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## List of publications from the EP Think Tank

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Sort Sort by date  
Keyword "dissemination of EU information"

137 Result(s)

Creation date : 28-03-2024

## [Enhancing the capabilities of CSDP missions and operations to identify and respond to disinformation attacks](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 17-02-2023

External author Ofer FRIDMAN, Virginie BAUDAIS, Givi GIGITASHVILI

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword common security and defence policy | communications | democracy | diffusion of innovations | disinformation | dissemination of EU information | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | impact of information technology | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | limited circulation | political framework | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technological change | technology and technical regulations

Summary With more and more disinformation campaigns targeting the EU and its institutions in recent years, Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations have also been subject to such attacks. While this analysis did not identify systematic disinformation campaigns against the EU CSDP missions and operations, it does not imply that the CSDP missions and operations are not on the radar of the malign actors creating and disseminating disinformation. In fact, their activities are occasionally used by malign actors to feed into their campaigns intended to undermine the EU and its allies, which constitute the main target of these campaigns.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Nuclear Safety outside the EU: Proposal for a new Council regulation](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-07-2021

Author IMMENKAMP Beatrix

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword cooperation policy | development policy | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EAEC Treaty | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electrical and nuclear industries | ENERGY | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | multiannual financial framework | nuclear safety | proposal (EU) | summarising | third country

Summary In the context of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for the 2021-2027 period, the Council has adopted Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/948 of 27 May 2021 establishing a European instrument for international nuclear safety cooperation complementing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe on the basis of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community. Regulation 2021/948 complements, but is separate from, the new Global Europe Instrument. Regulation 2021/948 replaces Council Regulation (Euratom) No 237/2014 of 13 December 2013 establishing an instrument for nuclear safety cooperation (INSC). It continues to fund the important activities carried out under the previous regulation, namely to support the promotion of a high level of nuclear safety and radiation protection and the application of effective and efficient safeguards of nuclear materials in third countries, building on the activities under the Euratom Treaty. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Measures to advance the realisation of the trans-European transport network: Integrated and faster project procedures](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-07-2021

Author PAPE Marketa

Policy area Transport

Keyword administrative procedure | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | GEOGRAPHY | organisation of transport | POLITICS | project of common interest | proposal (EU) | summarising | trans-European network | TRANSPORT | transport network

Summary With the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) policy, the European Union seeks to develop a modern, efficient and climate-friendly network covering all transport modes. Despite the TEN-T's importance for the economy and society, and despite the binding timelines and targeted financial support, it risks not being completed as planned. This is partly due to complex administrative procedures linked to permit-granting for cross-border projects as well as broader regulatory uncertainty, often resulting in delays and increased cost. To speed up the network's completion, the Commission has proposed regulatory measures to integrate and shorten permit-granting for projects, and facilitate public consultations and the involvement of private investors. On 8 June 2020, the Parliament and the Council agreed on a 'smart TEN-T directive', with this legal form giving Member States more flexibility. The text could not however be adopted before the finalisation of the new Connecting Europe Facility programme, as the annexes of both texts are interlinked. The Council adopted its first-reading position on the 'smart TEN-T directive' on 14 June 2021 and the Parliament is due to vote on it during the July plenary session. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [The new European cybersecurity competence centre and network](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 19-05-2021

Author NEGREIRO ACHIAGA Maria Del Mar

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU programme | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union Agency for Cybersecurity | European Union law | Framework Programme for Research and Development | information security | information technology and data processing | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | research and development | research and intellectual property | summarising

**Summary** On 13 September 2017, the Commission adopted a cybersecurity package with a series of initiatives to further improve EU cyber-resilience, deterrence and defence. A year later, the Commission presented a proposal for the creation of a European cybersecurity competence centre with a related network of national coordination centres. The initiative aims to improve and strengthen the EU's cybersecurity capacity, by stimulating the European technological and industrial cybersecurity ecosystem as well as coordinating and pooling necessary resources in Europe. The competence centre is supposed to become the main body that would manage EU financial resources dedicated to cybersecurity research under the two proposed programmes – Digital Europe and Horizon Europe – within the next multiannual financial framework, for 2021-2027. Within the European Parliament, the file was assigned to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). The report was adopted on 19 February 2019 in the ITRE committee. On 17 April 2019 the Parliament adopted its position at first reading, after two trilogue meetings, before the European elections. A new trilogue meeting took place more than a year later, on 25 June 2020, and further negotiations followed. During the fifth trilogue meeting on 11 December 2020, the negotiators of the Council and the European Parliament reached a provisional agreement. The Council adopted the legislation on 20 April 2021 at first reading. The ITRE committee adopted the draft recommendation for second reading on 26 April 2021, and it is expected that the European Parliament will adopt the text during the May 2021 plenary session.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Mapping Fake News and Disinformation in the Western Balkans and Identifying Ways to Effectively Counter Them](#)

Publication type Study

Date 23-02-2021

External author Samuel GREENE, Gregory ASMOLOV, Adam FAGAN, Ofer FRIDMAN, Borjan GJUZELOV

Policy area Coronavirus | Democracy | Foreign Affairs

Keyword communications | coronavirus disease | disinformation | dissemination of EU information | dissemination of information | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | election campaign publicity | electoral procedure and voting | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | health | humanities | political propaganda | POLITICS | politics and public safety | promotion of the European idea | public awareness campaign | SCIENCE | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Western Balkans

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

Study [EN](#)

## [The Twitter activity of members of the European Council](#)

Publication type Study

Date 07-01-2021

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area Budget | Coronavirus | Democracy | Foreign Affairs

Keyword communications | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Council | EUROPEAN UNION | information analysis | public statement | social media

**Summary** Over recent years, the members of the European Council have, in a number of landmark declarations such as the Bratislava Declaration, pointed to the need to improve communication with citizens, as part of the process of building greater trust and confidence in the European Union and its institutions. As social media, and notably Twitter, have become an important part of politicians' communication strategy generally, this study looks specifically at how EU leaders in the European Council communicate on Europe via Twitter. This EPRS study explores provides an overview of the activity on Twitter of all members of the European Council over an 18-month period – in just over 31 000 tweets posted between January 2019 and June 2020 – covering a very wide range of issues. The study identifies the European topics that EU-27 leaders tweet about – their own interactions, external relations and the EU budget – and it explores the ways in which they communicate and engage with their target audiences, as well as pointing to differences of approach between them. EU-related tweets represent on average about a fifth of all EU leaders' tweets, with a greater emphasis on meetings as such than on substantive policy issues.

Study [EN](#)

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - December 2020](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-12-2020

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues | Energy | Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union | International Trade | Public international law | Regional Development

Keyword coronavirus disease | dissemination of EU information | dissemination of information | documentation | economic and social cohesion | economic conditions | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators | extraterritorial jurisdiction | health | international law | LAW | member of the Court of Auditors (EU) | organisation of the legal system | report | Schengen Agreement | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

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.

regional development, cohesion policy, COVID19, WTO, budget control, budget, economy, international affairs, international law, Schengen governance, single market, European court of Auditors, energy.

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

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - November 2020](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-11-2020

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget | Budgetary Control | Economics and Monetary Issues | Human Rights | Public Health | Security and Defence | Transport

Keyword cancer | child protection | custody | dissemination of EU information | dissemination of information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | family | gender mainstreaming | health | human rights | intelligent transport system | LAW | migration | organisation of transport | report | rights and freedoms | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRANSPORT

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 role of Points of Single Contact \(PSCs\) and other information services in the Single Market \(At A Glance - Study In Focus\)](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 09-11-2020

External author Pau SALSAS-FORN et al.

Policy area Consumer Protection | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword access to EU information | administrative cooperation | administrative formalities | administrative procedure | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU action | EU institutions and European civil service | EU national | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | freedom to provide services | international law | LAW | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | regulation (EU) | research report | single market

Summary This At A Glance summarises the key findings of the original study, which analysed the role and development of Points of Single Contact and other information services. The study reviewed recent policy documents, and identified a range of weaknesses for the provision of contact points. The main recommendations were to improve monitoring (using the indicators and the Single Market Scoreboard) and make use of infringement proceedings in case of non-compliance. The actions could be built on the instruments available under the recent Single Digital Gateway Regulation. 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](#)

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - November 2020](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-10-2020

Policy area Budget | Competition law and regulation | Consumer Protection | Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues | Foreign Affairs | Regional Development | Research Policy

Keyword common foreign and security policy | communications | control of communications | coronavirus disease | dissemination of EU information | dissemination of information | documentation | economic and social cohesion | economic convergence | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | European Central Bank | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | health | monetary economics | monetary policy | report | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

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](#)

## [Evaluation in the European Commission](#)

Publication type Study

Date 29-07-2020

Author ANGLMAYER Irmgard

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | policy analysis | policymaking | POLITICS | regulatory policy | research report

Summary Ex-post evaluation provides an evidence-based assessment of the performance of policies and legislation. Its findings support political decision-making and inform the design of new interventions. For this reason, and notably under the EU's Better Regulation agenda, evaluation has become a key policy-making tool at EU level. At the same time, evaluation is an aid for legislators, in particular at the policy review stage. The European Parliament therefore has a keen interest in obtaining a complete picture of ongoing Commission evaluations and in having timely access to evaluation results. This fourth edition of the EPRS rolling check-list 'Evaluation in the European Commission' is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of planned, ongoing and recently completed Commission evaluations. Compiled from a range of sources in the public domain, it seeks to fill a gap by granting a single access point to the Commission's evaluation planning and output, as of 30 June 2020. The dataset is preceded by an analysis of how the evaluation process has evolved since the 2015 Better Regulation reform, with particular regard to the transparency of the European Commission's ex post evaluation process.

Study [EN](#)

## [Europeanising European Public Spheres](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-06-2020

External author Katrin AUDEL, Guido TIEMANN

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

Keyword communications | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European election | European integration | EUROPEAN UNION | mass media | national parliament | parliament | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public consultation | research and intellectual property | research report | teaching | university | university research

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the AFCD Committee, provides a brief overview of the academic debates on Europeanisation as well as contestation and politicisation of the EU and European integration. Against this background, it focuses on the European public sphere(s), in particular those based on the media and parliaments. The study further discusses current reform proposals aiming to Europeanise the European elections and concludes with recommendations on increasing the legitimacy of the European Union.

Study [EN](#)

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

## [EGOV Annual Activity Report 2019](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-03-2020

Author BOLDI DONELLA | GRIGAITA KRISTINA | HAGELSTAM Kajus | KUMSARE SOLVEIGA | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | TURCU OVIDIU IONUT

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword activity report | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic governance (EU) | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial stability | free movement of capital | monetary economics | summarising

Summary This activity report covers the year 2019 and presents an overview of the expertise provided by the Unit in the area of economic governance and banking union, supporting the related scrutiny activities in the competent committee(s).

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Size of Political Groups in the EP - February 2020](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-02-2020

Author SABBATI Giulio

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | graphic illustration | political group (EP)

Summary Our table shows the number of MEPs in each group, broken down by Member State, as well as the non-attached (NI) Members not in any group. The figures are supplied by our colleagues from the Members' Administration Unit. This infographic updates an earlier edition, of 5 July 2019, PE637.970.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [Walking the Thin Line: Central Bank Communication](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-01-2020

External author Daniel GROS, Angela CAPOLONGO, Kerstin BERNOTH, Geraldine DANY-KNEDLIK, Eddie GERBA, Corrado MACCHIARELLI

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword administrative transparency | dissemination of EU information | dissemination of information | documentation | economic intelligence | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial transparency | information and information processing | monetary economics | POLITICS | single monetary policy

Summary Central banks use communication both as a monetary policy instrument and as a tool for accountability. The ECB's communication practices have changed significantly in recent years. Yet, new challenges await. The ECB President, Ms Christine Lagarde, stated that she sees the general public as the "new frontier" for central bank communications. The Monetary Expert Panel was asked to produce three papers on this topic. This publication is provided by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON).

Study [EN](#)

## [Better communication for cohesion policy](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-11-2019

Author JOURDE PERNILLA | WIDUTO Agnieszka

Policy area Regional Development

Keyword Cohesion Fund | dissemination of EU information | economic and social cohesion | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU aid | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Regional Development Fund | European Social Fund | EUROPEAN UNION | multiannual financial framework | POLITICS | politics and public safety | promotion of the European idea | public awareness campaign | regional disparity | regions and regional policy

Summary Cohesion policy is a major EU investment tool aimed at reducing regional disparities and achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion. It delivers a wide range of results in areas such as new infrastructure, training, job creation, support for small businesses and environmental protection. Communication is key when it comes to making the public aware of existing funding opportunities and informing them of the results of cohesion policy investments. It can also affect public perception of the EU and raise awareness of the positive impact of EU support on people's everyday lives. Improving the visibility of cohesion policy is therefore a salient issue for the EU. Communication measures range from requirements for fund managers and beneficiaries on the basis of EU legislation to more informal initiatives such as information campaigns, events and web portals aimed at publicising the policy's achievements. In the framework of multi-level governance, communication activities bring together a wide variety of actors including EU institutions, Member States, regional and local authorities and members of civil society. The ongoing negotiations on the new multiannual financial framework for 2021 to 2027, including new regulations on cohesion policy, and the upcoming conclusion of the 2014-2020 programming period provide a good opportunity for reflection on the issue of cohesion policy communication. This briefing updates an earlier edition, of March 2019. It was originally produced at the request of a member of the European Committee of the Regions, in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between the Parliament and the Committee.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Mariya Gabriel – Innovation and Youth](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author KATSAROVA Ivana

Policy area Culture | Education | Research Policy

Keyword appointment of members | candidate | consent procedure | dissemination of EU information | documentation | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | educational exchange | electoral procedure and voting | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EU programme | European Commissioner | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | Framework Programme for Research and Development | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summarising | youth policy

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](#)



## Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Phil Hogan – Trade

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author BINDER Krisztina

Policy area International Trade

Keyword 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 construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | international trade | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | summarising | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | withdrawal from the EU | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

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](#)

## Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Johannes Hahn – Budget and Administration

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author D'ALFONSO Alessandro

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword appointment of members | candidate | consent procedure | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EP Committee | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | Member States' contribution | multiannual financial framework | own resources | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | summarising | withdrawal from the EU

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](#)

## Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Dubravka Šuica – Vice-President: Democracy and Demography

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author KISS Monika

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Social Policy

Keyword appointment of members | candidate | consent procedure | democracy | demography | demography and population | 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 | LAW | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | political framework | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social rights | summarising | vice-president of an institution

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](#)

## [Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Kadri Simson - Energy](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author WILSON Alex Benjamin

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Energy | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Industry | Research Policy

Keyword appointment of members | candidate | consent procedure | construction and town planning | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | ENERGY | energy efficiency | energy policy | EP Committee | EU energy policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | gas supply | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | renewable energy | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | soft energy | 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](#)

## [Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Jutta Urpilainen - International Partnerships](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author LATEK Marta | PICHON Eric

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Development and Humanitarian Aid | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword appointment of members | candidate | common foreign and security policy | consent procedure | cooperation policy | development aid | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | summarising | sustainable development | the EU's international role

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](#)

## [Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Janez Lenarčič - Crisis Management](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author D'AMBROGIO Enrico

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Development and Humanitarian Aid | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword appointment of members | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | candidate | consent procedure | cooperation policy | crisis management | dissemination of EU information | documentation | ECHO | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | European Commissioner | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | humanitarian aid | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | migration | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | 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](#)



## Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Maroš Šefčovič – Vice-President: Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author TILINDYTE-HUMBURG Laura

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Forward Planning

Keyword 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 | executive power and public service | interinstitutional relations (EU) | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | policymaking | POLITICS | summarising | vice-president of an institution

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](#)

## Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Sylvie Goulard - Internal Market

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author KARAKAS Cemal

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Consumer Protection | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword appointment of members | candidate | consent procedure | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EP Committee | EU industrial policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | information security | information technology and data processing | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | single market | summarising | technological change | technology and technical regulations

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](#)

## Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Helena Dalli - Equality

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author SHREEVES Rosamund

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Employment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Social Policy

Keyword anti-discriminatory measure | 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 | gender equality | human rights | LAW | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | summarising | women's rights

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Briefing [EN](#)

## [Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Didier Reynders - Justice](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author MAŃKO Rafał | VORONOVA Sofija

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters

Keyword appointment of members | candidate | common security and defence policy | consent procedure | data-processing law | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fundamental rights | information technology and data processing | LAW | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | political framework | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | rule of law | summarising

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Briefing [EN](#)

## [Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Valdis Dombrovskis – Vice-President: An Economy that works for people](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author STAMEGNA CARLA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Employment | Social Policy

Keyword appointment of members | candidate | consent procedure | dissemination of EU information | documentation | Economic and Monetary Union | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | labour law and labour relations | labour relations | market economy | monetary economics | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | summarising | vice-president of an institution

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](#)

## [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

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Briefing [EN](#)

## Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Margrethe Vestager – Vice-President: A Europe fit for the digital age

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Consumer Protection | Economics and Monetary Issues | Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union | Research Policy

Keyword appointment of members | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | candidate | competition | consent procedure | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EP Committee | EU competition policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | impact of information technology | information technology and data processing | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | summarising | technological change | technology and technical regulations | vice-president of an institution

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](#)

## Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Elisa Ferreira - Cohesion and Reforms

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author VAN LIEROP Christiaan

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Regional Development

Keyword appointment of members | candidate | consent procedure | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic and social cohesion | economic convergence | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | regional development | regions and regional policy | summarising | sustainable development

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](#)

## Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Janusz Wojciechowski - Agriculture

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author MCELDFOWNEY James

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Agriculture and Rural Development | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | appointment of members | candidate | common agricultural policy | consent procedure | dissemination of EU information | documentation | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EP Committee | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | multiannual financial framework | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | regions and regional policy | rural development | summarising

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Briefing [EN](#)

## Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Frans Timmermans – Vice-President: European Green Deal

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author ERBACH Gregor

Policy area Environment | Food Safety | Public Health

Keyword appointment of members | candidate | circular economy | climate change policy | consent procedure | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | green economy | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | summarising | vice-president of an institution

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Briefing [EN](#)

## Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Paolo Gentiloni - Economy

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author DELIVORIAS Angelos

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword appointment of members | candidate | consent procedure | dissemination of EU information | documentation | Economic and Monetary Union | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EU investment | European Commissioner | European tax cooperation | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financing and investment | monetary economics | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summarising | taxation | unemployment insurance

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](#)

## Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Věra Jourová – Vice-President: Values and Transparency

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author DIAZ CREGO Maria

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

Keyword appointment of members | candidate | consent procedure | democracy | 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 | fundamental rights | LAW | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | political framework | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | rule of law | summarising | vice-president of an institution

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](#)

## Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Josep Borrell Fontelles – High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President: A Stronger Europe in the World

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author STANICEK BRANISLAV

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword appointment of members | candidate | common foreign and security policy | 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 construction | European External Action Service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | geopolitics | humanities | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | SCIENCE | summarising | vice-president of an institution

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](#)

## Parliamentary hearings of the Commissioners-designate: A decisive step in the investiture process

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-09-2019

Author DIAZ CREGO Maria

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword appointment of members | candidate | consent procedure | democratisation | 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 | executive power and public service | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | summarising

Summary The hearings of the Commissioners-designate before the European Parliament's committees are a necessary ingredient in informing Parliament's decision to give its consent to, or reject, the proposed college. Each Commissioner-designate appears before a single hearing, involving one or more parliamentary committees, after responding to a written questionnaire and presenting his or her declaration of interests. In past hearings, the main points of criticism have been some candidates' lack of specialist knowledge of their portfolio, their vague answers and reluctance to make commitments, the existence of possible conflicts of interests in relation to the assigned portfolio and concerns regarding the integrity of the candidate. From the 2004 investiture on, Parliament has used its role in the appointment of the Commission to press for the replacement of certain controversial candidates and to force adjustments to certain portfolios, although it can only reject or accept the college as a whole. Whilst some experts warn of excessive politicisation of the hearings, others welcome the increased accountability of the Commission to Parliament, and see the deepening political link between the two as a step towards further democratisation of the EU decision-making process. Hearings have become critical for Parliament's holding the Commission to account, and are gaining in significance as a means for Parliament to take a greater role in agenda-setting at EU level. This is a further updated and expanded version of a 2014 briefing by Eva-Maria Poptcheva.

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

Multimedia [Parliamentary hearings of the Commissioners-designate](#)

## Role and election of the President of the European Commission

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-07-2019

Author KOTANIDIS Silvia

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword appointment of members | candidate | consent procedure | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | interinstitutional relations (EU) | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | President of the Commission | summarising

**Summary** The President of the European Commission has taken on an ever more prominent leading role within the College of Commissioners, with the increasingly presidential system eclipsing the principle of collegiate decision-making. With the European Parliament now more involved in the appointment, the Presidency has not only become a much more politicised office, but the President has also gained greater influence vis-à-vis the other members of the Commission. The Commission President plays a crucial role in relations between Parliament and Commission. Presenting his or her priorities to Parliament prior to election sets the course for the whole term, on which the President will be called to account by Parliament. Building on this, Parliament has an increasingly prominent role in political agenda-setting, shaping the EU's legislative programming together with the Commission and the Council. At the end of President Barroso's second term as Commission President, many had criticised the lack of ambitious initiatives undertaken, whereas others believe that the economic and institutional difficulties which the EU faced made this inevitable. The legacy of President Juncker's mandate can claim, on the one hand, to show progress in trade and defence, although some maintain that more ambition could have been displayed in other areas, for instance on the digital market or monetary union. On the other hand, the Juncker Commission introduced some significant changes in the College's working methods and a more political role for the Commission. Whereas Jean-Claude Juncker had been a Spitzenkandidat (lead candidate) in the European elections, Ursula von der Leyen, nominated as candidate for the Commission presidency by the European Council on 2 July, was not. As none of the Spitzenkandidaten were seen to have a clear majority in Parliament, it remains to be seen whether an 'outsider' from that process can muster the support of the required majority of Parliament's component Members at the time of the election, currently planned for the July II plenary session. This is an updated edition of a 2014 briefing drafted by Eva-Maria Poptcheva.

Briefing [EN](#)

## EU policies – Delivering for citizens: International trade and globalisation

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-06-2019

Author HARTE RODERICK EDWARD NOEL | TITIEVSKAIA Jana

Policy area International Trade

Keyword common foreign and security policy | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU competence | EU institutions and European civil service | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | globalisation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | international trade | summarising | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy | trade policy | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

**Summary** The European Community was founded on the belief that economic integration leads to peace and economic prosperity. Trade is therefore a fundamental part of the identity of the European Union (EU) today. Given the success of the internal market in fostering the longest period of European peace in modern history, the EU considers itself an example of the benefits of trade, globalisation and economic openness. International trade policy is an exclusive competence of the EU, and with the combined economic weight of its Member States behind it, the EU is one of the key players in global trade. Yet trade policy is about more than stability and growth for the EU, as it is also used to encourage poor countries to develop, foster international alliances and support fundamental values in the world. A strong partner in the World Trade Organization (WTO), the EU backs an international trading system based on rules rather than might. The benefits of globalisation and international trade have nevertheless been questioned in recent years, including within the EU. This has led it to reinvigorate its trade policy, in particular by presenting a new trade strategy and a reflection paper on harnessing globalisation. The EU's new 'trade for all' strategy addresses criticisms and focuses on making its trade policy more effective, transparent and value-based. In line with this strategy, the EU has pursued ongoing trade negotiations with renewed vigour and launched new trade and investment talks, resulting in state-of-the-art agreements with countries such as Canada and Japan. The EU faces uncertain times due to major shifts in international trade, coming from both the West and the East. In response, it seeks to promote economic openness, standing up for its values and protecting its interests. For example, the EU has retaliated against United States (US) steel tariffs and continues to defend the rules-based international trading order. Contentious trading practices on the part of third countries, including China, have led the EU to modernise its trade defence instruments, prepare a new foreign investment screening mechanism and seek a reform of the WTO. The EU is likely to continue this approach in the coming term, pursuing international cooperation and new agreements, possibly also at a continental level with Africa, and striving to protect its citizens and businesses from economic harm. This is an update of an earlier briefing issued in advance of the 2019 European elections.

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

Multimedia [International trade and globalisation](#)



## EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Youth empowerment

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-06-2019

Author CHIRCOP Denise

Policy area Culture

Keyword culture and religion | demography and population | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU national | EU strategy | European citizenship | European construction | European identity | EUROPEAN UNION | international law | LAW | opinion poll | social affairs | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summarising | young person | youth employment | youth policy | youth unemployment

**Summary** The proportion of young people (15-29 years old) in the general EU population is declining. On the whole, young people have a higher level of education than older adults, and youth unemployment rates have begun to decrease. Nevertheless, young people are still more exposed to poverty and social exclusion than other sections of the population. They are less prone to put their health at risk than previous generations. For instance, fewer young people smoke, get drunk, or become involved in a road accident than previously, but young people are still over-represented among those who are injured in road accidents. Obesity due to bad eating habits and lack of physical exercise is still an issue. Young people are also less likely to vote, or stand for election than older adults, but in recent years there has been a slight increase in interest in politics, political action and volunteering. Almost 80 % of young Europeans identify themselves as European citizens. In a Eurobarometer survey published in 2018 they placed education, skills and the environment at the top of a list of priorities for the EU. The European Union is engaged in helping Member States address young people's needs and aspirations through a youth strategy which covers areas such as employment, entrepreneurship, social inclusion, participation, education, training, health, wellbeing, voluntary activities, the global dimension, creativity and culture. The strategy is backed by a number of funding programmes that are specifically focused on young people, most notably the Youth Employment Initiative, Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. It also draws from funds directed at other specific policy areas. EU action in the area of youth empowerment is best known for the mobility opportunities it has created, in particular through Erasmus. Future challenges include reaching a wider spectrum of young people, especially those from disadvantaged and hard-to-reach groups, making the results of the consultative process, known as youth dialogue, more tangible, and improving synergies between policy areas for greater effectiveness. This is an update of an earlier briefing issued in advance of the 2019 European elections.

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

Multimedia [Youth empowerment](#)

## EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Security and defence

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-06-2019

Author LAZAROU Eleni

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword common security and defence policy | competence of the Member States | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | multiannual financial framework | opinion poll | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summarising | the EU's international role

**Summary** Security and defence policy in the European Union is predominantly a competence of the Member States. At the same time, a common security and defence policy, which could progressively lead to a European defence union, is enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty. Since 2016, there has been significant progress in that direction, with several initiatives in the area of security and defence having been proposed and initiated under the 2014-2019 mandate of the Commission and the European Parliament. The idea that the European Union should deliver in the area of security and defence has become more and more popular with EU citizens. The crises in the EU's eastern and southern neighbourhoods, such as the occupation of Crimea and conflicts in the Middle East, have created an environment of insecurity in which the EU is called upon to do more. Following the Council decision of 2013 and particularly since the launch of the EU global strategy in 2016, the EU has been working to respond to these needs predominantly by implementing in full the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty. In recent years, it has begun the implementation of ambitious initiatives in the area of security and defence, such as permanent structured cooperation (PESCO), the European defence action plan, including a new defence fund to finance research and development of EU military capabilities, closer and more efficient cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a plan to facilitate military mobility within and across the EU, and revision of the financing of its civilian and military missions and operations to make them more effective. These new initiatives are illustrated in the relevant proposals for the new multiannual financial framework (2021-2027) and the accompanying off-budget instruments. Given EU leaders' support in the recent past for further initiatives in EU security and defence policy, important debates are likely to take place in future on the possible progressive framing of a European defence union. This is an update of an earlier briefing issued in advance of the 2019 European elections.

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

Multimedia [Security and defence](#)

## EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Future financing of EU policies

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-06-2019

Author PARRY Matthew

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU budget | EU expenditure | EU finance | EU financing | EU institutions and European civil service | EU policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | multiannual financial framework | summarising

**Summary** The principle of subsidiarity means that the European Union (EU) should act where it can do so more effectively than its constituent Member States individually, and this also holds true in the area of public finance – the EU's budget together with off-budget tools for financing EU policies. At €165.8 billion in 2019 – or approximately 1 % of Member States' collective gross national income (GNI) – the EU budget is a great deal smaller in relative terms than EU national governments' budgets. It serves mainly as a vehicle for investment, particularly in the areas of rural and regional development, industrial research and support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and political and economic development in neighbouring countries. These policies are designed to yield European public goods, with benefits that go beyond the national borders of individual EU countries. The Commission calculates that they do so for less than the cost of one cup of coffee a day per citizen. During the 2014-2019 parliamentary term, the EU was buffeted by challenges to its capacity to act, including financially, by geopolitical instability in the wider region, the migration and refugee crisis, and unresolved questions about the future of the euro, linked to the legacy of the economic, financial and sovereign debt crises. However, the EU also saw several notable achievements. These include the update to the financial rules governing the use of EU funds, simplifying the rules and strengthening the focus on performance and results; the creation of a European Public Prosecutor's Office to help address the roughly 0.35 % of the EU budget at risk of fraud; a mid-term revision of the multiannual financial framework (MFF), enhancing its flexibility to provide for a more responsive EU; the development of proposals for new sources of revenue in time for negotiations on the post-2020 MFF; and policy innovation in the field of financial engineering, helping EU finance go further by leveraging private investment. The 2019 elections mark a turning point in the future financing of EU policies, since the new Parliament will be responsible for concluding negotiations on the next multiannual spending plan. The Commission has proposed a 2021-2027 MFF totalling 1.11 % of the post-Brexit EU-27's GNI, and new sources of EU revenue to reduce the burden on national treasuries and forge a clearer link between revenue and policies. It also proposes to consolidate progress made in the last term with regard to budgetary flexibility, financial integrity and the rule of law, and in encouraging private investment in Europe. This is an update of an earlier briefing issued prior to the 2019 European elections.

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

Multimedia [Future financing EU policies](#)

## EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Foreign policy

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-06-2019

Author DOBREVA Alina | PICHON Eric

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | enlargement of the Union | EU budget | EU expenditure | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | humanitarian aid | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international trade | international trade | opinion poll | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summarising | the EU's international role | TRADE

**Summary** European Union (EU) action beyond its borders often requires a combination of approaches. The EU Treaties differentiate between common foreign and security policy (CFSP), common security and defence policy (CSDP), external action, and the external dimension of internal policies, but in the field, issues are so intertwined that more often than not a single tool is not sufficient. For example, population displacement triggered by a conflict over natural resources has to be addressed by humanitarian aid, itself secured by a CSDP mission, and its effects mitigated by adequate migration and development policies, while peace talks are conducted. Coordination between all stakeholders is challenging but vital, not only as a response but also for prevention. To address new challenges such as climate change, rising insecurity or new migration patterns, the EU has put forward concrete solutions to shape synergy between the actors, in order to use shared expertise more effectively, and to find new sources of funding. The new foreign policy framework (EU global strategy) is intended to map the tools and resources best designed to help society as a whole, in the EU and partner countries, to withstand natural and manmade shocks more effectively. This means making connections between actors and between traditionally separate policy areas. Budgetary constraints and the will to depart from a donor/recipient relationship have also resulted in innovative financing tools, using EU funds to leverage private investments. While, since its launch, the global strategy has proved to be a coherent vision, sturdy, comprehensive external action nevertheless requires coordination at all levels. In the years to come, global instability is expected to rise; the challenge for the EU will be to ensure security while upholding the core values of the Treaties – human rights, democracy and the fight against poverty – as its primary objectives on the global stage. This is an update of an earlier briefing issued in advance of the 2019 European elections.

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

Multimedia [Foreign policy](#)

## EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Agriculture

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-06-2019

Author MCELDOWNEY James

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Keyword agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU budget | EU expenditure | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | multiannual financial framework | opinion poll | reform of the CAP | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summarising

**Summary** The common agricultural policy (CAP) is one of the oldest common policies in the EU. Its significance is reflected in the proportion of the EU's budget devoted to it, representing approximately 40 % of the total. Developed at a time when Europe was unable to meet most of its own food needs, it was necessary to encourage farmers to produce food by means of guaranteed prices. The policy has undergone regular reform and has evolved over the years. These reforms have sought to improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector, promote rural development and address new challenges in areas such as the environment and climate change. Evidence from a series of Eurobarometer surveys indicates that EU citizens have a high level of awareness of this policy area. There is a recognition that the policy is succeeding in meeting citizens' expectations in terms of delivering healthy high-quality food as well as contributing to the protection of the environment. When it comes to agriculture, Parliament's eighth term focused on taking forward not only implementation of the last CAP reform in 2013 but also a series of significant legislative achievements. The areas covered include, for example, unfair trading practices, animal health, plant health and the organic sector, as well as a range of policy-related simplification measures. On the non-legislative front, Parliament pursued its scrutiny role rigorously. Other substantial issues it considered during the last legislature included the future policy direction of the CAP for the post-2020 period, establishing its position on the next multiannual financial framework (MFF), including the overall budgetary allocation for the future CAP and the associated legislative framework. In the case of the latter, this has not been the subject of a plenary vote. This is an update of an earlier briefing issued in advance of the 2019 European elections.

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

Multimedia [Agriculture](#)

## EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Regional policy

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-06-2019

Author MARGARAS Vasileios | VAN LIEROP Christiaan

Policy area Regional Development

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic and social cohesion | economic conditions | economic growth | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU regional policy | European construction | European Parliament | European Structural and Investment Funds | EUROPEAN UNION | job creation | quality of life | regional disparity | regions and regional policy | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summarising | sustainable development

**Summary** The principal aim of the EU's regional policy, also known as cohesion policy, is to address the territorial, social and economic imbalances that exist between the different regions of the EU. Regional policy covers all regions and cities of the European Union, helping to support job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development, and to improve citizens' quality of life. To achieve these goals and address the diverse development needs in all EU regions, €351.8 billion – almost one third of the total EU budget – has been set aside for cohesion policy for the 2014-2020 period. This financial support is distributed through two main funds: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF). Together with the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), they make up the European structural and investment (ESI) funds, which provide support that can make a real difference to the lives of people in the EU's regions. With the current programming period (2014-2020) drawing to a close, work is now under way on planning the cohesion policy priorities for the next programming period (2021-2027). During its 2014-2019 term the European Parliament was called upon numerous times to adopt new legislative acts, amend older rules and to provide opinions on many topics relating to the EU's regional policy. Within the European Parliament, the Committee on Regional Policy is responsible for the Union's regional development and cohesion policy, as set out in the Treaties. In anticipation of its expected withdrawal from the EU, the UK, until now a net contributor to the EU budget, will no longer contribute to the post-2020 EU budget, which means that the EU will have fewer resources to allocate to its policies in the future, including cohesion policy. The European Parliament has, however, strongly advocated maintaining the level of funding for cohesion policy at its current level or even increasing it. This is an update of an earlier briefing issued in advance of the 2019 European elections.

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

Multimedia [Regional policy](#)

## Rules on political groups in the EP

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-06-2019

Author TILINDYTE-HUMBURG Laura

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU financing | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | Member of the European Parliament | non-attached member | parliament | political group (EP) | POLITICS | powers of the EP | summarising

**Summary** Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) may form political groups; these are organised not by nationality, but by political affiliation. Since the first direct elections in 1979, the number of political groups has fluctuated between seven and ten. Following the 2019 elections, the number, size and composition of political groups is likely to continue to fluctuate, as a result of the possible dissolution of some political groups and the creation of new ones. To form a political group, a minimum of 25 MEPs, elected in at least one quarter (currently seven) of the EU's Member States is required. Those Members who do not belong to any political group are known as 'non-attached' (non-inscrits) Members. Although the political groups play a very prominent role in Parliament's life, individual MEPs and/or several MEPs acting together, also have many rights, including in relation to the exercise of oversight over other EU institutions, such as the Commission. However, belonging to a political group is of particular relevance when it comes to the allocation of key positions in Parliament's political and organisational structures, such as committee and delegation chairs and rapporteurships on important dossiers. Moreover, political groups receive higher funding for their collective staff and parliamentary activities than the non-attached MEPs. Political group funding, however, is distinct from funding granted to European political parties and foundations, which, if they comply with the requirements to register as such, may apply for funding from the European Parliament.

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

Multimedia [Rules on political groups in the EP](#)

## Balanced and fairer world trade defence: EU, US and WTO perspectives

Publication type Study

Date 29-05-2019

External author Erdal YALCIN, Hannes WELGE, André SAPIR, Petros C. MAVROIDIS

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Global Governance | Industry | International Trade

Keyword America | dissemination of EU information | economic geography | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | international trade | monetary relations | political geography | restoration of customs duties | tariff policy | TRADE | trade balance | trade dispute | trade restriction | United States | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

**Summary** This workshop of the Committee on International Trade discussed recent developments in trade defence legislation and practice from the perspectives of the EU, the USA and the WTO. A set of trade defence rules have been agreed in the framework of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), in particular on anti-dumping, anti-subsidies and safeguards. The WTO also provides a dispute settlement system for cases brought forward by its members. The EU has recently adopted two sets of new legislation on Trade Defence Instruments (TDI), known as 'TDI methodology' and 'TDI modernisation'. These new rules aim at enhancing the EU's trade defence, without deviating from its commitment to an open economic environment set in an international rules based order. The US has its own rules and practice for trade defence and continues to distinguish between countries having a market economy and those who don't - a difference abandoned by the EU in its latest reform. Moreover, the Trump Administration has imposed many new tariffs on foreign imports, often based on the national security exception provided by the WTO - a justification contested by most of the countries targeted. Furthermore, the US expressed concerns about the system of dispute settlement in the WTO, blocking nominations to its Appellate Body. Experts gave their views on whether all these recent developments are contributing to an international trade defence regime that is 'fair' and 'balanced', taking into account the different perspectives.

Study [EN](#)

## Minimum loss coverage for non-performing loans

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-05-2019

Author STAMEGNA CARLA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank | civil law | credit institution | credit policy | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic conditions | economic recession | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial risk | financial solvency | free movement of capital | LAW | loan | monetary economics | proposal (EU) | summarising

**Summary** The recessions resulting from the financial crisis that broke out at the end of the last decade have caused economic difficulties for more and more EU companies and citizens in recent years, leaving them unable to repay their loans. As a result many EU banks have accumulated high volumes of non-performing loans (NPLs) on their balance-sheets. Although it has almost halved since December 2014, the ratio between NPLs and total loans extended by EU banks (the NPL ratio) remains historically high when measured against the ratios of other advanced economies. NPLs represent a risk to banks' balance sheets inasmuch as future losses they might generate are not sufficiently covered by appropriate reserves. To tackle this issue, in March 2018 the Commission adopted a comprehensive package of measures, including a proposal for a regulation amending the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR) to introduce common minimum loss coverage levels (a 'statutory backstop') for newly originated loans that become non-performing. Following agreement on a text with the Council in trilogue, Parliament adopted the proposal in plenary on 14 March 2019. The final act was signed on 17 April 2019 and published in the Official Journal on 25 April 2019, coming into force the following day. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Regional inequalities in the EU

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-05-2019

Author WIDUTO Agnieszka

Policy area Regional Development

Keyword dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic and social cohesion | economic convergence | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | regional disparity | regions and regional policy | social framework | social inequality | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summarising

**Summary** The issue of inequality has gained increasing importance in the public and political agenda in the aftermath of the financial and economic crisis, and in the context of political movements representing the 'places left behind'. Inequality may relate to income and wealth, but also to a variety of aspects such as access to basic services, education and infrastructure. In the context of regional disparities, it may also refer to differing levels of socio-economic development. Common inequality measures have revealed that, while regional disparities have been decreasing when considering the EU as a whole, they have been increasing within some countries. A number of persistently low-growth regions exist in southern Europe, as do many low-income regions in eastern Europe. Every Member State has a number of 'inner peripheries', which are habitually located in post-industrial or rural areas and often characterised by high levels of unemployment, poor infrastructure, lack of skilled workforce and hampered accessibility. Strengthening social, economic and territorial cohesion, and reducing regional disparities is the main goal of EU cohesion policy. As a major EU tool to address regional inequalities, this policy provides a wide range of support for businesses and activities in areas such as research, environment, transport, employment, social inclusion, education and institutional capacity-building. Such support is crucial for addressing the underlying problems of many lagging regions, helping them create better living conditions, retain and attract talent, encourage investment, improve productivity and develop regional innovation systems. Together with economic governance frameworks and EU support for structural reform, EU cohesion policy can play an important role in reducing inequality, in a comprehensive and multidimensional way. While traditionally, GDP per capita has been used to assess regional convergence, a variety of new indicators tracking progress on issues correlated with inequality are available for this purpose today. Moreover, the proposals for the EU's post-2020 policy framework include new additional funding allocation criteria such as youth unemployment, education levels, climate change, and the reception and integration of migrants. These changes possibly indicate a shift towards a more comprehensive view of territorial convergence in the EU.

Briefing [EN](#)

## The Future of Europe debates in the European Parliament, 2018-19: A synthesis of the speeches by EU

### Heads of State or Government

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 08-05-2019

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf | KOTANIDIS Silvia

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

Keyword climate change policy | common foreign and security policy | dissemination of EU information | documentation | Economic and Monetary Union | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENERGY | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU energy policy | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | head of government | head of State | information analysis | migration | monetary economics | multiannual financial framework | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | political framework | POLITICS | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** This paper concludes a series of four briefings on the Future of Europe debates that have explained the views of the different Heads of State or Government who have spoken in the European Parliament's plenary sessions from January 2018 until April 2019. The first part of this paper describes the overall points of convergence and divergence among the speakers, trends in the topics tackled, and proposals advanced. In the second part, the paper offers excerpts from some of the most significant statements by the speakers, as well as a more detailed analysis of their various positions on the following key policy areas: Economic and Monetary Union, migration, the social dimension, international trade, climate change and energy, security and defence, the next Multiannual Financial Framework, and institutional issues.

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

## Assessing the Leaders' Agenda

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 06-05-2019

Author ANGHEL Suzana Elena | DRACHENBERG Ralf

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

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | decision-making | dissemination of EU information | documentation | Economic and Monetary Union | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European citizenship | European construction | European Council | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | impact of information technology | information technology and data processing | innovation | international trade | international trade | management | migration | migration | monetary economics | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and development | research and intellectual property | single market | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summarising | TRADE

**Summary** The Leaders' Agenda can be assessed rather favourably as it has enabled more structured work and better preparation by all actors concerned. This method can be recommended for the future work of the European Council as it allows a consistent follow-up. However, it has not helped to overcome deadlock on some of the most sensitive issues, such as migration and taxation.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)



## European research area (ERA) – Regional and cross-border perspectives

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-04-2019

Author KARAKAS Cemal

Policy area Research Policy

Keyword cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU research policy | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | Framework Programme for Research and Development | innovation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | regional cooperation | research and development | research and intellectual property | scientific exchange | scientific research | single market | summarising

**Summary** The ERA is a coordination system for national research infrastructures, and itself constitutes an infrastructure designed to create a single market for science. The main implementing instrument for the ERA is the European Union (EU) framework programme for research and innovation (R&I), currently Horizon 2020, alongside national roadmaps for implementing the common priorities. While the ERA offers a way to improve joint programming for research and innovation activities, interaction between research infrastructures, the use of public-public partnerships between Member States, the application of smart specialisation strategies (S3) and the mobility of researchers, challenges still remain. The Horizon 2020 focus on excellence as the main criterion for receiving funding – a requirement designed to cement the EU's reputation in science and its global competitiveness – has led to a concentration of funding as well as R&I capacities in some countries and regions, while increasing the (innovation) gap between EU-15 and EU-13 countries. Other main challenges include the absence of a clear, shared definition of the ERA concept, the multiplication of instruments, and the non-use of binding legislation for ERA implementation. One way to improve the ERA and to broaden participation and cohesion without undermining the criterion of excellence might be to enhance the interoperability between funding and programmes and to continue working on making the EU state aid rules more R&I-friendly.

Briefing [EN](#)

## The power of the European Parliament: Examples of EP impact during the 2014-19 legislative term

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 30-04-2019

External author DG, EPRS;

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword budget | budgetary discharge | dissemination of EU information | documentation | drafting of EU law | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | elective office | EU institutions and European civil service | EU relations | EU strategy | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | information analysis | parliament | parliamentary scrutiny | POLITICS | powers of the EP | revision of the Treaty (EU) | withdrawal from the EU

**Summary** As the only European Union institution elected directly, the European Parliament is at the heart of representative democracy, the foundation upon which the EU is built. Since its creation, the Parliament's powers have evolved significantly, transforming it into a full-fledged legislative body and forum of discussion and engagement, whose influence is felt in virtually all areas of EU activity. This paper provides an overview of the European Parliament's main powers, demonstrating how they interact, and illustrating through practical examples from the most recent parliamentary term (2014-2019) the various ways in which the Parliament uses those powers in its daily work.

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

## Chile: the government struggles to implement its reform programme

Publication type Study

Date 25-04-2019

Author TVEVAD Jesper

Keyword America | association agreement (EU) | Chile | common foreign and security policy | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | information analysis | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | trade agreement (EU)

**Summary** Chile is a close partner of the EU in Latin America. The EU and Chile have a mutual interest in pursuing even closer ties, leading them to agree to upgrade and modernise the Association Agreement signed in 2002. They started negotiations on a modernised agreement in November 2017. President Sebastián Piñera's centre-right government took office in March 2018. Politically, the situation of the Mapuche indigenous community and stricter migration policies have dominated its first year. The government has also tabled comprehensive proposals for tax and pension reform but has found it difficult to implement its reform programme. This is largely because it lacks a majority in Congress and faces a much more diverse political landscape than in the past, making it more difficult to gain broad support for its proposals. However, it has benefited from a robust economic recovery that started in 2018 after two years of sluggish growth. Under President Piñera, Chile has adopted a tough stance against the Venezuelan government, in line with other centre-right governments in South America. Chile played a key role in the launch in March 2019 of the new organisation for regional cooperation, the Forum for the Progress of South America (Foro para el Progreso de América del Sur, PROSUR).

Study [EN](#)



## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - April 2019](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 15-04-2019

Policy area [Area of Freedom, Security and Justice](#) | [Budget](#) | [Culture](#) | [Environment](#) | [Human Rights](#)

Keyword [air quality](#) | [civil law](#) | [communications](#) | [cooperation policy](#) | [deterioration of the environment](#) | [disinformation](#) | [dissemination of EU information](#) | [documentation](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [EP Committee](#) | [EU budget](#) | [EU finance](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EU publication](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [gender mainstreaming](#) | [human rights](#) | [human rights movement](#) | [indemnification](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [LAW](#) | [political framework](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [politics and public safety](#) | [rights and freedoms](#) | [rule of law](#) | [third country](#)

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](#)

## [How the EU budget is spent: Spending programmes under the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 12-04-2019

Policy area [Budget](#) | [Budgetary Control](#)

Keyword [cataloguing](#) | [dissemination of EU information](#) | [documentation](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [EU budget](#) | [EU expenditure](#) | [EU finance](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EU programme](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [multiannual financial framework](#) | [summarising](#)

Summary The European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) has produced a series of briefings on 'How the EU budget is spent' over the course of the 2014-2019 parliamentary term. The aim is to give a concise overview of the key features of major EU spending programmes and funds for the 2014-2020 period. This compendium brings together the set of briefings from the series.

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

## [Overhauling fisheries technical measures](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 11-04-2019

Author [POPESCU Irina](#)

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

Keyword [AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES](#) | [common fisheries policy](#) | [dissemination of EU information](#) | [documentation](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [fisheries](#) | [fishery management](#) | [fishing area](#) | [fishing regulations](#) | [LAW](#) | [PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH](#) | [proposal \(EU\)](#) | [simplification of legislation](#) | [sources and branches of the law](#) | [summarising](#) | [sustainable fisheries](#) | [technical rule](#) | [technology and technical regulations](#)

Summary Technical measures in fisheries govern the different fishing practices that can be used to catch fish, as well as the areas and seasons for fishing. Aimed at limiting unwanted catches and the impact of fishing on marine ecosystems, EU technical measures have developed over time into a notoriously complicated regulatory structure, which came to be seen as a plethora of ineffective rules under rigid governance. During the April II session, Parliament is due to vote on giving formal approval to a new legislative framework that would change the governance structure of technical measures. The proposed framework is designed to simplify the current system, to increase its flexibility through a regionalised approach adapted to the specificities of each EU sea basin, and to optimise the contribution of the technical measures to the objectives of the common fisheries policy. The text also provides for a total ban on electric pulse trawl fishing from 1 July 2021, with the possibility for Member States to immediately prohibit or restrict this type of fishing in their coastal waters.

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

## [How the EU budget is spent: European Fund for Strategic Investments \(EFSI\)](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 03-04-2019

Author [D'ALFONSO Alessandro](#)

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

Keyword [dissemination of EU information](#) | [documentation](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [EU budget](#) | [EU expenditure](#) | [EU finance](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EU investment](#) | [EU strategy](#) | [European construction](#) | [European Fund for Strategic Investments](#) | [European Investment Bank](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financing and investment](#) | [multiannual financial framework](#) | [summarising](#)

Summary Created after the start of the current multiannual financial framework (MFF), the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) aims to trigger additional investment worth €500 billion in crucial sectors of the EU's economy that suffer from market failures and sub-optimal investment situations. Another major objective is to improve access to finance for European companies, with a special focus on smaller businesses. The functioning of EFSI relies on a strategic partnership with the European Investment Bank Group, which can approve and finance investment operations with a higher-risk profile than its usual portfolio, thanks to the guarantee provided by the EU budget under EFSI. For the post-2020 period, the European Commission has proposed an InvestEU Fund that should build on EFSI's results.

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

## [How the EU budget is spent: Euratom research and training programme](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-04-2019

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Budget | Research Policy

Keyword dissemination of EU information | documentation | EAEC | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electrical and nuclear industries | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENERGY | EU budget | EU expenditure | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | multiannual financial framework | nuclear energy | nuclear research | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and development | research and intellectual property | summarising | vocational training

Summary The Euratom research and training programme is an important tool that implements the European Union's nuclear policy. Its main aim is to enhance the role of the European Union as a global leader in nuclear research, while efficiently managing its nuclear market.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [How the EU budget is spent: European Fund for Sustainable Development](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-04-2019

Author SVASEK Martin

Policy area Budget | Development and Humanitarian Aid

Keyword Africa | Africa | cooperation policy | development aid | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU budget | EU expenditure | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU investment | EU programme | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | fund (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | multiannual financial framework | summarising | sustainable development

Summary The European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) is one of the EU financial instruments that promote a pro-active development aid policy. It is part of the complex European external investment plan to support investments primarily in the EU neighbourhood and Africa. The EFSD applies the same financial model as the European Fund for Strategic Investments. By 2020, it is expected to generate €44 billion in investments (based on an initial EU contribution of €4.1 billion) to help create jobs and economic opportunities, address the socio-economic causes of migration, and contribute to the achievement of the UN sustainable development goals.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [European Parliament: Facts and Figures](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 29-03-2019

Author SABBATI Giulio

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword administrative expenditure (EU) | composition of parliament | demography and population | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | electoral system | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU statistics | European election | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | gender equality | LAW | parliament | POLITICS | position of women | rights and freedoms | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summarising | turnout of voters | woman

Summary This Briefing, published by the European Parliamentary Research Service, is designed to provide key facts and figures about the European Parliament, both in the 2014 to 2019 parliamentary term now drawing to a close - and in the seven previous terms since direct elections were introduced in June 1979. On the following pages you will find graphics of various kinds which: • detail the composition of the European Parliament now and in the past; • trace the increase in the number of parties represented in the EP and evolution of political groups; • chart the rise in the number of women sitting in the Parliament; • explain the electoral systems used in elections to the Parliament across the Member States; • show how turnout in European elections compares with that in national elections; • summarise the activity of the Parliament in the 2014-19 term, and in the 2009-14 term; • present the annual cost of the Parliament compared with other parliaments; • outline the composition of the Parliament's main governing bodies. The Briefing has been updated regularly during the 2014-19 term to take account of latest developments.

Briefing [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [NL](#), [PL](#)

## South-South and triangular cooperation in Latin America

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-03-2019

Author GOMEZ RAMIREZ Enrique

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | Caribbean Islands | cooperation policy | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic analysis | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international statistics | Latin America | South-South cooperation | summarising | sustainable development | the EU's international role

**Summary** Over the past few decades, South-South and triangular cooperation (TrC) among developing countries has been acquiring increasing importance as a necessary complement to traditional North-South development cooperation. The United Nations (UN) High Level Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries held in Argentina in 1978 set the basic framework for this form of cooperation with its Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA). The model was recently modified by the UN 2030 Agenda for Development and its 17 sustainable development goals, together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for financing development cooperation. The Latin American region has been a pioneer of South-South cooperation (SSC), both bilateral and regional, as well as of TrC and SSC with other developing regions. Its various regional and sub-regional integration mechanisms, including the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Ibero-American Conference, have established their own cooperation bodies. Moreover, since 2006, this cooperation has been described in detail in an annual report on South-South cooperation in Ibero-America. The 2019 UN High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019, 40 years after the Buenos Aires Action Plan (BAPA +40), presented a unique opportunity to tailor SSC and TrC more closely to the 2030 Agenda and its sustainable development goals. The EU took part in the conference and contributed to the outcome document. The EU promotes this type of cooperation as part of its European Consensus for Development, and has launched a regional facility to this effect.

Briefing [EN](#)

## EU investment protection after the ECJ Opinion on Singapore: Questions of competence and coherence

Publication type Study

Date 25-03-2019

External author Prof. Dr. Steffen HINDELANG, LL.M., Department of Law, University of Southern Denmark, and Dr. Jurgita BAUR, Germany; and Prof. Dr. Stephan SCHILL, LL.M., Amsterdam Center for International Law, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts | International Trade | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters

Keyword Asia and Oceania | common commercial policy | dissemination of EU information | economic geography | EU competence | EU institutions and European civil service | EU investment | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | investment abroad | investment protection | opinion of the Court of Justice (EU) | Singapore | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade dispute | trade policy | United Nations | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

**Summary** Investment protection continues to be a controversial issue, as shown in particular during the negotiations on the EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). To address stakeholder concerns, the EU has moved from traditional investor-state dispute settlement arrangements towards introducing bilateral investment court systems in new agreements and pursuing the goal of establishing a permanent multilateral investment court. At the same time, the European Court of Justice defined the limits of the Union's exclusive competence in its opinion of 16 May 2017 with regard to the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which has led to the splitting of new FTAs into two parts, treating investment protection separately. Adding to the complex picture, a plethora of EU Member States' bilateral investment treaties also remain in place. The workshop held by the Committee on International Trade took stock of existing EU investment protection provisions and analysed the options for a coherent and predictable dispute settlement system in line with the EU Treaties.

Study [EN](#)

## Transnational clusters and the Danube macro-regional strategy

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-03-2019

Author VAN LIEROP Christiaan

Policy area Regional Development

Keyword aid to undertakings | business cluster | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | Danube region | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic and social cohesion | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU macroregional policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | innovation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | regional development | regions and regional policy | research and intellectual property | summarising

**Summary** As geographical concentrations of enterprises, which work together in the same field to develop a high level of expertise, services and skills, clusters are hotbeds of innovation and play an important role in the EU economy. Known as transnational clusters when they involve actors from two or more countries in the same geographical area, clusters tend to generate higher employment growth than firms located outside clusters, and are estimated to account for a significant proportion of jobs in the European Union. Linking countries from across a wide geographical region, the EU's macro-regional strategies provide a useful framework to support transnational clusters. Launched in December 2010, the EU strategy for the Danube region (EUDSR) covers 14 countries that differ both in terms of their development and their relationship with the EU, including nine EU Member States and five third countries. With one of the major challenges in the Danube region being the uneven levels of innovation performance between the highly developed western part of the region and the less-developed east, transnational clusters have the potential to help redress this balance and to increase regional competitiveness. The development of clusters is firmly supported by the EUSDR's action plan, which outlines a number of actions to foster clusters across the Danube region. This has led to several cluster projects, with a particular emphasis on the bio-based and agri-food sectors, building on the expertise of local enterprises in this field. The European Commission and academic experts have welcomed the progress made in the development of clusters in the Danube region in recent years, yet challenges remain, with issues such as funding difficulties, the lack of visibility of macro-regional strategies and declining political commitment all causes for concern. Future discussions on the content of cohesion programmes post-2020 provide a golden opportunity to highlight the potential of macro-regional strategies for fostering regional development and how transnational clusters can contribute to this process. This briefing has been produced at the request of a member of the Committee of the Regions, in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between the Parliament and the Committee.

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

## The EU fruit and vegetable sector: Main features, challenges and prospects

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-03-2019

Author ROSSI Rachele

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | agricultural activity | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | aid to agriculture | common organisation of markets | dissemination of EU information | documentation | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU direct payments | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-EU trade | fruit | horticulture | labelling | marketing | marketing standard | operational programme | plant product | regions and regional policy | summarising | TRADE | trade policy | vegetable

**Summary** Fruit and vegetables accounted for approximately 14 % of the total value of the EU's agricultural production in 2018. This is a fundamental sector for many EU Member States, especially those where it is particularly well developed, such as in the Mediterranean region and in some northern and eastern European countries. Moreover, all EU Member States produce at least a few types of fruit and vegetables. Apples and tomatoes are the main products of the richly diversified produce of the EU's fruit and vegetable farms. Mostly small-sized with relatively high labour input, these farms earn incomes ranging from average (for fruit specialists) to very high (for horticulture specialists, including also flower and ornamental plant production). EU trade in fruit and vegetables is characterised by the predominance of internal over external flows, where the EU is traditionally a net importer. To strengthen the resilience of both the fruit and vegetable sector and its operators, and to boost the consumption of their produce, the EU has in place a comprehensive support system, especially through the regulatory framework for the common organisation of the markets in agricultural products. Rules on producer organisations and their operational programmes, crisis management and marketing standards, help the functioning of the sector, with additional support from the EU school fruit and vegetables scheme, as well as from the EU promotion and quality policies, income support and rural development measures, valid for all agricultural sectors. Recently passed EU legislation has already brought in important adjustments for the fruit and vegetable sector and no further major policy changes are currently anticipated. It will be its capacity to overcome its structural vulnerability and weak organisation, adopt innovation and respond to consumer needs that will shape its future.

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

## Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - March 2019

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 11-03-2019

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Agriculture and Rural Development | Budget | Budgetary Control | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Taxation

Keyword agri-foodstuffs | agri-foodstuffs | AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | common agricultural policy | Council of the European Union | digital economy | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic policy | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU budget | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU publication | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | multiannual financial framework | programme budgeting | public finance and budget policy | sustainable development | tax avoidance | taxation

Summary In this edition of the newsletter, Jean Arthuis and Ingeborg Gräßle, Chairs of the BUDG and the CONT committees respectively, present the priorities of both committees and describe several examples of good joint efforts made in the course of the legislative term. Other issues dealt with in this edition include performance based budgeting, sustainable development, taxation, agriculture and cooperation with the Council. Forthcoming publications and events are also announced.

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

## Establishment of a European monetary fund (EMF)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 06-03-2019

Author SCHEINERT CHRISTIAN

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic analysis | Economic and Monetary Union | economic conditions | economic recession | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Monetary Fund | European Stability Mechanism | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | impact study | monetary economics | monetary relations | proposal (EU) | summarising

Summary The European Commission's proposal for transforming the intergovernmental European Stability Mechanism (ESM) into a European monetary fund (EMF) under EU law would provide it with wide-ranging tasks. The ESM was created at the height of the European sovereign debt crisis in order to provide financial assistance for governments that had lost, or were about to lose, access to financial markets. It was established outside the Community framework by an intergovernmental treaty and is a permanent rescue mechanism aimed at safeguarding the financial stability of the euro area. The proposal met with considerable opposition at Council level, as the Council wishes to maintain the ESM's intergovernmental character, and would expand its remit only slightly. The European Parliament, whose legislative powers are limited within the consent procedure, will vote on an interim report in plenary.

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

## EU policies – Delivering for citizens: The migration issue

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 27-02-2019

Author APAP Joanna | RADJENOVIC Anja

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Development and Humanitarian Aid

Keyword asylum seeker | criminal law | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | EUROPEAN UNION | fight against crime | illegal migration | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | migrant | migration | opinion poll | organised crime | refugee | right of asylum | social affairs | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summarising | trafficking in human beings

Summary Refugee movements and migration are at the centre of global attention. In recent years, Europe has had to respond to the most severe migratory challenge since the end of the Second World War. The unprecedented arrival of refugees and irregular migrants in the EU, which peaked in 2015, exposed a series of deficiencies and gaps in EU policies on asylum, external borders and migration. In response to these challenges, the EU has embarked on a broader process of reform aimed at rebuilding its asylum and migration policies based on four pillars: reducing the incentives for irregular migration by addressing its root causes, improving returns and dismantling smuggling and trafficking networks; saving lives and securing the external borders; establishing a strong EU asylum policy, and providing more legal pathways for asylum-seekers and more efficient legal channels for regular migrants. The record migratory flows to the EU witnessed during 2015 and 2016 had subsided by the end of 2017 and 2018. However, in order to deliver what the Commission calls an effective, fair and robust future EU migration policy, the EU, based on the Treaties and other legal and financial instruments, has been implementing both immediate and longer-term measures. Europe, due to its geographic position and its reputation as an example of stability, generosity and openness against a background of growing international and internal conflicts, climate change and global poverty, is likely to continue to represent an ideal refuge for asylum-seekers and migrants. This is also reflected in the growing amounts, flexibility and diversity of EU funding for migration and asylum policies inside as well as outside the current and future EU budget. See also the parallel Briefing on 'EU support for democracy and peace in the world', PE 628.271.

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

Multimedia [The migration issue](#)

## Digitalisation in railway transport: A lever to improve rail competitiveness

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-02-2019

Author SCORDAMAGLIA Damiano

Policy area Industry | Transport

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | communications | competitiveness | customers | digital technology | dissemination of EU information | distributive trades | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | impact of information technology | information technology and data processing | Internet of Things | land transport | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | rail transport | summarising | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | TRANSPORT

Summary Since the 1990s, digitalisation has been advancing at speed across all industrial sectors, public entities and society at large; and railways are no exception. Digital technologies already govern rail customers' expectations, ticket reservation and purchasing habits, operators' information and payments systems, but experts believe these technologies have much more to offer the sector. Digitalisation is key to industry competitiveness and has therefore become an EU priority. The EU has been forging a cross-policy approach and programmes to ensure a solid policy framework, finance research and infrastructure, develop standards and connectivity, and use data effectively. This should enable rail actors to capture digitalisation's potential, improve their efficiency and serve their customers better. The European Parliament has been contributing to this policy. Rail companies have already implemented a vast array of new services and applications using digital technologies, be it for providing more information and leisure services on board, improving the monitoring of their assets or automating more operations. The changes introduced by digitalisation in rail transport are perceived by many stakeholders as an opportunity – owing to the benefits it can offer – but also as a challenge. Indeed, it will require a change of mindsets and business models. Rail digitalisation will also require financial investment and a strategy to tackle cyber threats. Addressing these challenges will allow digitalisation to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of the railway sector.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Fintech (financial technology) and the European Union: State of play and outlook

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-02-2019

Author KARAKAS Cemal | STAMEGNA CARLA

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword communications | consumer protection | consumption | data protection | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic banking | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institution | financial institutions and credit | financial legislation | financial services | free movement of capital | information and information processing | information security | information technology | information technology and data processing | innovation | monetary economics | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | summarising | TRADE | virtual currency

Summary The financial technology (fintech) sector encompasses firms that use technology-based systems either to provide financial services and products directly, or to make the financial system more efficient. Fintech is a rapidly growing sector: in the first half of 2018, investment in fintech companies in Europe alone reached US\$26 billion. The fintech sector brings rewards including innovation and job creation, but also challenges, such as data and consumer protection issues, and the risk of exacerbating financial volatility or cybercrime. To tackle these multi-disciplinary challenges, policy- and lawmakers in the European Union (EU) have adopted and announced several initiatives, for instance on intra-EU payment services, data protection, crowdfunding and regulatory sandboxes. This briefing outlines current and upcoming fintech-related laws at EU level. It follows on from a March 2017 EPRS briefing that focused, inter alia, on the evolution, scope and economic prospects of fintech.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Credit servicers, credit purchasers and the recovery of collateral: Fostering secondary markets for non-performing loans (NPLs) and easing collateral recovery

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-02-2019

Author STAMEGNA CARLA

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank | civil law | credit institution | credit policy | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic conditions | economic recession | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial risk | financial solvency | free movement of capital | LAW | loan | monetary economics | proposal (EU) | summarising

Summary Due to the recessions brought about by the financial crisis from the end of the past decade, more and more EU companies and citizens have faced economic difficulties in recent years and have been unable to repay their loans. As a consequence, many EU banks have accumulated high volumes of non-performing loans (NPLs) in their balance-sheets. Although almost halved in comparison to December 2014, the ratio between NPLs and the total loans extended by EU banks (NPL ratio) remains historically high when measured against the ratios of other advanced economies. High levels of NPLs require banks to hold higher amounts of regulatory capital and pay a risk premium on liquidity markets, as a result of which their profitability and growth prospects diminish. To tackle this issue, a number of different initiatives have been adopted both at national and EU level. Within this context, in March 2018 the Commission adopted a comprehensive package of measures including a proposal for a directive aimed at fostering NPL secondary markets and easing collateral recovery from secured loans.

Briefing [EN](#)



## [Access to legal remedies for victims of corporate human rights abuses in third countries](#)

Publication type Study

Date 01-02-2019

External author Dr. Axel Marx, Dr. Claire Bright, Prof. Dr. Jan Wouters, Ms. Nina Pineau, Mr. Brecht Lein, Mr. Torbjörn Schiebe, Ms. Johanna Wagner, Ms. Evelien Wauter

Policy area Human Rights

Keyword access to the courts | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | cooperation policy | criminal law | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU policy | European construction | European undertaking | EUROPEAN UNION | help for victims | human rights | information analysis | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | jurisdiction | justice | LAW | multinational enterprise | organisation of the legal system | right to justice | rights and freedoms | the EU's international role | third country

Summary European-based multinational corporations can cause or be complicit in human rights abuses in third countries. Victims of corporate human rights abuses frequently face many hurdles when attempting to hold corporations to account in their own country. Against this backdrop, judicial mechanisms have increasingly been relied on to bring legal proceedings in the home States of the corporations. This study attempts to map out all relevant cases (35 in total) filed in Member States of the European Union on the basis of alleged corporate human rights abuses in third countries. It also provides an in-depth analysis of 12 cases and identifies various obstacles (legal, procedural and practical) faced by claimants in accessing legal remedy. On the basis of these findings, it makes a number of recommendations to the EU institutions in order to improve access to legal remedies in the EU for victims of human rights abuses by European based companies in third countries.

Study [EN](#)

## [Understanding public responses to low carbon technologies](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 30-01-2019

External author DG, EPRS

Policy area Consumer Protection | Energy | Environment | Industry | Research Policy

Keyword air quality | clean technology | climate change policy | deterioration of the environment | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENERGY | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU institutions and European civil service | EU policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | green economy | greenhouse gas | information analysis | participatory democracy | political framework | POLITICS | politics and public safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public opinion | renewable energy | social affairs | social participation | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | soft energy | technology and technical regulations

Summary This report reviews different models and frameworks that explain public responses to low carbon technologies (LCTs). Based on insights from literature, it highlights the need for a multidimensional perspective to understand the complexities surrounding public acceptance or opposition to LCTs. It also proposes two key solutions for how public responses can be better accommodated in a way that engenders support from the public: by integrating social and values-based aspects in planning, and by ensuring procedural justice in technology deployment. Reflecting on these, policy options are drawn for how these solutions might help contribute to delivering better approaches in engaging the public in the low carbon transition.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [EU preparedness against CBRN weapons](#)

Publication type Study

Date 29-01-2019

External author Elisande NEXON, Senior Research Fellow, and Claude WACHTEL, Independent Consultant, Associate Senior Research Fellow, Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique (FRS), France

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Security and Defence

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common security and defence policy | crisis management | defence | dissemination of EU information | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | geopolitics | humanities | international conflict | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | management | NATO | SCIENCE | weapon of mass destruction | world organisations

Summary The European Union faces an increasingly challenging security environment, with a climate of international instability and a level of tension not seen since the end of the Cold War. Repeated chemical attacks by both State and non-state actors in the context of the Syrian conflict, the Novichok attack in Salisbury and the disruption of two ricine terror plots in Germany and in France in 2018 came all as stark reminders that the threat remains real and that Member States could be affected. In this context, the European Union (EU) continues to strengthen its capacities in the field of CBRN preparedness and response. The use of EU mechanisms and Member States' military assets is one of the possibilities for strengthening prevention capacities that must be explored more thoroughly.

Study [EN](#)

## [EP democracy support activities and their follow-up, and prospects for the future](#)

Publication type Study

Date 18-01-2019

External author Holly Ruthrauff, Hannah Roberts, Sarah Crozier

Policy area Democracy

Keyword civil society | cooperation policy | democracy | dissemination of EU information | economic geography | election monitoring | electoral procedure and voting | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | freedom of opinion | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | human rights movement | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | the EU's international role | third country | Ukraine | Western Balkans

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

[Study EN](#)

## [Misuse of Interpol's Red Notices and impact on human rights – recent developments](#)

Publication type Study

Date 17-01-2019

External author Dr. Rasmus H WANDALL, Dan SUTER, Gabriela IVAN-CUCU

Policy area Human Rights

Keyword civil society | data protection | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | EUROPEAN UNION | human rights | human rights movement | information analysis | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Interpol | LAW | neutrality | non-governmental organisation | non-governmental organisations | OSCE | political refugee | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | world organisations

**Summary** International organisations continue to report the abuse by some states of Interpol's Notice System to persecute national human rights defenders, civil society activists and critical journalists in violation of international standards of human rights. Available case studies, written reports and interviews with organisations working in the field confirm the reported abuses. Recent Interpol reforms have made significant impact on safeguarding individuals both substantially and procedurally. Nevertheless, and especially considering the significant increase in the number of Notices and Diffusions in the Interpol system, reforms remain to be fully implemented and transparency and enforcement mechanisms continue to leave room for improvement. Taking as a point of departure the responses from the EU institutions and bodies, and EU Member States, the study recommends taking further steps for Interpol to ensure full implementation of recent reforms, a fully transparent system and consistent legal and procedural safeguards for individuals in the Interpol Notice System..

[Study EN](#)

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - January 2019](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 14-01-2019

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Economics and Monetary Issues | International Trade | Petitions to the European Parliament | Transport

Keyword America | consumption | cultural heritage | culture and religion | dissemination of EU information | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European cultural event | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial supervision | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | heritage protection | international trade | political geography | product quality | promotion of the European idea | public procurement | reduction of gas emissions | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sustainable mobility | TRADE | trade policy | trade relations | TRANSPORT | transport policy | 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](#)

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

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 10-12-2018

Policy area [Budget](#) | [Education](#) | [Employment](#) | [Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity](#) | [Human Rights](#)

Keyword [criminal law](#) | [dissemination of EU information](#) | [documentation](#) | [economic geography](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [employment](#) | [EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS](#) | [EP Committee](#) | [EU finance](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EU publication](#) | [Europe](#) | [European construction](#) | [European Structural and Investment Funds](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [jurisdiction](#) | [LAW](#) | [organisation of the legal system](#) | [political geography](#) | [recognition of vocational training qualifications](#) | [sexual violence](#) | [tax avoidance](#) | [tax evasion](#) | [taxation](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [VAT](#) | [withdrawal from the 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](#)

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

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 12-11-2018

Policy area [Budget](#) | [Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law](#) | [Culture](#) | [Employment](#) | [International Trade](#)

Keyword [Asia and Oceania](#) | [bibliography](#) | [cooperation agreement \(EU\)](#) | [cooperation policy](#) | [dissemination of EU information](#) | [documentation](#) | [economic cooperation](#) | [economic geography](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [EP Committee](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [Japan](#) | [trade cooperation](#)

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](#)

## [Workshop: The European Parliament and the new external financing instruments](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 05-11-2018

External author [Marie-Cécile CADILHAC](#), [Dr Alexei JONES](#), Senior Policy Officer in the European Centre for Development Policy Management

Policy area [Development and Humanitarian Aid](#) | [Foreign Affairs](#)

Keyword [budget](#) | [budgetary discharge](#) | [democratic deficit](#) | [dissemination of EU information](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [economic policy](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EU aid](#) | [EU finance](#) | [EU financing](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [European construction](#) | [European Parliament](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [impact study](#) | [multiannual financial framework](#) | [proposal \(EU\)](#) | [the EU's international role](#)

Summary The workshop hosted discussions on the European Parliament and the current external actions instruments, as well as on the role of the European Parliament under the new proposal for a Neighbourhood, development and international cooperation instrument.

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

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - December 2017](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 11-12-2017

Policy area [Area of Freedom, Security and Justice](#) | [Budget](#) | [Development and Humanitarian Aid](#) | [Employment](#) | [Transport](#)

Keyword [bibliography](#) | [collaborative economy](#) | [dissemination of EU information](#) | [documentation](#) | [economic structure](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [employment](#) | [EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS](#) | [EP Committee](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [labour market](#) | [non-standard employment](#) | [online platform worker](#) | [social protection](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [social security](#)

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](#)

## [Making the market for bus and coach transport work better](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-11-2017

Author REMAC Milan

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Transport | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword bus | carriage of passengers | common transport policy | dissemination of EU information | EC Regulation | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | freedom to provide services | international transport | land transport | organisation of transport | road cabotage | TRANSPORT | transport licence | transport market | transport policy

Summary Regulation 1073/2009 lays down the rules applicable to access to the international market for coach and bus services. Research of available documentation shows that there are various challenges to the present system that limit harmonisation in this particular field, including differences in rules on access to national markets across Member States, different openness of national markets and diverse national arrangements negatively influencing free provision of services in the field of transport. The European Parliament has called on the European Commission to ensure the completion and improved operation of the internal market for the transport by road of passengers and freight. Similarly, the European Economic and Social Committee has called for changes in this field. The European Commission published its legislative proposal amending the regulation on 8 November 2017.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - November 2017](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 13-11-2017

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget | Internal Market and Customs Union | International Trade | Transport

Keyword bibliography | common commercial policy | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | fair trade | FINANCE | financing and investment | international commercial arbitration | international trade | investment protection | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy | trade relations

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](#)

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - October 2017](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 02-10-2017

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budgetary Control | Culture | Education | Foreign Affairs | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword accounting | auditing | bibliography | budget | budgetary control | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU budget | EU finance | EU financing | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | multiannual financial framework

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](#)

## [Communication policy](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-10-2017

Author ISKRA Katarzyna Anna

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Petitions to the European Parliament

Keyword access to EU information | communications | dissemination of EU information | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | EU institutions and European civil service | European citizenship | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | parliament | participatory democracy | petition | political framework | POLITICS | promotion of the European idea | public consultation | social affairs | social participation | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Communication policy is not governed by specific provisions in the Treaties, but stems naturally from the EU's obligation to explain its functioning and policies, as well as 'European integration' more generally, to the public. The need for effective communication has a legal basis in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, which guarantees the right of all citizens to be informed about European issues. Since its formal launch in 2012, the new European Citizens' Initiative has allowed citizens to become more directly involved in new legislation and European issues.

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

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - September 2017](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-09-2017

Policy area Budget | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs | Petitions to the European Parliament | Transport

Keyword America | bibliography | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | Cuba | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENERGY | energy policy | EU competition policy | EU energy policy | EU institutions and European civil service | EU publication | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | health | health care system | national budget | political geography | public finance and budget policy | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the 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](#)

## [LIBE legislative mapping - Systematic overview of EU legislation on Civil liberties, Justice and Home affairs](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 28-08-2017

Author SY Sarah Salome

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword access to EU information | area of freedom, security and justice | communications | dissemination of EU information | documentary tool | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | Internet site

Summary The European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs is developing the LIBE Legislative Mapping Project, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE).

This long-term project consists of a comprehensive up-to-date overview of existing and emerging EU legislation and related information in the field of justice and home affairs (JHA) in the form of an online tool for MEPs and their staff.

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

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - July 2017](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 03-07-2017

Policy area Budgetary Control | Energy | Fisheries | Foreign Affairs | Industry | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Research Policy

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | bibliography | common fisheries policy | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU publication | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | fisheries | withdrawal from the 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](#)

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - June 2017](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-06-2017

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budgetary Control | Education | Environment | Security and Defence

Keyword bibliography | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU publication | EUROPEAN UNION

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](#)

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - May 2017](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-05-2017

Policy area Budget | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Employment | Foreign Affairs | Transport

Keyword bibliography | common foreign and security policy | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION

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](#)

## Youth Employment Initiative: Lessons from Implementation

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-04-2017

External author Andrea Meierkord

Policy area Budget | Employment | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Social Policy

Keyword administrative formalities | dissemination of EU information | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU finance | EU financing arrangements | EU initiative | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | fight against unemployment | integration into employment | POLITICS | youth employment | youth unemployment

Summary This note provides an overview of the design, outputs and first outcomes of the Youth Employment Initiative. It analyses its strengths and weaknesses concluding with a number of recommendations to increase accessibility and effectiveness.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - April 2017

Publication type At a Glance

Date 04-04-2017

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget | Economics and Monetary Issues | Security and Defence

Keyword activity report | bibliography | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | interinstitutional relations (EU) | monetary economics | powers of the EP | single monetary policy

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](#)

## Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - March 2017

Publication type At a Glance

Date 13-03-2017

Policy area Budgetary Control | Consumer Protection | Education | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs

Keyword allocation of seats | bibliography | composition of parliament | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | operation of the Institutions | parliament | POLITICS

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](#)

## Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - February 2017

Publication type At a Glance

Date 13-02-2017

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget | Budgetary Control | Culture | Employment | Foreign Affairs | Regional Development | Security and Defence | Social Policy

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | agricultural activity | agricultural policy | agricultural situation | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | animal product | beef | bibliography | cattle | common agricultural policy | dairy production | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | livestock farming | means of agricultural production | milk product | processed agricultural produce

Summary The Monthly Highlights newsletter features publications on EU cattle sector, Brexit, Russia, drug policy, EU agencies and structural and investment funds.

At a Glance [EN](#)



## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - January 2017](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-01-2017

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budgetary Control | Culture | Education | Environment | International Trade

Keyword America | bibliography | committee of inquiry | deterioration of the environment | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental standard | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | INDUSTRY | infringement of EU law | mechanical engineering | motor vehicle industry | motor vehicle pollution | parliament | political geography | POLITICS | pollution control measures | 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](#)

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - December 2016](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-12-2016

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget | Environment | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence | Transport

Keyword bibliography | citizens' Europe | common security and defence policy | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security

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](#)

## [Research for the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development in 2016](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-12-2016

Author BREUER Marcus Ernst Gerhard

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword agricultural policy | agricultural structures and production | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | bibliography | common agricultural policy | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | farming sector | policy on agricultural structures | regions and regional policy | rural development

Summary Compilation of research papers made for the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development in 2016 by the Policy Department B.

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

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - November 2016](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-11-2016

Policy area Budgetary Control | Economics and Monetary Issues | Fisheries | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights | Intellectual Property Law

Keyword bibliography | committee of inquiry | criminal law | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | free movement of capital | LAW | money laundering | parliament | parliamentary inquiry | POLITICS | tax avoidance | tax evasion | taxation

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](#)

## [International aviation agreements](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-11-2016

Author DEBYSER Ariane

Policy area Transport

Keyword administrative transparency | air and space transport | air transport | dissemination of EU information | EP resolution | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | interinstitutional relations (EU) | international affairs | international agreement | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | POLITICS | transparency in decision-making | TRANSPORT

Summary To tackle the challenges currently facing international air transport and, in particular, the increased competition from third countries, the European Commission adopted a new aviation strategy for Europe in December 2015, placing a strong emphasis on international aviation agreements.

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

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - October 2016](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 24-10-2016

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget | Employment | Fisheries | International Trade

Keyword bibliography | citizens' Europe | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | free movement of persons | international law | LAW

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](#)

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - September 2016](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-09-2016

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budgetary Control | Culture | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Economics and Monetary Issues | Education

Keyword bibliography | citizens' Europe | cultural policy | culture and religion | dissemination of EU information | documentation | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | education policy | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

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](#)

## [Research for CULT Committee - Europe for Citizens: New Programme Implementation – First Experiences](#)

Publication type Study

Date 07-07-2016

External author Irina JEFFERIES and Bradford ROHMER

Policy area Culture | Education

Keyword access to EU information | administrative cooperation | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | citizens' Europe | dissemination of EU information | EU finance | EU financing arrangements | EU institutions and European civil service | EU programme | European construction | European integration | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | management | POLITICS | project evaluation | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | twinning

Summary The present study is intended to research first experiences with the implementation of the Europe for Citizens (EfC) programme 2014–2020. The study provides an overview of the current implementation of the programme and aims to contribute to an understanding of what works well in the present iteration of the EfC programme and what are the main areas of concern for applicants and beneficiaries. The analysis is based on 24 interviews with the National Contact Points of the Programme, located in the Member States.

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

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - July 2016](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 04-07-2016

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget | Budgetary Control | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Employment | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Foreign Affairs | Forward Planning | Security and Defence | Social Policy | Transport | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword access to EU information | bibliography | culture and religion | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic and social cohesion | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | heritage protection | political propaganda | POLITICS | politics and public safety | powers of the EP | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

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](#)

## Is CETA a mixed agreement?

Publication type At a Glance

Date 01-07-2016

Author SCHOELLMANN Wilhelm

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword America | Canada | competence of the Member States | dissemination of EU information | economic geography | EU competence | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign investment | free-trade agreement | GEOGRAPHY | interim agreement (EU) | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international trade | interpretation of the law | investment protection | justice | LAW | mixed agreement | political geography | preliminary ruling procedure | signature of an agreement | sources and branches of the law | TRADE | trade agreement (EU)

Summary The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with Canada is currently being translated into the EU's official languages. Once the translations are available, the European Commission can propose that the Council sign and conclude the agreement on behalf of the European Union. It is not yet decided whether the agreement in its entirety would fall under the exclusive competence of the European Union or would also touch upon Member States' competences. In the latter case, ratification by the Member States would also be necessary for the agreement to come into force. The Commission's proposal is expected on 5 July 2016. If the Commission presents a proposal for an 'EU-only' agreement, the Council would need unanimity to change this.

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

## Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - June 2016

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-06-2016

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Budget | Environment | Human Rights | Petitions to the European Parliament

Keyword bibliography | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | human rights | LAW | powers of the EP | rights and freedoms

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](#)

## Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - May 2016

Publication type At a Glance

Date 09-05-2016

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget | Consumer Protection | Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Foreign Affairs | Internal Market and Customs Union | Transport

Keyword bibliography | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU budget | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | multiannual financial framework

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](#)

## Estimates of Parliament's 2017 budget

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-04-2016

Author D'ALFONSO Alessandro

Policy area Budget

Keyword administration of the Institutions | administrative expenditure (EU) | administrative transparency | budget | budget estimate | communications | data protection | dissemination of EU information | documentation | draft budget (EU) | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic document management | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | parliament | parliamentary allowance | personnel administration | personnel management and staff remuneration | POLITICS | public relations

Summary The budget of the European Parliament (EP), which accounts for less than 1.2% of the EU general budget, covers the administrative expenditure that ensures the functioning of an institution with 751 Members and 24 official languages. On 14 April 2016, the plenary is scheduled to vote on a report defining the priority objectives and proposed budget of the EP for next year.

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

## Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - April 2016

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-04-2016

Policy area Budget | Industry | International Trade | Petitions to the European Parliament | Regional Development

Keyword bibliography | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | parliament | petition | POLITICS

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](#)

## Tax Rulings and Other Measures Similar in Nature or Effect

Publication type At a Glance

Date 02-02-2016

Author PATERNOSTER Dario

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Forward Planning | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword bibliography | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | control of State aid | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European tax cooperation | EUROPEAN UNION | exchange of information | FINANCE | information and information processing | tax law | tax system | taxation

Summary Which advice can scientific expertise and policy experience offer to EU institutions and decision-making as they attempt to combine national (tax) preferences and EU-wide reforms in the tax field? What are the features of tax rulings in general and of the tax rulings practices in various EU Member States? What are the challenges that EU tax policy makers will face as they move towards a more transparent tax environment and enhance the automatic exchange of (tax) information? Which options of reform are available to counter profit shifting and tax base erosion, in particular for services and non-tangible goods? Do state aid rules always have a role to play in this context? As EU main trading partners do not have a state aid regime in place, what are the economic implications for the EU of a wide adoption of OECD's action plan on base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS)? This leaflet provides a compilation of papers in these areas, prepared by the European Parliament's Policy Department A: Economic and Scientific Policy.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## Implementation of the European Progress Microfinance Facility

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-12-2015

Author DELIVORIAS Angelos

Policy area Employment | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword administrative formalities | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | corporate finance | dissemination of EU information | economic structure | ECONOMICS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU finance | EU financing arrangements | EU institutions and European civil service | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financing and investment | integration into employment | job creation | micro-enterprise | microfinance | microloan | POLITICS | self-employment | social economy

Summary The European Parliament will discuss in Plenary the European Commission 2013 report on the implementation of the European Progress Microfinance Facility for employment and social inclusion, a programme that aims to increase the availability of microcredit and which, as of 2014, has been integrated into the umbrella programme for social change and innovation (EaSI).

At a Glance [EN](#)

## European Parliament Eurobarometer 2015. Part II – The Parlemeter of the European Parliament

Publication type Study

Date 30-11-2015

Author NANCY Jacques

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword citizens' Europe | culture and religion | dissemination of EU information | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European identity | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union membership | image | opinion poll | POLITICS | politics and public safety | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This analytical overview contains the second part of the Parlemeter survey (EB/PE 84.1) conducted in the 28 EU Member States by TNS opinion, between 19 and 29 September 2015. The first part of the survey was dedicated to migration and the economic and social situation, whereas this second part deals more specifically with the European Parliament and issues such as the sense of attachment and belonging to the European Union, identity, citizenship, priority policies and values.

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

## [Welfare systems and labour markets \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-09-2015

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Employment | Social Policy

Keyword directory | dissemination of EU information | documentation | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | fight against unemployment | labour market | labour market | national accounts | poverty | social affairs | social integration | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social security | welfare

**Summary** The welfare systems and labour markets of EU member states have been under severe stress during the recent recession which has seen high unemployment and increased poverty rates. In response, many countries have launched structural reforms in these areas in an attempt to promote economic growth and reduce the persistently high unemployment as well as to lower the pressure on public finances from ageing populations. Social protection and inclusion is a priority for the European Union. In its Europe 2020 strategy, the European Commission sets targets to lift at least 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion and to increase employment of the population aged 20-64 to 75%. This note offers a selection of recent studies by some of the major think tanks and research institutes analysing the state of welfare system and labour markets in the EU as well as reforms needed to overhaul them.

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

## [EU development policy \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-09-2015

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid

Keyword ACP-EU relationship | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | development aid | development policy | directory | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | the EU's international role

**Summary** During his annual 'State of the Union' speech on 9 September in Strasbourg, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, called for a bolstering of European development policy. He urged member states to increase their development aid spending and announced the creation of a 1.8 billion euro trust fund for Africa. The European Union's development policy is a key instrument in its relations with the outside world, with the objective of eradicating poverty in a context of sustainable development. However, the Union and many of its member states are reducing, rather than increasing, their development aid budgets in real terms, at a time of financial pressure. This note provides background to this discussion, by bringing together a selection of recent analyses and studies by major international think tanks and research institutes on development policy and related issues, with hyperlinks to the texts concerned.

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

## [Migration \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 04-09-2015

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Global Governance | Human Rights

Keyword directory | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | EUROPEAN UNION | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | Mediterranean Sea | migration | migratory movement | natural environment | political asylum | refugee | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** The European Union is facing a migration crisis as hundreds of thousands of refugees try to reach Europe, fleeing war, oppression and poverty in Syria and other parts of the Middle East as well as Africa and Asia. The unprecedented scale of migration and a rising death toll of people during their journeys is forcing EU governments and institutions to respond. The Luxembourg presidency of the Council has convened justice and home affairs ministers for an emergency Council meeting on 14 September to discuss the EU response to migratory pressures and demands for international protection. Effective handling of migration is a priority for the European Commission, at a time when the Dublin Regulation governing the EU's approach to asylum is under severe pressure. This note offers links to a series of recent commentaries and studies on migration in the EU from major international think tanks and research institutes. More papers on the same topic can be found in a previous edition of 'What think tanks are thinking' published in April.

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

## [EU policy on climate change \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-08-2015

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Environment

Keyword climate change policy | deterioration of the environment | directory | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENERGY | energy efficiency | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | global warming | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | renewable energy | soft energy | the EU's international role | UN Conference

Summary Tackling climate change caused by greenhouse gas emission is high on the European Union's agenda as negotiations on a global climate deal enter their final phase ahead of the December international conference COP21 in Paris. The EU's policy on climate change is among the most ambitious in the world. It aims to limit global warming to 2° C above pre-industrial average temperature levels. To achieve this, the EU is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% below 1990 levels by 2020, while improving energy efficiency by 20% and increasing the share of renewable energy sources to 20% of final consumption. This 'At a glance' note gathers recent studies by major international think tanks on EU climate policies and efforts to reach a climate agreement in Paris.

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

## [The EU's Southern Neighbourhood \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 31-07-2015

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword cooperation policy | directory | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Mediterranean third countries | migration | regional cooperation | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The European Union's relations with Mediterranean countries form part of a broader European Neighbourhood Policy. This creates a framework for bilateral and regional cooperation with Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia. A key element, agreed in 2011 following the 'Arab Spring' uprisings in the region, is the 'more for more' approach, which envisages closer relations in terms of financial assistance, travel and trade for those countries that pursue democratic and economic reforms. According to many analysts, the effectiveness of the policy has been challenged by political instability in many countries of the region and the growth of illegal migration to Europe. This 'At a glance' note highlights a selection of recent studies by major international think tanks on the EU's Southern Neighbourhood Policy, with papers on migration grouped as a separate category.

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

## [European Union trade policy \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 13-07-2015

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area International Trade

Keyword America | common commercial policy | directory | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign trade | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | political geography | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy | trade relations | United States | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary International trade is an area where the European Union has an unquestionable global clout. It is the world's biggest trading bloc while trade policy is an exclusive power of the EU. The EU faces numerous challenges in the trade area, notably talks on the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership (TTIP), an agreement with the United States, the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA), an accord currently being negotiated by 24 members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and, in general reviving the Doha Round of world trade negotiations. On 8 July, the European Parliament approved its recommendations on TTIP to EU trade negotiators. This note offers links to recent studies and reports from major international think tanks on EU trade policies, divided into a section devoted to TTIP, the most pending current trade issue and other trade matters.

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



## [EU-China relations \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 03-07-2015

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | China | directory | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | international trade | investment policy | TRADE | trade relations

Summary At their 17th summit in Brussels on 29 June, China and the European Union agreed to strengthen relations by seeking to boost mutual investment and increasing efforts to reach a global climate deal later this year. On his first visit to the EU institutions, Premier Li Keqiang also promised that China would contribute to the EU's new infrastructure fund. The EU and China are major trading partners, but their relations have been complicated by China's track-record on human rights as well as issues related to competition and currency policies. This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on the relations between China and the EU.

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

## [Unemployment in the EU \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 26-06-2015

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Employment | Social Policy

Keyword directory | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU employment policy | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | fight against unemployment | job creation | labour market | labour market | unemployment

Summary Unemployment in the euro zone and the whole European Union has been inching down for many months, adding to signs of economic recovery, but remains well above levels recorded before the start of the financial crisis in 2008. The seasonally-adjusted euro area unemployment rate was 11.1 percent in April 2015 down from 11.7 percent in the same month last year. The EU-28 rate was 9.7 percent in April 2015, compared with 10.3 percent in April 2014. There are significant differences among member states in the jobless rate, which was 4.7 percent in Germany in April 2015 and 25.4 percent in Greece. The slow decline in current unemployment levels and the fact that, even before the crisis, unemployment was much higher in the EU than in many other regions of the world are attributed by some economists to certain labour market issues. High joblessness, especially among young people, is now considered a major social and economic problem, prompting calls for reform. Boosting what is the still sluggish economic growth and increasing the number of jobs are a key priority for European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. This note highlights a selection of commentaries and studies by major international think tanks and research institutes on labour market issues, with hyperlinks to the texts concerned.

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

## [The ECB's 'unorthodox' monetary policy \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 19-06-2015

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bond | coordination of EMU policies | directory | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | free movement of capital | monetary economics | monetary relations | single monetary policy

Summary In March 2015, the European Central Bank (ECB) launched its quantitative easing (QE) programme, the so-called Public Sector Purchase Programme, under which the ECB buys financial assets from euro-area banks, corporations or governments. This 60 billion euro per month scheme is aimed at putting downward pressure on bond yields, warding off deflationary risks, and generally, stimulating the economy by lowering the interest rate carried by various financial instruments. According to many analysts, the ECB's action has helped to contain deflation and lowered the borrowing costs of euro zone countries previously encountering sovereign debt problems. The ECB's critics say its unorthodox actions, which followed similar operations by the US Federal Reserve, the Bank of England and the Bank of Japan, could still stoke inflation over the mid-term. The European Court of Justice ruled on 17 July that the crisis-fighting plan of the ECB to buy government bonds in potentially unlimited quantities was legal. This note offers a selection of recent studies, reports and commentaries by some of the major think tanks and research institutes analysing the question of QE and other ECB policies.

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

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

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-06-2015

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession to the European Union | Asia and Oceania | directory | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EU institutions and European civil service | EU relations | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | parliamentary election | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | Türkiye

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

At a Glance [EN](#)

## Institutional and Constitutional Aspects of Special Interest Representation

Publication type Study

Date 15-06-2015

External author David Coen and Alexander Katsaitis (School of Public Policy, University College London, the UK)

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Forward Planning

Keyword access to EU information | application of EU law | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | conflict of interest | consultancy | decision-making | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU policy - national policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | financial interests of members | INDUSTRY | information service | interest group | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | labour law and labour relations | management | miscellaneous industries | non-governmental organisation | non-governmental organisations | parliament | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | politics and public safety | professional association | public hearing | transparency in decision-making

Summary The European Parliament is lobbied by growing numbers of special interests; their activity is greater in Committees dealing with issues on integration & regulation, and procedures under OLP, CNS and INI. Significantly, the density and diversity of accredited interests across committees mirrors patterns observed in registered groups across Commission DGs. Based on a survey of MEPs the report notes variation in the activity of interest groups across the policy cycle while influential groups are considered those that provide a mix of European level technical and political expertise; overall the Transparency Register is considered to improve the behaviour of interest representatives.

Study [EN](#)

## Assessment of Trade Defence Policy decisions for 2014

Publication type Study

Date 10-06-2015

External author Dr Edwin VERMULST

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Foreign Affairs | Global Governance | Industry | International Trade

Keyword activity report | anti-dumping legislation | anti-subsidy proceeding | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | China | common commercial policy | competition | dissemination of EU information | documentation | dumping | economic geography | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | international commercial arbitration | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | international trade law | LAW | planned economy | TRADE | trade policy | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary This paper assesses two vital issues concerning the EU's trade defence activities. The first aspect concerns a transparency issue and the second pertains to the practical application of the trade defence instruments. On the first aspect, the paper concludes that the Annual Report issued by the European Commission to the European Parliament on trade defence activities needs a fundamental revision in terms of structure, content and timing of its issuance. In its current format the Annual Report fails to serve the purpose for which it was conceived in the first place. As regards the practical application of the trade defence instruments, the paper demonstrates that certain recent changes in the European Commission's practice are target-oriented. Moreover, apart from the fact that the legality of certain practices is not assured, some of the new practices could backfire against EU exporting producers if third countries, which tend to emulate the EU's practice, were to adopt them.

Study [EN](#)

## [EU reform of corporate tax rules \[What Think Tanks are Thinking\]](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 01-06-2015

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword corporation tax | criminal law | directory | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European tax cooperation | EUROPEAN UNION | exchange of information | FINANCE | information and information processing | LAW | tax avoidance | tax evasion | tax harmonisation | tax law | taxation

**Summary** The European Commission held an orientation debate on 27 May on updating corporate taxation rules to make them fairer, more transparent, more growth-friendly and better shielded against abuse. The discussion will feed into an Action Plan, to be presented in June, which is expected to reopen the discussion on a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base in the EU. On March 18, the Commission presented its Tax Transparency Package, which strengthens the exchange of information between Member States on their tax rulings. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has made the fight against tax avoidance and evasion a top priority, as reports that large corporations use aggressive cross-border accounting practices to lower their tax obligations have sparked controversy. This note highlights a selection of blog posts, commentaries and studies by major international think tanks and research institutes on reforms of EU taxation rules, with hyperlinks to the texts concerned.

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

## [Eastern Partnership after five years \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 26-05-2015

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Belarus | Caucasus countries | directory | dissemination of EU information | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Latvia | LAW | Moldova | political geography | Russia | summit meeting | territorial law | Ukraine

**Summary** The European Union reaffirmed on 22 May its commitment to developing closer political and economic relations with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine under its Eastern Partnership programme. At a summit in Riga, Latvia, participants said in a declaration they would work together to strengthen democracy, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. Facing continued confrontation between Russia and Ukraine, the EU confirmed its support to the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of all its partners. A selection of commentaries and analyses by major international think tanks on Eastern Partnership and its future are listed below, with hyperlinks to the texts concerned:

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

## [The EU's prominent antitrust cases \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-05-2015

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Consumer Protection | Economics and Monetary Issues | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | control of restrictive practices | directory | dissemination of EU information | documentation | dominant position | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU competition policy | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION

**Summary** The European Commission is pursuing a number of high-profile investigations in the competition area, highlighting the determination of the new team at the European Union's executive to be a tough enforcer of antitrust laws. Last month, the Commission sent a Statement of Objections to Google, alleging the company has abused its dominant position in the markets for general internet search services. In another Statement of Objections sent out in April, it alleges that some of Gazprom's business practices in Central and Eastern European gas markets constitute an abuse of the Russian company's dominant market position. This note offers links to commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on the Google and Gazprom cases, as well as on general challenges facing EU competition policies.

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

## [European economic governance \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 31-03-2015

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword coordination of EMU policies | directory | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | monetary economics | monetary relations | publication

**Summary** The 2008-09 financial crisis and the ensuing recession have prompted the euro area and the European Union to start overhauling their economic governance system. They established three authorities to better supervise the financial markets, improved mechanisms to oversee and coordinate fiscal policies, created procedures to correct economic imbalances, and launched a Banking Union. The euro-area countries created rescue funds for countries in economic trouble. The reform process continues and is high on the EU agenda for the first half of 2015. The European Council in December 2014 called for further steps to improve economic governance, tasking the President of the European Commission, helped by the President of Euro Summit, President of the Eurogroup and the President of the European Central Bank to draft a report on further steps. The four Presidents published an analytical note in February, suggesting that economic governance needs further, profound changes or the euro zone may face continued high unemployment and low growth. The note posed questions to EU heads of state and government about future reforms. A full report is to be published ahead of the EU summit in June. The European Parliament is currently finishing work on the report on economic governance (Berès report). In his speech to an informal European Council meeting in February, EP President Martin Schulz called for a full involvement of the Parliament, on equal footing with other institutions, in the ongoing analysis of the needed reforms. The think tank community is currently holding a lively debate on euro governance and a wider discussion on the way the EU should be run. This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports on the topic from major international think tanks and research institutes.

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

## [Common Security and Defence Policy \(CSDP\) \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-03-2015

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword common security and defence policy | defence | directory | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Council | European defence policy | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | President of the Commission | publication

**Summary** The recent interview by Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, in which he advocated 'a joint EU army' as a means to strengthen European foreign policy and 'allow Europe to take on responsibility in the world' has revived an on-going debate in think-tank and academic circles about how to maximise the effectiveness of existing national and Europe-wide efforts in the field of Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). The European Council adopted an extensive set of conclusions on the subject in December 2013. This note highlights a selection of recent studies, reports and commentaries by some of the major international think tanks and research institutes that analyse issues surrounding the development of CSDP.

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

## [Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world, 2013](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-03-2015

Author APAP Joanna

Policy area Democracy | Human Rights

Keyword activity report | common foreign and security policy | democracy | dissemination of EU information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | human rights | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | parliament | parliamentary scrutiny | political framework | POLITICS | powers of the EP | rights and freedoms | the EU's international role | UN General Assembly | United Nations

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

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

## [Communicating Europe to its Citizens: State of Affairs and Prospects](#)

Publication type Study

Date 14-11-2014

External author Natasha Stroeker, Amber van der Graaf and Bert-Jan Buiskool (Panteia)

Policy area Education | Forward Planning

Keyword civil society | communications | communications policy | dissemination of EU information | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | EU situation | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | euroscepticism | GEOGRAPHY | information and information processing | means of communication | POLITICS | politics and public safety | promotion of the European idea | public opinion | source of information

Summary This study examines how 'Europe', both in terms of institutions and values, is communicated to its citizens. It seeks to explain the main trends in public perception, assesses the communication strategy of relevant actors and finally provides recommendations for future actions to be taken.

Study [EN](#)

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

## [Openness, Transparency and Access to Documents and Information in the European Union](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-11-2013

External author Henri Labayle (Université de Pau et des pays de l'Adour, France)

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword access to EU information | case law (EU) | citizens' Europe | Council of Europe | Council of the European Union | dissemination of EU information | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | European construction | European organisations | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | right to information | rights and freedoms

Summary The Treaty of Lisbon updates the terms under which the principles of transparency and openness clarify the right of public access to documents in the European Union. This right is both a fundamental right of individuals and an institutional principle. The revision of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, which sets out the arrangements for this, is influenced, to a large extent, by the numerous interpretations from the Court of Justice of the European Union, particularly during the last five years. Observation of the practice followed by the EU institutions and the broad lines of the practices followed nationally indicate that EU law needs to undergo extensive revision, with the aim of both leveraging the case law experience acquired and bringing itself up to date.

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

## [Performance-Based Full Policy Cycle for the Digital Single Market](#)

Publication type Study

Date 09-10-2013

External author Patrice MULLER (Project Director), Gavan CONLON, Shaan DEVNANI and Claire BÉNARD (London Economics)

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword benchmarking | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | communications | decision-making | dissemination of EU information | drafting of EU law | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU initiative | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | impact study | information technology | management | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | project evaluation | quantitative analysis | research and intellectual property | single market | technology and technical regulations

Summary A benchmarking exercise of a number of Digital Single Market policy initiatives recently proposed by the European Commission against the performance-based policy model shows that the current policy development and assessment process could be improved markedly by following the performance-based policy model set out in the present study. The key features of a performance-based full policy cycle are a clear articulation of policy objectives, the identification and use of quantitative indicators of expected short-term and longer-term policy impacts, the identification of synergies between policies, a much greater use of quantitative data in ex-ante impact assessments, the implementation of robust, data-based, independent ex-post assessments of the performance of policies relative to their expected impacts and a wide dissemination of lessons learned in such ex-post performance assessments.

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

## European Single Point of Contact

Publication type Study

Date 15-07-2013

External author Charlotte Duke, Mark Lewis, Claire Bernard and Gavan Conlon (London Economics)

Policy area Consumer Protection | Research Policy

Keyword access to information | centralisation of information | communications | consumer information | consumption | dissemination of EU information | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic government | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | information and information processing | Internet site | POLITICS | search engine | TRADE

Summary The objective of this research study is to discuss the features and value added of a European single point of contact. The large number of European level online services combined with an extensive range of services at national level generates complexity in identification of the most appropriate services, and in understanding their different competencies. Such complexity leads to low levels of awareness, with 91.6% of consumers and businesses not knowing of any online services at European level they could turn to in case of problems. This study analyses the possibility of introducing a European single point of contact and the benefits that may accrue to European citizens and businesses of improved access to online services.

Study [EN](#)

## SMEs in the Cohesion Policy Management Cycle

Publication type Study

Date 15-04-2013

External author CSIL Centre for Industrial Studies (Italy) and PPMI Public Policy and Management Institute (Lithuania)

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues | Internal Market and Customs Union | Regional Development

Keyword administrative formalities | audit | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | corporate finance | dissemination of EU information | economic and social cohesion | electronic government | EU finance | EU financing arrangements | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial instrument | financing and investment | free movement of capital | management | POLITICS | small and medium-sized enterprises | Structural Funds

Summary This study explores the specific challenges faced by SMEs and SME support entities when they access and take advantage of funding made available through the Cohesion Policy. On the basis of a literature review, six case studies, an e-survey and in-depth interviews, this study tries to identify the critical issues encountered by SMEs and their support entities along all the phases of the Cohesion Policy programme and project management cycle, from programming to implementation. It draws conclusions about the improvements that are needed in order to ensure that SMEs take optimal advantage of Structural Funds and puts forward specific recommendations for the Committee on Regional Development of the European Parliament.

Study [EN](#)

## Preparing for complexity - European Parliament in 2025 Going global, going local, going digital

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 09-04-2013

Keyword access to EU information | administrative transparency | citizens' Europe | culture and religion | dissemination of EU information | economic geography | enhanced cooperation | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | EU situation | European construction | European identity | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | GEOGRAPHY | governance | POLITICS | politics and public safety | powers of the EP | powers of the institutions (EU) | public awareness campaign | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | the EU's international role

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

## The Relationship between the Commission Acting as Guardian of the EU Treaties and Complainants : Selected Topics

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 16-04-2012

External author Stine Andersen (Kromann Reumert)

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword application of EU law | civil law | Court of Justice of the European Union | dissemination of EU information | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | infringement of EU law | LAW | liability

Summary This briefing note addresses three topics concerning the relationship between the Commission acting as Guardian of the EU Treaties and complainants. First, it investigates the link between non-contractual liability and the Commission's discretion under Article 258 TFEU. Secondly, it examines Article 258 TFEU and the introduction of EU Pilot (a confidential on-line database for communication between Commission services and Member State authorities concerning potential infringements). Finally, it discusses limitations of the procedure under Article 258 TFEU and the capability of mutual evaluation as a supplementary enforcement tool.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)



## [Development Education and Awareness Raising \(DEAR\): Towards a European strategy](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-03-2012

Author KLUGMAN-VUTZ Cornelia

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid

Keyword civil society | cooperation policy | cooperation policy | dissemination of EU information | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | non-formal education | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | social affairs | social development | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) aims to generate critical understanding of development cooperation policies and efforts, and active involvement of the public in them.

Briefing [EN](#)