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## List of publications from the EP Think Tank

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Creation date : 28-03-2024

## HOT – A head office tax system for small companies

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-03-2024

Author BAERT Pieter

Policy area Taxation

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

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

Briefing [EN](#)

## Artificial intelligence act

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-03-2024

Author MADIEGA Tambiama André

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

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

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

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Artificial intelligence act](#)

## Victims of terrorism: EU response

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-03-2024

Author LUYTEN KATRIEN

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

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

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

At a Glance [EN](#)

## Internal Market Emergency and Resilience Act (IMERA)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-02-2024

Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union

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

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

Briefing [EN](#)

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

## Increasing the competitiveness of the intermodal transport

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-02-2024

Author TUOMINEN ULLA-MARI

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

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

Briefing [EN](#)

## Combating late payment

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-02-2024

Author ANGLMAYER Irmgard

Policy area Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | civil law | commercial transaction | contract terms | deadline for payment | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | impact study | LAW | marketing | proposal (EU) | small and medium-sized enterprises | TRADE

**Summary** Presented as part of the 'SME relief package', the initiative aims to tighten the EU's late payment framework and improve its enforcement. It proposes, among other things, to convert the current Late Payment Directive into a regulation, a move that several national parliaments contested. National parliaments also raised subsidiarity and proportionality concerns on several provisions. The impact assessment (IA) adequately justifies the need to revise the late payment framework, and substantiates the envisaged change of legal instrument. Overall, it presents a clear intervention logic. It puts forward three well-developed policy options (each with sub-options). Because of the initiative's high relevance for SMEs, a comprehensive SME test was carried out, in addition to a competitiveness check. The focus of the impact analysis lies clearly on economic impacts. The IA draws on a wide range of evidence (including relevant studies, surveys and market analyses) and broad stakeholder input (including from SMEs). It builds on qualitative and quantitative data and is transparent about data limitations. The wide evidence base somewhat compensates for the fact that the Commission's 2015 evaluation is rather dated. That fact that no separate evaluation was carried out prior to the revision is not fully in line with the 'evaluate first' principle. Of note, the Commission's open public consultation, which ran in parallel with the feedback to the inception IA, lasted merely 9 weeks (instead of the mandatory 12 weeks), without the IA disclosing the reasons for the shortened period. The IA provides a vast amount of background information and additional explanations in annexes (26 in total) and appears broadly coherent with the legislative proposal.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Capital markets union: Overview and state of play](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-02-2024

Author HALLAK ISSAM

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | Economic and Monetary Union | EU competition policy | EU market | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | monetary economics | single market | TRADE | trade policy

**Summary** The capital markets union (CMU) is an EU political project aimed at 'de-fragmenting' the markets for corporate financing. The primary objective is to ensure that firms with comparable characteristics obtain comparable financing conditions – especially as regards costs and volumes – regardless of the Member State in which they are located. The objective to de-fragment capital markets is influenced by the context of European monetary union and the single market for goods and services; fragmented financial markets have adverse effects on the conduct of euro monetary policy, as well as on fair competition between EU firms – the level-playing field. The second major objective of the CMU is to expand the financial means and instruments available to EU corporations through wider de-fragmented EU capital markets offered to EU companies, as well as regulatory intervention. This aspect is of greater relevance to the financing of innovation and would be reflected in the 'attractiveness' of the EU capital markets to both firms seeking funding and investors. The first major CMU policy action agenda was set out in 2015, and the second in 2020. Actions address a wide range of aspects of EU capital markets, and seek three objectives: a) transparency and centralisation of information, b) removal of cross-border obstacles for investment within the EU, and c) regulatory tools to expand financing resources and financial instruments. Although the EU's 2020 CMU action plan is ongoing, major measures have already been adopted, such as the EU consolidated tape (a source of information on price forming for transactions in financial instruments). Steps towards an effectively integrated EU capital market are therefore being taken one by one, taking Member States' specificities into consideration. In the meantime, the incompletely integrated EU capital markets maintain economic discrepancies and divergences between EU Member States, while EU firms with significant innovation and growth potential may continue to lack the financial investment they need from the private sector.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Special reports by the European Court of Auditors: A rolling checklist of recent findings](#)

Publication type Study

Date 06-02-2024

Author BINDER ECKHARD

Keyword accounting | auditing | budget | budgetary reserve (EU) | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | public finance and budget policy

**Summary** This publication seeks to assist the Members of the European Parliament Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) in their work relating to the 2022 discharge procedure, scrutinising how the general budget of the European Union is spent. It is based on a sample of 13 special reports by the European Court of Auditors (ECA), which were presented during CONT committee meetings in the 12 months from December 2022 to November 2023, and for which the committee secretariat prepared working documents. The analysis provides a general overview of the ECA's mandate and the emerging role of performance auditing. The main body of the study comprises a selection of tables covering each ECA special report. The tables gather published information to provide a concise and useful summary.

Study [EN](#)

## [Interoperable Europe act](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-02-2024

Author Niestadt Maria

Policy area Global Governance

Keyword administrative cooperation | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | data processing | digital transformation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic government | European Interoperability Framework | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | executive power and public service | information and information processing | information system | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | public sector | public service | technology and technical regulations

**Summary** In November 2022, the European Commission published a proposal for a regulation laying down measures for a high level of public sector interoperability across the Union (the interoperable Europe act). The initiative seeks to ensure a consistent, human-centric EU approach to interoperability, create an interoperability governance structure that helps public administrations and the private sector to work together, and establish an ecosystem of interoperability solutions for the EU's public sector. The proposal should also cut red tape for citizens and businesses. The proposal is now with the co-legislators. The Parliament adopted its position on the proposed regulation in September 2023, and the Council did so in October 2023. Shortly afterwards, in November 2023, the co-legislators reached a provisional agreement on the text (since endorsed by the ITRE committee and the Committee of Permanent Representatives of EU Member States). While maintaining the main points of the Commission proposal, the co-legislators have clarified several points, such as the scope of the regulation, its objectives, and the conditions of the mandatory interoperability assessment. Parliament's plenary vote on the final agreement is scheduled for the February I plenary session. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages during the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Interoperable Europe act](#)

## [Alternative dispute resolution for consumers](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 31-01-2024

Author [ANGLMAYER Irmgard](#)

Policy area [Consumer Protection](#) | [Ex-ante Impact Assessment](#) | [Internal Market and Customs Union](#)

Keyword [alternative dispute resolution](#) | [area of freedom, security and justice](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [business organisation](#) | [competitiveness](#) | [consumer law](#) | [consumer policy](#) | [consumption](#) | [directive \(EU\)](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [justice](#) | [LAW](#) | [TRADE](#)

**Summary** The impact assessment (IA) underpinning the revision of the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) framework presents a robust intervention logic. It puts forward four policy options (including a non-regulatory option) with varying degrees of ambition; however, the description of the different policy options would have benefited from more depth and detail. The IA assesses the policy options in terms of their economic, social and environmental impacts and their effects on fundamental rights. While large parts of the analysis are mainly qualitative, the section on economic impacts is also supported by quantitative data and estimations. Although the IA acknowledges that most businesses concerned are SMEs, the impact on SMEs is not further assessed. Similarly, more reflection on the impact of extending the directive's scope to third-country traders would have been warranted. The IA's evidence base appears solid: in addition to a comprehensive stakeholder consultation, it drew on an ex-post evaluation (conducted 'back to back' with the IA), Commission reports on the application of the current ADR/ODR framework, and several highly relevant and up to-date studies. The legislative proposal appears to follow broadly the IA's preferred option, despite some clear differences.

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

## [Research for AGRI Committee - Rural Areas - Levels of support and impact on competitiveness of farms](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 23-01-2024

External author [Monika BECK](#), [Patrick VAN BUNNEN](#), [Sarah BODART](#), [Arndt MÜNCH](#), [Helene GORNY](#) & [Manon BADOUIX](#)

Policy area [Agriculture and Rural Development](#)

Keyword [agricultural holding](#) | [agricultural policy](#) | [agricultural structures and production](#) | [AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES](#) | [aid to agriculture](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [business organisation](#) | [common agricultural policy](#) | [competitiveness](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [farm modernisation](#) | [farmer](#) | [farming systems](#) | [regions and regional policy](#) | [rural development](#) | [rural region](#)

**Summary** This At a glance note summarises the study analysing how the CAP and state aid support farm competitiveness, including the role of young farmers and women. Challenges and drivers of EU farm competitiveness are identified. Key competitiveness indicators are analysed and their limitations are considered. The level of CAP support to competitiveness is assessed, with a comparison of the 2014-2022 and 2023-2027 programming periods. The study illustrates the Member States' differentiated approaches to supporting competitiveness.

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

## [Research for AGRI Committee - Rural Areas - Levels of support and impact on competitiveness of farms](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 19-01-2024

External author [Monika BECK](#), [Patrick VAN BUNNEN](#), [Sarah BODART](#), [Arndt MÜNCH](#), [Helene GORNY](#) & [Manon BADOUIX](#)

Policy area [Agriculture and Rural Development](#)

Keyword [adaptation to climate change](#) | [agricultural policy](#) | [agricultural production policy](#) | [agricultural structure](#) | [agricultural structures and production](#) | [AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES](#) | [aid to agriculture](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [business organisation](#) | [competitiveness](#) | [economic structure](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [farm income](#) | [farming sector](#) | [farming systems](#) | [regional farm policy](#) | [regions and regional policy](#) | [rural region](#) | [young farmer](#)

**Summary** This study analyses how the CAP and state aid support farm competitiveness, including the role of young farmers and women. Challenges and drivers of EU farm competitiveness are identified. Key competitiveness indicators are analysed and their limitations are considered. The level of CAP support to competitiveness is assessed, with a comparison of the 2014-2022 and 2023-2027 programming periods. The study illustrates the Member States' differentiated approaches to supporting competitiveness.

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

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

## [2024 Recommendations on the economic policy of the Euro Area: A comparison of Commission and Council texts \(the 'comply or explain' principle\)](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 17-01-2024

Author [LOI GIACOMO](#) | [MIESKOLAINEN MILJA](#)

Policy area [Economics and Monetary Issues](#)

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [competition](#) | [Ecofin](#) | [economic policy](#) | [economic policy](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EU competition policy](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [euro area](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [international affairs](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [monetary economics](#) | [monetary policy](#) | [monetary relations](#) | [recommendation](#)

**Summary** This document compares the draft 2024 Recommendation for the economic policy of the Euro Area proposed by the European Commission on 21 November 2023 with the 2023 Euro Area Recommendation approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 16 January 2023.

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

## Application of the 'One in, one out' approach – and its impact on businesses

Publication type Study

Date 15-01-2024

External author James EAGER, Elias NACER & Loïc DOUVILLÉ

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | small and medium-sized enterprises

**Summary** This study takes stock of the implementation of the regulatory offsetting mechanism known as the 'one in, one out' (OIOO) approach by the European Commission. Overall, this mechanism was found to be relevant and useful to address the issue of managing the EU regulatory burden on businesses. While there has been a clear commitment from the Commission to ensuring the OIOO approach is applied effectively, there remains scope for the Commission to increase the transparency underpinning its methodology. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE).

Study [EN](#)

## Banking union: Overview and state of play

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-01-2024

Author HALLAK ISSAM

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword banking supervision | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | competition policy | EU banking union | EU finance | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | fund (EU) | monetary economics | single market

**Summary** The banking union is a regulatory framework that establishes a single prudential rulebook for banks, and – for banks the failure of which it is considered would have a significant impact – a single supervisor and a Single Resolution Fund. Created as a policy response to the 2007-2008 banking crisis, banking union is essential for European monetary union and the level playing field in the EU single market for goods and services. The lessons learned during the banking crisis were a key foundation for banking union. One of its major objectives is to disentangle the link between banks and their Member State – also known as the bank-sovereign 'nexus' or 'doom loop' – and to safeguard identical refinancing conditions for banks with identical characteristics, regardless of the Member State in which they are headquartered. The latter aim also seeks to indirectly benefit fair competition in the single market: banks typically pass through their own financing conditions to the lending conditions they offer to firms. By enhancing convergence of the financing conditions of EU banks with identical characteristics, the banking union would therefore also enhance convergence of the financing conditions of EU firms with identical characteristics. This, in turn, helps prevent economic fragmentation within the EU. The banking union is at a relatively advanced stage. It has set up an EU-level layer of decisions, in particular as regards the application ('supervision') of the rules ('regulation'). This provides for information provision from banks and consistent application of the regulation. It also provides for the creation of 'safety net' funds financed by the industry pro-rata to covered bonds. Two pillars, namely the single supervisory mechanism and the single resolution mechanism, are in force and operational. The third pillar – the single depository insurance scheme – has yet to be completed and enacted. The banking union rulebook is still subject to modifications, to align with international standards. The rules on resolution and the deposit insurance scheme are being modified, to meet their aim of avoiding state interventions and coping with the absence of a single deposit insurance.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Combating microplastic pollution in the EU: Unintentional releases of plastic pellets

Publication type Briefing

Date 10-01-2024

Author RAKSTELYTE AUSRA

Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Keyword action programme | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | carbon neutrality | circular economy | deterioration of the environment | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | management | plastic waste | pollution | regulation (EU)

**Summary** The IA is convincing on the need and conditions being in place to tackle the unintentional releases of plastic pellets as the main focus of the legislative initiative, although it appears that initially all six main sources of microplastic pollution were considered. The IA draws on extensive scientific evidence, literature and stakeholder consultations. It defines the scale of the problem, its drivers, affected stakeholders and how likely the problem is to persist, referring, inter alia, to global trends and future scenarios. The IA sets the general objective of contributing to the reduction of microplastic-related pollution by preventing and reducing pellet losses to the environment, thus reducing the adverse consequences of pellet pollution. It suggests four policy options (POs) to tackle the problem, which, however, do not appear to be full self-standing alternatives. The IA points to the consultation specifically targeting SMEs and its results showing the need for the lighter version of requirements, particularly on the obligation for external audit and certification. It assesses each policy option for their environmental, economic and social impacts, costs and administrative burden, and transparently lists assumptions, uncertainties and data limitations. However, the IA could have been clearer regarding reporting costs, which it considers to be accounted for under the REACH restriction, and the supporting study, and it could have made further efforts to quantify the expected benefits. The IA selects the preferred PO after comparing POs in terms of benefit to cost and their effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and proportionality. It suggests a combination of PO1 and PO2b): a mandatory standardised methodology to measure pellet losses combined with the mandatory requirements to prevent and reduce pellet losses, including lighter requirements for micro- and small companies. The IA expects that the initiative will contribute up to a quarter of the total 30 % reduction target for microplastics by 2030.

Briefing [EN](#)



## [Single Resolution Board: Accountability arrangements \(9th parliamentary term\)](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-12-2023

Author MAGNUS Marcel

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword appointment of members | budget | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | civil law | company in difficulties | documentation | Economic and Monetary Union | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial control | financial solvency | institutional activity | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | LAW | monetary economics | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public hearing | summarising

Summary This document provides an overview of public hearings and exchange of views with the Chair of the Single Resolution Board (SRB) in the ECON Committee since July 2019. It also provides an overview of all external papers requested by the ECON Committee by a standing panel of banking experts. Lastly, the annex contains an overview of the respective legal bases for these hearings as part of the accountability framework of the SRB. For an overview of public hearings during the 8th parliamentary term, please see here.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Public benefit status and CMD systems for associations and non-profit organizations in the EU](#)

Publication type Study

Date 13-12-2023

External author Antonio FICI

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

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cloud computing | computer equipment | digital technology | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | FINANCE | information technology and data processing | legal form of organisations | non-profit organisation | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | tax law | taxation | technological change | technology and technical regulations

Summary This study, which was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the JURI Committee, provides a comparative analysis of the laws on public benefit status found in the Member States of the EU from the perspective of associations and discusses the state of the art of EU law in this field. The study also deals with the legal regulation of cross-border conversion, merger and division of associations, focusing on some problematic aspects that also concern associations that hold the public benefit status. Conclusions focus on the need for the introduction of an EU statute that guarantees public benefit organizations effective freedom of establishment within the Union.

Study [EN](#)

## [Listing act](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-12-2023

Author HOFLMAYR MARTIN

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword accounting | added value | approximation of laws | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | capital market | EU finance | EU financing | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial policy | free movement of capital | harmonisation of standards | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | small and medium-sized enterprises | technology and technical regulations

Summary The overwhelming majority of businesses in the European Union (EU) are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). They employ almost two thirds of the workforce, create 85 % of all new jobs and generate about three fifths of EU value added. In the period from 2010 to 2020, only a small proportion of EU SMEs said that they raised external financing through capital markets (4 %), while a quarter used bank loans, and a fifth used business-to-business trade credits or internal funds. To make capital markets more attractive to EU SMEs and diversify their sources of external financing, the European Commission tabled three interconnected proposals in December 2022. They seek to streamline the listing process, balancing the regulatory and compliance costs to companies seeking to list, or already listed, and ensuring proper investor protection and market integrity. The key amendments seek to cut red tape in the listing process: at the pre-IPO stage by facilitating the development and provision of investment research while avoiding conflicts of interest inherent in such research; at the IPO stage by making it easier and cheaper for issuers to draw up a prospectus; and at the post-IPO stage by providing more clarity on what constitutes inside information. A new directive on multiple-vote share structures would harmonise national laws and allow listed companies' owners to raise more funds at a given voting share. On 24 October 2023, the ECON committee adopted the three reports, together with mandates to start interinstitutional negotiations. The Council had agreed on its negotiating mandate in June, and so interinstitutional negotiations are under way in order to agree on a final version of the texts. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [International Agreements in Progress - EU-New Zealand free trade agreement: Strengthened ties between like-minded partners](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-12-2023

Author DELIVORIAS Angelos

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | economic geography | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | freedom of trade | GEOGRAPHY | international trade | international trade | LAW | market access | New Zealand | political geography | rights and freedoms | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy

**Summary** On 30 June 2022, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and then New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced the conclusion of negotiations on a comprehensive EU-New Zealand free trade agreement (FTA). The agreement was signed on 9 July 2023. Although the 2014-2019 Commission had initially aimed to finalise negotiations before the end of its mandate, both sides raised several sensitive issues during negotiations, not least because New Zealand is a major and competitive producer and exporter of agricultural goods. The EU committed to taking European agricultural sensitivities fully into consideration in its negotiating strategy. New Zealand, for its part, said it aimed to secure 'commercially meaningful access' to the EU market for its agricultural exports. In addition to facilitating trade and investment flows between the parties, the FTA would create a level playing field for the EU with other trading partners that have already concluded FTAs with New Zealand. The FTA would also strengthen the EU's position in Asia-Pacific value chains, and help to advance the trade policy interests of the EU in the region. The FTA is the EU's first to include commitments, subject to sanctions if not upheld, to the Paris Agreement and to core International Labour Organization standards. Parliament gave its consent to the proposed agreement in its plenary session on 22 November 2023. Following Parliament's approval, the Council adopted a decision on the conclusion of the FTA. Once New Zealand also completes its legal requirements and procedures, the agreement will enter into force, probably in early 2024. Fourth edition. The 'International Agreements in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the process, from initial discussions through to ratification. The third edition, drafted by Angelos Delivorias, was published in November 2023. The second edition, drafted by Matthew Parry, was published in September 2022. The first edition, drafted by Krisztina Binder, dates back to October 2017.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [EU-New Zealand free trade agreement](#)

## [EU-China relations](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-12-2023

Author JOCHHEIM Ulrich

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | China | competitiveness | economic geography | EU relations | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy

**Summary** Even before the EU's 2019 'EU-China strategic outlook' defined China as a partner, competitor and systemic rival, China's behaviour had become more assertive, not only in terms of domestic security and economic policies, but also in its posture at international level. The Parliament is set to debate and vote on an own-initiative report on EU-China relations. The plenary debate follows the EU-China Summit planned for 7-8 December in Beijing.

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

## [The 2020-2025 LGBTIQ equality strategy: Implementation overview](#)

Publication type Study

Date 06-12-2023

Author EISELE Katharina

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword area of freedom, security and justice | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | company in difficulties | criminal law | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | gender equality | human rights | LAW | rights and freedoms | sexual minority | sexual violence

**Summary** On 12 November 2020, the European Commission adopted the 'Union of Equality: LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025'. With its LGBTIQ equality strategy, the Commission seeks to address inequalities and challenges affecting LGBTIQ people, with the objective of moving towards a Union of equality. It underscores the diversity of needs of LGBTIQ people, including the most vulnerable groups who experience intersectional discrimination, and trans, non-binary and intersex people who are the least accepted groups in society. Conducted at the request of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), this study offers an overview of implementation of the Commission's LGBTIQ equality strategy to date. The study examines the progress made in the past 3 years. It also studies the position of the European Parliament, which has been very active as regards the protection of rights of LGBTI people in the past four decades, along with the positions of other EU institutions, stakeholders and experts. The study has been prepared to feed into the LIBE committee's implementation report 'Implementation of the EU LGBTIQ equality strategy 2020-2025', Rapporteur José Gusmao (The Left, Portugal).

Study [EN](#)



## AT A GLANCE Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - December 2023

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-12-2023

Author MANGINI ANNA | SANDERSKI ANDRZEJ

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Budget | Budgetary Control | Culture | Employment | Fisheries | Industry | International Trade | Petitions to the European Parliament | Regional Development | Social Policy | Tourism | Transport

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic document management | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial policy | financial transparency | free movement of capital | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | non-governmental organisation | non-governmental organisations | small and medium-sized enterprises

At a Glance [EN](#)

## BEFIT – Business in Europe: Framework for income taxation

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-12-2023

Author BAERT Pieter

Policy area Taxation

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | corporation tax | European tax cooperation | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | group of companies | multinational enterprise | parent company | proposal (EU) | tax collection | tax harmonisation | tax law | taxation

**Summary** When businesses start operating cross-border, they are faced with a new and unfamiliar corporate tax system in each EU Member State. As a result, businesses with cross-border activities have to spend time and resources on understanding and complying with complex local corporate tax rules. This represents a significant administrative burden for those companies, increases the risk of double taxation and discourages companies from taking full advantage of the single market. On 12 September 2023, the European Commission tabled the Business in Europe: Framework for income taxation initiative (BEFIT). This proposal introduces a common EU-wide system for the calculation of the corporate tax base for large business groups. The corporate income tax base of each group member is established according to common rules, and subsequently added together into a single EU-wide tax base. The aggregated income is then reallocated between the group entities, where it is taxed according to the national corporate tax rate of the country in which the entity is resident. The proposal is subject to a special legislative procedure, requiring unanimous support in the Council, following consultation of the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## European cross-border associations

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-12-2023

Author FRIZBERG DIETER

Policy area Democracy | Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cross-border dimension | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | European association | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | free movement of capital | free movement of capital | free movement of goods | freedom to provide services | impact study | international trade | legal form of organisations | non-profit organisation | proposal (EU) | regions and regional policy | right of establishment | single market | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

**Summary** The problem definition in the impact assessment (IA) appears to be well-supported by evidence. The IA provides a sufficient range and description of the policy options, albeit sometimes lacking in detail. The assessment of the options' impacts (economic, social, environmental, fundamental rights) is qualitative and quantitative. It appears to be based on sound research and analysis, with clear acknowledgement that the available data are limited. The IA provides a comprehensive summary of the preferred options' costs and benefits for the affected stakeholder groups (associations and Member States, and indirectly citizens and for-profit companies). It is transparent about data uncertainties and assumptions. It comprehensively describes stakeholder groups' views on the problem, the problem drivers, the objectives and the policy options. An SME test has been carried out. However, it appears that no targeted SME consultation was conducted.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Public hearing with D. Laboureix, Chair of the Single Resolution Board

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-11-2023

Author MAGNUS Marcel | SPITZER Kai Gereon

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | crisis management | FINANCE | financial risk | free movement of capital | management

**Summary** This briefing has been prepared for the public hearing with the Chair of the Single Resolution Board (SRB), Dominique Laboureix, scheduled for 4 December 2023. This briefing addresses: Report on smaller banks, Updated resolvability assessment, SRB study on CMDI reform impact, Court confirmed the SRB's treatment of Banco Popular shareholders and creditors, Review of three external papers "Do 'white knights' make excessive profits in bank resolution?", Liquidity in resolution, Update on the SRB's strategic review and the 2024 work programme, MREL dashboard Q1 2023.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Research for AGRI Committee – Development of milk production in the EU after the end of milk quotas](#)

Publication type Study

Date 23-11-2023

External author Roel JONGENEEL, Ana GONZALEZ-MARTINEZ, Teagasc, Trevor DONNELLAN, Fiona THORNE, Emma DILLON, Jason LOUGHREY

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Budget | Budgetary Control | Environment | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Industry

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | agricultural activity | agricultural policy | agricultural quota | agricultural structures and production | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | common agricultural policy | competitiveness | dairy farm | dairy production | farming systems | milk product | processed agricultural produce

Summary This report evaluates the challenges and opportunities for the EU dairy sector in light of milk quota abolition and the sector's medium-term prospects. It focuses on structural change in the sector, the dynamics of the dairy market, the need for environmental resilience and rural sustainability. The specific concerns of disadvantaged dairy regions are also addressed. The report offers policy recommendations for the European Parliament's consideration to bolster dairy farming and sustain rural communities effectively, while addressing the sector's sustainability requirements.

Study [EN](#)

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

## [Understanding policy coherence for development](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-11-2023

Author PICHON Eric

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid

Keyword action programme | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cooperation policy | development aid | domestic policy | economic and social cohesion | economic policy | ECONOMICS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | POLITICS | redevelopment aid | sustainable development

Summary A commitment under the EU Treaties, policy coherence for development requires the EU and its Member States to take into account the objectives of development cooperation in all their external and internal policies that are likely to affect developing countries. Managing competing objectives is a challenge. Better awareness among EU policy-makers and a streamlined action plan could help mitigate trade-offs and improve synergies.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [Stakeholder consultation report on the implementation of selected aspects of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement \(CETA\)](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-11-2023

External author This paper has been written by Dr Matthias Bauer of the Tutwa Europe Network at the request of the Ex-post Evaluation Unit of the Directorate for Impact Assessment and Foresight, within the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS) of the Secretariat of the European Parliament.

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | free competition

Summary The European Parliament's Committee on International Trade is currently scrutinising implementation of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) through a dedicated report. This stakeholder consultation report offers evidence in support of the committee's work on the implementation report. The stakeholder consultation report focuses on key areas that have garnered significant attention throughout the CETA negotiations and the ratification process. It also discusses provisions that have posed challenges or remained under utilised. Trade data indicate that CETA has had a positive impact on EU-Canada trade in goods and services. Stakeholders, including businesses and civil society, generally express satisfaction with CETA's implementation after the initial 5-year provisional application period, noting growth in bilateral trade, positive public procurement outcomes, and the absence of major concerns in protecting public service sectors. However, some challenges remain, such as the need for more concrete progress in regulatory cooperation, increased transparency in committee activities, greater business involvement to minimise government-to-government discussions, and improved engagement of civil society, particularly regarding labour and environmental protection issues. Stakeholders have also raised concerns about the incomplete ratification of CETA. Swift ratification is essential to bolster and enhance the EU's trade policy credibility, not least in view of other significant trade agreements, such as the EU-Mercosur agreement, the deal with New Zealand, and potential future trade agreements with other countries.

Study [EN](#)

## EU-New Zealand free trade agreement: One step closer to ratification

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-11-2023

Author DELIVORIAS Angelos

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | designation of origin | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | freedom of trade | international trade | international trade | LAW | marketing | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | rights and freedoms | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy | trade policy | value chain

**Summary** On 30 June 2022, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and then New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced the conclusion of negotiations on a comprehensive EU-New Zealand free trade agreement (FTA). The agreement was signed on 9 July 2023. Although the 2014-2019 Commission had initially aimed to finalise negotiations before the end of its mandate, both sides raised several sensitive issues during negotiations, not least because New Zealand is a major and competitive producer and exporter of agricultural goods. The EU committed to taking European agricultural sensitivities fully into consideration in its negotiating strategy. New Zealand, for its part, said it aimed to secure 'commercially meaningful access' to the EU market for its agricultural exports. In addition to facilitating trade and investment flows between the parties, the FTA would create a level playing field for the EU with other trading partners that have already concluded FTAs with New Zealand. The FTA would also strengthen the EU's position in Asia-Pacific value chains, and help to advance the trade policy interests of the EU in the region. The FTA is the EU's first to include commitments, subject to sanctions if not upheld, to the Paris Agreement and to core International Labour Organization standards. On 24 October 2023, Parliament's INTA committee recommended that Parliament give its consent to the free trade agreement. Parliament will decide on the proposed agreement by means of a single vote on consent in plenary, in Strasbourg in November 2023. Third edition. The 'International Agreements in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the process, from initial discussions through to ratification. The second edition was published in September 2022. The first, drafted by Krisztina Binder, dates back to October 2017.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [EU-New Zealand free trade agreement](#)

## Bank crisis management and deposit insurance

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-11-2023

Author HALLAK ISSAM

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword banking policy | banking system | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | consumption | crisis management | EU banking union | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial intervention | free movement of capital | management | monetary economics | services of general interest | taxation | taxpayer | TRADE

**Summary** On 18 April 2023, the European Commission tabled a package of proposals to amend the bank crisis management and deposit insurance (CMDI) framework. The objective of the reform is to calibrate the latter so as to further deepen harmonisation and reduce the use of taxpayer funding. More specifically, the proposal for a CMDI reform would amend the early intervention procedure and the decision to resolve a failing bank in the public interest. It would also encourage the use of funding from national deposit guarantee schemes in resolution. The package of proposals is currently being discussed by the European Parliament and the Council. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## An analysis of the implementation of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-11-2023

External author Julian HINZ et al.

Policy area International Trade

Keyword America | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | Canada | economic geography | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | freedom of trade | GEOGRAPHY | LAW | political geography | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | rights and freedoms | small and medium-sized enterprises | supply chain | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy | trade policy

**Summary** This in-depth analysis offers a quantitative analysis of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and Canada, six years after its provisional enforcement. Our analysis confirms substantial economic gains: goods exports from the EU to Canada increased by 27 % and imports rose by 32 % due to the agreement. The services sector also showed robust growth, with 19 % and 15 % increases in exports and imports, respectively. However, the paper identifies challenges, such as the low Preference Utilization Rate (PUR), predominantly among large firms, and highlights that SMEs still account for less than half of the EU's total exports to Canada. Beyond the immediate economic impact, the analysis focuses on key issues in the implementation and offers further quantitative evidence on critical raw material policies and mutual recognition agreements. Sections delve into a descriptive analysis of the bilateral structure of trade, implementation challenges, and offer policy recommendations.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Gender responsive budgeting: Implications for the budget of the European Parliament](#)

Publication type Study

Date 26-10-2023

Author SAPALA Magdalena | SHREEVES Rosamund

Keyword action programme | budget | budgetary procedure | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | drawing up of the EU budget | EU finance | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | LAW | management | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination

Summary The European Parliament is one of the key advocates of gender mainstreaming – including gender responsive budgeting (GRB) – in the European Union and its Member States. In addition, it has made significant efforts to implement gender mainstreaming in its own political, administrative and procedural processes. However, despite the commitments made at both political and administrative level, the principles of gender responsive budgeting are not yet fully reflected in the European Parliament's budget. Moreover, none of the EU institutions currently apply GRB tools to their own administrative budget. Offering an overview of gender responsive budgeting, its rationale, tools and progress made to implement it in the budget of the European Union, this study looks at how the approach could be designed and implemented with specific reference to the internal budget of the European Parliament. With a view to advancing gender equality in the internal finances of the European Parliament, the authors give examples of entry points for application of GRB tools and techniques in the budgetary cycle and processes. The study is also intended to feed into the ongoing reflection on promoting GRB in the other EU institutions and more broadly.

Study [EN](#)

## [Economic security policies in G7 countries](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 24-10-2023

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | economic policy | economic policy | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | geopolitics | group of leading industrialised countries | humanities | information security | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | SCIENCE | world economy | world organisations

Summary In an increasingly challenging geopolitical environment, the notion of economic security is gaining traction. The May 2023 G7 summit produced, for the first time, a dedicated statement on the topic and the EU adopted its first strategy in June 2023. G7 countries are also expanding the range of measures tackling complex security risks.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [Common fisheries policy: State of play](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-10-2023

Author SCHOLAERT FREDERIK

Policy area Fisheries

Keyword action programme | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common fisheries policy | ecosystem | ENVIRONMENT | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fisheries | fishing area | management | natural environment | regulation (EU) | sustainable fisheries

Summary In the EU, marine fisheries – the core of the common fisheries policy (CFP) – fall under one of the few areas of exclusive competence. This means that the EU legislates on marine fisheries through regulations that are directly binding on EU Member States. Since its creation in 1983, the CFP has been reformed three times. Most recently, in 2013, a major reform sought to achieve sustainable exploitation of all stocks by 2020, using a scientific indicator. The tools introduced to support this goal include the management of stocks by fishery and sea basin through multiannual plans and the phasing in of a landing obligation to reduce discards of unwanted catches. Ten years on, it is time to take stock. In February 2023, the Commission presented a 'fisheries and ocean' package, including an implementation report assessing the functioning of the CFP Regulation (a legal obligation). The report highlights the positive results achieved since the 2013 reform – in particular, the recovery of certain fish stocks – and does not propose any further reform, arguing that the CFP provides all the tools for sustainable fisheries management. However, it does highlight areas for improved implementation, such as attracting young people, adopting a broader ecosystem approach and introducing more innovation. The package also includes action plans for decarbonising the sector and reconciling environmental and fisheries policies. The European Parliament has adopted a number of resolutions setting out its views on various aspects of EU fisheries policy, and the Committee on Fisheries is currently preparing an own initiative report on the CFP. In the draft report, the rapporteur identifies several areas where the CFP may need to be adapted, for example by taking into account the specificities of each fishery with regard to the landing obligation. Other issues raised (including in the resolutions) include a clearer definition of the small-scale fleet segment, more flexibility in the permitted capacity of vessels (if working conditions on board are improved or engines are replaced with energy-efficient ones) and consideration of an EU co-management framework (i.e. a collaborative approach to fisheries management with local stakeholders). These and other issues, as well as the question of whether the CFP needs further reform, will certainly shape the debate in the next term.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [The 'one in, one out' principle - A real better lawmaking tool?](#)

Publication type Study

Date 05-10-2023

External author Helen XANTHAKI

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

Keyword administrative formalities | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | economic conditions | economic growth | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU growth strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | labour market | labour market | POLITICS

**Summary** The study submits that 'One in, one out' is a tool for less, not better, regulation and legislation, and, as such, it is not a suitable instrument for better law-making. To achieve effectiveness of legislation, the EU must reform its law-making policy holistically by placing the citizen at the core of its legislative communication. The EP must lead on and defend the citizens' right to better legislation. To put this reform to effect, the JURI Committee must place itself at the centre of deliberations, via a Working Group dedicated to Better Regulation, to assure a constant reflection on better regulation with the support of a network of European academic experts. This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the JURI Committee.

Study [EN](#)

## [High common level of cybersecurity at the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the Union](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-10-2023

Author NEGREIRO ACHIAGA Maria Del Mar

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | computer crime | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU body | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | information and information processing | information security | information system | information technology and data processing | information warfare | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | management | operation of the Institutions | proposal (EU) | risk management

**Summary** The digital transformation is making the EU institutions and administration more vulnerable to cyber-threats and incidents. Their number has surged dramatically in recent years: there were as many incidents during the first half of 2021 as in the whole of 2020, for instance. Yet an analysis of 20 Union institutions, bodies and agencies showed that their governance, preparedness, cybersecurity capability and maturity vary substantially, weakening the system. This proposal for a regulation would establish a common framework to ensure that similar cybersecurity rules and measures are applied within all Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, to improve their resilience and incident-response capacities and rapidly improve the existing situation. In the European Parliament, the file was assigned to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). The report was adopted unanimously in the ITRE meeting on 9 March 2023. The committee's decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations was confirmed by the plenary on 15 March 2023. A provisional agreement was reached during the trilogue on 26 June 2023. ITRE confirmed the political agreement at its meeting on 18 September 2023 and Parliament is expected to adopt the text as agreed during its plenary session in November 2023. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Research for TRAN Committee – Chinese Investments in European Maritime Infrastructure](#)

Publication type Study

Date 02-10-2023

External author Francesca GHIRETTI, Jacob GUNTER, Gregor SEBASTIAN, Meryem GÖKTEN, Olga PINDYUK, Zuzana ZAVARSKÁ & Plamen TONCHEV

Policy area Transport

Keyword Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | China | economic geography | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | investment abroad | management | maritime and inland waterway transport | maritime shipping | risk management | shipping policy | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy | TRANSPORT

**Summary** This study looks at Chinese investments in maritime infrastructures through the lens of 'de-risking' for the first time. It provides a comprehensive overview of Chinese investments in the European maritime sector over the past two decades and weighs the associated risks. The study borrows the framework adopted by the National Risk Assessment of the Kingdom of the Netherlands 2022 for its risk assessment and further develops it to score the impact and likelihood of the investments across five major threat areas: EU-level dependency risk, individual dependency risk, coercion/influence risk, cyber/data risk and hard security risk. The analysis illustrates that the risks remain insufficiently understood by Member States, despite their high likelihood and/or impact. This is particularly true for economic coercion and cyber/data security risks.

Study [EN](#)

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



## Amendments to banking capital requirements legislation

Publication type Briefing

Date 21-09-2023

Author HALLAK ISSAM

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword administrative sanction | banking policy | banking supervision | branch | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | cooperation policy | credit institution | credit policy | EU banking union | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial legislation | financial requirements | financial risk | free movement of capital | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | monetary economics | POLITICS | proposal (EU) | third country

Summary In the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, which showed the need for more sophisticated and demanding capital requirements for banks, new regulations were agreed at international level – known as the Basel III Agreements. In the EU, they were implemented essentially by amending the Capital Requirements Directive (CRD) and adopting the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR). On 27 October 2021, the Commission tabled two interconnected proposals to amend the CRR and the CRD, respectively. The objective is two-fold: (i) implementing the final arrangements of the Basel Agreement; and (ii) enhancing the harmonisation of banking supervision in the EU. The main amendments concern the introduction of an 'output floor', i.e. a lower bound for minimum capital requirements calculated using banks' own methods, consideration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) components in risk assessment, and harmonisation of the selection of board members and directors of credit institutions. The Council issued its common approach in November 2022. The decision by Parliament's ECON Committee to enter negotiations was confirmed in plenary on 15 February 2023. A provisional agreement was reached on 29 June 2023. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Digital euro package

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-09-2023

Author HOFLMAYR MARTIN

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | electronic banking | electronic money | euro | euro area | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial transaction | free movement of capital | issuing of currency | marketing | monetary economics | monetary relations | paper money | payment | proposal (EU) | provision of services | regulation of transactions | TRADE | trade policy | virtual currency

Summary A digital euro can be understood as central bank money offered in digital form for citizens and businesses to be used for their retail payments. It would be a central bank digital currency (CBDC) –an electronic equivalent to cash, complementing banknotes and coins – and the central motivation to develop a CBDC can be explained by the increasing digitalisation of financial services. Banknotes and coins, currently the only public money, are considered the ultimate anchor of the financial system. However, in recent years the number of cash payment transactions has declined substantially while digital payments have soared. At the same time, private currencies, such as Bitcoin, are challenging the role of sovereign currencies. Another argument for pursuing a digital euro relates to Europe's 'strategic autonomy' and the external dependency on foreign payment-related service providers. In October 2021, the ECB launched the investigation phase for the digital euro project. It is the ECB's prerogative to decide whether or not to issue a digital euro, but the decision requires the approval of a regulation establishing a legal framework for a digital euro. The European Commission has therefore put forward a digital euro package. While the proposal would grant legal tender status to the digital euro, the legal tender status of the physical form of central bank money would also be ensured for the first time in secondary legislation. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Bank crisis management and depositor insurance

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-09-2023

Author KRAMER Esther

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | crisis management | EU banking union | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | management | monetary economics | regulation (EU)

Summary The impact assessment is based on extensive internal and external expertise, including several studies, tailored EBA advice and JRC input. In line with the 'evaluate first' principle, it builds on an evaluation and develops a consistent intervention logic. The options presented to address the problems identified are packages of legislative amendments, with increasing ambition to enhance application of the EU resolution framework and facilitate the decisions on the appropriate resolution tools. The IA compares the option packages in terms of effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and proportionality and in relation to both the baseline and an intermediate form of a European Deposit Insurance Scheme (considering the latter currently politically not feasible). While the IA is transparent on methods and underlying assumptions, the dense and long analysis remains of limited accessibility for non-expert readers, particularly as regards the details of and interconnections between the options' technical features. Additional explanations and a more coherent presentation of the two groups of options and their key features would have been helpful. The IA does not define specifically the banks intended to fall within the expanded resolution's scope.

Briefing [EN](#)



## [The cumulative effect of due diligence EU legislation on SMEs](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-09-2023

External author Rainer THIELE, Aoife HANLEY, Finn Ole SEMRAU, Frauke STEGLICH

Policy area International Trade

Keyword application of EU law | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | clean technology | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | small and medium-sized enterprises | State aid | supply chain | technology and technical regulations

Summary This study addresses the expected impact of the EU's Corporate Sustainable Due Diligence Directive (CS3D) on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It takes the German supply chain act (Lieferkettengesetz) as an example that may hold lessons for EU due diligence legislation. Against the background of a review of the existing literature on the impact of sustainability regulations, we conducted expert interviews with German business associations, German foreign chambers of commerce in emerging economies, as well as German supporting agencies. The objective was to identify key challenges SMEs in the EU and third countries face when dealing with the requirements of the supply chain act, and to discuss support measures that SMEs need or are already using. Based on the results of this analysis, we provide recommendations as to how the EU can help ease the burden for SMEs when implementing the proposed CS3D. These include targeted capacity-building measures for SME suppliers in developing countries, who mostly know little about European due diligence legislation, and simplifications in the reporting requirements for SMEs in Europe.

Study [EN](#)

## [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](#)

## [Future Shocks 2023: Anticipating and weathering the next storms](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 31-08-2023

Author PATAKI Gabor Zsolt

Policy area Forward Planning | Global Governance

Keyword bad weather | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | climate change | crisis management | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | geopolitics | humanities | management | natural hazard | SCIENCE

Summary The European Parliament launched a process of monitoring possible future risks for the EU during the COVID-19 crisis, and has developed this further during Russia's war on Ukraine. The annual 'Future Shocks' series provides up-to-date, objective, and authoritative information on global risks through a 360° survey based on risk literature from a broad range of sources. Future Shocks 2023: Anticipating and weathering the next storms discusses 15 risks related to geopolitics, climate change, health, economics and democracy that could occur in the coming decade, and 10 policy responses to address both existing governance capacity and possible ways to enhance risk-response capabilities within the EU.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## Future Shocks 2023: Anticipating and weathering the next storms

Publication type Study

Date 20-07-2023

Author ANGHEL Suzana Elena | ANTUNES LUISA | BENTZEN Naja | DAMEN Mario | DE LUCA Stefano | DUMBRAVA Costica | ERBACH Gregor | EVROUX CLEMENT THIERRY | GOINARD Myriam | GRIEGER Gisela | HALLAK ISSAM | HOFMAYR MARTIN | JENSEN LISELOTTE | JOCHHEIM Ulrich | JUTTEN Marc | LEKAVICIŪTĖ Jurgita | MADIEGA Tambiama André | MAHIEU VIRGINIA NOELLE | PATAKI Gabor Zsolt | RAGONNAUD Guillaume | SAPALA Magdalena | SZCZEPANSKI Marcin | WIDUTO Agnieszka | WILSON Alex Benjamin | ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common foreign and security policy | economic conditions | economic recession | ECONOMICS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | geopolitics | humanities | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | management | risk management | Russo-Ukrainian issue | SCIENCE | war

Summary The European Parliament started monitoring future shocks during the coronavirus crisis, and has continued to do so during Russia's unprecedented war on Ukraine. The annual 'Future Shocks' series reviews global risks, with a focus on specific risks and the capabilities and resilience of the EU system in the face of multiple challenges. It seeks to provide up-to-date, objective and authoritative information on these risks, based on risk literature from a broad range of sources. 'Future Shocks' includes, but is not limited to, areas where the EU has primary competence, and identifies the benefits of concerted action by the EU as well as the ability of its institutions and Member States to find new and effective solutions to deal with major shocks. The 2023 edition, the second in this annual series, highlights 15 risks related to geopolitics, climate change, health, economics and democracy that could occur in the coming decade, and 10 policy responses to address existing governance capacity and possible ways to enhance capabilities within the EU. Among the options set out are those previously included in European Parliament resolutions, positions from other EU institutions, and policy papers from think tanks and stakeholders.

Study [EN](#)

Multimedia [The rise of protest](#)

[Future shocks 2023: Decline in mental health and societal well-being in young Europeans](#)

[Future shocks 2023: Collapse of the Internet](#)

[Future shocks 2023: Biodiversity loss or collapse](#)

[Future shocks 2023: Strategic and systemic threats to the democratic information sphere](#)

[Future shocks 2023: Forging new partnerships in a polarised world](#)

[Future shocks 2023: De-risking Europe's global critical supply chains](#)

## Revision of Directive (EU) 2015/2366 on Payment Services

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-07-2023

Author BINDER ECKHARD

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword access to information | accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | consumer protection | consumption | directive (EU) | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic banking | electronic money | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institution | financial institutions and credit | financial services | information and information processing | intra-EU payment | monetary economics | payment | service | single market | TRADE

Summary Payment services enable digital payments through direct debits, credit transfers or payments with cards or similar devices. Within the EU, these are regulated through the revised Payment Services Directive (PSD2), which sets rules for payment services, their providers and consumer protection. Announced in September 2021 under the digital finance strategy and the retail payments strategy, the Commission published two proposals on the revision of PSD2 on 28 June 2023 as part of the financial data access and payments package. This implementation appraisal first outlines PSD2 before reviewing and summarising evaluations and assessments of its implementation already conducted by EU institutions and their advisory bodies. Overall, PSD2 is found to have contributed to the development of the European payments market and to have improved customer protection and the efficiency, transparency and choice of payment instruments. However, shortcomings pertaining to regulatory deficiencies regarding new players and services in the payments market, divergences in implementation across Member States and unclear alignment with other EU legislation remain. The proposal to revise PSD2 comprises a proposal for a directive on payment services and electronic money services (PSD3) and a proposal for a regulation on payment services in the internal market (PSR). These proposals include both payment services and electronic money services, which were previously regulated separately. With the forthcoming revision, the Commission aims to harmonise the implementation of rules on payment services across Member States, align the legislation with market and technological developments, strengthen customer protection and improve the level playing field between bank and non-bank payment service providers.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Promoting the repair of consumer goods](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-07-2023

Author ANGLMAYER Irmgard

Policy area Consumer Protection | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword action programme | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | carbon neutrality | circular economy | consumer goods | consumption | directive (EU) | ecodesign | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | management | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | sustainable product | technology and technical regulations | TRADE

**Summary** In line with the overall objectives of the European Green Deal, the proposed initiative aims to render consumption more sustainable by increasing the repair and reuse of defective consumer goods, both within and outside their legal guarantee. It complements two related initiatives that are currently pending (eco-design and empowering consumers for the green transition). The IA presents a clear intervention logic and a seemingly comprehensive qualitative and quantitative assessment of the impacts of the seven policy options proposed, from which it derives a preferred set of options. The comparison of the environmental, economic, social and consumer impacts of the different policy options (including sub-options) relies inter alia on the results of a multi-criteria analysis (MCA) and a cost-benefit analysis (CBA). The IA is specific about the costs that businesses would incur in the context of the OIOO approach. Overall, the proposed directive appears to reflect the preferred set of options identified in the IA. The entire IA draws to a large degree on a supporting study focusing on economic and behavioural analysis, the methodology of which is described in detail in Annex 4. However, despite over 100 direct references to that 'IA study', the IA does not provide access to the supporting study (not even a bibliographic reference), nor does it justify why the study is not disclosed, which goes against the transparency requirements set out in the BRG.

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

## [Plenary round-up – July 2023](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 14-07-2023

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | electronic component | electronics and electrical engineering | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental policy | European conference | freedom of the press | INDUSTRY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary sitting | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | rights and freedoms | small and medium-sized enterprises | technology | technology and technical regulations

**Summary** Members focused on a wide range of legislative files during the July plenary session, in particular on environmental policy, the European chips act, and on journalists' freedom. Parliament debated the conclusions of the European Council meeting held on 29-30 June 2023, and the recent developments in the war against Ukraine and in Russia in particular. Members also debated Council and Commission statements on the greening transport package, the state of the SME Union, the need to adopt the 'unshell' directive, and global convergence on generative AI. The President made a statement commemorating the victims of the Srebrenica genocide.

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

## [EU Company law: Expanding and upgrading the use of digital tools and processes](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-07-2023

Author FRIZBERG DIETER

Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | company law | digital technology | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | private sector | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technological change | technology and technical regulations

**Summary** The initiative's objective is to facilitate the use of digital tools and processes in EU company law. The problem definition appears to be well supported by evidence. The IA substantiates the nature and scale of the problem, as well as who it affects (business registers, public authorities, businesses, citizens/ consumers) and how. The policy options are not alternatives to each other but each one of them is a group of (sub-) options for each of the four intervention areas. The sub-options under each option are cumulative – it is questionable whether they qualify as alternative options under the Better Regulation Guidelines. The assessment of the options' impacts (economic, social and environmental) is qualitative and quantitative and appears to be based on sound research and analysis. The IA provides a comprehensive summary of the costs and benefits of the preferred set of options for the affected stakeholder groups. The IA considers that SMEs would particularly benefit from the reduction of administrative burden and increase in legal certainty. It provides the views of stakeholder groups on the problems, the problem drivers, the objectives and options in a transparent manner. It appears that the preferred set of options is supported by the stakeholders.

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

## [EU trade with Latin America and the Caribbean: Overview and figures](#)

Publication type Study

Date 12-07-2023

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area International Trade

Keyword America | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | Caribbean Islands | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU programme | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | geopolitics | humanities | Latin America | legal form of organisations | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | professional partnership | SCIENCE | supply chain | sustainable development | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy

**Summary** Collectively, the 33 countries forming the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) are the EU's fifth largest trading partner. Offering an overview of trade relations between the EU and Latin American and Caribbean countries (Chile, Cuba and Mexico) and groupings (the Andean Community, Cariforum, the Central American group (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama), and the founding members of Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), this study contains recent trade data available as of May 2023, describes key features of the agreements governing trade relations already in force and takes stock of the results of recent external ex-post evaluations of the implementation of trade agreements concluded with Cariforum, Central America and Colombia/Ecuador/Peru. The study also looks at the state of play on modernisation of the trade pillars of the 2002 EU Chile Association Agreement and the 1997 EU-Mexico Global Agreement (on which negotiations concluded with agreements in principle in 2022 and 2020 respectively), and the latest developments regarding the trade pillar of the new EU-Mercosur Association Agreement on which an agreement in principle was reached in 2019.

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

## [Virtual worlds \(metaverses\)](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-07-2023

Author Niestadt Maria

Policy area Industry | Research Policy

Keyword advanced technology industry | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | communications | competitiveness | digital technology | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | information technology and data processing | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | small and medium-sized enterprises | technology and technical regulations | virtual community | virtual reality

**Summary** The EU has started reflecting on its vision for emerging virtual worlds (metaverses) and providing funding opportunities to develop these worlds. The aim is to ensure that people are protected in virtual worlds and that EU businesses, in particular SMEs, are not driven out of competition.

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

## [The role of reforms and investments in the EU fiscal governance framework](#)

Publication type Study

Date 07-07-2023

External author Waltraud SCHELKLE, Marcello NATILI, Joan MIRÓ

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | community resilience | economic governance (EU) | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU investment | FINANCE | financial policy | financing and investment | fiscal policy | free movement of capital | management | monetary economics | open innovation | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | State aid | taxation

**Summary** This briefing paper assesses Commission proposals to monitor reforms and investments in member states through a revised EU fiscal governance framework. Major innovations, such as a key operational role for an expenditure rule, are discussed in relation to the stated objectives, with a focus on social resilience. These innovations are welcome, but we also see a need for engaging national stakeholders to increase loyalty to the policy process. This document was provided by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the ECON Committee

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

## [Outlook for the European Council meeting of 29-30 June 2023](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 27-06-2023

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf | PAPUNEN Annastiina

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | China | common foreign and security policy | competitiveness | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European conference | European construction | European Council | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | political geography | right of asylum | Ukraine

**Summary** The last regular European Council meeting before the summer break will address a wide range of topics, from Russia's war in Ukraine, the economic situation and a strategic debate on China, to security, defence and migration. In the context of Ukraine, EU leaders will reconfirm the EU's multidimensional support for the country, with a specific focus on military assistance, and welcome the agreement on the 11th package of sanctions on Russia. On the economic situation, EU leaders are expected to discuss industrial policy, the EU's long-term competitiveness – including the potential of and challenges linked with artificial intelligence – and EU resilience and economic security. The proposed targeted revision of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework may also come up. EU leaders will attempt to bring positions closer on the divisive topic of EU relations with China. Finally, as a result of recent developments (notably the dramatic sinking of a migrant ship and growing opposition to the asylum agreement), migration may move higher up the agenda.

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

## [The EU chips act: Securing Europe's supply of semiconductors](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-06-2023

Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Policy area Industry

Keyword advanced technology industry | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | digital transformation | electronic component | electronics and electrical engineering | EU initiative | EU production | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | innovation | joint venture | microelectronics | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | research and intellectual property | security of supply | supply chain | technology and technical regulations | trade | TRADE | value chain

**Summary** Semiconductors (or chips) are the foundation of the digital transition. Their production relies on complex and vulnerable global supply chains. Against the backdrop of global chip shortages, a global 'subsidy race' in the world's main producing regions, and the renewed EU industrial policy, the Commission presented a proposal for an EU chips act aimed at reinforcing the whole EU chips value chain in February 2022. The proposal for a chips act was based on a three-pillar structure, which has been retained by the co-legislators: pillar 1 to bolster large-scale technological capacity building and innovation in the EU chips ecosystem; pillar 2 to improve the EU's security of supply; and pillar 3 to set up a monitoring and crisis response mechanism. In the event of supply crises, the Commission would be allowed to implement three types of emergency measure: asking companies for information, asking companies to accept and prioritise orders of crisis-relevant products, and making shared purchases on behalf of Member States. Following provisional political agreement reached between the co-legislators on 18 April 2023, 14 months after the publication of the Commission proposal, and after four trilogues, the Parliament is expected to adopt its position at first reading during its July 2023 plenary session. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

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

## [Tax incentives after the minimum corporate tax \('Pillar Two'\)](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-06-2023

Author BAERT Pieter

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Taxation

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | corporation tax | FINANCE | fiscal policy | international affairs | international agreement | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | multinational enterprise | OECD | tax | taxation | world organisations

**Summary** Tax authorities and businesses in the EU are preparing for the implementation of the minimum corporate tax ('Pillar Two'), following the milestone global agreement reached in the OECD Inclusive Framework in 2021. Questions have however been raised as to the extent to which countries should reform their tax incentives, in a world where the global minimum corporate tax can undermine such incentives.

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

## [Guide to EU Funding - 2023 edition](#)

Publication type Study

Date 16-06-2023

Author MARGARAS Vasileios | SZECHY BALAZS ANDRAS

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Budget | Culture | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Education | Employment | Energy | Fisheries | Regional Development | Research Policy | Security and Defence | Tourism | Transport

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | competition policy | economic analysis | economic analysis | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financing and investment | fund (EU) | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | local government | non-governmental organisation | non-governmental organisations | POLITICS | project funding | regional authority | State aid

Summary The EU offers financial support to regional and local authorities, NGOs, businesses, professionals and citizens through a wide variety of funds. This 'Guide to EU funding' produced by the European Parliamentary Research Service provides easily accessible information on the full range of EU funding sources, conveniently grouped by area of action. The main funding themes of the guide are divided in subsections in order to facilitate research. A number of hyperlinks have been included in the text in order to make access to the source of funding information easier. A list of major potential beneficiaries is mentioned at the end of each section of the guide in order to facilitate the reader.

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

## [Gigabit infrastructure act](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-06-2023

Author DE LUCA Stefano

Policy area Competition law and regulation | Industry

Keyword 5G | accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | engineering structure | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | information technology | Internet | investment cost | proposal (EU) | regulation of telecommunications | telecommunications equipment | telecommunications industry | transmission network | TRANSPORT | transport policy

Summary The EU's digital decade connectivity target aims at ensuring a fixed gigabit network (1 Gbps) covers all EU households, and for 5G coverage for all populated areas by 2030. A high-quality digital infrastructure based on such very high-capacity networks would underpin almost all sectors of a modern and innovative economy. The long-term success of a digital economy based on the internet of things, machine-to-machine technologies, cloud computing and big data, will crucially depend on access to the highest quality telecommunications infrastructure. The proposed gigabit infrastructure act, introducing a regulation that would review and replace the existing Broadband Cost Reduction Directive, aims at facilitating and stimulating the provision of very high-capacity networks by promoting the joint use of existing physical infrastructure and by enabling a more efficient deployment of new physical infrastructure, so that such networks can be rolled out faster and at lower cost. In Parliament, the file has been allocated to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Spitzenkandidaten or the lead candidate process: Ways to Europeanise elections to the European Parliament](#)

Publication type Study

Date 09-06-2023

Author KOTANIDIS Silvia

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword balance-sheet analysis | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | candidate | electoral procedure and voting | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | European election | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | management | political parties | political party | POLITICS

Summary With the intention of informing discussion in the approach to the 2024 European elections, this study examines the historical, factual and legal aspects surrounding the Spitzenkandidaten, or lead candidate process, which establishes a political link between the nomination of the President of the European Commission and the political composition of the European Parliament. This study retraces the evolution of Parliament's role in the investiture of the President of the Commission, explains the reasons why such an innovation was deemed necessary as early as the early 1990s and assesses the results of this innovative process in the last two elections. The lead candidate process achieved its purposes with the election of Jean Claude Juncker as President of the European Commission in 2014, while this was not the case in 2019, Ursula von der Leyen not having been a candidate. There is therefore some uncertainty over the future of the lead candidate process and whether there is appetite for a repetition in 2024. This paper takes stock of the reasons for the failure in 2019 and assesses the aspects that performed well, and those that did not, in the past. The analysis concludes with proposals for the future, with a view to healing the fractures that emerged during the last appointment process, seeking to explore how the lead candidate process may become part of the European Union's institutional set-up.

Study [EN](#)



## [The single market at 30 \(1993-2023\)](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-06-2023

Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword action programme | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | consumer protection | consumption | cross-border dimension | economic conditions | economic policy | economic policy | economic recession | ECONOMICS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | management | regions and regional policy | single market | TRADE

**Summary** The EU has the world's largest single market. Home to 345 million people when it was launched in 1993, it now numbers 447 million consumers and 23 million companies, and covers a considerable range of policy areas. This year, the single market is celebrating its 30th anniversary. While the single market generates many jobs and considerable economic benefits, many hurdles remain. In March 2020, the Commission identified the top 13 barriers to cross-border activity (such as red tape), and the five main root causes of these barriers (such as inadequate enforcement of legislation). Furthermore, recent shocks – including the pandemic and Russia's war on Ukraine – resulting in restrictions to free movement, shortages of goods and services, and rising energy prices, have shown not only how vulnerable the single market can be to crises, but also the extent to which the EU economy relies on a well-functioning single market. In May 2022, the plenary of the Conference on the Future of Europe proposed to deepen the single market further. On 18 January 2023, Parliament adopted a resolution on the 30th anniversary of the single market. Reaffirming its readiness to play its role in the process, Parliament called for renewed commitment from the Member States and the other EU institutions, and a specific agenda for action towards 2030 and beyond, to strengthen and develop the single market further, not least in areas such as services, energy, telecommunications and the digital single market. On 16 March 2023, the Commission put forward a communication on the single market at 30, in which it discusses a possible way towards further single market integration. This is an update of an 'at a glance' note published for the ceremony marking the anniversary during the January plenary session. An EPRS infographic provides additional information on the single market.

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

## [New EU regulatory framework for batteries](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-06-2023

Author HALLEUX Vivienne

Policy area Energy | Environment

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | carbon neutrality | clean technology | competitiveness | electricity storage device | electronics and electrical engineering | ENERGY | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | INDUSTRY | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | renewable energy | soft energy | technology and technical regulations | value chain

**Summary** Batteries are critical to the EU's clean energy transition. In December 2020, the European Commission tabled a proposal to modernise the regulatory framework for batteries and secure the sustainability and competitiveness of EU battery value chains. Two years later, the European Parliament and the Council reached a trilogue agreement on the proposal. The agreed text is due to be put to the vote in plenary in June.

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

## [Action plan to protect marine ecosystems for sustainable fisheries](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-06-2023

Author SCHOLAERT FREDERIK

Policy area Fisheries

Keyword action programme | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common fisheries policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental policy | fisheries | management | marine ecosystem | natural environment | sea-bed | sustainable fisheries

**Summary** On 21 February 2023, the European Commission published a 'fisheries and oceans' package, including an action plan for reconciling marine protection and fisheries. With this plan, the Commission is hoping to achieve more consistent implementation of EU environmental and fisheries policies. The main aim is to make fishing practices more sustainable by improving gear selectivity and reducing impacts on sensitive species (such as dolphins) and the seabed. On seabeds, the Commission is calling for a ban on mobile bottom fishing in marine protected areas (MPAs) by 2030. To address the negative socio-economic impacts of this, it is proposing measures to ensure a 'just transition' (by making better use of EU funding instruments, in particular for innovation – for instance, to develop new techniques – and for diversification of economic activities). The Commission presented the action plan to the European Parliament's Committee on Fisheries (PECH) on 1 March 2023 and the EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries provided additional clarifications at the PECH meeting on 26 April 2023. Key to the debate is the legal framework for the proposed actions. Environmental policy is a shared competence of the Member States and the Union, and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) introduced an integrated approach to the marine ecosystem. To achieve the MSFD objectives, Member States need to adopt national measures, such as better protection and conservation of seabed habitats and reduction of bycatch from fisheries. According to the Commission, the proposed measures are intended to implement existing environmental legislation. They are non-binding recommendations for national plans – roadmaps to be drawn up by Member States – to explore ways to reduce the environmental impact of fishing. When it comes to the common fisheries policy, regionalisation would be the appropriate instrument. This means taking regional differences and different levels of government into account when making decisions. The PECH committee is currently preparing an own-initiative report on the action plan.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Ensuring the recovery and resilience of EU small and medium-sized enterprises

Publication type Briefing

Date 31-05-2023

Author MILEUSNIC MARIN

Policy area Budget

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | economic conditions | economic independence | economic policy | economic policy | economic reconstruction | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EU finance | EU financial instrument | EUROPEAN UNION | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | small and medium-sized enterprises

**Summary** This briefing focuses on policy measures benefiting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that have been enshrined in the national recovery and resilience plans (NRRPs). Member States drew up their recovery plans in order to take advantage of the Next Generation EU (NGEU) recovery instrument and its Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), designed to support recovery from the pandemic while fostering the green and digital transitions. The RRF is structured around six pillars representing key EU policy areas that will help Member States emerge from the crisis stronger and future-proof. The pillars also define investment priorities and the scope of financing under the RRF. On account of its particular relevance for SMEs, this briefing addresses the RRF's 'Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth' pillar, but other pillars can also include SME-related measures. The SME sector, including micro-enterprises, constitutes over 99 % of all businesses in the EU and was severely affected by the pandemic. Since SMEs represent the bedrock of the economy, it was essential to support them, and Member States have put forward extensive measures in their NRRPs targeting the SME sector both directly and indirectly. SME-related measures range from learning opportunities for SME employees to advance their digital skills to business decarbonisation, the setting up of new financing instruments aimed at developing new technologies in SMEs, and the removal of administrative and regulatory obstacles to boost the productivity of smaller businesses. SME-related measures under the 'Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth' pillar may also address other RRF objectives, including the specific digital and climate targets. While the type and scope of the investments and reforms vary between Member States, all the measures feed into at least one of the three axes of the SME strategy developed and presented by the European Commission in 2020. These axes refer to capacity building and support for transition to sustainability and digitalisation, reducing the regulatory burden and improving market access, and boosting access to financing. These dimensions are also reflected in the country-specific recommendations (CSRs), presented in the context of the European Semester. To obtain RRF funding, the NRRP measures must address at least a significant subset of the 2019 and 2020 CSRs.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Review of the EU ETS: 'Fit for 55' package

Publication type Briefing

Date 31-05-2023

Author ERBACH Gregor

Policy area Environment

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU emission allowance | EU Emissions Trading Scheme | EU environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | greenhouse gas | management | maritime and inland waterway transport | maritime transport | pollution control measures | pollution from ships | proposal (EU) | reduction of gas emissions | reserves | tradeable emission permit | TRANSPORT

**Summary** As part of the 'Fit for 55' package, the European Commission presented a legislative proposal to review the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). The aim of the review is to align the EU ETS Directive with the EU targets set out in the European Climate Law. To this end, the amount of emission allowances would be reduced, fewer allowances would be allocated for free, and the ETS would be extended to maritime transport. A separate new emissions trading system would be established for fuel distribution for road transport and buildings. In the European Parliament, the proposal was referred to the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), with Peter Liese (EPP, Germany) as rapporteur. The Parliament and the Council adopted their respective positions in June 2022 and reached a provisional trilogue agreement in December 2022. The file was subsequently split into two parts, with the monitoring, reporting and verification of maritime GHG emissions treated separately. The legal acts were published in the Official Journal on 16 May 2023 and enter into force on 5 June 2023. Fifth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Review of the EU ETS: 'Fit for 55' package](#)

## What if open strategic autonomy could break the cycle of recurring crises?

Publication type At a Glance

Date 26-05-2023

Author GARCIA HIGUERA ANDRES

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Consumer Protection | Democracy | Energy | Food Safety | Human Rights | Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union | International Trade | Research Policy

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | crisis management | economic conditions | economic policy | economic policy | economic recession | ECONOMICS | geopolitics | humanities | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | SCIENCE | security of supply | strategic autonomy | supply chain | trade | TRADE

**Summary** Open strategic autonomy is about ensuring that the EU has the capacity to cope alone if necessary but without ruling out cooperation whenever possible. It goes some steps beyond smart supply chain management by taking into account geopolitics as well as economic factors. It relies on foresight to identify threats and ensures resilience by anticipating the required responses. Could the resulting preparedness also prevent crises by normalising situations that would otherwise become emergencies?

At a Glance [EN](#)

Multimedia [What if open strategic autonomy could break the cycle of recurring crises?](#)

## [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](#)

## [Geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 25-05-2023

Author SAJN Nikolina

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | agricultural activity | agricultural product | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | beverages and sugar | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business name | business organisation | consumption | designation of origin | EC conformity marking | EU trade mark | marketing | product designation | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | wine

Summary On 31 March 2022, the Commission proposed a regulation that would lay down, in a single legal text, rules for geographical indications (GIs) for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products, which are currently spread over three different regulations. During the May II plenary session, Parliament is expected to hold a debate on the report from the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) and vote on the mandate for negotiations with the Council.

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

## [Revision of the market stability reserve for the EU emissions trading system: Fit for 55 package](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-05-2023

Author MORGADO SIMOES HENRIQUE ANDRE

Policy area Environment

Keyword auction sale | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU emission allowance | EU Emissions Trading Scheme | EU environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | greenhouse gas | management | marketing | pollution control measures | proposal (EU) | reduction of gas emissions | reserves | TRADE

Summary The proposal to revise the market stability reserve (MSR) for the EU emissions trading system (ETS) consists of prolonging its current parameters. Under the current rules, the intake rate of allowances to the MSR and the minimum allowances placed in the reserve have been doubled until the end of 2023, to allow for a quick removal of surplus EU ETS allowances. The proposal is aimed at maintaining the current doubled intake rate (24 %) and minimum number of allowances placed in the reserve (200 million) until 31 December 2030, the end of Phase IV of the EU ETS. In Parliament, the file was assigned to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), which adopted its report on 15 March 2022. On 5 April 2022, the Parliament adopted its position, with amendments to the recitals. The Council adopted its general approach on 29 June 2022. Trilogue negotiations began on 6 September 2022 and a provisional agreement was reached on 16 17 December 2022, amending the proposal's recitals but keeping the articles unchanged. On 19 April 2023, the final act was signed, and on 25 April 2023 it was published in the Official Journal of the European Union. The decision entered into force on 15 May 2023. Fifth edition. 'EU legislation in progress' briefings are updated at key stages in the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

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

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-05-2023

Author TUOMINEN ULLA-MARI

Keyword action programme | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | impact study | labelling | management | marketing | packaging | pre-packaging | small and medium-sized enterprises | TRADE

**Summary** The IA provides a convincing justification on the need to revise the CLP. It presents a well-evidenced problem definition and describes the scale of the problems. The IA does not provide self-standing policy options addressing all the drivers. Instead, it provides three policy option packages, under which the sub-options are the policy options; however, there are in fact only a few alternative choices. The IA explains the policy options and their impacts in detail in extensive annexes. The comparison of the options would have benefited from further clarification, as the IA does not score the options but instead it describes them qualitatively and does not use comparable expressions. The preferred option package is sufficiently justified and the reasons for discarding measures have been explained. The IA openly explains the limitations in the analysis, in particular in relation to quantification. The IA provides a description of the broad stakeholder consultations. It appears from the annexes that an SME test was conducted; however it would have been more reader-friendly if this had been explained in the main text or at least in a separate annex, as the information related to different elements of the SME test is presented in a rather fragmented way throughout the IA. The IA could have clarified for the sake of transparency, whether the supporting studies are publicly available.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Completing the Banking Union The case of crisis management of small- and medium-sized banks](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 04-05-2023

External author Concetta BRESCIA MORRA, Alberto Franco POZZOLO, Noah VARDI

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank resolution | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | crisis management | economic governance (EU) | EU banking union | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial policy | free movement of capital | management | monetary economics | regulation (EU)

**Summary** An important gap in the EU Banking Union architecture is the absence of a clear and uniform regulatory framework for the crisis management of small- and medium-sized banks. The authors argue that, taking stock from the US experience, a limited number of revisions to the current legal framework would be sufficient to establish a "standard proceeding" favoring alternative interventions by DGSS.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Empowering consumers for the green transition](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 03-05-2023

Author EVROUX CLEMENT THIERRY

Policy area Consumer Protection | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | consumer protection | consumption | directive (EU) | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | green economy | restriction on competition | single market | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy

**Summary** During its first May 2023 part-session, the European Parliament is expected to vote on the report adopted by the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) on the European Commission's proposed directive on empowering consumers for the green transition. The proposal amends Directives 2005/29/EC and 2011/83/EU and seeks to improve consumer information and protection against unfair practices. IMCO's report strives to further strengthen protection and legal certainty for consumers and economic operators alike. The text voted in plenary will set Parliament's position for trilogue negotiations with the Council.

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

## [Discharge for the 2021 budget: EU decentralised agencies and joint undertakings](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 03-05-2023

Author PARI MARIANNA

Policy area Budgetary Control

Keyword budget | budgetary control | budgetary discharge | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | European organisation | European organisations | European undertaking | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial year | general budget (EU) | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

**Summary** During the May I plenary session, as part of the discharge procedure for the 2021 financial year, the European Parliament is due to vote on discharge for 33 EU decentralised agencies and 9 joint undertakings. The Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) recommends granting discharge to all decentralised agencies, bodies and joint undertakings, and presents some observations to improve sound financial management further.

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

## Mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context

Publication type Study

Date 02-05-2023

Author JANCOVA LENKA | KAMMERHOFER-SCHLEGEL Christa | SAULNIER JEROME LEON

Policy area Regional Development

Keyword accounting | added value | administrative check | administrative cooperation | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | executive power and public service | frontier region | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | land policies | LAW | legislation | POLITICS | regions and regional policy | sources and branches of the law

Summary EU border regions encounter legal and administrative obstacles in their cooperation. Citizens and businesses face unequal access to public services and fewer economic opportunities. COVID has highlighted the urgent need to address the remaining cross-border obstacles and define a long-term vision for unleashing the potential of border regions to become the drivers of European cooperation. The study identifies three policy options: status quo, soft-law measures, and adopting a new instrument (ECBM 2.0). Policy option 3 has the highest potential impact, addressing both legal and administrative obstacles, bringing benefits of €123 billion per year, as well as positive social impacts.

Study [EN](#)

## The opposition of models and narratives in the field of human rights.

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 30-04-2023

External author Rosa FREEDMAN

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid | Global Governance | Human Rights | Public international law

Keyword action programme | area of freedom, security and justice | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | human rights | human rights movement | LAW | management | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms

Summary This In-depth analysis focuses on competing human rights narratives, particularly those that challenge or undermine the priorities set out in the European Union (EU) Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024. It identifies the strategies deployed to advance those narratives internationally, some of the main proponents of those narratives and key motivations for those agendas. The paper provides evidence-based recommendations for ways in which the EU may counter those narratives. In particular, it highlights the need for the EU to advance a human rights-centred approach to development and preventing economic insecurity. Human rights should be prioritised across all EU activities with third parties. Moreover, competing human narratives should be countered by strengthening civil society and seeking new ways to oppose the soft power initiatives being deployed to advance competing narratives globally.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## Listing Act package

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-04-2023

Author TUOMINEN ULLA-MARI

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | economic governance (EU) | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | free movement of capital | monetary economics | regulation (EU) | share | small and medium-sized enterprises | stock-exchange listing

Summary The impact assessment (IA) provides a well-evidenced and useful analysis for decision-making. It draws on several data sources, provides qualitative and quantitative data, and also explains uncertainties and limitations. The IA clearly states that the scope of the initiative is limited; it does not aim to solve all the issues on listing, and notes that a listing decision is influenced by many factors. The problem definition would have benefited from further clarification of the problems and drivers, as they partially discuss the same elements. The IA provides a balanced presentation of policy options for each problem driver. It assesses impacts on issuers, investors, exchanges and national competent authorities, and substantiates the preferred options. However, it is confusing that after having selected the preferred options, the IA presents measures in annexes that were not included in the policy options and in the assessment of options. Given that the SME dimension is embedded in the initiative, the Commission carried out an SME test, as required by the Better Regulation Guidelines. However, when reporting on the stakeholder consultation, it would have been useful if the IA had explained in more detail SMEs' participation in the consultations. Overall, the stakeholder groups' views are presented throughout the IA.

Briefing [EN](#)



## [Western Balkans: Economic indicators and trade with EU](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 27-04-2023

Author MACSAI GYORGYI

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | International Trade

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | economic analysis | economic geography | economic indicator | economic planning | economic policy | ECONOMICS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | entrepreneur | extra-EU trade | female labour | female worker | GEOGRAPHY | gross domestic product | labour market | national accounts | statistics | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy | unemployment | Western Balkans

**Summary** This infographic showcases major economic indicators for the six Western Balkan (WB) countries that are at various stages on the path towards the EU. All six exhibit a relatively consistent rise in GDP per capita, and they also show similar trends in falling unemployment rates. The female labour force participation rate hovers around 50 % (except for Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia, with lower rates), similar to the EU. EU trade in goods (imports and exports) with the Western Balkans has risen steadily since 2006, whereas trade in services has experienced slower growth. The EU has almost equal imports and exports of services from the WB states, while in terms of goods the EU's exports have continually exceeded imports, by roughly 30 % in 2021. Serbia leads the EU's trade with the Western Balkans, holding 50 % of goods and 44 % of services trade respectively. This paper updates previous individual publications for each of the six countries.

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

## [A targeted golden rule for public investments?](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 31-03-2023

External author Sebastian BLESSE, Florian DORN, Max LAY

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | digital transformation | economic conditions | economic governance (EU) | economic policy | economic policy | economic stabilisation | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | FINANCE | financing and investment | green economy | monetary economics | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public investment | stability pact | technology and technical regulations

**Summary** The EU faces the challenge to combine large and sustained investments to promote the transition towards a green, digital, and competitive Europe while maintaining fiscal sustainability. Based on a comprehensive literature review on the effects of fiscal rules and investment clauses on public finances, this in-depth analysis provides some guidance how higher public investments can be achieved by a targeted golden rule without harming fiscal sustainability in the EU fiscal framework. The study also discusses the role of investments in the current proposals of the European Commission on the reform of the EU Economic Governance. This document was provided by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the ECON Committee.

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

## [The effectiveness and distributional consequences of excess profit taxes or windfall taxes in light of the Commission's recommendation to Member States](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 29-03-2023

External author Katharina NICOLAY, Daniela STEINBRENNER, Nikolas WOELFING, Julia SPIX

Policy area Energy | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Taxation

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | capital gains tax | corporation tax | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy crisis | energy policy | FINANCE | fiscal policy | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | price increase | prices | revenue | Russo-Ukrainian issue | tax | taxation

**Summary** This study analyses the design and functioning of windfall profit taxes for energy suppliers in the EU. Based on profit data from 2021, the estimated revenue gains from the solidarity contribution amount to 4.4 bn EUR for the selected sample of firms. Applying the revenue cap to power prices of 2022 suggests a tax revenue of 106 bn EUR. The actual tax revenue might diverge substantially from these numbers due to different energy price levels during the application period. The revenue can be redistributed according to the member states' priorities to face hardship of the energy crisis. Despite efficiency in theory, investment distortions might arise if investors expect the tax instrument to be extended to other sectors.

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

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



## [Distortive foreign subsidies regulation: A level playing-field for the single market](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-03-2023

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword aid to undertakings | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | cooperation policy | documentation | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU competition policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign capital | foreign investment | free movement of capital | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | market supervision | proposal (EU) | public procurement | report | restriction on competition | single market | third country | TRADE | trade policy

**Summary** Public financing of enterprises, which has been on the rise globally, can have a distortive effect on competitive markets. In response to this trend, in May 2021 the European Commission published a proposal for a regulation to tackle foreign subsidies with a distortive effect on the EU single market. It would enable the Commission to investigate subsidies granted by non-EU public authorities to companies operating on the single market, and to apply countervailing measures, should these subsidies be found to be distortive. The Commission would have three tools at its disposal: two are notification-based, allowing it to investigate foreign subsidies in companies' mergers and acquisitions, and to investigate the bids in large public procurement procedures involving third-country government support. The acquirer or bidder would have to give ex-ante notification of external financial contribution. The third would enable the Commission to investigate other market situations. The Parliament adopted its position in plenary in May 2022, and trilogue negotiations concluded successfully in June 2022. Parliament approved the agreement in plenary by a large majority on 10 November 2022 and the final act was signed on 14 December 2022. The regulation entered into force on 12 January 2023. Fourth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

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

## [Harmonising certain aspects of insolvency law](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-03-2023

Author FRIZBERG DIETER

Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | civil law | claim | company in difficulties | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | debt | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial solvency | financing and investment | free movement of capital | free movement of capital | impact study | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | investment | judicial proceedings | justice | LAW | liquidation | proposal (EU)

**Summary** The initiative aims to harmonise certain substantive rules on insolvency proceedings across the EU. The IA examines the nature and scale of the problems and who they affect. It establishes a clear intervention logic, from the problems and their drivers to the initiative's objectives and options. The IA identifies only two options, which are cumulative. It is questionable whether such options qualify as alternative options, as required in the BRGs. This range of options is very limited, and some policy measures do not have alternatives. The assessment of the economic, social and environmental impacts is mostly qualitative, but the IA also presents quantified estimates. Limitations and uncertainties in the analysis are described in a transparent manner. The IA gives an exhaustive account of the stakeholder groups' views on the problems, their drivers, the objectives and the options. The IA would have benefited from a more comprehensive analysis of the impacts on SMEs. It is in fact questionable whether the SME test has been fully performed, as it would appear from the IA that a dedicated consultation of SMEs was not conducted.

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

## [Outlook for the meetings of EU leaders on 23-24 March 2023](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-03-2023

Author ANGHEL Suzana Elena | DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area Democracy

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic policy | economic policy | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EU investment | FINANCE | financing and investment | forward studies | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | open innovation | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | Russo-Ukrainian issue

**Summary** Europe's long-term strategy for the competitiveness of its economy, notably regarding investment, innovation and trade, will be at the centre of the European Council meeting on 23 and 24 March 2023. EU leaders will of course address Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and consider the multidimensional (political, financial, economic, humanitarian and military) assistance the EU and its Member States have been providing to Ukraine, particularly joint ammunition procurement. Regarding energy policy, EU leaders will continue their work on reducing energy demand, ensuring security of energy supply and lowering energy prices. Following up on the special European Council meeting in February, EU leaders will examine implementation of their conclusions on migration, in particular regarding external border management and returns. The European Council may also welcome the recent agreement in principle on the Windsor Framework, which will outline how the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol will function, notably as regards customs procedures. The European Council meeting will be followed by a Euro Summit meeting on 24 March.

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

## Public hearing with Christine Lagarde, Chair of the European Systemic Risk Board - 20 March 2023

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 16-03-2023

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | economic analysis | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | FINANCE | financial analysis | financial risk | financial solvency | free movement of capital | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | macroeconomics | management | risk management | United Nations | World Bank

Summary This note is prepared in view of a regular public hearing with the Chair of the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB), Christine Lagarde, which will take place on 20 March 2023. The briefing (i) provides a European per-spective on recent US bank failures; (ii) provides summary of the risk outlook and the picking up of corporate insolvencies; (iii) describes the risks building up in housing markets; (iv) summarises the ongoing continuing work on the macroprudential policy toolkit for cyber resilience; (v) outlines the macroprudential policy for climate change; and (vi) delves deeper into commercial real estate. There is own emphasis added through-out the briefing to highlight key findings and conclusions.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## Progress on the European Commission's 2021-2027 digital education action plan

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-03-2023

Author BINDER Krisztina

Policy area Education

Keyword action programme | artificial intelligence | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | digital divide | digital literacy | digital technology | distance learning | education | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | educational system | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | information and information processing | management | organisation of teaching | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technological change | technology and technical regulations

Summary In a rapidly changing and increasingly digital world, the COVID-19 pandemic has further increased the need to develop the use of technology in education and training. Appropriate skills and competences, as well as digital infrastructure and equipment, are key in this regard. When adapting education to the digital age, ensuring equity and inclusion is crucial, too. The 2021-2027 digital education action plan (DEAP), the European Commission's flagship initiative adopted in September 2020, calls for high-quality, inclusive and accessible digital education supported by reinforced cooperation and exchange at EU level. The two strategic priorities set out in the plan are the development of a high-performing digital education ecosystem and the strengthening of citizens' digital skills and competences. Several actions were put forward to support these priorities. Implementation of each of these actions is already on track or completed. For instance, the Council adopted its recommendation on blended learning approaches in November 2021, and the Commission published ethical guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence and data in teaching and learning for educators in October 2022. In the second quarter of 2023, the Commission is expected to present proposals for two Council recommendations, namely on the enabling factors for digital education and on improving the provision of digital skills in education and training. In 2024, the Commission is due to carry out a comprehensive review to evaluate the DEAP's outreach and impact and, if necessary, propose additional measures or modifications. In its March 2021 resolution on shaping digital education policy, the European Parliament acknowledged the DEAP's extended scope and ambition. At the same time, it urged that digital transition funds be used to increase education systems' digital capacity, and stressed the need to close the digital divide and ensure quality digital education based on a lifelong learning approach. According to Parliament, financial support for teachers' professional development is also crucial.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Addressing ship reflagging to avoid sanctions

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-03-2023

Author SCHOLAERT FREDERIK | SMIT-JACOBS KARIN

Policy area Fisheries | Transport

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | deterioration of the environment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENVIRONMENT | EU restrictive measure | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | international law | International Maritime Organisation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | law of the sea | maritime and inland waterway transport | organisation of work and working conditions | pollution | restriction on competition | sanction (EU) | ship's flag | TRANSPORT | United Nations | working conditions

Summary Rerefagging to a flag of convenience is a practice whereby a ship-owner registers their ships in a country with relatively light controls or low standards, for instance in the area of environmental or employment law. While this is legal in principle, it is often combined with illegal practices, including the circumvention of sanctions. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the EU are trying to tackle abusive reflagging.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [Harmonising certain aspects of insolvency law in the EU](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-03-2023

Author HALLAK ISSAM

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | civil law | claim | company in difficulties | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | debt | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial solvency | financing and investment | free movement of capital | free movement of capital | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | investment | judicial proceedings | justice | LAW | liquidation | proposal (EU)

Summary On 7 December 2022, the Commission tabled a proposal for a directive aimed at enhancing and harmonising insolvency law in the EU. The proposal seeks to make it easier to recover assets from the liquidated insolvency estate; render insolvency proceedings more efficient; and ensure a predictable and fair distribution of recovered value among creditors. The directive would complement two recently adopted pieces of legislation, namely, the directive on pre-insolvency proceedings and debt discharge following insolvency proceedings, and the regulation on the determination of jurisdiction and applicable law for cross-border insolvency. In the European Parliament, the referral was announced in plenary on 26 January 2023, and the file was assigned to the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI). Parliament has expressed concern at the lack of harmonisation of insolvency law across the EU on several occasions in the framework of previous legislative procedures. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Industrial policy, State aid and clean tech \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-03-2023

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Industry | Research Policy

Keyword America | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | clean technology | competition | economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | free competition | GEOGRAPHY | industrial policy | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | inflation | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | single market | State aid | technology and technical regulations | United States

Summary The European Union faces a dilemma in how to respond to the US Inflation Reduction Act, which pours billions of dollars of federal funds into the American economy by favouring US-made clean energy and technology. The debate is reshaping the EU's efforts to become a global leader in clean technologies to help combat climate change. It has also heated up the discussion on future EU industrial policy, pitting advocates of proactive State aid against defenders of the traditional EU competition policy which underpins the single market. This note offers links to recent reports and commentaries from some major international think tanks and research institutes on the debates relating to EU clean tech and industrial policies, notably in the area of State aid.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [The EU bank crisis management and deposit insurance framework](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-03-2023

Author BINDER ECKHARD

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank resolution | banking system | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | crisis management | EU banking union | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | management | monetary economics

Summary Initially announced in the Commission work programme for 2021, the European Commission postponed its proposals for the review of the bank crisis management and deposit insurance framework to 2023. As a central element of banking union, this framework consists of the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive (BRRD), the Deposit Guarantee Schemes Directive (DGSD) and the Single Resolution Mechanism Regulation (SRMR). The BRRD lays down rules and procedures for the recovery and resolution of banks at national level and cooperation arrangements to tackle cross-border banking failures. It aims to avoid bailouts, i.e. the use of taxpayers' money in the event of the resolution of a failing bank. The SRMR sets uniform rules and procedures for the resolution of banks and certain investment firms in the framework of a single resolution mechanism and a single resolution fund. The DGSD aims to protect depositors of all banks and the stability of the EU banking system. The Commission's review process involved public and targeted consultations and a high-level conference. During this review, the Commission planned to carry out an evaluation and impact assessment, the results of which are expected to be published together with the forthcoming proposed legislative changes. The Commission announced in 2020 that the review would address existing problems in (i) the framework's incentives to use tools outside the resolution framework, (ii) the varying availability and use of tools in national insolvency proceedings, (iii) the legal certainty and predictability of the framework in a cross-border context, (iv) market integration within banking union, and (v) discrepancies in depositor protection across Member States.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Social and Economic Consequences of COVID-19](#)

Publication type Study

Date 01-03-2023

External author Jan SMIT, Elias NACER, Andrew SIKORSKI, Caroline GODARD and Wiktor MAGDZIARZ

Policy area Coronavirus

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | coronavirus disease | digital technology | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic policy | economic policy | economic situation | ECONOMICS | epidemic | health | health card | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | small and medium-sized enterprises | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | vaccination | vaccine

Summary This study considers the consequences of measures aimed at countering the effects of COVID-19, in particular the Temporary Framework for State aid, EU Digital COVID Certificates and other measures implemented by EU Member States. The study examines the consequences of the measures on industry, small and medium-sized enterprises and focuses on the cultural and creative industries. Consequences for workers and working practices were also considered, and lessons learnt identified. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the special committee on COVID-19 pandemic: lessons learned and recommendations for the future (COVI).

Study [EN](#)

## [The National Productivity Boards](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-02-2023

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | competitiveness | euro area | European Semester | FINANCE | monetary economics | monetary relations | productivity | small and medium-sized enterprises

Summary This document presents some features of the National Productivity Boards (originally proposed as Competitiveness Boards), introduced in the context of the deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union. It also provides some information on the status of implementation of National Productivity Boards in the Euro area Member States. This is an update of a previous version published in 2018.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [To resolve, or not to resolve a bank? Options for framing bank resolution vs. insolvency](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 27-02-2023

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword bank | bank resolution | bankruptcy | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | civil law | consumption | crisis management | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU banking union | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial solvency | impact study | LAW | legislation | management | monetary economics | services of general interest | sources and branches of the law | TRADE

Summary There is an emerging consensus among stakeholders to apply resolution more widely going forward, possibly through modifications of the public interest assessment. This briefing reviews the practice of the Single Resolution Board so far and presents some observations based on past experience and policy options that the legislators might want to consider as they set out to reform the resolution framework.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [European Parliament work in the fields of Impact Assessment and European Added Value - Activity Report for 2022](#)

Publication type Study

Date 23-02-2023

Author HILLER WOLFGANG

Keyword accounting | activity report | added value | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | documentation | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | impact study | parliament | parliamentary scrutiny | POLITICS

Summary This activity report summarises and explains the work undertaken by the European Parliament in the fields of impact assessment and European added value during the calendar year 2022. It details the support given by the Directorate for Impact Assessment and European Added Value within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) to assist parliamentary committees in their oversight and scrutiny of the executive in the fields of ex-ante impact assessment, European added value, and ex-post evaluation of EU law and policy in practice. It also details wider horizontal support provided in respect of the policy cycle to the institution as a whole. During the 12 months under review, the Directorate published 132 substantive pieces of work, all of which can be accessed via hyperlinks in this report.

Study [EN](#)

## Overview on the tax compliance costs faced by European enterprises – with a focus on SMEs

Publication type Study

Date 22-02-2023

External author Diego D'ANDRIA, and Mareike HEINEMANN

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues | Forward Planning | Taxation

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | case study | corporation tax | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | FINANCE | small and medium-sized enterprises | tax collection | tax law | taxation

Summary This study aims at quantifying and comparing tax compliance costs burdening private businesses in the European Union by reviewing the available empirical literature and data with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises. Data as well as methodological challenges are discussed and used to identify best-practice tax systems in Europe. We highlight differences in compliance costs met by firms of differing sizes, engaging or not in cross-border trade and for different tax types.

Study [EN](#)

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

## Democratic control and legitimacy in the evolving EU economic governance framework

Publication type Study

Date 21-02-2023

External author Berthold RITTBERGER

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | crisis management | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic governance (EU) | economic independence | economic policy | economic policy | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | enhanced cooperation | EU finance | EU financial instrument | European construction | European Semester | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | impact study | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | monetary economics

Summary Democratic control and legitimacy in the evolving EU economic governance frameworkThe European Semester (ES) is a centrepiece of the EU's evolving economic governance architecture and its democratic legitimacy and accountability has been contested in pre- and post-pandemic times. This paper introduces two perspectives – a democratic and a technocratic perspective – to evaluate the accountability of the ES, based on a survey of existing literature. Whereas there is broad agreement that the ES has deficiencies according to both perspectives, procedural reforms have only a limited potential to narrow accountability gaps. A focus on proceduralism overlooks the more fundamental democratic deficits that plague the EU's economic governance system. This document was provided by the Economic Governance and EMU Scrutiny Unit at the request of the ECON Committee.

Study [EN](#)

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

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-02-2023

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Policy area Coronavirus | Public Health

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

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

Briefing [EN](#)

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



## Interoperable digital public services in the EU

Publication type Briefing

Date 10-02-2023

Author FRIZBERG DIETER

Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Keyword administrative cooperation | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | data processing | digital transformation | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic government | European Interoperability Framework | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | executive power and public service | impact study | information and information processing | information system | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | public sector | public service | technology and technical regulations

**Summary** The initiative's general objective is to address interoperability issues Member States and the EU institutions face when delivering digital public services across EU borders. The impact assessment (IA) identifies the problem clearly as the limited interoperability of network and information systems supporting digital public services in the EU. However, the IA's efforts to identify the scale of the problem are limited, and it could have explained better how the problem would evolve in the future. The IA presents a sufficiently broad range of options. The qualitative and partly quantitative analysis of the options' economic, social and environmental impacts is based on evaluations of the European interoperability framework and the ISA2 funding programme, external supporting studies, stakeholder consultations, and various data sources. The IA discusses impacts on fundamental rights (such as protection of personal data, right to move freely within the EU), but does not assess territorial impacts in detail. When comparing the options, the IA considers their effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and subsidiarity in line with the Better Regulation Guidelines. However, it does not address proportionality in the comparison of options, only doing so for the preferred option. The IA is open about the uncertainties and limitations in the analysis, such as limited available data for calculating the costs and benefits. It describes comprehensively stakeholder groups' views on the problem, the problem drivers, the objectives and the options. It appears that stakeholder views and support for the preferred option were taken broadly into account.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Outlook for the special European Council meeting of 9-10 February 2023

Publication type Briefing

Date 07-02-2023

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Industry

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | common foreign and security policy | competitiveness | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic geography | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | external border of the EU | GEOGRAPHY | inflation | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | migration | migration | political geography | Russia | Russo-Ukrainian issue | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Ukraine | war

**Summary** EU Heads of State or Government will gather on 9 and 10 February 2023 for a special European Council meeting. In addition to Russia's war on Ukraine, which will notably be addressed in the context of the EU-Ukraine summit held on 3 February 2023, the main agenda points will include migration and the EU's economy. On migration, EU leaders will consider immediate operational action to address growing migratory pressure at the EU's borders. In particular, they will discuss measures to strengthen EU external border control, improve cooperation with countries of origin and transit, enhance return rates, fight migrant trafficking and increase availability of data on migration flows. In the context of the challenges which high energy prices and the US Inflation Reduction Act subsidy plan pose to EU business, EU leaders will discuss ways of boosting the EU's economic competitiveness in the short term, and attempt to find a common approach on possible support for European industries and/or further adaptations to State aid rules. For the longer term, they will consider the question of whether to establish a sovereignty fund for investment.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Recovery and Resilience Dialogue with the European Commission - 6 February 2023

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 02-02-2023

Author DE LEMOS PEIXOTO SAMUEL | MAGNUS Marcel | OLLIKAINEN MINNA | PADILLA OLIVARES FRANCISCO JAVIE | SCHWARCZ András

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword action programme | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic conditions | economic independence | economic policy | economic policy | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EU finance | EU financial instrument | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | political framework | POLITICS | regulatory policy | rule of law

**Summary** Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis and Commissioner Gentiloni have been invited to the eighth Recovery and Resilience Dialogue (RRD) under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation. This briefing presents some developments relating to the implementation of Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) since the previous RRD that took place on 21 November 2022. It covers the latest positive assessments by the Commission of payment requests (i.e. Greece, Portugal and Malta), adoption of revised Recovery and Resilience Plans, including the adoption of the REPowerEU legal framework, recent developments relating to the rule of law conditionality, and financing aspects of the Facility.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)



## [Research for PECH Committee - Implementation and impact of key European Maritime and Fisheries Fund measures \(EMFF\) on the Common Fisheries Policy, and the post-2020 EMFF proposal](#)

Publication type Study

Date 01-02-2023

External author CETMAR, Spain: Marta Ballesteros, Rosa Chapela, Jose L. Santiago, Mariola Norte-Navarro - COGEA, Italy: Anna Kęsicka, Alessandro Pititto, Ugo Abbagnano, Giuseppe Scordella

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Fisheries | Regional Development

Keyword accounting | adaptation to climate change | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | aquaculture | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common fisheries policy | cost-benefit analysis | distribution of EU funding | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU finance | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fisheries | fishing area | fishing port | fund (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | political geography | regulation (EU) | sea fishing | sustainable fisheries | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU

Summary This Report is a research on the current performance of the shared management component of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and its impact on the Common Fisheries Policy. Based on quantitative data collection as well as on interviews with Managing Authorities of Member States and stakeholders, the Report also analyses the legislative proposal for the post-2020 EMFF and seeks to support the Members of the PECH Committee of the EU Parliament in their consideration.

Study [EN](#)

## [Annual legislative planning in the EU](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-02-2023

Author MANKO Rafał

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword action programme | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | EU institutions and European civil service | EU strategy | European Commission | European construction | European Council | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | institutional cooperation | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | legislative initiative | management | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | politics and public safety

Summary Annual legislative programming in the EU involves the Commission, Parliament and Council. Although the right of legislative initiative remains monopolised by the Commission, the input of Parliament and the Council to EU legislative programming is increasingly acknowledged. Article 17(1) of the Treaty on European Union vests in the Commission competence with respect to annual programming. Thus, the central document for annual legislative and non-legislative policy programming is the Commission's annual work programme, adopted each year in October following political exchanges between the Commission, Parliament and Council. The legal framework for preparation of the work programme, including the role of Parliament in EU agenda-setting, is laid down in interinstitutional agreements: on relations between Parliament and the Commission, and on better law making. These state that the Commission should strive to include Parliament's suggestions in its legislative and non-legislative agenda. The agreements lay down a detailed framework for preparation of the Commission's annual work programme, with specific rules on the involvement of Parliament bodies – the committees, Conference of Presidents, Conference of Committee Chairs – and on the role of the Council in the process. Following the adoption of the Commission's annual work programme each October, the three institutions involved in the legislative process negotiate with a view to adopting a joint declaration in December on their jointly agreed legislative priorities. This briefing complements the overview of the Commission work programme, provided each year jointly by the Ex-Ante Impact Assessment and Ex-Post Evaluation Units of EPRS.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [EU relations with Iran](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 31-01-2023

Author IMMENKAMP Beatrix

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword action programme | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common foreign and security policy | economic analysis | economic consequence | economic geography | ECONOMICS | electrical and nuclear industries | ENERGY | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | International Atomic Energy Agency | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Iran | management | nuclear policy | political geography | Russo-Ukrainian issue | sanction (EU) | world organisations

Summary Even though the EU and Iran have worked together over the past 4 years to save the nuclear agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), relations between the two sides have reached a new low. The EU is concerned about the acceleration of Iran's nuclear programme in violation of the JCPOA and the country's reluctance to cooperate fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency. In addition, the Iranian authorities' violent crackdown on and execution of peaceful protesters has outraged Europeans – and their allies – and drawn new attention to human rights violations in the country. Iran's military support for Russia in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine has put the spotlight on Iran's conventional weapons capabilities. Moreover, Iran continues to stoke tensions in the Middle East, providing military, financial and political support to non-state actors in countries such as Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, as well as the Gaza Strip. In response to these concerns, the EU has imposed restrictive measures on an increasing number of high-ranking Iranian individuals and entities under four EU sanctions regimes. Sanctions include an asset freeze and a prohibition on making funds and economic resources available to the listed individuals and entities; individuals are also banned from travelling to the EU. Nevertheless, in December 2022, EU Member States reaffirmed their commitment to, and continued support for, the full and effective implementation of a restored JCPOA. The European Parliament has adopted several resolutions critical of human rights violations in Iran, most recently in January 2023, and has called for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to be added to the EU terrorist list, while also expressing its continued support for the JCPOA. After Iran began to sanction certain of its Members in October 2022, Parliament decided in November 2022 that delegations and committees would no longer engage with the Iranian authorities.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Progress on the Banking Union?](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 27-01-2023

Author GRIGAITE KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | SPITZER Kai Gereon

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank resolution | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | crisis management | economic convergence | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU banking union | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial policy | free movement of capital | management | monetary economics | regulation (EU)

Summary While the Eurogroup did not agree on concrete steps towards the completion of Banking Union, its June 2022 statement does entail some elements that the forthcoming Commission proposals could build upon, making improvements to the crisis management and deposit insurance framework that eventually bring the completion of the Banking Union closer.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Rule of law-related 'super milestones' in the recovery and resilience plans of Hungary and Poland](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 24-01-2023

Author SCHWARCZ András

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword accounting | auditing | budget | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic conditions | economic geography | economic independence | economic policy | economic priority | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | Europe | FINANCE | financial control | GEOGRAPHY | Hungary | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Poland | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | rule of law

Summary On 12 December 2022, the Council adopted the Hungarian recovery and resilience plan (RRP) based on the Commission's positive evaluation. Compared to the original plan, a whole new component of measures has been added (Component 9: Governance and Public Administration) containing 38 measures with 111 milestones and targets. Of these, 27 milestones are referred to as 'super milestones' without which no payment under the RRF will be allowed. These 'super milestones' include some of the Key Implementation Steps of the 17 remedial measures proposed by Hungary under the rule of law conditionality mechanism, some measures concerning judicial independence included in the ongoing Article 7 procedure, recent country-specific recommendations (CSRs) and the Rule of Law Reports, and also audit and control-related measures. The Polish RRP was adopted by the Council on 17 June 2022. It only contained two 'super milestones' that need to be fulfilled before the first payment request is submitted, both related to the judiciary.

Briefing [EN](#)

Annex 1 [EN](#)

## [2023 Recommendations on the economic policy of the Euro Area: A comparison of Commission and Council texts \(the 'comply or explain' principle\)](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 19-01-2023

Author BOLDI DONELLA | GRIGAITE KRISTINA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | European Commission | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial analysis | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | monetary economics | monetary policy | monetary relations | opinion | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | recommendation

Summary This document compares the draft 2023 Recommendation for the economic policy of the Euro Area proposed by the European Commission on 22 November 2022 with the 2023 Euro Area recommendation approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 17 February 2023.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Addressing the challenges of the digital transition in national Recovery and Resilience Plans](#)

Publication type Study

Date 18-01-2023

External author S. DA EMPOLI A. MARCOBELLI L. PRINCIPALI E. STARNONI

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword allocation of resources | balance-sheet analysis | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | digital transformation | economic conditions | economic governance (EU) | economic independence | economic policy | economic recovery | economic situation | ECONOMICS | FINANCE | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | monetary economics | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technology and technical regulations

Summary This paper analyses the digital pillar of the national RRP to identify the key initiatives, examine the distribution of resources, assess the current state of implementation and define the main challenges in reaching the overall objectives.

Study [EN](#)

## [Addressing the challenges of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in national Recovery and Resilience Plans](#)

Publication type Study

Date 13-01-2023

External author Delia AGOSTINELLI, Agnieszka KULESA, Barbara SURDYKOWSKA, Michalina WACŁAW

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic geography | economic independence | economic recovery | economic situation | ECONOMICS | Europe | France | GEOGRAPHY | Germany | impact study | industrial structures and policy | industrialisation | INDUSTRY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Italy | Poland | political geography | social affairs | social integration | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This briefing paper provides an initial analysis of selected measures proposed by Germany, France, Italy and Poland in their respective Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs), and focuses on the areas of competitiveness, business environment/entrepreneurship, and (re)industrialisation. As the analysis has shown, targets and milestones set for the majority of the analysed measures seem to be realistic and enhance the probability of completing the planned projects on time; they are also tailored to the needs of specific EU MS.

Study [EN](#)

## ['Unshell' – Rules to prevent the misuse of shell entities for tax purposes](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-01-2023

Author BAERT Pieter

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Taxation

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | corporation tax | criminal law | economic geography | EU Member State | European tax cooperation | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | LAW | legal form of organisations | organisation | proposal (EU) | tax avoidance | tax collection | tax evasion | tax harmonisation | tax law | taxation | taxpayer

Summary While shell companies – company entities that have no or minimal economic activity – can serve useful commercial and business functions, they are sometimes abused by companies or individuals for aggressive tax planning or tax evasion. To ensure sustainable public finances under the exceptional circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, in December 2021 the European Commission presented a directive on preventing shell companies from misusing their structure for tax purposes ('Unshell'). The proposal introduces a 'filtering' system for EU company entities, which will have to pass a series of gateways, relating to income, staff and premises, to ensure there is sufficient 'substance' to the entity. Those entities that are deemed to be lacking in substance are presumed to be 'shell companies' and, if they are unable to rebut this presumption through additional evidence regarding the commercial, non-tax rationale of the entity, they will lose any tax advantages granted through bilateral tax treaties or EU directives, thereby discouraging their use. The directive requires unanimity in the Council for its adoption, following consultation of the European Parliament. While negotiations in the Council are ongoing, the Parliament will vote on its report in January 2023. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Unshell – Rules to prevent misuse of shell entities for tax purposes](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-01-2023

Author BAERT Pieter

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Taxation

Keyword area of freedom, security and justice | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | criminal law | economic activity | economic conditions | ECONOMICS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | LAW | legislation | personnel management and staff remuneration | small and medium-sized enterprises | sources and branches of the law | staff | tax evasion | tax relief | taxation

Summary Shell companies – or 'shells' – are entities that have no or minimal economic activity. While they can sometimes serve useful commercial functions, they can also be abused for the purposes of aggressive tax planning or tax evasion. The Commission's 'Unshell' proposal is designed to prevent EU shell companies from benefiting from tax advantages. Parliament will discuss and vote on a report on the subject during its January I 2023 plenary.

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

## [Revision of European Works Council Directive](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-01-2023

Author PAPE Marketa

Policy area Employment

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | company structure | directive (EU) | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | globalisation | labour law and labour relations | legislative drafting | legislative initiative | multinational enterprise | organisation of work and working conditions | parliamentary proceedings | personnel management and staff remuneration | POLITICS | staff | trade union | working conditions

Summary Globalisation and changes in the way multinationals are organised mean that, increasingly, strategic decisions affecting workers are taken in another country. While European Works Councils are supposed to ensure that workers' voices are heard in transnational decision-making, weaknesses have been identified in the existing EU rules. As the European Commission does not plan to address these through legislation, Parliament will vote during its January I plenary session on a legislative-initiative report calling on the Commission to take action.

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

## [Human rights and democracy in the world, 2021](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-01-2023

Author PICHON Eric

Policy area Human Rights

Keyword action programme | activity report | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common foreign and security policy | criminal law | democracy | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | international criminal law | international human rights law | LAW | management | political framework | POLITICS | rights and freedoms

Summary During the January I plenary session, the European Parliament is due to formulate recommendations for future EU action in favour of human rights and democracy in the world. The latest EU annual report on the topic highlights the EU's commitment to promoting human rights and democracy globally in 2021, against a grim backdrop of backsliding in many countries. In its motion for a resolution, Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs and Subcommittee on Human Rights highlight the impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [Protection of the EU's financial interests and combating fraud: Annual report 2021](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-01-2023

Author DOBREVA Alina

Policy area Budgetary Control

Keyword budget | budgetary control | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | criminal law | economic offence | EU budget | EU expenditure | EU finance | EU financial instrument | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial analysis | financial policy | fraud | free movement of capital | LAW | management

Summary A debate and vote on the Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) report on the 2021 annual report on the protection of the EU's financial interests (PIF report), prepared by the European Commission, are scheduled for the January I plenary session. The PIF report details measures taken at European and national level to counter fraud affecting the EU budget. The number of cases of fraud and irregularities remained stable in 2021 compared to 2020, but the sums involved increased to €3.24 billion, due to a limited number of large cases in some Member States. The EU's anti-fraud effort was reinforced by the start of operations of the newest anti-fraud player, the European Public Prosecutor's Office.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## Ten issues to watch in 2023

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 10-01-2023

Author BASSOT Etienne

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget | Economics and Monetary Issues | Environment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Financial and Banking Issues | Foreign Affairs | Transport

Keyword balance-sheet analysis | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | climate change | deterioration of the environment | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic recession | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy policy | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | FINANCE | financing and investment | geopolitics | humanities | inflation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | management | public investment | Russo-Ukrainian issue | SCIENCE

Summary This is the seventh edition of an annual EPRS publication aimed at identifying and framing some of the key issues and policy areas that have the potential to feature prominently in public debate and on the political agenda of the European Union over the coming year. The topics analysed encompass the 2024 European elections, budgeting in times of crises and war, lessons for public investment in the EU from the EU recovery instrument, the fiscal and monetary policy mix, climate and socio-economic tipping points, the impact of increasing fuel prices on transport, cyber-resilience in the EU, protecting media freedom and journalists, the future of Russia, and geoeconomics in an age of empires.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Multimedia [Heading towards 2024 European elections](#)

[Budgeting in times of crises and war](#)

[EU recovery instrument](#)

[The Janus-faced fiscal-monetary policy mix](#)

[Climate and socio-economic tipping points](#)

[How will increasing fuel prices impact transport?](#)

[Cyber resilience in the EU](#)

[Protecting media freedom and journalists](#)

[Russia, quo vadis?](#)

[Geoeconomics in an age of empires](#)

[Message from First Vice-President Othmar Karas](#)

## Unpacking 'commercial surveillance': The state of tracking

Publication type Briefing

Date 19-12-2022

Author MILDEBRATH Hendrik Alexander

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competition | competitiveness | data-processing law | digital transformation | digitisation | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic government | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | free competition | information technology and data processing | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | regulation (EU) | technology and technical regulations

Summary Increasingly stakeholders submit that EU data protection rules jeopardise Europe's data-driven prosperity and demand targeted weakening of data protection rules. As the debate becomes more polarised, it is more important than ever to establish a baseline for discussions by taking stock of current tracking practices. This briefing illustrates how leading internet companies track users across devices and services. It reviews the latest research and answers questions such as: Do companies track my browsing behaviour? Do phones and apps send data in idle mode? Is my phone listening? Are recent anti-tracking features effective?

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Listing act – SMEs and access to capital: Pre-legislative synthesis of national, regional and local positions on the European Commission's initiative](#)

Publication type Briefing  
Date 19-12-2022  
Author COLLOVA Claudio | HOFLMAYR MARTIN  
Policy area Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Economics and Monetary Issues  
Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | capital market | economic policy | economic policy | economic structure | ECONOMICS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | free movement of capital | intergovernmental legal instrument | market access | market economy | single market | small and medium-sized enterprises | TRADE | trade policy  
Summary This briefing provides a pre-legislative synthesis of the positions of national, regional and local governmental organisations on the European Commission's listing act proposals. The proposals are designed to support companies' access to public capital markets. This briefing forms part of an EPRS series offering a summary of the pre-legislative state of play and advance consultation on a range of key Commission priorities during its five-year term in office. It seeks to present the current state of affairs, examine how existing policy is working on the ground, and identify best practice and ideas for the future, on the part of governmental organisations at all levels of the European system of multilevel governance. This analysis of the positions of partner organisations at European Union (EU), national, regional and local levels suggests that they would like the following considerations to be reflected in the discussion on the listing act initiative. \* National governmental organisations share many similar positions: they welcome initiatives aimed at lowering costs for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); they underline that the main principles behind the Prospectus and Market Abuse Regulations are still valid and should be maintained; and are in favour of targeted amendments to this legislation. In particular, the French and German finance ministries issued a joint statement in which they 'support a high level of ambition for the upcoming EU Listing Act'. These positions are shared by governmental organisations, irrespective of whether they are located in larger western EU markets or smaller central-eastern markets. \* National governmental organisations exchanged some good practices, such as introducing tax incentives. These relate for instance to investment savings accounts, which can hold financial instruments and are subject to a special tax regime, and to tax credit for costs incurred during the SME listing. When it comes to the analysis, national sources highlight the need to address the whole ecosystem, which comprises factors and players beyond the regulatory changes. \* Regional and local governmental organisations engage on a broad range of activities for SMEs, in some cases implementing EU-funded programmes. The EU economy, and in particular its manufacturing sector, is characterised by a strong regional dimension, where clusters account for 25 % of employment and are primarily made up of SMEs. It would appear useful to integrate the local and regional dimension into initiatives aimed at facilitating listing of SMEs.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [A Comparative Analysis of Member States' Customs Authorisation Procedures for the Entry of Products into the European Union](#)

Publication type Study  
Date 19-12-2022  
External author Pierre HAUSEMER, VVA Brussels  
Ivan BOSCH CHEN, VVA Brussels  
Nelly PATROCLOU, VVA Brussels  
With the support of Santiago IBÁÑEZ MARSILLA, Michael LUX, and Michaël VAN GIEL  
Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union  
Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | customs inspection | customs union | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | EU customs procedure | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | impact study | import (EU) | international trade | management | risk management | sanction (EU) | single market | tariff policy | trade | TRADE | trade restriction  
Summary Implementation of EU customs legislation with regard to areas such as risk management and impact management measures differs across Member States. National systems also diverge in the extent to which they have been updated in line with the UCC. Furthermore, significant differences in sanctions regimes create barriers to trade and distortions in the Single Market. This study makes recommendations to Member States and the EU to address some of the weaknesses of the current customs controls and sanctions regime. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

Study [EN](#)

## [Special Reports of the European Court of Auditors - A Rolling Check-list of recent findings](#)

Publication type Study  
Date 16-12-2022  
Author BINDER ECKHARD | TENHUNEN Susanna  
Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control  
Keyword accounting | auditing | budget | budgetary control | budgetary discharge | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic analysis | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Court of Auditors | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial control  
Summary This publication seeks to assist the Members of the European Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) in their work related to the 2021 discharge procedure, scrutinising how the general budget of the European Union is spent. It is based on a sample comprising 17 special reports by the European Court of Auditors (ECA), which have been presented during CONT committee meetings over the past 12 months (December 2021 to November 2022), and for which the committee secretariat prepared working documents. This analysis provides a general overview of the ECA's mandate and the emerging role of performance auditing. The main part of this study is a section of selected tables regarding each ECA special report. The tables seek to gather published information to provide a concise and useful summary.

Study [EN](#)



## [Key issues in the European Council: State of play in December 2022](#)

Publication type Study

Date 14-12-2022

Author ANGHEL Suzana Elena | DRACHENBERG Ralf | TORPEY REBECCA MARY

Policy area Democracy

Keyword balance-sheet analysis | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | deepening of the European Union | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU research policy | European construction | European Council | EUROPEAN UNION | impact study | management | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property

Summary The role of the European Council is to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities'. Since its creation in 1975, the European Council has exercised considerable influence over the development of the European Union, a process enhanced by its designation as a formal institution of the Union under the Lisbon Treaty in 2009. The European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) monitors and analyses the activities, commitments and impact of the European Council, so as to maximise parliamentary understanding of the political dynamics of this important institution. This EPRS publication, 'Key issues in the European Council', which is updated every quarter to coincide with European Council meetings, aims to provide an overview of the institution's activities on major EU issues. It analyses twelve broad policy areas, explaining the legal and political background, the main priorities and orientations defined by the European Council and the results of its involvement to date, as well as some of the future challenges in each policy field.

Study [EN](#)

## [Amendments to the Capital Requirements Regulation in the area of resolution \('daisy chain' proposal\)](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-12-2022

Author HALLAK ISSAM

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword accounting | banking policy | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | capital market | directive (EU) | EU banking union | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial loss | financial policy | financing and investment | free movement of capital | investment | monetary economics

Summary On 27 October 2021, the Commission tabled a regulation amending the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR) and the Banking Resolution and Recovery Directive (BRRD) with a view to resolving inconsistencies regarding the internal minimum requirements for own funds and eligible liabilities (iMREL). The iMREL are indirectly channelled through a number of intermediate parents up to the resolution entity of the group, in a process also known as a 'daisy chain'. In its negotiating position adopted in February 2022, Parliament supported the proposal suggesting some changes. The provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations adds provisions for a framed review that takes into account the different types of banking group structure. Parliament adopted the agreement on 13 September 2022, and the final act was published in the Official Journal on 25 October 2022. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Question time: Protecting strategic infrastructure against China's influence](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 09-12-2022

Author CLAPP SEBASTIAN | GRIEGER Gisela | NEGREIRO ACHIAGA Maria Del Mar | RAGONNAUD Guillaume | SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | China | critical infrastructure security | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European security | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign investment | GEOGRAPHY | information security | information technology and data processing | information warfare | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | management | POLITICS | politics and public safety | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | risk management | supply chain

Summary China's full or partial ownership of a large number of strategic infrastructure assets in the European Union has significantly increased the EU's exposure to a non-EU country with a track record of weaponising its growing global economic footprint to achieve political objectives. Moreover, a series of recent cyber-attacks associated with Chinese hackers have put the EU's critical infrastructure at risk of compromise or espionage. Both developments highlight the need to protect the EU's strategic infrastructure against physical and digital threats. The European Parliament will use its oversight powers to question the European Commission on the issue during the December plenary session.

At a Glance [EN](#)

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

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 08-12-2022

Policy area [Area of Freedom, Security and Justice](#) | [Budget](#) | [Budgetary Control](#) | [Culture](#) | [EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law](#) | [Regional Development](#) | [Security and Defence](#) | [Taxation](#)

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [crisis management](#) | [digital technology](#) | [documentation](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [EU strategy](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [information security](#) | [information technology and data processing](#) | [management](#) | [multimedia](#) | [PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH](#) | [software](#) | [statistics](#) | [summarising](#) | [technology and technical regulations](#)

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](#)

## [Upscaling the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework: A resilient EU budget fit for new challenges](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 07-12-2022

Author PARI MARIANNA

Policy area [Budget](#)

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [crisis management](#) | [economic conditions](#) | [economic recovery](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EU budget](#) | [EU expenditure](#) | [EU finance](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [financial management](#) | [financial transparency](#) | [management](#) | [multiannual financial framework](#)

Summary The current multiannual financial framework (MFF) is under extreme strain owing to the multiple crises the EU is facing, notably the war in Ukraine and the effects it has triggered. With funds and flexibility measures already extensively used and further funding challenges still ahead, the European Parliament's Committee on Budgets, in an own-initiative report, calls for an urgent and ambitious revision of the MFF to increase the EU budget and make it more flexible. This should enable the EU to confront upcoming challenges and ensure greater transparency and democratic accountability. The report is due to be debated and voted upon during the December plenary session.

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

## [E-commerce and the EU Green Deal - Analysis of the environmental footprint of online sales in the context of the circular economy](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 07-12-2022

External author [Luena COLLINI](#), [VVA Brussels](#)  
[Dr. Pierre HAUSEMER](#), [VVA Brussels](#)  
[Ivan BOSCH CHEN](#), [VVA Brussels](#)  
[Jelena VITIC](#), [VVA Brussels](#)  
[J. Scott MARCUS](#), [Bruegel](#)  
[Marie LE MOUEL](#), [Bruegel](#)  
[Marina DUMONT](#), [Pre-sustainability](#)  
[Emilia INGEMARSDOTTER](#), [Pre-sustainability](#)  
[Luca ZAMPORI](#), [Pre-sustainability](#)

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

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [carbon neutrality](#) | [competition](#) | [consumer information](#) | [consumer law](#) | [consumption](#) | [digital transformation](#) | [ecological footprint](#) | [electronic commerce](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental impact](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [EU strategy](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [marketing](#) | [product safety](#) | [PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH](#) | [restriction on competition](#) | [technology and technical regulations](#) | [TRADE](#)

Summary The rise of online sales and marketplaces poses new challenges to product safety, consumer protection, and unfair business practices. At the same time, e-commerce has the potential to facilitate more sustainable production processes and consumption patterns and ensure more circularity. This study provides information on the role of e-commerce in implementing the European Green Deal and makes recommendations for future action. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

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

## [Evolving key risks in the banking sector, and related priorities for the SSM](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 30-11-2022

External author Thorsten BECK, Brunella BRUNO, Elena CARLETTI

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | discount rate | documentation | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU banking union | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | geopolitics | humanities | management | monetary economics | monitoring report | risk management | SCIENCE

Summary This paper points to new multifaceted and often interconnected sources of risks (including high-impact tail risks) and the challenges posed to supervisory actions. It also makes the important case that traditional risk management tools might face limitations in the current situation. We discuss both geopolitical and related risks as well as other risks in the context of rising interest rates and a volatile macroeconomic environment. The challenge for banks will be to be prepared for such extreme scenarios. New approaches to risk management are needed, combining quantitative and qualitative assessment. Banks' strategic plans need to be set towards long-term objectives, but also have to be flexible enough to allow for the possibilities of tail risks. In terms of supervisory actions, these considerations call for a very-bank specific monitoring approach.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Addressing the challenges of the digital transition in national RRF plans: Measures to support digitisation of SMEs](#)

Publication type Study

Date 30-11-2022

External author Ilsa GODLOVITCH, Christophe BODIN

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | digital transformation | economic conditions | economic independence | economic policy | economic recovery | economic support | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU financing | EUROPEAN UNION | information technology and data processing | information technology industry | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | national planning | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | small and medium-sized enterprises | technology and technical regulations

Summary This paper considers initiatives funded by the RRF to support SMEs in the digital transition. It concludes that while there are many areas of good practice, risks remain due to the lack of outcome-based targets, the complexity of some schemes and relatively low levels of funding in relation to the ambition in some cases. Introducing targets based on (preferably harmonised) skills frameworks and digital maturity assessments could help establish the value add of initiatives to support SMEs.

Study [EN](#)

## [September 2022 Monetary Dialogue: Summary of parliamentary scrutiny activities](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-11-2022

Author PSARRAS VASILEIOS | RAKIC Drazen

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business continuity | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial analysis | management | monetary economics | monetary policy | monetary relations | parliament | parliamentary scrutiny | POLITICS

Summary This briefing provides a summary of all scrutiny activities of the European Parliament related to euro area monetary policy in the period between the June and September Monetary Dialogues (MDs), along with a recap of the key monetary policy decisions taken by the European Central Bank's (ECB's) Governing Council in that period. Such summaries will be published regularly after each MD.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Personalised pricing](#)

Publication type Study

Date 29-11-2022

External author Prof. Dr. Peter ROTT, Civic Consulting / Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg  
Dr. Joanna STRYCHARZ, Civic Consulting / University of Amsterdam  
Dr. Frank ALLEWELDT, Civic Consulting

Policy area Consumer Protection

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | consumer protection | consumption | EU law - national law | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | fixing of prices | free competition | price formation | prices | quality of life | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary The study conceptualises personal pricing, distinguishing different forms including individual prices and group prices. It summarises empirical insights on the occurrence of personal pricing in practice and related consumer attitudes. In its legal part, it analyses whether and how current EU law deals with this phenomenon and identifies regulatory gaps and legal uncertainty, on the basis of which recommendations for future regulation of personalised pricing are presented. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

Study [EN](#)

## Evolving key risks in the banking sector and related priorities for the SSM

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 29-11-2022

External author Andrea RESTI

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bond | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic conditions | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | Eurobond | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial risk | free movement of capital | inflation | management | monetary economics | money-market liquidity | risk management | venture capital

Summary While greater inflation may have led to some positive “first-round” effects for banks, several negative “second-round” impacts may occur, including: i) an increase in credit risk, affecting both families and companies, especially “heavy energy users”; ii) a drop in the value of fixed-rate assets held by lenders, including sovereign bonds; iii) liquidity pressures due to the ECB's recent decision to increase the cost of its outstanding 3-year facilities and to greater competition for retail deposits; iv) additional geopolitical risks, including local conflicts in Kosovo, Taiwan or Korea.

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

## Public hearing with Elke König, Chair of the Single Resolution Board

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-11-2022

Author GRIGAITÉ KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | SPITZER Kai Gereon

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank deposit | bank resolution | budget | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | crisis management | EU banking union | FINANCE | financial control | financial institutions and credit | financial supervision | free movement of capital | management | monetary economics

Summary This note is prepared in view of a public hearing with the Chair of the Single Resolution Board (SRB), Elke König, scheduled for 30 November 2022.

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

## C transfers in the EP's budget in 2020 - response to the COVID-19 crisis

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-11-2022

Author FRANKE Michaela

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Coronavirus

Keyword budget | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU budget | EU expenditure | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial management | health | implementation of the budget | management | national accounts | savings | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The EP's budget is drawn up during the year n-1, with the preparations in its Directorates General already starting in the last quarter of the year n-2. The budgetary procedure - first inside the EP for the institution's own budget, then for the budget of the EU as a whole in the interinstitutional part of the procedure - lasts throughout the year n-1, with an agreement usually reached during the last quarter of year n-1. For example, the preparations for the 2020 budget in the Directorates General started towards the end of 2018, with the main budgetary process taking place in 2019.

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

## [European Commission work programme for 2023](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-11-2022

Author HAHNKAMPER-VANDENBULCKE Nora | VETTORAZZI STEFANO

Policy area Democracy

Keyword action programme | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy crisis | energy policy | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European Commission | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | food security | GEOGRAPHY | health | impact study | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | legislative initiative | management | parliamentary proceedings | participatory democracy | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | proposal (EU) | Russo-Ukrainian issue | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Ukraine

**Summary** This briefing is intended as a background overview for parliamentary committees (and their secretariats) planning their activities in relation to the European Commission's 2023 work programme (CWP 2023), adopted on 18 October 2022. The CWP 2023 is shaped by the exceptional circumstances linked to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which triggered a vast humanitarian, human rights, displacement, food and energy crisis. As of 7 October 2022, the UN Refugee Agency reports that nearly a third of Ukrainians have been forced from their homes; Europe is hosting over 7.6 million refugees from Ukraine, and 6.2 million people remain displaced by the war within Ukraine. Skyrocketing gas and electricity prices, coupled with energy supply concerns, have also impacted the cost of living of European households as well as the post-pandemic recovery. Last but not least, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has shattered Europe's peace and altered its security situation, requiring EU foreign, security and defence policy, and the tools thereof, to adapt appropriately. In an unprecedented move, the EU has activated the European Peace Facility to provide military assistance to Ukraine, mobilising (up to September of this year) €3.1 billion, as well as providing €19 billion to strengthen Ukraine's economic, social and financial resilience. On the humanitarian front, the EU has provided aid through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, with over 70 000 tonnes of aid delivered to Ukraine so far, and has activated the Temporary Protection Directive, thus ensuring that Ukrainian refugees have access to jobs, housing, education and healthcare. Medical and specialised equipment for public health risks, such as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats, have been mobilised via the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) and rescEU emergency stockpiles. Through the Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE), and the FAST-CARE (Flexible Assistance for Territories) proposal, the Commission has made it easier for Member States and regions to mobilise cohesion funds to help people fleeing the war. On energy, the EU has taken a number of steps both to align its policies with more ambitious climate goals and to boost energy independence, including the REPowerEU plan for saving energy, producing clean energy, and diversifying EU energy supplies. As regards the food crisis caused by increasing prices, and aggravated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Commission has facilitated Ukraine's access to the single market and global supply chains through alternative routes ('solidarity lanes'), and continues to work closely with the Member States, its international partners and Ukraine to ensure access to fertilisers, food production and open trade to prevent food supply distortions. In line with its title, 'A Union standing firm and united', the CWP 2023 is set against the above background and framed, according to the Commission, by three complementary realities. The first is that challenges of such scale can only truly be tackled collectively. The second is that the aforementioned crises underline the need for Europe to continue to accelerate the radical (twin green and digital) transformation set out at the beginning of this Commission's mandate. The third reality is that these crises cannot be met with a business-as-usual approach.

Briefing [EN](#)

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

Publication type At a Glance

Date 18-11-2022

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Budget | Budgetary Control | Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues | Fisheries | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Regional Development | Social Policy

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | criminal law | crisis management | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | gender-based violence | health | LAW | legislation | management | publication | sexual violence | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sources and branches of the law | therapeutics | victim

**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](#)

## [Gender balance on corporate boards](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-11-2022

Author LECERF Marie

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword board of directors | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | equal treatment | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | female work | gender equality | LAW | participation of women | private sector | proposal (EU) | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** In 2012, the European Commission tabled a directive to improve gender balance on company boards. It set a target whereby women should make up 40 % of non-executive director positions and 33 % of all directors' positions for listed companies. After being blocked in the Council for a decade, the Parliament and Council have now reached agreement. The Parliament is expected to vote on this during its November II plenary session.

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

## [Resilience of critical entities](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-11-2022

Author VORONOVA Sofija

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | computer crime | critical infrastructure security | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU strategy | European construction | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | information security | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | management | POLITICS | politics and public safety | proposal (EU) | risk management

Summary Protecting critical infrastructure against physical and digital threats is more than ever high on the EU agenda, not least in the light of the recent Nord Stream gas pipelines sabotage. During the November II plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote on a provisional agreement on rules to enhance critical entities' resilience.

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

## [Borrowing strategy to finance Next Generation EU](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 16-11-2022

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Budget

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic conditions | economic policy | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EU aid | EU budget | EU finance | EU financial instrument | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial management | financial transparency | financing and investment | investment | management | own resources | public borrowing | public finance and budget policy

Summary At its November II plenary session, Parliament is expected to vote on the report by the Committee on Budgets (BUDG) on the borrowing strategy to finance Next Generation EU (NGEU). The report assesses the strategy's implementation, explores potential positive impacts and challenges, urges the Commission to report systematically to Parliament, and stresses the need for transparency and for new own resources.

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

## [Plenary round-up – November I 2022](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-11-2022

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | corporate social responsibility | Croatia | digital technology | economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENERGY | energy policy | Europe | FINANCE | financial policy | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | information security | information technology and data processing | international law | LAW | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | political geography | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | Schengen Agreement | self-sufficiency in energy | sustainable development | technology and technical regulations

Summary The highlight of the November I 2022 plenary session was the debate on the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 20-21 October 2022, during which European Union leaders discussed the latest developments in Russia's military campaign against Ukraine, Europe's energy crisis, and external relations – with China in particular. Members also debated Commission statements on the outcome of the modernisation of the Energy Charter, the EU response to the increasing crack-down on protests in Iran, and on the recent communication on ensuring the availability and affordability of fertilisers. Parliament adopted several legislative proposals, including on digital finance, cybersecurity and distortive foreign subsidies.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [The 19th Conference of the Parties on CITES, Panama, 14 - 25 November 2022](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 08-11-2022

External author Manuel Mota, Panagiota Pavlou, Laura Vona, Isa Vroom and Tony Zamparutti

Policy area International Trade

Keyword action programme | America | biodiversity | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | fight against crime | GEOGRAPHY | illicit trade | management | natural environment | Panama | political geography | prevention of delinquency | protection of animals | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | trade policy

Summary The 19th Conference of the Parties (COP19) on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to be held in Panama in November 2022, provides the opportunity for Parties to review the implementation of the Convention, consider amendments to strengthen protection of key species, make recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the Convention, and discuss finance and resources for stronger action. Despite the high degree of political attention that illegal trade has attracted, a number of weaknesses have been identified in the implementation of CITES.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)



## [Digital operational resilience act \(DORA\)](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-11-2022

Author HALLAK ISSAM

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | communications | digital single market | digitisation | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial services | financial technology | information security | information technology | information technology and data processing | management | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | risk management | technology and technical regulations

Summary The Single Rulebook – encompassing all EU legislation governing financial institutions – barely touches on operational risks relating to information and communications technologies (ICT). In September 2020, the Commission tabled a proposal for a regulation on the digital operational resilience of the financial sector (DORA), to introduce and harmonise key digital operational requirements across the EU, so as to make ICT operations resilient in the face of severe operational disruption and cyber-attacks.

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

## [Corporate sustainability reporting directive](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-11-2022

Author SPINACI STEFANO

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword administrative formalities | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | corporate social responsibility | disclosure of information | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | green economy | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | POLITICS | proposal (EU) | small and medium-sized enterprises | sustainable development

Summary In April 2021, the European Commission proposed a directive on corporate sustainability reporting. The directive would establish new rules on sustainability reporting in the European Union, based on amending and enlarging the scope of reporting and increasing standardisation under the current Non-financial Reporting Directive. A provisional political agreement reached between the Parliament and Council is scheduled for a vote at first reading during the November I plenary session.

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

## [Distortive foreign subsidies](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-11-2022

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | cooperation policy | EU competition policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign aid | foreign capital | foreign investment | free movement of capital | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | public procurement | restriction on competition | single market | third country | TRADE | trade policy

Summary Foreign state financing of companies can have distortive effects on the single market. In its first November plenary session, the Parliament will vote on the provisional agreement, reached in trilogue negotiations, on a proposed regulation to tackle such distortive foreign subsidies. Under the regulation, companies would need to notify subsidies granted by non-EU public authorities in areas of mergers and acquisitions and bids in big public procurements, and the Commission would have the right to examine other market situations. It would also have the powers to investigate such subsidies and to apply countervailing measures to mitigate distortions.

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

## Corporate sustainability due diligence

Publication type Briefing

Date 10-10-2022

Author GIRARD VERONIQUE

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Consumer Protection | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Environment | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Human Rights

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | company law | corporate governance | corporate social responsibility | economic analysis | economic instrument for the environment | ECONOMICS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental liability | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | human rights | impact study | labour law | labour law and labour relations | LAW | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | rights and freedoms | value chain

**Summary** The impact assessment (IA) accompanying the proposal on corporate sustainability due diligence received two negative opinions from the Commission's Regulatory Scrutiny Board. Additional evidence was provided in a follow-up document to the Board's second opinion, explaining how the IA's preferred options were revised in the proposal, but no change was made to the IA itself. The IA cannot therefore be read without this follow-up document. It also makes the analysis quite difficult to follow, as evidence is split between several documents that are not consistent. Overall, this IA is well substantiated with economic literature and analysis reports, including two supporting studies from 2020. The IA is transparent on the methods, assumptions and limitations of the analysis. The IA refers to stakeholders' views fairly consistently, but it seems that only a limited number of stakeholders from third and especially developing countries were consulted. The problem identified in the IA covers two dimensions of sustainable corporate governance, and the objectives defined are directly linked to the problem. In the IA, policy options are identified across three areas: corporate due diligence, directors' duties and their remuneration. The IA focuses on the assessment of the economic impact. Costs are estimated for companies and public authorities, while expected benefits are described in a qualitative way. Other types of impacts (social, environmental, and on human rights) that are particularly relevant in this initiative, are analysed less extensively. The Commission made efforts to take account of comments from the RSB, but some weaknesses remain. To respond to proportionality concerns from the Board, the IA's preferred options were revised. However, different alternatives could have been compared for the revision of the IA's preferred options. As revised in the proposal, the options focus on the due diligence duty, leaving out part of the directors' duties and of the rules on directors' remuneration. The objectives were also revised, focusing on one (the external) dimension of the problem. As the number of companies under the scope of application was reduced under the revised options from up to 70 000 estimated in the IA to around 12 000 EU companies (in addition to 4 000 non-EU companies), the costs for companies were significantly reduced and recalculated in the follow-up document. The analysis of impacts on third and developing countries was also 'complemented' in the follow-up to RSB comments, but this assessment would have benefited from more attention, given the strong external dimension of the proposal. For future monitoring and evaluation of the initiative, the indicators envisaged, as well as the related timelines and target would benefit from clarification.

Briefing [EN](#)

## European Union beef sector: Main features, challenges and prospects

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-10-2022

Author VINCI CLAUDIA

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Keyword AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | agricultural activity | agricultural structures and production | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | animal product | beef | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | conversion to beef production | cooperation policy | economic structure | ECONOMICS | farming sector | free movement of goods | freedom of trade | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international trade | LAW | livestock farming | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | rights and freedoms | third country | TRADE | world production

**Summary** In 2020, there were over 76 million cattle in the European Union (EU) and beef production reached 6.8 million tonnes – output that makes the EU the world's third largest producer, after the United States and Brazil. The sector is diverse in terms of herd size, farm structure and geographical distribution of farms between EU regions. Beef is an important element of most European diets, and it is the third most widely consumed meat in the world. EU beef, together with other EU food products, is known for its quality, and widely exported to third countries. To facilitate trade, the EU negotiates bilateral free trade agreements with those countries. While offering a wide range of opportunities, the opening of global markets can also have a negative impact on the EU beef industry: beef produced outside the EU is more competitive, which threatens to weaken EU internal production. In recent years, threats other than the opening of new markets have been putting pressure on EU beef producers. These include the declining consumption of red meat, citizens' concerns about environmental impact, climate change and animal welfare, and low farm incomes. The EU's common agricultural policy offers a wide range of instruments to support farmers and address market changes. These instruments include export refunds, public intervention, and private storage aid. Farmers should also now be able to exert greater leverage over big retailers with the protection provided by the 2019 Unfair Trading Practices Directive.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [A common charger for electronic devices: Revision of the Radio Equipment Directive](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date [28-09-2022](#)

Author [ALTMAYER Anne](#)

Policy area [Consumer Protection](#)

Keyword [action programme](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [circular economy](#) | [clean technology](#) | [deterioration of the environment](#) | [economic policy](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [electronics](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [industrial pollution](#) | [information technology and data processing](#) | [justice](#) | [LAW](#) | [legislative initiative](#) | [management](#) | [natural and applied sciences](#) | [parliamentary proceedings](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH](#) | [right of action](#) | [SCIENCE](#) | [systems interconnection](#) | [technology and technical regulations](#)

Summary During its first plenary session in October, Parliament is expected to vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations on the legislative proposal to amend the 2014 Radio Equipment Directive. The proposal is to introduce common chargers and charging ports – USB Type-C – for mobile phones and other small portable devices sold in the EU. The expectation is that this would benefit consumers and reduce electronic waste.

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

## [Towards a permanent citizens' participatory mechanism in the EU](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date [27-09-2022](#)

External author [Alberto ALEMANNO](#)

Policy area [EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law](#) | [EU Law: Legal System and Acts](#) | [European Semester](#) | [Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice](#)

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [civic engagement](#) | [decision-making](#) | [EU national](#) | [European citizens' initiative](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [international law](#) | [LAW](#) | [management](#) | [political framework](#) | [POLITICS](#)

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the AFCO Committee, examines the EU participatory system and its existing participatory channels against mounting citizens' expectations for greater participation in EU decision-making in the aftermath of the Conference on the Future of Europe. It proposes the creation of a permanent deliberative mechanism entailing the participation of randomly selected citizens tasked to vet proposals originating from either existing participation channels or the EU institutions, in an attempt at making the EU more democratically responsive.

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

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

## [Consumer protection for the green transition](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date [21-09-2022](#)

Author [KRAMER Esther](#)

Policy area [Ex-ante Impact Assessment](#)

Keyword [advertising malpractice](#) | [after-sales service](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [civil law](#) | [competition](#) | [consumer information](#) | [consumer law](#) | [consumption](#) | [eco-label](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [economic policy](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental impact](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [impact study](#) | [information technology and data processing](#) | [LAW](#) | [marketing](#) | [producer's liability](#) | [product life](#) | [proposal \(EU\)](#) | [software](#) | [sustainable product](#) | [TRADE](#)

Summary The IA is based on solid expertise, with ample information in 13 annexes, some of which form an integral part of the analysis (namely Annexes 5 and 12 for the problem definition and Annex 8 for the assessment of the options' impacts). The qualitative and quantitative assessment of the options is concise, balanced and logical. The IA is transparent regarding methods, assumptions and uncertainties in the analysis, which it addresses through a sensitivity analysis to ensure a robust evidence base. The impacts of all options are assessed against a set of 16 criteria and compared to the baseline in terms of their effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and proportionality. The IA decides against options it considers disproportionate, such as an EU body to pre-approve sustainability labels. It highlights the importance of coherence with other complementary EU actions, but potential interactions could have been indicated in a more precise and structured manner, to better illustrate potential overlaps.

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

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

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date [20-09-2022](#)

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [business organisation](#) | [competitiveness](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EU investment](#) | [European Commissioner](#) | [European Semester](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financing and investment](#) | [fiscal policy](#) | [monetary economics](#) | [public finance and budget policy](#) | [social protection](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [stability pact](#) | [stability programme](#) | [sustainable finance](#) | [taxation](#) | [unemployment insurance](#)

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

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

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

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-09-2022

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil defence | cooperation policy | crisis management | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental risk prevention | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | EUROPEAN UNION | gender-sensitive aid | humanitarian aid | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | POLITICS | politics and public safety | position of women | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

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

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

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

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-09-2022

Keyword aerospace industry | artificial intelligence | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | circular economy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | fund (EU) | INDUSTRY | information and information processing | information security | information technology and data processing | mechanical engineering | single market | small and medium-sized enterprises

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

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

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

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-09-2022

Keyword administrative formalities | administrative transparency | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | POLITICS | public consultation | simplification of legislation | small and medium-sized enterprises | sources and branches of the law | strategic autonomy | vice-president of an institution

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

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

## [Solvency II Prudential treatment of equity exposures](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 19-09-2022

External author Willem Pieter DE GROEN, Inna OLIINYK (CEPS).

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | civil law | FINANCE | financial institution | financial institutions and credit | financial services | financial solvency | financial stability | financing and investment | free movement of capital | insurance | insurance company | investment | LAW | share capital

Summary Insurance companies are important investors in EU capital markets. Most of their investments are in debt instruments, while equity investments can contribute to higher returns for policyholders and overall EU economic growth. This study analyses the treatment of equity investments by insurance companies in (proposed) EU legislation; it is considered that this legislation will have limited impact on equity investments. To enhance equity investment significantly drivers other than prudential ones would have to be targeted.

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

## [What if AI could make the agri-food sector more resilient?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-09-2022

Author GARCIA HIGUERA ANDRES

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Keyword accounting | agri-foodstuffs | agri-foodstuffs | AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | artificial intelligence | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common agricultural policy | communications | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic recession | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | food safety | health | information and information processing | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | productivity | public consultation | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | supply chain | technology | technology and technical regulations

Summary Artificial intelligence (AI) has been the subject of such strong political and social debate that the question of its suitability for its main original purpose – improving supply chain efficiency – may come as a surprise. What if AI really could help strategic sectors cope with pressure? More specifically, could the agri-food sector benefit from this technology to compensate for the shortages broadly forecast as a result of today's crises?

At a Glance [EN](#)

Multimedia [What if AI could make the agri-food sector more resilient?](#)

## [Research for PECH Committee - Costs and benefits of spatial protection measures as tools for fisheries management](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-09-2022

Author BREUER Marcus Ernst Gerhard | OSTANSKA KINGA

External author Stephen MANGI, Harry OWEN, Robert WAKEFORD, Stephen HODGSON, Hannah RICHARDSON, Imogen HAMER, Rupert STACY; George V. TRIANTAPHYLIDIS; Sébastien METZ; Sebastian VILLASANTE, Pablo PITA.

Policy area Environment | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Fisheries

Keyword accounting | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | aquaculture | biodiversity | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common fisheries policy | cost-benefit analysis | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | fisheries | fishery management | marine environment | natural environment | protected area

Summary This At a glance note summarises the study evaluating the costs and benefits on fisheries and aquaculture of three types of spatial protection measures: (i) Fish Stock Recovery Areas (FSRAs), (ii) Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and areas designated as (iii) Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs). The research assesses how far fisheries co-management approaches can potentially help to achieve the European Union targets. The study uses three case studies from France, Spain and Greece to collect data on the different types of spatial protection measures and assesses how the cost-benefit analysis framework can be applied for their evaluation

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [Recasting the rules applicable to European political parties and foundations](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-09-2022

Author DIAZ CREGO Maria

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword advertising | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financing and investment | financing policy | foundation | legal form of organisations | legislative initiative | marketing | parliamentary proceedings | political parties | political party | POLITICS | regulation (EU) | TRADE

Summary During the September 2022 plenary session, Parliament is expected to debate and vote the report concerning the Commission proposal to recast the Regulation on the statute and funding of European political parties and foundations. The report was adopted by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) on 13 July 2022 – with 18 votes for, 4 against and 2 abstentions – and includes 36 amendments to the original proposal.

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

## [Amending budget No 2/2022: 2021 surplus](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-09-2022

Author MAZUR Sidonia

Policy area Budget

Keyword amending budget | budget | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | ECONOMICS | EU competition policy | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | financing policy | fiscal policy | general budget (EU) | gross national product | national accounts | taxation

Summary The purpose of Draft Amending Budget No 2/2022 (DAB 2/2022) to the EU's 2022 general budget is to enter as revenue in the 2022 budget the surplus resulting from implementation of the 2021 budget. The 2021 surplus totals over €3.2 billion. It consists mostly of higher than expected revenues from customs duties (€1.68 billion) and fines for breaking EU competition law that exceeded the forecast by €957 million. The surplus also arises in part from under-spending on the expenditure side. Inclusion of the 2021 surplus will result in a corresponding reduction in EU Member States' gross national income (GNI) contributions to the 2022 budget. The European Parliament is expected to vote on the Council's position on DAB 2/2022 during its September plenary session.

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

## [Regulation of intermediaries, including tax advisers, in the EU/Member States and best practices from inside and outside the EU](#)

Publication type Study

Date 01-08-2022

External author Emer MULLIGAN (co-authors: Edidiong BASSEY, Dennis DE WIDT, Marco GREGGI, Dirk KIESEWETTER and Lynne OATS)

Policy area Taxation

Keyword basis of tax assessment | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | criminal law | economic governance (EU) | FINANCE | financial analysis | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | management | monetary economics | OECD | tax authorities | tax law | tax offence | taxation | world organisations

Summary This study provides an overview of the regulatory environment of tax intermediaries. It presents a comparative analysis of five selected countries (4 EU, 1 Non-EU). For each country, it provides an understanding of the landscape of the tax profession, the current regulatory framework and its impact on tax compliance and draws attention to some weaknesses across this regulatory space. It also highlights some proposed remedies and direction for further in-depth research in this area.  
This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the Economic and Monetary Affairs' Subcommittee on Tax Matters (FISC).

Study [EN](#)

## [Outcome of the Madrid NATO Summit, June 2022](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 14-07-2022

Author CLAPP SEBASTIAN

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cooperation policy | crisis management | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU-NATO cooperation | Europe | European construction | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | information security | information technology and data processing | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | management | military cooperation | NATO | political geography | Russia | Russo-Ukrainian issue | summit meeting | Ukraine | world organisations

Summary On 28-30 June 2022, NATO leaders met in Madrid and adopted a new strategic concept, rewriting their assessment of the threat environment in the light of Russia's war on Ukraine. NATO also overhauled its defence and deterrence posture, and officially invited Finland and Sweden to join the Alliance.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [Understanding Loss and Damage: Addressing the unavoidable impacts of climate change](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-07-2022

Author JENSEN LISELOTTE

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid | Environment

Keyword accounting | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | bad weather | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | climate change | crop losses | damage | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | farming systems | FINANCE | indemnification | insurance | insurance | international affairs | international conference | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | loss | UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Summary Many consequences of climate change are already hard to reverse, and extreme weather events will become more frequent in the future. That shows a need to discuss which climate impacts are difficult or impossible to adapt to, and a need to address losses and damages. All regions will be affected by climate change, but the extent of loss and damage will vary between locations. Although the concept of Loss and Damage (L&D) is not new, it is still quite vague and not well defined in climate policy. It has been discussed at many United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conferences of Parties (COP), and some mechanisms to support countries facing losses and damages have been established. One of the biggest challenges with L&D is the framing of the concept itself. Developing and developed countries have differing views on its definition as well as its urgency, which has resulted in limited progress on the issue. A key issue on which stakeholders find it hard to agree is financing L&D. Developed country stakeholders tend to argue that L&D could be financed by existing climate funds, insurance schemes, humanitarian aid, or risk management, while many developing countries call for financial mechanisms directed specifically towards L&D. At the UNFCCC climate conference in Glasgow in November 2021 (COP26), the European Union was open to discussing L&D as a topic but hesitant about creating a dedicated L&D fund. The topic is expected to be one of the main focus areas on the agenda of the forthcoming COP27 in Egypt.

Briefing [EN](#)



## Public hearing with Elke König, Chair of the Single Resolution Board - 13 July 2022

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-07-2022

Author GRIGAITÉ KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword action programme | banking | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic analysis | economic analysis | economic independence | ECONOMICS | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | fund (EU) | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | monetary crisis | monetary relations

Summary This note is prepared in view of an ordinary public hearing with the Chair of the Single Resolution Board (SRB), Elke König, which will take place on 13 July 2022.  
During the hearing, the Chair of the SRB will notably address the institution's 2021 annual report, published on 27 June 2022. This briefing also addresses the Sberbank resolution case, developments on MREL build-up and in relation to the Banking Union, and it presents a summary of some recent institutional policy papers relevant for resolution.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Priority dossiers under the Czech EU Council Presidency

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-06-2022

Author NADKARNI ISABEL

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | crisis management | Czechia | economic conditions | economic geography | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy policy | energy supply | EU budget | EU Council Presidency | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | management | political geography | security of supply | trade | TRADE | Ukraine | war

Summary Czechia is a parliamentary republic with a head of government – the prime minister – and a head of state – the president. The current Prime Minister is Petr Fiala, from the Civic Democratic Party (ODS). He has been in office since November 2021 and was preceded by Andrej Babiš (2017-2021), the founder of the party ANO 2011. Czech President Miloš Zeman was first elected to the post in 2013 and had previously served as prime minister, from 1998 to 2002. The supreme executive body is the government. It is led by the prime minister and appointed by the president of the republic. The president also appoints other government members based on the prime minister's recommendations. Before it is installed, the government must win a vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies. The Spolu alliance, formed for the 2021 legislative election, was composed of the Civic Democratic Party (ODS), KDU-ČSL (Christian and Democratic Union), and TOP 09 (Tradition, Responsibility, Prosperity). It currently governs the country in a coalition with the Pirates and Mayors' alliance. The Czech Parliament is bicameral. The upper house is the Senate (81 members elected for six years) and the lower house is the Chamber of Deputies (200 members elected for four years). There are currently seven parties in the Chamber of Deputies. All of these parties except the SPD also have seats in the Senate, where the Czech Social Democratic Party (ČSSD) and the Green Party (Z) also have seats. The Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) holds no seats in the Chamber or the Senate but has one elected member of the European Parliament and representatives at regional level. Czechia will hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU for the second time. The previous time was in the first half of 2009, coinciding with the last months of the sixth legislative term of the European Parliament and with the European elections, held between 4 and 7 June 2009. The programme of the Trio formed together with France and Sweden has as its thematic priorities to protect citizens and freedoms; to promote a new growth and investment model for Europe; to build a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe; and to promote Europe's interests and values in the world.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Metaverse: Opportunities, risks and policy implications

Publication type Briefing

Date 24-06-2022

Author CAR POLONA | MADIEGA Tambiana André | Niestadt Maria

Policy area Research Policy

Keyword anti-trust legislation | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | communications | competition | data protection | digital technology | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | FINANCE | information and information processing | information security | information technology and data processing | intellectual property | Internet of Things | merger control | monetary economics | new technology | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | technology and technical regulations | virtual currency | virtual reality

Summary One of the most talked about concepts in modern technology, the metaverse can be described as an immersive and constant virtual 3D world where people interact by means of an avatar to carry out a wide range of activities. Such activities can range from leisure and gaming to professional and commercial interactions, financial transactions or even health interventions such as surgery. While the exact scope and impact of the metaverse on society and on the economy is still unknown, it can already be seen that the metaverse will open up a range of opportunities but also a number of risks in a variety of policy areas. Major tech companies are scaling up their metaverse activities, including through mergers and acquisitions. This has given impetus to a debate on how merger regulations and antitrust law should apply. Business in the metaverse is expected to be underpinned largely by cryptocurrencies and non-fungible tokens, raising issues of ownership, misuse, interoperability and portability. Furthermore, the huge volume of data used in the metaverse raises a number of data protection and cybersecurity issues (e.g. how to collect user consent or protect avatars against identity theft). There is considerable scope for a wide range of illegal and harmful behaviours and practices in the metaverse environment. This makes it essential to consider how to attribute responsibility, inter alia, for fighting illegal and harmful practices and misleading advertising practices, and for protecting intellectual property rights. Moreover, digital immersion in the metaverse can have severe negative impacts on health, especially for vulnerable groups, such as minors, who may require special protection. Finally, the accessibility and inclusiveness of the metaverse remain areas where progress has still to be made in order to create an environment of equal opportunities.

Briefing [EN](#)

## 10 years after “whatever it takes”: fragmentation risk in the current context

Publication type Study

Date 20-06-2022

External author Pierpaolo BENIGNO, Paolo CANOFARI, Giovanni DI BARTOLOMEO, Marcello MESSORI, Karl WHELAN, Klaus-Jürgen GERN, Nils SONNENBERG, Ulrich STOLZENBURG, Grégory CLAEYS, Maria DEMERTZIS, Lionel GUETTA-JEANRENAUD

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | crisis management | economic conditions | economic situation | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial market | free movement of capital | inflation | interest | management | monetary crisis | monetary economics | monetary policy | monetary relations | price stability | prices | public debt | public finance and budget policy | single monetary policy

Summary On 26 July 2012, then ECB President Mario Draghi gave the so-called “whatever it takes” speech, today widely considered as the turnaround point in the European sovereign debt crisis. Shortly after, the European Central Bank (ECB) announced the details of its outright monetary transactions programme (OMT) tool. The speech, together with the OMT announcement, were enough to remove re-denomination risk from sovereign bond markets. OMT was never actually used. 10 years after, in a context of record-high inflation, fragmentation risk has emerged once again as a central issue for monetary policy in the euro area. Four papers were prepared by the ECON Committee’s Monetary Expert Panel, looking into the recent re-emergence of fragmentation risk in the euro area. This publication is provided by Policy Department A for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with ECB President Lagarde on 20 June 2022.

Study [EN](#)

## The Digital Single Market and the digitalisation of the public sector - GovTech and other innovations in public procurement (At A Glance - Study In Focus)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-06-2022

External author Marissa HOEKSTRA, TNO  
Cass CHIDECK, TNO  
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Ivette OOMENS, Technopolis  
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Policy area Consumer Protection | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword award of contract | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | digital single market | digital technology | digitisation | documentation | e-procurement | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic government | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | innovation | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public sector | research and intellectual property | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | trade policy

Summary This research paper provides insight into GovTech and innovation in the context of public procurement. It examines the possibilities for developing an EU GovTech Platform with the aim of supporting the modernisation of the public sector; the further development of the European GovTech market; and engagement with citizens and businesses. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

At a Glance [EN](#)

## Empowering consumers for the green transition

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-06-2022

Author SAJN Nikolina

Policy area Consumer Protection | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword advertising malpractice | after-sales service | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | carbon neutrality | circular economy | civil law | competition | consumer information | consumer law | consumption | eco-label | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | LAW | marketing | producer's liability | product life | proposal (EU) | sustainable product | TRADE

Summary On 30 March 2022, the Commission published a proposal for a directive empowering consumers for the green transition, through better protection against unfair practices and better information. The proposal is designed to enhancing consumer rights in making informed choices in order to play an active role in the transition to a climate-neutral society. It proposes new rules to provide consumers with information on products' sustainability, in particular their durability and reparability, at the point of purchase. It also aims to promote commercial guarantees exceeding the two-year legal guarantee, as well as to ban false and misleading green claims ('greenwashing') and certain types of premature obsolescence of products. In the European Parliament, the file has been referred to the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection. In the Council, discussions have started in the working party on consumer protection and information. First edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Ireland's tax reforms and the fight against aggressive tax schemes](#)

Publication type At a Glance  
Date 14-06-2022  
Author BAERT Pieter  
Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues  
Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | corporation tax | deterioration of the environment | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | Europe | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | greenhouse gas | Ireland | multinational enterprise | political geography | reduction of gas emissions | tax | tax avoidance | tax reform | taxation  
Summary As Ireland has a high number of (foreign-owned) multinationals, which employ a large share of the Irish workforce, the country's corporate tax system plays a key role in the economy. However, Ireland has been criticised for the way in which its tax system has been used by multinationals to set up aggressive tax planning structures and exploit mismatches and gaps in the international tax framework. In response, Ireland has taken a series of anti-tax avoidance measures at national, EU and OECD level.

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

## [Social climate fund](#)

Publication type At a Glance  
Date 01-06-2022  
Author WILSON Alex Benjamin  
Policy area Energy | Social Policy  
Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | demography and population | deterioration of the environment | distribution of EU funding | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU Emissions Trading Scheme | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fund (EU) | greenhouse gas | household | micro-enterprise | organisation of transport | proposal (EU) | reduction of gas emissions | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRANSPORT | transport user  
Summary As part of the 'fit for 55' package, the Commission has proposed the creation of a social climate fund (SCF) to compensate vulnerable households, micro-businesses and transport users for some of the costs of the green transition. The fund would be financed primarily through the extension of the EU emissions trading system to cover the buildings and transport sectors. Members will debate the SCF during the June I 2022 plenary session.

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

## [Technical support provided to EU Member States](#)

Publication type Briefing  
Date 31-05-2022  
Author HAASE Diana  
Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control  
Keyword administrative formalities | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | distribution of EU funding | economic and social cohesion | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU Member State | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial management | financial regulation | fund (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | information and information processing | management | POLITICS | public finance and budget policy | regulation (EU) | structural adjustment  
Summary The Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) organised a public hearing with the aim to get a better understanding about technical support and related challenges, especially concerning the areas of better administration, digitalisation and EU funds implementation. This briefing provided background information to this debate that took place 21 April 2022. It examines technical support as well as relevant technical assistance activities and provides a short insight into links between such support and administrative capacity building. The theme of this hearing is technical support; the instruments set up for this purpose are relatively new and, as it will be explained later, the availability of coherent and all encompassing lessons drawn from their experience is still limited. There are however possible overlaps, or rather synergies and complementarities with technical assistance activities in different policy areas. The author chose cohesion policy where technical assistance activities have been pursued for decades, and co-financing of projects aiming at administrative capacity building has been prominent for several programming periods. Lessons learnt in the cohesion area can also feed the debate, as it is also obvious from the strong interservice cooperation among the different Commission services involved in technical support or assistance and administrative capacity building.

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

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

Publication type At a Glance  
Date 31-05-2022  
Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Coronavirus | Democracy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Environment | Fisheries | Regional Development  
Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | artificial intelligence | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | economic conditions | economic development | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU budget | EU finance | EU financing | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | financing policy | fisheries | fisheries policy | green economy | information and information processing | own resources | police | POLITICS | politics and public safety | small and medium-sized enterprises  
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](#)

## [Revision of Directive 2014/42/EU on the freezing and confiscation of the proceeds of crime and proposal for a new directive on asset recovery offices](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 30-05-2022

Author HUEMER MARIE-ASTRID

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | confiscation of property | Council of Europe | criminal investigation department | criminal law | EU programme | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | justice | LAW | organisation of the legal system | organised crime | prevention of delinquency | profit | seizure of goods | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | United Nations | UNO

**Summary** Confiscation of instrumentalities and proceeds of crime is a key tool for depriving criminals of ill-gotten gains that could be reinvested in further criminal activities. Directive 2014/42/EU on the freezing and confiscation of instrumentalities and proceeds of crime was adopted in 2014 to harmonise the rules by introducing minimum standards. In 2019, following a joint statement by the Parliament and Council, a dedicated staff working document on non-conviction based confiscation measures in the EU was prepared by the Commission, followed in June 2020 by a report, Asset recovery and confiscation: ensuring crime does not pay, assessing the opportunity to introduce new rules. In its 2021 work programme, the Commission announced its intention to revise the 2014 Directive, as well as Council Decision 2007/845/JHA on asset recovery offices, both being closely interlinked. This implementation appraisal looks at the practical implementation of the directive in light of the expected Commission proposal for its revision. The Commission work programme had planned the proposal for the fourth quarter of 2021; it was postponed to the second quarter of 2022.

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

## [Commission proposal on corporate sustainability due diligence: analysis from a human rights perspective](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 30-05-2022

External author Claire METHVEN O'BRIEN, Olga MARTIN-ORTEGA

Policy area Environment | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights | International Trade

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | company law | corporate governance | corporate social responsibility | economic instrument for the environment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental liability | environmental policy | environmental protection | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | human rights | labour law | labour law and labour relations | LAW | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | rights and freedoms | value chain

**Summary** On 23 February 2022, the European Commission (EC) published its proposal for a corporate sustainability due diligence directive. This In-depth Analysis for the European Parliament Sub-Committee on Human Rights (DROI) initially presents the EC proposal and its main features, contextualising these against broader European and international developments in business and human rights regulations. It then undertakes an in-depth comparative analysis of the EC's 2022 draft Directive against (i) the position adopted by the Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET/DROI) in its opinion for the Legal Affairs Committee of 25 November 2020; (ii) the final EP position as adopted in March 2021. This is followed by evaluation of the EC draft Directive's approach on key elements relating to human rights and environmental due diligence from the point of view of human rights standards and in light of the rationale presented in the EC's Impact Assessment Report (23 February 2022) and Annexes (29 March 2022). Overall, the analysis provides an assessment of the extent to which key positions of AFET/DROI and the Parliament regarding human rights due diligence, as well as relevant international and regional legal standards, policies and guidance, are either reflected in the EC draft Directive or might be better reflected in it.

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

## [Entrepreneurial Literacy and Skills](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 24-05-2022

External author Yvette Baggen, Gabi Kaffka

Policy area Education | Employment

Keyword aid to undertakings | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | driving mechanism | e-procurement | economic policy | economic structure | ECONOMICS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | employment policy | entrepreneur | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | FINANCE | financing and investment | financing method | green economy | labour force | labour market | organisation of transport | TRADE | trade policy | transition economy | TRANSPORT

**Summary** Entrepreneurial literacy and skills (ELS) empower European citizens to act on economic opportunities and enable them to adequately respond to ongoing impactful changes, such as the green transition, the ageing workforce and the digitalisation. This research paper analyses relevant empirical indicators of ELS, highlights the role of underrepresented groups in entrepreneurship and discusses EU-funded mechanisms in relation to ELS. The research paper concludes with recommendations on policy-making in order to more effectively foster ELS among EU citizens.

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

## [Protection against racism, xenophobia and racial discrimination, and the EU Anti-racism Action Plan](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date [24-05-2022](#)

External author [Quentin LIGER](#), Asterisk Research and Analysis  
[Mirja GUHTEIL](#), Asterisk Research and Analysis  
National research was undertaken by [Lilia YAKOVA](#) (Centre for the Study of Democracy), [Rosalina TODOROVA](#) (Centre for the Study of Democracy), [Victoria BOGDANOVA](#) (Centre for the Study of Democracy ) and [Dr Vessela HRISTOVA](#).

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

Keyword [action programme](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [epidemic](#) | [health](#) | [human rights](#) | [LAW](#) | [management](#) | [racism](#) | [rights and freedoms](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [xenophobia](#)

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee, provides an analysis of the distinctive features of racism, xenophobia and racial discrimination in the EU and selected EU Member States. It further examines various forms of racism, xenophobia and racial discrimination and their target groups and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The study assesses anti-racism policies and legislation to determine effectiveness of the national and EU legislation and measures envisaged in the EU Anti-racism Action Plan on eradication of racism, xenophobia and racial discrimination. The study identifies gaps that need to be filled and provides recommendations on how to create engagement at all levels to achieve meaningful change and equality.

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

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

## [IPR and the use of open data and data sharing initiatives by public and private actors](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date [03-05-2022](#)

External author [Matthias Leistner](#), [Lucie Antoine](#)

Policy area [Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council](#) | [Competition law and regulation](#) | [Contract Law](#), [Commercial Law](#) and [Company Law](#) | [EU Law: Legal System and Acts](#) | [Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice](#) | [Industry](#) | [Intellectual Property Law](#) | [Internal Market and Customs Union](#)

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [competition](#) | [competition law](#) | [data collection](#) | [data recording](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [free competition](#) | [information technology and data processing](#) | [intellectual property](#) | [marketing](#) | [on line data service](#) | [PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH](#) | [research and intellectual property](#) | [TRADE](#) | [trade information](#) | [trade licence](#) | [trade policy](#)

Summary This study analyses recent developments in data related practice, law and policy as well as the current legal framework for data access, sharing, and use in the European Union. The study identifies particular issues of concern and highlights respective need for action. On this basis, the study evaluates the Commission's proposal for a Data Act. The study is commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the Committee on Legal Affairs.

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

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

## [Single Audit Approach - Root Causes of the Weaknesses in the Work of the Member States' Managing and Audit Authorities](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date [30-04-2022](#)

External author [Jack MALAN](#),  
[Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services \(CSES\)](#).

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

Keyword [accounting](#) | [accounting system](#) | [auditing](#) | [budget](#) | [budgetary control](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [economic geography](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EU budget](#) | [EU expenditure](#) | [EU finance](#) | [EU Member State](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financial institution](#) | [financial institutions and credit](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [national accounts](#) | [political framework](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [supervisory power](#)

Summary This study aims to analyse the problems that Member States' authorities and bodies experience in the implementation, control and audit of EU expenditure, their root causes and implications for the Single Audit approach. In particular, the specific objectives of this study are to:

- Gain a comprehensive insight into the causes of the problems that Member States' authorities and bodies face when implementing, controlling and auditing the European Union budget.
- Assess the quality of their work, the independence and reliability of the auditors' work as well as specific weaknesses in the management and control systems.
- Assess the cooperation with relevant players including other national bodies, national supreme audit authorities and the EU institutions and bodies (e.g. ECA, Commission, OLAF and EPPO).
- Analyse the extent of respect and application of European and international applicable standards.

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

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



## [The Digital Single Market and the digitalisation of the public sector - GovTech and other innovations in public procurement](#)

Publication type Study

Date 30-04-2022

External author Marissa HOEKSTRA, TNO  
Cass CHIDECK, TNO  
Gabriela BODEA, TNO  
Nitesh BHAROSA, TU Delft  
Jonathan CAVE, GNKS Consult  
Ben KOKKELER, Technopolis  
Ivette OOMENS, Technopolis  
Annelieke VAN DEN BERG, TNO  
Anne Fleur VAN VEENSTRA, TNO  
Frank ALLEWELDT (second reader), Civic Consulting

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

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | citizen science | cloud computing | digital single market | digitisation | documentation | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | information technology and data processing | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public economy | research and intellectual property | small and medium-sized enterprises

Summary This research paper provides insight into GovTech and innovation in the context of public procurement. It examines the possibilities for developing an EU GovTech Platform with the aim of supporting the modernisation of the public sector; the further development of the European GovTech market; and engagement with citizens and businesses. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

Study [EN](#)

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

Publication type At a Glance

Date 29-04-2022

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Budget | Budgetary Control | Democracy | Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Foreign Affairs | Regional Development | Transport

Keyword Belarus | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cooperation policy | coronavirus disease | crisis management | development aid | economic instrument for the environment | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | epidemic | EU budget | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | health | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | organisation of work and working conditions | political geography | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sustainable development | working conditions

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](#)

## [Discharge for 2020 budget – European Commission, executive agencies and European development funds](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 27-04-2022

Author KOWALD KAROLINE

Policy area Budgetary Control

Keyword activity report | audit | budget | budgetary control | budgetary discharge | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cooperation policy | documentation | EDF | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU budget | EU expenditure | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Court of Auditors | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial year | fraud against the EU | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management

Summary During its May I plenary session, the European Parliament is due to vote on whether to grant discharge for the 2020 financial year to the EU's various institutions and bodies. First in line is the report on the European Commission and six executive agencies, responsible for the bulk of EU budget spending. Separate discharge is granted for management of the European development funds (EDFs). Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) recommends that Parliament grant the Commission and all six executive agencies discharge for 2020. It also recommends granting discharge for implementation of the EDFs' 2020 operations.

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

## Institutional Protection Schemes: What are their differences, strengths, weaknesses, and track records?

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 27-04-2022

External author R. Haselmann, J.P. Krahnert, T.H. Tröger, M. Wahrenburg

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial stability | free movement of capital | Joint Research Centre | monetary economics | small and medium-sized enterprises | statistics

**Summary** This briefing paper describes and evaluates the law and economics of institution(al) protection schemes. Throughout our analysis, we use Europe's largest such scheme, that of German savings banks, as paradigm. We find strengths and weaknesses: Strong network-internal monitoring and early warning seems to be an important contributor to IPS network success. Similarly, the geographical quasi-cartel encourages banks to build a strong client base, including SME, in all regions. Third, the growth of the IPS member institutions may have benefitted from the strictly unlimited protection offered, in terms of euro amounts per account holder. The counterweighing weaknesses encompass the conditionality of the protection pledge and the underinvestment risk it entails, sometimes referred to as blackmailing the government, as well as the limited diversification potential of the deposit insurance within the network, and the near-incompatibility of the IPS model with the provisions of the BRRD, particularly relating to bail-in and resolution. Consequently, we suggest, as policy guidance, to treat large IPS networks similar to large banking groups, and put them as such under the direct supervision of the ECB within the SSM. Moreover, we suggest strengthening the seriousness of a deposit insurance that offers unlimited protection. Finally, to improve financial stability, we suggest embedding the IPS model into a multi-tier deposit re-insurance scheme, with a national and a European layer.

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

## Institutional Protection Schemes in the Banking Union

Publication type Study

Date 27-04-2022

External author F. Ippolito, P. Hope, R. Van Dijk

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | crisis management | economic analysis | economic indicator | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | Joint Research Centre | management | monetary economics

**Summary** The present study provides an analysis of the existing Institutional Protection Schemes (IPSs) in the Banking Union within the context of the ongoing review of the bank crisis management and deposit insurance framework. The paper examines how IPSs form an integral part of the European deposit insurance protection architecture, specifically in Germany and Austria, and how IPS operate alongside National Resolution Authorities and National Deposit Insurance Schemes

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

## Discharge for 2020 budget – EU decentralised agencies and joint undertakings

Publication type At a Glance

Date 27-04-2022

Author DOBREVA Alina

Policy area Budgetary Control

Keyword activity report | budget | budgetary control | budgetary discharge | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU expenditure | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | European Court of Auditors | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial management | financial year | general budget (EU) | management

**Summary** During the May I plenary session, as part of the discharge procedure for the 2020 financial year, the European Parliament is due to vote on discharge for each of 32 EU decentralised agencies and nine joint undertakings. The Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) proposes that Parliament grant discharge to all except the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, for which it proposes to postpone the discharge decision.

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

## [Future Shocks 2022: Addressing risks and building capabilities for Europe in a contested world](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 20-04-2022

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

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [common foreign and security policy](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [economic conditions](#) | [economic recession](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [epidemic](#) | [EU alert system](#) | [EU relations](#) | [European construction](#) | [European security](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [health](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [management](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [politics and public safety](#) | [risk management](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [war](#)

**Summary** The coronavirus crisis has demonstrated not only that the European Union faces a variety of risks, and that those disparate risks are inter-linked, but that the response to such challenges to the Union - even in areas in which the EU does not have explicit competence - is stronger with the Union and its Member States acting together. Russia's war on Ukraine, which was launched while this study was being drafted, shows us not just the added value of concerted action by the Union but also the ability of EU institutions and Member States to find new and effective solutions to deal with major shocks. This paper, the first in an annual series, seeks to assess the risks to, and capabilities and resilience of, the EU system. Building on a review of global risks, it considers in detail specific risks with the potential to harm Europe and its people. It then sets out options for policy responses which can ensure Europe is more able to address the dangers of such risks and minimise the potential damage. Among the options set out are those previously included in European Parliament resolutions, in positions from other EU institutions, and in policy papers from think tanks and stakeholders.

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

Multimedia [Responding better to future pandemics](#)

[Fighting antibiotic resistance](#)

[Fitfor55: a new energy system](#)

[The Recovery and Resilience Facility: RRF](#)

[Building a European social model for the 21st century](#)

[Establishing greater strategic autonomy for European industry](#)

[Russia's brutal expansionism](#)

[Overview of risks for Europe in 2022 and beyond](#)

[Strengthening the EU's chip sector](#)

[EU food security responses to the war in Ukraine](#)

[Future Shocks 2022: Building a healthier online environment for healthy democracies](#)

[Future Shocks 2022: Strengthening our energy security](#)

[Future Shocks 2022: Extreme weather events](#)

[Bridging Europe's digital divide](#)

[Stepping up EU defence](#)

## [How can Covid-19-influenced CMU initiatives help diversify SME access to finance while promoting a greener economy?](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 31-03-2022

External author [Daniel GROS](#), [Willem Pieter DE GROEN](#), [Damir GOJSIC](#), [Apostolos THOMADAKIS](#), [Mathieu VUYLSTEKE](#)

Policy area [Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council](#) | [Economics and Monetary Issues](#) | [Environment](#) | [Financial and Banking Issues](#)

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [business classification](#) | [construction and town planning](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [ENERGY](#) | [energy efficiency](#) | [energy policy](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [epidemic](#) | [EU action](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [green economy](#) | [health](#) | [housing](#) | [quality of life](#) | [small and medium-sized enterprises](#) | [social framework](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

**Summary** SMEs will play a key role in the green transition, especially in improving the energy efficiency of housing. Innovative financing models in this sector would contribute towards achieving the 'Fit for 55' goals, as well as support the business environment of the SMEs that will implement a myriad of small energy improvement projects.

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

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

Publication type Study

Date 31-03-2022

External author MAURER Andreas

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

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

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

Study [EN](#)

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

## [Parliament's guidelines for the 2023 EU budget: Section III – European Commission](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 30-03-2022

Author MAZUR Sidonia

Policy area Budget

Keyword budget | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | draft budget (EU) | economic and social cohesion | economic conditions | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EU budget | EU finance | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial management | financial year | management | multiannual financial framework

Summary The 2023 EU budget will be the third under the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2021 to 2027. It is also the last year of the EU recovery instrument (Next Generation EU), which is planned to run from 2021 to 2023. The European Parliament contributes to the preparation of proposals for the forthcoming year's budget for the European Union through the adoption of its 'guidelines'. The draft guidelines, as adopted by the Committee on Budgets on 16 March 2022, outline Parliament's goals for the Union's 2023 budget, with the overarching priority of recovering from the coronavirus crisis and facing geopolitical challenges. Parliament is expected to adopt its guidelines during the April plenary session, ahead of the Commission's adoption of its proposal of the draft 2023 budget, scheduled for early June.

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

## [The ECB's close cooperation on supervising banks in Bulgaria and Croatia](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 23-03-2022

External author Thorsten BECK, Brunella BRUNO

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword banking supervision | Bulgaria | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | Croatia | economic geography | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | Europe | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial risk | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | management | monetary economics | monetary relations | political geography | risk management

Summary The close cooperation arrangement for Bulgaria and Croatia poses challenges for the ECB that we discuss in terms of existing and emerging risks and vulnerabilities in the two banking sectors. The focus is on three risk areas: money laundering, climate change risk, and geopolitical tensions related to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The high political and economic uncertainty arising from this conflict requires a reassessment of existing risks (such as credit and sovereign risks) and sources of new risks. These risk drivers are intertwined and can affect supervised entities through existing vulnerabilities at the bank as well as at the country level, primarily poor asset quality and the weak institutional framework.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Amending the rules governing the statute and funding of European political parties \(recast\)](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-03-2022

Author ANGLMAYER Irmgard

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU finance | EU financing | European legal status | European party | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | foundation | freedom of association | freedom of expression | impact study | LAW | legal form of organisations | party financing | political party | POLITICS | proposal (EU) | rights and freedoms

Summary Ahead of the 2024 European elections, the European Commission has presented a proposal to amend Regulation 1141/2014 governing the statute and funding of European political parties (EUPPs) and foundations. The proposed amendments concern, inter alia, the funding provisions, transparency requirements and enforcement of the rules. This briefing examines the quality of the supporting impact assessment (IA), which outlines the problems encountered in applying the regulation, as identified in recent EU-level reports and through stakeholder input. The range of policy options presented in the IA to address the identified shortcomings is rather limited, although under each option, and for each problem, several alternative measures are considered. Elements of the parallel initiative on political advertising - also part of the European democracy action plan - were integrated into the amending EUPP proposal; however, the IA remains vague on the link between these two initiatives.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [What if machines made fairer decisions than humans?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 23-03-2022

Author GARCIA HIGUERA ANDRES

Policy area Consumer Protection | Democracy | Human Rights | Industry | Research Policy

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | data protection | decision-making | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ethics | humanities | information and information processing | information security | information technology and data processing | LAW | machine learning | management | new technology | office automation | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | protection of privacy | rights and freedoms | SCIENCE | technical standard | technology and technical regulations

Summary Automated decision-making by systems that use machine learning to dynamically improve performance are still seen as lacking the 'human perspective' and flexibility to adapt to the particular nuances of specific cases. But perhaps, as they lack the 'cunning' to hide their biases, automated systems actually make fairer decisions than do humans, when these decisions are based on data that have been properly curated.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Multimedia [What if machines made fairer decisions than humans?](#)

## [Protecting EU funds against oligarchic structures](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-03-2022

Author KOWALD KAROLINE

Policy area Budgetary Control

Keyword budget | budgetary control | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | conflict of interest | corruption | criminal law | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU expenditure | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Anti-fraud Office | European Public Prosecutor's Office | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fight against crime | FINANCE | financial management | financial regulation | fraud against the EU | labour law and labour relations | LAW | management | public finance and budget policy | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The European Union's 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework (MFF) and the Next Generation EU recovery instruments provide financial resources amounting to €1.8 trillion. However, the EU can only achieve the ambitious objectives of these budgetary instruments if its financial interests are better protected. Parliament's Budgetary Control (CONT) Committee has adopted an own-initiative report highlighting the risk of fraud and conflict of interest arising from the increasing presence of oligarchic structures in the EU in recent years.

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

## [Assessment of recent anti-tax avoidance and evasion measures \(ATAD & DAC 6\)](#)

Publication type Study

Date 17-03-2022

Author VERBEKEN Dirk

External author Werner HASLEHNER and Katerina PANTAZATOU

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues | Taxation

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | criminal law | directive (EU) | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial analysis | harmonisation of standards | LAW | management | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | tax avoidance | tax evasion | taxation | technology and technical regulations

Summary This study aims to provide an overview of the recently implemented anti-tax avoidance and evasion measures, notably the ATAD and DAC 6. It reviews the implementation of these directives across different Member States and assesses the problems that arise with regard to the interpretation of some of the directives' provisions. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Subcommittee on tax matters (FISC).

Study [EN](#)

## [Public hearing with Elke König, Chair of the Single Resolution Board - 14 March 2022](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 10-03-2022

Author GRIGAITÉ KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | SLOCOCK OLIVER

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank | bank deposit | bank resolution | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | crisis management | economic geography | EU banking union | Europe | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial solvency | financial stability | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | LAW | management | monetary economics | political geography | Russia | Ukraine

Summary This note is prepared in view of an ordinary public hearing with the Chair of the Single Resolution Board (SRB), Elke König, which will take place on 14 March 2022. This briefing (1) addresses mainly the situation of Sberbank Europe that has been declared failing-or-likely-to-fail, giving background information (i) on the bank, (ii) the process, (iii) the actions taken, (iv) the public interest assessments made, and (v) the implications for deposit guarantee schemes. In view of the current situation, this briefing (2) also summarises some information on the European banks' exposures to Russia and Ukraine, as well as (3) some information on Russian banks operating in Europe.

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

## [The impact of influencers on advertising and consumer protection in the Single Market \(At A Glance - Study In Focus\)](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 10-03-2022

External author Frithjof MICHAELSEN (VVA Brussels) (Lead author)  
Luena COLLINI (VVA Brussels) (Lead author)  
Cécile JACOB (VVA Brussels)  
Dr Catalina GOANTA (Utrecht University)  
Dr Sara Elisa KETTNER (ConPolicy Institute)  
Dr Sophie BISHOP (University of Sheffield)  
Dr Pierre HAUSEMER (VVA Brussels)  
Prof Dr Christian THORUN (ConPolicy Institute)  
Dr Sevil YESILOGLU (London College of Communication)

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Consumer Protection | Internal Market and Customs Union | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword advertising | advertising malpractice | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | communications | competition | consumer protection | consumption | digital economy | digital single market | economic analysis | economic consequence | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | marketing | social framework | social impact | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | virtual community

Summary Influencer marketing as part of the advertising industry has grown significantly in recent years, becoming one of the most popular and effective forms of online advertising. The fast-growing market of influencers comes with potential risks for consumers and creates several challenges for regulators. This study provides information and analysis on the impact of influencers on advertising and consumer protection in the Internal Market, identifies best practices and makes recommendations for future action. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

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

## [Towards a revision of the Regulation on the statute and funding of European political parties and foundations](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 07-03-2022

External author Edoardo BRESSANELLI, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | EU finance | EU financing | European legal status | European party | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | foundation | LAW | legal form of organisations | party financing | political party | POLITICS | proposal (EU) | regulation (EU)

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the AFCE Committee, provides an in-depth analysis of the key proposed changes to Regulation 1141/2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and foundations. It assesses the extent to which the reformed regulation strengthens, as per art. 10(4) TEU, the capacity of Europarties to contribute to forming a European political awareness and expressing the will of EU citizens.

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

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



## [US Congress and trade policy tackling China](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 04-03-2022

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword [America](#) | [Asia and Oceania](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [China](#) | [competition](#) | [cooperation policy](#) | [economic geography](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financing and investment](#) | [free-trade agreement](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [international cooperation](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international trade](#) | [investment](#) | [legislative initiative](#) | [parliamentary proceedings](#) | [political geography](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [restrictive trade practice](#) | [TRADE](#) | [trade agreement](#) | [trade policy](#) | [trade policy](#) | [United States](#)

**Summary** In the first year of the 117th US Congress (2021-2022), members of both the House and the Senate saw an urgent need both for a trade policy offensive specifically for the Indo-Pacific region to maintain US leadership in setting international standards and norms, and for an upgrade of defensive trade policy tools to address China's unfair trade practices. Congressional initiatives have coincided with debates in the European Parliament on the EU's Indo-Pacific strategy and on legislative proposals set to expand the EU's toolbox of autonomous trade measures.

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

## [Russia's war on Ukraine: EU budget response](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 04-03-2022

Author MAZUR Sidonia

Policy area Budget

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [cooperation policy](#) | [crisis management](#) | [economic geography](#) | [economic policy](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EU aid](#) | [EU budget](#) | [EU expenditure](#) | [EU finance](#) | [Europe](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [humanitarian aid](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [macro-financial assistance](#) | [management](#) | [military cooperation](#) | [military intervention](#) | [political geography](#) | [Russia](#) | [Ukraine](#)

**Summary** While Ukraine has received considerable support from the EU and European financial institutions since 2014, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, launched on 24 February 2022, has triggered a historic and twofold mobilisation of EU funds – for humanitarian action and military support. The European Commission has announced over €500 million in financing for humanitarian aid and the Council has decided to use the off-budget European Peace Facility (EPF) to assist Ukraine with €500 million in military aid. For the first time, the EU will direct its funds, €450 million, towards purchasing lethal weapons for a country at war, through the EPF. Should this funding prove insufficient, however, further mobilisation of the EU budget might be necessary. In its 1 March 2022 resolution, the European Parliament announced that it expects the EU and EU Member States 'to activate any EU budget instruments available'.

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

## [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](#)

## [HERA, the EU's new Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority](#)

Publication type **Briefing**

Date **24-02-2022**

Author **EVROUX CLEMENT THIERRY**

Policy area **Environment | Research Policy**

Keyword **bank resolution | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | distribution of EU funding | epidemic | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | health | management | SOCIAL QUESTIONS**

**Summary** The outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic exposed the weaknesses in the EU's preparedness and planning capacities as well as its lack of funding, with much of the EU's initial response being on an ad-hoc basis. Coordination and cooperation between EU Member States was initially often difficult, and took time to get established and start functioning in a structured way. The EU's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) was established by a Commission decision of 16 September 2021, as part of the European health union initiative that also includes legislative proposals reinforcing the roles and mandates of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the European Medicines Agency. Set up within the European Commission and endowed with €6 billion from the EU's long-term budget, the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework, HERA is expected to strengthen EU health security coordination during the preparedness phase, shorten crisis response times, and reinforce the EU's overall health emergency preparedness and response architecture. While the creation of HERA has been welcomed by European stakeholders active in research, innovation and healthcare, they stress their preference for inclusive governance, and the need to harness the activities so that they reflect the public good dimension of HERA investments. Since HERA is a European Commission entity and not an EU agency, the European Parliament's role, and in particular that of its relevant committees, in assessing and monitoring HERA's effectiveness and efficiency has yet to be defined.

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

## [The impact of influencers on advertising and consumer protection in the Single Market](#)

Publication type **Study**

Date **16-02-2022**

External author **Frithjof MICHAELSEN (VVA Brussels) (Lead author)**

**Luenia COLLINI (VVA Brussels) (Lead author)**

**Cécile JACOB (VVA Brussels)**

**Dr Catalina GOANTA (Utrecht University)**

**Dr Sara Elisa KETTNER (ConPolicy Institute)**

**Dr Sophie BISHOP (University of Sheffield)**

**Dr Pierre HAUSEMER (VVA Brussels)**

**Prof Dr Christian THORUN (ConPolicy Institute)**

**Dr Sevil YESILOGLU (London College of Communication)**

Policy area **Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Consumer Protection | Internal Market and Customs Union | Transposition and Implementation of Law**

Keyword **advertising | advertising malpractice | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | consumer protection | consumption | electronic commerce | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | labour market | marketing | merchandising | online platform worker | single market | TRADE**

**Summary** Influencer marketing as part of the advertising industry has grown significantly in recent years, becoming one of the most popular and effective forms of online advertising. The fast-growing market of influencers comes with potential risks for consumers and creates several challenges for regulators. This study provides information and analysis on the impact of influencers on advertising and consumer protection in the Internal Market, identifies best practices and makes recommendations for future action. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

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

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

Publication type **At a Glance**

Date **11-02-2022**

Policy area **Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget | Budgetary Control | Democracy | Education | Environment | Fisheries | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Human Rights | Industry | Transport**

Keyword **authoritarian regime | board of management | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | common transport policy | communications | democracy | digital transformation | disinformation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | EUROPEAN UNION | gender equality | interference | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | political framework | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | rights and freedoms | sustainable mobility | technology and technical regulations | TRANSPORT | transport policy**

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

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

## [A statute for European cross-border associations and non-profit organisations](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-02-2022

Author DEL MONTE Micaela

Policy area Democracy | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword administrative formalities | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | civil law | cross-border dimension | ECONOMICS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | European association | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | freedom to provide services | LAW | legal form of organisations | legal status | marketing | non-profit organisation | POLITICS | proposal (EU) | provision of services | regions and regional policy | social affairs | social enterprise | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary During the February 2022 plenary session, Parliament is due to vote on a legislative-initiative report calling on the Commission to put forward a directive on common measures for non-profit organisations (NPOs) and also a regulation establishing a statute for European cross-border associations and non-profit organisations. The proposal recognises that while NPOs are an integral part of the EU economy, they face multiple legal and administrative challenges when attempting to operate across borders. It maintains that minimum EU standards and the possibility to acquire a legal personality would help NPOs overcome these barriers.

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

## [Social Economy in Spain](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-02-2022

Author KONLE-SEIDL REGINA ANNA

Policy area Employment | Social Policy

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | corporate social responsibility | economic geography | economic policy | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EU action | EU aid | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | legal form of organisations | non-profit organisation | political geography | social affairs | social economy | social enterprise | social integration | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social services | Spain | sustainable development

Summary The concept of the "social economy" has gained attention and momentum in recent years although the degree of recognition varies largely from one Member State to another. Spain is an example where the social economy benefits from wide recognition. It is the first European country to enact a law on the social economy concept in 2011. In view of the EMPL delegation visit to Madrid, this briefing elaborates first on the concept applied in the SEAP - presented by the Commission on 9 December 2021 - and on the historical development of the social economy concept across Europe. The second part of the briefing focusses on social economy's historical and legal evolution in Spain. Key aspects of implementation of legal provisions in practice are presented and discussed. Inter alia, we look at factors which either enable or constrain the proper development of the Spanish social economy sector and draw some conclusions for creating a European social economy framework.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Phase out of the crisis support measures](#)

Publication type Study

Date 02-02-2022

External author Evi PAPPA, Eugenia VELLA

Policy area Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | coronavirus disease | crisis management | economic analysis | economic policy | ECONOMICS | epidemic | FINANCE | fiscal policy | health | International Monetary Fund | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | macroeconomics | management | monetary economics | monetary policy | national planning | small and medium-sized enterprises | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | State aid | taxation | United Nations

Summary A new database on exceptional fiscal spending adopted during the COVID-19 crisis is presented for 14 EU countries. The composition and evolution of fiscal measures differ across countries. We analyse (a) whether national economic characteristics determined the type of fiscal response adopted and (b) how the different fiscal measures affected the macroeconomic outcomes and consumer confidence. We assess whether measures have been sufficiently targeted and make recommendations as to which adjustments should be made as the crisis subsides.

Study [EN](#)

## [European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-list of commitments to date](#)

Publication type Study

Date 31-01-2022

Author ANGHEL Suzana Elena | DRACHENBERG Ralf | KROZSER Anna | TORPEY REBECCA MARY

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | EU policy | European construction | European Council | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | financial analysis | GEOGRAPHY | management | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | research results

Summary Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament's in-house research service and think-tank, has been monitoring and analysing the European Council's delivery on commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview of European Council conclusions is the latest edition of the Rolling Check-List, which has been published regularly by the European Council Oversight Unit since 2014. It is designed to review the degree of progress in achieving the goals that the European Council has set itself and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.

Study [EN](#)

## [Inflation expectations in the euro area: post-pandemic trends and policy implications](#)

Publication type Study

Date 31-01-2022

External author Joscha BECKMANN, Klaus-Jürgen GERN, Nils JANNSEN, Nils SONNENBERG, Ulrich STOLZENBURG, Luigi BONATTI, Andrea FRACASSO, Roberto TAMBORINI, Christophe BLOT, Caroline BOZOU, Jérôme CREEL, Cinzia ALCIDI, Daniel GROS, Farzaneh SHAMSAKHAR, Karl WHELAN

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | documentation | economic conditions | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial analysis | financing and investment | financing method | inflation | management | monetary economics | monetary policy | monetary relations | report

Summary Central banks attach great importance to inflation expectations. Households' and firms' expectations about the future path of inflation affect wage and price setting as well as consumption and investment decisions. Financial market participants' expectations are relevant because they influence financial prices and financing conditions. Inflation expectations "anchored" around the inflation target are seen as a pre-condition for maintaining price stability and credibility of the central bank. Starting in 2021, after a long period of low inflation, the euro area has been experiencing above-target inflation. How will this affect economic agents' perceptions about future inflation?

Five papers were prepared by the ECON Committee's Monetary Expert Panel, explaining the role of inflation expectations in monetary policy and challenges of measuring expectations, as well as policy implications and risks of unanchoring of inflation expectations due to the COVID-19 crisis.

This publication is provided by Policy Department A for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with ECB President on 7 February 2022.

Study [EN](#)

## [Security challenges at the EU's eastern border: which role for CSDP?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 31-01-2022

External author Tracey GERMAN, Andriy TYUSHKA

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword Belarus | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common security and defence policy | criminal law | crisis management | defence | Eastern Partnership | economic geography | EU civilian mission | Europe | European construction | European defence policy | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | international conflict | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | management | political geography | regional security | Russia | settlement of disputes | threat to national security

Summary This in-depth analysis examines the nature and scope of enduring and emerging threats to the security of the EU and its Member States, and the challenges to its Eastern Partnership policy, from both the EaP's protracted conflicts and instability in Belarus. It assesses the EU's engagement with these conflicts and addresses the potential role of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), including (but not solely) missions and operations. Finally, it explores potential avenues for future co-operation between the EU and its EaP partners on security and defence (including under the PESCO+, EPF, and EDF frameworks).

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## Moving from Broad to Targeted Pandemic Fiscal Support

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 31-01-2022

External author Friedrich HEINEMANN

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword budget | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | credit guarantee | crisis management | economic conditions | economic geography | economic policy | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU Member State | FINANCE | financial analysis | financial institutions and credit | fiscal policy | GEOGRAPHY | health | management | public expenditure | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | structural adjustment | taxation

Summary This paper conceptualizes an appropriate path for fiscal policy starting from the early phase of the pandemic up to the final transition to a post-pandemic new normal. Using this yardstick, it assesses the initial fiscal response of Member States. It exploits fiscal projections and programme data to analyse the adjustment to the economic recovery. For loan guarantees and short-time work schemes, it identifies programme-specific parameters that improve target precision and identifies examples of different programme designs, while highlighting their respective advantages and disadvantages.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## 'Fit for 55': Revision of the EU Emissions Trading System

Publication type Briefing

Date 27-01-2022

Author VETTORAZZI STEFANO

Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | deterioration of the environment | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU emission allowance | EU Emissions Trading Scheme | EU environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | greenhouse gas | impact study | management | pollution control measures | proposal (EU) | reduction of gas emissions | reserves | tradeable emission permit

Summary The IA identifies in a clear manner the problems, which are clearly linked to the objectives of the initiative, as well as their likely evolution without intervention. The range of options considered seems to reveal an intended path of action, namely the upward revision of the ETS ambition, in line with the political determination already laid out in the 2030 CTP. The IA does seem to provide a good account of the key impacts of the retained options, while taking into account SMEs and suggesting measures to address the social or distributional impacts of carbon pricing. However, not all policy options or supporting elements were assessed individually and the IA does not systematically contemplate the impacts of a scenario more reliant on carbon pricing, nor the interplay between policy areas. The IA's reasoning is supported by various sources which appear to provide a reliable basis for analysis and which are, overall, duly referenced, with the exception of supporting work concerning carbon leakage; however, for most models, the uncertainties and limitations were only vaguely indicated. Overall, the IA does seem to have addressed most of the RSB's recommendations. The proposal appears to be consistent with the IA's analysis, although the Commission's intention to increase the Modernisation Fund share is not assessed under the retained options. Moreover, the choices regarding the market stability reserve and the Innovation Fund (both left by the IA to be decided politically) do not correspond to any of the options assessed in the IA.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Digital transformation - Cost of Non-Europe

Publication type Study

Date 27-01-2022

Author FERNANDES MEENAKSHI | JANCOVA LENKA | LOMBA NIOMBO

Policy area Industry

Keyword artificial intelligence | blockchain | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | cloud computing | digital transformation | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | green economy | gross domestic product | impact study | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | national accounts | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | small and medium-sized enterprises | technology and technical regulations

Summary Europe is in the midst of a digital revolution that is transforming our approach to work and communication and building significant potential to improve living standards and economic output. With the potential to drastically change the economy and society, digital transformation can bring both promising developments and challenges. There is wide variation in advances in digital transformation both within the European Union and between Member States. To this end, the European Union and its Member States are developing and adopting policies targeted at boosting digital transformation. This Cost of Non-Europe study analyses the status quo in digital transformation in the European Union and identifies gaps and barriers hampering the full potential of the digital transformation. Based on this examination, the cost of non-Europe is analysed qualitatively and quantitatively using a computable general equilibrium model. The estimated cost of non-Europe is already substantial in 2021, at €315 billion, and would continue to grow increasingly over time, reaching up to €1.3 trillion by 2033. The study proceeds to identify three broad policy options for EU action that would address the identified gaps and barriers to some extent and thus generate benefits for businesses and society.

Study [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](#)

## [Reinforced role for European Medicines Agency](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 13-01-2022

Author AMAND-EECKHOUT Laurence

Policy area Public Health

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

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

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [CAP horizontal regulation: Financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy for 2023-2027](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 21-12-2021

Author ROSSI Rachele

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Agriculture and Rural Development

Keyword agricultural expenditure | agricultural policy | agricultural production | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | aid to agriculture | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common agricultural policy | cooperation policy | documentation | EAFRD | EAGF | EAGGF | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | farming systems | financial aid | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | management audit | proposal (EU) | regions and regional policy | report | rural development

Summary As part of the preparation of the EU budget for 2021-2027, the European Commission put forward a new set of regulations to shape the future EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) on 1 June 2018. The proposal for a regulation on the financing, management and monitoring of the CAP provides the legislative framework for adapting the financing, management and monitoring rules to a new CAP delivery model. This seeks to achieve more subsidiarity and simplification, with greater responsibility given to Member States, a shift from ensuring single transaction compliance to monitoring system performance in each Member State, and reduced 'red tape', among other things. Following their adoption in December 2021, the new CAP regulations will apply from 1 January 2023.

Briefing [EN](#)



## [New guidelines for EU humanitarian action](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-12-2021

Author PICHON Eric

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid

Keyword adaptation to climate change | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil defence | cooperation policy | crisis management | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | financial aid | food aid | food security | health | humanitarian aid | international humanitarian law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | management | natural disaster | POLITICS | politics and public safety | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The number of people worldwide needing humanitarian assistance is set to rise to 274 million in 2022, nearly two thirds more than in 2020. Nowadays, humanitarian crises last on average more than nine years; aid is often insufficient, and humanitarian law violated more frequently. The European Commission has proposed new ways of working with partners and other donors around the world to react faster to emergencies and deliver humanitarian aid more effectively. An own-initiative report on new guidelines for EU humanitarian action, tabled by the European Parliament's Committee on Development, is scheduled for a plenary vote in December.

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

## [Women on Board Policies in Member States and the Effects on Corporate Governance](#)

Publication type Study

Date 07-12-2021

External author Anja KIRSCH

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword board of directors | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | demography and population | economic geography | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | Europe | female work | FINANCE | France | free movement of capital | gender equality | GEOGRAPHY | Germany | Italy | LAW | Netherlands | participation of women | political geography | rights and freedoms | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Spain | stock-exchange listing | woman

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the JURI Committee, provides an overview of women on board policies in the EU Member States. analyses, in more detail, policies and practices as well as their impact on women's board presentation in Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands and Germany. The study concludes by recommending a timely adoption of the adoption of the proposed Directive COM(2012) 614 final of the European Parliament and of the Council on improving the gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges and related measures.

Study [EN](#)

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

## [EU action plan for the social economy: Pre-legislative synthesis of national, regional and local positions on the European Commission's initiative](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-12-2021

Author COLLOVA Claudio | MILOTAY Nora

Policy area Social Policy

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | corporate social responsibility | economic policy | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EU aid | EU initiative | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | financial management | management | POLITICS | public institution | social affairs | social economy | social enterprise | social integration | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social services | sustainable development

Summary This Briefing forms part of an EPRS series which offers a synthesis of the pre-legislative state-of-play and advance consultation on a range of key European Commission priorities during the latter's five-year term in office. It seeks to summarise the state of affairs in the relevant policy field, examine how existing policy is working on the ground, and identify best practice and ideas for the future on the part of governmental organisations at all levels of European system of multilevel governance. An EPRS analysis of the positions of partner organisations at European Union (EU), national, regional and local levels suggests that they would like the following main considerations to be reflected in the discussion on the forthcoming European action plan for the social economy. There is broad consensus that access to finance requires diversified funding options and that synergies should be established between regional, national and EU funds. Funding under Next Generation EU has the potential to be a positive game-changer for the social economy in Europe. When it comes to framework conditions, the need to increase the visibility of the social economy is widely recognised. Public authorities particularly suggest visualising the impact of social economy enterprises and setting up an online platform where social actors can interact. Access to markets could benefit from strengthening the business-to-government channel. Regional governmental organisations advocate stronger inter-regional cooperation within the EU. As an example of good practice, the European Committee of the Regions identifies the social economy thematic platform under the smart specialisation strategy, which comprises seven regions in six Member States. According to public authorities, some tools, the European social economy regions (ESER) scheme for example, could be further promoted to strengthen the global dimension of the EU's neighbourhood policy. There is also further potential to link up with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations (UN). Some governmental organisations signalled their intention to invest in new technologies, such as cloud computing, big data, blockchain and robotisation. Finally, new business models could be created by paying attention to cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and the ability of the social economy to find solutions adapted to rural areas. Overall, the social economy is seen as a way to solve local problems, including employment, inclusion, care and education, with a bottom-up approach.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Trade aspects of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement](#)

Publication type Study

Date 30-11-2021

External author Jan Hagemeyer, Andreas Maurer, Bettina Rudloff, Peter-Tobias Stoll, Stephen Woolcock, Andréia Costa Vieira, Kristina Mensah, Katarzyna Sidło

Policy area International Trade

Keyword association agreement (EU) | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | economic analysis | economic geography | economic policy | economic structure | ECONOMICS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-European organisations | farming sector | food security | GEOGRAPHY | health | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | liberalisation of trade | macroeconomics | Mercosur | Mercosur countries | public procurement | small and medium-sized enterprises | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sustainable development | tariff policy | tariff policy | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy

Summary In this study we analyse the provisions of the EU-Mercosur trade agreement (EUMETA) in its form presented by the European Commission. Our analysis covers the potential macroeconomic effects of the agreement that are based on the analysis of the extent of trade liberalisation through the lens of a computable general simulation model, as well as more detailed analysis of trade structure, tariff structure, non-tariff protection and the trade-related provisions of the agreement including trade in services and government procurement. Moreover, we analyse the institutional provisions of the EU-Mercosur Association agreement (EUMEEA) in relation to the positioning of the European Parliament and civil society. We place a special focus on the agri-food sector and some selected sensitive subsectors. The quantitative assessments are amended by qualitative analysis, in particular with regard to the trade and sustainable development chapter of the agreement, issues related to food security and an overview of existing approaches on sustainable development in the Mercosur countries.

Study [EN](#)

## [Public hearing with Elke König, Chair of the Single Resolution Board ECON on 1 December 2021](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 29-11-2021

Author DIAS BORGES FARRAJOTA CATARINA | GRIGAITA KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | SLOCOCK OLIVER | TEIXEIRA DA CUNHA INES

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank | banking supervision | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | cooperation policy | EU banking union | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial solvency | financial stability | financial supervision | free movement of capital | institutional cooperation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | management | monetary economics | national competent authority | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public hearing | reserves | third country

Summary This note is prepared in view of an ordinary public hearing with the Chair of the Single Resolution Board (SRB), Elke König, which will take place on 1 December 2021. This briefing addresses the following topics: (i) cooperation with other authorities, (ii) home/host authorities and the issue of internal MREL, (iii) evolution of MREL stock and shortfalls, (iv) contributions to the Single Resolution Fund, and (v) summaries of external papers on the status quo of impediments to resolvability.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Plenary round-up – November II 2021](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 26-11-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | aid to agriculture | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | climate change | criminal law | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | EU budget | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial management | financial regulation | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | management | migration | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | POLITICS | public finance and budget policy | sexual violence | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | UN Conference

Summary Due to the deteriorating Covid 19 situation, the November II plenary session in Strasbourg was again organised with the possibility for Members to vote remotely. Parliament debated a number of Council and European Commission statements, including on: coordination of Member States' coronavirus measures; police violence against Roma people; preparation of the 12th World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference; state of the Energy Union; a European action plan against rare diseases; and on international port congestion and increased transport costs. Members also debated the conclusions of the European Council meeting of 21-22 October 2021, and heard Council and Commission statements on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Parliament adopted several resolutions and legislative acts, inter alia on a European strategy for critical raw materials, EU sports policy, and on a pharmaceutical strategy for Europe.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [A framework for foresight intelligence - Part 1: Horizon scanning tailored to STOA's needs](#)

Publication type Study

Date 25-11-2021

Author VAN WOENSEL Lieve

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Consumer Protection | Education | Energy | Environment | Food Safety | Research Policy | Transport

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | evaluation method | management | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | project evaluation | research and intellectual property | research results | smart technology | technology and technical regulations | technology assessment

Summary The first part of the STOA study 'A framework for technology foresight intelligence', this report includes a set of five horizon-scanning reports or 'radars', built with the resources of Futures Platform and covering several areas, including the world after Covid-19, disruptive futures, the Green Deal, food, and geoengineering. Horizon scanning is a discipline that could be harnessed to inform the future activities of the Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA) at both strategic and practical levels. However, as STOA does not have the working structure, human resources or expertise necessary for continuous scanning, for the horizon scans in this study it used Futures Platform. Futures Platform is a professional trends knowledge platform that collects and analyses information on phenomena such as technology, trends and signals, using AI-based tools and a team of foresight experts to anticipate future developments. These trends and signals were used to build a set of trend radars with a view to testing the feasibility of adding horizon scanning activities to STOA's methodological toolbox.

Study [EN](#)

## [European Commission Work Programme for 2022](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 25-11-2021

Author HAHNKAMPER-VANDENBULCKE Nora | VETTORAZZI STEFANO

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword action programme | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | carbon neutrality | democracy | digital single market | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | management | political framework | POLITICS | promotion of the European idea | the EU's international role

Summary On 19 October 2021, the European Commission presented its work programme for 2022 (CWP 2022), setting out its legislative and non-legislative intentions for 2022. The CWP 2022 perpetuates the CWP 2021's twofold ambition (i.e. to recover from the pandemic and to boost the Commission's transformative agenda). A special emphasis is put on helping the Union emerge stronger and more resilient. This should be achieved by implementing the measures agreed over the last year, and through additional investments and reforms in order to 'accelerate the twin green and digital transitions, and build a fairer, more resilient and more cohesive society'. The briefing is intended as a background overview for parliamentary committees, explaining the CWP 2022's structure and key aspects, and providing information on two types of EPRS publications of interest with a view to the upcoming legislative proposals: initial appraisals of Commission impact assessments and implementation appraisals.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Stablecoins: Private-sector quest for cryptostability](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-11-2021

Author DELIVORIAS Angelos

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic money | FINANCE | financial risk | financial stability | free movement of capital | information technology and data processing | information technology applications | monetary economics | payment system | private sector | virtual currency

Summary In just over a decade, the payment industry has seen the launch of cryptocurrencies and their explosive growth, driven by progress in digital technology applications. However, owing to a range of factors, not least their significant volatility, cryptocurrencies have not been adopted on a massive scale, but instead are used largely for speculative purposes. Both national authorities and the private sector have attempted to tackle volatility. The private sector's answer was stablecoins, that is, cryptocurrencies that aim to keep a stable value relative to a specified asset, or a pool of assets. There are currently three means by which stablecoins achieve this: legal assets, crypto-assets and algorithms. The use of stablecoins may enhance financial inclusion, both in developed and developing markets, and might boost overseas payments in general and remittances in particular. Stablecoins may also have a positive impact on international trade, and may contribute to the development of global payment arrangements. There are potential economic risks, however, stemming either from stablecoins' legal characterisation or from governance matters or the coins' operational resilience. Further concerns are that stablecoins may be used for money laundering or terrorist financing activities, that consumers may not be adequately protected, and that stablecoins may impede monetary policy or propagate financial shocks and generate financial contagion. To tackle these issues, national authorities in major economies are taking two complementary approaches: having central banks establish central bank digital currencies ('public stablecoins') and regulating stablecoin use. In the EU, the centrepiece is the European Commission proposal for a regulation on markets in crypto-assets, adopted in September 2020 and currently under review by the co-legislators – the European Parliament and the Council.

Briefing [EN](#)

## The public sector loan facility under the Just Transition Mechanism

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-11-2021

Author MAZUR Sidonia

Policy area Budget | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | circular economy | climate change | deterioration of the environment | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU aid | EU environmental policy | EU finance | EU loan | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | green economy | proposal (EU) | public sector | regional aid | regional development | regions and regional policy

Summary The public sector loan facility (PSLF) is the third pillar of the Just Transition Mechanism (JTM), along with the Just Transition Fund and just transition scheme under Invest EU. The facility consists of a grant and a loan component. With the contribution of €1.525 billion for the grant component from the Union budget (including assigned revenues) and EIB lending of €10 billion from its own resources, the aim is for the public sector loan facility to mobilise between €25 and 30 billion in public investment over the 2021-2027 period. Funding will be available to all Member States, while focusing on the regions with the biggest transition challenges. In the European Parliament, the Committee on Budgets (BUDG) and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) had joint responsibility for this file. Their report was adopted at a joint sitting of the two committees on 16 October 2020. The provisional agreement on the proposal reached after trilogue negotiations with the Council was confirmed in plenary session of the Parliament on 24 June 2021. The Council adoption followed on 13 July, the Regulation was then signed on 14 July and published in the Official Journal on 30 July 2021. Second edition of a Briefing originally drafted by Christiaan Van Lierop and Sidonia Mazur. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [The public sector loan facility under the Just Transition Mechanism](#)

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

Publication type Study

Date 19-11-2021

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

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

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

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

Study [EN](#)

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

## Revision of the Financial Regulation

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-11-2021

Author PARI MARIANNA

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword budget | budgetary control | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | EU budget | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial management | financial regulation | financial transparency | management | multiannual financial framework | political framework | POLITICS | proposal (EU) | public finance and budget policy | regulation (EU) | rule of law

Summary In March 2021, the European Commission announced a legislative proposal to revise the EU Financial Regulation to align it with the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework and Next Generation EU. In anticipation of the Commission's proposals, an own-initiative report by the relevant European Parliament committees clearly expresses expectations of a stronger Parliamentary role in the budgetary scrutiny of Next Generation EU funds, and the integration of the rule-of-law conditionality in the Financial Regulation. The report is on the agenda for debate during the November II plenary session.

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

## [Digitalisation to streamline reporting, monitoring and auditing of EU spending](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-11-2021

Author DOBREVA Alina

Policy area Budgetary Control

Keyword access to EU information | audit | budget | budgetary control | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | data collection | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | FINANCE | financial management | financial transparency | fraud against the EU | information and information processing | information system | information technology and data processing | management

Summary Spending the EU budget efficiently and transparently is key to ensuring the sound implementation of EU policies and citizen support for the Union. However, the fragmentation of reporting systems used across the EU hampers the scrutiny of how spending is done. To address this situation, the European Parliament's Budgetary Control (CONT) Committee has drafted a legislative-initiative report asking the Commission to submit, before the end of 2021, the legislative proposals needed for the introduction of an integrated and interoperable electronic information and monitoring system to collect, monitor and analyse information about final beneficiaries in all Member States. The Parliament is expected to vote on this report during its November II plenary session.

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

## [Strategic planning in the EU's post-2022 agricultural policy](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-11-2021

Author ROSSI Rachele

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Keyword agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | aid to agriculture | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic geography | EU Member State | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | management | management planning | proposal (EU) | reform of the CAP | sustainable agriculture

Summary On 1 June 2018, the European Commission put forward three legislative proposals on the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP). These include a proposal on the CAP strategic plans with which each Member State will define the CAP measures for achieving set objectives. Following lengthy negotiations, the final text agreed by European Parliament and Council negotiators in June 2021 is scheduled for a plenary vote in November.

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

## [Financing, management and monitoring of the post-2022 EU agricultural policy](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 17-11-2021

Author ROSSI Rachele

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development

Keyword agricultural expenditure | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | aid to agriculture | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | EU budget | EU finance | EU financing arrangements | EUROPEAN UNION | financial management | management | reform of the CAP

Summary The European Commission proposed a reform package incorporating rules on the financial aspects of European Union (EU) farm policy in June 2018. Following lengthy talks on the reform, the text finally agreed by European Parliament and Council negotiators in June 2021 is scheduled for vote during the November II plenary session.

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

## [European political parties: Statute and funding](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-11-2021

Author DIAZ CREGO Maria

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword administrative transparency | application of the law | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU aid | European legal status | European party | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | foundation | freedom of association | LAW | legal form of organisations | party financing | political party | POLITICS | regulation (EU) | rights and freedoms | sources and branches of the law

Summary During the November I plenary session, Parliament is due to vote on an implementation report concerning the Regulation on the statute and funding of European political parties and foundations. Parliament has to report on the application of the Regulation, and propose modifications where appropriate, by 31 December 2021, and every five years thereafter. The Commission is also required to present a parallel implementation report and a legislative proposal to amend the current regulation, if appropriate, and is expected to do so in November 2021.

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

## Disclosure of income tax information by certain undertakings and branches

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-11-2021

Author KARABOYTCHEVA Miroslava Kostova

Policy area Taxation

Keyword administrative cooperation | administrative formalities | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | criminal law | data collection | disclosure of information | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | executive power and public service | fight against crime | FINANCE | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | LAW | multinational enterprise | POLITICS | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | tax authorities | tax avoidance | tax evasion | tax on income | taxation

Summary Tax transparency has become an important tool in the fight against tax avoidance and tax evasion. Country-by-country reporting (CBCR) aims at requiring multinational enterprises (MNEs) to provide sufficient data to be able to distinguish what part of their activity is related to a specific country. The European Commission's proposed directive on CBCR was first tabled in 2016. Interinstitutional negotiations led to a provisional agreement in June 2021. The European Parliament is expected to vote on it at second reading during the November 1 part-session.

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

## Internal and external dimension of illegal logging: legal issues and solutions

Publication type Study

Date 03-11-2021

External author Dr. Kévine KINDJI

Policy area Environment | Human Rights

Keyword action programme | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | corruption | criminal law | deforestation | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | forestry | forestry holding | human rights | illegal logging | INDUSTRY | LAW | management | protected area | rights and freedoms | wood industry | wood product | wood production | wooded area

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the PETI Committee, aims at gaining deeper insights into the legal aspects of illegal logging and related trade in illegally harvested timber and timber products. It analyses the legal requirements and their implications for various actors in the EU and in third countries. The study examines the disparities in enforcement and penalties regimes in Member States and analyses their role in trade diversion. The study further explores the possibility for strengthening the timber regime by broadening its scope and tackling underlying issues such as corruption and human rights violations. The study also assesses the external dimension, specifically focusing on the Voluntary Partnership Agreements with major producers' countries. The study formulates various recommendations to improve the regime taking into account both the internal and external dimension of illegal logging.

Study [EN](#)

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

## The New Euro Area Inflation Indicator and Target: The Right Reset?

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 03-11-2021

External author Zsolt DARVAS and Catarina MARTINS

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic conditions | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU strategy | euro area | European Central Bank | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial analysis | financial institutions and credit | financial stability | free movement of capital | inflation | interest | management | monetary economics | monetary policy | monetary relations | price control | price stability | prices

Summary This paper clarifies the main features of the European Central Bank's revised inflation target in light of international practices, discusses the role of financial stability in the medium-term orientation of monetary policy decisions, and quantifies the possible impacts of the inclusion of the costs related to owner-occupied housing on the inflation indicator which is subject to the inflation target.

This paper was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with the ECB President on 15 November 2021.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)



## [Research for CULT Committee - The role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism - Background Analysis](#)

Publication type Study

Date 31-10-2021

External author Ockham IPS: Bert-Jan BUISSKOOL, Andrea GIANNETTO, Bastiaan VERBERNE

Policy area Culture | Education

Keyword action programme | anti-racist movement | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | communications | cultural policy | culture and religion | education | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | human rights | LAW | management | mass media | POLITICS | politics and public safety | racism | rights and freedoms | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sport

Summary The study concludes that the EU Anti-racism Action Plan 2020-2025 reflects the diversity of remedy measures identified in the specialist literature. Despite of the limited steering and monitoring within EU programmes of their contribution to the fight against racism, except for the CERV programme, there is a significant share of projects that are addressing racism related topics, also reflecting a diversity of remedy measures. There is a need for further building on existing good practices / incentives developed by programmes and implementing institutions.

Study [EN](#)

## [European Banks' Response to COVID-19 "Quick Fix" Regulation and Other Measures](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 31-10-2021

Author SCHEINERT CHRISTIAN

External author Brunella BRUNO, Filippo DE MARCO

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | coronavirus disease | credit | credit policy | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | epidemic | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial risk | financial solvency | financial stability | free movement of capital | health | LAW | management | risk management | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The original full study presents data from 27 banking groups in 10 EU Member States, where it is found that banks have used COVID-19 relief measures extensively, with some cross-country differences as for the intensity of use. Flexibility in risk classification does not seem to have impaired banks' ability to report and recognise risk properly, even for loans under moratoria. The findings suggest that the impact of the measures on banks' credit supply has been overall positive and mainly driven by capital-enhancing measures such as the "Quick fix".

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [The Management Boards of the Decentralised Agencies](#)

Publication type Study

Date 31-10-2021

External author Jack Malan, Marta Dimauro Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services (CSES)

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword board of directors | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | cooperation policy | decentralisation | decentralised cooperation | EU body | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | POLITICS

Summary The Management Boards of the EU decentralised agencies have a key role in ensuring the agencies' good governance. This study examines the established practices of the Management Boards. In particular, it assesses how effective and efficient the Boards' working methods are and the main factors affecting their performance. The study investigates key governance issues including the size and composition of the Boards, the representation of different interests, the decision-making rules, the effectiveness of the Boards in fulfilling their tasks. Last but not least, the study provides recommendations on how to improve the functioning of the Management Boards.

Study [EN](#)

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

## Establishing a framework for a European digital identity

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 29-10-2021

Author TUOMINEN ULLA-MARI

Policy area [Ex-ante Impact Assessment](#)

Keyword [administrative formalities](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [business classification](#) | [data protection](#) | [digital single market](#) | [digital technology](#) | [disclosure of information](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [electronic government](#) | [electronic signature](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [executive power and public service](#) | [impact study](#) | [information and information processing](#) | [information technology and data processing](#) | [marketing](#) | [personal data](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH](#) | [provision of services](#) | [regulation \(EU\)](#) | [small and medium-sized enterprises](#) | [technology and technical regulations](#) | [TRADE](#)

Summary This briefing provides an initial analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the European Commission's impact assessment (IA) accompanying the above-mentioned proposal, submitted on 3 June 2021 and referred to the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). The proposal seeks to amend Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market (the eIDAS Regulation) in order to better meet the new market and societal demands for trusted government eID linked solutions and for attributes and credentials provided by the public and private sector, which would be recognised across the EU for accessing both public and private services. This proposal would also address users' expectations to have more control over their personal data. This initiative, which European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced in her State of the Union speech of 16 September 2020, is included in the Commission's 2021 work programme and is part of the strategy on shaping Europe's digital future. In its conclusions of 1-2 October 2020, the European Council invited the Commission to come forward with a proposal for a European digital identity framework by mid-2021.

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

## Research for TRAN Committee - The aviation and maritime sectors and the EU ETS: challenges and impacts

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 25-10-2021

External author Dagmar NELISSEN, Jasper FABER, Sven MAERTENS, David ENNEN, Wolfgang GRIMME

Policy area [Transport](#)

Keyword [air and space transport](#) | [air transport](#) | [application of EU law](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [business organisation](#) | [carbon](#) | [carbon neutrality](#) | [chemistry](#) | [competitiveness](#) | [deterioration of the environment](#) | [ecological footprint](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [economic consequence](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [environmental protection](#) | [EU Emissions Trading Scheme](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [greenhouse gas](#) | [INDUSTRY](#) | [maritime and inland waterway transport](#) | [maritime transport](#) | [TRANSPORT](#)

Summary Based on the EU Commission's Fit for 55 proposals published in July 2021, this report discusses the challenges and impacts resulting from the integration of the maritime sector in the EU ETS, and a more stringent EU ETS for aviation. It considers implementation challenges and consequences for the competitiveness of European stakeholders, e.g. caused by carbon leakage, and impacts on sectoral employment. Based on the initial analysis and the results of stakeholder consultations, recommendations on how to overcome implementation issues and adverse competitive and societal effects are provided.

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

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

## Impediments to resolvability – what is the status quo?

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 18-10-2021

External author M. Bodellini, W.P. De Groen

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

Keyword [bank](#) | [bank resolution](#) | [bankruptcy](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [business organisation](#) | [civil law](#) | [crisis management](#) | [EU banking union](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financial institutions and credit](#) | [financial solvency](#) | [financial stability](#) | [free movement of capital](#) | [LAW](#) | [management](#) | [monetary economics](#) | [risk management](#)

Summary To efficiently resolve a bank that is failing or likely to fail, and for which resolution is deemed in the public interest, it is important that impediments that hamper its resolvability are removed. Noting the limited public disclosure of banks and the Single Resolution Board (SRB), this paper assesses improvements in resolvability of a sample of 72 eurozone banks based on some key indicators. The main findings suggest that resolvability has marginally improved since the SRB resumed its full legal mandate in 2016, which is in line with earlier statements of the SRB characterising the process to make banks resolvable as a 'marathon'.

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

## Reporting Obligations Regarding Gender Equality and Equal Pay State of play among Member States and avenues for upgrading and implementing legal sanctions towards companies

Publication type [Study](#)

Date [18-10-2021](#)

External author [Paola PROFETA](#), [Maria Lucia PASSADO](#), [Ximena CALÓ](#)

Policy area [Contract Law](#), [Commercial Law and Company Law](#) | [Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice](#) | [Gender Issues](#), [Equality and Diversity](#)

Keyword [action programme](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [demography and population](#) | [employment](#) | [EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS](#) | [employment policy](#) | [equal treatment](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [European Institute for Gender Equality](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [gender equality](#) | [LAW](#) | [management](#) | [personnel management and staff remuneration](#) | [remuneration of work](#) | [rights and freedoms](#) | [sexual discrimination](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [woman](#)

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the JURI Committee, provides an in-depth analysis of the policy and legal state-of-the-art concerning gender pay discrimination in the European Union. To this end, it builds on a comprehensive comparative study covering European countries (i.e., Italy, France, Germany, Denmark, Iceland, and Spain), in order to conclusively design and develop specific policy recommendations to move towards a shared and well-informed solution to wage discrimination in the EU, especially in light of the European Commission's recently adopted proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD).

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

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

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

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date [15-10-2021](#)

Author [COLLOVA Claudio](#) | [QUAGLIO Gianluca](#)

Policy area [Public Health](#)

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

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

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

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

## Parliament's reading of the 2022 EU budget

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date [14-10-2021](#)

Author [MAZUR Sidonia](#)

Policy area [Budget](#)

Keyword [accounting](#) | [amending budget](#) | [budget](#) | [budgetary resources](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [economic conditions](#) | [economic recovery](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [epidemic](#) | [EU expenditure](#) | [EU finance](#) | [EU migration policy](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [general budget \(EU\)](#) | [health](#) | [migration](#) | [multiannual financial framework](#) | [revenue](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary During the October II plenary session, the Parliament is due to vote on amendments to the Council's position on the draft EU budget for 2022. The 2022 budget is the second under the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). It is also the second year of the EU Recovery Instrument, Next Generation EU (NGEU), planned to run for the years 2021 to 2023. The report of the Committee on Budgets reverses all the reductions proposed by the Council to the Commission's budget. Furthermore, it proposes a considerable increase in contributions of the 2022 budget to Parliament's priorities, in particular the recovery from the Covid 19 crisis. The BUDG report sets the 2022 EU budget at €171.8 billion in commitments. For payments, it proposes almost €172.47 billion.

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

## [Discharge for the 2019 budget: European Border and Coast Guard Agency](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 13-10-2021

Author PARI MARIANNA

Policy area Budgetary Control

Keyword budget | budgetary control | budgetary discharge | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | EU budget | EU expenditure | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial management | financial year | Frontex | management

Summary In April 2021, the European Parliament decided to postpone the decision on granting discharge to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency for the 2019 budget, and presented a number of observations. Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control has examined the situation again and now, in its second report, recommends granting discharge. The Committee nevertheless recommends 'freezing' part of the Agency's budget, insisting on the need to move swiftly to address the issues that remain concerning the Agency's management and operational activities. The vote on the second discharge report is scheduled for the October II plenary session.

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

## [Tailoring prudential policy to bank size. The application of proportionality in the US and euro area](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 13-10-2021

External author A. Lehmann, N. Véron- Bruegel

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword America | bank | bank resolution | banking system | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | comparative analysis | crisis management | economic geography | euro area | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial supervision | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | management | monetary relations | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | risk management | size of business | United States

Summary All jurisdictions tailor their prudential policies to bank size, with generally more complex – though not necessarily more stringent – requirements for larger banks. This paper compares such policies in the euro area and United States, in the context of the differences in banking system structures and legal frameworks. There are vastly more stand-alone smaller banks and credit unions in the US than in the euro area. The US approach to prudential requirements is generally more differentiated by bank size than the euro area's, but the US has a more uniform framework for bank crisis management and resolution. Given the permanence of cross-border fragmentation and overbanking in the euro area, further size-based policy differentiation would be ill-advised.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Amending budget No 4/2021: Revenue update](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 13-10-2021

Author MAZUR Sidonia

Policy area Budget

Keyword accounting | amending budget | budget | budgetary resources | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | draft budget (EU) | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial year | general budget (EU) | own resources | revenue

Summary Draft amending budget No 4/2021 (DAB 4/2021) to the EU's 2021 general budget updates the calculations for revenue following the entry into force on 1 June 2021 of Council Decision (EU, Euratom) 2020/2053 on the system of own resources of the European Union. DAB 4/2021 also incorporates the revised forecast of own resources and other revenue into the 2021 Union budget. The European Parliament is expected to vote on the Council position on DAB 4/2021 during its October II plenary session.

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

## [Review of the crisis management and deposit insurance framework -Summary of some related issues](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-10-2021

Author GRIGAITE KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank resolution | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | communications | crisis management | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU banking union | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial solvency | LAW | liquidity control | management | monetary economics | private-sector liquidity | public consultation

Summary In February 2021, the Commission launched a consultation that sought to gather stakeholders' experience with the current crisis management and deposit insurance framework as well as their views on the revision of the framework. The results of that consultation were published in a summary report. As the experience with the application of the current framework indicates that some adjustments may be warranted, this briefing summarises some of the underlying issues.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Digitalisation of the European reporting, monitoring and audit](#)

Publication type Study

Date 11-10-2021

Author JANCOVA LENKA | LOMBA NIOMBO | MULLER KLAUS

Policy area European Added Value

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | digital technology | EU finance | EU financing | EU policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | financial audit | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technology and technical regulations

**Summary** The rules governing the monitoring and reporting obligations of EU funding programmes under shared management have been developing progressively over time. Across the EU, there are over 290 different reporting systems. Fragmentation makes data incomparable, prevents the use of AI and big data sets and systems for monitoring and control, and prevents stakeholders and society from getting a comprehensive overview of the way funds are distributed. This European added value assessment accompanies the report of the European Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) on the 'Digitalisation of the European reporting, monitoring and audit' (2021/2054(INL)), by making an evidence-based analysis, identifying gaps and barriers, laying out possible policy options and pointing to their potential impacts. Action in the field could diminish fraud, abuse and weaknesses of EU funding programmes, which would lead to more efficiency and transparency. The three policy options identified in this study propose strengthening the enforcement of existing measures, creating a single EU database, and introducing requirements for the disclosure of relevant information on companies. A potential EU added value was identified, which could presumably lead to a lowering of the error rates by 0.7 percentage points and savings worth €1.11 billion. In the case of high-risk expenditure the error rates could drop by up to 2.9 percentage points, yielding savings worth €1.94 billion.

Study [EN](#)

## [Public hearing with A. Enria, Chair of the ECB Supervisory Board ECON on 14 October 2021](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-10-2021

Author GRIGAITA KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword banking supervision | banking system | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | economic analysis | economic statistics | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | Eurogroup (euro area) | European Banking Authority | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial requirements | financial supervision | free movement of capital | health | management | monetary relations | parliamentary proceedings | political framework | POLITICS | public hearing | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | supervisory body

**Summary** This note is prepared in view of a regular public hearing with the Chair of the Supervisory Board of the European Central Bank (ECB), Andrea Enria, which will take place on 14 October 2021. The briefing addresses: 1) Emerging risks in the banking group, as presented to the Eurogroup, 2) results of EBA's and ECB's 2021 stress test exercises, 3) the Basel Committee report on early lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic on the Basel reforms, 4) the ECB report on sanctioning activities, 5) the ECB Supervisory Banking Statistics for the first quarter 2021, and 6) summaries of external papers on long-term effects of the pandemic on the banking sector.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Where will the EU's Strategic Compass point?](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 07-10-2021

Author LATICI Tania | LAZAROU Eleni

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common security and defence policy | crisis management | defence | EU international partnership | EU strategy | European construction | European defence policy | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | management | strategic defence

**Summary** As Member States encounter increasingly complex security threats, momentum to push for EU initiatives to deliver on the Union's level of ambition in defence has emerged. A process aimed at bringing clarity, guidance and incentives to completing the common security and defence policy, the Strategic Compass is a first for the European Union. Announced by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in her 2021 State of the European Union speech, a European Defence Summit is expected to take place in February 2022. It is envisaged that, following its much-anticipated presentation, EU leaders will endorse the Compass in March 2022. European Council President Charles Michel branded 2022 'the year of European defence'. Launched in 2020, developing the Strategic Compass entails a complex strategic reflection, threat analysis and strategic dialogue among Member States. It is structured around four interlinked thematic baskets: crisis management, defence capabilities, resilience, and partnerships. Unlike the 2016 EU Global Strategy, which saw the EU institutions take the lead, this process is Member State-led, with the institutions playing a supporting and coordinating role. The main challenge of the Strategic Compass appears to be, on the one hand, providing clarity in the EU's objectives (defining the ends, the ways and the means), and on the other, ensuring Member State 'buy-in'. The latter is essential for the follow-up to the process, the findings from which should ideally be reflected in national defence planning processes. The process provides opportunities to improve links between the operational and capability dimensions of EU defence initiatives and external crisis management, to consolidate existing strategic partnerships and rethink the configuration of new ones, and to provide a concrete vision for the commitments made since 2016 to boost the EU as a defence actor. However, experts caution that the Compass risks remaining a paper exercise, should the political will to follow up not materialise.

Briefing [EN](#)

## The Future of the EU Automotive Sector

Publication type Study

Date 30-09-2021

External author David BROWN, Michael FLICKENSCHILD, Caio MAZZI, Alessandro GASPAROTTI, Zinovia PANAGIOTIDOU, Juna DINGEMANSE and Stefan BRATZEL

Policy area Industry | Transport

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | digital technology | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electric vehicle | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU employment policy | gross domestic product | INDUSTRY | information technology and data processing | mechanical engineering | motor vehicle industry | national accounts | organisation of transport | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | software | technology and technical regulations | TRANSPORT

Summary This study provides an independent overview of the automotive industrial landscape in the EU. Specifically, the study assesses green and digital trends currently reshaping the automotive sector and provides recommendations considering the adequacy and consistency of ongoing and future EU actions. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE).

Study [EN](#)

## Foreign subsidies and public procurement

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 30-09-2021

External author Michael BÖHEIM, Nazareno BRAITO, Davide CECCANTI, Davide FINA, Duy HUYNH-OLESEN, Cécile JACOB, Katarína KUBOVICOVÁ

Policy area International Trade

Keyword anti-dumping measure | award of contract | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competition | competitiveness | direct investment | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign investment | foreign market | public procurement | restriction on competition | tendering | TRADE | trade policy

Summary The EU has helped shape an international economic system based on openness and fair competition. Over the past few years, the benefits of this approach have come under pressure from foreign trade practices which undermine the principle of reciprocal treatment. In particular, this is the case with subsidies granted by non-EU governments and protected public procurement markets. This in-depth analysis reviews the state of play of EU policy action on foreign subsidies and in public procurement markets and identifies gaps in existing EU instruments. The analysis shows that the EU took the initiative with: (i) the completed FDI screening and trade defence reforms; (ii) the proposal for an International Procurement Instrument; and (iii) the proposal for a Regulation targeting the distortive effects of foreign subsidies. In addition, the EU is taking the lead at the multilateral level, promoting coordinated action in the WTO, G7, G20, OECD, and GAMS fora.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## The role of non-financial performance indicators and integrated reporting in achieving sustainable value creation

Publication type At a Glance

Date 24-09-2021

Author BUX Udo | PARENTI RADOSTINA

External author DINH, T., HUSMANN, A. and MELLONI G.,

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword accounting | activity report | adaptation to climate change | administrative formalities | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | corporate social responsibility | directive (EU) | disclosure of information | documentation | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | POLITICS | publication of accounts | reduction of gas emissions | sustainable development

Summary The original full study is a structured analysis of the current scientific evidence on the effects of sustainability reporting including non-financial performance indicators, stand-alone sustainability reporting as well as integrated reporting. It discusses the benefits and challenges particularly related to internal decision-making, external transparency as well as financial and non-financial/environmental, social and governance effects. Further, it offers policy recommendations in view of the European Commission's proposal on the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive.

At a Glance [EN](#)



## [Background reader on the European Semester and monitoring of the RRF from a parliamentary perspective](#)

Publication type Study

Date 23-09-2021

Author HAGELSTAM Kajus | LEHOFER WOLFGANG

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | coronavirus disease | digital transformation | economic analysis | economic and social cohesion | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic independence | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | epidemic | EU finance | EU financial instrument | European construction | European Semester | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | green economy | health | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | monetary economics | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations

Summary This sixth edition of the background reader on the European Semester, prepared by the Economic Governance Support Unit (EGOV) in the Directorate for Economic and Scientific Policies of the European Parliament, provides an overview of publications related to the European Semester and the monitoring of the RRF from a parliamentary perspective. It aims at further increasing the links between Members of the European Parliament and national Parliaments, notably during inter-parliamentary meetings.

Study [EN](#)

## [Proceedings of the workshop on Missing Trader Fraud: definition, effects, prevention and solutions](#)

Publication type Study

Date 23-09-2021

Author POUWELS Alexandra Cynthia Jana

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword budget | budgetary control | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cartel | competition | criminal law | EU institutions and European civil service | European Public Prosecutor's Office | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | fraud | fraud against the EU | international cartel | LAW | tax offence

Summary The Budgetary Control Committee (CONT) organised the workshop on 'Missing Trader Fraud: definition, effects, prevention and solutions' on 26 May 2021. This document consists of the proceedings briefing on 'Missing Trader Intra-Community Fraud', biographies of the speakers and the PowerPoint slides of the presentations.

Study [EN](#)

## [Requirements for a single database of beneficiaries](#)

Publication type Study

Date 23-09-2021

External author Willem Pieter DE GROEN, CEPS  
Damir GOJSIC, CEPS  
Mathieu VUYLSTEKE, CEPS

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword accounting | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | auditing | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | Cohesion Fund | common agricultural policy | database | documentation | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | financial accounting | financial transparency | information technology and data processing | monitoring report | statistics

Summary At the request of the CONT Committee of the European Parliament, this study has been prepared as background information for work on the legislative Own Initiative Report on the digitalisation of European reporting, monitoring and audit.

Building on the findings of the study on 'The largest 50 beneficiaries in each EU Member State of CAP and Cohesion Funds', this study assesses the requirements for a single EU database of beneficiaries. Such a database would overcome the current fragmentation in the databases of beneficiaries of EU funds, ensure completeness and obtain the relevant indicators for all beneficiaries.

A single EU database of beneficiaries would serve for both audit and control, as well as transparency purposes. The core of the database would be the information from managing authorities which, through identifiers and matching indicators, would be linked to other databases to obtain all the required information. For transparency purposes, the reporting system would have to cover a subset of indicators, including registration number and type of beneficiary, in order to enable the identification of the ultimate beneficiaries

Study [EN](#)

## Fair and simpler taxation supporting the recovery strategy - Ways to lower compliance costs and improve EU corporate income taxation

Publication type Study

Date 21-09-2021

Author SAULNIER JEROME LEON

Policy area European Added Value

Keyword basis of tax assessment | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | cooperation policy | corporation tax | criminal law | cross-border cooperation | digital economy | digital economy taxation | economic structure | ECONOMICS | European tax cooperation | fight against crime | FINANCE | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | multinational enterprise | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | tax harmonisation | tax offence | taxation

**Summary** This study analyses the gaps and challenges in the EU corporate income tax (CIT) legislation, and evaluate the European Added Value (EAV) of potential policy options to address these challenges. A thorough comparative economic analysis is made of the EAV of a series of scenarios, based upon the policy options identified. The results confirm that complexity remains by far the greatest factor behind both the CIT gap and the high level of compliance costs for businesses. Insufficient transparency, lack of administrative effectiveness and lack of efficient enforcement are also of particular relevance for businesses as they have a relatively large impact on compliance costs. As expected, the move towards digitalisation of the tax administration also appears as an option to reduce both the CIT gap and compliance costs in all scenarios, but probably to a lesser extent than what is sometimes assumed. The study finds an EAV of around €30 billion for a scenario of agreement in the G7/OECD plus limited implementation of the Commission's 'Business in Europe: Framework for income taxation' (BEFIT) proposals, as well as reinforced and extended cooperation. A slightly higher EAV of around €45 billion is found for a scenario of G7/OECD agreement + ambitious BEFIT and reinforced cooperation. Finally, a higher EAV of €76 billion is found with the most ambitious scenario of an EU treasury, qualified voting majority (QVM) in Council and CIT administered at EU level. The most ambitious scenario is however still rather unlikely to gather sufficient support at the current juncture as it would require substantial Treaty changes. It can be concluded that the two other alternatives are more likely to be implemented in the coming period.

Study [EN](#)

## Common Provisions Regulation: New rules for cohesion policy for 2021-2027

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-09-2021

Author WIDUTO Agnieszka

Policy area Regional Development

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | Cohesion Fund | distribution of EU funding | EU finance | EU migration policy | European Maritime and Fisheries Fund | European Regional Development Fund | European security | European Social Fund | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | external border of the EU | financial management | international law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | management | migration | proposal (EU) | right of asylum | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** For the EU budget covering the 2021-2027 period, the European Commission proposed to update EU cohesion policy with a new set of rules. The proposal for a Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) set out common provisions for eight shared management funds: the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Just Transition Fund, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument. Additional specific regulations add certain provisions needed to cater for the particularities of individual funds, in order to take into account their different rationales, target groups and implementation methods. The new CPR is of the utmost importance as it sets the main rules that govern the above-mentioned funds for the 2021-2027 period. While it builds upon the previous sets of rules covering the 2014-2020 period, it nevertheless introduces a number of innovations. It aims, amongst other things, to simplify and improve synergies between the different EU policy tools. On 23 June 2021, the Parliament voted to adopt the text of the regulation agreed with the Council. The final act was published in the Official Journal on 30 June 2021. Fifth edition of a briefing originally drafted by Vasileios Margaras. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Beyond the Pandemic: Avoiding the Risk of Financial Dominance and Disorderly Market Reactions

Publication type Study

Date 13-09-2021

External author Pierpaolo BENIGNO, Paolo CANOFARI, Giovanni DI BARTOLOMEO, Marcello MESSORI, Charles WYPLOSZ, Daniel GROS, Farzaneh SHAMSAKHAR, Christopher A. HARTWELL

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | EU programme | European Central Bank | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial analysis | fiscal policy | health | management | monetary economics | monetary policy | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | taxation

**Summary** The concept of financial dominance may be simplified as a situation where monetary policy becomes dominated by short-term concerns about the financial sector. As such, it may distract the central bank from its primary objective of maintaining price stability. While other policies, e.g. macroprudential, are considered the first line of defence against financial instability, following the 2007-2008 global financial crisis, financial stability considerations became an integral part of monetary policy decision-making in advanced economies. The interplay between these considerations and the central bank's primary objective could become relevant in the post-pandemic environment.

Four papers were prepared by the ECON Committee's Monetary Expert Panel, assessing the risk of financial dominance and disorderly market reactions to monetary policy decisions in the euro area.

This publication is provided by Policy Department A for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with ECB President Lagarde on 27 September 2021.

Study [EN](#)

## [The role of non-financial performance indicators and integrated reporting in achieving sustainable value creation](#)

Publication type Study  
Date 10-09-2021  
Author BUX Udo | PARENTI RADOSTINA  
External author Tami DINH, Anna HUSMANN, Gaia MELLONI  
Policy area Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Economics and Monetary Issues | Internal Market and Customs Union  
Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | corporate social responsibility | directive (EU) | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | quality of life | research and intellectual property | research policy | smart technology | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations  
Summary Structured analysis of the current scientific evidence on the effects of sustainability reporting including non-financial performance indicators, stand-alone sustainability reporting as well as integrated reporting. It discusses the benefits and challenges particularly related to internal decision-making, external transparency as well as financial and non-financial/environmental, social and governance effects. Further, it offers policy recommendations in view of the European Commission's proposal on the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive.  
Study [EN](#)

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

Publication type At a Glance  
Date 08-09-2021  
Author SCHOLZ Nicole  
Policy area Coronavirus | Public Health  
Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cooperation policy | crisis management | cross-border cooperation | disease prevention | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | epidemiology | EU institutions and European civil service | European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control | European Medicines Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | health | information and information processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | proposal (EU) | public health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS  
Summary On 11 November 2020, the European Commission adopted a proposal on serious cross-border threats to health. The proposed regulation aims to strengthen existing structures and mechanisms for better protection, prevention, preparedness and response against all health hazards at EU level. The European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted its report on 13 July 2021. This is due to be voted during the September plenary session, thus setting Parliament's negotiating position and opening the way for interinstitutional negotiations.  
At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

## [Regulating targeted and behavioural advertising in digital services. How to ensure users' informed consent](#)

Publication type Study  
Date 30-08-2021  
External author Giovanni SARTOR, Francesca LAGIOIA, Federico GALLI  
Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Consumer Protection | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Democracy | Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Financial and Banking Issues | Forward Planning | Global Governance | Internal Market and Customs Union | International Trade  
Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | comparative advertising | competition | data protection | data-processing law | digital content | digital economy | digital single market | digital transformation | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | LAW | marketing | merchandising | personal data | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | protection of privacy | rights and freedoms | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | unsolicited electronic advertising  
Summary The study addresses the regulation of targeted and behavioural advertising in the context of digital services. Marketing methods and technologies deployed in behavioural and target advertising are presented. The EU law on consent to the processing of personal data is analysed, in connection with advertising practices. Ways of improving the quality of consent are discussed as well as ways of restricting its scope as a legal basis for the processing of personal data. This study is commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the JURI Committee.  
Study [EN](#)

## [Online advertising: the impact of targeted advertising on advertisers, market access and consumer choice](#)

Publication type **At a Glance**  
Date **11-08-2021**  
External author Niklas FOURBERG, Serpil TAŞ, Lukas WIEWIORRA, Ilsa GODLOVITCH, Alexandre DE STREEL, Hervé JACQUEMIN, Jordan HILL, Madalina NUNU, Camille BOURGUIGON, Florian JACQUES, Michèle LEDGER and Michael LOGNOUL  
Policy area Consumer Protection | Internal Market and Customs Union  
Keyword artificial intelligence | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | consumer protection | consumption | data collection | digital single market | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | impact of advertising | impact of information technology | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | LAW | marketing | proposal (EU) | protection of privacy | report | rights and freedoms | small and medium-sized enterprises | TRADE  
Summary In this research paper, we provide a comprehensive overview of online advertising markets and we analyse the challenges and opportunities concerning digital advertising. We review the degree to which existing and proposed legislation at EU level addresses the identified problems, and identify potential solutions, with reference to experience from EU Member States and third countries. We conclude with a synthesis and specific policy recommendations, drawing on stakeholder interviews.  
[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

## [Review of dual-use export controls](#)

Publication type **Briefing**  
Date **20-07-2021**  
Author IMMENKAMP Beatrix  
Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Human Rights | International Trade | Security and Defence  
Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | defence | dual-use good | EC Regulation | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | export (EU) | export licence | export monitoring | illicit trade | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | international trade | intra-EU trade | nuclear non-proliferation | organisation of transport | POLITICS | politics and public safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public safety | statistics | tariff policy | technology and technical regulations | trade | TRADE | trade policy | trade restriction | transit | TRANSPORT | weapon of mass destruction  
Summary Certain goods and technologies have legitimate civilian applications but can also be used for military purposes; so-called 'dual-use' goods are subject to the European Union's export control regime. The regime has just been revised, mainly to take account of significant technological developments, increase transparency and create a more level playing field among EU Member States. The proposed regulation will recast the regulation in force since 2009. Among other elements, the proposal explicitly defines cyber-surveillance technology as dual-use technology and introduces human rights violations as an explicit justification for export control. It also includes provisions to control emerging technologies. The proposed regulation introduces greater transparency into dual-use export control by increasing the level of detail Member States will have to provide on exports, licences, licence denials and prohibitions. On 17 January 2018, based on the INTA committee's report on the legislative proposal, the European Parliament adopted its position for trilogue negotiations. For its part, the Council adopted its negotiating mandate on 5 June 2019, and on the basis of this mandate, the Council Presidency began negotiations with the European Parliament's delegation on 21 October 2019. Trilogue negotiations ended on 9 November 2020, with agreement on a final compromise text. Endorsed by the INTA committee on 30 November, the Parliament formally voted on the text in plenary on 25 March 2021. The Regulation was published in the Official Journal on 11 June 2021 and enters into force on 8 September 2021. Seventh edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.  
[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

## [Understanding initial coin offerings: A new means of raising funds based on blockchain](#)

Publication type **Briefing**  
Date **13-07-2021**  
Author DELIVORIAS Angelos  
Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues  
Keyword blockchain | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | early-stage capital | EU institutions and European civil service | European Securities and Markets Authority | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | free movement of capital | monetary economics | money laundering | POLITICS | politics and public safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | start-up | technology and technical regulations | terrorism financing | venture capital | virtual currency  
Summary Initial coin offerings (ICOs) are a relatively new method of raising capital for early-stage ventures. They allow businesses to raise capital for their projects, by issuing digital tokens in exchange for crypto assets or fiat currencies. They constitute an alternative to more traditional sources of start-up funding such as venture capital (VC) and angel finance. ICOs can potentially offer advantages in comparison with traditional ways of raising capital. At the same time, their opacity and the general tendency for issuers to exploit regulatory loopholes can carry significant risk for investors, may make ICOs vulnerable to money laundering and terrorist financing, and could even create financial stability concerns. ICOs have been met with a wide range of initial regulatory responses: from an outright ban in the case of China and South Korea, to more supportive approaches in other jurisdictions, with Singapore in Asia and Switzerland in Europe leading the way. As for the European Union (EU) and the United States, the relevant regulatory agencies initially published warning notices, reinforced by statements that securities laws could apply and registration be necessary. The EU went a step further and is currently seeking to partially regulate ICOs, with a proposal for a regulation on markets in crypto-assets (MiCA regulation). Meanwhile, some Member States are currently implementing regulatory sandboxes, to provide an impetus for innovation without imposing the immediate burden of regulation.  
[Briefing](#) [EN](#)  
Multimedia [Understanding initial coin offerings: A new means of raising funds based on blockchain](#)

## The financial management of visitor groups to the national parliaments

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-07-2021

Author POUWELS Alexandra Cynthia Jana

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Forward Planning

Keyword allowances and expenses | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | financial management | GEOGRAPHY | Germany | Hungary | management | national parliament | parliament | personnel management and staff remuneration | political geography | POLITICS | report | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | travel | United Kingdom

**Summary** In most Member States, visitor' groups are not sponsored to visit the national parliament. A visit to the national parliament is free of charge, and all the costs related to the visit, for example travel costs, accommodation and local minor expenses, need to be paid by the visitors themselves.  
Germany is the only country which has various kinds of programmes where visitors can be reimbursed. Members of Parliament can invite up to 200 people a year of which the travel costs are partially covered by the German Bundestag. There is also a programme which consists of more days for which all the costs related to travel and accommodation are covered by the German government. The German Bundesrat has a programme in which the 16 federal states can invite people for a visit of multiple days to Berlin. In this case the travel costs and accommodation are paid for by the Bundesrat. For all reimbursements, the rules apply that the receipts and underlying documents need to be provided to the Bundestag and Bundesrat after the visit. All documents and receipts are checked through an ex-post control. The United Kingdom has a programme in which costs are reimbursed, and this programme is funded by the commercial tours of the parliament. In this case, it can be MPs, Peers or the House of Commons or Lords who can invite visitors who are eligible for reimbursement.  
In Hungary, only schools can get reimbursement for their travel costs and the entry fee for the national parliament. All the receipts need to be provided to the visitor service of the parliament.  
Some countries do have other schemes in which they provide coverage for schools or costs are covered by the MPs' own funds.  
The Council of the EU does not sponsor visitor groups. All visits are requested by visitors themselves and they need to cover all the costs related to the visit themselves. The questions were also sent to the European Commission but no answer was received.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Artificial intelligence at EU borders: Overview of applications and key issues

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 07-07-2021

Author DUMBRAVA Costica

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword artificial intelligence | biometrics | border control | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU initiative | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | exchange of information | external border of the EU | fight against crime | information and information processing | international law | LAW | management | migration | migration control | natural and applied sciences | POLITICS | politics and public safety | report | risk management | Schengen Information System | SCIENCE | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | terrorism

**Summary** The EU is actively exploring how AI technologies can be developed and adopted in order to improve border control and security. A number of applications for biometric identification, emotion detection, risk assessment and migration monitoring have already been deployed or tested at EU borders. AI technologies may bring important benefits for border control and security, such as increased efficiency, better fraud-detection and risk analysis. However, these powerful technologies also pose significant challenges, related in particular to their insufficient or varying accuracy and the multiple fundamental rights risks they entail (including bias and discrimination risks, data protection and privacy risks, and the risk of unlawful profiling).

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



## [European Defence Fund: Multiannual financial framework 2021-2027](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-07-2021

Author KARABOYTCHEVA Miroslava Kostova

Policy area Industry

Keyword action programme | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common security and defence policy | cooperation policy | defence | defence budget | documentation | drafting of EU law | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU Member State | EU programme | EU-NATO cooperation | European construction | European defence policy | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fund (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | industrial development | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | management | military cooperation | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | report | research and development | research and intellectual property

**Summary** In June 2018, the European Commission presented a legislative proposal on a European Defence Fund, including a budget allocation of €11.5 billion in constant 2018 prices for the 2021-2027 period. The proposal aimed to streamline and simplify the set-up in place at the time by integrating the Preparatory Action on Defence Research (research window) and the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (as one part of the capability window) into a single Fund. The main aims of the Fund would be to foster the competitiveness and innovativeness of European defence and to contribute to the EU's strategic autonomy. In this regard, the Fund would inter alia support collaborative industrial projects; co finance the costs of prototype development; encourage the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises; and promote projects in the framework of permanent structured cooperation. Synergies were expected with other EU initiatives in the field of cybersecurity, maritime transport, border management, Horizon Europe, the space programme and the European Peace Facility. In April 2019, after several trilogue meetings, Parliament and Council reached a partial agreement on the Fund, covering the content, but not, among other things, budgetary issues. Parliament adopted its position at first reading in April 2019. A provisional political agreement on the outstanding issues was reached in December 2020. The Council adopted its first-reading position in March 2021 and the Parliament adopted the text at second reading on 29 April. The final act was published in the Official Journal on 12 May.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Horizon Europe – Specific programme: Implementing the framework programme](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-07-2021

Author SPINACI STEFANO

Policy area Research Policy

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | cooperation policy | diffusion of innovations | documentation | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | EU programme | EU research policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | Framework Programme for Research and Development | impact study | innovation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | report | research and development | research and intellectual property | scientific cooperation | technology and technical regulations

**Summary** In June 2018, the European Commission proposed a total budget allocation of €100 billion to finance science, research and innovation projects during the 2021-2027 period, of which the vast majority, €94.1 billion in current prices, would be allocated to the Horizon Europe framework programme. The main aims are to strengthen science and technology, to foster industrial competitiveness, and to implement the sustainable development goals in the EU. Horizon Europe introduces new features such as the European Innovation Council, missions to promote research results, and new forms of partnerships. While the proposal for the framework programme set out the general and specific objective of Horizon Europe as well as the structure and the broad lines of the activities to be carried out, the specific programme aims to define the operational objectives and activities, especially for missions, the European Research Council, the European Innovation Council, work programmes, and the committee procedure. In April 2019, Parliament and Council reached a partial agreement on the specific programme. However, the financial aspects were only settled in December 2020 as part of the broader MFF negotiations. The final text was adopted in April 2021 and entered into force retroactively from 1 January 2021.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Amending securitisation requirements for the impact of coronavirus](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-07-2021

Author DELIVORIAS Angelos

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

Keyword banking | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | coronavirus disease | credit | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | health | market supervision | monetary economics | private-sector liquidity | proposal (EU) | regulation (EU) | small and medium-sized enterprises | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | trade policy

**Summary** Preserving the ability of banks to continue lending to companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, is key when it comes to softening the economic impact of the pandemic and easing recovery. The Commission believes that securitisation can contribute to this. It also considers that in order to increase the potential of securitisation the EU regulatory framework (Regulations (EU) 2017/2402 and (EU) 575/2013) must be updated, to cater for (i) on-balance-sheet synthetic securitisation and (ii) the securitisation of non-performing exposures (NPEs). The co-legislators amended the Commission proposal, with amendments concerning, among other things, the requirements concerning the credit protection agreement, the third party verification agent and the synthetic excess spread, the macroprudential oversight of the securitisation market, the obligations of the EBA, the reporting on prudential requirements and financial information, grandfathering for securitisation positions and NPE securitisations. The final act was signed on 31 March 2021. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)



## [Prospectuses for investors – Simplifying equity-raising during the pandemic](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 01-07-2021

Author [DELIVORIAS](#) [Angelos](#)

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

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [business organisation](#) | [capital market](#) | [consumer information](#) | [consumption](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [disclosure of information](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [epidemic](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financial occupation](#) | [free movement of capital](#) | [health](#) | [information and information processing](#) | [information technology and data processing](#) | [marketing](#) | [proposal \(EU\)](#) | [regulation \(EU\)](#) | [securities](#) | [shareholding](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [TRADE](#) | [trade information](#)

**Summary** A prospectus is a legally required document presenting information about a company and the securities that it offers to the public or seeks to admit to trading on a regulated market. The relevant EU legislation consists of a directive, adopted in 2003, amended in 2010, and finally replaced by a regulation in 2017. Drawing up a prospectus entails time and costs, which in the current economic context may deter issuers in distress from seeking to raise new funds, in particular equity. To remedy this, the Commission proposed to amend Regulation (EU) 2017/1129. These amendments aim at creating a temporary (18 month) regime for a short-form prospectus and to simplify the procedure for issuers (so that they can rapidly raise capital), as well as to release pressure on financial intermediaries. The Commission proposal was reviewed by the co-legislators who, among other things, increased the range of those who can benefit from the regime, added elements that must appear in the recovery prospectus and increased the minimum information in the prospectus. They further amended Directive 2004/109/EC (the 'Transparency Directive'), thus providing Member States with the option to postpone, by one year, the requirement for listed companies.

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

## [Low for Long: Side Effects of Negative Interest Rates](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 30-06-2021

External author [Justus INHOFFEN](#), [Atanas PEKANOV](#), [Thomas URL](#)

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

Keyword [accounting](#) | [bank](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [documentation](#) | [economic conditions](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [European Central Bank](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financial institutions and credit](#) | [financial risk](#) | [free movement of capital](#) | [inflation](#) | [interest](#) | [monetary economics](#) | [monetary policy](#) | [profitability](#) | [research report](#)

**Summary** Policy rate cuts in negative territory have increased credit supply and improved the macroeconomic environment similar to cuts in positive territory. Dreaded disruptions to the monetary policy transmission channels as well as adverse side effects on bank profitability have so far largely failed to materialise. Thus, the evidence available today shows that the negative interest rate policy is an effective policy tool. However, systemic risks, including in the non-bank sector, should be closely monitored as negative rates are expected to remain low for longer. This paper was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with the ECB President on 21 June 2021.

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

## [Should They Stay or Should They Go? Negative Interest Rate Policies Under Review](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 30-06-2021

External author [Joscha BECKMANN](#), [Klaus-Jürgen GERN](#), [Nils JANNSEN](#)

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

Keyword [accounting](#) | [bank](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [documentation](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [economic conditions](#) | [economic consequence](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [euro area](#) | [European Central Bank](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financial institutions and credit](#) | [financial risk](#) | [free movement of capital](#) | [inflation](#) | [interest](#) | [loan](#) | [monetary economics](#) | [monetary relations](#) | [profitability](#) | [report](#) | [single monetary policy](#)

**Summary** Negative interest rate policies (NIRP) have become an established monetary policy instrument in the toolkit of the ECB. We discuss NIRP in the euro area based on theoretical considerations and available empirical evidence. We find that NIRP had some positive impact on loan growth and investment in the euro area, but that the room to further loosen monetary policy via NIRP may be small. NIRP is discussed also in the context of the general monetary policy environment. This paper was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with the ECB President on 21 June 2021.

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

## [Bridging the gender gap in digital, research and industry: What is the way forward?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 30-06-2021

External author Juan Pablo VILLAR; Julio BLAZQUEZ; Carlota TARIN

Policy area Education | Forward Planning | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Industry | Research Policy

Keyword applied research | artificial intelligence | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | demography and population | digital economy | documentation | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | entrepreneur | entrepreneurship | female work | gender equality | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | information technology industry | LAW | participation of women | position of women | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | report | research and intellectual property | rights and freedoms | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | woman

Summary These proceedings summarise the discussions that took place during the ITRE workshop held on June 17th, 2021, aimed to analyse the existing gender gaps in the digital sector. It was structured in three sessions, each consisting of two presentations, and a final Q&A round. Stereotypes hindering a greater participation of women in the digital sector, the role of women in the digital entrepreneurship ecosystem and the current situation of women in the Artificial Intelligence industry were addressed.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Public hearing with Elke König, Chair of the Single Resolution Board 1 July 2021](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-06-2021

Author GRIGAITÉ KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | SEGALL REBECCA SARAH FANNY | SLOCOCK OLIVER

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword activity report | banking | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | communications | crisis management | documentation | economic analysis | economic geography | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU banking union | EU statistics | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial risk | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | management | monetary economics | money-market liquidity | parliamentary proceedings | political geography | POLITICS | public consultation | public hearing | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU

Summary This note is prepared in view of an ordinary public hearing with the Chair of the Single Resolution Board (SRB), Elke König, which will take place on 1 July 2021. The Chair will present the SRB's annual report for 2020. This briefing addresses (i) the review of the crisis management framework, and in particular the SRB's input to the Commission's public consultation; (ii) MREL policy and statistics; (iii) liquidity in resolution; (iv) the relationship with the United Kingdom: contractual recognition of bailinable liabilities issued under third country laws; (v) developments in respect of particular resolution cases; (vi) contributions to the Single Resolution Fund; and (vii) SRB and some other publications.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Public hearing with Christine Lagarde, Chair of the European Systemic Risk Board](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-06-2021

Author GOTTI GIULIA | GRIGAITÉ KRISTINA | KOMAZEC KATJA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | SEGALL REBECCA SARAH FANNY

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

Keyword activity report | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | coronavirus disease | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | European Systemic Risk Board | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial risk | financial solvency | free movement of capital | health | interest | LAW | management | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | public hearing | risk management | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This note is prepared in view of a regular public hearing with the Chair of the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB), Christine Lagarde, which will take place on 1 July 2021. The aim of the meeting is to present the ESRB Annual Report and to discuss recent developments in macroprudential policy field, potential systemic risks looming ahead, notably the impact of the pandemic. The briefing takes stock of (i) the ESRB and national macroprudential authorities' response to the pandemic outbreak; (ii) summarises recent risk assessments; and takes a closer look at the following topics as potential sources of increasing systemic risk: (iii) corporate insolvency risks, (iv) macroprudential policy implications from low interest rates and (v) macroprudential concerns beyond banking.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [UK banks in international markets-Implications of UK-euro area divergence in regulation and supervisory practice](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 24-06-2021

External author A.Lehmann, Bruegel

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank resolution | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | climate change policy | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | euro area | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial risk | financial solvency | financial stability | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | LAW | management | monetary relations | political geography | risk management | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU

Summary The UK enters the post-Brexit period with a regulatory framework that is closely aligned with that of the UK, and stronger in some areas. This paper highlights that the changes in regulatory strategy and the institutional framework that have been announced by the UK will make its bank regulation more responsive, and greater use of proportionality the sector will become more competitive. Competition for EU banks in international markets will intensify, though not due to an erosion of regulatory standards.

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

## [The Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act - a forward-looking and consumer-centred perspective - Workshop Proceedings](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 24-06-2021

External author Lukas WIEWIORRA and Ilsa GODLOVITCH

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

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | competition law | consumer protection | consumption | digital economy | digital single market | digital technology | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | information and information processing | information society | marketing | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | provision of services | service | technology and technical regulations | TRADE

Summary These proceedings summarise the presentations and discussions that took place during the IMCO online workshop held on 26 May 2021 on the Digital Services Act (DSA) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA). The workshop was structured in two panels, each consisting of three presentations and two Q&A sessions. The first panel focused on the DSA. The second panel was devoted to the DMA. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies for the committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

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

## [Communication on the global approach to research and innovation: Pre-legislative synthesis of national, regional and local positions on the European Commission's initiative](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-06-2021

Author COLLOVA Claudio | WILSON Alex Benjamin

Policy area Research Policy

Keyword brain drain | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | cooperation in the field of education | cooperation policy | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | Framework Programme for Research and Development | free movement of workers | innovation | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | migration | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and development | research and intellectual property | research staff | scientific cooperation | small and medium-sized enterprises | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This Briefing forms part of an EPRS series offering syntheses of the pre-legislative state of play and consultation on key European Commission priorities during the current five-year term. It summarises the state of affairs in the relevant policy field, examines how existing policy is working on the ground, and, where possible, identifies best practice and ideas for the future on the part of governmental organisations at all levels of the EU system of multilevel governance. An EPRS analysis of the positions of partner governmental organisations at EU, national, regional and local levels suggests that they would like the following main considerations to be reflected in the discussion of the communication on the global approach to research and innovation (R&I): • Governmental organisations stress that research and innovation (R&I) are essential for the global competitiveness of the EU and greater investment is needed to ensure that the EU does not lose its leading position. There is a particular emphasis on the need for SMEs and regional clusters to take part in innovation cooperation, building on existing programmes such as Eurostars. • Public authorities state that third-country participation is essential for a successful R&I policy. However, the exact balance between openness and 'strategic autonomy' is harder to define. Some organisations state that systematic cooperation with third countries should be simplified in terms of red tape. Others express concerns about lower international participation in successive EU R&I programmes. • Various priority regions to be targeted were emphasised, namely, the broader European neighbourhood, the Mediterranean region (PRIMA and BlueMed programmes cited as positive examples) and Africa. Other respondents emphasised the need to deepen ties with strong research capacity countries, such as Australia, Canada, Japan and the UK. • Governmental organisations share the view that mobility of researchers is vital in both the European and international context. At the same time, EU R&I programmes should seek to prevent a 'brain drain' both away from the EU and within the EU, by promoting and incentivising research careers. • Local and regional authorities also call on the Commission to strengthen the links between R&I policies and EU cohesion policies, including regional funds.

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

## [Online advertising: the impact of targeted advertising on advertisers, market access and consumer choice](#)

Publication type Study

Date 21-06-2021

External author Niklas FOURBERG, Serpil TAŞ, Lukas WIEWIORRA, Ilsa GODLOVITCH, Alexandre DE STREEL, Hervé JACQUEMIN, Jordan HILL, Madalina NUNU, Camille BOURGUIGON, Florian JACQUES, Michèle LEDGER and Michael LOGNOUL

Policy area Consumer Protection | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | consumer information | consumption | cooperation policy | data protection | data-processing law | digital economy | digital single market | documentation | economic geography | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU Member State | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | impact of advertising | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | marketing | personal data | protection of privacy | research report | rights and freedoms | small and medium-sized enterprises | third country | TRADE

Summary In this research paper, we provide a comprehensive overview of online advertising markets and we analyse the challenges and opportunities concerning digital advertising. We review the degree to which existing and proposed legislation at EU level addresses the identified problems, and identify potential solutions, with reference to experience from EU Member States and third countries. We conclude with a synthesis and specific policy recommendations, drawing on stakeholder interviews.  
This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies for the committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

Study [EN](#)

## [Common Provisions Regulation 2021-2027](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-06-2021

Author WIDUTO Agnieszka

Policy area Regional Development

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | distribution of EU funding | economic and social cohesion | EU finance | European construction | European Semester | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial management | financing and investment | fund (EU) | investment | management | monetary economics | multiannual financial framework | proposal (EU)

Summary In the context of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the European Commission adopted a proposal for the Common Provisions Regulation, which sets out common rules for eight EU funds: the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Just Transition Fund, the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund, and the Border Management and Visa Instrument. The European Parliament is due to vote at second reading during the June II plenary session on the agreed text of the Common Provisions Regulation, resulting from interinstitutional negotiations.

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

## [Tackling Environmental Crimes under EU Law: The Liability of Companies in the Context of Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions](#)

Publication type Study

Date 18-06-2021

External author Michael G. FAURE

Policy area Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Environment

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | case law (EU) | case-law | civil law | civil liability | criminal law | criminal liability | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental liability | environmental offence | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | financial solvency | LAW | legal person | merger | research report | sources and branches of the law

Summary This study addresses the fate of environmental liability and environmental crime under mergers and acquisitions. It analyses whether environmental liability is passed on, either to a successor or to a parent company. Also the role of companies in the Environmental Crime Directive is analysed with specific attention to succession of companies. Particular attention is given to the concept of ecocide. The study concludes that in case of a merger or acquisition environmental obligations are passed on to the acquiring company. However, there is still the risk that corporations could organise their own insolvency. This can be remedied by imposing mandatory solvency guarantees. Criminal liability of an enterprise can in many legal systems also be transferred to the successor company.

Study [EN](#)

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

## Own resources of the European Union: Reforming the EU's financing system

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-06-2021

Author D'ALFONSO Alessandro

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Budget

Keyword budget | budget policy | budgetary procedure | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | customs duties | decision (EU) | drafting of EU law | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial management | general budget (EU) | management | multiannual financial framework | own resources | public finance and budget policy | tariff policy | taxation | TRADE | VAT

**Summary** On 1 June 2021, the decision that reforms the financing system of the EU budget entered into force, following its ratification by all Member States. It introduces three significant innovations in the own resources system, applying retroactively from 1 January 2021. The maximum level of resources that can be called from Member States permanently rises from 1.20 % to 1.40 % of EU gross national income (GNI). A temporary increase in the own resources ceiling, worth a further 0.60 % of EU GNI, is devoted exclusively to the financing of Next Generation (NGEU), enabling the Commission to borrow resources on an unprecedented scale on the capital markets, with a view to financing the recovery. A national contribution linked to non-recycled plastic packaging waste is introduced, the first new EU own resource to be created since 1988. In addition, Parliament pushed for a broader reform of the financing system underlining that the introduction of a basket of new own resources should cover at least the repayment costs of NGEU (for both principal and interest). Parliament managed to include a detailed roadmap for the introduction of various additional new own resources by 2026 in the interinstitutional agreement on budgetary matters with the Council and the European Commission. Envisaged resources are linked to EU policies on climate and the single market. Fourth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Low for Longer: Effects of Prolonged Negative Interest Rate Policies

Publication type Study

Date 08-06-2021

External author Grégory CLAEYS, Joscha BECKMANN, Klaus-Jürgen GERN, Nils JANNSEN, Justus INHOFFEN, Atanas PEKANOV, Thomas URL, Daniel GROS, Farzaneh SHAMSAKHHR

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword accounting | bank | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | central bank | documentation | economic conditions | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | inflation | interest | loan | management | monetary economics | monetary relations | profitability | research report | risk management

**Summary** In June 2014, the European Central Bank (ECB) was among the first major central banks to lower policy rates into negative territory. The deposit facility rate was subsequently cut four more times, lastly in September 2019 (to -0.5%). As an unconventional monetary policy instrument used over a prolonged period, negative interest rates require attention because of their uncertain or possibly negative side effects on the banking sector and economy at large.

Four papers were prepared by the ECON Committee's Monetary Expert Panel, assessing the experience with negative interest rates in the euro area over the past seven years.

This publication is provided by Policy Department A for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with ECB President Lagarde on 21 June 2021.

Study [EN](#)

## What if we chose new metaphors for artificial intelligence?

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-06-2021

Author BOUCHER Philip Nicholas

Policy area Consumer Protection | Culture | Social Policy

Keyword America | artificial intelligence | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | China | competition | cooperation policy | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | GEOGRAPHY | impact of information technology | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | information technology applications | international competition | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | political geography | report | terminology | United States

**Summary** Artificial intelligence (AI) policy debates are replete with metaphors. Even the term 'AI' relies upon a metaphor for the human quality of intelligence, and its development is regularly described as a 'race'. While metaphors are useful in highlighting some features of their subject, they are so powerful that it can be difficult to imagine or discuss their subject in other terms. Here, we explore some challenges presented by the central metaphor of 'intelligence', examine how AI metaphors emphasise competition at the cost of cooperation, and ask whether new metaphors could help us to articulate ambitious visions for AI, and new criteria for success.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Multimedia [What if we chose new metaphors for artificial intelligence?](#)



## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - June 2021](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 04-06-2021

Policy area [Budget](#) | [Budgetary Control](#) | [Coronavirus](#) | [Democracy](#) | [EU Law: Legal System and Acts](#) | [Foreign Affairs](#) | [Human Rights](#) | [Research Policy](#) | [Transport](#)

Keyword [agricultural activity](#) | [agricultural policy](#) | [AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES](#) | [animal welfare](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [Cohesion Fund](#) | [common agricultural policy](#) | [common transport policy](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [documentation](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [epidemic](#) | [EU finance](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [health](#) | [human rights](#) | [LAW](#) | [legal form of organisations](#) | [non-profit organisation](#) | [organisation of transport](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [politics and public safety](#) | [report](#) | [repression](#) | [rights and freedoms](#) | [social affairs](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [tourism](#) | [TRANSPORT](#) | [transport of animals](#) | [transport policy](#)

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

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

## [Supporting the single market beyond 2020](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 03-06-2021

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

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

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [business classification](#) | [business organisation](#) | [competitiveness](#) | [data collection](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [EU finance](#) | [EU financing](#) | [EU programme](#) | [EU statistics](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [impact study](#) | [information technology and data processing](#) | [proposal \(EU\)](#) | [single market](#) | [small and medium-sized enterprises](#)

Summary The single market programme is a new, dedicated €3.7 billion (in 2018 prices) or €4.2 billion (in current prices) programme for the 2021-2027 period supporting the single market. It is particularly aimed at empowering and protecting consumers, and enabling Europe's many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to take better advantage of a well-functioning single market. On 3 May 2021, the Regulation establishing the programme entered into force, with retroactive application from 1 January 2021. The new programme aims to strengthen and streamline the governance of the EU's internal market. It will support the competitiveness of enterprises, and promote human, animal and plant health and a safe food chain, as well as financing European statistics to provide reliable data relevant to the single market. The proposal consolidates and streamlines a wide range of activities that were previously financed separately, and bundles them into one programme. The aim is to create benefits in terms of flexibility, simplification and synergies, and eliminate overlaps.

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

## [State of the SMEs Union](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 02-06-2021

Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume

Policy area [Industry](#)

Keyword [administrative formalities](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [business classification](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [documentation](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [economic consequence](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [EP resolution](#) | [epidemic](#) | [EU industrial policy](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [executive power and public service](#) | [health](#) | [industrial structures and policy](#) | [INDUSTRY](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [regulatory policy](#) | [report](#) | [small and medium-sized enterprises](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary During the June I 2021 plenary session, Parliament is due to hold a joint debate on the 'State of the SMEs Union' and on efforts to reduce the administrative burden on micro-, small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), in the context of the recently updated Better Regulation agenda.

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

## [NIRP, Bank Profitability and Risk-Taking: Much Ado About 50 Basis Points](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 01-06-2021

External author Daniel GROS, Farzaneh SHAMSAKHAR

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

Keyword [accounting](#) | [bank](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [documentation](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [euro area](#) | [European Central Bank](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financial institutions and credit](#) | [interest](#) | [management](#) | [monetary economics](#) | [monetary policy](#) | [monetary relations](#) | [profitability](#) | [research report](#) | [risk management](#) | [single monetary policy](#)

Summary A widespread concern about negative policy rates is that they might depress bank profits and encourage risk-taking. We find that the impact of negative rates per se is limited. Other policy measures (TLTROs, tiered deposits) have largely neutralised the impact of NIRP on bank profits. Asset purchases might have been more important by compressing the yield curve. Any small positive impact of negative rates on lending and aggregate demand may have been swamped by the negative impact of low rates on productivity. This paper was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) ahead of the Monetary Dialogue with the ECB President on 21 June 2021.

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



## [Women's entrepreneurship and self-employment, including aspects of gendered Corporate Social Responsibility](#)

Publication type Study

Date 31-05-2021

External author Maria BASTIDA, Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

Policy area Employment | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Social Policy

Keyword aid to undertakings | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | economic policy | ECONOMICS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | entrepreneur | entrepreneurship | female work | gender equality | labour market | labour market | LAW | participation of women | position of women | rights and freedoms | self-employment | sexual discrimination | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the FEMM Committee. It highlights that despite the increasing number of public policies and institutional resources designed to promote women-led business, the entrepreneurship gender gap persists. This study aims to analyse this apparent contradiction, focusing on three main questions: What are the constraints that women face when deciding to become entrepreneurs? What factors attract women's interest and motivate them to start their own business? And which policies may benefit women's entrepreneurship?

Study [EN](#)

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

## [Gender balance on the boards of significant banks in the Banking Union](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-05-2021

Author GOTTI GIULIA | GRIGAITA KRISTINA | KOMAZEC KATJA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | SEGALL REBECCA SARAH FANNY

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword bank | board of directors | board of management | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | corporate governance | demography and population | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU banking union | female work | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | gender equality | LAW | monetary economics | participation of women | position of women | report | rights and freedoms | size of business | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | woman

Summary EGOV analysed publicly available information on the corporate governance structures to determine the gender balance on the boards of the banks in the euro area supervised by the ECB ("significant institutions"), comparing the situation in 2014 with that in 2020. The general observation is that, overall, the share of female executive directors has risen in significant banks from 15.3% to 27.4% (see figure 1) and the share of female supervisory directors has increased from 22.3% to 31.7% (see figure 2, further down); these levels are still quite distant from an equal gender distribution. Moreover, the differences between the nature of board (executive versus supervisory boards) and between the type of bank (large versus small) have become smaller. Large banks are, for our purposes, those with assets exceeding EUR 100 bn. Large differences in the share of female directors persist, though, if the data is grouped at the country level.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Digital markets act](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-05-2021

Author DALLI HUBERT

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | competition | competition | consumption | digital economy | digital single market | digital technology | economic analysis | economic structure | ECONOMICS | electronic commerce | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | goods and services | impact study | marketing | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | provision of services | small and medium-sized enterprises | technology and technical regulations | TRADE

Summary This briefing provides an initial analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the European Commission's impact assessment (IA) accompanying the above-mentioned proposal, submitted on 15 December 2020 and referred to the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) of the European Parliament. The proposal is part of the digital services act package, which includes the digital services act itself. In her political priorities for the European Commission, President Ursula von der Leyen committed to upgrade the liability and safety rules for digital platforms, services and products, and complete the digital single market. The 2020 Commission work programme also included a commitment to establish an ex-ante competition tool to make Europe fit for the digital age.

Briefing [EN](#)

## A statute for European cross-border associations and non-profit organizations Potential benefits in the current situation

Publication type Study

Date 26-05-2021

External author Prof. Antonio FICI

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Employment | Human Rights | Social Policy

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | documentation | economic geography | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU Member State | European legal status | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | legal form of organisations | national law | non-profit organisation | research report | social affairs | social economy | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sources and branches of the law | voluntary organisation | voluntary work

Summary After carrying out a comparative analysis of the main laws on non-profit organizations in force in some selected European countries, the Study discusses a potential legislative initiative of the European Union on the subject, presenting the different options available and concluding that the European Union should introduce a European status not limited to non-profit organizations but aimed, more generally, at including related organizations such as those of the third sector and the social economy.

Study [EN](#)

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

## Vulnerable consumers

Publication type Briefing

Date 21-05-2021

Author SAJN Nikolina

Policy area Consumer Protection

Keyword advertising malpractice | artificial intelligence | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | consumer information | consumption | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic commerce | ENERGY | energy law | energy policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial services | foodstuffs legislation | health | information and information processing | marketing | provision of services | single market | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE

Summary Compared to the average consumer, who is considered to be able to make rational choices to find the best deals and benefit from competitive markets, vulnerable consumers are not considered to be able to do so for a variety of reasons. There are two main approaches to identifying vulnerable consumers. One emphasises those individual characteristics of the consumer that increase the (theoretical) risk of becoming vulnerable, such as low socio-economic status, low education level, not being able to speak a particular language, or a minority status. The other suggests that all consumers can become vulnerable due to the interplay between their individual characteristics, the circumstances and the economic market. According to this view, consumers can move in and out of vulnerability, depending on their individual state. The European Commission's 2018 consumer survey found that 43 % of EU citizens believed themselves to be vulnerable as consumers. The image of vulnerable consumers in European Union (EU) law is narrower than that found in the academic literature. They are defined in the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive, which requires additional protection for consumers who are 'particularly vulnerable due to their mental or physical infirmity, age or credulity'. This definition has been subject to much criticism, as it does not take the different variables that can make consumers vulnerable into account. Provisions protecting vulnerable consumers can be found in other horizontal consumer legislation, as well as legislation on specific sectors, for instance in the field of energy, finance and food legislation. The development of e commerce and artificial intelligence have also been raising concerns about consumer vulnerability. For instance, the European consumer organisation BEUC is asking for a rethink of the concepts of 'average' and 'vulnerable' consumers, as some practices online, which combine collection of data with manipulating consumers, are making all consumers vulnerable and therefore require all consumers to be equally protected. The European Parliament has long advocated a wider concept in defining vulnerable consumers, and stronger protection for them, including in the energy, finance and digital sectors.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Outlook for the special European Council meeting of 24-25 May 2021

Publication type Briefing

Date 21-05-2021

Author ANGHEL Suzana Elena | DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area Coronavirus | Environment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Foreign Affairs | Industry | Public Health

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | climate change policy | coronavirus disease | crisis management | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European construction | European Council | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | health | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | management | political geography | Russia | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | summit meeting | trade agreement (EU) | United Kingdom

Summary The special European Council meeting of 24-25 May 2021 will concentrate on climate policy, hold a strategic debate on relations with Russia, continue its coordination efforts in response to the coronavirus pandemic and review the implementation of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Regarding climate, EU leaders are expected to take stock of progress made in adopting the EU climate law and give further guidelines on and impetus to EU climate action and policy. The strategic debate on relations with Russia comes at a moment when bilateral relations have reached a new low, and the EU is reviewing its threat perception as part of the ongoing Strategic Compass exercise. The leaders' discussions on the EU's response to the coronavirus pandemic will include vaccines, international solidarity and the EU Digital Covid Certificate, which has recently been provisionally agreed on by the co-legislators.

Briefing [EN](#)

## The Largest 50 Beneficiaries in each EU Member State of CAP and Cohesion Funds

Publication type Study

Date 20-05-2021

External author Willem Pieter DE GROEN, CEPS  
Roberto MUSMECI, CEPS  
Damir GOJSIC, CEPS  
Jorge NUNEZ, CEPS  
Daina BELICKA, CSE COE

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword access to EU information | agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | aid recipient | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | Cohesion Fund | common agricultural policy | cooperation policy | disclosure of information | distribution of EU funding | documentation | economic and social cohesion | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | financial transparency | fund (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | legal form of organisations | legal person | natural person | private limited company | research report

Summary This report provides the findings of the study on "The Largest 50 beneficiaries in each EU Member State of CAP and Cohesion Funds" prepared at the request of the CONT committee. Based on the analysis of more than 12 million beneficiaries of the common agricultural policy (CAP) in 2018 and 2019 and about 600 000 beneficiaries receiving cohesion funds between 2014 and 2020 it identifies the largest direct and ultimate beneficiaries of EU funds. Moreover, it covers the results of an assessment of almost 300 systems for the public disclosure of the beneficiaries of CAP and Cohesion policy. Finally, it provides recommendations to enhance the public disclosure on beneficiaries of EU funds.

Note: the lists and analyses of the beneficiaries are based on the data available in the reporting systems at the time of data collection. Substantiated requests for corrections due to incorrect or modified data will be included in the Corrigenda below (Annex IV).

Study [EN](#)

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

Annex 1 [EN](#)

Annex 2 [EN](#)

Annex 3 [EN](#)

Annex 4 [EN](#)

## Digital technologies as a means of repression and social control

Publication type Study

Date 18-05-2021

External author Dorota GŁOWACKA, Richard YOUNGS, Adela PINTEA, Ewelina WOŁOSIK

Policy area Democracy | Human Rights

Keyword authoritarian regime | biometrics | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common foreign and security policy | communications | control of communications | decision-making | democracy | digital technology | disease surveillance | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | geopolitics | health | human rights | humanities | LAW | management | natural and applied sciences | new technology | political framework | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | rights and freedoms | SCIENCE | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations

Summary The proliferation of new and emerging technologies over the past two decades has significantly expanded states' toolkit for repression and social control, deepening human rights problems. While these technologies still have the potential to positively enhance democratic values and human rights, they are now also actively deployed and shaped by many repressive regimes to their own strategic advantage. Globally and regionally, efforts have been made to tackle the challenges that digital technologies pose to human rights, but a lot remains to be done. The EU must enrich global legal and standard-setting efforts, as well as improve its own core foreign policy instruments. The EU's foreign policy toolbox has become more comprehensive in the last several years, with the addition of a number of different strands to its efforts against 'digital authoritarianism'. The challenge related to the use of digital technologies by authoritarian regimes has continued to deepen, however. The EU must therefore continue to find ways to fine-tune and add to this toolbox. A core finding that runs through this report is that the EU has undertaken many valuable and well-designed policy initiatives in this field, but still has to decide whether tackling digital repression is a core geopolitical interest at the highest political level.

Study [EN](#)

## [Research for CULT Committee - Media Action Plan: Key challenges related to media pluralism, media freedom and democracy - Concomitant expertise for INI report](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-05-2021

External author KEA European Affairs; Arthur Le Gall

Policy area Culture | Education

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | communications | communications profession | competition | democracy | disinformation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | freedom of expression | freedom of the press | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | mass media | national independence | ownership | pluralism in the media | political framework | POLITICS | restriction on competition | rights and freedoms

Summary Media pluralism is an essential condition for any democratic society. It constitutes a source of access to a plurality of editorial lines and analyses, opinions and issues expressed, as well as a coexistence of public and private service media.

Media pluralism is at risk due to several factors. First, the level of basic protection for journalists is threatened, for example in terms of the protection of their personal data online or abusive defamation charges against them. Second, most EU countries are characterised by a high degree of market concentration, with monopoly or oligopoly structures in most news media sectors. These main players co-exist with a myriad of smaller news media operators (e.g. focusing on local news or specialised in particular topics).

Third, trust in the media is eroded by fake news and disinformation, and the perception of an alleged gatekeeping position by larger media groups.

Initiatives are however emerging to improve transparency in the media, for example by establishing charters for the media to ensure the credibility and trustworthiness of sources, or by developing algorithms to debunk misinformation.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Conference on the Future of Europe](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 07-05-2021

Author KOTANIDIS Silvia

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | citizens' Europe | climate change policy | crisis management | democracy | digital single market | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU industrial policy | EU institutions and European civil service | EU policy | European conference | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | political framework | POLITICS

Summary After many debates and statements of principle in recent years, the time for a more structured discussion on the future of Europe's development has arrived. The Conference on the Future of Europe, announced by the Commission's President Ursula von der Leyen in her inaugural address, is set to start after a long period of standstill owing not only to changed priorities brought by the coronavirus pandemic, but also to lengthy negotiations among the institutions. The aim of the conference is to debate how the EU should develop in the future, identify where it is rising to the challenges of current times, and enhance those areas that need reform or strengthening. A key aspect of this initiative is to bring the public closer to the EU institutions, listen to people's concerns, involve them directly in the process of the Conference and provide an adequate and meaningful response. In this respect, the ambition is to set up pan-European forums for discussion, for the first time ever, where citizens of all Member States can debate the EU's priorities and make recommendations, to be taken into account by the political-institutional powers that be and, ideally, translated into practical measures. The pandemic hit as the preparation of the conference was just beginning and inevitably caused a delay. In March 2021, the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission agreed on a joint declaration, laying down the common rules and principles governing the conference. It was agreed that the leadership of the conference would be shared by the three institutions, with the conference chaired jointly by their three presidents. The Conference on the Future of Europe has all the prerequisites to be an excellent opportunity to engage in a more structured debate between institutions and citizens, and arrive at concrete proposals to improve the way the EU works, in terms not only of institutional dynamics, but also of policies. Some have cautioned however that the initiative must be conducted with the utmost care, in particular as regards the follow-up, so that it remains a meaningful endeavour. This is an updated edition of a Briefing from December 2019.

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

## [A statute for European cross-border associations and non-profit organisations](#)

Publication type Study

Date 06-05-2021

Author FERNANDES MEENAKSHI | MULLER KLAUS

External author Anheier, Helmut K.

Policy area European Added Value

Keyword administrative formalities | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil society | comparative analysis | cooperation policy | cross-border cooperation | economic geography | EU action | EU Member State | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | legal form of organisations | non-profit organisation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | tax exemption | taxation

Summary The study examines the potential EU added value of the policy options (encouraging cross-border transactions, enhancing social outcomes and increasing economic contributions) as well as the drawbacks. In addition, the assessment highlights supporting non-legislative measures that could promote specific NPO functions in the EU.

Study [EN](#)

## [Research for CULT Committee - Education and youth in post-COVID-19 Europe - crisis effects and policy recommendations](#)

Publication type Study

Date 04-05-2021

External author Public Policy and Management Institute: Loes VAN DER GRAAF, Jekatyerina DUNAJEVA, Hanna SIAROVA, Radvile BANKAUSKAITE

Policy area Culture | Education

Keyword access to education | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | distance learning | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | educational system | epidemic | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | level of education | management | organisation of teaching | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | teaching | teaching quality | vocational education | youth policy

Summary This paper demonstrates that the COVID-19 pandemic posed unprecedented and multidimensional challenges to the education systems and youth sector, revealing the lack of preparedness in terms of crisis management and digital education responses, as well as reinforcing structural weaknesses of education delivery. Given that various sectors of education and the youth sector faced distinct challenges, there are valuable lessons to be learnt from policy responses and best practices across Europe. The common goal should be to build more resilient education systems, which are responsive and adaptive to future crises.

Study [EN](#)

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

## [Matching priorities and resources in the EU budget: Climate action, migration and borders](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-05-2021

Author D'ALFONSO Alessandro

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

Keyword border control | budget | budgetary resources | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | climate change | climate change policy | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU budget | EU expenditure | EU finance | EU migration policy | EUROPEAN UNION | external border of the EU | FINANCE | financial management | international law | LAW | management | migration | multiannual financial framework | POLITICS | politics and public safety | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Over the past two decades, the European Union (EU) has been entrusted with a growing number of objectives and responsibilities. However, ensuring financing of related activities through the EU budget has often proven problematic, as this has long been capped at around 1 % of the Union's gross national income (GNI). During the preparation of the post-2020 EU multiannual financial framework (MFF), climate action, migration and border management were identified among the emerging priorities that required increased joint action and funding. The agreement on EU finances for 2021 to 2027 provides for a significant relative increase in the financial resources devoted to these policy areas. In absolute figures, the reinforcements are stronger for climate action than for migration and borders. Underpinned by the European Green Deal strategy, climate action will receive the bulk of its resources through the incorporation of climate considerations and objectives across all relevant EU funding instruments (climate mainstreaming). Next Generation EU (NGEU), the temporary instrument to aid recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, will play a major role in the boost to climate-relevant resources. In total, these could amount to some €550 billion (in 2018 prices, corresponding to 30 % of total MFF and NGEU resources). For the first time, migration and border management have a dedicated heading, accounting for 2.1 % of MFF resources. Among other activities, additional allocations will contribute to the agreed reinforcement of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. Opinion surveys show that respondents see climate change and migration among the main global challenges for the EU, but there are gaps between perceptions and expectations of the role of the EU budget in these two domains. The European Parliament, which is a strong advocate of a robust EU budget commensurate with the Union's responsibilities, managed to secure additional resources for instruments relevant to both groups of policies, as well as the enhancement of the climate mainstreaming methodology. The Parliament plays a key role in shaping and scrutinising how the funding allocated to the policy areas is implemented. Other measures to reinforce the EU budget's capacity to deliver in the areas of climate action, migration and borders seek to improve synergies between budgetary instruments.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Matching priorities and resources in the EU budget: Climate action, migration and borders](#)

## The impact of teleworking and digital work on workers and society

Publication type Study

Date 30-04-2021

External author Manuela SAMEK LODOVICI et al.

Policy area Coronavirus | Employment | Environment | Social Policy

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | case study | coronavirus disease | cost-effectiveness analysis | digital divide | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | epidemic | executive power and public service | health | information and information processing | mental health | organisation of work and working conditions | policymaking | POLITICS | research report | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | teleworking | work productivity | work-life balance | working environment

Summary The study analyses recent trends in teleworking, its impacts on workers, employers, and society, and the challenges for policy-making. It provides an overview of the main legislative and policy measures adopted at EU and national level, in order to identify possible policy actions at EU level. The study is based on an extensive literature review, a web survey, interviews with representatives of European and national stakeholders, and five case studies of EU countries: Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Romania.

Study [EN](#)

Annex 1 [EN](#)

Annex 2 [EN](#)

Annex 3 [EN](#)

Annex 4 [EN](#)

Annex 5 [EN](#)

## Challenges and limits of an open source approach to Artificial Intelligence

Publication type Study

Date 30-04-2021

External author Alexandra THEBEN, Laura GUNDERSON, Laura López FORÉS, Gianluca MISURACA, Francisco LUPIÁÑEZ-VILLANUEVA.

Policy area Forward Planning | Research Policy

Keyword artificial intelligence | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | decision-making | digital transformation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic government | exchange of information | executive power and public service | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | innovation | management | open source software | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public procurement | research and development | research and intellectual property | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | trade policy

Summary Coupled with the numerous opportunities emerging from the use of artificial intelligence, open source comes with the potential for innovation capacity in both the public and private sector. Advantages include the ability to enhance transparency, facilitate the auditing of AI and thereby enhance citizen trust, while stimulating economic activities and domain-specific expertise. Disadvantages and limits include legal, technical, data, risk management, societal and ethical challenges. This analysis examines all main open source artificial intelligence pro and cons and proposes seven recommendations to boost its uptake.

Study [EN](#)

## Plenary round-up – April 2021

Publication type At a Glance

Date 30-04-2021

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | consumer protection | consumption | cooperation agreement (EU) | coronavirus disease | digital single market | economic geography | epidemic | EU budget | EU finance | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | financial management | GEOGRAPHY | health | health certificate | management | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary session | political geography | POLITICS | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | tariff policy | TRADE | United Kingdom

Summary The April 2021 plenary session featured a debate on the outcome of EU-UK negotiations and the vote on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Members also debated the conclusions of the 25 and 26 March 2021 European Council meeting and the outcome of the 6 April 2021 high-level EU-Turkey meeting. Members debated ways to save the summer tourism season and provide EU support to the hospitality sector, and underlined the need for affordable Covid 19 testing. Parliament also debated statements by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borell, on Russia, Alexei Navalny, the military build-up on Ukraine's border and the Russian attack on an arms depot in Czechia, on Chinese counter-sanctions, and on the fifth anniversary of the Peace Agreement in Colombia. Parliament also voted on a mandatory transparency register for outside interests meeting with the three institutions.

At a Glance [EN](#)



## [The coronavirus pandemic in Latin America](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 28-04-2021

Author GOMEZ RAMIREZ Enrique

Policy area Coronavirus | Foreign Affairs

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

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

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

## [Trans-European energy infrastructure guidelines: Updating the current framework](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-04-2021

Author VETTORAZZI STEFANO

Policy area Energy

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | carbon neutrality | competitiveness | cooperation policy | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy cooperation | energy grid | energy policy | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | impact study | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | project of common interest | regulation (EU) | security of supply | small and medium-sized enterprises | trade | TRADE | trans-European network

Summary This briefing provides an initial analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the European Commission's impact assessment (IA) accompanying the above-mentioned proposal, adopted on 15 December 2020 and referred to Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). The proposal seeks to amend Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure (TEN E) with a view to ensure that the existing framework is consistent with, and contributes to, the new 2030 EU climate target, set out in COM(2020) 562, commonly known as the 2030 EU climate target plan, with the ultimate objective of achieving an economy with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions (i.e. climate neutrality) by 2050, and in line with the Commission communication on the European Green Deal, COM(2019) 640.

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

## [Establishing and implementing Horizon Europe](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-04-2021

Author SPINACI STEFANO

Policy area Research Policy

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | cooperation policy | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU research policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | Framework Programme for Research and Development | innovation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Joint Research Centre | multiannual financial framework | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | research and development | research and intellectual property | scientific cooperation

Summary In 2018, under the new Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027, the Commission adopted a proposal for the next EU research and innovation programme, Horizon Europe. The programme will help the Union to become resilient to future crises, to address challenges such as climate change, and to foster digitalisation. Following an early second-reading agreement reached in December 2020, Parliament is expected to vote on adopting the text in April, thus finalising the legislative procedure. It will also vote on its opinion on the accompanying proposal for the specific implementing programme.

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

## [Discharge for 2019 budget – European Commission, executive agencies and EDFs](#)

Publication type At a Glance  
Date 21-04-2021  
Author KOWALD KAROLINE  
Policy area Budgetary Control  
Keyword accounting | auditing | budget | budgetary control | budgetary discharge | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cooperation policy | EDF | EU expenditure | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | European Commission | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial control | general budget (EU) | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
Summary During the April plenary session, the European Parliament is expected to decide on granting discharge for the 2019 financial year to the different institutions and bodies of the European Union (EU). The first item on the agenda of the debate and vote on discharge 2019 is the report covering the European Commission (including six executive agencies) which is in charge of the management of the biggest share of the EU budget. Separate discharge is granted to the Commission concerning the management of the European Development Funds (EDFs) which are not part of the general budget of the EU as they are established by an intergovernmental agreement. Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) recommends that Parliament should grant the Commission and all six executive agencies discharge for 2019. It also recommends granting discharge in respect of the implementation of the operations of the EDFs in 2019.  
[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

## [European Defence Fund 2021–2027](#)

Publication type At a Glance  
Date 21-04-2021  
Author KARABOYTCHEVA Miroslava Kostova  
Policy area Industry  
Keyword arms industry | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | defence | defence expenditure | EU finance | European defence policy | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financing and investment | fund (EU) | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | investment promotion | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | research and development | research and intellectual property  
Summary The European Commission presented a proposal for a regulation establishing a European Defence Fund in June 2018. The Fund aims to foster the competitiveness and innovativeness of European defence and to contribute to the EU's strategic autonomy. The Parliament and Council reached a partial agreement in early 2019 and then a provisional political agreement on the outstanding issues in December 2020. The Council adopted its first-reading position in March 2021, and the Parliament is expected to vote its second-reading position during the April plenary session.  
[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

## [Discharge for 2019 budget – EU institutions other than the European Commission](#)

Publication type At a Glance  
Date 21-04-2021  
Author PARI MARIANNA  
Policy area Budgetary Control  
Keyword accounting | administrative expenditure (EU) | auditing | budget | budgetary control | budgetary discharge | budgetary expenditure | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | EU budget | EU finance | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE  
Summary The European Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) recommends granting discharge for the administrative sections of the EU budget for 2019, with the exception of the European Council and Council for which it recommends postponing the decision on granting discharge. The votes on the discharge reports are expected to take place during the April plenary session.  
[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

## [Single market, competitiveness of enterprises and European statistics 2021-2027](#)

Publication type At a Glance  
Date 21-04-2021  
Author RAGONNAUD Guillaume  
Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union  
Keyword agricultural activity | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | animal health | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | competitiveness | consumer protection | consumption | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU expenditure | EU finance | EU statistics | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | health | health control | multiannual financial framework | proposal (EU) | single market | small and medium-sized enterprises | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE  
Summary In 2018, under the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027, the Commission put forward a proposal for a programme aimed at improving the functioning of the single market, at fostering the competitiveness of companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and at ensuring the provision of high quality statistics in all EU policy areas. Following an early second-reading agreement reached on 8 December 2020, Parliament is expected to formally adopt the text at second reading in April, finalising the legislative procedure.  
[At a Glance](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

## [Discharge for 2019 budget – EU decentralised agencies and joint undertakings](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-04-2021

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Budgetary Control

Keyword accounting | auditing | budget | budget | budgetary control | budgetary discharge | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Joint Undertaking | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial transparency | general budget (EU) | public finance and budget policy | public procurement | TRADE | trade policy

Summary During its April plenary session, in the context of the discharge procedure for the financial year 2019, the European Parliament is due to vote on the discharge for each of 32 EU decentralised agencies and eight joint undertakings for their implementation of the 2019 budget. The Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) proposes to grant discharge to all of these entities, except for the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), for which it proposes to postpone the discharge decision.

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

## [Research for CULT Committee - Approaches of the Council and the Commission to the European Education Area](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-04-2021

Author HERIARD PIERRE MARIE

Policy area Culture | Education

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | cooperation in the field of education | cooperation policy | digital literacy | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | education policy | educational reform | educational system | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | information and information processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | level of education | organisation of teaching | teaching | vocational training

Summary In September 2020, the Commission published a communication on achieving the European Education Area by 2025 with an ambitious strategy revolving around six key dimensions (European Commission, 2020a). In February 2021, in its resolution on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030), the Council welcome the Commission's proposal (Council of the European Union, 2021). It set out a series of 'strategic priorities' bearing some similarities with the key dimensions mentioned above but giving less prominence to inclusion and the geopolitical dimension while putting a stronger focus on lifelong learning and mobility.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Towards a more resilient Europe post-coronavirus: Options to enhance the EU's resilience to structural risks](#)

Publication type Study

Date 16-04-2021

Policy area Coronavirus | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common security and defence policy | cooperation policy | crisis management | cross-border cooperation | economic and social cohesion | economic conditions | economic policy | economic recovery | economic reform | economic structure | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU environmental policy | EU migration policy | EU policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | migration | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sustainable development

Summary The coronavirus crisis has underlined the need for the European Union (EU) to devote greater efforts to anticipatory governance, and to attempt to strengthen its resilience in the face of risks from both foreseeable and unforeseeable events. This paper builds further on an initial 'mapping' in mid-2020 of some 66 potential structural risks which could confront Europe over the coming decade, and a second paper last autumn which looked at the EU's capabilities to address 33 of those risks assessed as being more significant or likely, and at the various gaps in policy and instruments at the Union's disposal. Delving deeper in 25 specific areas, this new paper identifies priorities for building greater resilience within the Union system, drawing on the European Parliament's own resolutions and proposals made by other EU institutions, as well as by outside experts and stakeholders. In the process, it highlights some of the key constraints that will need to be addressed if strengthened resilience is to be achieved, as well as the opportunities that follow from such an approach.

Study [EN](#)

## [Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on EU industries](#)

Publication type Study

Date 29-03-2021

External author Jan Maarten DE VET, Daniel NIGOHOSYAN, Jorge NÚÑEZ FERRER, Ann-Kristin GROSS, Silvia KUEHL, and Michael FLICKENSCHILD

Policy area Coronavirus | Industry

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | coronavirus disease | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic policy | economic policy | economic recession | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU industrial policy | health | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | supply chain | value chain

Summary The COVID-19 crisis has had a substantial impact on the EU27 economy and triggered unprecedented policy responses across Europe and the globe. With evidence on the effects on the EU industry manifested until the beginning of 2021, this report aims to address the following key issues: (1) impact of COVID-19 on the EU economy as a whole and across sectors; (2) impact on strategic value chains; and (3) necessary recovery measures to meet the needs of the EU industry.  
This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE).

Study [EN](#)

## [Evidence for policy-making: Foresight-based scientific advice](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 25-03-2021

Author VAN WOENSEL Lieve

Policy area Forward Planning

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | executive power and public service | health | management | policymaking | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | scientific report | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | technology assessment

Summary The implementation of foresight routines will help in preparing future policies. Evidence-based foresight practices will ensure that policy-making is trustworthy and future-fit. This paper is partly inspired by the evidence-related policy issues encountered in managing the coronavirus outbreak. The Covid 19 crisis was, and remains, characterised by uncertainties and evidence that change by the hour through progressive insight. Policy-makers had to make decisions that balanced expert advice and presumed feasibility and public acceptance. Additionally, new virus- and vaccine-related evidence meant they had – and continue to have to – constantly review measures, in these exceptional times of uncertainties and evolution of insight, when experts' advice was occasionally inconsistent. This briefing first details the role of evidence in the policy ecosystem, with separate sections regarding science for policy and science- and technology-related policy. Subsequently, an evidence-based mechanism is suggested for rapid response during crises or emergencies. The paper concludes with four practical tips for trustworthy policy analysis: (i) seeing the broader picture; (ii) exploring possible biases; (iii) examining the policy issue from different perspectives; and (iv) stress-testing policy options by widely assessing possible impacts of the options considered.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Implementing the Own Resources Decision](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 22-03-2021

Author D'ALFONSO Alessandro

Policy area Budget

Keyword accounting | adoption of a law by vote | budget | budgetary resources | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | chemistry | deterioration of the environment | ENVIRONMENT | EU budget | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | INDUSTRY | marketing | own resources | packaging product | parliamentary proceedings | plastic waste | plastics | POLITICS | proposal (EU) | revenue | taxation | TRADE | VAT

Summary During its March II plenary session, the European Parliament is scheduled to vote on three Council regulations that complete the architecture of the revenue system of the EU budget. The consent procedure applies to the implementing measures, while legislative opinions (consultation procedure) are to be adopted on the operational provisions. Prior to the votes, Parliament will hold a joint debate on the broader reform of EU own resources, for which a roadmap and guiding principles have recently been established in the interinstitutional agreement on budgetary matters between Parliament, Council and the Commission.

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

## Public hearing with Andrea Enria, Chair of the ECB Supervisory Board

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 19-03-2021

Author GOTTI GIULIA | GRIGAITE KRISTINA | KOMAZEC KATJA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | SEGALL REBECCA SARAH FANNY

Policy area Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword activity report | banking supervision | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | European Central Bank | European Systemic Risk Board | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial risk | financial stability | free movement of capital | health | management | monetary economics | risk management | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This note is prepared in view of a regular public hearing with the Chair of the Supervisory Board of the European Central Bank (ECB), Andrea Enria, which will take place on 23 March 2021. During the hearing, Chair Enria will present the Annual Report on supervisory activities 2020, which will be published the same day. This paper addresses (i) the implications of supervisory measures in response to COVID-19; (ii) supervisory work for 2021 (supervisory priorities, stress test, fit and proper assessments, recovery planning); (iii) medium and longer term structural risks (Basel III, anti-money laundering, climate risk, and completing the Banking Union); (iv) recent ECB publications; and (v) recent developments in the banking sector relating to the Greensill case.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## Public hearing with Elke König, Chair of the Single Resolution Board

Publication type Briefing

Date 19-03-2021

Author GRIGAITE KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | SEGALL REBECCA SARAH FANNY

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword bank | bankruptcy | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | civil law | crisis management | economic geography | EP Committee | EU banking union | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | Europe | European construction | European Court of Auditors | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial solvency | fund (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | LAW | management | monetary economics | parliamentary proceedings | political geography | POLITICS | public hearing | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU

Summary This note is prepared in view of an ordinary public hearing with the Chair of the Single Resolution Board (SRB), Elke König, which will take place on 23 March 2021. This briefing addresses the review of the crisis management framework; contributions to the SRF; resolvability assessments, following a European Court of Auditors report; the relationship with the United Kingdom; the EBA's benchmarking of national insolvency regimes; and SRB publications, including the MREL dashboard for Q3, 2020, a Communication on the permission regime for the reduction of eligible liabilities, and access to financial market infrastructures in resolution.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Update on Wirecard case: public hearing

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-03-2021

Author GOTTI GIULIA | GRIGAITE KRISTINA | KOMAZEC KATJA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | SEGALL REBECCA SARAH FANNY

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | capital markets union | civil law | criminal law | economic geography | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European Securities and Markets Authority | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial accounting | financial audit | financial solvency | financial supervision | financial technology | fraud | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | Germany | LAW | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | stock-exchange listing | technology and technical regulations | whistleblowing

Summary This paper updates and summarises earlier briefings on the Wirecard case, ahead of a public hearing on 23 March organised by the JURI and ECON Committees of the European Parliament. It also describes the most recent developments on the basis of information available in the public domain.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Non-performing Loans - New risks and policies? NPL resolution after COVID-19

Publication type Study

Date 15-03-2021

External author J. Haynes, P.Hope, H. Talbot

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

Keyword banking system | bankruptcy | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | civil law | coronavirus disease | economic conditions | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | epidemic | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial solvency | financial stability | free movement of capital | health | LAW | loan | monetary crisis | monetary economics | monetary relations | private-sector liquidity | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The COVID-19 crisis is a significant and exogenous shock to the EU corporate sector, with implications for the operations and funding of many businesses. We compare key indicators for the global financial crisis (GFC) and the current situation, and assess implications for the policy response. We find that while many policy actions taken in response to the GFC remain valid, the nature of COVID-19 suggests a more tailored response is appropriate, with support focused on sectors most directly affected and corporates whose continuation value exceeds their liquidation value.

Study [EN](#)

## When and how to unwind COVID-support measures to the banking system?

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 12-03-2021

External author T. Tröger, R. Haselmann

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

Keyword banking supervision | banking system | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | coronavirus disease | crisis management | epidemic | EU banking union | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial solvency | financial stability | free movement of capital | health | LAW | management | monetary crisis | monetary economics | monetary relations | money-market liquidity | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This in-depth analysis proposes ways to retract from supervisory COVID-19 support measures without perils for financial stability. It simulates the likely impact of the corona crisis on euro area banks' capital and predicts a significant capital shortfall. We recommend to end accounting practices that conceal loan losses and sustain capital relief measures. Our in-depth analysis also proposes how to address the impending capital shortfall in resolution/liquidation and a supranational recapitalisation.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## Online platforms: Economic and societal effects

Publication type Study

Date 10-03-2021

External author DG, EPRS This study has been written by Professor Annabelle Gawer, Surrey Business School, University of Surrey (main author), Dr Nick Srnicek, King's College London, at the request of the Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA) and managed by the Scientific Foresight Unit, within the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS) of the Secretariat of the European Parliament.

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Forward Planning

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | code of conduct | communications | competition | competition policy | data collection | digital technology | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | impact of information technology | information technology and data processing | innovation | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Internet | labour market | merger control | multinational enterprise | online platform worker | organisation of work and working conditions | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | research and intellectual property | technology and technical regulations | working conditions

Summary Online platforms such as Google, Amazon, and Facebook play an increasingly central role in the economy and society. They operate as digital intermediaries across interconnected sectors and markets subject to network effects. These firms have grown to an unprecedented scale, propelled by data-driven business models. Online platforms have a massive impact on individual users and businesses, and are recasting the relationships between customers, advertisers, workers, and employers. This has triggered a public debate on online platforms' economic dominance and patterns of pervasive data collection. The report provides evidence of positive impact, and documents a set of important issues not fully addressed by existing European regulation and enforcement. The consensus is that there is a need to strengthen the current law enforcement and regulation of the platform economy. This report welcomes the proposed Digital Markets and Digital Services Acts, and offers a series of policy options for competition and innovation, working conditions and labour markets, consumer and societal risks, and environmental sustainability.

Study [EN](#)

Annex 1 [EN](#)



## [Non-performing Loans - New risks and policies? - What factors drive the performance of national asset management companies?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 08-03-2021

External author C. V. Gortsos

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | coronavirus disease | crisis management | epidemic | EU banking union | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial risk | financial solvency | financial stability | financial supervision | free movement of capital | health | investment company | LAW | loan | management | monetary economics | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This paper develops, on the basis of a cost-benefit analysis, on the conditions that must be met for an Asset Management Company (AMC), established under the centralised approach in EU Member States, to efficiently facilitate the management and recovery of non-performing loans (NPLs). It concludes that public AMCs, even if optimally designed, should not be viewed as a 'panacea' but as one of several measures that can be taken to address the NPL problem and prevent bank failures.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Challenges and concerns for small and medium-sized enterprises \(SMEs\) doing business in third countries](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-03-2021

External author Nazareno BRAITO, Davide CECCANTI, Duy HUYNH-OLESEN

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | International Trade

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | competitiveness | cooperation policy | economic analysis | economic analysis | economic policy | ECONOMICS | globalisation | international market | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international trade | international trade | market access | small and medium-sized enterprises | third country | TRADE | trade policy | trade restriction

Summary This briefing discusses the main challenges and concerns for SMEs doing business in third countries. First, we show the current situation of European SMEs with respect to internationalisation and highlight the corresponding benefits. Second, based on previous literature on the topic, we distinguish between SMEs without international operations and SMEs that are already internationalised and discuss how different barriers can affect them.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [EU actions to overcome challenges of small and medium-sized enterprises \(SMEs\)](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-03-2021

External author Nazareno BRAITO, Davide CECCANTI, Frauke DE TEMMERMAN, Duy HUYNH-OLESEN

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | International Trade

Keyword aid to undertakings | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | business policy | dissemination of information | documentation | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU aid | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | free-trade agreement | globalisation | international trade | international trade | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | small and medium-sized enterprises | TRADE | trade agreement (EU)

Summary This briefing discusses the actions that the EU could take to properly tackle the challenges that SMEs are currently facing. Several initiatives have already been launched, such as the EU Helpdesk, the Access2Markets Platform and the CTEO. The pros and cons of these initiatives are outlined, and examples and a general assessment are provided. In a second step, several actions of Member States and commerce organisations are highlighted and a detailed classification provided. In a final step, recommendations are formulated for helping the EU to overcome the challenges and concerns of SMEs, to support and improve day-to-day business activities, and facilitate internationalisation.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [EU Trade Policy: how can FTAs better deliver for SMEs?](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-03-2021

External author Thibo CLICTEUR, Frauke DE TEMMERMAN, Duy HUYNH-OLESEN, Katrien NUYTS, Nazareno BRAITO, Davide CECCANTI

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | International Trade

Keyword access to information | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | competitiveness | cooperation policy | disclosure of information | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | free-trade agreement | globalisation | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | international market | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international trade | international trade | small and medium-sized enterprises | third country | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy

Summary These briefings discuss how free trade agreements (FTAs) can help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It provides an overview of FTAs with provisions supporting SMEs internationalise. Based on a literature review, we also discuss the main challenges and concerns for SMEs doing business in third countries. First, we show the current situation of European SMEs with respect to internationalisation and highlight the corresponding benefits. Following previous literature on the topic, we distinguish between SMEs without international operations and SMEs that are already internationalised and discuss how different barriers can affect them. Finally, the last section discusses initiatives at the EU and national level to support SMEs and concludes with a set of recommendations how to better support them.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Benefits of EU trade agreements for small and medium-sized enterprises \(SMEs\)](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-03-2021

External author Thibo CLICTEUR, Frauke DE TEMMERMAN, Duy HUYNH-OLESEN, Katrien NUYTS

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | International Trade

Keyword access to EU information | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | cooperation policy | dissemination of information | documentation | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | free-trade agreement | green economy | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international trade | international trade | report | small and medium-sized enterprises | TRADE | trade agreement (EU)

Summary This briefing discusses how free trade agreements (FTAs) can help small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It provides an overview of the FTAs that the EU has concluded, along with a classification and a discussion of key provisions on and for SMEs. Several pioneering agreements are studied more closely, including the EU-Japan, EU-Canada, EU-Mercosur and EU-UK agreements. To conclude, the briefing assesses SME awareness of FTA chapters and analyses the related benefits.

Briefing [EN](#)

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

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-03-2021

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Coronavirus

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

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

Briefing [EN](#)

## [When and how to unwind COVID-support measures to the banking system?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 04-03-2021

External author A. Lehmann, Bruegel

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

Keyword banking supervision | banking system | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | credit guarantee | economic conditions | economic recession | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | European Banking Authority | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | health | loan | management | monetary crisis | monetary relations | risk management | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This paper examines regulatory measures and supervisory practices that have supported public guarantee schemes and moratoria in euro-area countries. The focus is on flexibility shown with regard to default classifications, accounting practices and the treatment of non-performing loans. The paper identifies a number of undesirable effects and examines how soon such policies can be normalised.

This document was provided by the Economic Governance Support Unit at the request of the ECON Committee.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [InvestEU programme](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 03-03-2021

Author D'ALFONSO Alessandro

Policy area Budget | Economics and Monetary Issues | Environment

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | coronavirus disease | economic conditions | economic recession | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU finance | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | fund (EU) | health | investment project | investment promotion | small and medium-sized enterprises | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | support mechanism

Summary InvestEU is a single investment support mechanism for the 2021-2027 period, which streamlines various EU financial instruments for internal policies previously supported by different funds of the EU budget. Parliament is due to vote on the first-reading agreement on InvestEU during its March 1 2021 plenary part-session.

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

## [Updating the Crypto Assets Regulation and establishing a pilot regime for distributed ledger technology](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-03-2021

Author ZANDERSONE Laura

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | communications | consumer protection | consumption | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic money | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial services | financing and investment | impact study | information technology and data processing | information technology applications | investment protection | monetary economics | principle of proportionality | principle of subsidiarity | proposal (EU) | public consultation | small and medium-sized enterprises | TRADE | virtual currency

Summary The markets in crypto assets (MiCA) proposal intends to adapt to the latest technological trends in the FinTech sector. The briefing analyses the strengths and weaknesses of the impact assessment (IA) accompanying the MiCA and DLT proposals. The IA is quite technical and difficult to read for a non-expert. The policy options were compared against the criteria of effectiveness, efficiency and coherence, but not against proportionality, which is required by the better regulation guidelines. The preferred option is a mix of various options, and one of the preferred options is transferred into another, new legislative proposal, i.e., on the DLT. The IA foresees cost reduction for business due to the use of DLT, which saves costs compared to the traditional trading activities, with new entrants facing one-off costs similar to multilateral trading facilities (MTFs).

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

## [Economic Dialogue with the European Commission on EU Fiscal Surveillance](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-03-2021

Author ANGERER Jost | GRIGAITE KRISTINA | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | SEGALL REBECCA SARAH FANNY | ZOPPE Alice

Policy area Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic forecasting | economic recession | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | epidemic | European Semester | FINANCE | fiscal policy | health | management | monetary economics | public debt | public finance and budget policy | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | stability pact | taxation

Summary Vice-President Dombrovskis and Commissioner Gentiloni have been invited to an Economic Dialogue on the fiscal part of the European Semester autumn package adopted by the Commission in November 2020. The fiscal elements of the package include the Commission Opinions on euro area 2021 Draft Budgetary Plans, the fiscal policy recommendation for the euro area and some elements of the 2021 Alert Mechanism Report. In March 2020, the general escape clause of the Stability and Growth Pact was activated and the Commission and the Council are expected to reassess its duration soon. The Commission has announced that it will publish on 3 March guidance for the related discussions ("One year since the outbreak of COVID-19: fiscal policy response").

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

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

Publication type At a Glance

Date 01-03-2021

External author J. Scott MARCUS et al.

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

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

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

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

## [The impact of COVID-19 on the Internal Market](#)

Publication type Study

Date 26-02-2021

External author J. Scott MARCUS et al.

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

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | consumer protection | consumption | coronavirus disease | crisis management | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | epidemic | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | impact study | internal border of the EU | international law | LAW | management | passenger rights | single market | social framework | social impact | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRADE | TRANSPORT | transport policy

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

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

## [Improving the resilience of critical entities](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-02-2021

Author TUOMINEN ULLA-MARI

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | critical infrastructure security | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU strategy | European construction | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | impact study | information and information processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | management | marketing | POLITICS | politics and public safety | proposal (EU) | provision of services | risk management | single market | TRADE

Summary This briefing finds that the European Commission's impact assessment (IA), which accompanies the directive proposal on the resilience of critical entities, provides a good evidence-based problem definition and a sufficiently broad range of options. The assessment is mostly qualitative, due to difficulties in quantification. The IA could have been more transparent in its description of stakeholder views, and could have provided due references and a link to the feasibility study which has supported the IA. Further explanations to support the preferred option in terms of efficiency would have benefited the analysis.

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

## [Post Covid-19 value chains: options for reshoring production back to Europe in a globalised economy](#)

Publication type Study

Date 19-02-2021

External author Werner Raza, Jan Grumiller, Hannes Grohs, Jürgen Essletzbichler, Nico Pintar

Policy area Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs | Global Governance | Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union | International Trade

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business location | business organisation | coronavirus disease | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU industrial policy | EU production | health | industrial production | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | offshoring | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | security of supply | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | trade | TRADE | value chain

**Summary** Against the background of supply shortages with respect to medical products during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the shift in the international order towards geopolitical rivalry between the US and China, reshoring of production has become a topical issue in the recent EU policy debate. The study discusses economic and political justifications for reshoring with respect to security of supply concerns and the debate on the EU's strategic autonomy. With reshoring pre-COVID-19 having remained an empirical phenomenon of limited significance, potential for reshoring at the sector and GVC level are assessed in light of recent economic changes, the digital transformation and the changing geopolitical environment. Though reinforced in the recent past, the success of reshoring policies of the US, the UK and Japan is found to have been modest. While a more proactive policy approach to mitigate security of supply concerns and to promote strategic autonomy in the EU is important, reshoring should be primarily focused on specific critical sectors and products with pronounced supply bottlenecks.

Study [EN](#)

## [Improving the common level of cybersecurity across the EU](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-02-2021

Author KONONENKO Vadim

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword artificial intelligence | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | computer crime | critical infrastructure security | data protection | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | impact study | information and information processing | information security | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | management | POLITICS | politics and public safety | proposal (EU) | risk management

**Summary** Drawing on the findings of an evaluation of the NIS directive, the IA generally seems to provide a clear and relevant analysis of the shortcomings of the existing NIS Directive and the available policy options for their improvement by a new legal act. It appears that the IA's assumptions are based on a thorough stocktaking exercise involving the consultation of a big number of stakeholders. The IA could however have explained in closer detail practical implications of the proposed initiative. It would have been useful if the IA had provided a fuller impact analysis particularly of potential economic costs and fundamental rights implications, as noted in the RSB opinion. Finally, the range of options assessed is limited to two in addition to the baseline. Given that the final outcome of the assessment is a significant revision of the existing legal framework, one might have expected a more granular formulation of policy options in the IA.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Liability of online platforms](#)

Publication type Study

Date 05-02-2021

External author DG, EPRS This study was written by Andrea Bertolini, Assistant Professor of Private Law of the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (Pisa), and Director of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on the Regulation of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (EURA), Francesca Episcopo and Nicoleta-Angela Cherciu, Research Fellows in Private Law of the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (Pisa), and Junior Fellows of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (EURA), at the request of the Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA) and managed by the Scientific Foresight Unit within the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS) of the Secretariat of the European Parliament.

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Environment

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business model | business organisation | civil law | communications | consumer | consumption | digital literacy | digital single market | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | information and information processing | Internet site | LAW | liability | marketing | provision of services | TRADE | virtual community

**Summary** Given the central role that online platforms (OPs) play in the digital economy, questions arise about their responsibility in relation to illegal/harmful content or products hosted in the frame of their operation. Against this background, this study reviews the main legal/regulatory challenges associated with OP operations and analyses the incentives for OPs, their users and third parties to detect and remove illegal/harmful and dangerous material, content and/or products. To create a functional classification which can be used for regulatory purposes, it discusses the notion of OPs and attempts to categorise them under multiple criteria. The study then maps and critically assesses the whole range of OP liabilities, taking hard and soft law, self-regulation and national legislation into consideration, whenever relevant. Finally, the study puts forward policy options for an efficient EU liability regime: (i) maintaining the status quo; (ii) awareness-raising and media literacy; (iii) promoting self-regulation; (iv) establishing co-regulation mechanisms and tools; (v) adopting statutory legislation; (vi) modifying OPs' secondary liability by employing two different models – (a) by clarifying the conditions for liability exemptions provided by the e-Commerce Directive or (b) by establishing a harmonised regime of liability.

Study [EN](#)

Annex 1 [EN](#)

## [Green and sustainable finance](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-02-2021

Author SPINACI STEFANO

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | climate change policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU environmental policy | EU growth strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial risk | financial stability | financing | financing and investment | free movement of capital | green economy | investment | management | risk management | sustainable development

**Summary** The dramatic consequences of climate change and environmental degradation have brought the need for a more sustainable economy to the top of the agenda. Transforming the EU economy to make it more sustainable requires large investments, especially for enabling a green and low-carbon transition. Given that the public sector alone cannot cover this financial need, solutions have been sought to bring the private sector on board. Green finance involves collecting funds for addressing climate and environmental issues (green financing), on the one hand, and improving the management of financial risk related to climate and the environment (greening finance), on the other. Sustainable finance is an evolution of green finance, as it takes into consideration environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues and risks, with the aim of increasing long-term investments in sustainable economic activities and projects. The European Union is a global leader in the above domain. In its 2018 action plan on financing sustainable growth, the European Commission set out the EU strategy to connect finance with sustainability. The first deliverables have been three key regulations seeking to create a classification system to determine whether an economic activity is environmentally sustainable (the 'taxonomy'); to make disclosures relating to sustainable investments and sustainability risks clearer; and to establish low-carbon benchmarks. The Taxonomy Regulation is particularly important for driving the consistent development of future legislation, as advocated, in particular, by the European Parliament. The Commission will release a renewed sustainable finance strategy in 2021, and a legislative proposal on the green bond standard. The interest in green and sustainable finance is rising very fast among investors worldwide, and several voluntary private initiatives have tried to create some market standards. Policymakers have also been very active in launching numerous regulatory and non-regulatory initiatives at global or local level. To avoid market fragmentation, there is a demand for greater harmonisation among the different measures. There is also a need to increase the standardisation and disclosure of non-financial information published by companies and used to evaluate the risks. Doing so will help to increase data availability, to make data more comparable, and to bring more transparency and clarity to investors. Given that climate change and environmental degradation are global challenges, international cooperation is in the common interest; the European Union is actively promoting this through the International Platform on Sustainable Finance.

[Briefing EN](#)

Multimedia [Green and sustainable finance](#)

## [European critical infrastructure: Revision of Directive 2008/114/EC](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-02-2021

Author ANGLMAYER Irmgard

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword application of the law | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | critical infrastructure security | EC Directive | ENERGY | energy distribution | energy grid | energy policy | European construction | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | management | organisation of transport | POLITICS | politics and public safety | risk management | satellite navigation | sources and branches of the law | trans-European network | TRANSPORT | transport infrastructure | transport policy

**Summary** Council Directive 2008/114/EC is part of the EU framework for critical infrastructure protection. While embracing an all-hazards approach, its scope is limited to the sectors energy and transport. This is widely considered a shortcoming. Calls for broadening its scope and for refocussing the directive on resilience rather than just protection, and interconnectivity of critical infrastructures resulted in a new legislative proposal the Commission presented in December 2020.

[Briefing EN](#)

## [Multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027: The future of EU finances](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 29-01-2021

Author D'ALFONSO Alessandro

Policy area Budget

Keyword budget | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | commitment of expenditure | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial management | financial planning | management | multiannual financial framework | public finance and budget policy

**Summary** As of 1 January 2021, the new multiannual financial framework (MFF) that details the structure of EU finances up to 2027 started to apply, following publication of the MFF Regulation in the Official Journal. In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the lengthy negotiations in the Council and European Council gained momentum when they became intertwined with the debate on the Next Generation EU recovery instrument. The European Parliament, which gave its consent on 16 December 2020, managed to obtain various changes it had strongly advocated, such as additional resources for flagship programmes and increased flexibility.

[Briefing EN](#)



## [Non-financial Reporting Directive](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 28-01-2021

Author HAHNKAMPER-VANDENBULCKE Nora

Policy area Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword access to information | activity report | application of EU law | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business management | business organisation | corporate social responsibility | directive (EU) | documentation | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financing and investment | green economy | information and information processing | investment | large business | management | sustainable development

Summary In line with the European Green Deal, a key element to foster sustainable growth and finance the green transition will be to channel funding in economic activities that contribute to environmental, social and governance-related objectives. Directive 2014/95/EU on the disclosure of non-financial and diversity information (NFRD) has set the EU on a clear course towards greater business transparency and accountability on social and environmental issues. It helps to measure, monitor and manage companies' performance and their impact on society. However, as this briefing shows, the NFRD suffers from several deficiencies such as lack of comparability, reliability and relevance of non-financial information provided. The Commission therefore intends to review the NFRD in the first quarter of 2021.

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

## [Economic dialogue with the President of the Eurogroup](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 22-01-2021

Author ANGERER Jost | GRIGAITE KRISTINA | LARA MIRANDA ISABEL | LEHOFFER WOLFGANG | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | SEGALL REBECCA SARAH FANNY

Policy area Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword action programme | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | documentation | economic conditions | economic governance (EU) | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | EU banking union | Eurogroup (euro area) | European Semester | European Stability Mechanism | FINANCE | financial instrument | free movement of capital | health | management | monetary economics | monetary relations | research report | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Paschal Donohoe has been invited to his first Economic Dialogue in the ECON Committee since his election as President of the Eurogroup in July 2020. The previous dialogue with Mário Centeno took place on 21 April 2020. The exchange of views with Members of the ECON Committee will cover the ongoing work of the Eurogroup, notably short term policy measures intended to combat the economic, financial and social consequences of COVID-19, medium term policies to support a sustainable recovery and increase resilience of the Euro Area and longer term objectives relating to the robustness of the EMU governance framework, including completing the Banking Union. This briefing covers the following issues: the Eurogroup work programme until June 2021 (Section 1); Economic situation and developments (Section 2); the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the 2021 European Semester Cycle (Section 3); EU/EA policy measures taken to mitigate the economic effects of the pandemic (Section 4); Financial assistance programmes and reform of European Stability Mechanism (Section 5) and Banking Union developments (Section 6). For an overview of the role of the President of the Eurogroup, please see Briefing: The role (and accountability) of the President of the Eurogroup.

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

## [Banking Union: Postponed Basel III reforms](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 22-01-2021

Author GRIGAITE KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | SEGALL REBECCA SARAH FANNY

Policy area Coronavirus | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword banking supervision | banking system | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | coronavirus disease | epidemic | EU banking union | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial risk | financial solvency | financial stability | free movement of capital | health | LAW | management | monetary economics | risk management | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This briefing summarises the Basel Committee's decision to postpone the implementation of the outstanding Basel III standards, their main content, and their estimated impact on banks' capital needs.

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

## [European works councils \(EWCs\)](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 14-01-2021

Author MULLER KLAUS

Policy area [European Added Value](#)

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [business organisation](#) | [collective bargaining](#) | [EC Directive](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [European Works Council](#) | [group of companies](#) | [impact study](#) | [labour law and labour relations](#) | [trade union](#) | [trade union rights](#) | [worker consultation](#) | [worker information](#)

Summary European works councils (EWCs) represent over 17 million employees and are the first European representation of workers at company level. They facilitate the information, consultation and participation of employees with a focus on transnational issues. In times of crisis, including the COVID 19 crisis, relatively few workers lost their job in EU Member States with well-developed industrial relations systems where workers and their representatives have relatively strong rights.

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

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - January 2021](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 13-01-2021

Policy area [Budget](#) | [Budgetary Control](#) | [Coronavirus](#) | [Economics and Monetary Issues](#) | [Environment](#) | [Foreign Affairs](#) | [Gender Issues](#), [Equality and Diversity](#) | [Regional Development](#) | [Research Policy](#)

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [climate change policy](#) | [competition](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [economic and social cohesion](#) | [economic policy](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [epidemic](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [Framework Programme for Research and Development](#) | [free competition](#) | [health](#) | [position of women](#) | [PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH](#) | [regional disparity](#) | [regions and regional policy](#) | [research and intellectual property](#) | [social affairs](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [space policy](#) | [State aid](#)

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](#)

## [Review of the bank crisis management and deposit insurance frameworks Banking Union Working Group](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 11-01-2021

Author GRIGAITÉ KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | SEGALL REBECCA SARAH FANNY

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

Keyword [aid to undertakings](#) | [bank deposit](#) | [banking supervision](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [business organisation](#) | [civil law](#) | [company in difficulties](#) | [cooperation policy](#) | [crisis management](#) | [economic policy](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EU banking union](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financial aid](#) | [financial institutions and credit](#) | [financial solvency](#) | [financial stability](#) | [free movement of capital](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [LAW](#) | [management](#) | [monetary economics](#) | [State aid](#)

Summary This briefing summarises key elements of the intended initiative, based on the information that the Commission provided on 10 November 2020 in its related public consultation and additional public sources. The briefing also briefly focuses on other related issues, namely, misalignments between state-aid and resolution and some European Court of Justice decisions with impact on the crisis management framework, and a box focusing on relevant aspects of the Commission's recently released NPL Action Plan (an Annex lists most recent EGOV briefings and external papers relevant for these matters). The briefing has been prepared in view of a discussion of the Banking Union Working Group of the European Parliament on the Commission's revision of the bank crisis management framework.

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

## [EU trade policy review](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 22-12-2020

Author BINDER Krisztina

Policy area [International Trade](#)

Keyword [agricultural policy](#) | [AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [business organisation](#) | [common commercial policy](#) | [common organisation of markets](#) | [competitiveness](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [economic conditions](#) | [economic policy](#) | [economic recession](#) | [economic recovery](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [epidemic](#) | [EU growth strategy](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [health](#) | [international trade](#) | [international trade](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [sustainable development](#) | [TRADE](#) | [trade policy](#)

Summary In June 2020, the European Commission launched an EU trade policy review that will lead to a revised strategy to be adopted early in 2021. The aim is to set a new course for trade policy in a changing global context, aligned with EU priorities and supporting recovery from the coronavirus crisis. Parliament has contributed to the process with a resolution on 26 November 2020, and will continue monitoring implementation of the new policy in 2021.

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

## [Impact of state aid on competition and competitiveness during the COVID-19 pandemic: an early assessment](#)

Publication type Study

Date 17-12-2020

External author Jan VAN HOVE

Policy area Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competition | competitiveness | control of State aid | coronavirus disease | economic analysis | economic consequence | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU competition policy | EU Member State | GEOGRAPHY | health | impact study | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | State aid

Summary This economic assessment of EU state aid principles and practises related to the COVID-19 pandemic confirms the clear focus on maintaining the level playing field in the EU single market. Future monitoring and policy fine-tuning, focusing on SMEs, and keeping all Member States involved are the main challenges. Moreover, current policies fail to incorporate a strong focus on broader, strategic policy goals like the green and digital transformation of the European economy or the enhancing of EU firms' global competitiveness. This document was prepared by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON).

Study [EN](#)

## [Amending Budget No 10/2020: Increase in payment appropriations and other adjustments to expenditure and revenue](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-12-2020

Author DOBREVA Alina

Policy area Budget

Keyword accounting | budget | budgetary amendment | budgetary resources | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | drawing up of the EU budget | EU budget | EU expenditure | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial year | financing of the EU budget | revenue

Summary The European Commission has proposed to amend the 2020 budget, increasing the level of payment appropriations related to the 'global transfer' exercise, adjusting the revenue side, and budgeting expenditure adjustments related to the European Agriculture Guarantee Fund and some decentralised agencies. The overall proposed impact of Draft Amending Budget No 10/2020 (DAB 10/2020) is an increase in payment appropriations of €1 569.3 million. The European Parliament is set to vote on the Council's position on DAB 10/2020 during the December plenary session.

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

## [REACT-EU recovery assistance](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-12-2020

Author WIDUTO Agnieszka

Policy area Coronavirus | Regional Development

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | economic and social cohesion | economic conditions | economic policy | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU aid | EU finance | EU investment | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | fund (EU) | health | management | regional aid | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary In light of the coronavirus pandemic, the European Commission proposed the REACT-EU package for the regions most hit by the crisis. It will mobilise additional resources of €47.5 billion and offer flexibility for Member States to address the coronavirus-related challenges using EU funds. It also complements two previous Coronavirus Response Investment Initiatives delivered through cohesion policy. The European Parliament is expected to vote during its December plenary session to adopt its first-reading position on the proposed regulation, confirming the compromise political agreement reached with the Council in November.

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

## [Study presentation proceedings: The Impact of Unfair Commercial Practices on Competition in the EU Passenger Transport Sector, in particular Air Transport](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 09-12-2020

Author PARENTI RADOSTINA | TUINSMA TIJMEN FERDINAND

Policy area Competition law and regulation | Consumer Protection | Economics and Monetary Issues | Transport

Keyword air and space transport | air transport | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | consumer protection | consumption | coronavirus disease | economic policy | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU competition policy | health | marketing | passenger rights | restriction on competition | selling at a loss | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | State aid | TRADE | TRANSPORT | transport policy

Summary The study presented in the event aims at identifying and analysing the unfair commercial and trading practices in passenger air transport that not only are detrimental to consumers, but which can also distort competition in the Single Market. Moreover, the discussion during the event also covered competition and consumer protection aspects that arise in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.  
These proceedings of the study presentation were prepared by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request the committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON).

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Update on recent banking developments](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-12-2020

Author GRIGAITÉ KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | SEGALL REBECCA SARAH FANNY

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

Keyword bank | banking supervision | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | civil law | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | Eurogroup (euro area) | European Banking Authority | European Central Bank | European Commission | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial solvency | financial stability | free movement of capital | LAW | merger | monetary economics | monetary relations | monitoring report | summarising

Summary This briefing gives an update on and summarises recent events and developments in the Banking Union, based on publicly available information. It gives an overview of: 1) the Eurogroup agreement on the backstop to the Single Resolution Fund; 2) the 7th monitoring report on risk reduction indicators; 3) recent European Central Bank publications, namely the Financial Stability Review and guidance on climate- related and environmental risks; 4) recent Single Resolution Board publications, specifically its 2021 Work Programme and guidance on bank mergers and acquisitions; and 5) the EBA's benchmarking exercise of national insolvency regimes.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Regulating digital gatekeepers: Background on the future digital markets act](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-12-2020

Author MADIEGA Tambiama André

Policy area Competition law and regulation | Consumer Protection | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword anti-trust legislation | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | communications | competition | control of restrictive practices | digital economy | digital single market | distributive trades | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic commerce | EU competition policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | Internet | marketing | provision of services | restriction on competition | TRADE | trade intermediary

Summary The EU has unveiled an ambitious plan to regulate online platforms, and the European Commission is proposing to introduce ex ante regulation to ensure that markets characterised by large platforms acting as digital gatekeepers remain fair and competitive for innovators, businesses, and new market entrants. The introduction of an ex ante regulatory framework that could limit online platforms' commercial freedom and give wide-ranging enforcement powers to regulators would be a far-reaching step. Against this background, this briefing explains the rationale for regulating digital gatekeepers in the EU and provides an overview of the key policy questions currently under discussion. Recent reports and studies have shown how a few large platforms have the ability to apply a range of practices that raise significant competition issues. The limitation of competition law – essentially applied ex-post after the anti-competitive practices have been implemented – has sparked a debate on whether EU competition rules are still fit for purpose and whether such platforms should not instead be regulated ex ante so as to provide upfront clarity about what behaviour towards users and competitors is acceptable. In this respect, the policy discussion focuses on a number of issues, in particular, how to identify online gatekeepers that should be subject to ex ante regulation, what conduct should be outlawed for those gatekeepers, what obligations should be placed on them (such as data portability and interoperability), and how such innovative regulations should be enforced. Finally, the briefing highlights the initial views of a number of stakeholders.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Regulating digital gatekeepers: Background on the future digital markets act](#)

## [State of play of EU-Australia FTA talks](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 02-12-2020

Author BINDER Krisztina

Policy area International Trade

Keyword Asia and Oceania | Australia | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | economic geography | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | free-trade agreement | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international negotiations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international trade | international trade | market access | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | political geography | small and medium-sized enterprises | tariff negotiations | tariff policy | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | trade policy

Summary In May 2018, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate a free trade agreement (FTA) with Australia. Negotiations were officially launched in June 2018. Between July 2018 and September 2020, eight negotiation rounds took place. The first chapter of the prospective EU-Australia FTA, concluded at the technical level, is on small and medium-sized enterprises. The ninth negotiation round started on 30 November 2020.

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

## [Banking Union: ESMA report on Wirecard](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-12-2020

Author GRIGAITÉ KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | SEGALL REBECCA SARAH FANNY

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | capital market | criminal law | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | European Securities and Markets Authority | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial audit | financial institution | financial institutions and credit | financial services | financial supervision | fraud | free movement of capital | LAW | monetary economics | payment system | report

Summary This briefing provides a summary of ESMA's Fast-Track Peer-Review (FTPR), published on 3 November 2020. ESMA carried out an assessment of the effectiveness of the supervisory response in the financial reporting area by BaFin and FREP in the context of Wirecard AG fraud case.

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

## [European Commission work programme 2021](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 25-11-2020

Author HAHNKAMPER-VANDENBULCKE Nora | VETTORAZZI STEFANO

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

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

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

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

## [No way back: Why the transatlantic future needs a stronger EU](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 25-11-2020

External author Louise VAN SCHAIK, Ties DAMS

Policy area Coronavirus | Environment | Foreign Affairs | International Trade | Security and Defence

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | China | climate change policy | competition | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU relations | EU-NATO cooperation | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international trade | international trade | NATO | political geography | restriction on competition | TRADE | trade relations | transatlantic relations | United States | world organisations

**Summary** There is no way back for transatlantic politics; in recent years it has suffered severe setbacks that cannot be undone. Although the Biden win promises opportunities for EU-US cooperation, the EU's drive for strategic autonomy will not stop here. It is high time to look afresh at the very foundations of the transatlantic partnership, in light of not only the politics of today, but also the structural trends in the global balance of power and the lasting institutional ties between the two continents. Above all, the transatlantic future needs a stronger EU. For this to happen, the following issues should be given priority: i) dealing with an increasingly assertive China; ii) gaining more from transatlantic trade relations; iii) safeguarding the benefits of NATO and multilateral institutions like the WTO; iv) battling disinformation and other hybrid threats; and v) reinvigorating cooperation over climate change and global health. Because understanding of and trust in US intelligence and foreign policy positions has been eroded, a 'thickening' of transatlantic dialogue structures, including among elected representatives, should be pursued. This could include staff exchanges, track-two dialogues with think tanks and civil society, and an increased frequency of the Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue, possibly supplemented with more subordinate bodies on specific issues, such as dealing with China.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

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

Publication type At a Glance

Date 19-11-2020

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Budget

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

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

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [Key Macroeconomic Indicators in the Euro Area and the United States](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 18-11-2020

Author GRIGAITE KRISTINA | MARCHIONNI MATTIA | VEGA BORDELL Javier María

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword accounting | America | budget | budget deficit | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic geography | economic indicator | ECONOMICS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | euro area | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | gross domestic product | inflation | macroeconomics | monetary relations | national accounts | organisation of work and working conditions | political geography | public debt | public finance and budget policy | unemployment | United States | wage cost | work productivity

**Summary** Latest forecast by EC, IMF and OECD.

At a Glance [EN](#)



## [Public hearing with Christine Lagarde, Chair of the European Systemic Risk Board](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-11-2020

Author GRIGAITA KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | SEGALL REBECCA SARAH FANNY

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword activity report | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | documentation | economic analysis | economic consequence | economic geography | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | EU Member State | European Systemic Risk Board | FINANCE | financial risk | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | health | management | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | public hearing | risk management | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** This note is prepared in view of a public hearing with the Chair of the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB), Christine Lagarde, which will take place in ECON on 19 November 2020. This will be the second hearing with Ms Lagarde in her capacity as a Chair of the ESRB. The aim of the meeting is to discuss recent developments in the macroprudential policy field and the impact of the corona crisis. The briefing provides a (i) summary of the ESRB Annual Report, (ii) addresses the ESRB and national macroprudential authorities' response to the COVID pandemic outbreak, (iii) including recent ESRB Recommendations to the European Commission and national authorities; (iv) latest ESRB systemic risk assessment and (v) other macroprudential policy concerns.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Important projects of common European interest: Boosting EU strategic value chains](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-11-2020

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Industry

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | economic conditions | economic growth | economic policy | ECONOMICS | eligibility criteria | EU finance | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | project of common interest | research and development | research and intellectual property | self-sufficiency rate | State aid | technological change | technology and technical regulations | trade | TRADE | trans-European network | value chain

**Summary** Article 107(3)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides for the possibility of approving state aid for 'important projects of common European interest' (IPCEIs). These provisions have been used very rarely until recently. A specific framework enabling the creation of IPCEIs, originally only in the areas of research, development and innovation, and environmental protection has been in place for 15 years, yet only four such projects have been notified to and assessed by the Commission so far. The first two – in the area of infrastructure – were partially annulled by the Court of Justice, and the Commission opened in-depth investigations to examine their compatibility with State aid. One of those concluded that the aid was legal, the other is ongoing. The next two were launched successfully in the areas of strategic value chains for microelectronics and batteries. After this rather modest start, there seems to be strong momentum to create more IPCEIs, including in the context of the debate on how to foster the emergence of 'European champions'. The marked political shift towards greater technological sovereignty and strategic autonomy within the EU has been given further impetus with the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, which disrupted global value chains and highlighted the case for a more self-sufficient EU model. IPCEIs may be useful tools for creating complex new value chains that have the potential to ensure the EU's long-term competitiveness and economic growth. A growing number of governments, experts and organisations have been calling for the simplification of current rules to make IPCEIs more frequently and widely used. The European Parliament would also like to see the requirements for the IPCEIs streamlined to allow smaller industrial research projects also to acquire IPCEI status. In its 2021 work programme, the European Commission announced the revision of the current IPCEI framework planned for the fourth quarter of the year.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Important projects of common European interest: Boosting EU strategic value chains](#)

## [Coronavirus: Europe confronts the second wave \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-11-2020

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Coronavirus

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | disease prevention | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | epidemic | health | management | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** As the United States has been choosing its President, an explosion of cases in a second wave of the coronavirus pandemic has forced many governments in Europe to reintroduce strict confinement measures, including new lockdowns, curfews, bans on meetings and the closure of many businesses, notably in the hospitality and tourism sectors. The moves are meant to act as a firebreak on the exponential growth in Covid-19 infections and prevent health sectors in many countries from becoming overloaded. Whatever happens next, economies will contract this year in the great majority of countries around the world, even if in varying degrees, with significant social and political implications. This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on pandemic related issues. Earlier think tank studies on the issue can be found in the 'What Think Tanks are Thinking' of 23 October.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Thematic Digest on the Wirecard case](#)

Publication type **Briefing**

Date **06-11-2020**

Author **GRIGAITA KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | SEGALL REBECCA SARAH FANNY**

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

Keyword **banking supervision | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | civil law | company in difficulties | economic geography | Europe | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial services | financial solvency | financial supervision | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | Germany | LAW | marketing | political geography | provision of services | TRADE**

Summary **This document presents the summaries of three external papers commissioned by EGOV upon request of the Economic and Monetary Committee (ECON). ECON has requested external experts to provide expertise on the wider supervisory implications of the Wirecard case. The summaries were drafted by EGOV in own responsibility.**

**Briefing** [EN](#)

## [Corporate social responsibility \(CSR\) and its implementation into EU Company law](#)

Publication type **Study**

Date **05-11-2020**

External author **Kletia Noti ; Prof. Federico Maria Mucciarelli; Dr Virginia dalla Pozza; Carlo Angelici Mattia PILLININI.**

Policy area **Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Human Rights | International Trade**

Keyword **BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | company law | corporate social responsibility | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | International Labour Organisation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | labour law and labour relations | labour standard | LAW | national implementing measure | OECD | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research report | rights and freedoms | supply chain | United Nations | world organisations**

Summary **Building on both European Union (EU) law and chosen Member States' legislation, this study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the JURI Committee aims at understanding to what extent Member States are supporting the development and the implementation of CSR strategies in the business community, with particular focus on due diligence requirements. It also attempts at providing some recommendations aimed at possibility developing a comprehensive and structured approach to CSR for the whole of the EU.**

**Study** [EN](#)

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

## [What are the wider supervisory implications of the Wirecard case?](#)

Publication type **Study**

Date **05-11-2020**

External author **Katja LANGENBUCHER, Christian LEUZ, Jan Pieter KRAHNEN, Loriana PELIZZON**

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

Keyword **accounting | budget | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | credit transfer | criminal law | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial audit | financial control | financial stability | financial supervision | financial technology | financing and investment | fraud | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | Germany | investment protection | LAW | monetary economics | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research report | technology and technical regulations**

Summary **The paper discusses the policy implications of the Wirecard scandal. The study finds that all lines of defense against corporate fraud, including internal control systems, external audits, the oversight bodies for financial reporting and auditing and the market supervisor, contributed to the scandal and are in need of reform. To ensure market integrity and investor protection in the future, the authors make eight suggestions for the market and institutional oversight architecture in Germany and in Europe.**

**Study** [EN](#)

## [The coronavirus pandemic in Latin America](#)

Publication type **At a Glance**

Date **30-10-2020**

Author **GOMEZ RAMIREZ Enrique**

Policy area **Coronavirus | Foreign Affairs**

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

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

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

## What are the wider supervisory implications of the Wirecard case?

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 29-10-2020

External author Beatriz GARCÍA OSMA, Ana GISBERT, Begoña NAVALLAS

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword access to a profession | accountant | accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | credit transfer | criminal law | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial audit | financial occupation | financial supervision | financial technology | financing and investment | fraud | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | Germany | investment protection | LAW | monetary economics | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research report | technology and technical regulations

Summary While multiple causes underpin accounting scandals such as Wirecard, they often point at deficiencies in the audit profession and its oversight. Currently, the system of national public audit oversight boards (POBSAs) is fragmented and overly complex, characterized by limited responsiveness to red flags, and apparent lack of communication among the POBSAs, and with other supervisors. This suggests supervisory coordination and clear action triggers are imperative. Importantly, pervasively low transparency limits the usefulness of this briefing and hinders evidence-based policy making.

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

## Improving the quality of public spending in Europe - Budgetary 'waste rates' in EU Member States

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 27-10-2020

Author SAULNIER JEROME LEON

Policy area Budget | Economics and Monetary Issues | Environment | European Added Value | Public Health | Security and Defence | Social Policy

Keyword accounting | added value | budget | budgetary expenditure | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cost-benefit analysis | documentation | economic geography | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU Member State | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | national accounts | national budget | national expenditure | public finance and budget policy | research report

Summary This EPRS study looks at whether, and under what conditions, greater effectiveness could be achieved in overall public spending at all levels of the European Union through greater pooling of resources at European level. It suggests that added value can be realised in public spending, through efficiency gains and lower administrative costs, delivered by and through the EU budget, usually with corresponding savings to national budgets. The study provides a methodology for assessing the 'waste rate' in overlapping national spending and analyses four policy areas, with the potential to realise gains of around €180 billion.

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

## International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS): IFRS 17 - Insurance Contracts

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 27-10-2020

Author KOLASSA Doris | MIKULKA MARTIN

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | documentation | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial accounting | financial instrument | free movement of capital | insurance | insurance contract | national accounts | parliamentary debate | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | standardised accounting system | summarising

Summary This briefing, prepared for a scrutiny session of the ECON Committee, provides background on the International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 17 Insurance Contracts which will have a major impact on the accounting of insurance companies. IFRS 17 was issued by the IASB in 2017; the Parliament adopted a resolution on 3 October 2018. As some remaining issues were raised at EU level, the IASB has issued amendments to IFRS 17 on 25 June 2020. The next step for endorsement was the EFRAG's consultation on its draft endorsement advice of 30 September 2020 (closing on 29 January 2021). The scrutiny session feeds ECON's views into this process.

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

## Coronavirus: The second wave [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-10-2020

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Coronavirus | Public Health

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | disease prevention | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | epidemic | health | management | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** A resurgence in the number of coronavirus infections since the summer has evidently turned into a second wave of the pandemic, which has now hit many European Union countries. The pandemic is putting renewed pressure on European health systems, and authorities are introducing stringent but targeted preventive measures in a bid to cushion the negative economic impacts while preserving people's health and ensuring hospitals are not once again overwhelmed. An increasing number of EU countries are clamping down on travel and imposing strict social distancing measures, such as night-time curfews in major cities and limits on social contacts, although most schools and businesses remain open throughout Europe. The International Monetary Fund said in its October World Economic Outlook (WEO) that global growth in 2020 is projected at -4.4 per cent owing to the pandemic, a less severe contraction than forecast in the June 2020 WEO. The revision reflects better than anticipated second quarter GDP outturns – mostly in advanced economies, where activity bounced back sooner than expected following the scaling back of national lockdowns in May and June – as well as indications of a stronger recovery in the third quarter. This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on pandemic related issues. Earlier think tank studies on the issue can be found in the 'What Think Tanks are Thinking' of 25 September.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Towards a mandatory EU system of due diligence for supply chains

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-10-2020

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | green economy | human rights | LAW | multinational enterprise | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | rights and freedoms | supply chain | sustainable development

**Summary** The growth of international supply chains has undoubtedly brought enormous benefits to developing countries, but at the same time it has had certain negative impacts, relating for instance to violations of human and labour rights, including forced labour and child labour, environmental damage, land grabbing, and corruption. Multinational companies have gained unprecedented power, creating asymmetries in relation to weak regulation and enforcement in developing countries. For several decades, multinational companies have been encouraged to take responsibility for their supply chains on a voluntary basis. Whereas in some sectors, where violations have been most egregious, particularly in the extractive industries or in timber extraction, mandatory frameworks have already been adopted at EU level, for others it was hoped that the voluntary approach, guided by several international frameworks, would suffice. The evidence available, however, from academic research, civil society organisations, implementation of the EU Non-financial Reporting Directive, and studies commissioned by the EU institutions, has made it clear that the voluntary approach is not enough. Against this background, many voices consider that the EU should adopt mandatory due diligence legislation. Human rights and the environment stand out as two areas where such legislation would be both most needed and most effective. Beyond its expected intrinsic positive impact, such legislation would have important advantages, such as creating a level playing field among all companies operating on the EU market, bringing legal clarity, and establishing effective enforcement and sanction mechanisms, while possibly improving access to remedy for those affected, by establishing civil and legal liability for companies. The European Commission has undertaken some preliminary steps, including publishing a study and conducting public consultations, towards a possible legislative initiative on mandatory due diligence. Its 2021 work programme includes a proposal for a directive on sustainable corporate governance that would also cover human rights and environmental due diligence.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Corporate due diligence and corporate accountability

Publication type Study

Date 20-10-2020

Author NAVARRA Cecilia

Policy area European Added Value

Keyword accounting | added value | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | company law | corporate social responsibility | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | European construction | European undertaking | EUROPEAN UNION | fundamental rights | human rights | LAW | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research report | rights and freedoms | single market | social framework | social impact | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | supply chain

**Summary** This study analyses the potential European Added Value of a measure requiring companies to carry out due diligence on social, environmental and governance risks in their own operations and supply chain. There is evidence of human rights violations and environmental negative impacts related to business activities. This measure could increase firm compliance to international principles of responsible business conduct, increase access to remedy for victims, improve legal certainty and create a level playing field for businesses. This study reviews possible sources of costs and benefits for companies and, based on original analysis, suggests that stronger environmental and social accountability practices could contribute to improving EU firms' performance. From a qualitative analysis, it suggests a potential significant impact in addressing risks of environmental damages and human rights violations in global value chains, thus supporting EU commitment to human rights and environmental protection.

Study [EN](#)

## [Barriers to Competition through Joint Ownership by Institutional Investors](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-10-2020

External author S. FRAZZANI, K. NOTI, M. P. SCHINKEL, J. SELDESLACHTS, A. BANAL ESTANOL, N. BOOT, C. ANGELICI

Policy area Competition law and regulation | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank | banking supervision | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | capital market | competition | competition policy | corporate governance | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European undertaking | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial market | free movement of capital | research report | shareholder | shareholding

Summary In recent years, the phenomenon of common ownership by institutional investors has sparked considerable debate about its impact on competition and companies' corporate governance. The original full study analyses some specific features of common ownership by institutional investors in the European banking sector, at the intersection between competition policy, financial sector regulation and corporate governance rules. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON).

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

## [Discharge for 2018 budget: Second reports for the European Council and Council, and the Economic and Social Committee](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 14-10-2020

Author PARI MARIANNA

Policy area Budgetary Control

Keyword accounting | activity report | budget | budget policy | budgetary control | budgetary discharge | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | consolidated account | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU budget | EU finance | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | public finance and budget policy

Summary In May 2020, the European Parliament decided to postpone the decision on granting discharge to the European Council and Council, and to the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) for the 2018 budget, and presented a number of observations. Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control has examined the situation again, and, in its second reports, recommends not granting discharge to these institutions. The votes on the second discharge reports are scheduled for the October II plenary session.

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

## [Digital Services Act](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 14-10-2020

Author MADIEGA Tambiama André

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Consumer Protection | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Internal Market and Customs Union | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | communications | digital single market | digital technology | EC Directive | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic commerce | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | impact of information technology | information technology and data processing | information technology industry | marketing | multinational enterprise | national implementing measure | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public consultation | search engine | social media | technological change | technology and technical regulations | TRADE

Summary Parliament is due to vote during the October II plenary session on three reports from the Committees on Internal Market and Consumer Protection, Legal Affairs, and Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs setting out the Parliament's initial position on the revision of the EU framework for online services ahead of the Commission's expected proposal of a Digital Services Act package.

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

## Towards a more resilient Europe post-coronavirus: Capabilities and gaps in the EU's capacity to address structural risks

Publication type Study

Date 09-10-2020

Policy area Coronavirus | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | China | coronavirus disease | crisis management | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | European construction | European Union | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | GEOGRAPHY | health | management | policymaking | POLITICS | research report | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** The current coronavirus crisis emphasises the need for the European Union to devote more effort to anticipatory governance, notably through analysis of medium- and long-term global trends, as well as structured contingency planning and the stress-testing of existing and future policies. In order to contribute to reflection on and discussion about the implications of the coronavirus pandemic for EU policy-making, this paper builds on an initial 'mapping' of some 66 potential structural risks which could confront Europe over the coming decade. Taking 33 risks which are assessed as being more significant or likely, it looks first at the capabilities which the EU and its Member States already have to address those risks, and then looks at the various gaps in policy and instruments at the Union's disposal, suggesting possible approaches to overcome them in the short and medium terms.

Study [EN](#)

## New life for an old framework: redesigning the European Union's expenditure and golden fiscal rules

Publication type Study

Date 07-10-2020

External author Zsolt Darvas, Julia Anderson - Bruegel

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic governance (EU) | expenditure | FINANCE | financing and investment | fiscal policy | monetary economics | public debt | public finance and budget policy | public investment | taxation

**Summary** In the context of the review of the EU economic governance framework, this study recommends a multi-year ahead expenditure rule anchored in an appropriate public debt target, augmented with an asymmetric golden rule that provides extra fiscal space only in times of a recession. An improved governance framework should strengthen national fiscal councils and include a European fiscal council, while financial sanctions should be replaced with instruments related to surveillance, positive incentives, market discipline and increased political cost of non-compliance.

Study [EN](#)

## Solvency Support Instrument

Publication type Briefing

Date 06-10-2020

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Budget | Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | civil law | company in difficulties | coronavirus disease | economic conditions | economic policy | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU aid | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | financial solvency | health | LAW | proposal (EU) | regulation (EU) | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** In May 2020, the European Commission adopted a proposal on a Solvency Support Instrument. The aim is to support otherwise viable companies in the Union that face solvency difficulties as a result of the coronavirus crisis, and to mitigate possible distortions to the single market and its level playing field. Such distortions are to be expected given the differing degree to which the Member States are affected and the likely unevenness of their responses, which may depend on their fiscal capacity and level of debt. The Commission proposes to increase the guarantee provided to the European Investment Bank under the European Fund for Strategic Investments and to use it to support financial intermediaries, which will then select companies eligible for solvency help. At the European Council meeting in July 2020, EU Heads of State or Government did not take up the idea of the solvency support instrument. Both the European Parliament and Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, have expressed regret at this. Continuing the examination of the proposal in Parliament, the co-rapporteurs have published a draft report in which they propose to widen the scope of eligible companies and ensure fair geographical distribution.

Briefing [EN](#)



## Digital Services Act

Publication type Study

Date 01-10-2020

Author EVAS Tatjana | LOMBA NIOMBO

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

Keyword accounting | added value | application of the law | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | civil law | competition | consumer protection | consumption | digital content | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic commerce | executive power and public service | LAW | marketing | policy analysis | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | qualitative analysis | research and intellectual property | research report | restriction on competition | sources and branches of the law | technology and technical regulations | TRADE

Summary E-commerce is an essential part of the economy and of consumers shopping habits. It can support EU citizens in accessing services more easily and businesses reaching customers more targeted. The E-commerce Directive has been an important column of digital services. Still, there is need for amending the current regulation. This EAVA accompanies two European Parliament's own-initiative legislative reports by JURI and IMCO asking the Commission for legislative actions to implement a digital services act. The analysis identifies 22 main gaps and risks, which we clustered into four policy packages on consumer protection, content management and curation, facilitation of competition in online platforms ecosystems, and enhancement of enforcement and legal coherence. The analysis suggests that EU common action on consumer protection and e-commerce rules, as well as on a framework for content management and curation could add up €76 billion to the EU GDP between 2020-2030.

Study [EN](#)

## Batteries Directive

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-10-2020

Author KARAMFILOVA Ekaterina

Policy area Environment | Industry

Keyword application of EU law | approximation of laws | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | EC Directive | electricity storage device | electronics and electrical engineering | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | INDUSTRY | marketing restriction | quality of the environment

Summary The EU should create a competitive and sustainable battery manufacturing industry. The EU needs, therefore, a regulatory framework fit for purpose. However, this briefing shows that the design and implementation of the Batteries Directive, which is the main legal act regulating batteries and accumulators at EU level, suffer from deficiencies that makes it impossible for this piece of EU law to adequately respond to new policy challenges. Some of the most pertinent shortcomings of the directive relate to its incapacity to incorporate technical innovation, problems with certain definitions, the performance of Member States as regards the collection of waste batteries, as well as the insufficient recovery of materials from used batteries. Therefore, the Commission has scheduled a revision of the legal framework.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Further development of capital markets union

Publication type At a Glance

Date 30-09-2020

Author DELIVORIAS Angelos

Policy area Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword administrative formalities | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | capital markets union | data protection | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Securities and Markets Authority | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial technology | financing and investment | free movement of capital | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | investment protection | LAW | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | protection of privacy | rights and freedoms | small and medium-sized enterprises | stock exchange | technology and technical regulations | venture capital

Summary Actions taken to create a capital markets union (CMU) should have as their objective improving the range of financing options offered to companies and citizens. The European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs has adopted an own-initiative report on further development of the CMU, expected to be voted during the October 1 plenary session. It calls for specific measures to help finance businesses, promote long-term and cross-border investment, strengthen market architecture and support retail investors, as well as the adoption of a framework for digital finance.

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

## [Gender balance on company boards](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 30-09-2020

Author PRPIC Martina

Policy area Employment | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword board of management | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business management | business organisation | directive (EU) | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | equal treatment | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | female work | female worker | gender equality | labour market | LAW | management | participation of women | position of women | proposal (EU) | rights and freedoms | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** In 2012, the European Commission proposed a directive to improve gender balance on company boards. It required that the under-represented sex make up 40 % of board members of companies listed on stock exchanges. Although the European Parliament supported the proposal in 2013, the directive has still not been adopted due to reservations from several Member States in the Council. Parliament is expected to hold a debate on the state of play of the proposed directive during its first October plenary session.

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

## [Open Plan Offices - The new ways of working. The advantages and disadvantages of open office space](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-09-2020

External author Alexandra Pouwels

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | Court of Justice of the European Union | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | European Court of Auditors | EUROPEAN UNION | organisation of work and working conditions | productivity | summarising | working environment | workplace

**Summary** KEY FINDINGS

Open office spaces are introduced for the following reason:

- Saving costs on real estate. Real estate expenses are the second largest costs for a company. By creating more workplaces in the same amount of square meters costs can be reduced on buildings and maintenance.
- Increase communication. If people are in closer proximity from one another and move around freely communication will increase.
- Improve team work. As teams are now sharing the same space knowledge sharing will increase both within the same team and across different teams.

The following arguments oppose the introduction of open office spaces:

- Loss of productivity. Employees are distracted faster because of noise or colleagues moving around. It takes on average 25 minutes to resume a task after distraction. In an open office space employees are distracted faster because of phone calls, people walking by or nearby conversations.
- Problems with noise, temperature and fatigue. As said before, noise is one of the main distractions in an open office space. Temperature is managed centrally and it could therefore be too cold of one person and too warm for another. Fatigue is a side effect from noise and temperature and the fact that people have a constant overload of information with the introduction of multiple screens like phone, tablets and computer.
- Increase of sickness. As employees are in closer proximity of one another diseases can spread faster. The spread of diseases raise the amount of sick days taken in a company.
- Decrease of overall well-being of employees. The main cause for the diminishing of well-being is the level of stress. The idea of being watched all the time increases the levels of stress in an open office space.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Single market information tool \(SMIT\)](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-09-2020

Author KARAKAS Cemal

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword administrative cooperation | application of EU law | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | communications | cross-frontier data flow | data collection | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU competence | EU initiative | EU Member State | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | executive power and public service | GEOGRAPHY | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | marketing | ordinary legislative procedure | POLITICS | proposal (EU) | single market | TRADE | trade information | type of business

**Summary** Competition and consumer protection in the single market are often undermined by price discrimination based on residency. While many market players do not cooperate with the Commission, for instance not disclosing their pricing structure, Member States often do not have the means or the tools to collect and deliver the required information to the Commission. The SMIT proposal would provide the Commission with powers such as to request business-related information (e.g. cost structure or product volumes sold), and to address market failures in a more efficient way. The SMIT, however, has raised some criticism in the Council and EP, inter alia, because of the Commission's choice of the legal basis for the proposal. Parliament's Legal Service stated in an opinion that the correct legal basis for the Commission proposal is Article 337 TFEU: a legal basis which gives no legislative role for the EP. On 12 July 2018, the IMCO committee adopted a report which would amend the proposal's legal basis. The JURI committee subsequently adopted an opinion stating that the Commission proposal goes beyond the powers available under the proposed revised legal basis. The report was initially due to be voted in plenary in October 2018, but was taken off the agenda. As the parliamentary term has concluded, the report has now lapsed. The European Commission withdrew this legislative proposal on 29 September 2020. The procedure has thus ended.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Understanding the financing of intergovernmental organisations: A snapshot of the budgets of the UN, NATO and WTO

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-09-2020

Author SAPALA Magdalena

Policy area Budget

Keyword budget | budget financing | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU Member State | FINANCE | financial management | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international organisation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | NATO | summarising | United Nations | UNO | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary Access to stable and adequate financial resources is a crucial condition for the realisation of the global goals of intergovernmental organisations (IGOs). In recent decades, alongside global political changes and the evolution in the role of multilateral cooperation, the resourcing and budgetary management of IGOs have also changed. Moreover, funding available to IGOs has become ever more diversified and complex both in terms of its origin and type. This briefing presents selected aspects of the financing of three of the world's largest IGOs: the United Nations (UN), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). It presents the size and evolution of their budgets as well as the main contributing countries to these budgets, with a particular focus on the EU Member States. The analysis is based mainly on budgetary data for the financial year 2018.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Understanding the financing of intergovernmental organisations: A snapshot of the budgets of the UN, NATO and WTO](#)

## European Union involvement in the United Nations system: Broad partnership based on shared commitment to multilateralism

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 22-09-2020

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Human Rights

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | crisis management | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | geopolitics | humanities | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | multilateral relations | research report | SCIENCE | the EU's international role | UN specialised agency | United Nations | UNO | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary Over the years, the EU has become a key player in the United Nations system. The UN remains an organisation of sovereign states, and this is reflected in the functioning of its bodies, agencies and programmes. The EU enjoys observer status in many of these and is the only international organisation to have secured enhanced observer status in the UN General Assembly. The EU leverages its influence through its significant financial contribution to the UN system, through its enhanced partnerships with various entities within the UN system, and through close coordination with its Member States on positions to be defended in the organisation.

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

## Disruption by technology: Impacts on politics, economics and society

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 21-09-2020

Author BENTZEN Naja | BOUCHER Philip Nicholas | LATICI Tania | MADIEGA Tambiama André | SCHMERTZING Leopold | SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Coronavirus | Democracy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Foreign Affairs | Forward Planning | Industry | Security and Defence

Keyword automation | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business model | business organisation | communications | defence | defence policy | democracy | digital technology | disinformation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | impact of information technology | information technology and data processing | international affairs | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | political framework | POLITICS | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | social framework | social media | social norm | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technological change | technology and technical regulations | value chain

Summary Technological development has long been considered as a disruptive force, provoking change at many levels, from the routine daily activities of individuals to dramatic competition between global superpowers. This analysis examines disruption caused by technologies in a series of key areas of politics, economics and society. It focuses on seven fields: the economic system, the military and defence, democratic debates and the 'infosphere', social norms, values and identities, international relations, and the legal and regulatory system. It also presents surveillance as an example of how technological disruption across these domains can converge to propel other phenomena. The key disruptive force of 2020 is non-technological, namely coronavirus. The pandemic is used here as an opportunity to examine how technological disruption interacts with other forms of disruption.

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

Multimedia [Disruption by technology](#)

## [Digital finance: Emerging risks in crypto-assets – Regulatory and supervisory challenges in the area of financial services, institutions and markets](#)

Publication type Study

Date 17-09-2020

Author SAULNIER JEROME LEON

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword accounting | added value | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cost-benefit analysis | documentation | economic analysis | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institution | financial institutions and credit | financial market | financial services | financial technology | free movement of capital | monetary economics | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research report | technology and technical regulations | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU | virtual currency

Summary The rapid growth of digital finance and crypto-assets has raised questions about the appropriate regulatory perimeter and the ability of the existing regulatory architecture to adapt to changing conditions. In this study, we evaluate the impact in terms of benefits and in terms of risk reduction that the adoption of an EU legislative initiative on a framework for crypto-assets, on cyber-resilience and on a data strategy would bring.

Study [EN](#)

## [Amending Budget No 8/2020: Covering the financing needs of the Emergency Support Instrument and Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-09-2020

Author PARI MARIANNA

Policy area Budget | Coronavirus

Keyword Asia and Oceania | budget | budgetary amendment | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | China | Cohesion Fund | coronavirus disease | crisis management | distribution of EU funding | economic conditions | economic geography | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU finance | European Regional Development Fund | European Social Fund | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | health | management | multiannual financial framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Draft Amending Budget No 8/2020 (DAB 8/2020) aims to provide additional payments of €6.2 billion in 2020. Of this amount, €1.1 billion is needed for the financing of actions contributing to the deployment of an effective and safe vaccine against Covid-19, assumed under the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI). Cohesion funds will be reinforced with €5.1 billion to ensure that a sufficient amount of payments is available to cover the Member States' reimbursement requests for actions taken under the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus (CRII+). The European Parliament is expected to vote, under the urgent procedure, on the Council position on DAB 8/2020 during the September plenary session.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [International Agreements in Progress - EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment: Levelling the playing field with China](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-09-2020

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area International Trade

Keyword Asia and Oceania | bilateral agreement | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | China | competition | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international competition | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | investment abroad | investment protection | market access | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public sector | State aid | summit meeting | technology and technical regulations | technology transfer | TRADE | trade policy

Summary Lack of reciprocity in access to the Chinese market and the absence of a level playing field for EU investors in China have posed major challenges for EU-China investment relations in recent years, with the negotiation of a comprehensive agreement on investment (CAI) being considered by the EU a key instrument to remedy this state of play. The CAI negotiations are aimed at establishing a uniform legal framework for EU-China investment ties by replacing the 25 outdated bilateral investment treaties (BITs) China and EU Member States concluded prior to the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009 when the EU gained competence for most investment issues. The CAI is intended to go far beyond traditional investment protection to also cover market access, investment-related sustainable development, and level playing field issues, such as transparency of subsidies, and rules on state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and forced technology transfer. Although leaders at the 2019 EU-China Summit jointly committed to concluding the CAI talks in 2020, lack of engagement at the highest political level on the Chinese side has raised doubts as to whether a breakthrough can be reached in time, with China more focused on navigating the uncertainties of its relations with the United States from January 2021. First edition. The 'International Agreements in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the process, from initial discussions through to ratification.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [EU-China: International Agreements in Progress](#)

## [EU competitiveness and global growth](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 10-09-2020

Author DE FINANCE Stanislas

Policy area Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues | Research Policy

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | coronavirus disease | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic growth | economic recession | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU growth strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | health | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary With rising tensions surrounding the multilateral and liberal trading order in recent years, and declining public support for globalisation, the coronavirus pandemic has hit the world economy hard. In the short term, the efforts of the European Union (EU) and its Member States, as well as many other jurisdictions, are focused on supporting a sustained and inclusive economic recovery and on protecting businesses, jobs and livelihoods. At the same time, policy-makers in Europe should seek to address medium- to long-term challenges to minimise long-term scarring and restore eroding competitiveness. Decisive action is needed to secure EU global leadership of environmental and digital transformation. This will include investing in research and innovation, implementing structural reforms, and completing the (digital) single market, while screening foreign investments more efficiently and leading more efficient global coordination. The EU must equip itself with the right toolbox to ensure efficiency and the ability to shape global long-term trends, and prevent or at least mitigate structural risks and threats.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [An EU legal framework to halt and reverse EU-driven global deforestation: European added value assessment](#)

Publication type Study

Date 08-09-2020

Author EVAS Tatjana | HEFLICH ALEKSANDRA | NAVARRA Cecilia

Policy area Environment | International Trade

Keyword accounting | added value | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | climate change | deforestation | deterioration of the environment | documentation | economic analysis | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | forest conservation | forestry | import (EU) | INDUSTRY | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | protection of plant life | quantitative analysis | reduction of gas emissions | research and intellectual property | research report | the EU's international role | trade | TRADE | tropical wood | wood industry

Summary Deforestation caused by agricultural activity is continuing at an alarming rate, threatening irreplaceable tropical forests that, among other things, are crucial for fighting climate change. The EU bears its share of responsibility for this environmental loss, as it is one of the major importers of several forest-risk commodities. To date, action has been taken at different levels to stop commodity-driven deforestation. Nevertheless, the impact on forest loss has been low as deforestation continues and new hot spots occur. There has been a recent commitment at EU level to propose new measures to minimise the risk of deforestation and forest degradation associated with products placed on the EU market. This European added value assessment (EAVA) accompanies the European Parliament's own-initiative legislative report calling on the European Commission to take legislative action on the matter. The EAVA looks at why EU action is needed and analyses four potential demand-side regulatory policy options at EU level. A quantitative analysis reveals that to varying extents, all options have the potential to reduce EU-driven deforestation and associated carbon emissions, while having a relatively small impact on the EU economy

Study [EN](#)

## [EU budget and recovery fund: Is it a done deal? \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 29-07-2020

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Budget | Coronavirus

Keyword accounting | Asia and Oceania | budget | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | China | coronavirus disease | distribution of EU funding | economic conditions | economic geography | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial audit | financial control | GEOGRAPHY | health | multiannual financial framework | political framework | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | rule of law | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | think tank

Summary After nearly five days of tough negotiations, the European Council agreed on the EU's next seven-year budget, the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), worth more than one trillion euros from 2021 to 2027, and crucially, on an additional 750-billion euro fund to help countries recover from the economic downturn caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Many politicians and analysts have hailed the agreement on the recovery fund in particular as an 'historic moment'. For the first time, some EU debt will be mutualised and the EU will tap financial markets on a significant scale to secure funds, which will be disbursed in the form of grants and loans. The European Parliament - which must approve these spending plans - welcomed the fund but criticised the lack of parliamentary scrutiny in its implementation as well as some of the cuts leaders made in spending on innovation and the climate as compared to the European Commission's MFF proposals and the Parliament's own demands, and regretted the weakened link between budget spending and the rule of law. This note offers links to first reactions from international think tanks on the budget deal. Earlier publications on financing the EU can be found in a previous item in this series, published by EPRS on 8 June 2020.

At a Glance [EN](#)



## [Adjusted European Commission work programme 2020](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-07-2020

Author KIENDL KRISTO IVANA | VETTORAZZI STEFANO

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Forward Planning | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | China | coronavirus disease | crisis management | economic geography | EP Committee | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | health | management | operation of the Institutions | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The European Commission presented its work programme for 2020 in January. Shortly after however, the Covid-19 pandemic happened, forcing the Commission to focus its efforts on the immediate crisis management. This led to the need to recalibrate and adjust the original Commission Work Programme - this adjusted CWP was presented at the end of May. This briefing provides an overview and analysis of the main changes between the original / January CWP 2020, and the adjusted / May CWP.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Tracking key coronavirus restrictions on movement and social life in the EU Member States](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-07-2020

Author DUMBRAVA Costica

Policy area Coronavirus | Public Health

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | disease prevention | epidemic | free movement of persons | health | internal border of the EU | international law | LAW | management | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary All the EU Member States adopted emergency measures in an attempt to contain the spread of the coronavirus. These measures restricted a number of fundamental freedoms, including movement across and within national borders, access to education, freedom of association and, more broadly, freedom to engage in social and economic activities. Following a decrease in the number of coronavirus cases, most Member States have gradually begun to lift or ease these restrictions. This briefing presents an overview of 10 key measures taken by the Member States in response to the pandemic. They relate to cross-border travel (controls at internal EU borders, entry bans affecting EU and non-EU citizens, and exit bans); movement and association (restrictions of movement in the country and bans on social gatherings); education and social activities (closure of educational institutions, shops and restaurants); and contact tracing. This briefing tracks these key measures from 1 March to 30 June 2020 and presents their evolution in relation to the general evolution of the pandemic in each Member State, represented by the cumulative number of reported Covid-19 cases per 100 000 population in the previous 14 days.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Artificial Intelligence and Civil Liability](#)

Publication type Study

Date 14-07-2020

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Director of the Jean Monnet - European Centre of Excellence on the Regulation of Robotics and AI (EURA)

Policy area Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword artificial intelligence | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | civil liability | consumption | damages | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | executive power and public service | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | information technology applications | LAW | legal status | management | new technology | POLITICS | producer's liability | product safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | regulatory policy | risk management | smart technology | technology and technical regulations | TRADE

Summary This study – commissioned by the Policy Department C at the request of the Committee on Legal Affairs – analyses the notion of AI-technologies and the applicable legal framework for civil liability. It demonstrates how technology regulation should be technology-specific, and presents a Risk Management Approach, where the party who is best capable of controlling and managing a technology-related risk is held strictly liable, as a single entry point for litigation. It then applies such approach to four case-studies, to elaborate recommendations.

Study [EN](#)

## [COVID-19: List of the measures taken in relation to the ITRE remit May-June 2020](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-07-2020

Author CIUCCI MATTEO | GOUARDERES Frederic

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Coronavirus | Energy | Industry | Public Health | Research Policy | Tourism

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | economic conditions | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU budget | EU expenditure | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | health | management | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This briefing summarises the recent measures taken by the European Commission on matters within the remit of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy in response to the urgent and ongoing COVID-19 crisis, while referencing relevant parts of the resolution of the European Parliament of 15 May 2020 on the new multiannual financial framework, own resources and the recovery plan.

Briefing [EN](#)



## [Access to the occupation of road transport operator and to the international road haulage market](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 07-07-2020

Author SCORDAMAGLIA Damiano

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Transport

Keyword access to a profession | administrative cooperation | amendment of a law | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | carriage of goods | carriage of passengers | competition | competition | documentation | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | labour market | land transport | ordinary legislative procedure | organisation of transport | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | professional qualifications | proposal (EU) | recognition of diplomas | report | road transport | TRANSPORT

Summary The regulations on admission to the occupation of road transport operator and on access to the international road transport market have been contributing to the functioning of EU road transport and fairer competition between resident and non-resident hauliers since December 2011. Despite the improvements they have brought to the sector, persistent shortcomings such as diverging national application of the rules and uneven enforcement called for a revision of both acts. On 31 May 2017, as part of a 'mobility package', the European Commission adopted a new proposal to address the main shortcomings affecting the sector, and improve its competitiveness and efficiency. In June 2018, Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) adopted its report. After further debates and procedural developments, Parliament adopted its first-reading position on 4 April 2019. The Council, on its side, reached a general approach on this proposal in December 2018, under the Austrian Presidency. After four negotiating rounds, the Council and Parliament reached a provisional agreement on the proposal on 12 December 2019, which was approved by Coreper on 20 December. The Council formally adopted its first-reading position on 7 April 2020, and the TRAN committee recommended on 8 June that Parliament approve it at second reading. The agreed text is thus due to be voted in plenary in July at second reading. If adopted, this would put an end to three years of debate on a complex and controversial proposal. Sixth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Control of the financial activities of the European Investment Bank – Annual report 2018](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-07-2020

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Budgetary Control

Keyword accounting | activity report | budget | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | corruption | criminal law | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EP Committee | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Anti-fraud Office | European Court of Auditors | European Investment Bank | European Public Prosecutor's Office | European Structural and Investment Funds | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial audit | financial control | fraud against the EU | green economy | LAW

Summary During its July plenary session, the European Parliament is set to discuss the Committee on Budgetary Control's report on the control of the European Investment Bank's financial activities for 2018. Among other things, the report highlights the role of the Bank in financing the European Green Deal, the Just Transition Fund, and its future shift towards becoming 'the EU Climate Bank'. The report also stresses the need for more effectiveness and synergies when it comes to the European Fund for Strategic Investments, and highlights the need for more transparency and accountability of all the Bank's operations, stronger external scrutiny and reinforced mechanisms to fight fraud and corruption.

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

## [The European Investment Bank's financial activities – 2019 annual report](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-07-2020

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Budget

Keyword accounting | activity report | budget | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Anti-fraud Office | European Court of Auditors | European Fund for Strategic Investments | European Investment Bank | European Investment Fund | European Public Prosecutor's Office | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial audit | financial control | fraud against the EU | green economy | small and medium-sized enterprises

Summary During its July plenary session, Parliament is scheduled to vote on the 2019 report on the European Investment Bank's financial activities, drafted by the Committee on Budgets. Among other things, the report highlights the need for the bank to put more focus on climate, digitalisation and just transition; further invest in the EU and beyond; provide continuous support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and mid-cap firms; and ensure better governance and increased transparency.

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

## [2018 report on protection of the EU's financial interests – Fight against fraud](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-07-2020

Author KOWALD KAROLINE

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword accounting | activity report | budget | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competence of the Member States | distribution of EU funding | documentation | economic and social cohesion | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Anti-fraud Office | European construction | European Court of Auditors | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial audit | financial control | financial transparency | fraud against the EU | regional development | regions and regional policy

Summary In October 2019, the European Commission published its annual report on the fight against fraud affecting EU financial interests in 2018. In total, 11 638 fraudulent and non-fraudulent irregularities were reported to the Commission in 2018, 25 % fewer than in 2017. They involved approximately €2.5 billion, a value that remained stable in comparison with 2017. The Committee on Budgetary Control has adopted a report on the Commission's annual report, which is due to be voted during the July plenary session.

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

## [Challenges for environmental and indigenous peoples' rights in the Amazon region](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 30-06-2020

External author Dr. Julian BURGER

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid | Environment | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | biodiversity | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | corporate social responsibility | deforestation | demography and population | deterioration of the environment | documentation | ecology movement | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | European undertaking | forestry | human rights | human rights movement | indigenous population | LAW | natural environment | over-exploitation of resources | POLITICS | politics and public safety | protected area | research report | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | tropical forest

Summary The present analysis examines the environmental and human rights challenges in the Amazon region. It finds that the Amazonian countries pursue development policies in the region based on the exploitation on an industrial scale of natural and non-renewable resources that have caused and continue to cause deforestation, loss of biodiversity and engender human rights violations in particular affecting indigenous peoples. The analysis acknowledges the measures taken by the Amazonian countries to establish protected areas and support indigenous territories and their rights but concludes that the laws need strengthening and effective enforcement. The analysis argues that the protection of the Amazon biome is an essential part of the global efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and concurs with the view of some scientists that there is an urgency to stop forest loss. The analysis further notes that the most effective guardians of the Amazonian forest and its biodiversity are its indigenous peoples. The analysis concludes by arguing that the European Union has an interest in contributing to the protection of the Amazon and its indigenous peoples. It recommends, among other things, that the EU strengthen its direct support to Amazonian indigenous peoples and environmental defenders and develop effective measures which target EU-based companies whose activities cause deforestation.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Banking Union: Wirecard](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 29-06-2020

Author GRIGAITÉ KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | civil law | company in difficulties | economic geography | Europe | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial services | financial solvency | GEOGRAPHY | Germany | LAW | political geography

Summary The briefing provides a short overview (based on public information) to the insolvency of Wirecard AG, a group that provided electronic payment processing and that includes a less-significant banking entity (which is not part of the insolvency proceedings). The case is not directly linked to the corona crisis, but it brings to the fore relevant issues related to supervision of payment-related services and the role of auditors.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Protecting the EU budget against generalised rule of law deficiencies

Publication type Briefing

Date 25-06-2020

Author MANKO Rafal | SAPALA Magdalena

Policy area Budget

Keyword budget | budget policy | budgetary resources | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | democracy | distribution of EU funding | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU Member State | Europe | European treaties | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial management | general budget (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | Hungary | implementation of the budget | management | Poland | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | proposal (EU) | public finance and budget policy | regulation (EU) | report | rule of law

**Summary** When preparing the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework, the European Commission proposed to strengthen the link between EU funding and respect for the rule of law. To this end, on 3 May 2018, the Commission presented a proposal for a regulation that would introduce a general rule of law conditionality into the EU's financial rules. Any Member State where a generalised rule of law deficiency is found could be subject to the suspension of payments and commitments, reduced funding and a prohibition on concluding new commitments. On 13 November 2019, the decision of the European Parliament's Budget and Budgetary Control Committees to enter interinstitutional negotiations on the proposal was announced in plenary. Negotiations will be based on Parliament's first-reading position adopted in plenary in April 2019. Parliament's main amendments are concerned with the definition of generalised deficiencies, procedural issues (the panel of independent experts and the need to put Parliament on an equal footing with Council), and with the protection of end beneficiaries of EU funding. The rule of law conditionality has become an important element of the negotiations on the legislative package for the 2021-2027 MFF and the Recovery Instrument for the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

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

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-06-2020

Author BENTZEN Naja | BOSTRÖM KARL ERIK ALBIN | DEL MONTE Micaela | ODINK Ingeborg | PRPIC Martina | TUOMINEN ULLA-MARI

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

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | comparative analysis | coronavirus disease | crisis management | economic geography | epidemic | EU Member State | GEOGRAPHY | health | management | POLITICS | politics and public safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | state of emergency

**Summary** The spread of the coronavirus pandemic has prompted countries to take extensive and far-reaching measures to tackle the consequences of the outbreak. Apart from curbing the spread of the disease, these measures have also posed legal and economic challenges, significantly affecting people's lives. Due to the nature of the virus, citizens' rights and freedoms have been curtailed, inter alia affecting their freedom of movement and assembly, as well as the right to conduct economic activities. Whilst the measures are currently being relaxed, there is debate in some Member States over whether the measures were justified and proportionate. Some Member States resorted to declaring a 'state of emergency', whilst others did not, either because they have no such mechanism in their constitutional framework or because they chose a different path, giving special powers to certain institutions or using and modifying existing legislation. In either case, democratic scrutiny over the situation has been highly important, making parliamentary oversight crucial to ensure the rule of law and respect for fundamental democratic principles. This briefing covers the following countries: Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Sweden. It focuses on three key aspects: i) the constitutional framework of the state of emergency or legitimisation of the emergency legislation; ii) the specific measures adopted; and iii) the extent of parliamentary oversight exercised on the adopted measures. This briefing is the third in a series aimed at providing a comparative overview of Member States' institutional responses to the coronavirus crisis. The first in the series gives an overview of the responses in Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Spain, while the second covers Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Malta, Romania and Slovenia.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Amending Budget No 4/2020: Mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund (Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-06-2020

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Budget

Keyword accounting | advance payment | Asia and Oceania | Austria | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | China | coronavirus disease | deterioration of the environment | distribution of EU funding | economic geography | ENVIRONMENT | epidemic | EU finance | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | European Union Solidarity Fund | GEOGRAPHY | health | Italy | natural disaster | political geography | Portugal | proposal (EU) | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Spain

**Summary** Draft Amending Budget No 4/2020 (DAB 4/2020) accompanies the proposed decision to mobilise the EU Solidarity Fund for an amount of €279 million to provide assistance to Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria following natural disasters that took place in these Member States in the course of 2019. It proposes to enter the necessary appropriations in the 2020 budget, both in commitments and payments, after deducting the advances already paid out (€6.5 million). The European Parliament is expected to vote on the proposal to mobilise the Solidarity Fund and the Council position on DAB 4/2020 during its June plenary session.

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

## Public sector innovation: Concepts, trends and best practices

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-06-2020

Author KARAKAS Cemal

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | digital technology | innovation | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public sector | research and intellectual property | technological change | technology and technical regulations

**Summary** The public sector is an important employer, service provider and procurer. Innovations in the public sector mainly focus on processes, products, organisation and communication. Citizens and businesses alike benefit from a professional and modern public administration in terms of better governance, faster service delivery, co-creation and co-design of politics. There is no overall European Union law that targets public sector innovation per se. The European Commission, however, provides guidelines on public sector innovation. Many of these guidelines aim to tackle challenges deriving from digital transformation, increased mobility and cross-border interoperability. In 2013, an expert group appointed by the Commission encouraged the EU and its Member States to overcome innovation barriers in the public sector by, for instance, improving the management and ownership of innovation processes, empowering innovation actors, and providing standards for innovation. In this context, the EU has been implementing its innovation union policy, promoting best practices and co-financing the establishment and activities of the Observatory of Public Sector Innovation (OPSI) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). While today many of the expert group's recommendations have been implemented – such as innovation labs and networks, policy labs, innovation scoreboards or toolboxes – some, however, remain unaccomplished. The European Parliament has demonstrated a positive stance towards innovation in the public sector on several occasions, including encouraging the Commission to speed up the realisation of the digital single market. More recently, Parliament adopted resolutions on the Commission's EU e government action plan and on the proposed new digital Europe programme.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Public sector innovation: Concepts, trends and best practices](#)

## Three critical issues in EU-UK relations

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-06-2020

Author HALLAK ISSAM | MAZUR Sidonia | SCHOLAERT FREDERIK

Policy area Budget | Fisheries | International Trade

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | competition | competition policy | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU budget | EU finance | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | fisheries | fisheries policy | GEOGRAPHY | international trade | labour law and labour relations | labour standard | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | political geography | public sector | social clause | State aid | tax system | taxation | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU

**Summary** Following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU) on 1 February 2020, the EU and the UK launched negotiations on a new partnership agreement, to come into effect at the end of the transition period, scheduled for 31 December 2020. The negotiations are intended to address nearly all the domains covered in the Political Declaration negotiated by both parties alongside the Withdrawal Agreement, including trade and economics, fisheries, thematic cooperation, and internal and external security. As far as negotiations on the future economic relationship are concerned, while the parties agree in principle on an exceptional zero-tariff and zero-quota comprehensive and balanced free trade agreement (FTA) aiming for as 'frictionless' trade as possible, they still disagree on major aspects of the economic partnership, especially fisheries and level playing-field (LPF) commitments. The EU wants the future agreement in the fisheries domain to retain the status quo as far as possible, including reciprocal access to waters in return for access to markets and quota-shares that are based on historical fishing patterns. The EU also insists that an effective LPF would ensure fair competition. After the third round of talks, which took place in May 2020, the UK's chief negotiator, David Frost, said that the EU proposal on fisheries was 'simply not realistic', and it was unacceptable that the LPF binds the UK to EU law or standards; if need be, the UK would aim for a less ambitious FTA. The EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, said that negotiating an FTA providing for tariffs would be far more time-consuming, and the EU would still demand the same LPF commitments because 'open and fair competition is not a "nice-to-have", it is a "must-have"'. Following the fourth round of negotiations, from 2 to 5 June, the positions therefore still seemed irreconcilable. However, the long stand-off in the earlier negotiations on UK withdrawal had seemed equally irreconcilable before the final agreement was reached and then ratified. One area in which the two sides did manage to agree in those negotiations is the financial settlement included in the Withdrawal Agreement. While that settlement is now being implemented, it had initially been seen as one of the more difficult areas of the withdrawal negotiations.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [EU budgetary and financial response to the coronavirus crisis](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-05-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE | PARI MARIANNA | SPINACI STEFANO

Policy area Budget | Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | economic policy | ECONOMICS | epidemic | EU aid | EU budget | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | health | management | multiannual financial framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** Within the limits of its powers, the EU has acted quickly to tackle the coronavirus pandemic and its consequences. Showing considerable flexibility, EU institutions have organised a package of measures (some already decided, others proposed or requested), to counter the crisis, drawing both on the EU budget and a wider economic package. Parliament is calling on the European Commission to propose a €2 trillion recovery package, distributed mostly through grants (over which Parliament will maintain scrutiny) rather than loans, and warns against the presentation of misleading figures. The recovery package should provide real funding to help those hardest-hit, and focus on climate mitigation, digitalisation and a new health programme. The Commission has committed to propose a comprehensive recovery plan, along with revised 2021-2027 MFF proposals, on 27 May 2020. In the meantime, France and Germany have suggested a €500 billion 'recovery fund'.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Banking Union: Corona crisis effects - week 20](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-05-2020

Author GRIGAITÉ KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA

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

Keyword aid to undertakings | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | China | coronavirus disease | documentation | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | EU banking union | EU finance | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | fund (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | health | loan | monetary economics | political geography | small and medium-sized enterprises | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | State aid | summarising | United Kingdom

**Summary** The corona crisis has significant effects on many banks in the Banking Union. To support the Members of the Banking Union Working Group, the following briefing reports on observations made and actions taken by supervisory authorities, credit rating agencies, banking federations, or other industry experts, in order to point to relevant developments in the banking sector. The briefing will be updated on a bi-weekly basis, unless relevant developments require otherwise.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Barriers to Competition through Joint Ownership by Institutional Investors](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-05-2020

External author S. FRAZZANI, K. NOTI, M. P. SCHINKEL, J. SELDESLACHTS, A. BANAL ESTANOL, N. BOOT, C. ANGELICI

Policy area Competition law and regulation | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank | banking | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | civil law | competition | competition policy | corporate governance | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European undertaking | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | investment company | joint ownership | LAW | research report | shareholder | shareholding

**Summary** In recent years, the phenomenon of common ownership by institutional investors has sparked considerable debate among scholars about its impact on competition and companies' corporate governance. This study analyses some specific features of common ownership by institutional investors in the European banking sector. It also examines closely the tension between competition policy and corporate governance tools aimed at enhancing shareholder engagement. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON).

Study [EN](#)

## Study in focus: The Impact of Unfair Commercial Practices on Competition in the EU Passenger Transport Sector, in particular Air Transport

Publication type At a Glance

Date 14-05-2020

External author F. SCIAUDONE, K. NOTI, H. SCHEBESTA, F. MORETTI, M. PIANTONI, R. ARANCIO

Policy area Competition law and regulation | Consumer Protection | Economics and Monetary Issues | Transport

Keyword air and space transport | air transport | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | carriage of passengers | competition | consumer protection | consumption | organisation of transport | restriction on competition | TRADE | TRANSPORT

**Summary** The study aims at identifying and analysing unfair commercial and trading practices in passenger air transport that not only are detrimental to consumers, but which can also distort competition in the Single Market. The study analyses the main air carrier business models and price patterns, as well as the decisions adopted by the national competent authorities with regard to unfair commercial practices and predatory pricing. This document was provided by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies at the request of the committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

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

## Establishing an MFF contingency plan

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-05-2020

Author D'ALFONSO Alessandro | SAPALA Magdalena

Policy area Budget | Coronavirus

Keyword Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | China | coronavirus disease | crisis management | draft budget (EU) | economic geography | EP Committee | epidemic | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | health | management | multiannual financial framework | political framework | POLITICS | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | special legislative procedure | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU | veto

**Summary** The EU's next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) should start on 1 January 2021, but the negotiations have encountered delays in the European Council and Council. During the May plenary part-session, the European Parliament is expected to vote a report by its Committee on Budgets, asking the Commission to prepare urgently a legislative proposal for a contingency plan should the post-2020 MFF not be agreed on time. The objective would be to provide a safety net to protect beneficiaries of EU funds, while ensuring that the EU budget can keep contributing to the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and its socio-economic consequences.

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

## Discharge for 2018 budget - EU decentralised agencies and joint undertakings

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-05-2020

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Budgetary Control

Keyword accounting | activity report | budget | budgetary discharge | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | distribution of EU funding | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | European Court of Auditors | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial audit | financial control | general budget (EU) | POLITICS | public-private partnership | recommendation (EU)

**Summary** At its May plenary session, in the context of the discharge procedure for the financial year 2018, the European Parliament is due to vote on the discharge for 32 EU decentralised agencies and eight joint undertakings for their implementation of the 2018 budget. The Committee on Budgetary Control proposes to grant discharge to all of these entities, yet highlights a number of areas that require further improvement.

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

## Discharge for 2018 budget – EU institutions other than the European Commission

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-05-2020

Author PARI MARIANNA

Policy area Budgetary Control

Keyword accounting | activity report | budget | budgetary discharge | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | distribution of EU funding | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | European Anti-fraud Office | European Economic and Social Committee | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial audit | financial control

**Summary** The European Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control recommends granting discharge for the budgets of seven administrative sections of the EU budget for 2018, but recommends postponing the decision on granting discharge for the European Council and Council, and for the European Economic and Social Committee. The votes on the discharge reports are expected to take place during the May plenary session.

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



## Exchange of views with Andrea Enria, Chair of the Supervisory Board of the ECB

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-05-2020

Author GRIGAITE KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA

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

Keyword Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | China | coronavirus disease | economic analysis | economic consequence | economic geography | ECONOMICS | EP Committee | epidemic | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | fund (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | health | member of the European Central Bank | monetary relations | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | public hearing | small and medium-sized enterprises | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This note is prepared in view of an exchange of views in the ECON Committee on 5 May with the Chair of the Supervisory Board of the European Central Bank (ECB), Andrea Enria, on the economic impact and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Briefing [EN](#)

## The role of armed forces in the fight against coronavirus

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-04-2020

Author LATICI Tania

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

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

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

Briefing [EN](#)

## Human Rights Due Diligence Legislation - Options for the EU

Publication type Briefing

Date 24-04-2020

External author Prof. Dr. Markus KRAJEWSKI, Beata FARACIK, Claire METHVEN O'BRIEN, Olga MARTIN-ORTEGA

Policy area Human Rights | International Trade

Keyword access to the courts | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | corporate social responsibility | fundamental rights | human rights | justice | LAW | multinational enterprise | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | rights and freedoms | supply chain | value chain

Summary The European Parliament (EP) has repeatedly underlined the need for stronger European requirements for companies to prevent human rights abuses and environmental harm and to provide access to remedies for victims. The debate — both in the EU institutions and in several Member States — has intensified surrounding due diligence obligations for companies throughout the supply chain. In this context, the EP Human Rights Subcommittee (DROI) requested two briefings on specific human rights related issues it should consider while preparing its position. The first briefing in this compilation addresses substantive elements, such as the type and scope of human rights violations to be covered, as well as the type of companies that could be subject to a future EU regulation. The second briefing discusses options for monitoring and enforcement of due diligence obligations, as well as different ways to ensure access to justice for victims of human rights abuses. The briefings offer a concise overview and concrete recommendations, contributing to the ongoing debate and taking into account the research undertaken on behalf of the European Commission.

Briefing [EN](#)

## EU Human Rights Due Diligence Legislation: Monitoring, Enforcement and Access to Justice for Victims

Publication type Briefing

Date 24-04-2020

External author Claire METHVEN O'BRIEN, Olga MARTIN-ORTEGA

Policy area Human Rights | International Trade

Keyword access to the courts | application of EU law | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | corporate social responsibility | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fundamental rights | human rights | justice | LAW | multinational enterprise | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | rights and freedoms | supply chain | value chain

**Summary** This briefing explores options for monitoring and enforcement of European Union (EU) human rights due diligence legislation, and how such legislation should contribute to access to justice and remedy for victims of human rights abuses linked to the operations of businesses inside or operating from Member States (MS). The briefing reviews existing due diligence and disclosure schemes and considers the feasibility of specific options for monitoring, enforcement and access to remedy within a future EU due diligence law. The briefing recommends that such legislation should require effective monitoring via company-level obligations, national and EU-level measures, including repositories of due diligence reports, lists of companies required to report, information request procedures, monitoring bodies and delegated legislation or guidance further elaborating on due diligence under the law. Regarding enforcement, the law should inter alia require MS to determine appropriate penalties for non-compliance and to establish enforcement rights for interested parties. Finally, on remedy, the law should, besides requiring companies to establish complaint mechanisms, provide for national and EU measures, including requirements that MS ensure effective means of remedy and redress for victims and establish or identify bodies to investigate abuses, initiate enforcement and support victims.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Substantive Elements of Potential Legislation on Human Rights Due Diligence

Publication type Briefing

Date 24-04-2020

External author Prof. Dr. Markus KRAJEWSKI, Beata FARACIK

Policy area Human Rights | International Trade

Keyword access to the courts | application of EU law | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | corporate social responsibility | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fundamental rights | human rights | justice | LAW | multinational enterprise | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | rights and freedoms | supply chain | value chain

**Summary** This briefing provides an overview of the existing legislative approaches to mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence and proposals by non-state actors, concerning the scope of potential European Union (EU) legislation on binding human rights due diligence (HRDD) obligations for companies. The briefing discusses key substantive elements of potential EU HRDD legislation including options for human rights covered by the due diligence requirement; types of violations; specific references regarding women and persons in vulnerable situations and the duties of companies to respect and protect human rights. It is recommended that a potential EU HRDD legislation should comprise all human rights and cover all types of violations. The legislation should refer to additional duties, which can be based on existing human rights treaties and instruments such as CEDAW, CRC, CRPD and UNDRIP. The legislation should cover all companies independently of their size and take a non-sector specific approach. Furthermore, the legislation should not apply solely to the company's own activities, but also to its business relations including the value chain. Finally, the legislation should adopt a substantive due diligence model and require companies to engage actively in analysing, mitigating and remedying any adverse impacts on human rights based on their own activities and connected to them in their business relations.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Has the application of the “fit and proper” regime improved governance structures in the Banking Union?

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 23-04-2020

External author A.Bertay, H.Huizinga

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword appointment of members | banking supervision | board of directors | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial stability | free movement of capital | labour law and labour relations | managing director | member of the European Central Bank | monetary economics | monetary policy | powers of the institutions (EU) | professional ethics

**Summary** This paper examines trends in the size and composition of the boards of significant institutions during the 2011-2018 period, comprising several years before and after the ECB started conducting fit and proper assessments in 2014. Throughout this period, there have been trends towards directors who are more qualified, hold fewer other board positions, and are more likely to be female and a foreign national. Unlike in the pre-SSM period, however, more recently the average age of directors has increased, bank boards have become larger, and the share of independent directors has risen. The appointment of additional independent directors in recent years is potentially harmful to financial stability, as especially independent directors could favour riskier bank strategies with a view to increasing shareholder value.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [The EU's global response to coronavirus](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 15-04-2020

Author BENTZEN Naja

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

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [crisis management](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [economic consequence](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [epidemic](#) | [health](#) | [health policy](#) | [management](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

**Summary** The magnitude of the potential impact of the coronavirus pandemic is still unknown. But it is already clear that developed countries are being severely challenged by the crisis, and that many health-care systems around the world are under-resourced for dealing with a problem of this magnitude. The effects around the world in a wide range of linked areas – economy, political stability, security, human rights – are gradually surfacing as the pandemic spreads, and are likely to affect the global geopolitical balance. Against this backdrop, the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borrell, have set out the EU's global response to the pandemic. Council and Commission statements on the EU's coordinated action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences are scheduled for the European Parliament's plenary session on 16-17 April 2020.

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

## [Policy responses to the coronavirus crisis \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 15-04-2020

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

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

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [crisis management](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [economic consequence](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [epidemic](#) | [health](#) | [health policy](#) | [management](#) | [social framework](#) | [social impact](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

**Summary** The coronavirus crisis is beginning to show signs of abating in some countries, but not in others. Governments and local authorities have introduced, maintained, and in certain cases even strengthened, a range of tough measures designed to prevent, suppress or mitigate the advance of the virus. Many analysts and politicians are increasingly calling for stronger global-level action to combat the pandemic, while medical scientists still struggle to find an effective treatment and a vaccine for the disease. This note offers links to recent commentaries and reports from international think tanks on the coronavirus and related issues. Earlier publications on the topic can be found in the previous edition in this series, published by EPRS on 3 April.

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

## [Roadmap for Reallocation: A critical assessment of the Green Deal's growth, financing and regulatory challenges](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 15-04-2020

External author Karel Volckaert

Policy area [Energy](#) | [Environment](#) | [Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice](#) | [Financial and Banking Issues](#) | [Taxation](#)

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [common commercial policy](#) | [competition](#) | [documentation](#) | [economic analysis](#) | [economic consequence](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [environmental policy](#) | [environmental tax](#) | [EP Committee](#) | [EU competition policy](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [executive power and public service](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [financial risk](#) | [financial supervision](#) | [free movement of capital](#) | [green economy](#) | [policy analysis](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [research report](#) | [social framework](#) | [social impact](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#) | [TRADE](#) | [trade policy](#)

**Summary** The aim of this study is to critically assess the proposed Green Deal's growth, financing and regulatory challenges. The study discusses the need for extended Shared Socio-economic Pathways. It examines the key growth drivers of the Green Deal and the green investment gap, the optimal mix of taxation and command-and-control measures, trade and competition policy and the implications for macroprudential supervision. This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

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

## [The Impact of Unfair Commercial Practices on Competition in the EU Passenger Transport Sector, in particular Air Transport](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 08-04-2020

External author F. SCIAUDONE, K. NOTI, H. SCHEBESTA, F. MORETTI, M. PIANTONI, R. ARANCIO

Policy area Competition law and regulation | Consumer Protection | Economics and Monetary Issues | Transport

Keyword air and space transport | airline | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | carriage of passengers | case study | civil aviation | competition | consumer protection | consumption | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | organisation of transport | passenger rights | price formation | prices | research report | restriction on competition | single market | TRADE | TRANSPORT | transport policy | transport price

Summary The study aims at identifying and analysing the unfair commercial and trading practices in passenger air transport that not only are detrimental to consumers, but which can also distort competition in the Single Market. The study analyses the main air carrier business models and price patterns, as well as the decisions adopted by the national competent authorities with regard to unfair commercial practices and predatory pricing. This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the ECON Committee.

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

## [Coronavirus: What should policy-makers do? \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 03-04-2020

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Coronavirus | Public Health

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | disease prevention | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | epidemic | health | impact study | management | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The coronavirus pandemic continues to spread around the world. Governments have adopted preventive measures of varying degrees of severity. Analysts and commentators continue to call for a more coordinated response to the disease, notably at European Union level, without always agreeing on what the precise response should be. Meanwhile, some are beginning to try to envisage how the world will have changed once the virus is finally contained. This note offers links to recent commentaries and reports from international think tanks on the coronavirus and related issues. Earlier publications on the topic can be found in the previous edition in this series, published by EPRS on 26 March.

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

## [The ECB's disclosure of Pillar 2 capital requirements](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 02-04-2020

Author DE BIASE FEDERICO | MAGNUS Marcel

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank | banking supervision | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial requirements | financial solvency | financial stability | financial supervision | free movement of capital | LAW | management | monetary economics | money-market liquidity

Summary In January 2020, the European Central Bank (ECB) published for the first time a list with the specific Pillar 2 capital requirements for all banks under the ECB's direct supervision, each individually mentioned by name. This briefing gives background information on the relevance of that disclosure, complements the list with additional information, and analyses the data.

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

## Collective intelligence at EU level: Social and democratic dimensions

Publication type Briefing

Date 31-03-2020

Author MILOTAY Nora | SGUEO Gianluca

Policy area Coronavirus | Economics and Monetary Issues | Environment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Public Health | Social Policy

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic intelligence | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | humanities | information and information processing | innovation | knowledge economy | knowledge management | management | new technology | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | SCIENCE | social and cultural anthropology | technology and technical regulations

**Summary** Humans are among the many living species capable of collaborative and imaginative thinking. While it is widely agreed among scholars that this capacity has contributed to making humans the dominant species, other crucial questions remain open to debate. Is it possible to encourage large groups of people to engage in collective thinking? Is it possible to coordinate citizens to find solutions to address global challenges? Some scholars claim that large groups of independent, motivated, and well-informed people can, collectively, make better decisions than isolated individuals can – what is known as 'collective intelligence.' The social dimension of collective intelligence mainly relates to social aspects of the economy and of innovation. It shows that a holistic approach to innovation – one that includes not only technological but also social aspects – can greatly contribute to the EU's goal of promoting a just transition for everyone to a sustainable and green economy in the digital age. The EU has been taking concrete action to promote social innovation by supporting the development of its theory and practice. Mainly through funding programmes, it helps to seek new types of partners and build new capacity – and thus shape the future of local and national innovations aimed at societal needs. The democratic dimension suggests that the power of the collective can be leveraged so as to improve public decision-making systems. Supported by technology, policy-makers can harness the 'civic surplus' of citizens – thus providing smarter solutions to regulatory challenges. This is particularly relevant at EU level in view of the planned Conference on the Future of Europe, aimed at engaging communities at large and making EU decision-making more inclusive and participatory. The current coronavirus crisis is likely to change society and our economy in ways as yet too early to predict, but recovery after the crisis will require new ways of thinking and acting to overcome common challenges, and thus making use of our collective intelligence should be more urgent than ever. In the longer term, in order to mobilise collective intelligence across the EU and to fully exploit its innovative potential, the EU needs to strengthen its education policies and promote a shared understanding of a holistic approach to innovation and of collective intelligence – and thus become a 'global brain,' with a solid institutional set-up at the centre of a subsidised experimentation process that meets the challenges imposed by modern-day transformations.

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

## Charles Michel as President of the European Council: The first 100+ days

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-03-2020

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area Budget | Democracy | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competence of the institution | coronavirus disease | crisis management | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | EUROPEAN UNION | health | management | POLITICS | politics and public safety | president of an institution | President of the European Council | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** On 1 December 2019, Charles Michel, previously prime minister of Belgium, became the third President of the European Council. He began his term in dynamic mode, aiming to make his mark in foreign affairs and develop the EU's interinstitutional relations. While pursuing his predecessors' efforts to secure unity between EU leaders, Michel has applied his own style, visible notably in his discourse, social media presence and transparency efforts. An analysis of the President's Twitter activities shows his strong focus on EU-Africa relations, climate and, most recently, COVID-19.

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

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

Publication type Briefing

Date 27-03-2020

Author ANGHEL Suzana Elena

Policy area Democracy | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Public Health

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | EU policy | European construction | European Council | EUROPEAN UNION | health | management | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

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

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

## [Coronavirus: Impact and reaction \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-03-2020

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Coronavirus | Public Health

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | coronavirus disease | crisis management | economic analysis | economic consequence | ECONOMICS | epidemic | health | health policy | impact study | management | social framework | social impact | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** Governments around the world are introducing increasingly harsh measures to contain the highly contagious coronavirus, which causes the often lethal COVID-19 disease. In many countries, borders have been shut, schools, restaurants and non-food shops closed, and a ban on public and sometimes private meetings has been introduced. According to news media reports, as of 24 March, confirmed coronavirus cases around the world exceeded 377 000 across 194 countries and territories, with more than 16 500 of them having been fatal. This note offers links to recent commentaries and reports from international think tanks on the coronavirus and related issues. Earlier publications on the topic can be found in the previous item in the series, published on 18 March.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Is the current “fit and proper” regime appropriate for the Banking Union?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 24-03-2020

External author Andrea RESTI

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword audit | bank | banking supervision | board of management | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | EU banking union | European System of Central Banks | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial supervision | free movement of capital | management | management audit | monetary economics

**Summary** EU rules on fit and proper are a patchwork of high-level principles and national law. Deep cross-country differences affect both the assessment process and the criteria used. New Level 1 measures are required to impose common requirements on knowledge, experience, good repute, independence and conflicts of interest, and to unify procedural aspects across Member States. Meanwhile, the ECB should assign a public score to individual board members and disclose the motivations behind its fit and proper assessments.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Benefits outweigh costs of flexibility in EU multiannual financial framework](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-03-2020

External author This paper was drafted as a contribution to the EPRS expert seminar on 'EU Budget 2021-27: Challenges and opportunities', held on 28 January 2020. Its author is Eulalia Rubio, Institut Jacques Delors.

Policy area Budget

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cost-benefit analysis | economic governance (EU) | EU budget | EU expenditure | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | monetary economics | multiannual financial framework

**Summary** Budget flexibility can be defined as the capacity to reorient resources quickly to meet changed circumstances, unexpected events or new policy priorities. There are three different ways of introducing flexibility in the budgetary process: by relaxing constraints on annual budgets and enhancing the capacity of legislative bodies to set annual spending priorities (legislative flexibility), by giving more discretion to executive units on how to execute their allocations (executive flexibility), and by setting up specific mechanisms to deal with large, unforeseen expenditure needs (e.g. contingency reserves for natural disasters and crises). A comparison of flexibility practices at the national and EU level reveals that the EU budget suffers from both limited legislative flexibility (little discretion given to the Council and the Parliament to set annual spending priorities) and executive flexibility (limited capacity conferred on the European Commission to adjust allocations according to needs and circumstances). Debates on EU budget flexibility tend to focus on the first problem and underestimate the second. Any attempt to enhance EU legislative budget flexibility requires reconsideration of the structural aspects of the multiannual financial framework (MFF). To date, focus has been on changing the rules related to the use of budgetary margins, but there are other ways to give EU budgetary authorities more capacity to set annual spending priorities, such as shortening the duration of the MFF, reconsidering the length of spending programmes, allowing for some adjustment of annual ceiling on payments or institutionalising a MFF mid-term review. Enhancing executive budget flexibility demands changes to the design of EU spending programmes, particularly the establishment of less detailed allocation rules and the creation of in-programme flexibility tools (such as performance or programme reserves). Finally, any discussion about enhancing EU budget flexibility must take into account the possible implications or 'costs' in terms of budgetary control and budgetary stability.

Briefing [EN](#)



## [Outcome of the video-conference call of EU Heads of State or Government on 10 March 2020](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 13-03-2020

Author BACIAN Izabela Cristina

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Environment | Public Health

Keyword air and space transport | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | China | civil aviation | communications | coronavirus disease | economic analysis | economic consequence | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | health | medical device | medical research | monetary economics | small and medium-sized enterprises | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | stability pact | State aid | TRANSPORT | vaccine | videophone conference

Summary Given the unprecedented circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak and the potential EU-wide ramifications, Heads of State or Government of the 27 EU Member States welcomed the initiative to hold a special meeting by video-conference on 10 March 2020. European Council President Charles Michel expressed his sympathy for all those citizens affected by the disease and, in particular, for Italy, the country most affected so far. The Member States discussed the COVID-19 outbreak and agreed on four lines of action to contain the spread of the disease. The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, the President of the European Central Bank, Christine Lagarde, the President of the Eurogroup, Mario Centeno, and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Josep Borrell, also took part in the discussion.

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

## [Trade and competitiveness policies in the European Council](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 10-03-2020

Author BACIAN Izabela Cristina | VUKOVIC MARKO

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | common commercial policy | competition | competitiveness | direct investment | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign investment | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | international trade | market protection | restriction on competition | TRADE | trade policy | world economy | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary In recent years, international trade has gained increasing visibility on the European Council agenda. A high level of economic interconnectedness and the ineluctable rise of emerging economies on the world stage, notably China, have highlighted differences across economic systems and divergences over the impact of certain policies and practices in the global economy. Moreover, the United States administration's pursuit of an 'America first' foreign policy has been accompanied by a trade policy aimed primarily at reducing trade deficits with partners. The existential threat which the World Trade Organization now faces, as the core of the multilateral trading system, has compounded growing trade tensions and translated into a highly unstable global environment. The European Council has reacted to these developments promptly, with the last three years seeing the adoption of measures to strengthen the European Union's capacity to address such challenges. It has placed high emphasis on the need for the EU to be able to defend itself against unfair trade practices, through strengthened defence instruments, greater surveillance of foreign direct investment, and broader access to public procurement markets abroad. The objectives set out in its Strategic Agenda for 2019-24 reflect a need for a more assertive and united European Union on the global stage, able to tackle the technological and environmental challenges of the coming decade.

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

## [Banking union – Annual report 2019](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 04-03-2020

Author STAMEGNA CARLA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword activity report | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | capital markets union | civil law | committee (EU) | consumer protection | consumption | documentation | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | free movement of capital | impact study | LAW | monetary economics | mortgage | real estate credit | small and medium-sized enterprises | TRADE

Summary The European Parliament's own-initiative report on the banking union in 2019 is due to be debated during the March I plenary part-session. It touches on emerging challenges and actual risks for the European banking sector, stressing its role in funding the real economy, and addresses prudential and resolution rules. The report also restates the need to complete the banking union by establishing a fiscal backstop and a European deposit insurance scheme, and advocates greater active involvement for the Parliament in the process.

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

## [Annual report on EU competition policy](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 04-03-2020

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword activity report | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | committee (EU) | competition | direct investment | documentation | dominant position | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU competition policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | green economy | international trade | international trade | merger | merger control | project of common interest | State aid | TRADE

Summary During the March I plenary part-session, the European Parliament is expected to discuss the annual report on EU competition policy (2019), adopted by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs. The report highlights the growing importance of the international dimension of competition policy in a globalised world and the challenges stemming from the digitalisation of the economy. It also points to issues related to the effectiveness of competition policy instruments, as well as how they may support the European Green Deal.

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

## [Novel Coronavirus Outbreak - State of play with the epidemics; preparedness and response measures](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-02-2020

Author LAKY Zsuzsanna

Policy area Public Health

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

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

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, February 2020](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 14-02-2020

Author FERGUSON CLARE | SOCHACKA KATARZYNA

Policy area Coronavirus | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | economic geography | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European Central Bank | European construction | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | Frontex | gender equality | GEOGRAPHY | LAW | multiannual financial framework | parliamentary debate | parliamentary proceedings | Poland | political geography | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | small and medium-sized enterprises | United Kingdom | United States | Vietnam | withdrawal from the EU

Summary Highlights of the February session included debates on a review of economic governance; the revised enlargement methodology proposed by the Commission; a breach of Council Decision 2017/2074 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Venezuela; the current situation in Syria; on fighting against antisemitism, racism and hatred across Europe; as well as on the ongoing threat to the rule of law in Poland. Members also adopted a resolution on the illegal trade in companion animals. They debated the state of play in the EU's fight against money laundering (in light of the Luanda Leaks); the humanitarian situation of refugees at EU external borders; and the coronavirus outbreak. Members also voted on a resolution on EU priorities for the 64th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [Competition in the EU and globally \[What Think Tanks are Thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-02-2020

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Competition law and regulation | Economics and Monetary Issues | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | competition | digital technology | EU competition policy | EU industrial policy | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technological change | technology and technical regulations

Summary The digital revolution, global trade disputes and low growth in the European economy have, among other factors, revived the debate about the merits and drawbacks of the European Union's strict competition rules, which cover cartels, market dominance, mergers and state aid. Some politicians and economists argue that competition is an increasingly global phenomenon and that the intra-Community trade context for which the EU competition rules were originally designed no longer applies, and that the rules themselves are, as a result, too prescriptive. This emerging view might encourage the Union to pursue a more active and coordinated EU industrial policy, supported by more flexible rules on state aid and mergers in particular. The debate comes at a time when the US-China trade conflict and problems in the World Trade Organization are reshaping global economic competition, with new relationships and partnerships being formed. This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports from international think tanks on the EU's competition and industrial policy challenges and on the changing nature of global competition. More studies on trade issues can be found in a previous item from this series, published in September 2019.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Novel Coronavirus Outbreak](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 13-02-2020

Author LAKY Zsuzsanna

Policy area Public Health

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

Summary The paper summarises the latest available information on the novel coronavirus outbreak, and the Union's preparedness and response actions .

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [SMEs and Better Regulation](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 07-02-2020

Author ZACHARIADIS IOANNIS AGAMEMNON

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword aid to undertakings | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | economic policy | ECONOMICS | entrepreneur | entrepreneurship | executive power and public service | POLITICS | regulatory policy | small and medium-sized enterprises

Summary Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the European economy. However, numerous internal and external constraints, such as red tape and stringent business regulations, can make running a small business very difficult for entrepreneurs. Creating a business-friendly regulatory environment is a long-standing EU objective. The European Commission's cross-cutting policy on better regulation spearheads improvements, and its 'SME Test' scrutinises the impact of EU proposals on SMEs. The Commission is due to make a statement during the February plenary session on SMEs and better regulation.

At a Glance [EN](#)

## [How flexible is the EU budget? Flexibility instruments and mechanisms in the multiannual financial framework \(MFF\)](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 23-01-2020

Author SAPALA Magdalena

Policy area Budget

Keyword budgetary reserve (EU) | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | crisis management | distribution of EU funding | EU budget | EU expenditure | EU finance | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial planning | management | multiannual financial framework | programme budgeting | public finance | public finance and budget policy

Summary The 1988 introduction of multiannual financial frameworks (MFF) in the European Union (EU) budgetary system has improved financial predictability and facilitated the development of multiannual spending programmes, but has had to be balanced by measures that provided some flexibility and ability to react to unexpected situations. Over the years, these flexibility instruments and mechanisms have developed and proved to be useful. Occasions to use them were frequent, as the crises and challenges faced by the EU required actions that could not be financed under the tight expenditure ceilings of the agreed MFFs. Experience of implementation of the 2014-2020 MFF demonstrated that, with neither relevant flexibility mechanisms nor the possibility to revise the MFF in the mid-term, achieving policy goals and reacting adequately to unexpected events and crises, especially in the area of migration and security, would be impossible. The flexibility of the EU budgets has already featured as an important issue in the negotiations of the 2021-2027 MFF. The views of the main actors – the European Commission, the Parliament and the Council – on enhancing and designing such flexibility instruments diverge. It has yet to be seen if the issue, following the pattern of the 2014-2020 MFF negotiations, will play a key role in reaching an agreement.

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

## [The role of national fiscal bodies - State of play \(January 2020\)](#)

Publication type Study

Date 16-01-2020

Author ANGERER Jost | SABOL MAJA

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

Keyword accounting | auditing | budget | budgetary control | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic convergence | economic policy | ECONOMICS | FINANCE | financial control | fiscal policy | monetary economics | national budget | political framework | POLITICS | public finance and budget policy | stability pact | stability programme | supervisory body | taxation

Summary This briefing provides an overview of the advisory role played by independent national fiscal bodies in the preparations of the budgets of the EU Member States. The briefing is updated regularly.

The objective of the analysis is twofold:

1) to give an overview of the set-up and functioning of these independent fiscal bodies based on the most recent assessments by the European Commission.

2) to give an overview of the extent to which the latest Stability or Convergence Programmes and the Draft Budgetary Plans contain information about the involvement of independent national fiscal bodies in the preparation of these programmes/plans.

Study [EN](#)

## Modernisation of EU consumer protection rules: A new deal for consumers

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-01-2020

Author SAJN Nikolina

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

Keyword advertising malpractice | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | collective interest | competition | consumer policy | consumer protection | consumption | criminal law | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | electronic commerce | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | impact study | indemnification | INDUSTRY | infringement of EU law | injunction | justice | LAW | marketing | mechanical engineering | motor vehicle industry | penalty | proposal (EU) | single market | TRADE

**Summary** On 11 April 2018, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a directive on better enforcement and modernisation of EU consumer protection rules, as part of its 'new deal for consumers' package of measures. The proposal followed a fitness check of consumer legislation and an evaluation of the Consumer Rights Directive that showed that EU consumer legislation could benefit from certain aspects being clarified and brought into line with the reality of the digital economy. Following negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, the agreed text was adopted by the European Parliament in April 2019, and the final act was signed on 27 November 2019. The new directive leaves the consumer's right of withdrawal intact. It will ban several unfair commercial practices, such as false online reviews, and require Member States to set the maximum penalty for widespread infringement to at least 4 % of the trader's annual turnover. Dual quality of food will not be banned altogether, but could be considered to be misleading depending on the circumstances. Online marketplaces will be required to inform consumers about the parameters of their search results. Fourth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Modernisation of EU consumer protection rules: A new deal for consumers](#)

## European business statistics

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-01-2020

Author DELIVORIAS Angelos

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword administrative formalities | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | data collection | drafting of EU law | economic analysis | economic statistics | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU statistics | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | exchange of information | executive power and public service | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | LAW | POLITICS | simplification of legislation | sources and branches of the law | statistical method | type of business

**Summary** In the context of the work of reviewing the fitness of current regulations (REFIT), the Commission has decided to amend Regulation (EC) No 184/2005 and repeal 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics. The aim is to reduce the administrative burden for businesses, especially SMEs, and to put an end to legal fragmentation in the field of European business statistics. The Commission is proposing to establish a common legal framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics related to business structure, economic activities and performance, as well as on international transactions and research and development activities in the EU economy; and for the European network of national statistical business registers and the EuroGroups Register. The regulation includes provisions covering business registers, the data sources to be used, and the exchange of confidential data for the purpose of intra-Union trade in goods statistics. The final act was signed on 27 November 2019 and published in the Official Journal on 17 December 2019. It will apply from 1 January 2021, with the exception of certain articles, which will apply from 1 January 2022. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Sustainable finance and disclosures: Bringing clarity to investors

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-01-2020

Author SPINACI STEFANO

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | consumer information | consumption | decision-making | disclosure of information | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU environmental policy | European social policy | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financing and investment | governance | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | investment | investment company | management | POLITICS | proposal (EU) | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sustainable development | TRADE

**Summary** On 24 May 2018, the Commission published three proposals for regulations reflecting the EU's efforts to connect finance with its own sustainable development agenda. The proposals include measures to: create an EU sustainable finance taxonomy; make disclosures relating to sustainable investments and sustainability risks clearer; and establish low-carbon benchmarks. In particular, the proposal for a regulation on disclosures aims to integrate environmental, social and governance considerations into the decision-making process of investors and asset managers. It also aims to increase the transparency duties of financial intermediaries towards final-investors, with regard to sustainability risks and sustainable investment targets. This should reduce investors' research costs as regards sustainable investments and enable easier comparison between sustainable financial products in the EU. Following agreement with the Council in trilogue, Parliament voted to adopt the agreed text at first reading on 18 April 2019. Because of the tight timeline for finalisation before the end of the parliamentary term, linguistic corrections to the voted text were needed. Under the corrigendum procedure, the ECON committee and subsequently the plenary endorsed the corrected text in October 2019, allowing the Council to adopt it at first reading. Signed on 27 November, the regulation entered into force on 29 December, and will become applicable as of March 2021. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Review of the European Market Infrastructure Regulation \(EMIR\): Updated rules on supervision of central counterparties \(CCPs\)](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 10-01-2020

Author DELIVORIAS Angelos | STAMEGNA CARLA

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

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | consumer information | consumption | credit guarantee | disclosure of information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European Securities and Markets Authority | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial derivative | financial institutions and credit | financial regulation | financial risk | financing and investment | free movement of capital | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | insurance | insurance | international affairs | international agreement | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | proposal (EU) | provision of documents | public finance and budget policy | regulation (EU) | regulation of investments | risk management | TRADE

**Summary** The increasing importance of central counterparties (CCPs), and challenges such as the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU, call for a more comprehensive supervision of CCPs in EU and non-EU countries to secure financial market infrastructure and build confidence. In June 2017, the Commission proposed amendments to Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010 (ESMA – European Securities and Markets Authority) and Regulation (EU) No 648/2012 (EMIR – European Market Infrastructure), to strengthen the regulatory framework. Under the proposals, EU CCPs would be supervised by national authorities in agreement with ESMA, and third-country CCPs subject to different requirements depending on whether (or not) they are systemically important. Following trilogue negotiations, Parliament voted on the resulting agreement at its plenary session of 18 April 2019. The final act was signed on 23 October 2019 and entered into force on 1 January 2020. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [CSDP Missions and Operations](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 10-01-2020

External author Christoph O. Meyer, Professor of European & International Politics, King's College London, UK

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | common security and defence policy | crisis management | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | European construction | European External Action Service | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | management | research report | the EU's international role | Treaty on European Union

**Summary** This policy brief provides an overview of what the EU has done through its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations since 2003, and which achievements and challenges it faces at the end of EU High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) Federica Mogherini's mandate. It evaluates how the overall political context and the EU's approach have evolved over time, and how this has affected the launch and implementation of CSDP actions. It looks at a range of criteria for evaluating the success of missions and operations such as effectiveness, degree of match between mission launch and EU interests at stake, responsiveness, coherence with wider policy strategies, coherence with values and norms, and degree of democratic scrutiny and oversight. It assesses some of the achievements as well as shortcomings of previous and ongoing missions and operations against these objectives. The brief identifies three underlying and cross-cutting problems hampering performance: (i) incompatible attitudes among Member States towards the use of force; (ii) resource disincentives and barriers to timely European solidarity; and (iii) gaps between early warning and early action. It outlines some selected initiatives launched and options discussed to address these shortcomings and improve the EU's performance in crisis management operations.

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

## [Understanding development effectiveness: Concepts, players and tools](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-01-2020

Author PICHON Eric

Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid

Keyword accounting | administrative transparency | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cooperation policy | cooperation policy | cost-effectiveness analysis | development policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU aid | executive power and public service | governance | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | national accounts | POLITICS | poverty

**Summary** In the context of the limited availability of development aid, there is an increased demand for effective results. This means that both developing and richer countries must commit to spending and using aid more effectively. Public funding is not enough to cover all needs, but it can leverage initiatives from civil society and the private sector. The increase in stakeholders and intervention methods, both in terms of numbers and variety, combined with the necessity to address needs in the field more precisely, has led to a global rethinking of how to assess development. High-level forums and stakeholder networks have helped to fine-tune the main principles of development effectiveness and to shift from a donor-recipient relationship to a more cooperative framework. Methods and tools have improved and led to better planning, implementation and appraisal of development projects. The EU has been closely involved in designing and implementing the effectiveness principles. The European Parliament often refers to them, insisting that they must not be sacrificed for the sake of short-term interests. This briefing is an update of a previous edition from April 2017.

Briefing [EN](#)



## Is data the new oil? Competition issues in the digital economy

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-01-2020

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Competition law and regulation | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword access to information | big data | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | data protection | digital economy | digital single market | digital technology | economic analysis | economic structure | economic value | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU competition policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | impact of information technology | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technology and technical regulations

**Summary** The global debate on the extent to which current competition policy rules are sufficient to deal with the fast-moving digital economy has never been more pertinent. An important part of this debate concerns the market power of large high-tech companies that dominate many online markets. The main factors behind these developments are economies of scale and scope, network externalities, and the rising economic significance of data, which are a highly valuable commodity in an online economy. While being indispensable to the development of potential game changers – such as artificial intelligence – data are also a crucial input to many online services, production processes, and logistics – making it a critical element in the value chain of many different industries. Data-dependent markets are also characterised by a high level of concentration and, according to many experts, high entry barriers relating to access to and ownership of data – which make it difficult to challenge the incumbent companies. On the other hand, the large players are generally considered to be very productive and innovative. Some studies, however, show that the diffusion of know-how and innovation between the market leaders and the rest of the economy may be affecting competitiveness in general. One possible way to correct these shortcomings is to regulate the sharing of data. While the risks of policy-making in this field are generally well-known and centre around the need to protect privacy – particularly where personal data are involved – and to prevent the collusive aspects of data sharing, there is currently no global model to follow. The European Union has taken multiple initiatives to unlock data markets through modern, user-centred laws such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the regulation on the reuse of public sector information. The global thinking seems to gradually favour more prudent oversight of the market, considering its economic heft.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Is data the new oil? Competition issues in the digital economy](#)

## Global Trendometer 2019

Publication type Study

Date 18-12-2019

Author KONONENKO Vadim | NOONAN EAMONN | RECHARD Daniele | SALM Christian | SCHMERTZING Leopold | WINDLE-WEHRLE Jessica Freya

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Democracy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Environment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Forward Planning | Security and Defence | Social Policy

Keyword accounting | Africa | Asia and Oceania | auditing | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | China | democracy | demography and population | documentation | economic analysis | economic geography | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU study report | European social policy | forward studies | GEOGRAPHY | life expectancy | North Africa | political framework | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | social affairs | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social structure | space policy

**Summary** The new Global Trendometer examines topics ranging from deliberative democracy and the future of social policy in Europe, to scenarios for Northern Africa, China's social credit system, the auditing of algorithms and space as a new frontier.

Study [EN](#)

Multimedia [Global Trendometer](#)

## Appraising the quality of the European Commission's impact assessments

Publication type Study

Date 18-12-2019

External author DG, EPRS

Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | documentation | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU study report | executive power and public service | impact study | management | POLITICS | project evaluation | regulatory policy

**Summary** Based on a scoring exercise of 132 Commission Impact Assessments, adopted between July 2015 and December 2018, and their appraisal by the IMPA unit of the EPRS, this study provides a critical assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of these IAs. While their overall average quality is considered satisfactory, the analysis finds considerable variation between different parts of an IA. In view of contributing to future improvements of the IA process and promoting the value of IAs to support transparent political decision-making, this study indicates the main structural shortcomings to be addressed.

Study [EN](#)



## [Research for TRAN Committee - Postal services in the EU](#)

Publication type Study

Date 16-12-2019

External author Henrik BALLEBYE OKHOLM, Martina FACINO, Mindaugas CERPICKIS, Martha LAHANN, Bruno BASALISCO

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Transport

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | communications | competitiveness | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | GEOGRAPHY | policy analysis | policymaking | POLITICS | postal service | research report

Summary This study aims at providing the European Parliament's TRAN Committee with an overview of the EU postal services sector, including recent developments, and recommendations for EU policy-makers on how to further stimulate growth and competitiveness of the sector.

Study [EN](#)

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

## [Enhancing EU competitiveness \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 13-12-2019

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competition | competitiveness | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU competition policy | EU situation | EU study report | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | think tank

Summary The European Union has been established as an area of security, stability and prosperity, in which economic competitiveness plays a key role. Although in terms of productivity some EU countries are doing well, compared to, for example, the United States, the EU is lagging behind some other world regions in reaping the fruits of the digital revolution. Analysts also point to the need to continue euro-area governance reforms, completing the Banking Union and pushing ahead with the creation of the Capital Markets Union. A debate continues about whether the EU should support the creation of EU industrial champions, which advocates claim could be well placed to compete internationally in some sectors. This note brings together commentaries, analyses and studies by international think tanks and research institutes on EU competitiveness and related issues. Earlier papers on reforming the euro area are available in a previous issue from the series, published in December 2019.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Public hearing with Andrea Enria, Chair of the ECB Supervisory Board](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 10-12-2019

Author GRIGAITE KRISTINA | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword accounting | appointment of members | bank | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic analysis | economic geography | ECONOMICS | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European construction | European Court of Auditors | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | impact study | member of the European Central Bank | monetary economics | money laundering | parliamentary proceedings | political geography | POLITICS | profitability | public hearing | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU

Summary This note is prepared in view of a regular public hearing with the Chair of the Supervisory Board of the European Central Bank (ECB), Andrea Enria, which will take place on 12 December 2019. The briefing addresses (i) Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM) priorities for 2020, (ii) Banks' profitability issues; (iii) Stress testing developments; (iv) some individual bank cases; (v) supervisory issues and policies (anti-money laundering, Brexit, and impact of Basel III and IFRS9), and (vi) the completion of the Banking Union.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Main factors for the subdued profitability of significant banks in the Banking Union](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 09-12-2019

External author T.Farina, J-P.Krahnen, L.Pelizzon, M.Wahrenburg

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword accounting | bank | banking supervision | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | EU banking union | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial solvency | financial stability | free movement of capital | LAW | monetary economics | profitability

Summary In this paper we argue that the own findings of the SSM THEMATIC REVIEW ON PROFITABILITY AND BUSINESS MODEL and the academic literature on bank profitability do not provide support for the business model approach of supervisory guidance. We discuss in the paper several reasons why the regulator should stay away from intervening in management practices. We conclude that by taking the role of a coach instead of a referee, the supervisor generates a hazard for financial stability.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## Main factors for the subdued profitability of significant banks in the Banking Union

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 09-12-2019

External author B.Bruno, E.Carletti, EUI

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword accounting | bank | banking supervision | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | EU banking union | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial solvency | financial stability | free movement of capital | LAW | monetary economics | profitability

Summary There is no "one-size-fits-all" strategy to achieve viable profitability, but all banks need good strategic steering and risk management capabilities to adjust their business mix to changes in the operating environment. Banks have already taken actions to enhance profitability and the room of manoeuvre for the future is not that ample. Policy makers can take further initiatives to fix structural inefficiencies and provide better conditions for banks to enhance profitability. These concerted actions would help reduce the gap between banks' RoE and cost-of-equity.

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

## The main factors for the subdued profitability of significant banks in the Banking Union

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 09-12-2019

External author A. Resti

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword accounting | bank | banking supervision | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | EU banking union | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial solvency | financial stability | free movement of capital | LAW | monetary economics | profitability

Summary Most significant institutions in the euro area generate returns below the risk-adjusted rate required by investors. This paper surveys some recent studies on the causes of this low profitability, and then discusses several actions that the SSM may want to undertake, to support banks in their quest for higher returns.

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

## Main factors for the subdued profitability of significant banks in the Banking Union

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 05-12-2019

External author Ata Can Bertay, Harry Huizinga

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword accounting | bank | banking supervision | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | EU banking union | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial stability | free movement of capital | monetary economics | profitability | share capital

Summary This paper examines how the ECB should respond to the currently low profitability of significant banks in the Banking Union. The subdued profitability appears to be a structural problem caused by overbanking, with too many bank assets chasing too few profitable banking sector opportunities. To address the root problem of overbanking, the ECB should use its existing supervisory powers to require significant banks with unsustainably low profitability to restructure reducing their overall size. This document was provided by the Economic Governance Support Unit at the request of the ECON Committee.

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

## Public hearing with Elke König, Chair of the Single Resolution Board

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-12-2019

Author DESLANDES JEROME JEAN PHILIPPE | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword action programme | banking policy | banking system | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | EU banking union | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | LAW | management | monetary economics | right to justice | rights and freedoms

Summary This note is prepared in view of a public hearing with the Chair of the Single Resolution Board (SRB), Elke König who will inter alia present the SRB Work Programme for 2020. The briefing addresses (i) the SRB Work Programme 2020, (ii) the state of play of SRB resolution planning, (iii) the SRB policy in relation to the targets on minimum requirements of own funds and eligible liabilities (MREL), (iv) external papers commissioned by the ECON Committee on 'the resolvability of banks - what is the status quo', (v) individual cases of banks and some follow-up to an individual resolution case (Banco Popular, including the ECA's report on contingent liabilities), (vi) recent Banking Union developments, ahead of the Eurogroup report on EDIS, (vii) the SRB disclosure framework, and (viii) Brexit

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

## Impediments to resolvability of Banks

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 29-11-2019

External author Alexander Lehmann

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank | banking supervision | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | civil law | company in difficulties | EU banking union | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial solvency | financial stability | free movement of capital | LAW | monetary economics | share capital

Summary This paper gives an overview of the seven aspects of resolvability defined in 2019 by the Single Resolution Board, and then assesses progress in two key areas, based on evidence gathered from public disclosures made by the 20 largest euro-area banks. The largest banks have made good progress in raising bail-in capital. Changes to banks' legal and operational structures that will facilitate resolution will take more time. Greater transparency would make it easier to achieve the policy objective of making banks resolvable. This document was provided by the Economic Governance Support Unit at the request of the ECON Committee.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## Commitments made at the hearing of Thierry BRETON, Commissioner-designate - Internal Market

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-11-2019

Author GOUARDERES Frederic | MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz

Policy area Industry | Public Health

Keyword appointment of members | arms industry | artificial intelligence | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | defence | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic commerce | EU industrial policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | information and information processing | information security | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | marketing | oral question | parliament | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public hearing | research and intellectual property | small and medium-sized enterprises | space policy | TRADE

Summary The commissioner-designate, Thierry Breton, appeared before the European Parliament on 14 November 2019 to answer questions put by MEPs from the Committees on Industry, research and energy and Internal market and consumer protection. During the hearing, he made a number of commitments which are highlighted in this document. These commitments refer to his portfolio, as described in the mission letter sent to him by Ursula von der Leyen, President-elect of the European Commission, including:

- The digital economy and society;
- A future-ready European industry and single market; and
- Defence industry and space.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Commitments made at the hearing of Margrethe VESTAGER, Executive Vice-President-designate - Europe Fit for Digital Age

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-11-2019

Author GOUARDERES Frederic | MACIEJEWSKI Mariusz | RAKIC Drazen

Policy area Competition law and regulation | Economics and Monetary Issues | Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union | Taxation

Keyword artificial intelligence | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | competition | digital economy | digital economy taxation | digital single market | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic government | EU competition policy | EU industrial policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | information and information processing | parliament | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public hearing | question put to a minister | small and medium-sized enterprises | taxation | technological change | technology and technical regulations

Summary The commissioner-designate, Margrethe Vestager, appeared before the European Parliament on 8 October 2019 to answer questions from MEPs in the Committees on Industry, Research and Energy, Internal Market and Consumer Protection and Economic and Monetary 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 and include a Europe fit for the digital age and competition.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Commitments made at the hearing of Phil HOGAN, Commissioner-designate - Trade

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-11-2019

Author DAMEN Mario | IGLER WOLFGANG

Policy area International Trade

Keyword Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | China | climate change | competition | deterioration of the environment | direct investment | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | electronic commerce | ENVIRONMENT | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commissioner | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign investment | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | marketing | multilateral relations | oral question | parliament | POLITICS | restriction on competition | sustainable development | TRADE | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary The Commissioner-designate, Phil Hogan, appeared before the European Parliament on 30 September 2019 to answer questions from MEPs in the Committee on International Trade (INTA). During the hearing, he made a number of commitments which are highlighted in this document. These commitments refer to his portfolio, as described in the mission letter sent to him by Ursula von der Leyen, President-elect of the European Commission, including:

- A level playing field for all;
- Strengthening Europe's global leadership;
- Trade for sustainable development and climate action; and
- Making trade more transparent.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Impediments to resolvability of banks?

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 21-11-2019

External author W.P. DE GROEN

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword bank | banking supervision | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | civil law | company in difficulties | EU banking union | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial solvency | financial stability | free movement of capital | LAW | monetary economics

Summary The feasibility and credibility of bank resolutions depends, among others, on whether the impediments to resolvability are addressed or removed. Based on the limited public information available, this paper assesses the current state of the identification and removal of impediments to the resolvability of banks under the remit of the Single Resolution Board (SRB). The main findings suggest that the inclusion of the impediments assessment is taking the SRB more time than originally foreseen, there is a greater dependence on banks to address or remove impediments and that the non-resolvable banks are not notified to the EBA.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## CETA implementation: SMEs and regions in focus

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 18-11-2019

Author TITIEVSKAIA Jana | ZACHARIADIS IOANNIS AGAMEMNON

Policy area International Trade

Keyword America | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | Canada | economic agreement | economic analysis | economic analysis | economic geography | ECONOMICS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | free-trade agreement | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international trade | political geography | small and medium-sized enterprises | TRADE | trade agreement (EU)

Summary The majority of provisions of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) have been implemented since 21 September 2017, with the agreement's provisional application pending full ratification. The aim of this EPRS analysis is to chart the state of play of CETA's ratification procedures, its key objectives, remaining controversies, and the initial results stemming from two years of provisional application, with a focus on regions and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It is important to note that it is too early to evaluate the economic and social impacts of CETA. That will be the remit of the ex-post evaluation usually carried out by the European Commission five years after the start of provisional application. By providing an overview of the early results of CETA implementation two years in, this analysis seeks to inform forthcoming deliberations on both CETA itself and other free trade agreements between the EU and various partner countries.

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

## EU competition policy: Key to a fair single market

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 30-10-2019

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword anti-trust legislation | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competition | digital economy | dominant position | economic policy | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EU competition policy | EU policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | horizontal agreement | merger | merger control | single market | State aid | vertical agreement

Summary Competition policy has been found to make a positive contribution to the EU's economic growth and the EU has one of the most robust competition policy systems in the world. European competition policy encompasses many fields, not least antitrust measures, merger control and State aid. It is enforced by the European Commission, whose decisions can be contested in the Court of Justice of the European Union. Recent policy developments include the antitrust damages system and the framework empowering national competition authorities. Topics discussed in this paper include the role of competition policy in the digital era, merger control, instruments such as the leniency programme, commitments and settlements, and the potential impact of current political developments.

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

## Payment service providers and the fight against e-commerce VAT fraud

Publication type Briefing

Date 24-10-2019

Author KRAMER Esther

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | criminal law | electronic commerce | fight against crime | FINANCE | LAW | marketing | payment | provision of services | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | tax offence | taxation | TRADE | VAT

Summary This briefing analyses the quality of the IA accompanying the Commission's proposal to transmit payment service providers' data to the national tax authorities of the EU Member States in order to combat cross-border e-commerce VAT fraud. The IA focuses on the economic impacts, namely the potential recovery of VAT loss by Member States, which is expected to outweigh the costs of the initiative (even though benefits and costs could not be quantified with certainty). Regional divergences are acknowledged in the IA, but not assessed. The IA also admits that a key assumption, the improved cooperation with third countries, remains uncertain (it could imply counterproductive trade diversion towards extra-EU areas).

Briefing [EN](#)

## EU listing of tax havens

Publication type Briefing

Date 21-10-2019

Author REMEUR Cécile

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | cooperation policy | corporate governance | criminal law | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | exchange of information | FINANCE | information and information processing | intergovernmental cooperation (EU) | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | tax avoidance | tax evasion | tax inspection | taxation | third country

Summary Broadly speaking, 'tax havens' provide taxpayers, both legal and natural persons, with opportunities for tax evasion or avoidance, while their secrecy and opacity also serves to disguise the origins of the proceeds of illegal and criminal activities. One might ask why establishing a list of tax havens or high-risk countries is useful. Drawing up such lists began with action to end harmful tax practices arising from the discrepancy between the global reach of financial flows and the geographically limited scope of jurisdictions that match or exist inside national borders. However we refer to tax havens, they all have one thing in common: they allow individuals or organisations to escape from taxation. Distinctive characteristics of tax havens include low or zero taxation, fictitious residences (with no bearing on reality) and tax secrecy. The latter two are key methods for hiding ultimate beneficial owners. In the EU, the process of adopting a common list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions was initiated as part of efforts to further good tax governance, and its external dimension. On 5 December 2017, the Council adopted a first common list resulting from the assessment of third countries against distinctive criteria. Pursuing the assessment process, the Council has updated the list on the basis of commitments received, while also reviewing countries that had not yet been assessed. This briefing updates an earlier one, from May 2018 – itself an updated and extended version of a briefing from December 2017: 'Understanding the rationale for compiling "tax haven" lists', PE 614.633 – to take account of the changes in the lists since that date.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Digital challenges for Europe \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 18-10-2019

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

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

Keyword artificial intelligence | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | data protection | digital single market | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | impact of information technology | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | labour market | labour market | LAW | personal data | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | protection of privacy | report | research and intellectual property | rights and freedoms | think tank

Summary The rapid development of digital technologies is posing a challenge to the European Union, spurring initiatives to catch up with the US and China in the area, notably in the context of the digital single market. Among the dilemmas are how to reconcile Europe's sensitivity towards protecting private data with the need to use them in many algorithms, and ensure that automation and artificial intelligence strengthen rather than weaken labour market participation. This note offers links to a series of some recent commentaries and reports from major international think tanks and research institutes on digital challenges. Many earlier papers on the issue can be found in a previous item in the series, published in July 2018. Many reports on cybersecurity are available in a publication from October 2018.

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

## [EU Statutory Audit Reform: Impact on costs, concentration and competition](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 15-10-2019

External author Marleen WILLEKENS, Simon DEKEYSER, Ines SIMAC

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword accounting | audit | auditing | budget | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | FINANCE | financial control | financial policy | free movement of capital | management

Summary This document, prepared by Policy department A at the request of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (ECON), summarises the key findings of the study on the EU Statutory Audit Reform.

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

## [European Stability Mechanism – Main Features, Instruments and Accountability](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-10-2019

Author PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA | ZOPPE Alice

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

Keyword bank | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | capital increase | cooperation policy | coordination of EMU policies | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | euro area | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial aid | financial institutions and credit | financial instrument | financial intervention | free movement of capital | intergovernmental cooperation (EU) | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | monetary economics | monetary relations | operation of the Institutions | public debt | public finance and budget policy | support mechanism | terms for aid

Summary This document presents the main features of the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), including governance, capital structure and funding sources, main lending instruments, as well as its oversight and accountability framework. It also reviews recent proposals and contributions on the possible evolution of the ESM. This note is regularly updated.

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

## [Towards a fundamental re-design of Banks' Stress Tests in the EU?](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-10-2019

Author DESLANDES JEROME JEAN PHILIPPE | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword accounting | balance sheet | bank | banking supervision | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | European Banking Authority | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial supervision | free movement of capital | monetary economics

Summary On 26 September 2019, Andrea Enria, Chair of the European Central Bank's Supervisory Board, gave a speech on the future of stress testing ("The future of stress testing – realism, relevance and resources") in which he outlined a proposal on how to achieve meaningful progress with a view to make the tests both more realistic and more relevant, with fewer resources required. Andrea Enria's proposals involve a decisive re-design of the stress test exercise. Stress tests are currently carried out using a "constrained bottom-up approach" whereby supervisory authorities ensure a quality check of models run by banks. It is suggested to split stress tests into a supervisory view ("top-down" approach along the lines of stress tests under Dodd-Frank in the US) and a "banks' view" (bottom-up approach).

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



## Hearings of the Commissioners-designate: Janez Lenarčič - Crisis Management

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author D'AMBROGIO Enrico

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

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

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

Briefing [EN](#)

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

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-09-2019

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

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

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

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

Briefing [EN](#)

## EU challenges at a time of transition [What Think Tanks are thinking]

Publication type Briefing

Date 06-09-2019

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | China | climate change policy | common commercial policy | common foreign and security policy | competitiveness | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European Commission | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | international trade | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | report | research and intellectual property | think tank | TRADE | trade dispute | trade policy | United Kingdom | United States | withdrawal from the EU

**Summary** The European Union faces numerous challenges, both short and long-term, as it prepares to choose the new executive, a European Commission for the next five years, following elections to the European Parliament in May 2019. The most immediate task is for European Commission President-elect, Ursula von der Leyen, to put together a college of Commissioners and secure its approval by the European Parliament. The EU is also engaged in difficult talks on the terms of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU, currently due on 31 October. On the economic front, the EU needs to deal with the fallout of a trade conflict between the United States and China, and to boost its competitiveness, as the two other global powerhouses swiftly pursue the digitalisation of their economies. In the face of political volatility in the US, Europe should also consider enhancing its defence capabilities. Last, but not least, the Union must deliver on its pledge to remain the world's leader in efforts to fight climate change. This note brings together recent commentaries, analyses and studies by major international think tanks and research institutes on challenges facing the EU. More papers analysing the outcome of the European Elections can be found in a previous edition of 'What Think Tanks are Thinking', published in July.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Anti-money laundering - reinforcing the supervisory and regulatory framework](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 02-09-2019

Author DESLANDES JEROME JEAN PHILIPPE | MAGNUS Marcel | PACHECO DIAS CRISTINA SOFIA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword application of EU law | bank | banking supervision | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business ethics | business organisation | Denmark | directive (EU) | economic geography | Estonia | EU banking union | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European Banking Authority | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial supervision | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | Latvia | Malta | monetary economics | money laundering | Netherlands | operation of the Institutions | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | supervisory body

Summary On the back of a number of high profile cases and alleged cases of money laundering, this briefing presents current initiatives and actions aiming at reinforcing the anti-money laundering supervisory and regulatory framework in the EU. This briefing first outlines (1) the EU supervisory architecture and the respective roles of European and national authorities in applying anti-money laundering legislation that have been further specified in the 5th AML Directive and (2) ways that have been proposed to further improve the anti-money laundering supervisory and regulatory frameworks, including the 12 September 2018 Commission's communication, the changes to the European Supervisory Authority (ESA) Regulation adopted by the co-legislators on the basis of a Commission proposal and the most recent Commission's state of play of supervisory and regulatory landscapes on anti-money laundering. Some previous AML cases are presented in Annex. This briefing updates an EGOV briefing originally drafted in April 2018. On a more prospective note, this briefing also presents (3) some possible additional reforms to bring about a more integrated AML supervisory architecture in the EU. In that respect, President-elect U. von der Leyen's political declaration stresses the need for further action without specifying at this stage possible additional supervisory and regulatory developments: "The complexity and sophistication of our financial system has opened the door to new risks of money laundering and terrorist financing. We need better supervision and a comprehensive policy to prevent loopholes."

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Amending capital requirements: The 'CRD-V package'](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-07-2019

Author STAMEGNA CARLA

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

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | business organisation | civil law | company in difficulties | cooperation policy | credit institution | directive (EU) | economic conditions | economic stabilisation | ECONOMICS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial aid | financial institutions and credit | financial intervention | financial services | financial solvency | free movement of capital | interest | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | investment company | LAW | liquidity control | monetary crisis | monetary economics | monetary relations | proposal (EU) | small and medium-sized enterprises

Summary In May 2019, the European Parliament and the Council (the co-legislators) adopted the legislative proposals amending the Capital Requirements Directive and Regulation, which establish the prudential framework for financial institutions operating in the EU. The amendments implement the most recent regulatory standards for banks, set at international level ('Basel III framework'). They also address some regulatory shortcomings and aim to contribute to sustainable bank financing of the economy. The final acts were published in the Official Journal on 7 June 2019. The new provisions will for the most part apply as of 2021. Fourth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Cross-border distribution of investment funds](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 29-07-2019

Author DELIVORIAS Angelos

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword alternative investment | approximation of laws | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European Securities and Markets Authority | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial legislation | financial management | free movement of capital | freedom to provide services | holding company | investment company | investment transaction | legal form of organisations | management | marketing | proposal (EU) | provision of services | right of establishment | securities | TRADE | UCITS fund

Summary Investment funds are products created to pool investors' capital and to invest it in a collective portfolio of securities. The characteristics of a range of different types of investment funds have been established in Union law, and most funds on the market are categorised as one of these types. The market in the EU is smaller than in the United States, despite there being far more funds in the EU. This is why the European Commission put forward two legislative proposals: one for a regulation aligning national requirements for marketing funds and regulatory fees and harmonising the process and requirements for the verification of marketing material by national competent authorities, and the other for a directive harmonising the conditions under which investment funds may exit a national market and allowing European asset managers to engage in pre-marketing activities. Parliament and Council approved the texts agreed in trilogue on 16 April and 14 June 2019 respectively. The final acts were published on 12 July 2019. The directive's provisions shall apply from 2 August 2021, and the regulation's from August 2019, with some exceptions. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Banking Union: Towards new arrangements for the provision of liquidity in resolution?

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-07-2019

Author DESLANDES JEROME JEAN PHILIPPE | MAGNUS Marcel

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

Keyword aid for restructuring | anti-crisis plan | bank | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | company in difficulties | economic conditions | economic policy | economic recession | ECONOMICS | EU banking union | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | Eurogroup (euro area) | European Central Bank | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | fund (EU) | monetary economics | monetary relations | State aid

**Summary** The recent case of Banco Popular has shown the importance of liquidity funding in the context of bank resolution. The Eurogroup report endorsed by the December 2018 Euro Summit noted the "broad support for the assessment of the institutions [i.e. ECB, SRB and Commission] that there are limitations in the current framework [for liquidity provision in resolution] which may hamper its effectiveness. The June 2019 Euro summit has not yet reached any conclusions on the design of that liquidity facility, as planned. The Eurogroup is expected to report back to the Euro-Summit in December 2019.  
This briefing (1) describes the existing arrangements in the Banking Union, (2) compares those arrangements with the US and the UK regimes and (3) echoes ongoing reflections on possible new arrangements with a view to completing the Banking Union. This briefing is an updated version of a briefing initially drafted in July 2018.

Briefing [EN](#)

## European Accessibility Act

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-07-2019

Author LECERF Marie

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Internal Market and Customs Union | Social Policy

Keyword accounting | adoption of a law by vote | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | cost-benefit analysis | demography and population | disabled person | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | facilities for the disabled | impact study | integration of the disabled | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | population ageing | small and medium-sized enterprises | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | TRANSPORT | transport infrastructure | transport policy

**Summary** To ensure the full participation of people with disabilities in society, and to reduce the fragmentation of legislation governing access to products and services, the European Commission has adopted a proposal for a directive – often referred to as the European Accessibility Act. This proposal, published on 2 December 2015, provides for a common EU definition of, and implementation framework for, accessibility requirements for certain products and services. It also aims to use the same accessibility requirements to provide a clear definition of the existing general accessibility obligation laid down in European law. Many stakeholders welcomed the European Union's wish to honour its responsibilities under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but they were divided on the means to reach this objective. In the European Parliament, the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) adopted its report on 25 April 2017, which was discussed in plenary on 15 September. At the same time, Parliament gave a mandate to start negotiations with the Council. On 7 December 2017, the Council agreed on a position (general approach). On 8 November 2018, the EP and the Council came to a provisional agreement. The agreed text was adopted by the EP on 13 March 2019, then by the Council on 27 March, and published in the Official Journal on 7 June 2019. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## EU certification of aviation security screening equipment

Publication type Briefing

Date 07-07-2019

Author DEBYSER Ariane

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

Keyword air and space transport | air safety | approval | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | civil aviation | competitiveness | EC conformity marking | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | electronic equipment | electronics and electrical engineering | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | free movement of goods | impact study | INDUSTRY | international trade | market approval | marketing | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | single market | technical standard | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | TRANSPORT | transport policy

**Summary** In 2016, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation establishing a certification system for aviation security screening equipment. The proposal sought 'to contribute to the proper functioning of the EU internal market and to increase the global competitiveness of the EU industry by establishing an EU certification system for aviation security equipment'. This system was to be based on EU type-approval and issuance of a certificate of conformity by manufacturers, which would have been valid in all Member States, according to the principle of mutual recognition. Progress on the proposal rapidly reached a stalemate. Consequently, in its 2019 work programme, the Commission announced its intention to withdraw the proposal, noting that there was a common understanding that an EU certification system would be better reached by amending existing implementing legislation based on Regulation (EC) No 300/2008 on common rules in the field of civil aviation security. The proposal was formally withdrawn on 21 June 2019. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Multinational enterprises, value creation and taxation: Key issues and policy developments

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-07-2019

Author ZACHARIADIS IOANNIS AGAMEMNON

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | digital technology | economic structure | ECONOMICS | FINANCE | fiscal policy | multinational enterprise | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | taxation | technology and technical regulations | value chain | world economy

**Summary** The substantial reduction in trade costs and the rapid technological advances characterising the global economy over the past three decades have allowed multinational enterprises (MNEs) to increasingly break up their supply chains and spread them across different countries. The principal implication of this change relates to the concept of value added and the way it is created and captured across MNE-controlled global value chains (GVCs). The dynamic nature of transfers within MNEs, the increasing role of services and intangible assets in manufacturing, and most critically the unfolding digital revolution have all intensified the mobility of value-generating factors within GVCs, and highlighted the difficulty of defining the exact location where value is generated. These developments have significant policy implications. One critical area is that of tax policy, where the challenges posed by the new economic landscape are numerous and multifaceted. On the one hand, governments seek to encourage trade and investment by MNEs by removing tax and regulatory barriers they face. Some governments go even further by resorting to harmful tax competition that drives corporate income taxes to the bottom. At the same time, many MNEs continue to employ enhanced tax arbitrage to minimise their tax obligations across jurisdictions; furthermore, business models are increasingly becoming borderless and highly mobile, and therefore difficult to tax. In view of these challenges, consensus is gradually emerging that tax systems need improved alignment to ensure that profits are taxed where the economic activities generating them are performed and where value is created. Yet, allocating jurisdiction to tax business profits in the context of MNE-controlled GVCs remains a highly complex process.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [Multinational enterprises, value creation and taxation](#)

## EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Promoting European culture

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-06-2019

Author PASIKOWSKA-SCHNASS Magdalena

Policy area Culture

Keyword action programme | audiovisual production | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cinema | communications | cultural heritage | cultural promotion | culture | culture and religion | distribution of EU funding | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU statistics | European cultural event | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | management | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Unesco | United Nations

**Summary** The concept of cultural diversity lies at the heart of the European project. Recent years have seen renewed interest in the sector's potential for promoting social cohesion, unity and tolerance, on the one hand, with continued recognition of its valuable economic role, on the other. There is a strong commitment at the EU level to ensure that culture is mainstreamed in all policy areas, with a special focus on the protection of cultural heritage and cultural diversity, which are key elements in cultural identity and expression. From the economic point of view, the cultural and creative sector, which employs 8.4 million people in the European Union, is dynamic and has a large potential for growth due to its diversity and scope for individual creative freedom. Yet the development of this potential is hampered by barriers, notably linguistic diversity, fragmentation and different financial mechanisms across the EU. The EU's cultural and creative industry also faces challenge from digital technologies and global competition, particularly from the United States' (US) audiovisual industry, and from US and Chinese diplomatic efforts to promote their cultural output. Under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the EU's role in the context of cultural policy is a supportive and complementary one, direct responsibility in the area being largely a matter for the individual Member States. Nevertheless, since 2014, these challenges have been addressed at the EU level, inter alia via the strengthening of the digital single market, which is essential for access to culture, the circulation of European cultural works, the fair remuneration of creators and fair competition. Since the economic crisis, additional funding has also been made available for the sector via the European Fund for Strategic Investment introduced by the Juncker Commission in 2015. As indicated in a 2017 European Commission communication on the role of culture and education, the synergies between the socio-economic aspects are to be enhanced. The European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018 is to feed into a reflection and actions related to shared culture and history. These issues are addressed in the New European Agenda for Culture, while the new multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027 envisages increased funding for culture. This will also support efforts to combine artistic and technological skills, which are a prerequisite for artistic expression in the new digital environment. This is an update of an earlier briefing issued in advance of the 2019 European elections.

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

Multimedia [EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Promoting European culture](#)

## EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Industrial policy

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-06-2019

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

Policy area Industry | Research Policy

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | capital market | circular economy | competitiveness | culture and religion | culture industry | digitisation | documentation | economic analysis | economic conditions | economic growth | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU industrial policy | FINANCE | Framework Programme for Research and Development | free movement of capital | globalisation | harmonisation of standards | impact study | industrial manufacturing | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | organisation of transport | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and development | research and intellectual property | satellite navigation | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations | TRANSPORT

**Summary** Through its industrial policy, the European Union (EU) has been striving to create conditions conducive to increasing industry growth and competitiveness since 1992. European industry remains a cornerstone of the economy, providing one job out of five, and is responsible for the bulk of EU exports and investment in research and innovation. Today, the aim of EU policy is to enable a successful transition towards digital, knowledge-based, decarbonised and more circular industry in Europe. To achieve this goal, the EU supports, coordinates and supplements Member State-level policies and actions, mainly in the areas of research and innovation, SMEs and digital technologies. In a Eurobarometer poll conducted for the European Parliament, more than half of EU citizens expressed support for increased EU action on industrial policy. Despite this, it is still the least understood policy area covered by the poll. Since 2014, efforts have been made in a number of areas, including investment (mainly through the European Fund for Strategic Investment, which supports industrial modernisation); digitalisation (for example setting up a number of research partnerships, or a growing network of digital innovation hubs); financing (making it easier for industry and SMEs to access public markets and attract venture funds); greener industry (for example through the revised 2030 emission targets, or measures on clean mobility); standardisation (bringing together relevant stakeholders to collectively develop and update European standards); and skills (mobilising key stakeholders to close the skills gap and providing an adequate workforce for modern industry). The European Parliament has called for ambitious policies in many of these areas. In the future, EU spending on key areas relevant to industrial policy is expected to rise moderately. The European Commission is proposing to boost the share of EU spending on research, SMEs and key infrastructure, although not as much as Parliament has requested. In the coming years, policies are likely to focus on seeking fairer global competition, stimulating innovation, building digital capacities and increasing the sustainability of European industry. This is an update of an earlier briefing issued in advance of the 2019 European elections.

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

Multimedia [EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Industrial policy](#)

## EU policies – Delivering for citizens: Regional policy

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-06-2019

Author MARGARAS Vasileios | VAN LIEROP Christiaan

Policy area Regional Development

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

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

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

Multimedia [Regional policy](#)



## Amending the bank resolution framework – BRRD and SRMR

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-06-2019

Author STAMEGNA CARLA

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

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | civil law | company in difficulties | drafting of EU law | EU banking union | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institution | financial institutions and credit | financial legislation | financial risk | financial solvency | free movement of capital | LAW | management | monetary economics | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | risk management | technical standard | technology and technical regulations

Summary In May 2019, the European Parliament and the Council adopted the proposals amending the EU legislative framework on bank resolution, consisting of the Banking Recovery and Resolution Directive, and the Single Resolution Mechanism Regulation. Resolution is the restructuring of a bank which is failing or likely to fail, aiming at safeguarding continuity of the bank's critical functions, preserving financial stability and minimising rescue costs to taxpayers. The adopted amendments incorporate into EU law the Total Loss-Absorbing Capacity standard, set at international level to improve large financial institutions' capacity to absorb losses and recapitalise in case they are placed in resolution. The new legislative texts were published in the Official Journal on 7 June 2019, and come fully into force on 28 December 2020.

Briefing [EN](#)

## The History of the EU Budget

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 14-06-2019

External author Dr Giacomo Benedetto

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword audit | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | documentation | drawing up of the EU budget | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU budget | EU expenditure | EU finance | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | financing of the EU budget | historical account | history of Europe | management

Summary The budget of the European Union has three pillars: its expenditure, its financing and its audit. This briefing looks at the origins of the budget, its development through multiannual planning and annual budgeting. It does so amid the European Parliament's changing powers over the budget, and the evolution of its financing and of the audit process. Since the very first European Community in 1952, there has been a tension over budgeting among the European institutions and the Member States, and a close link between reforms to expenditure and those to the financing.

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

## Summary of the exchange of views on EU Member States National Declarations (ND) - Committee on Budgetary Control Meeting on 11 April 2019

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-06-2019

Author VERDINS Rudolfs

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic geography | EU finance | EU Member State | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | financial management | fund (EU) | general budget (EU) | GEOGRAPHY | government statement | management | POLITICS

Summary Committee on Budgetary Control (CONT) held an exchange of views with Mr Olivier Waelbroeck, Director, European Commission, and Ms Eva Lindström, Member of the European Court of Auditors, in which they explored ways to promote the National Declarations (ND). ND are a voluntary public accountability instrument that strengthen the provision of assurance in the management of EU funds, and demonstrate the political commitment towards sound financial management.

Briefing [EN](#)

## The importance of evaluation of outcomes in healthcare and hospital experiences

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-06-2019

External author Giuseppe BANFI, Lukasz SLAWOMIRSKI

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

Keyword accounting | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cost-effectiveness analysis | health | health care | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The meeting on the role and importance of outcome in healthcare had the aim to propose the topic of the evaluation of effectiveness of medical and surgical treatments as a real indicator of healthcare quality.

Briefing [EN](#)



## Cost of non-Europe in robotics and artificial intelligence

Publication type Study

Date 12-06-2019

External author This study has been written by Bob Martens and Jorren Garrez of DLA Piper UK LLP and Cambridge Econometrics at the request of the European Added Value Unit within the Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS) of the European Parliament.

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

Keyword approximation of laws | artificial intelligence | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | civil law | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | insurance | insurance | LAW | liability | management | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and development | research and intellectual property | risk management | robotics

Summary Robotics is a wide and multi-faceted domain, which crosses boundaries between many economics sectors and legal disciplines. The perception of a need for some kind of Europe-wide legal framework to accompany the development of robotic and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies is growing. A harmonised EU regulatory framework concerning specifically liability and insurance regarding robotics and AI could provide greater legal certainty and promote trust. It could also stimulate greater research and development activity by producers and increase the speed of uptake of these two new emerging technologies by consumers, resulting in a possible positive impact in terms of GDP. Research suggests that, by 2030, EU GDP could be 0.04 % higher than it would otherwise be under the current regulatory framework.

Study [EN](#)

## Safeguarding competition in air transport

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-05-2019

Author DEBYSER Ariane

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Transport

Keyword air and space transport | air freight rate | air transport | airline | anti-dumping measure | anti-subsidy proceeding | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | competition | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | national parliament | ordinary legislative procedure | parliament | POLITICS | powers of parliament | proposal (EU) | TRANSPORT | transport policy | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary The issue of fair competition between EU and third-country airlines and the importance of guaranteeing a level playing field has been recognised for some years by the various EU institutions as key for the future of European aviation. The 2015 Commission communication on the aviation strategy underlined the importance and legitimacy of EU action to deal with possible unfair commercial practices in international aviation, and announced the revision of existing rules in this field. On 8 June 2017, the Commission adopted a legislative proposal for a regulation on safeguarding competition in air transport. The objective of the proposal is to provide effective legislation in order 'to maintain conditions conducive to a high level of Union connectivity and to ensure fair competition with third countries' air carriers'. Parliament and Council reached agreement on the text in November 2018. The text was formally adopted by Parliament on 14 March 2019 and by Council on 9 April. Signed on 17 April, the new regulation comes into force on 30 May 2019. Fifth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Workshop on “Strengthening Competitiveness of the Internal Market by Developing the EU Customs Union and its Governance”

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-05-2019

Author DOBRIȚA ANDREEA-MĂDĂLINA

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Consumer Protection | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Forward Planning | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | customs regulations | customs union | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | single market | tariff policy | TRADE

Summary This report summarises the discussion that took place at the workshop on “Strengthening Competitiveness of the Internal Market by Developing the EU Customs Union and its Governance”. The Union Customs Code is a key element of the ongoing actions to modernise EU customs. With the aim of discussing the main challenges related to this topic and the recent proposal of the European Commission to postpone the deadline of 2020, the workshop was hosted by Ms Virginie Rozière, MEP. This document was prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Area of freedom, security and justice: Cost of Non-Europe](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-05-2019

Author VAN BALLEGOOIJ Wouter

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

Keyword accounting | area of freedom, security and justice | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | corruption | cost analysis | criminal law | data protection | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU migration policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | external border of the EU | fight against crime | fundamental rights | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | international law | LAW | migration | political framework | POLITICS | politics and public safety | right of asylum | rights and freedoms | rule of law | Schengen Agreement | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | terrorism

Summary Substantial progress has been made since creating an area of freedom, security and justice became a major political objective for the EU 20 years ago. Still, there is a lack of consistent monitoring and enforcement of EU values and norms as well as outstanding gaps in the EU's framework in certain areas. These deficiencies have a significant impact at individual level, notably in terms of preventing the effective exercise of fundamental rights by EU citizens and third country nationals alike. They also have a negative effect on budgetary spending, growth and tax revenue, which is estimated at at least €180 billion annually, with the lack of enforcement of EU values still to be assessed in more detail. Further EU action in four main areas: 1. monitoring and enforcement; 2. the creation of safe legal pathways for migrants and asylum seekers to enter the EU; 3. ingraining a European law enforcement culture; and 4. completing the Union's fundamental rights framework, would have significant benefits. In particular, it could allow individuals to fully enjoy their fundamental rights and make EU society more secure, open, fair and prosperous. This would also foster trust in the EU on the basis of its ability to deliver on its aims

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Assessing the Leaders' Agenda](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 06-05-2019

Author ANGHEL Suzana Elena | DRACHENBERG Ralf

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

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

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

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [Unfair trading practices in the food supply chain](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 06-05-2019

Author KELLY PATRICK

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Agriculture and Rural Development

Keyword agri-foodstuffs | agri-foodstuffs | AGRI-FOODSTUFFS | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | chain store | civil law | competition | consumer protection | consumption | distributive trades | documentation | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | food industry | foodstuff | impact study | LAW | perishable goods | proposal (EU) | report | restriction on competition | small and medium-sized enterprises | supplier | supply | trade | TRADE | unfair terms of contract

Summary The food supply chain ensures that food and impact products are delivered to the public. It affects all consumers in the EU. The final price paid by the consumer is impacted by the number of participants in the food supply chain. While the single market has brought benefits to operators in the supply chain through more market opportunities and a larger customer base, it has also brought challenges. Structural changes have occurred, leading to different levels of bargaining power and imbalances between actors in the chain. The abuse of such differences may lead to unfair trading practices. To strengthen the position of smaller operators (farmers) in the food supply chain, in April 2018 the European Commission proposed a new directive on unfair trading practices. Trilogue discussions began in October 2018 after a successful vote in plenary. The final agreed text was adopted by both Parliament and Council at first reading, and signed on 17 April. Member States must now incorporate its provisions into national law, and apply them by 1 November 2021.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Cross-border euro transfers and currency conversions: A step forward in favour of the single market](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 29-04-2019

Author SPINACI STEFANO

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

Keyword accounting | bank charges | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | documentation | drafting of EU law | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic banking | euro area | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institution | financial institutions and credit | financial legislation | financial services | free movement of capital | intra-EU payment | monetary economics | monetary relations | payment | proposal (EU) | report | single market

**Summary** Cross-border payments are crucial for the integration of the EU economy, and play an important role in ensuring that citizens and enterprises from all EU Member States enjoy the same rights offered by the single market. Since the introduction of the euro, the EU has launched various initiatives to reduce the cost of cross-border transactions, among them a set of single euro payments area (SEPA) standards, regulations on cross-border payments, and the Payment Services Directives. Nevertheless, cross-border euro payments made in non-euro-area Member States are still subject to high fees. Furthermore, when paying with a card or making an ATM withdrawal in a country using a currency other than the euro, it is almost impossible to know exactly how much it is going to cost. On 28 March 2018, the European Commission presented a proposal for a regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 924/2009 on cross-border payments. Working through the legislative process, Parliament and Council reached agreement on an amended text, published in the Official Journal on 19 March 2019. The new regulation will make cross-border payments in euros cheaper across the entire EU, while also bringing more transparency to currency-conversion practices. Second edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

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

## [Public country-by-country reporting by multinational enterprises](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 26-04-2019

Author REMEUR Cécile

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Economics and Monetary Issues | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | corporation tax | criminal law | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | European tax cooperation | EUROPEAN UNION | exchange of information | FINANCE | information and information processing | LAW | multinational enterprise | single market | tax avoidance | tax evasion | tax inspection | tax law | taxation

**Summary** Tax transparency has gained particular importance as a tool in the fight against tax avoidance and tax evasion, particularly in the field of corporate income tax and aggressive tax planning. Cooperation between tax authorities aims at allowing them to obtain information covering the global business of multinational enterprises (MNEs), and progress has already been made in this area. A further step in tax transparency would be to broaden it by providing publicly available information relating to tax paid at the place where profits are actually made. Public country-by-country reporting (CBCR) is the publication of a defined set of facts and figures by large MNEs, thereby providing the public with a global picture of the taxes MNEs pay on their corporate income. The proposal is being considered by the European Parliament (EP) and the Council. In the EP, the amendments put forward by the ECON and JURI committees were voted on 4 July 2017. In the absence of a Council position enabling negotiations on the proposal, the Parliament adopted its position at first reading in plenary on 27 March 2019. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

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

## [Performance Indicators for Convergence in Regional Development - How reliable are they to ensure Targeted and Result-Oriented spending?](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 15-04-2019

External author Jack Malan, Jayne Woolford, Sandra Ruiz-Fernandez, Michaela Brady, and Maria Kazakova from the Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services LLP (CSES)

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | economic and social cohesion | economic convergence | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU finance | EU financing | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | management | performance measurement | regional development | regions and regional policy

**Summary** This study examines how reliable Cohesion Policy indicators are in helping to ensure targeted and result-oriented expenditure. Overall, substantial progress has been made in recent years in developing an effective system. However, the challenge remains to shift from a focus on financial absorption and outputs to assessing more meaningful results and impacts of interventions, and to improve data collection systems. The paper includes eleven recommendations to address these and other challenges ahead of the new 2020-2027 period.

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

## [Digital tools and processes in company law](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 10-04-2019

Author KOTANIDIS Silvia

Policy area Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | company law | digital single market | digital technology | digitisation | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic government | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technology and technical regulations

Summary The possibility for companies to operate in a favourable legal and administrative environment is crucial for economic growth. Companies already use digital tools in their interaction with administrations; however, they do so to differing degrees depending on the Member State. At the April II plenary session, Parliament is due to vote on the compromise text agreed following trilogue negotiations. The aim is to harmonise and foster the use of digital tools at the various stages in a company's lifecycle.

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

## [EU Statutory Audit Reform: Impact on costs, concentration and competition](#)

Publication type Study

Date 09-04-2019

External author Marleen WILLEKENS, Simon DEKEYSER, Ines SIMAC

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword amendment of a law | audit | budget | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | competition | EC Directive | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU market | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial control | impact study | management | parliamentary proceedings | POLITICS | TRADE | trade policy

Summary In this study we execute an in-depth analysis of the evolution of market concentration, competition and costs in the EU market for statutory auditing before and after the Audit Reform. Based on data from archival databases and a survey, we present evidence suggesting that rivalry between the largest audit suppliers increased, as did audit costs, non-Big 4 audit market share, and joint audit rates. Non-audit services (NAS) fees earned by the incumbent auditor decreased. This document was provided by Policy Department A at the request of the Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) Committee.

Study [EN](#)

## [Enabling SMEs' access to capital markets](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-04-2019

Author ZACHARIADIS IOANNIS AGAMEMNON

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword bond | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | capital market | documentation | economic conditions | economic growth | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial instrument | financing and investment | free movement of capital | investment company | investment protection | issue of securities | proposal (EU) | report | small and medium-sized enterprises | start-up | stock-exchange listing

Summary Making it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access financing through public markets lies at the heart of the capital markets union – the plan to mobilise capital in Europe. Among the various reasons for going ahead with this union is the fact that existing requirements and listing costs in both regulated and multilateral trading venues continue to be disproportionate to the size and level of sophistication of SMEs. To further respond to this situation, the Commission has proposed adopting a regulation to address the administrative burden placed on SMEs when listing or issuing equity and bonds, with the aim to increase liquidity on SME growth markets. The latter are a new category of multilateral trading facilities, which was established under the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II. To this end, the proposal provides for targeted amendments to two key pieces of financial services legislation, namely the Market Abuse Regulation (MAR) and the Prospectus Regulation. Following interinstitutional negotiations the co-legislators reached a provisional agreement on the proposal on 6 March 2019, and this is due to be voted in Parliament during the April II plenary session.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Competition issues in the Area of Financial Technology \(FinTech\): Study presentation](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 04-04-2019

External author David RAMOS MUÑOZ Juan Pablo VILLAR GARCÍA et al.

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues | Forward Planning

Keyword banking | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | competition policy | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial services | financial technology | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technology and technical regulations

Summary The study presented in this event deals with the new competition challenges brought about by the increasing number of FinTech services, which are provided by newcomer start-ups, traditional financial institutions and big tech companies. Namely, network effects derived from the use of online-platforms, the use of customer data, algorithms, standardisation and interoperability can result in anticompetitive behaviour. The analysis takes a service-by-service approach to provide both, a descriptive breakdown and normative tools to anticipate and manage anticompetitive behaviours as they occur.  
This presentation was prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the ECON Committee.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

## [A governance framework for algorithmic accountability and transparency](#)

Publication type Study

Date 04-04-2019

External author DG, EPRS

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

Keyword artificial intelligence | big data | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | data processing | decision-making | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | equal treatment | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | LAW | management | rights and freedoms

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

Study [EN](#)

Annex 1 [EN](#)

## [Innovation in Europe \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 29-03-2019

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | China | competitiveness | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU research policy | GEOGRAPHY | innovation | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | report | research and development | research and intellectual property | think tank | United States

Summary Innovation in the economy is a priority for the European Union, vital to its competitiveness globally, and for growth and jobs. The EU is implementing a number of policies and programmes that support innovation, through increased investment in research and development, and to better convert research into improved goods and services. Yet, according to many analysts, despite the roll-out of numerous pro-innovation initiatives, the EU is still lagging behind the United States and China both on innovation and in relation to the related digitalisation process. This note offers links to recent commentaries, studies and reports from major international think tanks on innovation in the EU and related issues. More papers on innovation, notably on the digital economy, can be found in a previous item in this series. published in July 2018.

Briefing [EN](#)