanova (member of the European Parliament) ,
Monika Kosinska (European Public Health Alliance - EPHA) ,
Raed Arafat (Romanian Ministry of Health) ,
Chris Decoster (Belgian Ministry of Health) and
Loukas Georgiou (Permanent Representation of Cyprus to the EU)

Policy area Public Health

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | consumption | disease prevention | eating habits | economic conditions | economic recession | ECONOMICS | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | management | POLITICS | politics and public safety | project evaluation | public awareness campaign | public health | smoking | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary This is a summary of the presentations and discussions at a Workshop on the Mid-Term Review and Evaluation of the EU Health Strategy 2008-2013 held at the European Parliament, 20 May 2012. The aim of the workshop was to provide insights into the state of play of the EU Health Strategy, to discuss the future of the European Health Programme and to share selected Member States' experiences with regard to the implementation of the Strategy.

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

[Water scarcity in least developed countries](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-06-2012

Author PONTIROLI GOBBI Francesco

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid | Environment | Human Rights

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | aid policy | climate change | cooperation policy | cultivation of agricultural land | degradation of the environment | deterioration of the environment | drought | economic conditions | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | exhaustion of resources | health | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | irrigated agriculture | least-developed country | natural environment | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | use of water | water resources

Summary Lack of water is expected to affect one-third of the population worldwide by 2025. Today, 1.2 billion people live in areas of scarcity, while 1.6 billion face water shortages due to economic problems. The issue is particularly worrying in least developed countries (LDCs), where water is scarce or there is little or no infrastructure to extract, distribute or conserve water.

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

Workshop Report on "Voluntary and Unpaid Donation of Tissues and Cells"

Publication type Study

Date 16-01-2012

External author Stefaan Van der Spiegel (Directorate D, DG SANCO) ,
Dietger Niederwieser (Worldwide Network for Blood & Marrow Transplantation) ,
Katharine Wright (Nuffield Council on Bioethics) ,
David Price (Faculty of Business and Law) ,
Rui Maio (University of Lisboa) ,
Rafael Matesanz (National Organisation for Transplants) and
Alessandro Nanni Costa (Italian National Transplant Centre - CNT)

Policy area Public Health | Research Policy

Keyword ethics | health | health service | humanities | illness | medical law | natural and applied sciences | organ transplant | public health | reproductive health | SCIENCE | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | stem cell | trade in organs

Summary This report summarises the presentations and discussions at the Workshop on Voluntary and Unpaid Donation of Tissues and Cells held at the European Parliament in Brussels on Tuesday 20 December 2011. The aim of the workshop was to gather input from specialists in different fields related to tissues and cell donation in order to learn more from their work and perspectives. The workshop was chaired by Marina YANNAKOUDAKIS, MEP.

Study [EN](#)

Intellectual Property Rights on Genetic Resources and the Fight against Poverty

Publication type Study

Date 19-12-2011

External author Sebastian OBERTHÜR, Justyna POZAROWSKA and Florian RABITZ (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Institute for European Studies, Belgium) ;
Christiane GERSTETTER, Christine LUCHA, Katriona McGLADE and Elizabeth TEDSEN (Ecologic Institute, Germany)

Policy area Environment | Intellectual Property Law | Public Health

Keyword biodiversity | demography and population | developing countries | economic conditions | economic structure | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | farming sector | genetic engineering | health | indigenous population | intellectual property | least-developed country | national accounts | natural environment | poverty | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | research and intellectual property | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations

Summary The developmental impact of intellectual property rights (IPRs) on genetic resources (GR) and associated traditional knowledge (TK) has been intensely discussed internationally for more than a decade. In this respect, plant GR for food and agriculture, GR for health as well as the related rights of indigenous and local communities possess particular importance for poverty reduction. The EU can play an important role in advancing regulatory action in this field that enhances the effectiveness of the fight against poverty, both domestically and at the international level. The 2010 Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity that addresses "biopiracy" related to GR/TK is awaiting ratification and full and effective implementation, which will, inter alia, require capacity building especially for least developed countries. Another important contribution to combating biopiracy would be the establishment of a requirement to disclose in patent applications the source of any GR/TK used, as currently under negotiation in the World Trade Organisation and the World Intellectual Property Organisation. The rights of indigenous and local communities, especially with respect to their TK, deserve particular protection both in the EU and internationally, to be designed in consultation with these communities. IPRs on seeds and medicines should not be allowed to compromise the human rights to food and health. There is a need for advancing research and development on seeds and medicines that are targeted at low-income populations in developing countries.

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

Reducing smoking rates in the EU

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-09-2011

Author VAN OEL Maria Terese

Policy area Public Health

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | cancer | FINANCE | health | health expenditure | impact of advertising | marketing | plant product | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | respiratory disease | smoking | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | tax on consumption | taxation | tobacco | TRADE

Summary Smoking is the largest preventable cause of death in the EU, creating both direct costs to healthcare systems and indirect costs due to productivity loss.

Briefing [EN](#)

Impacts of Shale Gas and Shale Oil Extraction on the Environment and on Human Health

Publication type Study

Date 15-06-2011

External author Stefan LECHTENBÖHMER (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy), Matthias ALTMANN (Ludwig-Bölkow-Systemtechnik GmbH), Sofia CAPITO (Ludwig-Bölkow-Systemtechnik GmbH), Zsolt MATRA (Ludwig-Bölkow-Systemtechnik GmbH), Werner WEINDRORF (Ludwig-Bölkow-Systemtechnik GmbH) and Werner ZITTEL (Ludwig-Bölkow-Systemtechnik GmbH)

Policy area Energy | Environment | Public Health

Keyword atmospheric pollutant | coal and mining industries | deterioration of the environment | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy policy | energy supply | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | extraction of oil | health | mining extraction | oil industry | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sustainable development | water pollution

Summary This study discusses the possible impacts of hydraulic fracturing on the environment and on human health. Quantitative data and qualitative impacts are taken from US experience since shale gas extraction in Europe still is in its infancy, while the USA have more than 40 years of experience already having drilled more than 50,000 wells. Greenhouse gas emissions are also assessed based on a critical review of existing literature and own calculations. European legislation is reviewed with respect to hydraulic fracturing activities and recommendations for further work are given. The potential gas resources and future availability of shale gas is discussed in face of the present conventional gas supply and its probable future development.

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

Executive summary [DE](#), [FR](#)

Antibiotics in agriculture & antibiotic resistance

Publication type Briefing

Date 07-04-2011

Author VAN OEL Maria Terese

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Food Safety

Keyword agricultural activity | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | animal health | antibiotic | application of EU law | data collection | disease prevention | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | farm animal | food safety | health | information technology and data processing | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | veterinary legislation

Summary The spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria poses an urgent problem. Antibiotics are used widely in agriculture, contributing to resistance.

Briefing [EN](#)

New Financial Perspectives Related with ENVI Competencies

Publication type Study

Date 15-02-2011

External author All Umweltbundesamt GmbH unless otherwise noted : Katja Lamprecht, Lorenz Moosmann, Jürgen Schneider, Todor Balabanov (Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna, Austria), Hubert Fallmann, Helmut Gaugitsch, Philipp Hohenblum, Sabine Kranzl, Martin König, Sabine McCallum, Klaus Radunsky, Hubert Reisinger, Maria Tiefenbach and Maria Uhl

Policy area Budget | Consumer Protection | Environment | Public Health

Keyword audit | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | climate change | consumer protection | consumption | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EP Committee | EU environmental policy | EU finance | EU financial instrument | EU institutions and European civil service | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | general budget (EU) | health | management | multiannual financial framework | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary The financing instruments of the Directorates-General for Environment, Climate Action and Health and Consumers are reviewed concerning their correlation with strategic objectives of the European Union. In addition, recent evaluations of the relevance and effectiveness of these financing instruments are summarised. Based on these analyses, new policy options in the fields of environment, climate change and public health and food safety are identified and possible shifts in resource allocation under the new Multiannual Financial Framework are discussed.

Study [EN](#)

Executive summary [DE](#), [FR](#)

Access to medicine in developing countries : the impact of EU trade policy

Publication type Briefing

Date 10-02-2011

Author KLUGMAN-VUTZ Cornelia | LATEK Marta

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid | International Trade

Keyword developing countries | drug surveillance | economic conditions | ECONOMICS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | free-trade agreement | health | industrial property | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | medical research | medicinal product | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | research and intellectual property | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | TRIPS | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary Strengthened border controls have enabled seizures of drugs in transit to developing countries. Civil society groups criticise this policy, as it could have a negative impact on production and trade in generic drugs.

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

Note on the Pharmaceutical Package for the EP Information Offices (EPIOs)

Publication type Study

Date 16-08-2010

Author SOSA IUDICISSA Marcelo

Policy area Consumer Protection | Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union | Public Health

Keyword consumer protection | consumption | disease prevention | drug surveillance | drugs classification | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | health care | industrial counterfeiting | pharmaceutical product | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | research and intellectual property | single market | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary The Pharmaceutical Package in this document refers to the initiatives taken by the European Commission under the "Communication on the future of the single market in pharmaceuticals for human use", setting out the EC's vision for the sector. It comprises three pieces of legislation put forward to the European Parliament on different aspects of medicinal products. The proposals cover: information to patients on prescription medicines, pharmacovigilance, and patient safety and falsified medicines. These legislative proposals have a direct impact on public health, as well as connections with internal market and industrial policies. In the European Parliament the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety-ENVI is leading these reports. The committees on the Internal Market-IMCO and Industry, Research & Energy-ITRE are responsible for opinions. This note provides a general overview of the present situation on public health policy and pharmaceutical products in the EU, taking into account its degree of implementation and impact. The note presents the three proposals from a public health perspective with regards to their present state of advancement inside the legislative process. Finally it mentions the main stakeholders for these subjects. The note includes an annex with the key officials responsible for this policy area in the EU institutions. IP/

Study [EN](#), [ES](#)

Note on Food labelling for the EP Information Offices (EPIOs)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-07-2010

Author MENEHINI Gianpaolo

Policy area Consumer Protection | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Food Safety | Public Health

Keyword agricultural activity | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | animal feedingstuffs | animal health | consumer protection | consumption | food policy | food safety | health | labelling | marketing | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary In June 2009 a new European Parliament has been elected for a five year term, which will run from 2009 to 2014. This note, commissioned by the European Parliament DG for Communication, has been produced based on the 'Welcome Package' for newly elected MEPs in the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee (June 2009). The note deals with food labelling current situation, challenges and priorities for the forthcoming legislation. It also assesses food labelling in the context of the implementation process in certain Member States. Moreover, a map with upcoming legislative deadlines on food labelling is set out in chapter 5. The final chapter outlines the main studies and publications related to food labelling discussed in the European Parliament during the previous mandate 2004-2009.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

EU administrative constraints and rules in the agriculture sector in relation to the international trade framework

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-04-2010

External author Maria Angela Perito (INEA - Istituto Nazionale di Economia Agraria)

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Food Safety | International Trade | Public Health

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | agricultural trade | bilateral agreement | consumption | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | food safety | foodstuff | foodstuff | health | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international trade | international trade | multilateral agreement | product quality | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | trade | TRADE | trade agreement (EU)

Summary This note aims to define, although briefly, the main factors influencing European agriculture on the international scene, in the context of multilateralism and bilateralism agreements. The angle of analysis chosen was the problem of food safety and its implications on international trade. The discussion of food safety was also seen as an inalienable human right to have guarantees that what you eat is not dangerous to your health.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Welcome Package on Public Health

Publication type Study

Date 15-07-2009

External author Iva Misigova, Catherine Ganzleben, Sophie Vancauwenbergh and Rachel Irwin (Milieu Ltd., Brussels, Belgium)

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

Keyword disease prevention | EU action | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | health care | health care profession | health care system | illness | legal basis | nutrition | powers of the EP | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The aim of this Welcome Package is to provide a comprehensive overview of EU policies in the field of public health and serve as an ongoing reference tool for incoming Members of European Parliament for the legislative period 2009-2014. The Package opens in chapter 1 with an overview of existing EU policies and legislation in the field of public health. A thematic policy review for the period 2004-2009 is then provided in chapter 2, with the aim of providing a concise review of the discussions surrounding policy issues and the positions of the different institutional actors. Chapter 3 includes background notes for Commissioners' hearings on public health, together with some possible ideas for questions that might be relevant. A brief review of the status of implementation of key legislation in the field of public health is provided in chapter 4. Chapter 5 presents key dates for implementation and review clause deadlines in an accessible format. Finally, a list of relevant studies is present by topic in chapter 6.

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

Policy Options for the Proposed Directive on Patient's Rights in Cross-border Healthcare

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-01-2009

External author Janne Sylvest and Benita Kidmose Rytz (Rambøll Management, Copenhagen, DENMARK)

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Public Health | Social Policy

Keyword cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | health care | health care profession | health care system | health service | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | labour market | mutual recognition principle | patient's rights | professional qualifications | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Introduction

The objective of the study is to highlight policy options in relation to the recent proposal put forth by the European Commission for a directive on the application of patient's rights in cross-border healthcare. [...]

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Health Services in the EEA

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 11-03-2008

External author Professor Dr. Dominik Hanf

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Internal Market and Customs Union | Public Health

Keyword employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | European construction | European Economic Area | EUROPEAN UNION | freedom to provide services | health | health care | health care profession | public health | recognition of vocational training qualifications | single market | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social security

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Water Scarcity and Droughts

Publication type Study

Date 29-02-2008

External author Andrew Farmer (Ed), Samuela Bassi and Malcolm Fergusson (IEEP)*
Institute for European Environmental Policy
London, United Kingdom

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Economics and Monetary Issues | Environment | Public Health

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | climate change | cultivation of agricultural land | deterioration of the environment | drought | ecosystem | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | exhaustion of resources | health | irrigated agriculture | natural environment | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | research and development | research and intellectual property | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | water resources

Study [EN](#)

[Impact assessment on priority substances in water](#)

Publication type Study

Date 19-02-2008

External author Andrew Lilico, Dermot Glynn
Europe Economics
Chancery House
53-64 Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1QU

Policy area Environment | Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Keyword chemical pollution | construction and town planning | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | health | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | toxic substance | water pollutant | water pollution | water supply

Study [EN](#)

[The Effect of Advertising and Marketing Practices on Child Obesity](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 07-02-2008

External author Davide Barnabè (Agri2000, CO.META, Milano, Italy)

Policy area Consumer Protection | Culture | Public Health

Keyword advertising | child protection | consumer behaviour | consumption | food consumption | health | marketing | nutritional disease | public health | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary Childhood obesity and overweight children are serious and widespread problems in developed countries and in particular in the European Union. Many factors influence the diffusion of this epidemic: food advertising is certainly a significant factor.
This study, based on existing data and expertise, assesses several aspects: the problem's dimension, to what extent the exposure to advertising and marketing influences children diet behaviour; existing regulations in food and beverages marketing towards children and the impact of production and distribution on children's obesity.
This paper is committed to presenting a balanced picture of the variety of views supported by professionals in this field. Several studies indicate that food advertising is associated with preferences among children towards advertised products¹. According to one of the most important researchers (Lobstein and Dobb, 2005), there is a significant positive correlation between overweight prevalence and the promotion of energy dense foods, and a negative, but weaker correlation with the promotion of healthier foods.
This correlation between advertising and overweight is associative: causal evidence remains to be found; in fact the correlation may be due to other factors such as environmental or social factors encouraging children to become overweight. This brings to the reasonable conclusion that even if there is not yet a clear evidence of this correlation, policy recommendations should be based on the precautionary principle.
Most European countries have specific provisions on advertising as a special protection for children and youth. However, the situation varies from country to country as presented in this study. The most widespread regulations are those regarding television, but in most countries the general rules established by law and by the advertising self-regulation code also apply to internet.
On children's exposure to advertising, available data for France, UK, Italy, Germany and

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Assessment of the achievements of the 6th Environmental Action Programme](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-10-2007

External author Marc Pallemmaerts, Kristof Geeraerts (IEEP)*
Institute for European Environmental Policy
London, United Kingdom

Policy area Environment | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Public Health

Keyword action programme | biodiversity | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | climate change | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental policy | health | management | natural environment | public health | reduction of gas emissions | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Study [EN](#)

Evaluation of the Eu Drugs Action Plan 2005-2008

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 06-08-2007

External author Willy Bruggeman and Katalin Szomor, Centre d'études sur les conflits, Paris

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Public Health

Keyword action programme | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common strategy | cooperation policy | criminal law | drug addiction | drug traffic | EU institutions and European civil service | European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | management | organised crime | public health | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The briefing note provides a preliminary evaluation of the implementation of the EU Drugs Action Plan 2005-2008 and of the effectiveness of the EU policies in the drugs sector. The briefing note contains a number of policy recommendations for future action at EU level in the drugs sector, while also taking into account data received from EUROPOL and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addition. In December 2004, the European Council endorsed the second EU Drugs Strategy 2005-2012. The Strategy takes a balanced and integrated approach to the drugs problem. The Council endorsed in June 2005 the EU Drugs Action Plan 2005-2008. The European Commission will carry out an impact assessment in 2008 in view of proposing the second Drugs Action Plan for the period 2009-2012. The EU Drugs Action Plan 2005-2008 aims to provide a framework for a balanced approach to reducing both supply of and demand for drugs through approximately 80 specific actions. The Action Plan is divided into five different chapters: coordination, demand reduction, supply reduction, international cooperation and a chapter on information, research and evaluation

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

Access to Essential Medicines : Lessons Learned since the Doha Declaration on the Trips Agreement and Public Health, and Policy Options for the European Union

Publication type Study

Date 15-06-2007

External author Frederick M. Abbott (Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, U.S.A.) and Jerome H. Reichman (Duke University School of Law, Durham, North Carolina, U.S.A.)

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid | International Trade | Public Health

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | Brazil | developing countries | economic conditions | economic geography | ECONOMICS | GEOGRAPHY | health | India | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | patents licence | pharmaceutical product | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | research and development | research and intellectual property | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Thailand | TRADE | TRIPS | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary The study evaluates the impact of the TRIPS agreement on access to medicines in developing countries and analyses the evolving legal framework. Special emphasis is given to the issue of compulsory licensing, including recent cases in Brazil and Thailand. The EU's own implementing regulation is also presented, as well as the considerations for any TRIPS-related provisions in bilateral trade agreements of the EU and the US. The TRIPS agreement and its amendment are discussed in light of the various public health, commercial, legal and economic considerations and interests. The study also sets out conclusions and concrete recommendations to improve the overall framework of the TRIPS agreement and access to medicines.

Study [EN](#)

Combating HIV/AIDS in the Neighbouring Countries of the EU

Publication type Study

Date 04-12-2006

External author Messrs. Juan Reig and Jose Valverde

Policy area Public Health

Keyword AIDS | epidemic | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | health | medical research | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Study [EN](#)

Combating HIV/AIDS in the EU

Publication type Study

Date 04-12-2006

External author Ms Svetla Tsolova
Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies

Policy area Public Health

Keyword AIDS | database | demography and population | disease prevention | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control | EUROPEAN UNION | exchange of information | health | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | medical research | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | young person

Study [EN](#)

[Antibiotic Resistance](#)

Publication type Study

Date 02-10-2006

External author ETAG (European Technology Assessment Group) ;
Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS), Karlsruhe ;
Danish Board of Technology (DBT), Copenhagen ;
Flemish Institute for Science and Technology Assessment (viWTA), Brussels ;
Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST), London ;
Rathenau Institute, The Hague ;
Ulla Holm Vincentsen and Benjamin Michael Hope (DBT)

Policy area Public Health | Research Policy

Keyword agricultural activity | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | animal health | antibiotic | EU institutions and European civil service | European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control | EUROPEAN UNION | health | medical diagnosis | medical research | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This document contains deliverable no. 3 of the project on Antibiotic Resistance. The report draws on discussions with a range of experts at an extended working group meeting in Copenhagen on June 27th 2006 and a workshop at the European Parliament on September 13th 2006.

Study [EN](#)

[General Overview of the Public Health Sector in Turkey in 2006](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-09-2006

External author Messrs. Juan Reig and Jose Valverde

Policy area Public Health

Keyword Asia and Oceania | disease prevention | economic geography | Europe | GEOGRAPHY | health | health care | health care system | political geography | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Türkiye

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Proposed Air Quality Directive: Assessment of the Environmental Impact of Parliament's Amended Proposal](#)

Publication type Study

Date 01-09-2006

External author Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (MNP).

Policy area Environment | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Public Health

Keyword air quality | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental law | environmental policy | health | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | public health | reduction of gas emissions | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Study [EN](#)

[Strategies for the Improvement of Global Human Health](#)

Publication type Study

Date 08-08-2006

External author ETAG (European Technology Assessment Group) ;
Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS), Karlsruhe ;
Danish Board of Technology (DBT), Copenhagen ;
Flemish Institute for Science and Technology Assessment (viWTA), Brussels ;
Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST), London, the UK ;
Rathenau Institute, The Hague, The Netherlands ;
Elisabetta El-Karimy, Rathenau ;
Robby Deboelpaep, viWTA

Policy area Industry | Public Health | Research Policy

Keyword disease prevention | health | health care system | health service | innovation | medical research | pharmaceutical expenses | pharmaceutical industry | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public health | research and development | research and intellectual property | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This report is the final Deliverable of the project Global Human Health commissioned by the Scientific and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) of the European Parliament and carried out by the European Technology Assessment Group (ETAG). It contains the summary of the workshop Strategies For The Improvement Of Global Human Health held on 29 June 2006 at the European Parliament in Brussels. The issues and recommendations raised at the workshop suggest topics for future technology assessment projects for STOA.

Main issues raised were:

- lack of successful coordination and cooperation in drug R&D;
- lack of investment in research of neglected and rare diseases;
- inequitable pricing of medicine;
- lack of considering health systems issues in research and funding.

Study [EN](#)

[Nutrition and Health Claims - The Proposed Regulation on Nutrition and Health Claims in Relation to CODEX](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date [01-02-2006](#)

External author Kristina Sjölin, National Food Administration, Sweden

Policy area [EU Law: Legal System and Acts](#) | [Food Safety](#) | [Public Health](#)

Keyword [AGRI-FOODSTUFFS](#) | [foodstuff](#) | [foodstuff](#) | [health](#) | [human nutrition](#) | [nutritional disease](#) | [public health](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [vitamin](#)

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

[Nutrition and Health Claims](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date [01-02-2006](#)

External author Prof. Berthold Koletzko, Dr. von Hauner Children's Hospital, Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich, Germany.

Policy area [Consumer Protection](#) | [Food Safety](#) | [Public Health](#)

Keyword [AGRI-FOODSTUFFS](#) | [child protection](#) | [consumer information](#) | [consumption](#) | [food safety](#) | [foodstuff](#) | [foodstuff](#) | [health](#) | [human nutrition](#) | [labelling](#) | [marketing](#) | [nutritional disease](#) | [public health](#) | [social affairs](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [TRADE](#)

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

[Nutrition and Health Claims - The Responsibility of Nutrition Claims in the Achievement of a Balanced Diet and Background Material on Data Establishing Nutrition and Health Claims](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date [01-02-2006](#)

External author György Biró, Epidemiologist, Budapest, Hungary

Policy area [Consumer Protection](#) | [Food Safety](#) | [Public Health](#)

Keyword [advertising](#) | [consumer information](#) | [consumption](#) | [eating habits](#) | [health](#) | [human nutrition](#) | [marketing](#) | [medical research](#) | [product quality](#) | [PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH](#) | [public health](#) | [research and intellectual property](#) | [scientific research](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [TRADE](#)

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

[The Fish Meal and Fish Oil Industry - Its Role in the Common Fisheries Policy](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date [15-12-2003](#)

External author University of Newcastle Upon Tyne (the UK) and Poseidon Aquatic Resource Management Ltd (the UK)

Policy area [Environment](#) | [Fisheries](#) | [Food Safety](#) | [Public Health](#)

Keyword [AGRI-FOODSTUFFS](#) | [agricultural activity](#) | [AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES](#) | [animal health](#) | [common fisheries policy](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [fish oil](#) | [fish product](#) | [fisheries](#) | [fishery management](#) | [fishing regulations](#) | [foodstuff](#) | [health](#) | [human nutrition](#) | [manufactured feedingstuffs](#) | [marine ecosystem](#) | [natural environment](#) | [processed agricultural produce](#) | [public health](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary This study concerns the structure of the fish meal and fish oil industry in the European Union, and its role in the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). It analyses, in particular, data concerning EU production/imports/exports of fish meal and fish oil, the interaction between the fish meal and fish oil industry and the fishing sector, fish stocks and marine eco-systems. It also evaluates the interaction between fish meal and fish oil consumption and human and animal health.

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

[Executive summary](#) [XL](#)

The Drug Policies of the Netherlands and Sweden: How Do They Compare?

Publication type Study

Date 15-03-2001

External author Dolf Tops (University of Lund, Sweden), Bengt Svensson (University of Lund, Sweden) and Gala Veldhoen (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Public Health

Keyword comparative study | documentation | drug addiction | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | Europe | GEOGRAPHY | health | Netherlands | political geography | public health | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Sweden

Summary In this report, data on drug use and related consequences in Sweden and the Netherlands are used in order to illustrate the complexity of country comparisons. The fact that these countries are proponents of different drug policy approaches, the former with its stricter 'zero tolerance' policy and the latter with an elaborated 'harm reduction' approach, will further highlight the difficulties and delicacies in making such comparisons. Even if the countries differ in how drug problems are conceptualised and policies conducted, they both give it top priority among social problems. This can be seen in the efforts and resources laid down on for instance legislation, prevention, treatment and research.

Study [EN](#)

Recycled Cooking Oils : Assessment of Risks for Public Health

Publication type Study

Date 01-09-2000

External author José Boatella Riera and Rafael Codony (University of Barcelona, Spain)

Policy area Consumer Protection | Food Safety | Public Health

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | agricultural activity | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | animal feedingstuffs | consumer information | consumption | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | food fat | food safety | health | health risk | processed agricultural produce | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | toxic substance | TRADE | used oil | vegetable oil

Summary Used cooking oils constitute waste which is included in the group of urban or municipal waste (as Other domestic/commercial waste), which have shown a huge increase in their volume of production in the last few decades. Catering establishments are on the increase in European countries, which suggests that cooking oils will also increase. Furthermore, their liquid nature prevents disposal in landfills, which is regulated by the corresponding EU directive. This means seeking alternatives for their recycling, currently based mainly on their use in animal feeds. The recent cases of dioxin contamination in chicken and other foods have urged EU institutions to promote the objective study of all aspects involved in the process, so that reasonable measures may be adopted to prevent further accidents, and to avoid drastic and ill conceived measures. This has led to the present study to assess cooking oils which, as waste from commercial food activities (catering industries and services), present a burden on the environment and are therefore currently recycled mainly for use as fatty raw materials in poultry and livestock feeds. Consumer safety demands an assessment of how the entire food chain should be continuously controlled (traceability) to prevent public health risks. Traceability is a basic aspect which establishes the essential inter-relationship and collaboration that must exist between all the agents. A break in this traceability, at any of the levels, greatly increases the risk of possible accidents with repercussions on public health, since full control of the process is lost. With the above in mind, the present study makes an analysis of risks derived from all the agents involved in using recycled cooking oils: primary sources producing cooking oils, collectors of oils for recycling, recycling industry, manufacturers and importers of fats for feeds, feed manufacturers, livestock/poultry farms, and consumers. The main aim of this report is to assess the risk i

Study [EN](#)

New Technologies for the Marketing and Sale of Medicines on the Internet and Television Networks

Publication type Study

Date 01-01-2000

External author Ferran Sanz, Katrin Gaedt, Albert Alonso, Carlos Diaz

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Industry | Public Health

Keyword broadcasting | communications | consumer protection | consumption | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic commerce | health | Internet | marketing | marketing | pharmaceutical product | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary This study aims to provide the European Parliament with sound information useful for the adoption of policies with respect to the marketing and sale of medicines on the Internet and other new information technologies. Medicinal products have important singularities affecting their launching, ways of distribution, information policies and their price. These singularities have been addressed in different European directives and member states' laws but none of them explicitly considers the case of new information technologies. The possible extension of the Internet into the domain of the marketing and sale of medicinal products has arisen the concern of European health related organisations that call for the adoption of proper policies to protect consumers against its incorrect use. The adoption of such policies first has to recognise the cross-boundary nature of the Internet that requires, as far as possible, world-wide level approaches. Secondly, it must consider consumers' interests in terms of self-determination, economics, security and convenience. Finally, it has to take into account the economic interests of involved enterprises and authorities for what respects to public health expenditure.

Study [EN](#)

[European Union Health Policy on the Eve of the Millennium](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 15-09-1998

External author Lyndsay Mountford

Policy area Public Health

Keyword [accounting](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [cost-effectiveness analysis](#) | [EU programme](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [health](#) | [health policy](#) | [public health](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary This study was commissioned by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and presented at the Public Hearing on Health in October 1998. It has been used as a base document for the report on health policy.

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

[Executive summary](#) [XL](#)

[Interinstitutional Conference on Synthetic Drugs](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 15-04-1998

External author Mark Bell (European University Institute, Florence, Italy)

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Public Health

Keyword [criminal law](#) | [drug addiction](#) | [drug surveillance](#) | [drug traffic](#) | [health](#) | [LAW](#) | [public health](#) | [social affairs](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary In November 1997 the drugs platform which brought together Mrs Hedy d'Ancona and Sir Jack Stewart-Clark, members of the European Parliament, the president-in-office of the Council and Mrs Gradin, Commissioner, decided to hold a conference on synthetic drugs in order to discuss this question with international experts.

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

[Indoor Pollution - An Overview](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 01-07-1997

Author CHAMBERS Graham Robert

Policy area Environment | Public Health

Keyword [building](#) | [building and public works](#) | [deterioration of the environment](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [health](#) | [INDUSTRY](#) | [pollutant](#) | [public health](#) | [smoking](#) | [social affairs](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary This is a study which looks at the potential health problems of working in an indoor office environment, where air conditioning and the use of various materials and solvents can contribute to respiratory and other difficulties.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#)