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## List of publications from the EP Think Tank

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Keyword "transparency in decision-making"

167 Result(s)

Creation date : 19-04-2024

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

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-03-2024

Author HAGELSTAM Kajus | LEHOFER WOLFGANG | LOI GIACOMO

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

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

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

Briefing [EN](#)

## Enhanced political ownership and transparency of the EU economic governance framework

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 21-12-2023

Author DE LEMOS PEIXOTO SAMUEL | HAGELSTAM Kajus | LOI GIACOMO

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword administrative transparency | economic governance (EU) | EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial policy | free movement of capital | monetary economics | political responsibility | POLITICS | politics and public safety | transparency in decision-making

Summary This paper provides an overview of the role of the European Parliament in scrutinising the application and implementation of the EU economic governance framework, notably by holding Economic Dialogues with the EU executive institutions and, when applicable, with Member States' governments. We also assess the envisaged role for EU parliaments in the European Commission's economic governance reform proposals, notably as regards transparency and parliamentary involvement at EU and national level. This paper is an update of a version published in 2023.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## Transparency and integrity of environmental, social and governance rating activities

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-11-2023

Author CAPDEVILA PENALVA Josefina

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Global Governance

Keyword carbon neutrality | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental policy | EU institutions and European civil service | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | greenwashing | marketing | regulation (EU) | social affairs | social policy | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | transparency in decision-making

Summary The impact assessment uses internal and external expertise and evidence collected from targeted consultations. The problem definition is framed, the IA provides information on the extent of the regulation and the scope of conflicts of interest, the relationship between ESG rating providers and rated companies. The IA considers three options for one specific objective and two options for the other specific objective. Assessment and comparison of the options is made in terms of effectiveness, efficiency (cost-effectiveness) and policy coherence, and the impacts are assessed in qualitative and quantitative terms. A transition period with specific measures to lighten the costs is envisaged for SMEs, and benefits are expected in the medium term. In terms of competitiveness, EU providers would have to compete with unregulated third countries, and while this could affect its competitiveness, this impact is expected to be minor. The approach that the EU should take as regards a third-country regime could have been explored more in detail, however.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Artificial intelligence, democracy and elections](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 19-09-2023

Author ADAM MICHAEL

Policy area Democracy

Keyword artificial intelligence | communications | direct democracy | disinformation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | electoral system | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | information and information processing | political framework | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technological change | technology and technical regulations | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** Artificial intelligence (AI) has become a powerful tool thanks to technological advances, access to large amounts of data, machine learning and increased computing power. The release of ChatGPT at the end of 2022 was a new breakthrough in AI. It demonstrated the vast range of possibilities involved in adapting general-purpose AI to a wide array of tasks and in getting generative AI to generate synthetic content based on prompts entered by the user. In a just a few years' time, a very large share of online content may be generated synthetically. AI is an opportunity to improve the democratic process in our societies. For example, it can help citizens to gain a better understanding of politics and engage more easily in democratic debate. Likewise, politicians can get closer to citizens and eventually represent them more effectively. Such an alignment between citizens and politicians could change the face of electoral campaigns and considerably improve the policymaking process, making it more accurate and efficient. Although concerns over the use of AI in politics have been present since the late 2010s, those related to democracies and the election process in particular have grown with the recent evolution of AI. This emerging technology poses multiple risks to democracies, as it is also a powerful tool for disinformation and misinformation, both of which can trigger tensions resulting in electoral-related conflict and even violence. AI can, for example, generate false information, or spread a bias or opinions that do not represent the public sentiment. Altogether, despite its benefits AI has the potential to affect the democratic process in a negative way. Despite the above risks, AI can prove useful to democracies if proper safeguards are applied. For example, specific tools can be employed to detect the use of AI-generated content and techniques such as watermarking can be used to clearly indicate that content has been generated by AI. The EU is currently adapting its legal framework to address the dangers that come with AI and to promote the use of trustworthy, transparent and accountable AI systems.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [The use of Article 122 TFEU - Institutional implications and impact on democratic accountability](#)

Publication type Study

Date 11-09-2023

External author Merijn CHAMON

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

Keyword administrative transparency | democracy | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | interinstitutional relations (EU) | political framework | POLITICS | rule of law | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** This study, commissioned by the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the AFCO Committee, looks into the peculiar nature of Article 122 TFEU as a non-legislative legal basis pursuant to which the European Parliament is not involved in the decision-making. It concludes that the recent recourse to Article 122 TFEU was legally defensible but that the Council does not sufficiently take into account the 'without prejudice to' clause in Article 122(1) TFEU. The analysis identifies different ways to bolster Parliament's position under the current Article 122 TFEU and makes suggestions for Treaty amendment.

Study [EN](#)

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

## [Administrative cooperation in taxation \('DAC8'\)](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-09-2023

Author BAERT Pieter

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | directive (EU) | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial transparency | free movement of capital | intangible asset | monetary economics | stock exchange | tax authorities | taxation | transparency in decision-making | virtual currency

**Summary** The crypto-asset sector, while still relatively new, has already changed the world of payments and investment forever. The fast-changing and volatile nature of the sector and its growing market prominence poses challenges, however, for tax authorities, which are not always able to track the gains made from the trading of crypto-assets. The Commission's proposal to revise the directive on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation ('DAC8') seeks to set up a reporting framework that would require crypto-asset service providers to report certain information about crypto-transactions made by EU clients. Parliament is expected to vote its opinion on the proposal during its September 2023 plenary session.

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

## [EU Transparency Register: 2021 interinstitutional agreement](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 29-08-2023

Author KOTANIDIS Silvia

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword administrative transparency | decision-making body (EU) | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | financial transparency | interinstitutional relations (EU) | political framework | POLITICS | power of decision | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** The European Parliament set up its Transparency Register in 1995, in response to criticism regarding the transparency and accountability of the EU's decision-making process in the context of widespread lobbying of the EU institutions. The Commission followed suit in 2008. The two institutions merged their instruments in a joint European Transparency Register in 2011 on the basis of an interinstitutional agreement (IIA); the Council remained only an observer at that time. This original Transparency Register was a voluntary system of registration for entities seeking to influence the EU decision-making process. Following a political review, a new improved registration system was introduced in January 2015. However, Parliament continued to call for a mandatory register for lobbyists interacting with the EU institutions, to ensure better standards for lobbying and more transparency. The Parliament, Council and Commission eventually agreed an Interinstitutional Agreement on a Mandatory Transparency Register, which entered into force on 1 July 2021. This time, the Council became a signatory to the agreement rather than just an observer. The new IIA is based on the conditionality principle and introduces other new features, including a reinforced structure for the follow up and management of the IIA. While introducing some principles to enhance a common culture of transparency, the IIA leaves the three signatories to implement the conditionality and subsequent complementary measures as they see fit. This updates and expands on a briefing of May 2016, by Marie Thiel and Elisabeth Bauer.

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

## [Reforming rules to protect Parliament's integrity](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 05-07-2023

Author KOTANIDIS Silvia

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword administrative transparency | common foreign and security policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | interinstitutional relations (EU) | international law | LAW | POLITICS | servant (EU) | territorial law | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** During the July 2023 plenary session, Members will vote on the own-initiative report of the ING2 special committee laying down recommendations to strengthen Parliament's rules on transparency, integrity, accountability and countering corruption, in the context of protecting it from foreign interference.

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

## [Mapping best practices on transparency, integrity, accountability and anti-corruption: Case studies from selected parliaments](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 26-05-2023

External author Igor VIDAČAK; Senada ŠELO ŠABIĆ

Policy area Democracy | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs | Global Governance

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | corruption | criminal law | EU body for police and judicial cooperation | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | financial analysis | financial transparency | interest group | LAW | management | POLITICS | politics and public safety | prevention of delinquency | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** This analysis explores examples of best practices from selected parliaments in the areas of transparency, integrity, accountability and anti-corruption, and reflects on the effectiveness of the analysed approaches and their possible applicability for the European Parliament (EP). Findings confirm the need for the establishment of an independent European Union (EU) ethics body, granted investigative and enforcement powers with full transparency of enquiries, decisions and/or proposals as a pre-condition for its effectiveness and regaining citizens' trust in the work of EU institutions. Stricter rules should be applied for Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and EP staff regarding post-employment lobbying activities, along with more comprehensive and consistent disclosure of data on meetings with lobbyists, including foreign (third country) entities. In addition, mandatory training for all MEPs on integrity, transparency, accountability and anti-corruption standards should be introduced. Finally, more effective mechanisms of citizens and civil society engagement in the EP work should be introduced as a way of further strengthening the EP's accountability and improving its responsiveness to citizens' concerns.

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

## [Independence and transparency policies of the European Food Safety Authority \(EFSA\)](#)

Publication type Study

Date 13-04-2023

External author Ellen VOS, Annalisa VOLPATO, and Guido BELLENGHI

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Coronavirus | Environment | Industry | International Trade | Public Health

Keyword conflict of interest | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Food Safety Authority | EUROPEAN UNION | food safety | food security | health | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | labour law and labour relations | self-sufficiency in food | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | transparency in decision-making

Summary This study has been commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies, Directorate-General for Internal Policies at the request of the ENVI Committee. It analyses EFSA's independence and transparency policies and examines how legislative provisions have been implemented by EFSA and whether rules and practices adopted by EFSA can be improved.

Study [EN](#)

## [Debt sustainability analysis as an anchor in EU fiscal rules](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 21-03-2023

External author P. HEIMBERGER

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword economic governance (EU) | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial policy | financial transparency | financing and investment | fiscal policy | free movement of capital | monetary economics | monetary relations | public investment | taxation | transparency in decision-making

Summary The Commission's reform orientations propose that debt sustainability analysis (DSA) should serve as an anchor in EU fiscal rules. After discussing the main assumptions of DSAs in projecting public debt ratios, we analyse four critical aspects in designing such a reform: making judgement calls with regard to DSA assumptions; ensuring transparency and democratic legitimacy; promoting public investment in the context of climate goals; and tackling cross-border effects of fiscal policy, in particular related to the euro area dimension. This document was provided/prepared by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the ECON Committee.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Legal loopholes and the risk of foreign interference](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 05-02-2023

External author Kate JONES

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs

Keyword administrative transparency | civil defence | common foreign and security policy | democracy | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | fundamental rights | impact study | interference | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | political framework | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | transparency in decision-making

Summary There is ample evidence that malign foreign actors are engaging in foreign interference in the politics and democracy of the European Union (EU) and its Member States. Much of this foreign interference escapes identification or censure by exploiting loopholes in the EU's legislative and policy acquis. This in-depth analysis identifies some of those loopholes and proposes measures to close them. An EU focal point would significantly improve the EU's capacity to investigate and respond strategically to foreign interference, its strategic drivers and related financial flows. Foreign interference should be restricted by criminalisation, sanctions and a ban on foreign involvement in third-party election campaigning. Legitimate foreign influence should be made more transparent by enhancements to the EU Transparency Register and stricter 'revolving door' requirements. To minimise online manipulative practices, political candidates and incumbents should formally pledge to avoid them, the public relations industry should be encouraged to scrutinise its ethical codes and a compendium could be prepared with a view to eventual restrictions. In all these activities, the EU should take care to ensure that its measures are compatible with fundamental rights and do not have the impact of shrinking civil space.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Background information for the CONT public hearing on 'Cohesion policy investments and Next Generation EU recovery fund: state of play of the monitoring and controls'](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-01-2023

Author HAASE Diana

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword administrative transparency | budget | budgetary control | Cohesion Fund | documentation | economic analysis | economic and social cohesion | economic conditions | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial instrument | financial transparency | free movement of capital | monitoring report | POLITICS | statistics | transparency in decision-making

Summary The Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) held a public hearing on 23 January 2023, with the aim to analyse whether the delays with cohesion partnership agreements have affected the level of monitoring and controls of the spending in Member States. The topic of this public hearing was broad and encompassed concepts of two policy areas/instruments that are both unique and very complex in themselves. This briefing provided background information about key concepts and elements (including monitoring, reporting and control) that had been found to be relevant during the preparatory phase of the hearing, to facilitate the debate and help better understand both the similarities and the differences between these instruments.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Is there a 'retail challenge' to banks' resolvability? What do we know about the holders of bail-inable securities in the Banking Union?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 19-11-2022

External author T. Farina, J.P. Krahnen, I. Mecatti, L. Pelizzon, J. Schlegel, T.H. Tröger

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword administrative transparency | budget | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU banking union | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial control | financial supervision | free movement of capital | monetary economics | own resources | POLITICS | transparency in decision-making | venture capital

Summary To ensure the credibility of market discipline induced by bail-in, neither retail investors nor peer banks should appear prominently among the investor base of banks' loss absorbing capital. Empirical evidence on bank-level data provided by the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority raises a few red flags. Our list of policy recommendations encompasses disclosure policy, data sharing among supervisors, information transparency on holdings of bail-inable debt for all stakeholders, threshold values, and a well-defined upper limit for any bail-in activity.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Better regulation: Joining forces to make better laws](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 29-06-2022

Author LECERF Marie

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword administrative transparency | drafting of EU law | EU institutions and European civil service | EU policy | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | legislative procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | regulatory policy | transparency in decision-making

Summary The purpose of better regulation is to make European Union laws and policies simpler, more targeted and easier to comply with. Since the early 2000s, better lawmaking has been high on the European agenda, and in April 2021 the European Commission published a new communication on better lawmaking. Parliament will debate and vote on the JURI committee's report on this communication during the July plenary session.

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

## [Artificial intelligence act and regulatory sandboxes](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-06-2022

Author MADIEGA Tambiama André

Policy area Industry

Keyword artificial intelligence | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | innovation | market stabilisation | national implementing measure | new technology | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | regulation (EU) | research and intellectual property | software | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | trade policy | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** The artificial intelligence act envisages setting up coordinated AI 'regulatory sandboxes' to foster innovation in artificial intelligence (AI) across the EU. A regulatory sandbox is a tool allowing businesses to explore and experiment with new and innovative products, services or businesses under a regulator's supervision. It provides innovators with incentives to test their innovations in a controlled environment, allows regulators to better understand the technology, and fosters consumer choice in the long run. However, regulatory sandboxes also come with a risk of being misused or abused, and need the appropriate legal framework to succeed. In April 2021, the European Commission presented a proposal for a regulation laying down harmonised rules on AI (the 'artificial intelligence act' or 'AI act'). Academics and stakeholders have commented on the proposal, touching, in particular, on issues regarding the lack of liability protection for sandbox participants, the need for a more harmonised approach to AI regulatory sandboxes, and the interplay between AI sandbox and EU data protection rules. The European Parliament has called for introducing regulatory sandbox instruments in several resolutions. Its April 2022 committee draft report on the AI act argued for more transparency on the implementation and use of AI sandboxes.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Access to justice in environmental matters: Amending the Aarhus Regulation](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 21-03-2022

Author HALLEUX Vivienne

Policy area Environment

Keyword access to information | access to the courts | disclosure of information | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental law | environmental monitoring | environmental policy | EU environmental policy | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | international affairs | international convention | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | justice | LAW | proposal (EU) | regulation (EU) | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** The European Union is party to the Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. The Aarhus Regulation applies the Convention's provisions to EU institutions and bodies. In 2017, the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee, reviewing implementation by the parties, found that the EU fails to comply with its obligations under Article 9, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the convention concerning access to justice by members of the public. To address this non-compliance issue, on 14 October 2020 the European Commission put forward a legislative proposal to amend the Aarhus Regulation. The Council and Parliament adopted their positions on 17 December 2020 and 20 May 2021, respectively. Interinstitutional negotiations, launched on 4 June 2021, concluded on 12 July with a provisional agreement. Parliament approved the agreed text on 5 October 2021. The regulation was published in the Official Journal on 8 October 2021, and entered into force on 28 October 2021. Fourth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Climate change, environment and health - Citizens' recommendations and the EU context: Panel 3 of the Conference on the Future of Europe](#)

Publication type Study

Date 28-02-2022

Policy area Environment

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | climate change | decision-making | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU environmental policy | EU institutions and European civil service | EU national | European citizens' initiative | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | health policy | international law | LAW | management | participatory democracy | political framework | POLITICS | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** In the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe, four European Citizens' Panels have discussed the development of European integration in broad subject areas. For each of the 51 recommendations put forward by European Citizens' Panel 3: Climate change, environment and health, the present paper sets out a selection of the most recent and relevant European Parliament resolutions on the matter and looks at existing EU legislation and other EU funding programmes, supporting and coordinating actions. However, this paper is not intended to serve as an exhaustive list of all European Parliament resolutions and EU-level action in the area, but rather aims at feeding debate and discussion during the Conference plenary.

Study [EN](#)



## [The role \(and accountability\) of the President of the Eurogroup](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 27-01-2022

Author HAGELSTAM Kajus | LEHOFER WOLFGANG | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword Economic and Monetary Union | EU institutions and European civil service | Eurogroup (euro area) | European Ombudsman | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | governance | monetary economics | monetary relations | POLITICS | transparency in decision-making

Summary This note provides an overview of the role and mandate of the Eurogroup and the role and accountability of its President, including the procedures for his/her appointment. In addition, this note refers to the debate around the transparency of Eurogroup proceedings. The paper will be updated in light of relevant developments.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [How to stress-test EU policies - Building a more resilient Europe for tomorrow](#)

Publication type Study

Date 24-01-2022

Author FERNANDES MEENAKSHI | HEFLICH ALEKSANDRA

Policy area European Added Value

Keyword administrative transparency | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | crisis management | drafting of EU law | EU institutions and European civil service | EU policy | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | management | OECD | parliament | parliamentary scrutiny | POLITICS | transparency in decision-making | world organisations

Summary Policy-makers are seeking to 'future proof' policies in order to be better prepared for disruptive and unanticipated events. The application of foresight methods such as stress-testing can help achieve this goal. This study introduces a methodology for the European Parliament to stress-test legislation. The method can be integrated into existing law-making and scrutiny processes in the European Parliament. It draws on lessons learnt and recommendations stemming from independent research that encompassed a comprehensive review of reports and research studies, and in-depth research on four countries (Finland, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United Kingdom), as well as a pilot-test for three policy areas (robotics and artificial intelligence, information and consultation of workers, and competition policy – State aid).

Study [EN](#)

## [Sustainability provisions in EU free trade agreements: Review of the European Commission action plan](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 19-11-2021

Author TITIEVSKAIA Jana

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | civil society | climate change policy | cooperation policy | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | free-trade agreement | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | labour law and labour relations | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | POLITICS | politics and public safety | ratification of an agreement | settlement of disputes | social partners | South Korea | sustainable development | third country | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | transparency in decision-making

Summary Sustainability-related provisions are a key part of international trade negotiations. Since the free trade agreement (FTA) signed with South Korea in 2009, EU trade deals each include dedicated trade and sustainable development (TSD) chapters encompassing issues such as environment, labour rights, climate change and responsible business conduct. In an effort to step up implementation and enforcement of these chapters, in 2018 the Commission published a non-paper setting out a 15-point action plan. In the new trade strategy, the 2021 Trade Policy Review, the Commission signalled the early launch of a review of the action plan and held an exchange of views with the European Parliament in July 2021. Parliament has long been an advocate for stronger enforcement and implementation of TSD commitments. In the three years since the action plan's launch, the Commission – in cooperation with Member States, EU institutions, stakeholders and international organisations – has advanced on many of the proposed actions. For instance, EU funding was mobilised to support civil society engagement and responsible business conduct. Assertive enforcement of TSD commitments materialised in the form of a concluded dispute with South Korea on labour issues. The establishment of the EU chief trade enforcement officer has strengthened the Commission's enforcement capabilities. Provisions on climate change, including a reference to the Paris Agreement, and widened labour provisions are all part of recent trade negotiations. However, the action suggesting extending the scope of civil society input beyond the TSD chapters to trade agreements as a whole has so far mainly only been reflected in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and the United Kingdom. Meanwhile, the objective of early ratification of the fundamental International Labour Organization conventions continues to be challenging with many partner countries.

Briefing [EN](#)



## Lobbying and foreign influence

Publication type Briefing

Date 19-10-2021

Author BAUER Elisabeth | THIEL Marie

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs

Keyword administrative transparency | communications | disinformation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | interest group | interference | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | POLITICS | politics and public safety | transparency in decision-making | trends of opinion

**Summary** Lobbying and foreign influence are normal, integrated activities in modern public policy-making and geopolitics. When these influencing activities are covert or illicit in nature, however, they can be damaging to public image and levels of public trust in our democratic societies and their institutions, including those of the EU. Although not a modern concept, the frequency and extent of covert influence activities by third countries have been increasing since the mid-2010s. In the EU, this has taken the form of disinformation attacks on the EU, hidden agendas pushed by foreign funded academic think-tanks and funding of Member State political parties by authoritarian regimes, all with the aim of undermining the legitimate decision-making processes and political structures in and of the EU. The term foreign interference is often utilised to differentiate between legitimate influencing activities, such as diplomatic relations, and activities with the intention to disrupt. As this is not an exact science, however, it is also often difficult to distinguish between foreign influence and foreign interference activities. While interference tactics are often coercive, covert, deceptive, and clandestine in nature, influence activities can be made more transparent, thereby making it easier to differentiate between interference and the more legitimate influence activities. In light of the aforementioned growing foreign interference efforts, the EU considers foreign interference tactics as a serious threat and is taking steps to monitor and mitigate them, by, for example, setting up specific bodies or committees, especially in the context of EU elections. In parallel, the EU is also trying to improve the transparency of foreign influence activities. One such measure is broadening the scope of the Transparency Register, a public database of the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission, for the registration of transparent and ethical interest representation activities. According to the latest OECD report on lobbying, only three OECD nations (the USA, Australia and Canada) have rules in place that cover foreign influence. On the back of a new Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA) on a mandatory Transparency Register, however, the EU looks set to join those three nations.

Briefing [EN](#)

## New European Commission communication on Better Regulation: Joining forces to make better laws

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-05-2021

Author ANGLMAYER Irmgard | VETTORAZZI STEFANO

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword documentation | drafting of EU law | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | POLITICS | regulatory policy | report | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** Better Regulation ensures that EU policies and laws are prepared in an open, transparent manner, informed by the best available evidence and backed by comprehensive stakeholder involvement so that they achieve their objectives at minimum cost. It is a dynamic agenda that has gradually evolved in the European Commission since the early 2000s. Today's Better Regulation agenda covers the whole policy cycle. It was shaped under the Juncker Commission presidency, which formally declared it a priority, with the aim of strengthening the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of its actions across all policy areas. The comprehensive Better Regulation package of 2015 presented a strategy, guidelines and a toolbox, and established the Regulatory Scrutiny Board as the Commission's regulatory oversight body. It also paved the way for the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making (IIA-BLM) concluded by the Commission, Parliament and Council in April 2016, and which, inter alia, defines their respective roles and responsibilities in the regulatory process. Following a revision in 2017, the Commission took stock of the Better Regulation agenda in 2019, concluding that in a post-fact world, evidence-based policy-making remains an imperative. The long-awaited new Commission communication, adopted on 29 April 2021, draws lessons from the Better Regulation stocktaking review. At the same time, it sets out a policy-making framework that aims at supporting post-crisis recovery and the twin digital and green transformation, in line with the Commission's intention to advance the Better Regulation agenda further, with 'future-proof legislation that can stand the test of time'.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Understanding trilogue: Informal tripartite meetings to reach provisional agreement on legislative files

Publication type Briefing

Date 19-05-2021

Author DEL MONTE Micaela

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword Council of the European Union | Court of Justice of the European Union | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | European Ombudsman | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | ordinary legislative procedure | powers of the institutions (EU) | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** Thanks to successive Treaty revisions, the European Parliament has acquired the status of legislator on an equal footing with the Council. Today the ordinary legislative procedure (Article 294 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union – TFEU), previously known as co-decision, covers a vast amount of policy areas. In order to pass legislation, Parliament, representing the EU citizens, and Council, representing the governments of the EU Member States, have to agree on an identical text, which requires time and negotiations. The complexity of the EU legislative process has been sometimes criticised for being lengthy and subject to gridlock, thus the risk of not responding to societal problems in a timely manner. To overcome this criticism, the legislators have developed informal contacts to speed up the legislative process while ensuring representativeness and oversight. One of the tools commonly used today to ensure the effectiveness of the legislative process is trilogue, defined as 'informal tripartite meetings on legislative proposals between representatives of the Parliament, the Council and the Commission'. These tripartite meetings have been the object of criticism for a number of reasons, including the fact that the number of participants is limited and that they take place beyond close doors. Due to the absence of any explicit reference in the Treaties, trilogues started on a very informal basis in the early 1990s and evolved over time. At the beginning, the institutions filled the legal void with informal practice that was subject to an increasing degree of formalisation over time and then resulted, *inter alia*, in successive modifications of Parliament Rules of Procedure (RoP). These modifications were driven by the need to ensure that trilogues efficiently support the legislative process in Parliament while remaining fully transparent and representative. Today, RoP define the key elements upon which trilogues are built, how to conduct negotiations, and how to ensure that both committees and plenary are fully informed and can exercise their oversight role. Still, some elements such as the number and frequency of meetings, the practical conduct of negotiations depend very much on the nature of the legislative file to be negotiated, and thus remain uncoded.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Reform of the Comitology Regulation

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-03-2021

Author MAŃKO Rafał

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword comitology | committee (EU) | electoral procedure and voting | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | political framework | POLITICS | power of implementation | powers of the institutions (EU) | proposal (EU) | regulation (EU) | transparency in decision-making | vote

**Summary** On 14 February 2017, the European Commission adopted a proposal amending Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 (the 'Comitology Regulation') in order to increase the transparency and accountability of the decision-making process leading to the adoption of implementing acts. The main elements of the proposal include amending the voting rules for the Appeal Committee (AC) in order to reduce the risk of a no opinion scenario and to clarify the positions of the Member States, providing for the possibility of a further referral to the AC at ministerial level if no opinion is delivered, and increasing the transparency of the comitology procedure by making public the votes of the Member States' representatives in the AC. Following the opinions of a number of committees, submitted in the previous and current terms, on 12 October 2020, Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs adopted its report. It proposes to oblige Member States' representatives to give reasons for their vote, abstention or for any absence from the vote, and where particularly sensitive areas are concerned (consumer protection, health and safety of humans, animals or plants, or the environment), also case-specific detailed reasons for their vote or abstention. Other amendments concern better accessibility to the comitology register to increase transparency for citizens, and empowering Parliament and Council to call on the Commission to submit a proposal amending the basic act, where they deem it appropriate to review the implementing powers granted to the Commission. A partial first-reading report was adopted on 17 December 2020 in plenary and the file was referred back to the Legal Affairs Committee for interinstitutional negotiations. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## The European Ombudsman's activities in 2019

Publication type At a Glance

Date 03-03-2021

Author ATANASSOV Nikolai

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword access to information | activity report | administration of the Institutions | administrative transparency | appeal to the European Ombudsman | conflict of interest | discrimination based on disability | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Ombudsman | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | information and information processing | labour law and labour relations | LAW | POLITICS | right to information | rights and freedoms | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** At the first plenary session of March 2021, the European Parliament is set to discuss and adopt a resolution on the European Ombudsman's activities in the year 2019, based on the Ombudsman's annual report presented on 4 May 2020. The report covers the final year of Emily O'Reilly's first mandate as Ombudsman before her re-election for a second term in late December 2019.

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

## [CAN NATURE GET IT RIGHT? A Study on Rights of Nature in the European Context](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date [01-03-2021](#)

External author [Jan DARPÖ](#)

Policy area [Agriculture and Rural Development](#) | [Culture](#) | [Environment](#) | [EU Law: Legal System and Acts](#) | [Global Governance](#) | [Human Rights](#) | [Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters](#) | [Public international law](#) | [Tourism](#)

Keyword [access to information](#) | [access to the courts](#) | [Court of Justice of the European Union](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental law](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [environmental protection](#) | [EU environmental policy](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [European Convention on Human Rights](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [human rights](#) | [information and information processing](#) | [international affairs](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [justice](#) | [LAW](#) | [preliminary ruling procedure](#) | [rights and freedoms](#) | [transparency in decision-making](#)

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the JURI Committee, explores the concept of "Rights of Nature" (RoN) and its different aspects in legal philosophy and international agreements, as well as in legislation and case-law on different levels. The study delves on the ideas of rights of nature in comparison with rights to nature, legal personhood and standing in court for natural entities, and analyses ECtHR and CJEU case-law on access to justice in environmental decision-making. It emphasises, in particular, the need to strengthen the requirements for independent scientific evaluations in certain permit regimes under EU law. The study also highlights the crucial importance of promoting the role of civil society as watchdog over the implementation of EU environmental law by way of a wider access to justice via both the national courts and the CJEU, which is also in line with the political priorities for delivering the European Green Deal.

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

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

## [Nomination to the European Court of Auditors: Role of the European Parliament in the appointment procedure](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date [07-12-2020](#)

Author [KOWALD KAROLINE](#)

Policy area [Budgetary Control](#)

Keyword [appointment of members](#) | [budget](#) | [budgetary control](#) | [economic geography](#) | [EP opinion](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EU Member State](#) | [European Parliament](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [member of the Court of Auditors \(EU\)](#) | [powers of the institutions \(EU\)](#) | [transparency in decision-making](#)

Summary Members of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) are appointed by the Council, after consultation with the European Parliament. The ECA consists of 27 members, one national from each of the 27 European Union Member States. Candidates for membership are proposed by their respective Member States, and appointed for a renewable term of six years. Members are required to perform their duties in complete independence and in the general interest of the EU. This Briefing takes appointments since 2009 (the beginning of the seventh parliamentary term) as its starting-point. At the end of that legislature, Parliament adopted an important resolution detailing the principles and selection criteria for the nomination of members of the ECA, such as the requirement that members do not serve more than two terms of office. Even though the opinions delivered by the European Parliament are not legally binding, they have become a powerful tool in the appointment procedure. With the adoption of a resolution in 2014, Parliament further shaped the selection criteria it will apply when examining a candidate. The publicity surrounding these hearings and the questionnaire answered by the candidates make it difficult for the Council to over-ride any negative opinion delivered by Parliament. The analysis illustrates the extent to which Parliament's democratic scrutiny of the ECA influences the process of appointment: even though the Council has three times appointed a candidate despite an unfavourable opinion by Parliament, in two other cases, nominees withdrew their candidacy after Parliament delivered a negative opinion, and in another, the government of the Member State concerned withdrew the nomination and proposed a new candidate.

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

## [How Can the European Parliament Better Oversee the European Central Bank?](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date [30-09-2020](#)

External author [Grégory CLAEYS](#), [Marta DOMÍNGUEZ-JIMÉNEZ](#)

Policy area [Economics and Monetary Issues](#) | [EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law](#) | [Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice](#)

Keyword [Asia and Oceania](#) | [central bank](#) | [documentation](#) | [economic geography](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [Eurogroup \(euro area\)](#) | [European Central Bank](#) | [European Parliament](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [green economy](#) | [Japan](#) | [monetary economics](#) | [monetary relations](#) | [political framework](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [research report](#) | [single monetary policy](#) | [supervisory power](#) | [transparency in decision-making](#)

Summary This paper assesses how the European Parliament (EP) holds the European Central Bank (ECB) accountable. The same exercise is done for the Bank of Japan, in order to identify possible lessons for the ECB and the EP. Possible improvements to the ECB accountability framework include procedural changes to the Monetary Dialogue to increase its effectiveness, the release of detailed minutes and votes from ECB governing council meetings, and the establishment of a ranking by the EU legislators of the ECB's secondary objectives. This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON).

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

## Accountability at the Fed and the ECB

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 30-09-2020

External author Karl WHELAN

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword America | appointment of members | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Central Bank | European Council | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | interinstitutional relations (EU) | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | research report | supervisory power | transparency in decision-making | United States

Summary This paper reviews the independence and accountability of the ECB and the Federal Reserve. While the ECB makes significant efforts to be accountable for its actions, there are several improvements that could be made to European institutions to improve its independence and accountability. These include reforming the process of appointing ECB Executive Board members, improving the transparency of ECB decision-making and reforming aspects of the Monetary Dialogue to make the questioning more effective.  
This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON).

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## SSM and the SRB accountability at European level: room for improvements?

Publication type Study

Date 17-04-2020

External author René SMITS

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | monetary economics | research report | transparency in decision-making

Summary This paper sets out recommendations for enhancing the accountability arrangements in respect of the European Central Bank and the Single Resolution Board within the confines of the presently applicable legal provisions. It recommends enhancing transparency, as a precondition for accountability. Other recommendations are that the European Parliament consider engaging the ECB and the SRB in an in-depth thematic dialogue on substantive issues of a long-term relevance, and that the European Parliament expresses an interest in how accountable and responsive the ECB and the SRB are to criticism and how they approach their internal decision-making.

Study [EN](#)

## SSM and SRB accountability at European level: What room for improvements?

Publication type Study

Date 06-04-2020

External author Marco LAMANDINI, David RAMOS MUÑOZ

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | European Banking Authority | European Central Bank | European Court of Auditors | European Ombudsman | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | monetary economics | research report | transparency in decision-making

Summary This paper discusses the accountability mechanisms for the SSM and SRM. Both mechanisms' frameworks have the potential to provide strong political, administrative and legal accountability, but also present shortcomings at the level of practice, coordination, organisation and transparency. The paper identifies those and proposes some ways forward.

Study [EN](#)

## [Using technology to 'co-create' EU policies](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-01-2020

Author SGUEO Gianluca

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | impact of information technology | information technology and data processing | information technology applications | innovation | policymaking | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** What will European Union (EU) decision-making look like in the next decade and beyond? Is technological progress promoting more transparent, inclusive and participatory decision-making at EU level? Technology has dramatically changed both the number and quality of connections between citizens and public administrations. With technological progress, citizens have gained improved access to public authorities through new digital communication channels. Innovative, tech-based, approaches to policy-making have become the subject of a growing debate between academics and politicians. Theoretical approaches such as 'CrowdLaw', 'Policy-Making 3.0', 'liquid', 'do-it-yourself' or 'technical' democracy and 'democratic innovations' share the positive outlook towards technology; and technology is seen as the medium through which policies can be 'co-created' by decision-makers and stakeholders. Co-creation is mutually beneficial. Decision-makers gain legitimacy by incorporating the skills, knowledge and expertise of citizens, who in turn have the opportunity to shape new policies according to their needs and expectations. EU institutions are at the forefront of experimentation with technologically innovative approaches to make decision-making more transparent and accessible to stakeholders. Efforts in modernising EU participatory channels through technology have evolved over time: from redressing criticism on democratic deficits, through fostering digital interactions with stakeholders, up to current attempts at designing policy-making in a friendly and participative manner. While technological innovation holds the promise of making EU policy-making even more participatory, it is not without challenges. To begin with, technology is resource consuming. There are legal challenges associated with both over- and under-regulation of the use of technology in policy-making. Furthermore, technological innovation raises ethical concerns. It may increase inequality, for instance, or infringe personal privacy.

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

## [Communication During Unconventional Times: The ECB's Approach](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-01-2020

External author Eddie GERBA and Corrado MACCHIARELLI

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword anti-crisis plan | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic forecasting | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | inflation | monetary crisis | monetary economics | monetary relations | single monetary policy | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** During the past five years, communication of the ECB has changed drastically, not least with the introduction of forward guidance. Against this backdrop, this note assesses how successful the central bank has been in influencing financial markets and expectations and discusses the challenges for future ECB communication. This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

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

## [Commitments made at the hearing of Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Vice-President-designate - Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-11-2019

Author Mussa Giorgio | PANIZZA Roberta

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

Keyword appointment of members | comitology | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | interinstitutional relations (EU) | oral question | parliament | parliamentary proceedings | petition | policymaking | POLITICS | public hearing | regulatory policy | transparency in decision-making | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

**Summary** This briefing includes a series of quotes, which make reference to the oral commitments made during the hearing of Vice-President-designate for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight Maroš Šefčovič.

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

## Commitments made at the hearing of Věra JOUROVÁ, Vice-President-designate - Values and Transparency

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-11-2019

Author MARZOCCHI Ottavio | PAVY Eeva

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Petitions to the European Parliament

Keyword appointment of members | communications | democracy | disinformation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European citizens' initiative | European Commissioner | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | fundamental rights | LAW | oral question | parliament | parliamentary proceedings | pluralism in the media | political framework | POLITICS | public hearing | rights and freedoms | rule of law | transparency in decision-making

Summary The Vice President-designate, Věra Jourová, appeared before the European Parliament on 07 October 2019 to answer questions from MEPs in the Committees on Constitutional affairs, Civil liberties, justice and home affairs, and Legal affairs. During the hearing, she made a number of commitments which are highlighted in this document. These commitments refer to her portfolio, as described in the mission letter sent to her by Ursula von der Leyen, President-elect of the European Commission, including: a  
- Strengthening democracy and transparency; and  
- Upholding Europe's values and rights.

Briefing [EN](#)

## The European Systemic Risk Board – Main features, mandate and accountability

Publication type Briefing

Date 19-09-2019

Author GRIGAITÉ KRISTINA | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword administration of the Institutions | EU institutions and European civil service | European Systemic Risk Board | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | free movement of capital | transparency in decision-making

Summary This briefing provides an overview of the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB), its' main features, mandate and accountability. It also includes the overview of recent review of the ESRB mission, mandate and organisation as part of the review of European System of Financial Supervision.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Is transparency the key to citizens' trust?

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-04-2019

Author BAUER Elisabeth | THIEL Marie

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword election campaign | electoral procedure and voting | EU institutions and European civil service | EU national | European citizenship | European construction | European election | EUROPEAN UNION | interest group | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | international law | LAW | opinion poll | participatory democracy | political framework | POLITICS | politics and public safety | representative democracy | rule of law | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | transparency in decision-making

Summary Trust in political institutions is a key element of representative democracies. Trust in the rule of law is also the basis for democratic participation of citizens. According to the spring 2018 Eurobarometer survey of public awareness of the EU institutions, 50 % of respondents indicated they trust the European Parliament, which represents a 34 % increase since the beginning of the 2014-2019 legislative term. A transparent political decision-making processes has become a common objective to help strengthen citizens' trust in policy-makers and enhance the accountability of public administrations. In this regard, regulation of lobbying (the exchange between policy makers and stakeholders), and bolstering the integrity of this process, is often considered a vital ingredient. Public expectations for increased transparency of the exchange between policy-makers and interest representatives varies from one political system to the next, but it has increasingly become a topic of debate for parliaments across Europe, and a regular demand during election campaigns.

At a Glance [EN](#)



## Election of the President of the European Commission: Understanding the Spitzenkandidaten process

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-04-2019

Author TILINDYTE-HUMBURG Laura

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword electoral procedure and voting | EU institutions and European civil service | European Council | European election | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | interinstitutional agreement | POLITICS | President of the Commission | transparency in decision-making | Treaty of Lisbon | turnout of voters

Summary The European Parliament has long sought to ensure that, by voting in European elections, European citizens not only elect the Parliament itself, but also have a say over who would head the EU executive – the European Commission. What became known as the 'Spitzenkandidaten process' is a procedure whereby European political parties, ahead of European elections, appoint lead candidates for the role of Commission President, with the presidency of the Commission then going to the candidate of the political party capable of marshalling sufficient parliamentary support. The Parliament remains firmly committed to repeating the process in 2019 and, with EP elections now only weeks away, attention has shifted to the European political parties. A number of parties have nominated lead candidates, and this briefing gives an overview of their nominees, as well as looking more broadly at the process. This is a revised and further updated edition of an earlier briefing; previous edition from February 2019.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Election of the President of the European Commission: Understanding the Spitzenkandidaten process](#)

## Transparency, integrity and accountability in the EU institutions

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-03-2019

Author PANIZZA Roberta

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword administrative transparency | conflict of interest | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | labour law and labour relations | POLITICS | staff regulations (EU) | transparency in decision-making

Summary This briefing provides an overview of the main tools on transparency, integrity and accountability implemented in the EU institutions and the reforms thereof.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Artificial Intelligence ante portas: Legal & ethical reflections

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-03-2019

Author KRITIKOS Michail

Policy area Democracy | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Forward Planning | Human Rights

Keyword artificial intelligence | big data | data processing | data-processing law | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | impact of information technology | information and information processing | information security | information technology and data processing | LAW | legal data processing | protection of privacy | regulation (EU) | rights and freedoms | robotics | transparency in decision-making

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

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Artificial Intelligence ante portas: Legal & ethical reflections](#)

## The Council of the EU: from the Congress of Ambassadors to a genuine Parliamentary Chamber?

Publication type Study

Date 14-01-2019

External author Olivier Rozenberg

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

Keyword Council of the European Union | EU institutions and European civil service | European Council | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | governance | institutional reform | institutional structure | interinstitutional relations (EU) | POLITICS | politics and public safety | powers of the institutions (EU) | transparency in decision-making

Summary This study commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the AFCO Committee discusses the parliamentary nature of the Council. It analyses how the Council is in between a pure parliamentary institution and a non-parliamentary one from a wide range of perspectives, for example its structure, procedure and transparency. The study recommends incremental reforms towards further parliamentarisation rather than radical ones.

Study [EN](#)



## [Review of status of the Commission's register of expert groups and their composition](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 30-11-2018

External author Roland Blomeyer, Margarita Sanz, Veronika Kubekova and Mike Beke

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword administrative transparency | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | expert group (EU) | interest group | POLITICS | politics and public safety | transparency in decision-making

Summary This report aims to provide insights into the development, since 2016, of the European Commission's system of Expert Groups, including the Register of Expert Groups, thus updating the European Parliament's study 'Composition of the Commission's expert groups and the status of the register of expert groups' (September 2015). The Update finds that the European Commission's revised Horizontal Rules, introduced in May 2016, triggered important improvements in terms of balance of interests, transparency and gender balance. Notwithstanding, there is further room for enhancing the system, and this Update recommends: further strengthening balance with a specific focus on the Expert Groups that continue to experience imbalance; further enhance transparency of Expert Group deliberations; remind Expert Groups about the requirement for gender balance; for the European Commission to report on the system and evaluate the system's performance; and to conduct further research on specific types of Expert Group members and the use of Expert Groups.

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

## [Research for REGI Committee - Conditionalities in Cohesion Policy](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 11-09-2018

External author Viorica VIȚĂ

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

Keyword cooperation policy | distribution of EU funding | economic geography | EU control | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | European Semester | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | governance | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | monetary economics | political framework | POLITICS | rule of law | stability pact | suspension of aid | transparency in decision-making

Summary This study discusses the evolution and experience of conditionalities in Cohesion policy and draws relevant policy recommendations on its future development in the light of the 2021-27 legislative proposals of the European Commission, including the proposal on a rule of law conditionality.

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

## [EP-EUI Roundtable - Role of the European Parliament in promoting the use of independent expertise in the legislative process](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 16-08-2018

Author MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Consumer Protection | Employment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Financial and Banking Issues | Forward Planning | Global Governance | Internal Market and Customs Union | Research Policy | Social Policy

Keyword administrative transparency | cooperation policy | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | expert group (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | governance | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | legislative drafting | parliamentary proceedings | political geography | POLITICS | scientific exchange | transparency in decision-making | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU

Summary This report reflects on the role of European Parliament in promoting the use of independent expertise in the European legislative process. The European Parliament has a unique model of involving independent expertise of universities and think tanks in the European legislative process to guarantee that its decisions are based on the best available evidence. The EP-EUI roundtable discussed the general framework, best practices and the way forward for involving independent expertise in the European legislative process. This document has been prepared in the framework of scientific cooperation between the European Parliament and the European University Institute.

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

## General revision of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure: Achieving greater transparency and efficiency as of January 2017

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 16-07-2018

Author KOTANIDIS Silvia

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword amendment | drafting of EU law | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | interinstitutional relations (EU) | Member of the European Parliament | parliament | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary scrutiny | parliamentary sitting | parliamentary vote | political behaviour | political group (EP) | political parties | political party | POLITICS | politics and public safety | powers of the EP | rules of procedure | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** The last general and extensive overhaul of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure, which entered into force as of 16 January 2017, was intended to bring more transparency and efficiency to parliamentary work. Among the numerous modifications, may be noted the increased attention to the conduct of Members, the streamlining of the types of thresholds for procedural requests, the increased transparency surrounding the decision to begin negotiations during the various stages of the legislative procedure, the abolition of written declarations and the modification of the maximum number of questions for written answer allowed. These and further modifications required to adapt to the 2016 Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-making were introduced to bring clarity, incorporate existing practices and correct redundancies or inconsistencies.

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

## New lobbying law in France

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-07-2018

Author BAUER Elisabeth | THIEL Marie

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword administrative formalities | administrative transparency | code of conduct | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | France | GEOGRAPHY | interest group | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | national law | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | sources and branches of the law | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** Since 1 May 2018, France's new lobbying law is fully implemented. Part and parcel of recent legislation on transparency (Sapin II package), it was adopted on 9 December 2016, providing a regulatory framework for lobbying activities and establishing a mandatory national register ('le repertoire') for lobbyists. In a step-by-step process, first, the repertoire, in which all active interest representatives must sign up, was created on 1 July 2017. After registering by 1 January 2018, interest representatives were then under the obligation to report their lobbying activities in this repertoire by 30 April 2018. The repertoire, with just over 1 00 registrants to date, is overseen by the 'Haute Autorité pour la Transparence de la Vie Publique' (HATVP). In France, the cultural acceptance of lobbying as a profession has been slow, and the new law will make a huge difference in terms of making lobbying activities public, with a regulation closely following the Irish example. The Sapin II package aims for a general increase in public accountability and transparency of the decision-making processes. Some incremental steps in this direction had been taken previously, primarily with the establishment of the HATVP in January 2014 as an independent body to oversee the integrity and transparency of the national public institutions.

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

## Revolving doors in the EU and US

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-07-2018

Author BAUER Elisabeth | THIEL Marie

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs

Keyword administrative transparency | America | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | code of conduct | economic geography | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | European official | European Ombudsman | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | GEOGRAPHY | interest group | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | labour law and labour relations | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | private sector | professional ethics | staff regulations (EU) | transparency in decision-making | United States

**Summary** The flow of officials and politicians between the public and private sector has in the past few years given rise to calls for more transparency and accountability. In order to mitigate the reputational damage to public institutions by problematic use of the 'revolving door', this phenomenon is increasingly being regulated at national level. In the United States, President Trump recently changed the rules put in place by his predecessor to slow the revolving door. As shown by press coverage, the US public remains unconvinced. Scepticism may be fuelled by new exceptions made to the rules – retroactive ethics pledge waivers – and the refusal of the White House to disclose the numbers or beneficiaries of said waivers. Watchdog organisations argue that not only has the Trump administration so far failed to 'drain the swamp', it has ended up doing quite the opposite. In the EU, where revolving door cases are increasingly being covered in the media, both the European Parliament and Commission have adopted Codes of Conduct, regulating the activities of current and former Members, Commissioners, and even staff. The European Ombudsman, Emily O'Reilly, has on numerous occasions spoken out in favour of further measures, such as 'cooling-off periods', and has carried out several inquiries into potentially problematic revolving door cases. Following calls from Parliament, the Juncker Commission adopted a new and stronger Code of Conduct for Commissioners early in 2018. Even so, no one single Code can hope to bring an end to the debate.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Implementation of the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 23-05-2018

Author TILINDYTE-HUMBURG Laura

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | interinstitutional agreement | legislative procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | transparency in decision-making

Summary On 13 April 2016, the Commission, Parliament and Council signed the Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA) on Better Law-Making, replacing its 2003 predecessor. About two years on from its entry into force, Parliament is expected to vote on an own-initiative joint report on the interpretation and implementation of the IIA during its May II plenary session. The report takes stock of progress made and identifies the main issues outstanding.

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

## [How could the Stability and Growth Pact be simplified?](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 25-04-2018

Author ANGERER Jost | HRADISKY Martin | ZOPPÉ Alice

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword economic analysis | economic governance (EU) | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | governance | institutional reform | macroeconomics | monetary economics | monetary relations | POLITICS | politics and public safety | stability pact | transparency in decision-making

Summary This note provides a summary of three external papers requested by the ECON Committee in the context of the Parliament scrutiny activities of the Euro area.  
The main objective of these papers is to advance proposals on how the fiscal rules of the Stability and Growth Pact could be simplified, in order to enhance its credibility, transparency and enforceability, while allowing some room for flexibility.  
Several EU institutions have recognised the complexity of the SGP and the consequent need for simplification: some relevant positions are reported in this note as well.

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

## [How could the Stability and Growth Pact be simplified?](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 23-04-2018

External author Carlo Cottarelli

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword debt reduction | economic analysis | economic geography | economic governance (EU) | ECONOMICS | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | euro area | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | governance | institutional reform | macroeconomics | monetary economics | monetary relations | POLITICS | politics and public safety | stability pact | transparency in decision-making

Summary The complexity of the SGP, which may have contributed to its limited effectiveness, reflects largely the conflict between the need to make the original SGP rules more stringent and the desire to allow flexibility with respect to various country circumstances. Now that the effects of the largest economic shock since the 1930s are fading away, a major simplification of the system could be achieved by removing some margins of flexibility, while possibly relaxing some of the SGP long-term parameters. The coexistence of the MTO rule and the expenditure benchmark could also be reconsidered. A more radical solution would involve shifting to a single rule in which an “operational target” would respond to deviations of public debt from its long-term objective.

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

## [The added value of the European Citizens' Initiative \(ECI\), and its revision](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 13-04-2018

Author SALM Christian

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword admissibility | communications | data protection | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU initiative | EU institutions and European civil service | European citizenship | European construction | European Ombudsman | EUROPEAN UNION | incompatibility | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | Internet | justice | LAW | legislative initiative | non-governmental organisation | non-governmental organisations | parliament | parliamentary proceedings | participatory democracy | personal data | petition | political framework | POLITICS | power of initiative | public consultation | transparency in decision-making

Summary The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) is aimed at bringing the EU closer to its citizens, by enabling them to invite the European Commission to make a proposal for a legal act. Introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon, the ECI should provide every citizen with the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union. However, the ECI in practice has had various procedural hurdles, preventing the fulfilment of the regulation's objectives. The ECI is thus not fulfilling its potential with regard to bringing the EU closer to its citizens. Against this background, the present study outlines the weaknesses in the existing ECI procedure. Moreover, it assesses, with a view to their added value, the main reform proposals that have been put forward to improve the ECI's functioning.

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

## European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 29-01-2018

Author ATANASSOV Nikolai

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

Keyword admissibility | communications | data protection | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU initiative | EU institutions and European civil service | European citizenship | European construction | European Ombudsman | EUROPEAN UNION | incompatibility | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | Internet | justice | LAW | legislative initiative | non-governmental organisation | non-governmental organisations | parliament | parliamentary proceedings | participatory democracy | personal data | petition | political framework | POLITICS | power of initiative | public consultation | transparency in decision-making

Summary The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), introduced in 2009 with the Lisbon Treaty, is a key element of participatory democracy, allowing citizens to play an active role in the EU's democratic life, through addressing a request to the European Commission to make a proposal for a legal act. The procedure and conditions for ECIs are governed by Regulation (EU) No 211/2011, in force since April 2012. In September 2017, the European Commission presented a proposal for its amendment, picking up on a number of suggestions for improvement. This is a further update of an 'at a glance' note published in July 2017: PE 608.644. For more detailed information on the proposed amendment of the ECI Regulation, please see EPRS' 'EU Legislation in progress' briefing, Revising the European Citizens' initiative, PE 614.627.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## EFSI – Extension of duration ('EFSI 2.0')

Publication type At a Glance

Date 05-12-2017

Author DELIVORIAS Angelos | PARRY Matthew

Policy area Budget | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | corporate finance | EU budget | EU finance | EU financing arrangements | EU institutions and European civil service | EU investment | European Fund for Strategic Investments | European Investment Bank | European Investment Fund | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | investment project | investment protection | management | project evaluation | small and medium-sized enterprises | transparency in decision-making

Summary On 14 September 2016, the Commission proposed to extend the duration of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) until 31 December 2020, entailing changes in its governance and financial capacity. The agreement achieved in trilogue is due to be voted during the December plenary.

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

## Implementation appraisals following the Commission Work Programme 2018

Publication type Briefing

Date 29-11-2017

Author REMAC Milan

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Consumer Protection | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Economics and Monetary Issues | Education | Employment | Energy | Environment | Fisheries | Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union | International Trade | Public Health | Regional Development | Transport | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword action programme | administrative transparency | application of EU law | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | EU activity | EU institutions and European civil service | EU situation | European Commission | European construction | European Union | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | legislative procedure | management | operation of the Institutions | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | transparency in decision-making

Summary This briefing is intended as a background overview for parliamentary committees planning their activities in relation to the European Commission's work programme 2018 (CWP). It gives (i) a brief description of the content of the work programme, and (ii) an explanation of what committees can expect in terms of implementation appraisals in the next few months from the Ex-Post Evaluation Unit in the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS). Implementation appraisals are pro-active briefings providing a succinct overview of publicly available material on the implementation, application and effectiveness to date of an EU law, drawing on input from EU institutions and bodies, as well as external organisations.

Briefing [EN](#)

## The European Ombudsman's activities in 2016

Publication type At a Glance

Date 14-11-2017

Author ATANASSOV Nikolai

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword activity report | administration of the Institutions | conflict of interest | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EP Committee | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | European Ombudsman | EUROPEAN UNION | labour law and labour relations | parliament | petition | POLITICS | transparency in decision-making

Summary In November 2017, the European Parliament is set to discuss and adopt a resolution on the European Ombudsman's activities in 2016, based on the Ombudsman's annual report presented on 16 May 2017. The report covers the activities of the Ombudsman in the areas of transparency in decision-making of EU institutions and bodies, and on the principle of good administration.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## European monetary policy

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-11-2017

Author PATERNOSTER Dario | RAKIC Drazen | VERBEKEN Dirk

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword common price policy | decision-making body (EU) | economic analysis | economic analysis | economic forecasting | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | European Central Bank | European System of Central Banks | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | liquidity control | monetary economics | monetary relations | powers of the institutions (EU) | price stability | prices | single monetary policy | transparency in decision-making

Summary The European System of Central Banks (ESCB) comprises the ECB and the national central banks of all the EU Member States. The primary objective of the ESCB is to maintain price stability. In order to achieve its primary objective, the Governing Council of the ECB bases its decisions on a two-pillar monetary policy strategy and implements them using both standard and non-standard monetary policy measures. The main instruments of ECB standard monetary policy are open market operations, standing facilities and the holding of minimum reserves. As a response to the financial crisis, the ECB has also changed its communication strategy by providing forward guidance on the future path of the ECB's interest rate policy conditional on the outlook for price stability and has taken a number of non-standard monetary policy measures. These include the purchases of assets and sovereign bonds on the secondary market, with the aim of safeguarding price stability and the effectiveness of the monetary policy transmission mechanism.

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](#)

## Public procurement contracts

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-11-2017

Author MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword approximation of laws | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | negotiated contract | services contract | supplies contract | tendering | TRADE | trade policy | transparency in decision-making | works contract

Summary Public authorities conclude contracts to ensure the supply of works and delivery of services. These contracts, concluded in exchange for remuneration with one or more operators, are called public contracts and represent an important part of the EU's GDP. However, only a small percentage of public procurement contracts have been awarded to non-national undertakings. The application of the principles of the internal market to these contracts ensures better allocation of economic resources and more rational use of public funds. A new public procurement package was adopted in 2014 by Parliament and the Council with the aim of simplifying procedures and making them more flexible in order to encourage access to public procurement for SMEs, and to ensure that greater consideration is given to social and environmental criteria.

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](#)

## Working with national parliaments on EU affairs

Publication type Study

Date 03-10-2017

Author REMAC Milan

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

Keyword dissemination of information | documentation | drafting of EU law | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | inter-parliamentary cooperation | national parliament | parliament | POLITICS | transparency in decision-making | Treaty of Lisbon

**Summary** National parliaments possess certain democratic qualities and responsibilities, such as popular legitimacy or scrutiny of the executive power. However, for decades the European Treaties have neither regulated nor envisaged any substantive relations between national parliaments and the European institutions – the role of national parliaments was marginal or overlooked. The situation began to change slowly with the adoption of the Treaty of Maastricht (1992). However, the real change in national parliaments' status in the EU is connected with the adoption of the Treaty of Lisbon (2007), which has enabled national parliaments' active involvement in EU affairs and enhanced the dialogue between national parliaments and the EU institutions. Today, national parliaments actively participate in the scrutiny of subsidiarity principles in draft EU legislative acts; they are engaged in a political dialogue with the European Commission; and they are involved in interparliamentary cooperation with the European Parliament. National parliaments strive to become an active and appreciated player at EU level. Against this background, this European Implementation Assessment seeks to provide an overview and analysis of the body of research carried out with regard to the position of national parliaments in the EU.

Study [EN](#)

## The European Ombudsman

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-10-2017

Author MARZOCCHI Ottavio

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

Keyword administrative transparency | appointment of members | EU institutions and European civil service | European Ombudsman | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | institutional structure | LAW | parliament | parliamentary inquiry | petition | POLITICS | protection of freedoms | rights and freedoms | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** The European Ombudsman conducts inquiries into cases of maladministration by European Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, acting on his or her own initiative or on the basis of complaints from EU citizens. The Ombudsman is appointed by the European Parliament for the duration of the parliamentary term.

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](#)

## The single monetary policy and its decentralised implementation: An assessment

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-09-2017

External author Daniel GROS (CEPS)

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Forward Planning

Keyword accounting | America | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | central bank | cost-effectiveness analysis | economic analysis | economic geography | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | Eurosystem | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | monetary economics | monetary relations | political geography | single monetary policy | transparency in decision-making | United States

**Summary** The statutes of the European Central Bank (ECB) stipulate that it should have recourse to national central banks (NCBs) to carry out monetary policy operations. Such a structure would not be a problem if these operations were all identical across member states and if the resulting profits and losses were shared. But this is not the case today. In this sense, the euro area no longer has a 'single' monetary policy. There is little one can do about this situation, except to wait until the government purchase programme ends and is then reversed. However, two steps could be undertaken already now: i) the granting of emergency liquidity assistance should be shifted to the ECB, and ii) the NCBs should be forbidden to undertake any financial operation that is not a direct consequence of their execution of the ECB's monetary policy decisions. The existing stocks of assets (and liabilities), the so-called ANFA (Agreement on Net Financial Assets) holdings, which are not related to monetary policy, should be transferred to either national finance ministries or national special purpose vehicles.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)



## [The single monetary policy and its decentralised implementation: An assessment](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-09-2017

External author Francesco PAPADIA, Alexander ROTH (Bruegel)

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Forward Planning

Keyword accounting | America | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cost-effectiveness analysis | economic analysis | economic analysis | economic geography | ECONOMICS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | Eurosystem | FINANCE | financial stability | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | liquidity control | monetary economics | monetary relations | operating cost | personnel management and staff remuneration | political geography | single monetary policy | staff | transparency in decision-making | United States

Summary While the Eurosystem has considerably improved its operational transparency in the last few years, it is still lagging the Federal Reserve System (Fed), especially in terms of the information it provides on operating costs and staff numbers, for which it provides very scarce data. In addition, the available information is scattered throughout different publications, rather than being presented in a user-friendly fashion. Compared to the Fed, the Eurosystem seems to have higher staff numbers and operational costs for similar tasks. Also because of the Treaty requirement to implement monetary policy in a decentralised way, the Eurosystem's implementation of monetary policy is fairly complex.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [The 2017 State of the Union debate in the European Parliament](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-09-2017

Author POPTCHEVA Eva-Maria Alexandrova

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword documentation | drafting of EU law | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | framework agreement | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | interinstitutional relations (EU) | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | political framework | POLITICS | power of initiative | President of the Commission | report | separation of powers | transparency in decision-making

Summary European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's State of the Union address to the European Parliament, and the subsequent debate, on 13 September come in the context of the ongoing broader reflection on the future path of the European Union. This has been intensified by the first-ever withdrawal of a Member State from the Union; although lamented by most, this is often cited as an opportunity to rebuild the Union on stronger grounds. The debate will therefore feed into a larger reflection process, to which Parliament contributed three landmark resolutions, launched by EU-27 leaders in the Rome declaration of 25 March 2017. As announced in President Juncker's 2016 State of the Union speech, the Commission published a white paper on the future of Europe, identifying five scenarios for the further course of the Union. The Commission President has recently pointed to a sixth scenario to be revealed in his State of the Union speech. The State of the Union debate forms part of the process for the adoption of the annual Commission Work Programme and thus plays an important role in identifying major political priorities to be agreed in interinstitutional dialogue. This briefing is an update of an earlier one of September 2016, PE 586.665.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Modernising EU-Chile trade relations](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 05-09-2017

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | America | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | Chile | common commercial policy | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | foodstuff | GEOGRAPHY | international trade | investment promotion | liberalisation of trade | organic product | political geography | powers of the EP | small and medium-sized enterprises | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy | trade policy | transparency in decision-making

Summary Currently, EU-Chile relations are governed by the 2002 EU-Chile Association Agreement (AA). The EU would like to modernise the AA's trade pillar to keep pace with new global trade patterns and the ambitious provisions of more recent trade agreements. During the September plenary, the European Parliament is expected to adopt recommendations on the future negotiations on this modernisation. It is also asked to give its consent to the conclusion of a separate EU-Chile agreement on trade in organic products and the AA's third additional protocol to take account of Croatia's EU accession.

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



## Macroeconomic surveillance

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-07-2017

Author ZOPPE Alice

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword anti-crisis plan | economic analysis | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic disparity | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | interinstitutional relations (EU) | monetary economics | multilateral surveillance | sanction (EU) | transparency in decision-making

Summary Over the past decade, the EU has experienced major macroeconomic imbalances (which emphasised the negative effects of the financial crisis that began in 2008) and serious divergences in competitiveness (which prevented the effective use of common monetary policy measures). In 2011 the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP) was set up – a surveillance and enforcement procedure aimed at facilitating early identification and correction of such imbalances in Member States, paying specific attention to those imbalances with potential spill-over effects on other Member States.

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](#)

## Increasing partnership in cohesion policy

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-06-2017

Author VAN LIEROP Christiaan

Policy area Regional Development

Keyword economic and social cohesion | EU finance | EU financing arrangements | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Structural and Investment Funds | EUROPEAN UNION | multi-level governance | transparency in decision-making

Summary The partnership principle lies at the very heart of the EU's cohesion policy. A process involving public authorities, economic and social partners, and civil society, partnership reinforces the legitimacy of EU policymaking and, by increasing ownership of the policy on the ground, can help to communicate the results of EU policies more effectively. A report on increasing engagement of partners and visibility in the performance of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) is due to be debated in Parliament's June plenary session.

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

Multimedia [Increasing partnership in cohesion policy](#)

## Regulating lobbying in Canada

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-05-2017

Author BAUER Elisabeth | PIELUCHA PIOTR | THIEL Marie

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | Canada | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | interest group | LAW | national law | political geography | political morality | POLITICS | politics and public safety | sources and branches of the law | transparency in decision-making

Summary The recent populist backlash against traditional political systems in many countries has put the issue of ethics at the forefront of government attempts to demonstrate that public policy is carried out without undue influence or interference from vested interests. As one of the first four countries in the world to regulate parliamentary lobbying activities, Canada provides an interesting example of legislation aimed at boosting transparency, honesty and integrity in public decision-making. Evolving from the 1989 Lobbyists Registration Act, today's Lobbying Act lays out the types of activities concerned and the processes of lobbying regulation, including sanctions, leading to a new wave of investigations and rulings. While a decision on the European Commission's proposal for an obligatory transparency register is awaited, registration with the Registry of Lobbyists in Canada is already mandatory for any individual who is paid to carry out lobbying activities, on their own or on behalf of others. Lobbying activities are considered to include all oral and arranged communications with a public office about legislative proposals, bills, resolutions or grants. Consultant lobbyists must also declare meetings held with public office-holders, and communications they make regarding contracts for grants, on a monthly basis. Reporting takes the form of regular monthly 'returns', lodged with the Commissioner of Lobbying. In cases of conviction for a breach of the rules, sanctions can include fines and imprisonment. The lobbyists' code of conduct, established in consultation with the lobbying community, is enforced by the Commissioner of Lobbying and provides guidance on access to public office-holders, conflicts of interest, and gifts. However, there are no fines or imprisonment for breaches of this code.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Rules on independence and responsibility regarding auditing, tax advice, accountancy, account certification services and legal services](#)

Publication type Study

Date 14-04-2017

External author Ian ROXAN (LSE), Saipriya KAMATH (LSE), Willem Pieter DE GROEN (CEPS) ; Research support: Katharina EHRHART (LSE Enterprise)

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Financial and Banking Issues | Forward Planning | Global Governance | International Trade

Keyword accounting | America | banking secrecy | British Virgin Islands | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | criminal law | Cyprus | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial audit | financial institutions and credit | financial legislation | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | Germany | LAW | legal adviser | Luxembourg | money laundering | organisation of the legal system | outflow of capital | overseas countries and territories | political geography | Switzerland | tax avoidance | tax evasion | taxation | transparency in decision-making | United Kingdom | United States

Summary This study maps the rules on independence and responsibility that are applicable at national, EU, and international level that govern the service provision by intermediaries such as companies working in auditing, tax advice, accountancy and account certification or by legal advisors (attorneys, solicitors, legal consultants, in-house lawyers, etc.). The mapping forms the basis for policy recommendations to encourage intermediaries to deliver a positive contribution to combatting tax evasion, tax avoidance and money laundering. This document was prepared for Policy Department A at the request of the Committee of Inquiry into Money Laundering, Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion (PANA).

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

## [Contribution of the European Parliament to multilevel governance: Building on a potential for a fuller right of legislative initiative for the European Parliament](#)

Publication type Study

Date 30-03-2017

Author VAVRIK Peter

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

Keyword administrative transparency | citizens' Europe | common commercial policy | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | European construction | European Parliament | European treaties | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | GEOGRAPHY | governance | international affairs | international negotiations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international trade | legislative initiative | national parliament | parliament | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | TRADE | trade agreement | trade policy | transparency in decision-making

Summary This analysis was prepared in the framework of the EU Fellowship Programme and presents the results of research reflecting on the full right of legislative initiative of the European Parliament in the light of the experience of the US Congress. It is based on data gathered for the purposes of the research from national parliaments of 26 EU Member States, analysis of 59 replies by the European Commission to the European Parliament's legislative initiative reports and a case study on 3 complex US laws, carried out on the basis of 15 interviews with Congressional staff.

Study [EN](#)

## [Communicating Europe in third countries](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-03-2017

Author PAWLAK Patryk

Policy area Democracy | Human Rights | Security and Defence

Keyword administrative transparency | cooperation policy | cultural policy | culture and religion | dissemination of information | distribution of EU funding | documentation | economic policy | ECONOMICS | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | educational exchange | EU aid | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | political communication | POLITICS | politics and public safety | religious fundamentalism | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | third country | transparency in decision-making

Summary Work on implementing the EU's global strategy for 2016-2017 includes stepping up public diplomacy efforts as one of the priority areas. A number of factors motivated this move. Firstly, the substantial resources committed for relief and recovery assistance to Syrian refugees and their host communities in neighbouring Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt have had little impact on public awareness of the existing European cooperation programmes. The visibility of EU funds has also been limited in the 10 EU strategic partner countries, where the profile of EU programmes is still low. Secondly, the need for a strategic EU approach to communication also results from intensified propaganda and disinformation campaigns seeking to discredit the EU and eventually undermine its position. Thirdly, effective EU communication in third countries plays a key role in countering jihadist propaganda in the EU's neighbourhood and its spilling over into EU territory.

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

Briefing [EN](#)

## Gender Equality Plans in the private and public sector in the European Union

Publication type Study

Date 15-03-2017

External author Silvia Sansonetti

Policy area Employment | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Social Policy | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword Austria | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | economic analysis | economic geography | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | EU programme | Europe | European construction | European Institute for Gender Equality | EUROPEAN UNION | gender mainstreaming | GEOGRAPHY | impact study | LAW | multi-level governance | political geography | position of women | private sector | public sector | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Spain | transparency in decision-making

Summary This study aims at mapping existing Gender Equality Plans (GEPs) in the public and private sectors in the Member States of the EU, as far as data is available; it aims at analysing how GEPs have impacted/are impacting the economic situation of women in the EU; analysing national legislation and collective agreements in connection with GEPs; analysing the impact of the crisis/austerity on GEPs and analyse more in-depth the substance and impact of GEPs in the private and public sectors in 2 Member States, Austria and Spain.

Study [EN](#)

## Official controls along the food chain

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-03-2017

Author LAANINEN Tarja

Policy area Food Safety

Keyword agricultural activity | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | animal health | audit | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | food contamination | food control | food inspection | food safety | health | management | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | transparency in decision-making

Summary Controls undertaken by Member States to ensure the safety of our food are essential. The operating principals of the 'official controls' are to be updated and modernised. Parliament is expected to adopt during its March II plenary its second-reading position, following a trilogue agreement with the Council, on the proposal which aims to guarantee that food business operators are controlled with equal effectiveness in all Member States throughout the whole food chain.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## The European Fund for Strategic Investments as a New Type of Budgetary Instrument

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 18-01-2017

External author Dr David Rinaldi, Dr Jorge Núñez Ferrer, Mr Arndt Hassel, Ms Eleanor Drabik, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Economics and Monetary Issues | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword budget policy | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coordination of financing | distribution of EU funding | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU investment | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | general budget (EU) | investment promotion | investment protection | management | monetary economics | principle of additionality | public finance and budget policy | risk management | stability pact | structural adjustment | transparency in decision-making

Summary This paper provides an overview of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) as a budgetary instrument. A preliminary analysis of the quantitative impact of the first year and a half of activity is complemented by an outline of the corollary policies that can determine the success of EFSI.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## Fossil Fuel Subsidies

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 16-01-2017

Author HAYER Sarabjeet

Policy area Environment | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword administrative reform | economic analysis | economic geography | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy efficiency | energy policy | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | European Fund for Strategic Investments | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | fossil fuel | GEOGRAPHY | interest group | POLITICS | politics and public safety | statistics | tax incentive | taxation | transparency in decision-making

Summary This paper provides an overview of fossil fuel subsidies globally and in the EU, as well as a summary of key components of successful reform efforts and why reform can be difficult to achieve for governments. This analysis was provided by Policy Department A for the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI).

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

## THE INSTRUMENTS PROVIDING MACRO-FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO EU MEMBER STATES

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 12-01-2017

External author Cinzia ALCIDI, David Rinaldi, Jorge Núñez Ferrer, Danel Gros, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Financial and Banking Issues | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword balance of payments assistance | budget policy | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cooperation policy | Cyprus | economic geography | economic governance (EU) | EU budget | EU finance | EU financing arrangements | EU institutions and European civil service | EU loan | Europe | European Stability Mechanism | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial aid | financial risk | financial stability | financing and investment | financing method | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | Greece | Hungary | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Ireland | Latvia | management | monetary economics | monetary relations | political geography | Portugal | powers of the EP | public finance and budget policy | redemption of public debt | risk management | Romania | Spain | transparency in decision-making

Summary This paper revises the European instruments for macro-financial stability providing financial support to member states. Three instruments, created on an ad-hoc basis during the crisis, are temporary and should gradually disappear. One instrument reserved for non-euro area member states, and others targeted at euro area countries remain in place. In the long term, the European Stability Mechanism is likely to become the only instrument for macro-financial assistance, but its current standing outside the EU legal framework needs to be addressed.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## Regulation of lobbying across the EU

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-12-2016

Author CLAROS GIMENO Eulalia | GROSEK Kristina

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword administrative transparency | code of conduct | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | GEOGRAPHY | interest group | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | POLITICS | politics and public safety | transparency in decision-making

Summary The infographic illustrates in broad terms the differences between Member States' approaches to regulating lobbying (legislation or soft-regulation), as well as the existence of codes of conduct for lobbyists (either provided for by legislation, or through self-regulation by lobbyists' organisations), and registers of lobbyists (mandatory or voluntary).

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](#)

## The 2016 election of a new UN Secretary-General

Publication type Briefing

Date 21-10-2016

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Global Governance

Keyword election | electoral procedure and voting | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | foreign policy | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | POLITICS | transparency in decision-making | UN Secretary-General | United Nations | UNO

**Summary** On 13 October, the United Nations General Assembly appointed a European, António Guterres, to the post of UN Secretary-General, after a selection that was, in part, unprecedentedly transparent. For the first time in history, the nominated candidates had the opportunity to present their vision in public dialogues organised in the General Assembly with member states and civil society representatives. Guterres emerged somewhat unexpectedly as the chosen candidate – without much diplomatic wrangling in the Security Council, and defying expectations that the next secretary-general would be a woman and/or an eastern European, according to the principle of diversity which holds sway in the UN. Given his strong political and diplomatic experience and his commitment to the refugees cause (he served as head of the UN Refugee Agency), his election has raised expectations that he will improve the UN's functioning and address current global challenges, especially the Syrian crisis and the refugee crisis. In his vision statement, Guterres emphasised the importance of a 'diplomacy of peace' for his future mandate, focusing on the prevention of conflicts through political means. The commitment to human rights, sustainable development, women's empowerment and the value of diversity embodied in today's increasingly multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious societies defines his approach to rising global challenges. He intends to make the UN more efficient and more decentralised.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Transparency of lobbying: The example of the Irish Lobby Register

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-07-2016

Author BAUER Elisabeth

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword administrative transparency | communications | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | GEOGRAPHY | interest group | Internet site | Ireland | LAW | national law | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | sources and branches of the law | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** On 11 March 2015, Ireland's Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 was signed into law by President Michael D. Higgins. The Act provides for, inter alia, the establishment of a mandatory register of lobbyists and lays out its rules. The Irish Lobby Register was only the sixth fully mandatory lobby register among the EU Member States, and attracted widespread attention due to its comprehensive scope. The drive to develop the legislation was strengthened by a number of public scandals in the country. The Irish Lobby Register presents an example which other Member States could follow, and might also be a source of inspiration for an EU system in transition. Its mandatory nature allows for a stricter approach, with investigations and sanctions available for non-compliance. Strict definitions enumerate those who fall under its scope, unlike the EU's all-encompassing activity-based definition of interest representation. While financial information is not requested of registrants under the Irish system, returns are required three times a year and provide greater detail on all instances of lobbying activity carried out. Its scope is both broad and ambitious. As with any new legislation, the effectiveness of the new Irish system can only be measured in practice. The register has met with a positive start, registering a high uptake. A critical period is approaching, with the legislation to be reviewed in September 2016, one year after its commencement. The powers of investigation and sanctions under the Act will also come into force simultaneously.

Briefing [EN](#)

## EU priorities for the 71st UN General Assembly

Publication type At a Glance

Date 30-06-2016

Author APAP Joanna

Policy area Global Governance | Human Rights

Keyword action programme | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common security and defence policy | conflict prevention | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | human rights | institutional cooperation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | management | multinational force | peacekeeping | POLITICS | politics and public safety | refugee | regional security | rights and freedoms | the EU's international role | transparency in decision-making | United Nations | UNO

**Summary** This year marks the 50th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of two international treaties: the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which are cornerstones of international human rights. The European Union is very committed to multilateralism and to deepening its cooperation with the United Nations. During its July plenary session, the European Parliament is due to debate the Committee on Foreign Affairs' report setting out proposals for the Parliament's recommendation to the Council on the EU's priorities for the 71st General Assembly, which takes place from 13 until 26 September 2016, in New York.

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

## The EU and the Aarhus Convention: Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-06-2016

External author Jonas Ebbesson (Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee)

Policy area Environment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Petitions to the European Parliament

Keyword access to information | access to the courts | Austria | Bulgaria | communications | Czechia | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental law | environmental policy | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | Germany | information and information processing | international affairs | international agreement | international law | international law - national law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | justice | LAW | political geography | public consultation | right to information | rights and freedoms | Romania | Spain | transparency in decision-making | United Kingdom

Summary This briefing, commissioned by the Policy Department on Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs for the PETI committee, focuses on the Aarhus Convention, applicable to the EU and to all Member States. The Convention provides for rights to the public to access to information, participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. The Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee has found several EU Member States as well as the EU itself non-compliant with the Convention. Currently eight EU Member States and the EU are on the list of non-compliant Parties, decided by the Meeting of Parties when endorsing Committee findings. The Committee follows up and reports on whether these Parties are taking sufficient measures to get in compliance. Adequate implementation by EU legislation, monitoring by the Commission and jurisprudence by the EU judiciary are important for effective enjoyment of the Aarhus Convention rights by the public throughout the EU.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Intergovernmental agreements in the field of energy

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-06-2016

Author ERBACH Gregor

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Energy

Keyword cooperation policy | disclosure of information | drafting of EU law | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENERGY | energy distribution | energy grid | energy policy | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | intergovernmental cooperation (EU) | international affairs | international agreement | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international trade | sectoral agreement | single market | third country | TRADE | transparency in decision-making

Summary The Commission has proposed a decision which would require Member States to submit draft intergovernmental agreements with non-EU countries in the field of energy to it before they are signed. The Commission would then check whether they are compliant with EU law, and Member States would have to take full account of the Commission's opinion. At present, Member States are required to submit such agreements to the Commission after signature. The Commission considers the present system as ineffective. The ITRE Committee draft report of 30 May 2016 proposed strengthening the decision to require ex-ante verification also for non-binding instruments. On 6 June, energy ministers in the Council agreed a general approach that would restrict ex-ante verification to agreements related to gas supply only. Three national parliaments have raised subsidiarity concerns, and four submitted comments.

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Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Intergovernmental agreements in the field of energy](#)

## Openness, Transparency and the Right of Access to Documents in the EU

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 16-06-2016

External author Deirdre CURTIN (European University Institute of Florence, Italy) and Päivi LEINO-SANDBERG (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Petitions to the European Parliament

Keyword access to information | administrative transparency | case law (EU) | Council of the European Union | Court of Justice of the European Union | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | information and information processing | LAW | POLITICS | protection of privacy | provision of documents | right to information | rights and freedoms | transparency in decision-making

Summary Upon request of the PETI Committee, the Policy Department on Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs commissioned the present analysis, which examines the situation in relation to openness, transparency, access to documents and information in the EU. Case law and developments in the jurisprudence of the CJEU are examined, notably for legislative documents, documents relating to administrative proceedings, to Court proceedings, infringement proceedings and EU Pilot cases, protection of privacy and international relations. Current and future challenges, as well as conclusions and policy recommendations are set out, in order to ensure compliance with the Treaties' and Charter of Fundamental Rights' requirements aimed at enhancing citizens' participation in the EU decision-making process, and consequently stronger accountability and democracy in the EU.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)



## Implementation of the Lisbon Treaty – Improving Functioning of the EU: Economic and Monetary Policy

Publication type Study  
Date 16-06-2016  
External author René REPASI (European Research Centre for Economic and Financial Governance - EURO-CEFG, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands)  
Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | European Semester | Forward Planning  
Keyword budget policy | coordination of EMU policies | deepening of the European Union | economic governance (EU) | enhanced cooperation | EU budget | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | Eurogroup (euro area) | European construction | European Stability Mechanism | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | legal basis | monetary economics | monetary relations | powers of the EP | public finance and budget policy | transparency in decision-making | Treaty of Lisbon  
Summary The Treaty chapter on Economic and Monetary Union became after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty one of the most disputed chapters of the Treaties. The economic and financial crisis revealed the shortcomings of the asymmetric EMU. The present study assesses the unused potential of the existing Treaty chapter in order to improve the functioning of the EU. In order to do so, the study suggests to switch the perspective on the Treaty potential from competences to compliance. By identifying the lack of mechanisms in the existing economic policy coordination framework aiming at addressing non-compliance because of a Member State's incapacity to comply, the study suggests the introduction of an incentive-based enforcement mechanism (for the short term) and of a fiscal capacity (for the medium term) within the existing Treaties. Furthermore, the establishment of the Eurozone budget, of a Redemption Fund or the adoption of a convergence code is discussed. By the same token, the legal inclusion of the Fiscal Compact and the ESM-Treaty is examined and concrete proposals are developed. Finally, the study addresses ways of increasing the accountability and legitimacy in EMU affairs.  
Study [EN](#)

## Key policy challenges for the EU in 2017

Publication type Briefing  
Date 15-06-2016  
Author BASSOT Etienne | HILLER WOLFGANG  
Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law  
Keyword aid to refugees | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | citizens' Europe | common foreign and security policy | competitiveness | cooperation policy | economic and social cohesion | electoral procedure and voting | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | EU situation | European construction | European electoral system | European neighbourhood policy | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | job creation | labour market | labour market | migration | participatory democracy | political framework | POLITICS | revision of financial perspectives | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | transparency in decision-making  
Summary The European Union has had no shortage of challenges in recent years. Huge efforts have been made to overcome them, thus avoiding the catastrophes predicted by the more pessimistic observers. Yet there is no room for complacency, with much remaining to be done. Serious issues persist, and in a period of rapid economic, social and global changes, it is essential that the EU prepares well for new challenges and new disruptions in the future. A few months before the European Commission arrives at the mid-term of its present mandate, and presents its new annual work programme, it is appropriate to seek a broader overview. Are the existing priorities and measures still valid, or should they be supplemented by additional ones? Where are new challenges likely to emerge? And how can we identify new trends quickly enough to prepare appropriate responses? A number of major policy challenges can be identified for 2017 and beyond, in five areas: 1) security, 2) migration and cohesion, 3) competitiveness and jobs, 4) citizens' participation and democratic accountability, and 5) the role of the EU budget in underpinning the resultant tasks. As the European Commission prepares its work programme for 2017, this publication aims to identify key policy challenges facing the Union. It is a natural next step, following on from the recent EPRS paper on the state of play of the Commission's ten policy priorities, published in May 2016.  
Briefing [EN](#)

## Setting criteria on endocrine disruptors: Follow-up to the General Court judgment

Publication type Briefing  
Date 27-04-2016  
Author SCHOLZ Nicole  
Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Public Health  
Keyword chemical industry | chemical product | chemistry | consumption | deterioration of the environment | disease prevention | drafting of EU law | endocrine disease | ENVIRONMENT | epidemiology | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | evaluation method | health | health risk | INDUSTRY | interest group | judgment of the Court (EU) | medical research | POLITICS | politics and public safety | product safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | toxic substance | toxicology | TRADE | transparency in decision-making  
Summary Endocrine disruptors are substances that interfere with the functioning of hormones, with potentially harmful effects on health. A wide range of chemicals are suspected of being responsible for endocrine-disrupting activity. Defining scientific criteria for their identification is highly complex and has important repercussions for a wide range of stakeholders. There is a lack of consensus among both scientists and regulators. Work on the issue has been conducted at EU and international level. The European Commission's delay in adopting scientific criteria has provoked strong reactions from various stakeholders. The Commission is expected to come up with scientific criteria and to present the legal acts required before summer 2016. In a judgment delivered on 16 December 2015, the General Court of the Court of Justice of the EU found that the Commission had breached European Union law by failing to act on endocrine disruptors. It concluded that the Commission did not comply with its clear obligation to specify scientific criteria for the identification of chemicals that have endocrine-disrupting properties by 13 December 2013. In addition, it stated that there was no requirement to carry out an impact assessment, which the Commission had suggested was necessary to evaluate the various possible options prior to taking its decision.  
Briefing [EN](#)



## [Public consultation on the Transparency Register: Towards a mandatory Transparency Register for lobbyists](#)

Publication type At a Glance  
Date 26-04-2016  
Author BAUER Elisabeth  
Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law  
Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business ethics | business organisation | communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | interest group | interinstitutional agreement | LAW | political morality | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public consultation | right to information | rights and freedoms | transparency in decision-making  
Summary Will the EU soon have a mandatory transparency register for lobbyists? After a long-standing call from the European Parliament, the European Commission launched a public consultation seeking input from stakeholders on the functioning of the current Transparency Register, which is run jointly by the Parliament and the Commission, and on a move towards a mandatory regime.  
[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

## [EU Transparency Register](#)

Publication type Briefing  
Date 26-04-2016  
Author BAUER Elisabeth | THIEL Marie  
Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law  
Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business ethics | business organisation | economic geography | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | interest group | political morality | POLITICS | politics and public safety | transparency in decision-making  
Summary Widespread lobbying in the EU institutions has led to criticism regarding the transparency and accountability of the EU's decision-making process. In response to these concerns, the Parliament set up its transparency register in 1995, followed by the Commission in 2008. The two institutions merged their instruments in a joint European Transparency Register (TR) in 2011 on the basis of an Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA). So far, the Council has remained only an observer to the system. The TR is a voluntary system of registration for entities seeking to directly or indirectly influence the EU decision-making process. It has grown at a rate of around 1 000 organisations a year, to reach over 9 000 organisations today. While it is very difficult to make estimates on the actual coverage of the register, an academic study in 2013 already found the register to cover 60-75% of lobbying organisations active at EU level. In line with the IIA, a political review of the system took place in 2013-2014. As a result, a new improved registration system was introduced in January 2015. Parliament has been calling for a mandatory register for lobbyists interacting with the EU institutions since 2008. It has argued that a mandatory register would ensure better standards for lobbying and more transparency. The topic has become increasingly prominent, especially since Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker put the issue on the political agenda, committing to introduce a proposal for a mandatory system by end 2016, as requested by Parliament. Furthermore, from 1 December 2014 onwards, the Commission publishes information on meetings of Commissioners, members of their cabinets and Directors-General with lobbyists. It is currently running a public consultation on the proposal for a mandatory register. Laws in Member States on lobbying regulation vary. Mandatory registration systems exist in only a few countries, with the most recent law being introduced in Ireland. This is an updated edition of a briefing published in December 2014.  
[Briefing](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#)

## [Research for REGI Committee - Review of the Role of the EIB Group in European Cohesion Policy](#)

Publication type Study  
Date 15-03-2016  
External author Arno van der Zwet, John Bachtler, Stephen Miller, Phillip Vernon and Viktoriya Dozhdeva  
Policy area Regional Development  
Keyword economic and social cohesion | ECONOMICS | EIB loan | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU investment | EU regional policy | European Commission | European construction | European Investment Bank | European Investment Fund | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | interinstitutional relations (EU) | investment policy | regional development | regions and regional policy | Structural Funds | transparency in decision-making  
Summary The aim of this study is to provide a comprehensive analysis and assessment of how the European Investment Bank contributes to the achievement of Cohesion Policy objectives. The study finds that the role of the European Investment Bank in Cohesion Policy increased significantly in the 2007-13 programme period and continues to increase in 2014-20. Research results show that there is limited understanding of the effectiveness of European Investment Bank contributions to Cohesion Policy. In order to increase accountability, the inter-institutional relationship between the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development and the European Investment Bank should be strengthened.  
[Study](#) [EN](#)

## The Cost of Non-Europe in the area of Organised Crime and Corruption: Annex I - Organised Crime

Publication type Study

Date 10-03-2016

External author This final report has been written by:  
Dr Sergio Carrera, Senior Research Fellow and the Head of the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Section at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Maastricht  
Prof. Elspeth Guild, Senior Associate Research Fellow at CEPS and Jean Monnet Professor ad personam at Queen Mary, University of London as well as at the Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands  
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Dr Amandine Scherrer, Policy analyst and European Studies Coordinator at the centre d'étude sur les conflits (CCLS)  
Prof. Valsamis Mitsilegas, Head of the Department of Law, Professor of European Criminal Law and Director of the Criminal Justice Centre at Queen Mary, University of London

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | European Added Value

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | confiscation of property | cost-benefit analysis | criminal law | disclosure of information | economic offence | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU police cooperation | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | fight against crime | fundamental rights | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the EU | judicial inquiry | judicial investigation | justice | LAW | operation of the Institutions | organised crime | rights and freedoms | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | transparency in decision-making

Summary This Research Paper examines the costs of non-Europe in the field of organised crime. It provides an interdisciplinary analysis of the main legal/ethical, socio-political and economic costs and benefits of the EU in policies on organised crime. It offers an in-depth examination of the transformative contribution that the EU has made, in terms of investigation, prosecution and efficiency, to trans-border operational activities and the protection of its citizens' rights. Finally, it seeks to answer the questions of what are the costs and benefits of European cooperation and what forms of cooperation would bring more European added value.

Study [EN](#)

## Intergovernmental agreements in the field of energy

Publication type Briefing

Date 10-03-2016

Author ERBACH Gregor

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Energy

Keyword cooperation policy | disclosure of information | drafting of EU law | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENERGY | energy distribution | energy policy | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | intergovernmental cooperation (EU) | international affairs | international agreement | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international trade | sectoral agreement | single market | third country | TRADE | transparency in decision-making

Summary The Commission has proposed a decision which would require Member States to submit draft intergovernmental agreements with non-EU countries in the field of energy to it before they are signed. The Commission would then check whether they are compliant with EU law, and Member States would have to take full account of the Commission's opinion. At present, Member States are required to submit such agreements to the Commission after signature. The Commission considers the present system as ineffective. Although a third of the IGAs on energy infrastructure have been found to be non-compliant with EU law, none have been renegotiated so far. The Commission says the proposal would lead to greater legal certainty and reduced risks for investors and business partners. It would also lead to increased transparency on energy supply, supporting the aims of Energy Union.  
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<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/home.html>

Briefing [EN](#)

## Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-03-2016

Author ALEIXO MANUEL | FERGER Julia

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword administrative formalities | application of EU law | codification of EU law | delegated legislation | drafting of EU law | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | impact study | interinstitutional agreement | LAW | POLITICS | simplification of legislation | sources and branches of the law | transparency in decision-making

Summary The new Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making, adopted by the European Parliament on 9 March 2016, replaces the 2003 Interinstitutional Agreement with the same name.

The Commission initially presented its proposal on 19 May 2015. Part of its better regulation agenda, the proposal was announced as one of the ten priorities of the Juncker Commission at the start of its term, with the aim to design EU policies and laws so that they achieve their objectives in the most efficient and effective way possible.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Mainstreaming Employment and Social Indicators into Macroeconomic Surveillance](#)

Publication type **At a Glance**

Date **07-03-2016**

Author **SCHMID-DRÜNER Marion**

Policy area **Economics and Monetary Issues | Employment | European Added Value | European Semester | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Social Policy**

Keyword **coordination of EMU policies | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | employment statistics | EU employment policy | EU growth strategy | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European social policy | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | governance | labour market | monetary economics | POLITICS | social affairs | social framework | social indicator | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | transparency in decision-making**

Summary **This At-a-Glance note of Policy Department A gives a short summary of the study the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs of the European Parliament commissioned to obtain an up-to-date assessment of how employment and social issues are addressed in the European Semester governance mechanisms and of the contribution of the employment and social indicators applied in the macro surveillance exercises since 2013.**

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

## [Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making](#)

Publication type **At a Glance**

Date **01-03-2016**

Author **TILINDYTE-HUMBURG Laura**

Policy area **EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Transposition and Implementation of Law**

Keyword **application of EU law | delegated legislation | drafting of EU law | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | impact study | interinstitutional agreement | LAW | POLITICS | simplification of legislation | sources and branches of the law | transparency in decision-making**

Summary **According to Article 295 TFEU, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission may conclude interinstitutional agreements (IIAs) setting out arrangements for their cooperation. A number of such agreements are in place, including the 2003 IIA on Better Law-Making, which is now to be replaced by a new agreement. With the aim of ensuring a high quality of legislation, the new agreement contains provisions concerning the various stages of the policy cycle, including programming, legislating and implementation.**

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

## [Economic Dialogue with the President of the Eurogroup and the President of ECOFIN Council - ECON on 18 February 2016](#)

Publication type **In-Depth Analysis**

Date **12-02-2016**

Author **ANGERER Jost | DONATELLI LORENZO | DUVILLET-MARGERIT ALIENOR ANNE CLAIRE | HAGELSTAM Kajus | HRADISKY Martin | MAGNUS Marcel | MESNARD Benoit | POWER Cairen | VEGA BORDELL Javier María | ZOPPE Alice**

Policy area **Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester**

Keyword **banking supervision | banking system | budget policy | cooperation policy | coordination of EMU policies | Ecofin | economic analysis | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic policy | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU situation | euro area | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial aid | financial institutions and credit | governance | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | monetary economics | monetary relations | POLITICS | public finance | public finance and budget policy | structural adjustment | transparency in decision-making**

Summary **Mr. Jeroen Dijsselbloem has been invited to a regular Economic Dialogue, in particular, in accordance with Article 2ab of Regulation 1466/97 as amended, in his capacity of both the President of the Eurogroup and the President of ECOFIN (January – June 2016). This briefing gives an overview of the ongoing work of the Eurogroup/Council as regards public finances, macro-economic imbalances and the banking union. Mr Dijsselbloem has been the Eurogroup President since 21 January 2013. As the President of the Eurogroup, he is also chairing the Board of Governors of the ESM.**

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

## [TiSA: Recommendations for the negotiations](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 26-01-2016

Author SCHOELLMANN Wilhelm

Policy area International Trade

Keyword [data protection](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [employment](#) | [EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [executive power and public service](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financial institutions and credit](#) | [financial services](#) | [freedom to provide services](#) | [GATS](#) | [information and information processing](#) | [information technology and data processing](#) | [international trade](#) | [labour law and labour relations](#) | [labour market](#) | [labour mobility](#) | [labour standard](#) | [liberalisation of trade](#) | [market access](#) | [negotiation of an agreement \(EU\)](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [public service](#) | [TRADE](#) | [trade policy](#) | [transparency in decision-making](#)

Summary The Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA), currently under negotiation in Geneva, is a plurilateral agreement involving 50 members of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The aim is to liberalise trade in services among those countries, but the EU and others hope to make it part of the WTO rulebook at a later stage. The European Union is the world's largest importer and exporter of services and therefore has a vital interest in both supporting and building a sound regulatory basis for international trade in services. The European Parliament has actively followed TiSA negotiations since the start of the negotiations in spring 2013. During its February plenary session, the EP is due to vote on recommendations setting out for the Commission, as the EU negotiator, the Parliament's priorities for the remainder of the negotiations.

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

Multimedia [European Parliament recommendations on Trade in Services Agreement \(TiSA\)](#)

## [Morocco: Human rights situation](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 12-01-2016

Author APAP Joanna

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Human Rights

Keyword [Africa](#) | [association agreement \(EU\)](#) | [criminal law](#) | [death penalty](#) | [democratisation](#) | [economic geography](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [European construction](#) | [European neighbourhood policy](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [executive power and public service](#) | [gender equality](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [human rights](#) | [independence of the judiciary](#) | [LAW](#) | [Morocco](#) | [organisation of the legal system](#) | [political geography](#) | [political violence](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [politics and public safety](#) | [rights and freedoms](#) | [transparency in decision-making](#)

Summary Morocco enjoys advanced status under the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The new constitution, adopted during the reign of Mohamed VI, covers almost all human rights set out in the Universal Human Rights Declaration. Public space for debate over human rights issues has opened up significantly in recent years. A number of concerns, however, prevail, as implementation and enforcement of the new constitutional provisions remain incomplete.

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

## [The Context and Legal Elements of a Proposal for a Regulation on the Administrative Procedure of the European Union's Institutions, Bodies, Offices and Agencies](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 08-01-2016

External author [Diana-Urania Galetta](#) (University of Milan, Italy), [Herwig C. H. Hofmann](#) (University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg), [Oriol Mir Puigpelat](#) (University of Barcelona, Spain) and [Jacques Ziller](#) (University of Pavia, Italy)

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword [administrative procedure](#) | [codification of EU law](#) | [drafting of EU law](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EU legal system](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [executive power and public service](#) | [LAW](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [simplification of legislation](#) | [sources and branches of the law](#) | [transparency in decision-making](#)

Summary This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the JURI Committee. It provides for an analysis of and comments on the proposal for a Regulation on EU administrative procedural law prepared by the project team supporting the Working Group on Administrative Law and endorsed by the latter Working Group. The purpose of this Regulation is fostering compliance with the general principles of EU law, reducing the fragmentation of applicable rules, improving transparency and allowing for simplification of Union legislation by establishing a concise basic set of procedural provisions common to multiple policies.

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

## Participatory budgeting: An innovative approach

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-01-2016

Author SGUEO Gianluca

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword budget policy | citizens' Europe | civil society | communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | governance | participatory democracy | political framework | political involvement | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public consultation | public finance | public finance and budget policy | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** Experts in the budgetary field see participatory budgeting as an innovative solution to promote inclusive democracy, and further modernisation and accountability in the public sector. Participatory budgeting is believed to allow civil society and public administrators to jointly determine spending priorities, through 'co-decision' measures. Cooperation is expected to reduce conflicts and to favour broader acceptance of budgetary decisions. The first experiments with citizens' participation in budgetary matters were conducted in Latin America in the late 1980s. It is estimated that there are now between 618 and 1 130 examples of participatory budgeting in Latin America, representing almost a third of the instances of participatory budgeting worldwide. In Europe, between 2005 and 2012, experiments with participatory budgeting increased from 55 to over 1 300, involving more than 8 million EU citizens. Not only national authorities, but also supranational administrations, including the European Union (EU), incentivise the use of participatory budgeting among governments and sub-national authorities. Since 2002, the World Bank has provided over US\$280 million in loans and grants in support of participatory budgeting-related projects in at least 15 countries. At EU level, participatory budgeting has been introduced through funding programmes such as URB-AL. Between 2003 and 2010, URB-AL managed €5 million and involved 450 local governments and civil society representatives in Latin America; its objectives include promoting participatory budgeting to strengthen budgetary transparency and accountability.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Stakeholder consultation in the EU: Commission Guidelines

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-12-2015

Author TILINDYTE-HUMBURG Laura

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword admissibility | civil society | democratic deficit | EU initiative | EU institutions and European civil service | European citizenship | European Commission | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | interest group | justice | LAW | participatory democracy | political framework | POLITICS | politics and public safety | power of initiative | proposal (EU) | representative democracy | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** A common reproach that has long been levelled at the set-up of European governance has concerned its 'democratic deficit'. In particular, this has encompassed the idea that the European integration process has traditionally strengthened the executive power at the expense of national parliaments, and pointed to the relatively modest powers initially granted to the European Parliament. Strengthening the democratic quality of EU decision-making became a central concern in the 2001 White Paper on European Governance which identified openness, participation and accountability among the principles of good governance. Against this background, the Commission has gradually developed and formalised numerous mechanisms aimed at broadening participation in order to increase legitimacy, transparency and effectiveness of its policies. While the Commission's consultation framework does not remain without its critics, it has undergone significant improvements. The current Article 11 TEU, introduced by the Lisbon Treaty, aims to give a new boost to 'participatory democracy' in the EU, alongside 'representative democracy', and mandates the Commission to carry out broad consultations with parties concerned. The Commission's Better Regulation Package, adopted in May 2015, incorporates new consultation guidelines which, inter alia, expand the scope of stakeholder input throughout the policy cycle, further open up the impact assessment process to stakeholders' comments and signal renewed commitment to providing adequate feedback to stakeholders. It should also be mentioned that EU institutions, including the Commission, have developed a variety of mechanisms aimed at improving dialogue with wider society, formal stakeholder consultation being one of them. The following pages do not aim at providing a taxonomy of all of these mechanisms, but give a brief overview of the Commission Consultation Guidelines, which are yet to be implemented in practice.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Promoting Good Tax-Governance in Third-Countries: The Role of The EU

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-12-2015

External author Jeffrey OWENS (WU Global Tax Policy Center, Institute for Austrian and International Tax Law, WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria)

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Budget | Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Financial and Banking Issues | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword administrative transparency | cooperation policy | corruption | criminal law | developing countries | economic conditions | economic growth | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European tax cooperation | EUROPEAN UNION | exchange of information | executive power and public service | FINANCE | globalisation | governance | information and information processing | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | POLITICS | tax system | taxation | the EU's international role | transparency in decision-making

Summary This paper forms part of a series of analytical pieces on the absence of EU-coordination regarding aggressive tax planning and its effects, prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the ECON Committee of the European Parliament. Globalization is knitting separate national economies into a single world economy. This is occurring as a result of rising flows of trade and investment, greater labour mobility, and rapid transfers of technology. Deregulation of financial markets, reductions in trade and investment barriers, and reduced communications and transportation costs have spurred those trends. High tax rates are more difficult to sustain in this new economic environment. As economic integration increases, individuals and particularly businesses gain greater freedom to take advantage of foreign economic opportunities. However, the lack of transparency is giving rise to political concerns to opposition to unfair international tax competition. Against this background, the paper sets out some suggestions for how the EU could use taxation to promote good governance in third countries and intensify its work in this area.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## Transparency of lobbying at EU level

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-12-2015

Author SGUEO Gianluca

Policy area Budgetary Control | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword conflict of interest | corporatism | corruption | criminal law | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | interest group | labour law and labour relations | LAW | political morality | POLITICS | politics and public safety | professional association | transparency in decision-making

Summary Lobbying has become an increasingly prominent issue in the European Union (EU) political and institutional debate over the past 20 years, with many comparing Brussels to Washington DC in this regard. The principal reason for this phenomenon is almost certainly the growing role of the EU as a policy-maker. As the EU institutions have expanded their regulatory competence in areas such as environmental law, the single market and consumer protection, and policy proposals have become more complex, they have increasingly come to rely on technical expertise to draft legislation, provided by outside interest groups among others. In parallel, criticism of the balance of interests represented through lobbying in EU decision-making has grown. Concerns relate to the lack of official (and reliable) estimates of the number and type of interest groups, the amount of money spent on lobbying, and possible conflicts of interest. It is difficult to calculate the cost of opaque (or under-regulated) lobbying, either in monetary terms or in loss of confidence in EU institutions, but it may be argued that regulation of lobbying could have an impact in both these regards. Efforts to improve transparency of lobbying at EU level are on-going. A revised European Transparency Register was launched in January 2015, and the European Commission has published a roadmap for the adoption of a mandatory register, whilst the Council of the EU launched discussions on initial steps towards joining the transparency register already established by the Commission and Parliament.

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

## Economic Policy Coordination in the Euro Area under the European Semester

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 05-11-2015

External author Daniel Gros and Cinzia Alcidi, Centre for European Policy Studies

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester

Keyword budget policy | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | committee (EU) | competence of the institution | competitiveness | coordination of EMU policies | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | Eurogroup (euro area) | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | governance | institutional structure | monetary economics | monetary relations | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public finance and budget policy | structural adjustment | transparency in decision-making

Summary This paper assesses the economic policy coordination process in the euro area under the European Semester, making recommendations on how implementation could be enhanced and what further developments are necessary to improve coordination of economic policies within EMU.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)



## [Economic Policy Coordination in the Euro Area under the European Semester](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 05-11-2015

External author Klaus-Jürgen Gern, Nils Jannsen and Stefan Kooths

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester

Keyword budget policy | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | coordination of EMU policies | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | FINANCE | governance | institutional reform | institutional structure | monetary economics | POLITICS | politics and public safety | principle of subsidiarity | public debt | public finance and budget policy | transparency in decision-making

Summary After three years of mixed operational experiences, the European Semester has been streamlined and further reform has recently been suggested by the European Commission. We outline the major modifications and evaluate to what extent this streamlining has affected the nature of the 2015 country-specific recommendations. Any mechanism for policy coordination depends crucially on the institutional framework that it is supposed to operate in. Consequently, proposals for further improvement of the European Semester must take the institutional environment into account. We therefore work out the compatibility of different aspects of policy coordination with respect to the existing EU architecture and discuss the proposals to modify this architecture put forward recently in the Five Presidents Report. On this basis, we develop proposals for improving the efficiency of the European Semester.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Economic Policy Coordination in the Euro Area under the European Semester](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 05-11-2015

External author Fabian Zuleeg

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester

Keyword budget policy | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | committee (EU) | competitiveness | coordination of EMU policies | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | governance | institutional reform | institutional structure | monetary economics | monetary relations | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public finance and budget policy | structural adjustment | transparency in decision-making

Summary This paper assesses the economic policy coordination process in the euro area under the European Semester, making recommendations on how implementation could be enhanced and what further developments are necessary to improve coordination of economic policies within EMU.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [The Trade in Services Agreement \(TISA\):An end to negotiations in sight?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 12-10-2015

Author VIIUP Elina

Policy area Employment | Foreign Affairs | Forward Planning | Intellectual Property Law | Internal Market and Customs Union | International Trade | Tourism | Transport

Keyword common commercial policy | consumption | economic structure | ECONOMICS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | freedom to provide services | GATS | international affairs | international negotiations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international trade | liberalisation of trade | market access | powers of the EP | services of general interest | tertiary sector | TRADE | trade policy | transparency in decision-making

Summary Launched at the beginning of 2013 by a group of World Trade Organisation (WTO) members calling themselves Really Good Friends of Services, negotiations on the plurilateral Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) are nearing an important juncture. The TISA agreement is the biggest free trade agreement currently under discussion when measured by the number of negotiating parties – 23 at present. It is designed to boost liberalisation of the global services sector, moving beyond the current, outdated GATS provisions and unlocking huge economic potential. The EU undoubtedly has important stakes in these negotiations as its economy is highly – and increasingly – dependent on the service sector. However, there remain several obstacles to the successful completion of the agreement and its effective WTO integration, with the most important of these being the inclusion of more WTO members among the signatories – and the hearts and minds of citizens.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - October 2015](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 05-10-2015

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Budgetary Control | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights

Keyword bibliography | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EU policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | interest group | interinstitutional relations (EU) | POLITICS | politics and public safety | transparency in decision-making

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 European Union's Role in International Economic Fora - Paper 1: The G20

Publication type Study

Date 15-09-2015

External author Fabian Amtenbrink, Niels Blokker, Stefaan van den Bogaert, Armin Cuyvers, Klaus Heine, Christophe Hillion, Jarosław Kantorowicz, Hannes Lenk and René Repasi (European Research Centre for Economic and Financial Governance - EURO-CEFG)

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword civil law | competence of the institution | economic policy | economic policy | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | institutional structure | interinstitutional relations | international finance | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | legal status | legitimacy | monetary relations | political framework | political responsibility | POLITICS | politics and public safety | the EU's international role | transparency in decision-making | world economy | world organisation | world organisations

Summary This paper forms part of a series of nine studies on the role of the European Union in international economic fora, prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament. It provides factual background information about the G20, the EU's role and representation therein, its accountability as well as the coordination and impact thereof. The G20 has played a key role in measures taken to overcome the economic and financial crisis and promoted rules to prevent a repetition of such a crisis. The high compliance rate of the EU in implementing these commitments highlights the importance of the legally non-binding G20 commitments. Yet, the G20 is an informal international body where executives from officials' up to leaders' level meet. As a body G20 lacks meaningful accountability mechanisms. Moreover the EU can hardly be held to account for its action at the G20 level. This study provides a thorough analysis of the G20 and EU's action at the G20 level. It sets out the EU legal framework for the participation of the EU and its Member States in the G20. In applying a two-tier accountability framework it identifies accountability gaps and concludes with policy recommendations.

Study [EN](#)

## Composition of the Commission's Expert Groups and the Status of the register of Expert Groups

Publication type Study

Date 10-09-2015

External author Blomeyer and Sanz

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword administration of the Institutions | appointment of members | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | conflict of interest | consultancy | decision-making | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | EUROPEAN UNION | INDUSTRY | interinstitutional relations (EU) | labour law and labour relations | legitimacy | management | miscellaneous industries | political framework | POLITICS | secretariat of an Institution | transparency in decision-making

Summary This study aims to provide insights into the development, since 2012, of the European Commission's system of Expert Groups, including the Register of Expert Groups. The specific focus of this study is an assessment of the European Commission's compliance with a set of European Parliament conditions attached to repeated European Parliament budget reserves for the Expert Group budget. The European Parliament conditions aim to strengthen the balanced representation of interests in the Expert Groups, address conflicts of interest, and ensure transparency, in terms of open access to the working and outputs of the Expert Groups. The study finds that the European Commission, despite some progress, continues to fall short of full compliance with the European Parliament conditions on balance and transparency. Based on this study's findings, it is considered that a more systematic approach to balance would help overcoming information asymmetries and contribute to throughput legitimacy. Enhanced transparency also has potential to enhance Expert Group outputs. This study therefore recommends a systematic approach to balance, the promotion of full transparency, more resources for Secretariat General oversight and enforcement, and the systematic evaluation of Expert Group performance at the level of the system of Expert Groups and for all individual Expert Groups.

Study [EN](#)

## Best practices in legislative and regulatory processes in a constitutional perspective: the case of the European Union

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 31-08-2015

External author Andrea Renda, Senior research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies

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

Keyword administration of the Institutions | application of EU law | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | decision-making | drafting of EU law | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | impact study | interinstitutional agreement | LAW | legislative drafting | management | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | principle of proportionality | principle of subsidiarity | simplification of legislation | sources and branches of the law | transparency in decision-making

Summary This briefing note discusses the key features of the EU better lawmaking agenda, also in light of the new EU better regulation package, and highlights areas in which the EU can be considered a best practice, as well as existing gaps and concerns. Gaps include problems of accountability and transparency, uncertainty in methodology and lack the coherence between better regulation and long-term policy goals. Concerns relate to the newly adopted package and refer to the sustainability of the workload, the lack of a real attribution of responsibility for the update of EU impact assessments during the ordinary legislative procedure and uncertainty on the treatment of self- and co-regulation within the Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Regulation.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## The General Principles of EU Administrative Procedural Law

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 07-07-2015

External author Diana-Urania Galetta (University of Milan, Italy), Herwig C. H. Hofmann (University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg), Oriol Mir Puigpelat (University of Barcelona, Spain) and Jacques Ziller (University of Pavia, Italy)

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword administrative law | application of EU law | case law (EU) | codification of EU law | Court of Justice of the European Union | decision-making body (EU) | drafting of EU law | EU institutions and European civil service | EU legal system | European treaties | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | POLITICS | transparency in decision-making

Summary Upon request by the JURI Committee this in-depth analysis explains what general principles of EU administrative procedural law are, and how they can be formulated in the recitals of a Regulation on EU administrative procedure.

In-Depth Analysis [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](#)

## Parliament's recommendations on TTIP talks

Publication type At a Glance

Date 02-06-2015

Author PUCCIO Laura

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword America | designation of origin | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financing and investment | free-trade agreement | GEOGRAPHY | international trade | investment protection | market access | marketing | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | political geography | POLITICS | provision of services | public service | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy | transparency in decision-making | United States

Summary The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is currently being negotiated between the EU and the US as a comprehensive and ambitious trade agreement aiming to liberalise trade and investments as well as foster regulatory cooperation. Public opinion in some EU Member States shows fears related to investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) clauses in TTIP and, more generally, the impact of the future agreement on states' regulatory freedom in the areas of the environment, consumer and labour law and data protection. The INTA Committee has adopted draft recommendations on the TTIP negotiations, due to be discussed during the June plenary.

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

## [Nicaragua: The Chinese inter-ocean canal project](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 05-05-2015

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword [America](#) | [Asia and Oceania](#) | [China](#) | [civil law](#) | [demography and population](#) | [deterioration of the environment](#) | [economic geography](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental impact](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [expropriation](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [geopolitics](#) | [harbour installation](#) | [humanities](#) | [indigenous population](#) | [LAW](#) | [maritime and inland waterway transport](#) | [nature reserve](#) | [Nicaragua](#) | [political geography](#) | [pollution from ships](#) | [protection of minorities](#) | [rights and freedoms](#) | [SCIENCE](#) | [ship canal](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [transparency in decision-making](#) | [TRANSPORT](#)

Summary On 22 December 2014, the controversial construction of a shipping route across Nicaragua to connect the Pacific and the Atlantic Ocean was officially launched. With an estimated cost of US\$40 to US\$50 billion, the Nicaragua inter-ocean canal project could be the biggest-ever infrastructure investment in Latin America's history. The canal will be built by the Hong Kong Nicaragua Canal Development Group (HKND) and is scheduled to be operational by 2020. Opposition to the future waterway is mounting, however, as there are doubts whether the project's calculated economic gains will outweigh the potential adverse environmental and social implications.

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

## [Towards a High Degree of Accountability, Transparency and Integrity in the EU Institutions](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 16-02-2015

Author ALEKSIEV Ranko | GAY Jean-Jacques

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

Keyword [bibliography](#) | [conflict of interest](#) | [corruption](#) | [Council of the European Union](#) | [Court of Justice of the European Union](#) | [criminal law](#) | [documentation](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [Eurojust](#) | [European Anti-fraud Office](#) | [European Commission](#) | [European construction](#) | [European Council](#) | [European Court of Auditors](#) | [European Ombudsman](#) | [European Parliament](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [Europol](#) | [fraud against the EU](#) | [labour law and labour relations](#) | [LAW](#) | [transparency in decision-making](#)

Summary Background information for the Joint Hearing held on 26 March 2015.

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

## [What Are the Challenges for the European Parliament? Legislation, Scrutiny and Organisation](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 15-01-2015

External author Olivier Costa (Collège d'Europe/CNRS)

Policy area [EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law](#) | [EU Law: Legal System and Acts](#) | [Forward Planning](#)

Keyword [drafting of EU law](#) | [EP Committee](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [European Commission](#) | [European Council](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [image](#) | [institutional balance \(EU\)](#) | [institutional structure](#) | [interinstitutional cooperation \(EU\)](#) | [Member of the European Parliament](#) | [parliament](#) | [parliamentary scrutiny](#) | [political group \(EP\)](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [politics and public safety](#) | [powers of the EP](#) | [transparency in decision-making](#)

Summary The aim of this report is to emphasise some of the challenges that the EP will have to confront during the next parliamentary term. In legislative terms, MEPs will have to direct their attention towards trilogues, legislative initiative and reviews of pending proposals. As regards scrutiny, the global strategy of the EP towards the Commission (support or independence) is at stake. Delegated legislation and committee procedure also merit some attention. Finally, the internal organisation of the EP must be considered in the context of the image of the institution, be it the impact of the 'rationalisation' work undertaken during the 1980s or the way in which the political divisions are revealed or kept hidden.

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

## [Stakeholder, Parliamentary and Third Country Concerns about the EU-Canada Comprehensive Trade and Economic Agreement \(CETA\)](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 16-12-2014

Author TROSZCZYNSKA VAN GENDEREN Wanda

Policy area Consumer Protection | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Democracy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Employment | Energy | Environment | Food Safety | Foreign Affairs | Global Governance | Internal Market and Customs Union | International Trade | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Public Health | Public international law

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | America | animal product | animal product | Asia and Oceania | Canada | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | EU institutions and European civil service | EU visa policy | Europe | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-European organisations | FINANCE | financing and investment | free-trade agreement | GEOGRAPHY | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | investment protection | LAW | Mexico | NAFTA | national parliament | natural environment | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | parliament | political geography | POLITICS | powers of the EP | public contract | seal | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy | transparency in decision-making | Türkiye

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

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

## [Enhancing the Legitimacy of EMU Governance](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 15-12-2014

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | European Semester | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword banking system | coordination of EMU policies | democratic deficit | EU institutions and European civil service | Eurogroup (euro area) | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | fiscal policy | governance | inter-parliamentary cooperation | interinstitutional relations (EU) | legitimacy | monetary economics | monetary relations | parliament | parliamentary scrutiny | political framework | POLITICS | powers of the EP | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | taxation | transparency in decision-making | unemployment insurance

Summary This study investigates ways to enhance the legitimacy of economic governance in the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) without introducing Treaty changes. It suggests changes in the governance framework at both the institutional and economic level. Input-oriented legitimacy can be improved by increasing parliamentary oversight on decisions related to EMU and increasing the accountability of the Eurogroup. Output-oriented legitimacy can be improved by strengthening the ability of EMU to reduce the emergence of negative externalities and to mitigate their impact, through market and fiscal risk-sharing mechanisms.  
This study was requested by the EP's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON).

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

## [Update on Investments in Large TEN-T Projects](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 10-12-2014

External author Wolfgang Schade and Lucia Mejia-Dorantes (Fraunhofer, Institut für System- und Innovationsforschung, Germany) ; Werner Rothengatter (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany) ; Olaf Meyer-Rühle and Stephan Kritzinger (ProgTrans, Switzerland)

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Transport

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | case study | common transport policy | cost-benefit analysis | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | EU finance | EU financing arrangements | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | management | organisation of transport | project management | trans-European network | transparency in decision-making | TRANSPORT | transport infrastructure | transport network | transport policy

Summary This study updates the TEN-T investment study completed in early 2013 and adds five new case studies to the analysis, three of which deal with mega projects that are still in the planning or early implementation phase: Lyon-Turin, Iron-Rhine and S21/Stuttgart-Ulm. Findings confirm that not all stakeholders have learned past lessons on successfully developing projects. There is a particular need for early and transparent public participation and a clear project definition prior to the project decision. New findings suggest that measuring wider economic benefits and European added value are necessary to justify the socio-economic benefits of multibillion euro cross-border projects.

[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](#)

[Annex 1](#) [EN](#)

## EU Transparency Register

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-12-2014

Author BAUER Elisabeth | MAŃKO Rafał | THIEL Marie

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business ethics | business organisation | directory | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | interest group | legal basis | political morality | POLITICS | politics and public safety | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** Widespread lobbying in the EU institutions has led to criticism regarding the transparency and accountability of the EU's decision-making process. In response to these concerns, the Parliament set up its transparency register in 1995, followed by the Commission in 2008. The two institutions merged their two instruments in a joint European Transparency Register (TR) in 2011 on the basis of an Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA). So far, the Council has remained only an observer to the system. The TR is a voluntary system of registration for entities seeking to directly or indirectly influence the EU decision-making process. It has grown at a rate of around 1 000 organisations a year, to reach over 7 000 organisations today. While it is very difficult to make estimates on the actual coverage of the register, a recent academic study (2013) found the register to cover 60-75% of lobbying organisations active at EU level. In line with the IIA, a political review of the system took place in 2013-14. As a result, a new improved registration system will be introduced in January 2015. Parliament has been calling for a mandatory register for lobbyists active within the EU institutions since 2008. It has argued that a mandatory register would ensure full compliance by all lobbyists with the code of conduct. The topic has become increasingly prominent, especially since Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker put the issue on the political agenda, committing to introduce a proposal for a mandatory system by 2016, as requested by Parliament. Furthermore, from 1 December 2014 onwards, the Commission publishes information on meetings of Commissioners, members of their cabinets and Directors-General with lobbyists. The laws in Member States vary with regard to lobbying regulation. Mandatory registration systems exist only in Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Austria and the UK. The Irish Parliament is currently working on legislation introducing such a regime. Voluntary registration systems exist in Germany, France and the Netherlands.

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

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

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-11-2014

Author TROSZCZYŃSKA VAN GENDEREN Wanda

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget | Budgetary Control | Democracy | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Energy | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | European Added Value | Foreign Affairs | Forward Planning | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Global Governance | Human Rights | International Trade | Security and Defence

Keyword agreement (EU) | appointment of members | common foreign and security policy | competence of the Member States | cooperation policy | economic geography | electoral procedure and voting | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European Commissioner | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Italy | military cooperation | parliamentary proceedings | political geography | POLITICS | public hearing | qualified majority | transparency in decision-making | Treaty of Lisbon | Union delegation | vice-president of an institution

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

Briefing [EN](#)

## Commitments Made at the Hearing of Cecilia Malmström - Commissioner-Designate

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-11-2014

Author DE MICCO Pasquale

Policy area Consumer Protection | Foreign Affairs | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword America | appointment of members | Asia and Oceania | Canada | China | common commercial policy | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European Commissioner | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade law | investment policy | LAW | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | parliamentary proceedings | political geography | POLITICS | public hearing | Sweden | TRADE | trade policy | transparency in decision-making | United States | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

**Summary** Cecilia Malmström, the recently-confirmed European Commissioner for Trade, appeared before the European Parliament on 29 September 2014 to answer MEPs' questions. In that hearing and in her answers to the questionnaire prepared for the meeting in advance, Commissioner Malmström made a number of statements of interest to the European Parliament. This document provides a summary of her most salient points.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Eurosystem Collateral Policy and Framework, Monetary Dialogue, November 2014

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 14-11-2014

External author Karl WHELAN (University College Dublin) ;  
Guntram B. WOLFF and Alvaro LEANDRO (Bruegel) and  
Ansgar BELKE (University of Duisburg-Essen)

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester

Keyword bond | economic geography | economic governance (EU) | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | Eurogroup (euro area) | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | liquidity control | monetary economics | monetary relations | transparency in decision-making

Summary The notes in this compilation assess and comment on various aspects of the collateral policy and framework of the Eurosystem. In particular, the notes consider the economic implications associated with the current ECB collateral policy for asset allocation and relative asset price developments in a cross-country perspective. The notes have been requested by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) of the European Parliament as an input for the November 2014 session of the Monetary Dialogue between the Members of the ECON Committee and the President of the ECB.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## Commitments Made at the Hearing of Jonathan Hill - Commissioner-Designate

Publication type Briefing

Date 31-10-2014

Author FORGACS Annamaria | MAGNUS Marcel

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword appointment of members | banking supervision | capital market | delegated legislation | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial legislation | financial services | free movement of capital | interinstitutional relations (EU) | POLITICS | public statement | single market | transparency in decision-making

Summary This is note summarises the commitments taken at the hearing of Jonathan Hill.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Commitments Made at the Hearing of Pierre Moscovici - Commissioner-Designate

Publication type Briefing

Date 31-10-2014

Author ANGERER Jost | FORGACS Annamaria | HRADISKY Martin

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword appointment of members | coordination of EMU policies | criminal law | customs union | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | governance | interinstitutional relations (EU) | LAW | monetary economics | POLITICS | public statement | tariff policy | tax evasion | tax harmonisation | taxation | TRADE | transparency in decision-making

Summary This is note summarises the commitments taken at the hearing of Pierre Moscovici.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Commitments Made at the Hearing of Frans Timmermans - Commissioner-Designate

Publication type Briefing

Date 24-10-2014

Author BUX Udo | NEVILLE Darren

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budgetary Control | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Forward Planning | Petitions to the European Parliament | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Public international law | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword application of EU law | appointment of members | citizens' Europe | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | EU legal system | Europe | European Commissioner | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | interinstitutional relations (EU) | Netherlands | parliamentary proceedings | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | public hearing | rule of law | transparency in decision-making | vice-president of an institution

Summary In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 7 October 2014 before the Conference of Presidents, Commissioner-designate Frans Timmermans made a number of commitments. These are summarised in the present briefing.

Briefing [EN](#)



## Setting EU priorities, 2014-19

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-10-2014

Author DEBYSER Ariane

Policy area European Added Value

Keyword America | area of freedom, security and justice | citizens' Europe | climate change policy | common foreign and security policy | digital technology | Economic and Monetary Union | economic geography | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENERGY | energy policy | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU industrial policy | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | European Commissioner | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | free-trade agreement | GEOGRAPHY | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | international trade | investment policy | job creation | migration | monetary economics | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | political geography | powers of the EP | President of the Commission | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | single market | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | the EU's international role | TRADE | transparency in decision-making | United States | vice-president of an institution

Summary Jean-Claude Juncker, Commission President-elect, has set out the political agenda for his five-year term (2014-19) at the head of the institution in a set of 'political guidelines' focussing on ten policy areas in which he said that the European Union could make a difference, and underlined the importance of achieving concrete results in each area. This Briefing represents a first effort to cross-check the ten priorities against past requests from the Parliament for action by the Commission, drawing where appropriate on work undertaken for parliamentary committees on the potential added value of action in these fields.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Discharge to the Council and European Council

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-10-2014

Author D'ALFONSO Alessandro

Policy area Budgetary Control | Human Rights

Keyword budget | budgetary discharge | Council of the European Union | EP Committee | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Council | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial year | general budget (EU) | interinstitutional relations (EU) | legal basis | powers of the EP | transparency in decision-making

Summary The discharge procedure is a powerful tool through which the European Parliament (EP) carries out ex-post democratic oversight at political level of how the EU budget has been used. The EP's granting of separate discharge to the Council appears to be a source of friction between the two institutions.

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

## Challenges in Constitutional Affairs in the New Term: Taking Stock and Looking Forward

Publication type Study

Date 15-10-2014

External author Yves Bertoncini, Uwe Puetter, Olivier Costa, Wolfgang Wessel, Monica Claes, Steve Peers, Carlos Closa Montero, Luciano Bardi, Enrico Calossi, Marta Ballesteros and David Coen

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

Keyword constitution | deepening of the European Union | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European party | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | governance | interest group | interinstitutional relations (EU) | international law | LAW | legislative initiative | national sovereignty | parliament | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary scrutiny | political group (EP) | political party | POLITICS | politics and public safety | powers of the institutions (EU) | principle of subsidiarity | sources and branches of the law | transparency in decision-making

Summary This document is a compendium of the following notes:  
- Assessing the EU inter-institutional dynamics after the EP elections ;  
- Constitutional evolution of the EU ;  
- European democracy ;  
- Transparency Register.

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

## Commitments Made at the Hearing of Kristalina Georgieva - Commissioner-Designate

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-10-2014

Author MATHIS Alexandre

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Forward Planning

Keyword appointment of members | budget | budgetary discharge | Bulgaria | economic geography | EU budget | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU investment | Europe | European civil service | European Commissioner | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financing and investment | fraud against the EU | GEOGRAPHY | multiannual financial framework | own resources | parliamentary proceedings | political geography | POLITICS | public hearing | transparency in decision-making | vice-president of an institution

Summary In her answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 2 October 2014 before the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Budgetary Control and the Committee on Legal Affairs, the commissioner-designate Kristalina Georgieva made a number of commitments. They are highlighted in this document.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Commitments Made at the Hearing of Phil Hogan - Commissioner-Designate

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-10-2014

Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Keyword agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | aid to agriculture | appointment of members | common agricultural policy | documentation | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENERGY | energy efficiency | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | EUROPEAN UNION | interinstitutional relations (EU) | multiannual financial framework | public statement | reduction of gas emissions | regions and regional policy | rural development | transparency in decision-making | water management

Summary In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 2 October 2014 before the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, commissioner-designate Phil Hogan made a number of commitments. Commitments relevant to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development are highlighted in this document.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Civil Society's Concerns about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 14-10-2014

Author ARMANOVICA Marika | BENDINI Roberto

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Consumer Protection | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Democracy | Employment | Environment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Fisheries | Food Safety | Foreign Affairs | Intellectual Property Law | Internal Market and Customs Union | International Trade | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Public Health | Public international law | Social Policy | Transport

Keyword America | civil society | commercial arbitration | consumer protection | consumption | economic analysis | economic geography | ECONOMICS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | free-trade agreement | genetically modified organism | GEOGRAPHY | impact study | intellectual property | international trade | labour law | labour law and labour relations | LAW | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | protection of privacy | research and intellectual property | rights and freedoms | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy | transparency in decision-making | United States

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

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

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

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-09-2014

Author POPTCHEVA Eva-Maria Alexandrova

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword appointment of members | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | EUROPEAN UNION | interinstitutional relations (EU) | labour market | parliament | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary scrutiny | POLITICS | politics and public safety | powers of the EP | professional qualifications | public hearing | rules of procedure | transparency in decision-making

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 a few parliamentary committees, after responding to a questionnaire. Due to some national governments' delay in nominating candidates, this time around Commissioners-designate will have only 10 days to prepare for the hearings.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Non-Standard Monetary Policy Measures and the Balance Sheet of Major Central Banks, Monetary Dialogue, July 2014](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 15-07-2014

External author Karl WHELAN (University College Dublin), Charles WYPLOSZ (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies), Gregory CLAEYS (Bruegel) and Anne SIBERT (Birkbeck, University of London and Centre for Economic Policy Research)

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword administrative transparency | cooperation policy | economic geography | economic governance (EU) | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | Eurogroup (euro area) | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | monetary economics | monetary policy | monetary relations | POLITICS | third country | transparency in decision-making

Summary The notes in this compilation by key monetary policy experts analyse similarities and differences in the crisis reaction of three major central banks (the ECB, the FED and the BoE) as well as the reasons for their different reactions (institutional set up, economic reasons etc.). In this context, the notes also assess how successful these 'non-standard policy measures' have been and how they have affected central banks' balance sheets in terms of volume and composition. The notes have been requested by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) as an input for the July 2014 session of the Monetary Dialogue between the Members of ECON and the President of the ECB.

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

## [Role and election of the President of the European Commission](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 11-07-2014

Author POPTCHEVA Eva-Maria Alexandrova

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword appointment of members | candidate | drafting of EU law | election campaign | electoral procedure and voting | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | European construction | European election | European integration | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | interinstitutional relations (EU) | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | powers of the institutions (EU) | President of the Commission | transparency in decision-making

Summary The President of the European Commission (EC) 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 Council and European Parliament now together responsible for 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.

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

## [The Role of the EP in Shaping the EU's Trade Policy after the Entry into Force of the Treaty of Lisbon](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 09-07-2014

Author ARMANOVICA Marika | BENDINI Roberto

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword common commercial policy | drafting of EU law | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | free-trade agreement | human rights | intellectual property | interinstitutional relations (EU) | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | LAW | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | powers of the EP | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | rights and freedoms | social rights | sustainable development | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy | transparency in decision-making | Treaty of Lisbon | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary In the few years that have passed since the Treaty of Lisbon amplified the European Parliament's authority, the institution has reshaped the EU's trade policy – a domain that has become the exclusive competence of the EU. Parliament has not, as some feared it would, compromised the Union's technical approach. Rather, it has given the EU's Common Commercial Policy (CCP) democratic legitimacy and emphasised human rights and environmental concerns. While the Treaty of Lisbon made this change possible, it did not make it inevitable; Parliament has exercised creativity in interpreting its co-legislative powers and modelling a significant role for itself. As the fifth anniversary in December 2014 of the entry of the Treaty of Lisbon approaches, Parliament is further consolidating its powers of oversight and decision. The moment is ripe to survey the lessons of the past four-and-a-half years and to buttress the institution for the challenges to come.

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

## European Citizens' Initiative – First Lessons of Implementation

Publication type Study

Date 15-05-2014

External author Marta Ballesteros, Emanuela Canetta and Alexandru Zaci

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

Keyword administrative formalities | administrative procedure | application of EU law | citizens' Europe | data processing | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic signature | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | information technology and data processing | interpretation of the law | LAW | marketing | parliament | participatory democracy | petition | political framework | POLITICS | principle of legal certainty | regulation (EU) | sources and branches of the law | TRADE | transparency in decision-making | Treaty of Lisbon

Summary Upon request of the AFCE and PETI Committees, this study identifies difficulties faced by organisers when setting up and running a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI). It analyses possible solutions and proposes recommendations to improve the ECI as an effective tool for participatory democracy in the EU. The aim is to propose measures to ensure a straightforward ECI process with less costs and burdens for EU citizens. The ultimate goal is to define concrete actions to empower EU citizens to actively participate in shaping the future of Europe.

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

## 100 steps forward the european parliament and the upgrading of european democracy since the lisbon treaty

Publication type Study

Date 01-04-2014

Keyword budgetary discipline (EU) | citizens' Europe | electoral procedure and voting | EU activity | EU budget | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU relations | European construction | European election | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | inter-parliamentary cooperation | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | parliament | parliamentary procedure | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary scrutiny | POLITICS | powers of the EP | transparency in decision-making | Treaty of Lisbon

Study [EN](#)

## Monetary Dialogue 2009-2014: Looking Backward, Looking Forward, Monetary Dialogue, March 2014

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 14-03-2014

External author Gregory CLAEYS, Mark HALLERBERG and Olga TSCHKEKASSIN (Bruegel) ; Charles WYPLOSZ (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies) ; Karl WHELAN (University College Dublin) ; Anne SIBERT (Birkbeck, University of London) ; Stefan COLLIGNON (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, London School of Economics) ; Ansgar BELKE (University of Duisburg-Essen) ; Sylvester C.W. EIJJFINGER (Tilburg University) and Guillermo DE LA DEHESA (Centre for Economic Policy Research)

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | European Semester

Keyword administrative transparency | economic analysis | economic forecasting | economic geography | economic governance (EU) | ECONOMICS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | Eurogroup (euro area) | European Central Bank | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | Member of the European Parliament | monetary economics | monetary policy | monetary relations | POLITICS | transparency in decision-making

Summary With the European Parliament's 7th legislative (2004-2009) term coming to an end, the notes of this compilation reflect on the working of the Monetary Dialogue exercise. The notes assess the actual activity of information exchange between the European Parliament and the ECB, review the past five years of monetary dialogues and make policy recommendations on how to possibly improve the Monetary Dialogue in the current context of the ECB's evolving role. The notes by key monetary experts have been requested by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) as an input for the March 2014 session of the Monetary Dialogue between the Members of ECON and the President of the ECB.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## The European Union's Trade Policy, Five Years After the Lisbon Treaty

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 03-03-2014

Author BENDINI Roberto

Policy area International Trade

Keyword agreement (EU) | common commercial policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financing and investment | generalised preferences | international trade | investment policy | liberalisation of trade | market access | public contract | tariff negotiations | tariff policy | TRADE | trade policy | trade relations | transparency in decision-making | Treaty of Lisbon

**Summary** Despite the global economic crisis of 2008 and the spectacular rise of new emerging powers, the European Union (EU) remains one of the world's leading economies. The EU's trade policy has fundamentally changed in recent years. One of the founding and most influential members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the EU has been compelled to acknowledge that the multilateral approach that it had adopted for many years has not yielded genuine progress. In response, the EU launched a new strategy to combine its multilateral approach with renewed efforts to forge bilateral trade deals. The traditionally technocratic approach of the EU's trade policy was radically changed by the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009; with this treaty, the Commission lost its unilateral control in the domain, while the European Parliament gained an important voice.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## The EU's 2014-2020 External Financial Instruments: An Opportunity for the European Parliament to Play a Greater Role

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 29-01-2014

Author BRUYNOOGHE Saskia | DI PRESO Luca | GOINARD Myriam | LOGOFATU Ioana | MINAIRE Karl | QUILLE Gerrard | TROSZCZYNSKA VAN GENDEREN Wanda

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues | Foreign Affairs

Keyword delegated legislation | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU aid | EU finance | EU financial instrument | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | implementing Regulation | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | multiannual financial framework | parliament | parliamentary scrutiny | POLITICS | powers of the EP | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** On 11 December 2013, following 18 months of trilogue negotiations between the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council, MEPs endorsed a compromise on the EU's external financial instruments. With a total value of approximately EUR 51 billion, the new external financial instruments – which include the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, the European Neighbourhood Instrument, the Instrument for Stability and Peace, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, the Instrument for Development Cooperation and the newly created Partnership Instrument – will provide the framework to determine and disburse EU financial assistance. The compromise enhances the EP's role in overseeing the instruments. The main negotiation stumbling block has concerned the use of 'delegated acts', though this may be overcome by combining annexes amendable through delegated acts, a compulsory mid-term review of these annexes and a 'strategic dialogue' mechanism permitting greater consultation with the European Parliament for the multiannual programming documents.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## EU Financing for NGOs in the Area of Home Affairs, Security and Migration

Publication type Study

Date 15-01-2014

External author Lionel Kapff, Mathieu Saunier and Thierry Van Schoubroeck (Deloitte Consulting CVBA, Diegem, Belgium)

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget

Keyword administrative expenditure | administrative transparency | area of freedom, security and justice | budget | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | co-financing | EU budget | EU finance | EU financing | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial control | financial regulation | financing and investment | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | legal form of organisations | non-governmental organisation | non-governmental organisations | non-profit organisation | POLITICS | public finance and budget policy | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** This study analyses the EU financing for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the area of home affairs, security and migration. In this regard, it describes the general principles of EU financing for NGOs, quantifies and qualifies the EU financing for NGOs (under central direct management) in the area of home affairs, security and migration, assesses the administrative burden faced by NGOs applying for and receiving EU grants, and examines the state-of-play of measures undertaken by the European Commission to ensure the transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of the EU financing for NGOs in the area of home affairs, security and migration.

Study [EN](#)

## [Non-Standard Monetary Policy Measures – An Update, Monetary Dialogue September 2013](#)

Publication type Study

Date 13-12-2013

External author Charles WYPLOSZ (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland) , Daniel GROS, Cinzia ALCIDI and Diego VALIANTE (CEPS, Brussels) , Guillermo DE LA DEHESA (CEPR, London, the UK) , Ansgar BELKE (University of Duisburg-Essen and DIW Berlin, Germany)

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword credit policy | economic analysis | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | monetary economics | monetary relations | price stability | prices | single monetary policy | transparency in decision-making

Summary Four economists assess the effectiveness of ECB's non-standard monetary policy measures in the euro area and in different Member States and discuss the unintended consequences of these measures as well as the risks for price stability and asset price developments. In the current context of weak economic activity and subdued growth going forward, the papers also address the issues of what other tools/instruments could the ECB use in order to support lending to the private sector and stimulate economic activity in the euro area.

Study [EN](#)

## [Constitutional problems of multi-tier governance in the EU](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-12-2013

Author FERRARO Francesca

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

Keyword coordination of EMU policies | enhanced cooperation | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union method | executive power and public service | FINANCE | governance | intergovernmental cooperation (EU) | legitimacy | monetary economics | parliament | parliamentary scrutiny | political framework | POLITICS | powers of the EP | transparency in decision-making

Summary Differentiated integration - where some Member States are not yet ready or are unwilling to participate in new developments – is a fact of today's European Union. Nonetheless, the route chosen by the Member States to move forward has a major impact both on the legal certainty around any new instruments and on their democratic oversight. Recent developments in the field of economic and monetary union illustrate very well the difficulties which arise.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [Interest Representatives' Obligation to Register in the Transparency Register: EU Competences and Commitments to Fundamental Rights](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-11-2013

External author Martin Nettesheim (University of Tübingen)

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business ethics | business organisation | civil law | directory | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | EU competence | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | freedom of expression | fundamental rights | interest group | LAW | legal basis | legal status | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | transparency in decision-making | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

Summary The following study examines whether the EU is entitled to the powers to apply regulations that oblige interest representatives to register in the Transparency Register. The limitations that apply by virtue of fundamental rights to the application of such regulations will also be outlined. The study arrives at the conclusion that an obligation to register could only be established on the basis of Article 352 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union. Compliance with fundamental rights depends on the scope of application, the nature of the obligations and the sanctions.

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

## [Lobbying the EU institutions](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-06-2013

Author ZIBOLD Franziska

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

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business ethics | business organisation | conflict of interest | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | interest group | labour law and labour relations | political morality | POLITICS | politics and public safety | transparency in decision-making

Summary Lobbying at EU level has very specific characteristics. It can be assessed on both access to the decision-making process as well as the success of the lobbying activity. Besides the European Commission and Parliament's code of conduct for the Transparency Register, lobbying organisations have developed their own professional codes of conduct to regulate their activities. The main criticism of the current situation regarding lobbying is the lack of transparency. Meanwhile lobbying is considered a positive element by EU policy-makers insofar as it ensures the participation of social and economic actors in the policy-making process and provides useful information.

Briefing [EN](#)



## [Review of the European Transparency Register](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-06-2013

Author COPELAND Nicholas

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

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business ethics | business organisation | code of conduct | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | interest group | interinstitutional agreement | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | POLITICS | politics and public safety | transparency in decision-making

Summary The joint European Transparency Register, which came into effect in June 2011, builds on experience gained with the previous Parliament and Commission registers. The Register is designed as a "one-stop-shop" for interest representatives and an unofficial directory of "lobby contacts" with the EU institutions. By June 2013, around 5 700 organisations, mostly based in Brussels, had registered. The inter-institutional agreement which established the Register included a review clause; a process which will start in June 2013. EP Vice-President Wieland and Commission Vice-President Šefčovič will take part in an inter-institutional working group. On 10 June the EP's Bureau decided how to proceed.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Better Avoidance of Conflict of Interest: EU Agencies and Other Bodies Moving Forward](#)

Publication type Study

Date 12-04-2013

External author János Bertók (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - OECD, Paris, France), Paul de Clerck (Alliance for Lobbying Transparency and Ethics Regulation - Alter EU), Geert Dancet (European Chemicals Agency - ECHA, European Commission), Christoph Demmke (European Institute of Public Administration - EIPA, Maastricht, the Netherlands), Ian Harden (Secretariat General of the European Ombudsman), Thinaam Jakob (HR Directorate General, European Commission), Igors Ludboržs (European Court of Auditors, Luxembourg), Jana Mittermaier (Transparency International), Wolfgang Rau (Group of States against Corruption - GRECO, Council of Europe) and Mario Tenreiro (Secretariat General, European Commission)

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Public international law

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business ethics | business organisation | conflict of interest | duties of civil servants | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | European Commission | European official | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | interest group | labour law and labour relations | personnel administration | personnel management and staff remuneration | political morality | POLITICS | politics and public safety | transparency in decision-making

Summary Proceedings of the workshop on "Better Avoidance of Conflict of Interest: EU Agencies and Other Bodies Moving Forward" held on 21 February 2013 in Brussels.

Study [EN](#)

## [Policy and legislative evaluation in the EU](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-04-2013

Author POPTCHEVA Eva-Maria Alexandrova

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

Keyword assessment | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | evaluation method | executive power and public service | governance | impact study | interinstitutional relations (EU) | legislative procedure | organisation of teaching | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | powers of the EP | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | transparency in decision-making

Summary Evaluating policy and legislative measures helps to improve the accountability and efficiency of the public sector. At European Union level evaluations are located largely in the European Commission. Despite their increasing number and improved quality, evaluations are said to be scarcely used by MEPs, stakeholders and citizens due to lack of trust in their objectivity as well as their technical presentation.

Briefing [EN](#)

## The European Parliament's Right to Grant Discharge to the Council

Publication type Study

Date 15-03-2013

External author Academic editor :  
Carlino Antpöhler (Max Planck Institute for Public Law, Heidelberg, Germany) ,  
Contributing experts :  
Matthias Rossi (University Augsburg, Germany), Florence Chaltiel Terral (University Grenoble, France), Carlino Antpöhler (Max Planck Institute for Public Law, Heidelberg, Germany) and Ricardo Passos (European Parliament)

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword budget | budgetary control | budgetary discharge | Council of the European Union | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | institutional balance (EU) | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | powers of the EP | transparency in decision-making | Treaty of Lisbon

Summary This document contains the presentations by the three experts invited and the subsequent discussion with Members of the Committee on Budgetary Control and the representative of the European Parliament's Legal Service, as taken from the recording of the English interpretation.

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

## TEN-T Large Projects - Investments and Costs

Publication type Study

Date 15-01-2013

External author Wolfgang Schade and Florian Senger (Fraunhofer-Institut für System- und Innovationsforschung, Germany) ;  
Werner Rothengatter (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany) ;  
Olaf Meyer-Rühle and Ian Sean Brouwer (ProgTrans, Switzerland)

Policy area Environment | Transport

Keyword accounting | action programme | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cost-benefit analysis | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | EU finance | EU financing arrangements | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive agency | management | management planning | organisation of transport | trans-European network | transparency in decision-making | TRANSPORT | transport infrastructure | transport network | transport policy

Summary The literature reports on substantial planning and procurement failures of large transport infrastructure projects. This study should elaborate if and how TEN-T co-funded projects are affected by such operational problems and should provide recommendations on how these could be avoided for the next TEN-T programming period. Based on a literature review and ten case studies, this study elaborates recommendations for improving strategic planning, the choice and definition of projects as well as a sound assessment for transport and socio-economic impacts. The role of transparent information regarding ex-ante planning and ex-post success is studied to support EU co-funding decisions and the monitoring of project implementation.<sup>1</sup>

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

## Democratic Scrutiny, Transparency, and Modalities of Vote in the National Parliaments of the Member States and in the European Parliament

Publication type Study

Date 15-11-2012

External author Izabela Jędrzejowska (Institut für Europäische Verfassungswissenschaften, Fernuniversität Hagen)

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | national parliament | parliament | parliamentary scrutiny | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rules of procedure | transparency in decision-making

Summary This comparative note looks at modern parliaments from the perspective of transparency, accessibility and accountability of their activities to the general public. The subsequent tables comprise the basic voting modalities and transparency measures employed in the European Parliament, national Parliaments of the EU Member States and of some non-EU countries, as well as in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The electronic version of the present note allows accessing relevant background information via hyperlinks (national parliaments' Rules of Procedure, websites, etc.).

Study [EN](#)

## [Law of Administrative Procedure of the European Union: European Added Value Assessment \(+ Annexes I-III\)](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-10-2012

Author NOGAJ Monika

External author Päivi Leino-Sandberg (Annex I), Jacques Ziller (Annex II), Blomeyer & Sanz (Annex III)

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

Keyword administration of the Institutions | administrative law | citizen-authority relations | citizens' Europe | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | governance | legal basis | POLITICS | transparency in decision-making

Summary Article 298 TFEU and the Charter of Fundamental Rights establish a right of citizens to good administration. However, the current legal framework is fragmented, patchy and uneven and the detailed provisions needed to enforce this right are lacking. This assessment argues that a Regulation constituting a general Law of Administrative Procedure would bring significant added value.

ANNEXES: I- Enforcing citizens' right to good administration: time for action. II- Aspects relating to added value for citizens and economic operators. III- Aspects relating to the efficiency of the EU administration.

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

Annex 1 [EN](#)

Annex 2 [EN](#)

Annex 3 [EN](#)

## [An Assessment of the European Semester](#)

Publication type Study

Date 17-09-2012

External author Mark HALLERBERG (Bruegel, Hertie School of Governance), Benedicta MARZINOTTO (Bruegel) and Guntram B. WOLFF (Bruegel),  
Research Assistants :  
Dana ANDREICUT, Lucia GRANELLI, Francesco NICOLI and Philine SCHUSEIL

Policy area Budgetary Control | Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester

Keyword budget | budgetary control | coordination of EMU policies | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic forecasting | economic policy | economic priority | economic recession | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | fiscal policy | investment promotion | monetary economics | public debt | public finance and budget policy | taxation | transparency in decision-making

Summary This study assesses the European Semester's effectiveness and legitimacy. Effectiveness is constrained by the fact that spillovers, in particular in the euro area, are insufficiently accounted for and recommendations lack prioritisation across countries and policy areas. Legitimacy derives from the Council vote. We provide evidence based on a survey sent to all 27 National Parliaments, which are found to be active in debating central elements of the Semester and thereby providing national legitimacy. The role of the European Parliament was strengthened with the Six-pack's introduction of an Economic Dialogue. We propose a non-binding vote by the European Parliament on the Annual Growth Survey and on final recommendations. For euro area countries, only MEPs of these countries should vote. Currently discussed steps towards a banking, fiscal and political union may require Treaty changes, which would provide greater legitimacy at the EU level.

Study [EN](#)

## [Human Rights and Climate Change : EU Policy Options](#)

Publication type Study

Date 27-08-2012

External author Christel COURNIL (University Paris 13, Pres Sorbonne Paris Cité, IRIS, CERAP, France) ;

Catherine COLARD-FABREGOULE (University Paris 13, Pres Sorbonne Paris Cité, CERAP, France) ;

Despina SINOUE (University of Cergy-Pontoise, France) ;

Sandrine MALJEAN-DUBOIS (National Centre for Scientific Research-CNRS, Centre for International and European Studies and Research - CERIC/CNRS, France) ;

Chloé VLASSOPOULOS (University of Picardie, University Research Centre for Public and Political Action - CURAPP/CNRS, France) ;

Anne-Sophie TABAU (University Paris 13 - Pres Sorbonne Paris Cité, CERAP, France) ;

Isabell VERDIER-BÜSCHEL (University of Basel, Centre for International and European Studies and Research - CERIC/CNRS of the Aix-Marseille University, France) and

Adélie POMADE (University of Saint-Louis, Belgium)

Policy area Environment | Foreign Affairs | Global Governance | Human Rights

Keyword climate change | cooperation policy | deterioration of the environment | development aid | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | EU environmental policy | EU institutions and European civil service | EU policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | human rights | international affairs | international negotiations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | migration | migration | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | tradeable emission permit | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** Our study provides a survey of the state of the relationships currently established between human rights and climate change. It examines the external diplomacy of the European Union in the fields of human rights and climate change. The relationship between these two fields is addressed from two different perspectives: the integration of the climate change topic within EU human rights diplomacy; and the inclusion of human rights concerns within EU climate change diplomacy. We analyse its effectiveness, efficiency and the interrelationships with the EU's external development policy by showing, where appropriate, their coordination, coherence and mutual support. In this respect, special emphasis is put on migration issues. Our study then turns the analysis towards internal EU climate change policies, which are explored from the perspective of human rights. We assess the compatibility of European Union mitigation policies with human rights and the gradual integration of the EU adaptation framework within other key European Union policies. Finally, this work concludes with a clarification of how the environmental human right to public information and participation in decision-making, which is transversal by nature, appears and may evolve in both EU internal and external climate policy.

Study [EN](#)

## [European Transparency Register](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-05-2012

Author COPELAND Nicholas

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword administrative transparency | code of conduct | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | interest group | interinstitutional agreement | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | POLITICS | politics and public safety | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** Efforts to ensure proper transparency in EU policy-making are a relatively recent phenomenon. Although the European Parliament (EP) has had a register of lobbyists for more than 15 years, registrants did not need to provide detailed information on themselves and their clients. An EP report on the Commission's proposed voluntary register in 2008 called for a more comprehensive approach: a common, mandatory register of all three institutions - Commission, Council and Parliament. Following extended negotiations in a high-level working party, the joint Commission/EP transparency register was launched in June 2011. In less than one year nearly 5 000 organisations or self-employed persons seeking an input into EU policy-making have registered through the online interface. Although it has been generally welcomed by stakeholders and interest groups, a number of criticisms and concerns have been expressed. Mandatory registration has remained a contentious issue. And whilst successive Council Presidencies have indicated interest in becoming more closely involved, uncertainty remains over the extent to which the Council might participate.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [The Concrete Options for a Law on Administrative Procedure Bearing on Direct EU Administration](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 16-04-2012

External author Bernardo Giorgio Mattarella

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword administration of the Institutions | administrative procedure | administrative transparency | drafting of EU law | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | legislative procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | transparency in decision-making

**Summary** This paper will address some of the main issues relating to the drafting of a law bearing on direct EU administration, pointing out the main options for each one of them. The first chapter deals with preliminary issues, in order to define the object of the paper. In the second chapter some fundamental features of the envisaged law are discussed. The third chapter is devoted to the scope of the law. The fourth chapter focuses on some of its possible contents.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Drafting European Union Legislation](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 16-04-2012

External author William Robinson (Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, the UK)

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

Keyword drafting of EU law | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | impact study | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | legislative procedure | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | powers of the EP | transparency in decision-making

Summary The process of drafting Union legislation is long and complex, involving large numbers of interveners in a multilingual and multicultural environment. Strong rules and procedural safeguards are essential to ensure that Union legislation satisfies the needs and expectations of 500 million citizens and of businesses in the 27 Member States.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Checks and Balances of Soft EU Rule-Making](#)

Publication type Study

Date 08-03-2012

External author L.A.J. Senden and A. van den Brink (Europa Institute, Utrecht University, the Netherlands)

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | governance | interpretation of the law | LAW | legislative drafting | legislative-executive relations | parliamentary proceedings | political framework | POLITICS | politics and public safety | power of implementation | powers of the institutions (EU) | public consultation | self-regulation | sources and branches of the law | transparency in decision-making

Summary This report has been drafted upon the invitation of the European Parliament to perform a study on the provisions, instruments or areas of activity of EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, where judicial review is not possible. As the judicial reviewability of EU soft administrative and regulatory rule-making is particularly problematic, this type of rule-making has been put central. The report aims at highlighting the institutional, procedural and judicial framework within which soft rule-making is used and what actions may be required for a better design thereof.

Study [EN](#)

## [THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 2025 - PREPARING FOR COMPLEXITY](#)

Publication type Study

Date 01-01-2012

Keyword common foreign and security policy | demography and population | direct democracy | drafting of EU law | economic analysis | economic consequence | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | globalisation | governance | impact of information technology | information technology and data processing | institutional reform | interest group | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | organisation of work and working conditions | political framework | POLITICS | politics and public safety | population ageing | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technological change | technology and technical regulations | transparency in decision-making | working conditions

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

## [Alternatives in Drafting an EU Administrative Procedure Law](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-11-2011

External author Jacques Ziller (University of Pavia, Italy)

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword administrative law | decision-making body (EU) | drafting of EU law | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | political framework | POLITICS | power of implementation | transparency in decision-making

Summary This note is based upon the work accomplished by the Working Group on EU Administrative Law of the Committee on Legal Affairs of the European Parliament. Having been invited to consider the Working Document drafted by the Group with critical observations and conclusions, the author wishes to acknowledge the excellent quality and usefulness of the Document, which gives a very accurate description of the State of Play in matters of EU administrative procedure law and makes clear and accurate recommendations. This note aims at highlighting those aspects where there are different options for in drafting an Administrative Procedure Law for EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, while indicating and giving reasons to the author's preferred solutions.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Legitimacy and EU Administrative Law : Future Prospects](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-11-2011

External author Melanie Smith (Cardiff Law School, the UK)

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword administrative cooperation | administrative law | administrative procedure | administrative transparency | appeal to an administrative authority | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | POLITICS | transparency in decision-making

Summary This briefing note considers the concepts of good governance and legitimacy post Lisbon and the connection between these concepts and the evolution of EU Administrative Law. It provides an overview of the current EU Administrative Law landscape by drawing on the themes common to the sectoral reports: complexity, lacunae and inconsistency. It proposes some next steps for the Working Group on EU Administrative Law, including adopting a legally binding instrument containing basic administrative principles.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Establishing a common transparency register](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-03-2011

Author COPELAND Nicholas

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword administrative transparency | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | European Council | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | interest group | interinstitutional agreement | POLITICS | politics and public safety | transparency in decision-making

Summary Efforts to ensure proper transparency in EU policy-making are a relatively recent phenomenon. Whilst the European Parliament has had a register of lobbyists for more than 15 years, it publishes no detailed information on the registrants. In contrast, the Commission's register has been operational for little more than two years.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Citizens and EU Administration - Direct and Indirect Links](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 14-01-2011

External author Deirdre CURTIN and Joana MENDES (University of Amsterdam, Holland)

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Petitions to the European Parliament

Keyword administration of the Institutions | administrative transparency | citizens' Europe | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Ombudsman | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | parliament | petition | POLITICS | transparency in decision-making

Summary This briefing note focuses on the legal and non-legal avenues by which transparency and participation have been ensured in EU law and practice. Transparency and participation have produced the main recent changes in the way the EU administration relates to its citizens. We provide an overview of the current law and practice and their strengths and weaknesses post-Lisbon. In addition, reference is made to the European Ombudsman and the right to petition the European Parliament.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [The Data Transparency Initiative and its Impact on Cohesion Policy](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-06-2009

External author CSIL - Centre for Industrial Studies (Milan Italy)

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

Keyword access to EU information | communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European official | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | fund (EU) | governance | labour law and labour relations | POLITICS | principle of proportionality | principle of subsidiarity | professional ethics | public consultation | transparency in decision-making

Summary This study looks at the implementation of the European Transparency Initiative (ETI) in the field of Cohesion policy. The aim of the ETI is to improve communication about EU's initiatives in general and to enhance transparency on EU spending in particular. The main questions addressed concern the ability of Member States in fulfilling the ETI requirements in the field of Cohesion policy and the conditions under which the ETI can be successfully implemented.

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

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



## [Lobbying in the European Union](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 05-11-2007

External author Dr David Coen, School of Public Policy, University College London, London WC1, UK

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Petitions to the European Parliament

Keyword communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European citizenship | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | interest group | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public policy | public relations | transparency in decision-making

Summary This paper surveys the history of European Lobbying and recent empirical studies on current practice. It presents some key results on the structure, methods and strategies of professional interest representation in Brussels. The briefing also comments on the Commission's European Transparency Initiative, underlining the need to create a single mandatory registry at the Commission and the European Parliament. An inter-institutional approach would reduce the opportunities for lobbyists to venue-shop and increase the exclusion costs of misinformation

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Transparency and Access to Information](#)

Publication type Study

Date 01-03-2004

Author LEHMANN Wilhelm

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

Keyword access to EU information | access to information | administrative transparency | communications | democratic deficit | disclosure of information | document | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | POLITICS | public consultation | transparency in decision-making

Summary A critical appraisal of current policies in the EU and selected national systems

Study [EN](#)