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Creation date : 19-04-2024

[Recovery and Resilience Plans: the involvement of stakeholders and their view](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 17-04-2024

Author HANINA KATERYNA | LEHOFER WOLFGANG

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

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

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

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

[Single European Sky 2+ package](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 05-04-2024

Author SOONE Jaan

Policy area Transport

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

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

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

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

Publication type Briefing

Date 26-02-2024

Author KAISER WOLFRAM KARL WILHELM

External author Berger, Jonah

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

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

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

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

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-01-2024

Author BALAZS Eszter | NADKARNI ISABEL

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword Belgium | Council of Europe | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | Europe | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | national parliament | parliament | political geography | POLITICS | president of an institution

Summary The Kingdom of Belgium is a federal constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary democracy, with the monarch as Head of State and a prime minister as Head of Government. The current monarch, King Philippe/Filip has been on the throne since 21 July 2013, his heir apparent is Princess Elisabeth, the daughter of the monarch. The King has wide legislative powers constitutionally but is relieved of all responsibility, with his ministers signing the bills and royal decrees. It is the King's task to appoint the prime minister, who is usually the leader of the majority coalition after legislative elections. The King is the symbol of the unity of the nation. Upon appointment by the King, the prime minister has to be approved by the parliament's Chamber of Representatives. The current prime minister is Alexander De Croo of the Open Flemish Liberals and Democrats (Open Vld) party, which sits in the Renew Group in the European Parliament.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Qualified majority voting in common foreign and security policy - A cost of non-Europe report](#)

Publication type Study

Date 28-08-2023

Author IOANNIDES Isabelle | JANCOVA LENKA | NAVARRA Cecilia

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

Keyword case study | Council of Europe | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electoral procedure and voting | EU civilian mission | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | human rights | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | sanction (EU) | unanimity

Summary Common foreign and security policy (CFSP) has a particular status in the EU legal framework, part of which is the unanimity rule within the Council. This report analyses decision-making rules in CFSP from a 'cost of non-Europe' perspective. It identifies CFSP challenges and the extent to which they could be attributed to unanimity. This allows us to identify the current 'cost of unanimity'. The report also analyses possible alternatives to unanimity decision-making in CFSP, such as a switch to qualified majority voting (QMV), including their costs and benefits. The study develops several policy options, including options within the current legal framework, options requiring Treaty change, and options requiring a departure from the intergovernmentalism in CFSP.

Study [EN](#)

[First EU space strategy for security and defence: What implications for EU strategic autonomy?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 28-08-2023

Author PATAKI Gabor Zsolt

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Global Governance | Security and Defence

Keyword air and space transport | common foreign and security policy | defence | EU strategy | European construction | European organisations | European Space Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | geopolitics | humanities | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | missile | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | SCIENCE | space policy | space technology | TRANSPORT

Summary In 2022, the EU Strategic Compass included space as a strategic domain, and called for a dedicated European strategy. In the meantime, Russia's invasion of Ukraine confirmed the key role of space for defence and resilience, but also highlighted vulnerabilities related to space systems. Another 'wake-up call' came from a different direction; SpaceX's advances in reusable rocket technology leading to Starship's first orbital flight test turned the spotlight onto launch providers and access to space. Space is a critical infrastructure issue with growing economic significance. It is also an increasingly contested arena between competing geopolitical interests. To address these rising challenges, in March 2023 the European Commission and the High Representative/Vice-President presented their first joint communication on a European space strategy for security and defence.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[International Agreements in Progress: Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya \(East African Community\)](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-07-2023

Author PICHON Eric

Policy area Foreign Affairs | International Trade

Keyword Africa | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU relations | European Association of National Productivity Centres | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | import (EU) | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Kenya | settlement of disputes | sustainable development | trade | TRADE

Summary On 19 June 2023, the EU and Kenya concluded negotiations on an economic partnership agreement (EPA). This agreement builds on negotiations for an EPA with the partner states of the East African Community (EAC) – at the time: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda – which were finalised in October 2014. However, the signing of the EU-EAC EPA had been stalled because of discussions within the EAC on the consequences of the EPA for their economies. Except for Kenya, all EAC partner states are least developed countries, and still enjoy duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market. Kenya is the only EAC country to have ratified the agreement, in order not to lose free access to the EU market. The EAC initially envisaged the EU-EAC EPA as a bloc-to-bloc agreement – i.e. the EPA could only enter into force after it had been ratified by all EAC partners. However, the EAC eventually agreed that Kenya enter negotiations to implement a bilateral EPA with the EU. Other EAC countries – including South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which joined the EAC in 2016 and 2022 respectively – can decide to join the agreement. As soon as the EU-Kenya EPA enters into force, it will immediately provide duty-free, quota-free EU market access to all exports from Kenya, combined with partial and gradual opening of the Kenyan market to imports from the EU. The text of the new negotiated agreement includes binding provisions on trade and sustainable development, and a transparent dispute resolution mechanism. Third edition. To view earlier editions of this briefing, please see the EPRS blog.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Free movement rights of rainbow families](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-06-2023

Author DE GROOT DAVID ARMAND JACQUES GERA

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword case law (EU) | case-law | civil law | civil status | civil union | Court of Justice of the European Union | equal treatment | EU institutions and European civil service | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | family | free movement of persons | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | marriage | protection of privacy | rainbow family | relationship | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sources and branches of the law

Summary 'Rainbow families' – same-sex couples with or without children – still face many obstacles while exercising their free movement rights today. In a debate in the European Parliament in September 2010, then European Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, Viviane Reding, stated, 'Let me stress this. If you live in a legally recognised same-sex partnership, or marriage, in country A, you have the right – and this is a fundamental right – to take this status and that of your partner to country B. If not, it is a violation of EU law, so there is no discussion about this. This is absolutely clear, and we do not have to hesitate on this'. Over a decade later, same-sex couples still experience issues when relying on their free movement rights. While the European Court of Human Rights has upheld that all member countries must provide for a registered partnership for same-sex couples if they do not provide for same-sex marriage, it can be unclear which rights should be attached to such a status. And while the European Court of Justice has ruled that same-sex marriages and parenthood established for same-sex couples have to be recognised in all EU Member States for the purpose of free movement, this case law is still very unclear, due to mixed concepts, which has led to consistent Member State violations. In her 2020 State of the Union Speech, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen stated 'If you are [a] parent in one country, you are [a] parent in every country'. In 2021, the European Parliament declared the EU an LGBTIQ Freedom Zone. It has expressed its deepest concern regarding the discrimination suffered by rainbow families and their children in the EU and insists that the EU needs to take a common approach to the recognition of same-sex marriages and partnerships. In December 2022, the Commission proposed a regulation on the recognition of parenthood.

Briefing [EN](#)

[2023 Country-Specific Recommendations - comparison of Commission and Council texts](#)

Publication type Study

Date 23-06-2023

Author BOLDI DONELLA | HECSE ADRIANA HAJNALK | TURCU OVIDIU IONUT

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues

Keyword Council of Europe | domestic policy | economic governance (EU) | ENERGY | energy consumption | energy policy | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | FINANCE | fiscal policy | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | monetary economics | POLITICS | recommendation (EU) | renewable energy | soft energy | taxation

Summary This document compares the draft 2023 Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) proposed by the Commission on 24 May 2023 with the 2023 CSRs approved by the Council on 16 June 2023. The Council will finally adopt the recommendations in July.

Study [EN](#)

['This is Europe' debate in the European Parliament: Speech by Nikos Christodoulides, President of Cyprus, 13 June 2023](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 15-06-2023

Author DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword EU finance | EU initiative | European construction | European integration | European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument | European neighbourhood policy | European organisation | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | intergovernmental conference (EU) | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Summary 'This is Europe' – an initiative proposed by the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola – consists of a series of debates with EU leaders to discuss their visions for the future of the European Union. In his address to the European Parliament on 13 June 2023, the reunification of the island was a central theme for the President of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides. He stressed that the EU has every interest, but also an 'obligation to actively contribute to its final settlement' by taking a leading role in the process. He stressed that the wider Middle East and Gulf were the EU's neighbourhood, and that Cyprus was the 'geopolitical gateway' from the EU to the MENA region. He also called for further European integration, and promised to promote the deepening of the EU within the European Council.

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

[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](#)

[Discharge for the 2020 budget: European Council and Council](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 12-10-2022

Author PARI MARIANNA

Policy area Budgetary Control

Keyword budget | budget | budgetary discharge | Council of Europe | economic conditions | economic situation | ECONOMICS | European organisations | FINANCE | financial policy | free movement of capital | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | public finance and budget policy

Summary In May 2022, the European Parliament decided to postpone the decision on granting discharge to the European Council and Council for the 2020 budget, and presented a number of observations. Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control has examined the situation again, and noting the lack of progress in this second report, again recommends not granting discharge to these two institutions. The vote on the second discharge report is scheduled for the October II plenary session.

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

[Perspectives for EU governance: between Community method, new-intergovernmentalism and parliamentarisation](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 10-06-2022

External author COSTA Oliver

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

Keyword Council of Europe | democracy | EU institutions and European civil service | EU policy | EU situation | European Commission | European construction | European Council | European organisations | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | political framework | POLITICS | Treaty on the Functioning of the 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, analyses the evolutions of the modes of governance at EU level. It shows that the so-called Community method has undergone a double evolution towards more intergovernmentalism, on the one hand, and more parliamentarisation, on the other. In particular, in recent years, the first trend has dominated. The study proposes solutions to defend the centrality of the Community method and to increase the Union's capacity to act in an efficient, integrated and democratic way.

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

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

[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](#)

[International Agreements in Progress: Economic Partnership Agreement with the East African Community](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 23-05-2022

Author PICHON Eric

Policy area International Trade

Keyword allocation clause | East African Community | electoral procedure and voting | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU emission allowance | EU international partnership | EU relations | European Association of National Productivity Centres | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | exemption from customs duties | extra-European organisations | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | market access | POLITICS | tariff policy | TRADE | trade policy

Summary The current partnership between sub-Saharan African, Caribbean and Pacific states (ACP) and the EU (the Cotonou Partnership Agreement) has a provision making it possible for the EU to negotiate different economic partnership agreements (EPAs) with regional ACP sub-groups. This provision was needed for the partnership to be aligned with the World Trade Organization's rules. Negotiations for an EPA with the partner states of the East African Community (EAC) – at the time: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda – were finalised in October 2014. South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which joined the EAC in 2016 and 2022 respectively, did not take part in the negotiations, but can join the agreement once it enters into force. As soon as this happens, the EU-EAC EPA will immediately provide duty-free, quota-free access to the EU market to all EAC exports, combined with partial and gradual opening of the EAC market to imports from the EU. The EPA contains detailed provisions on sustainable agriculture and fisheries, rules of origin, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The parties are committed to concluding additional negotiations within five years of the entry into force of the agreement. The signing of the EPA has been stalled because of discussions within the EAC. Except for Kenya, all EAC partner states are least developed countries, and still enjoy duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market. Some of them have pushed for further clarifications on the consequences of the EPA for their economies before the EAC endorses the agreement. Kenya is the only EAC country to have ratified the agreement, in order not to lose free access to the EU market. It has now entered negotiations to implement a bilateral interim EPA with the EU. Second edition. The 'International Agreements in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the process, from initial discussions through to ratification. To view the previous edition of this briefing, please see: PE 620.218, April 2018.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Russia's war on Ukraine in international law and human rights bodies: Bringing institutions back in](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-04-2022

Author LERCH Marika

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

Keyword criminal law | economic geography | Europe | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | GEOGRAPHY | International Criminal Court | international criminal law | international human rights law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | jurisdiction | LAW | organisation of the legal system | OSCE | political geography | rights and freedoms | Russia | Ukraine | UN Human Rights Council | United Nations | war | world organisations

Summary In the midst of war, human rights and international law institutions have responded with unprecedented speed to the unfolding crisis, not least due to the strong engagement of the Ukraine government in multilateral fora. While these institutions can deliver little immediate relief for Ukraine citizens, the initiatives have important political functions: they show the political and legal alternatives to the logic of war chosen by the Russian government; they contribute to formalising international consensus and providing independent legal assessments of the attack; and, most importantly, they prepare the ground to ensure accountability for crimes committed in the context of the war. .

Briefing [EN](#)

[Survey on the role of national parliaments in the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 07-04-2022

Author HAGELSTAM Kajus | LEHOFER WOLFGANG | ZOPPÉ Alice | ZSITNAK ALEXANDRA

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | European Semester

Keyword COSAC | economic conditions | economic recovery | economic reform | economic structure | economic transition | ECONOMICS | European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation | European organisations | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | parliament | parliamentary scrutiny | POLITICS

Summary Parliamentary scrutiny is important to ensure full transparency and accountability and to enhance the democratic legitimacy, as well as to sense of citizens' ownership of the RRF. This survey aims to keep stock of whether and how EU national parliaments are involved in the implementation of the RRF.
This document was prepared by Economic Governance Support Unit in view of the INI Report on the Recovery and Resilience Facility

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Russia's war on Ukraine: Russia ceases to be a member of the Council of Europe](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-03-2022

Author DEL MONTE Micaela

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword aid to refugees | cooperation policy | Council of Europe | economic geography | Europe | European Convention on Human Rights | European organisations | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international humanitarian law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military intervention | parliamentary assembly | political geography | refugee | Russia | Ukraine | UNHCR | United Nations

Summary The military invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation has pushed hundreds of thousands of people to flee the country and seek shelter in neighbouring countries. With each passing hour, the humanitarian situation is deteriorating both within and outside the country. Several Ukrainian cities have reportedly lost access to water, heating, electricity and basic supplies, while the civilian population is subject to shelling and violence. While outside Ukraine's borders, the international humanitarian community has quickly mobilised to provide support, the conflict has caused civilian casualties and destruction of hospitals, schools and other civilian infrastructure. This is an update of an 'At a glance' note published on 8 March 2022.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[What About Policy Normalisation?](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 13-09-2021

External author Charles WYPLOSZ

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword economic analysis | economic conditions | economic consequence | economic policy | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU strategy | European Central Bank | European Committee for Standardisation | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institution | financial institutions and credit | inflation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | monetary economics | monetary policy

Summary As the ECB follows the time-honoured inflation targeting strategy, it runs the risk of, once more, failing to normalise its policy in time for the next unexpected shock. With interest rates at their lower bounds and facing historic uncertainty that undermines its policy effectiveness, a strong case can be made for developing a Plan B.
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 27 September 2021.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

The fight against disinformation and the right to freedom of expression

Publication type Study

Date 05-07-2021

External author Dr. Judit BAYER
Dr. Irini KATSIREA
Dr. Olga BATURA
Prof. Dr. Bernd HOLZNAGEL
Dr. Sarah HARTMANN
Katarzyna LUBIANIEC

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

Keyword case law (EU) | case-law | communications | disinformation | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | freedom of expression | freedom of opinion | freedom of the press | impact of information technology | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | pluralism in the media | research report | right to information | rights and freedoms | social media | sources and branches of the law

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee, aims at finding the balance between regulatory measures to tackle disinformation and the protection of freedom of expression. It explores the European legal framework and analyses the roles of all stakeholders in the information landscape. The study offers recommendations to reform the attention-based, data-driven information landscape and regulate platforms' rights and duties relating to content moderation.

Study [EN](#)

Proceedings of the workshop on The EU's current role in GRECO and ambitions for the future: How to move towards full membership

Publication type Study

Date 30-06-2021

Author MILICEVIC Vera

External author Vera Milicevic

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword corruption | Council of Europe | criminal law | democracy | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | observer | political framework | POLITICS | report | rule of law | the EU's international role

Summary The Council of Europe (CoE) has been playing a crucial role in the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law for more than 70 years. The fight against corruption is essential for maintaining the rule of law. Corruption undermines the functioning of the state and public authorities at all levels and is a key enabler of organised crime. Effective anti-corruption frameworks, transparency and integrity in the exercise of state power can strengthen legal systems and trust in public authorities. The Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) is the CoE's anti-corruption body. It is currently composed of 50 member states, with others expressing an interest. Apart from all European Union (EU) Member States, its members include countries such as Belarus, Switzerland, the UK, the USA and, most recently, Kazakhstan, which joined in 2020. The EU supports the work of the CoE by contributing to its budget to fund joint programmes and supporting cooperation in the legal field to foster political dialogue. The EU became an observer to GRECO in July 2019. The objective of this workshop is to exchange views on the EU's potential full membership of GRECO in the future. In the context of the preparations for the organisation of the workshop, the Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control has sought the opinion of Parliament's Legal Service on the possibility for the EU to become a full member of the CoE Agreement establishing GRECO. This paper will present GRECO and its work, GRECO cooperation with the EU and the conclusions of the opinion of Parliament's Legal Service.

Study [EN](#)

EU cooperation with the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO): how to move towards full membership

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-06-2021

Author MILICEVIC Vera

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control

Keyword corruption | Council of Europe | criminal law | democracy | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | political framework | POLITICS | report | rule of law | the EU's international role

Summary The Council of Europe (CoE) has been playing a crucial role in the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law for more than 70 years. The fight against corruption is essential for maintaining the rule of law. Corruption undermines the functioning of the state and public authorities at all levels and is a key enabler of organised crime. Effective anti-corruption frameworks, transparency and integrity in the exercise of state power can strengthen legal systems and trust in public authorities. The Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) is the CoE's anti-corruption body. It is currently composed of 50 member states, with others expressing an interest. Apart from all European Union (EU) Member States, its members include countries such as Belarus, Switzerland, the UK, the USA and, most recently, Kazakhstan, which joined in 2020. The EU supports the work of the CoE by contributing to its budget to fund joint programmes and supporting cooperation in the legal field to foster political dialogue. The EU became an observer to GRECO in July 2019. The objective of this workshop is to exchange views on the EU's potential full membership of GRECO in the future. In the context of the preparations for the organisation of the workshop, the Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control has sought the opinion of Parliament's Legal Service on the possibility for the EU to become a full member of the CoE Agreement establishing GRECO. This paper will present GRECO and its work, GRECO cooperation with the EU and the conclusions of the opinion of Parliament's Legal Service.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Council of Europe standards on judicial independence](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 25-05-2021

Author MANKO Rafał

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword courts and tribunals | disciplinary proceedings | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | executive power and public service | independence of the judiciary | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | judge | judicial power | judicial reform | labour law and labour relations | LAW | organisation of the legal system | political framework | POLITICS | professional ethics | rule of law

Summary Judicial independence is one of the key components of the rule of law (Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union – TEU), together with the fundamental right to a fair trial (Article 47 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union) and the principle of effective judicial protection (Article 19(1) TEU). When it comes to standards for judicial independence, a special role is played by the Council of Europe and its judicial body, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) in Strasbourg. This is especially relevant because, according to Article 6(3) TEU, fundamental rights, as guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, are in fact general principles of EU law. The importance of the Council of Europe standards and ECtHR case law have been highlighted, not least in the Commission's 2020 Rule of Law Report. This briefing discusses a number of documents of the Council of Europe and its bodies, including the Council of Europe's 2010 recommendation on judicial independence, the Magna Carta of Judges adopted by the Consultative Council of European Judges in 2010, and selected documents of the Venice Commission (the 2007 report on judicial appointments, the 2010 report on judicial independence, and the 2016 rule of law checklist). Finally, the briefing presents an overview of ECtHR case law on judicial independence, focusing on issues such as the concept and criteria for assessing it; procedures for appointing judges and possible irregularities; the question of the term of office, including the vetting of judges and early termination of term in office; the problem of external influences on judges (by the executive); possible lack of internal independence (from other judges); the question of combining judicial office with other work; and, finally, the question of judicial immunity.

Briefing [EN](#)

[EU Space programme](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-05-2021

Author WILSON Alex Benjamin

Policy area Industry

Keyword air and space transport | communications | documentation | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | EU programme | European construction | European organisations | European Space Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | extra-atmospheric space | governance | impact study | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | organisation of transport | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | report | research and intellectual property | satellite communications | satellite navigation | space policy | space technology | TRANSPORT | use of outer space

Summary In June 2018, the European Commission proposed a budget of €16 billion to finance EU space activities during the 2021-2027 period. The majority of this would be allocated to Galileo and EGNOS, the EU's global and regional satellite navigation systems; around a third would be allocated to Copernicus, the EU's Earth Observation programme; and the remainder would be earmarked for security, such as the Space and Situational Awareness (SSA) programme and the new Governmental Satellite Communication initiative (GOVSATCOM) to support border protection, civil protection and humanitarian interventions. The main aims of the new space programme are to secure EU leadership in space activities, foster innovative industries, safeguard autonomous access to space and simplify governance. The European Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) Agency will be transformed into a new EU Agency for the Space Programme. In April 2019, after trilogue meetings, Parliament and Council reached a partial agreement on the programme, which was later incorporated by the Parliament in its first-reading position. The agreement covered most of the programme content but not the budget, relations with third countries, or operational security. Further trilogue negotiations, alongside the conclusion of MFF negotiations, helped to secure a comprehensive political agreement on 16 December 2020. The EU space programme will have a total budget of €14.8 billion. The agreed text was then adopted by the Council and Parliament in April 2021. Third edition of a briefing originally drafted by Cemal Karakas. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Story of the European Anthem](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-05-2021

Author DESCHAMPS ETIENNE

Policy area Culture

Keyword anthem | citizens' Europe | Council of Europe | culture and religion | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | European Movement | European organisations | European symbol | EUROPEAN UNION | historical account | history of Europe | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | music | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary In the inter-war years, advocates of European unity began pondering the choice of an anthem that would convey the feeling of sharing a common destiny and common values. The creation of the Council of Europe in 1949 spurred further calls to this end. Proposals for scores and lyrics for an anthem for Europe began appearing spontaneously. It was not until 1972, however, that the Council of Europe formally adopted the prelude of Ode to Joy from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony as the European anthem. For their part, the institutions representing what would become the European Union chose the debates on a citizens' Europe held in the mid-1980s to adopt Ode to Joy as their anthem too. On 29 May 1986, the European flag and the European anthem were officially adopted at a ceremony held in Brussels. Although the version of the anthem chosen had no lyrics, it has come to symbolise the European Union. It is played at official ceremonies attended by the representatives and/or leaders of the European Union, and more generally at many events with a European theme.

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

[Strengthening cooperation with the Council of Europe](#)

Publication type Study

Date 26-02-2021

External author Luis María LOPEZ GUERRA, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword accession to an agreement | cooperation policy | Council of Europe | democracy | European Convention on Human Rights | European cooperation | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | human rights | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | opinion of the Court of Justice (EU) | political framework | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | rule of law

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the AFCO Committee, assesses the possible strengthening of the cooperation of the European Union with the Council of Europe. It examines, on the one side, the participation of Council of Europe bodies in the EU Mechanism on Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights, and, on the other, the accession of the European Union to Council of Europe Treaties, and particularly to the European Convention on Human Rights.

Study [EN](#)

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

[The Unified Patent Court after Brexit](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 11-03-2020

Author BUX Udo

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Intellectual Property Law | Internal Market and Customs Union | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Research Policy

Keyword economic geography | Europe | European construction | European organisations | European patent | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | Unified Patent Court | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU

Summary Great Britain has recently made known that it does not intend to apply the International Agreement on a Unified Patent Court (UPCA).

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Balancing Integration and Autonomy. How EFTA countries reconcile EU-approximation and independence](#)

Publication type Study

Date 27-02-2020

Author DAMEN Mario

Policy area International Trade

Keyword documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EFTA | EFTA countries | enlargement of the Union | Europe | European construction | European Economic Area | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | political geography | research report | United Kingdom

Summary In 2020, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) celebrates its 60th anniversary. During this respectable lifetime, its composition has frequently changed, starting with seven founding members in 1960 and having four today. EFTA has turned out to be an 'antechamber' for the EU, as well as a distinct organisation with its own purpose. Since the foundation of the European Economic Area (EEA) in 1992, EFTA states Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein have joined this area, whereas Switzerland has chosen a relationship with the EU based on a number of bilateral agreements. These four EFTA states have in common that they perform a delicate and dynamic balancing act between integration into the EU and preservation of their own autonomy.

Reasons for the strong desire for autonomy can partly be found in geographic or historic factors, but these cannot explain their position entirely, as existing EU Member States may also have such particularities. That all EFTA countries have a strong economy based on specific sets of natural resources and/or financial legislation, certainly is another element that explains the desire to keep matters in their own hands as far as possible. Strong consensus oriented democratic systems with components of direct democracy complete the picture.

External events, such as the creation of the Internal Market, EU enlargement or the 2008 financial crisis have regularly challenged the balance EFTA countries have built with the EU. Even though they have led to initiatives to integrate closer with the EU or apply for membership, in the end such steps have not been completed. Whereas the UK is an important partner of all EFTA countries, mostly of Norway, its withdrawal from the EU has created another challenge to the balance.

In a larger perspective, balancing autonomy and integration is not unique to EFTA countries, but happens also within the EU in the form of opt outs or arrangements for enhanced cooperation. And in view of a large number of countries aspiring for future EU membership, concepts such as flexible arrangements or associate memberships are not likely to disappear from the EU agenda.

Study [EN](#)

[EU Patent and Brexit](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 05-11-2019

Author BUX Udo

Policy area Competition law and regulation | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Industry | Research Policy

Keyword economic geography | Europe | European construction | European organisations | European patent | European Patent Office | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | Unified Patent Court | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU

Summary This In-depth Analysis resumes the possible scenarios concerning several Intellectual Property provisions of EU and international law in the event of a withdrawal of the United Kingdom with or without a proper withdrawal agreement. It tries to clarify the question how Brexit may affect the entry into force of the new European Patent with Unitary effect (EPUE), especially, if the Unified Patent Court Agreement (UPCA) can enter into force, even in case the UK has withdrawn from the EU. What would be the necessary steps to be taken by the EU in order to ensure the functioning of the future European Unitary patent and in case the UPC Agreement would have to be revised because of Brexit.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Establishing the European Space Programme](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-11-2018

Author VIKOLAINEN Vera

Policy area Budget | Industry | Transport

Keyword air and space transport | communications | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | EU programme | European construction | European organisations | European Space Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | extra-atmospheric space | impact study | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | organisation of transport | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | research and intellectual property | satellite communications | satellite navigation | space policy | space technology | TRANSPORT | use of outer space

Summary The Commission proposed to continue the existing space services, launch new actions and to increase the budget allocation, bringing all space-related activities under the new EU Space programme. The supporting impact assessment merely presents the proposed measures without discussing alternatives or conducting a proper impact analysis, nor does it address the costs and benefits of transforming the Global Navigation Satellite System Agency into a European Union Agency for the Space Programme, thereby falling short of the Better Regulation Guidelines requirements.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Brexit and Industry and Space Policy - workshop proceedings](#)

Publication type Study

Date 09-11-2018

External author Bowen CALL, Bruegel
Reinhilde VEUGELERS, Bruegel

Policy area Forward Planning | Industry

Keyword air and space transport | communications | cooperation policy | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU industrial policy | EU institutions and European civil service | EU office or agency | EU programme | Europe | European construction | European organisations | European Space Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-atmospheric space | GEOGRAPHY | globalisation | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | international affairs | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | organisation of transport | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | satellite communications | satellite navigation | space policy | space technology | third country | TRANSPORT | United Kingdom | use of outer space | withdrawal from an agreement

Summary This document summarises the presentations and discussions of the workshop of "Brexit and Industry and Space Policy", which was held on 24 September 2018. The effects of Brexit on EU27 business, trade, value chains, innovation and space policy were assessed. 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](#)

Social protection in the EU: State of play, challenges and options

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-10-2018

Author MILOTAY Nora

Policy area Education | Employment | Public Health | Social Policy

Keyword BusinessEurope | collaborative economy | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU budget | EU finance | European organisations | European Trade Union Confederation | EUROPEAN UNION | exchange of information | free movement of workers | information and information processing | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | labour law and labour relations | labour relations | LAW | non-governmental organisations | organisation of work and working conditions | rights and freedoms | social affairs | social dumping | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social rights | social security legislation | social-security harmonisation | working conditions

Summary Globalisation, technological change, an aging population and changes to the world of work have made securing social protection for all, i.e. economic and social security, a major challenge. When social protection systems work well, they can have a stabilising effect on the economy and promote socio-economic equality and stability. By contrast, inadequate or ineffective systems can exacerbate inequality. Indeed, improving the existing social protection systems is the priority of half of the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights – the European Commission's overarching social field initiative designed to serve as a compass for policies updating current labour market and welfare systems. While implementation of the 'social pillar' remains primarily the responsibility of the Member States, in close cooperation with the social partners, the European Commission has put forward several legislative and non-legislative initiatives to support this process in the area of social protection. These include the proposal for a recommendation on social protection for all, including non-standard workers, responding to calls from the European Parliament and the social partners and stakeholders. This proposal had the difficult task of addressing all the disagreements that had arisen during the two-phase consultation in the preparatory phase. While all parties seem to agree on the importance of adjusting social protection to the new realities of life and work, there are differences of opinion concerning the technicalities, such as the financing of schemes. This is in part a reflection of the current evidence that raises many questions as to the optimal response to the new challenges in very diverse systems of social protection across the Member States. The main trends currently include a combination of social protection and social investment, individualisation of social protection schemes and a potential move towards universal social protection, whereby social protection would be removed from the employment relationship. However, financing these schemes poses a challenge.

Briefing [EN](#)

World Bank support for investment in EU and Western Balkan transport

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-10-2018

Author PAPE Marketa

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues | Transport

Keyword EBRD | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | European construction | European Investment Bank | European Investment Fund | European organisations | European Union | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | International Bank for Reconstruction and Development | International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes | International Development Association | International Finance Corporation | international investment | international loan | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | monetary relations | Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency | United Nations | Western Balkans

Summary Over the six decades during which the World Bank has been active in Europe, its engagement has evolved hand in hand with the development of the continent. Initially supporting reconstruction efforts after World War II, it later shifted the focus of its action to development support. In the past, as today, it has provided financing, knowledge and assistance to countries seeking to join the European Union. As a starting point in providing a deeper insight into how the World Bank contributes to the development of European countries today, this briefing first looks at the Bank's complex structure, the functioning of its different parts and the types of investment and assistance it offers its clients. Then, leaving aside the many other areas of the Bank's activity, the focus narrows to its support for transport in the EU and its Western Balkan partners. As the World Bank is one of several international institutions that are active in the Western Balkans, the briefing also looks into how the Bank links with the development-support efforts of the European Commission and the financial landscape of the Western Balkans Investment Framework.

Briefing [EN](#)

[European Union – Council of Europe cooperation and joint programmes](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 28-09-2018

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Global Governance

Keyword Asia and Oceania | bilateral relations | Central Asia | co-financing | Council of Europe | Eastern Partnership | EU programme | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international relations | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | rights and freedoms

Summary The Council of Europe (CoE) and the European Union (EU) are to a significant extent based on shared values, and have overlapping membership. This has led them over time to develop a strategic partnership and joint actions beyond the EU's and, more recently, the CoE's borders, making use of the latter's longstanding technical expertise on human rights, the rule of law and democracy. For the EU, the CoE convention system and the European Court of Human Rights remain central instruments for defending human rights in Europe, as stated in the EU's 2017 Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World. The relationship between the CoE and the EU is generally seen as mutually beneficial and thriving, each partner contributing according to its own strengths and capabilities. In 2011 the CoE launched a new approach towards the EU's neighbourhood regions, endorsed by the EU. Cooperation has become more structured, with the Council of the EU agreeing and adopting the EU's priorities for cooperation with the Council of Europe on a biannual basis, in cooperation with the CoE. The EU-CoE relationship has not escaped some criticism, however, namely that the CoE acts as a political consultancy or a junior partner to the EU owing to the latter's budgetary clout and its disproportionate and larger contribution to joint activities. There is arguably room to improve the partnership. According to some, the EU countries (which are all CoE members) need to develop a strategic and long-term vision regarding future cooperation with the CoE.

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

[Council of Europe](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 05-09-2018

Author PERCHOC Philippe

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Council of Europe | Council of Europe countries | European Convention on Human Rights | European organisations | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | political geography | rights and freedoms

Summary The Council of Europe (CoE) is the oldest of the intergovernmental organisations set up in post-World War II Europe, and the one that has the most member states. Since its creation in 1949, the CoE has shared strong links with other European organisations, such as the European Coal and Steel Community and the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation; it now has close links with the European Union. Over time, the CoE has specialised in human-rights promotion and in monitoring the effective implementation of the European Convention of Human Rights. However, the CoE has recently come under pressure due to allegations of internal corruption and a rise of illiberal tendencies in Europe; in response, it has embarked on a reform process.

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

[Data protection rules applicable to the European Parliament and to MEPs: Current regime and recent developments](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-06-2018

Author KOTANIDIS Silvia | MONTELEONE Shara

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword civil law | communications | data protection | data transmission | EC Regulation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Court of Human Rights | European Data Protection Supervisor | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | Member of the European Parliament | natural person | parliament | personal data | petition | POLITICS | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

Summary Data protection is a fundamental right enshrined in both primary and secondary EU law. More specifically, the main reference for data protection in Europe is the 2016 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which is fully applicable since 25 May 2018. Moreover, specific data protection rules (currently Regulation 45/2001) apply to the EU institutions. The latter are under review, to adapt their principles and provisions to the GDPR. The processing of data relating to parliamentary activities is therefore covered by these specific rules, as is personal data relating to, or processed by, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). This Briefing provides an overview of the main provisions applicable to parliamentary activities and in particular to MEPs, taking account of the fact that the process of reforming the current rules has not been formally concluded (even if a political agreement has been reached between the co-legislators). An update of this Briefing will be published in due course.

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

[Resurgent Russia \[What Think Tanks are thinking\]](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-03-2018

Author CESLUK-GRAJEWSKI Marcin

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | bilateral relations | climate change | Council of Europe | deterioration of the environment | Eastern Partnership | economic geography | electoral procedure and voting | ENVIRONMENT | Europe | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | euroscepticism | gas pipeline | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | organisation of transport | political geography | POLITICS | presidential election | Russia | Syria | TRANSPORT | United Kingdom | United States | Western Balkans | withdrawal from the EU

Summary Russia is increasingly assertive in foreign and security policy, posing a challenge to the post-Cold War, rules-based international order. Following the annexation of Crimea, conflict with Ukraine and intervention in Syria, Russia stands accused of seeking to influence electoral outcomes in the United States and some European countries. Vladimir Putin looks set to be re-elected as Russian President later this month. This note offers links to commentaries, studies by major international think tanks, which discuss Russia's policies and how to respond to them. More reports on the topic can be found in a previous edition of 'What Think Tanks are Thinking', published in July 2017.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Demographic outlook for the European Union](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 21-12-2017

Author EATOCK David

Policy area Social Policy

Keyword demographic analysis | demography and population | economic geography | EU Member State | European construction | European organisations | European Union | EUROPEAN UNION | European University Institute | fertility | GEOGRAPHY | health | health care system | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | migration | migration | population ageing | population growth | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This paper is the first in an annual series which EPFRS will be producing on the demographic outlook for the European Union (EU). Demography matters. The economy, labour market, healthcare, pensions, the environment, intergenerational fairness and election results – they are all driven by demography. The European Union (EU) has seen its population grow substantially – by around a quarter in the five and a half decades since 1960 – and it currently stands at over 500 million people. However, it is now beginning to stagnate, before its expected decline from around the middle of the century. With the world population having risen still more substantially and growth continuing, the EU represents a shrinking proportion of the world population. The EU population is also ageing dramatically, as life expectancy increases and fertility rates are lower than in the past. This has serious implications across a range of areas including the economy, healthcare and pensions. Free movement within the EU and migration from third countries also plays an important role in shaping demography in individual Member States and regions. The 'in-focus' section of this analysis looks at health and notes that the data, whilst inconsistent, suggests that people are not necessarily experiencing the extra life years without limitations to their usual activity.

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

[Copernicus – The EU's Earth observation and monitoring programme](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 24-10-2017

Author MAZUR Sidonia

Policy area Budget | Research Policy

Keyword aerospace industry | air and space transport | communications | data collection | distribution of EU funding | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental monitoring | environmental policy | EU finance | EU programme | European construction | European organisations | European Space Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | geodesy | INDUSTRY | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | mechanical engineering | natural and applied sciences | observation | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | satellite communications | SCIENCE | space technology | tertiary sector | TRANSPORT

Summary Copernicus is the European Union's Earth observation and monitoring programme. It has a space component and a ground-based component, and provides users with data services. It is a user-driven programme under civilian control, building on existing national and European capacities, and continuing the work of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) programme. It is based on a partnership between the EU, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the EU Member States.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Air transport: Single European Sky](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-10-2017

Author THOMAS Marc

Policy area Transport

Keyword air and space transport | air safety | air space | air traffic control | air transport | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | Eurocontrol | European organisations | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | pollution control measures | TRANSPORT | transport policy

Summary The Single European Sky initiative is aimed at increasing the efficiency of air traffic management and air navigation services by reducing the fragmentation of European airspace. By its nature, this ongoing initiative is pan-European and open to neighbouring countries.

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

[Intellectual, industrial and commercial property](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-10-2017

Author BUX Udo

Policy area Industry | Intellectual Property Law

Keyword computer applications | copyright | data processing | designs and models | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | European organisations | European patent | European Patent Office | EUROPEAN UNION | industrial counterfeiting | information and information processing | information society | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | patents licence | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | single market | technological change | technology and technical regulations | trademark

Summary Intellectual property includes all exclusive rights to intellectual creations. It encompasses two types of rights: industrial property, which includes inventions (patents), trademarks, industrial designs and models and designations of origin, and copyright, which includes artistic and literary property. Since the entry into force of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union in 2009, the EU has had explicit competence for intellectual property rights (Article 118).

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

[EU-Russia cross-border cooperation](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-09-2017

Author RUSSELL Martin

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Regional Development

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cooperation policy | Council of the Baltic Sea States | cross-border cooperation | cultural cooperation | economic geography | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | EU finance | EU financing arrangements | Europe | European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument | European organisations | European Regional Development Fund | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | management | political geography | project evaluation | regional development | regions and regional policy | Russia | TRANSPORT | transport infrastructure | transport policy

Summary Despite current EU-Russia tensions, cross-border cooperation programmes continue unaffected. As well as promoting people-to-people contacts, such programmes deliver economic and other benefits to participants, especially on the Russian side of the border.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Norway's political parties ahead of the elections](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 05-09-2017

Author BENTZEN Naja

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword economic conditions | economic geography | economic growth | ECONOMICS | EFTA | electoral procedure and voting | ENERGY | Europe | European construction | European Economic Area | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | national election | Norway | oil industry | petroleum production | political framework | political geography | political parties | political party | political system | POLITICS | Russia | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social well-being | United Kingdom | Welfare State | withdrawal from the EU

Summary On 11 September 2017, Norwegian voters will be heading to the polls amid concern over weak growth, an increasingly assertive Russia, as well as the impact of Brexit on the country's economy.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[The Istanbul Convention: A tool to tackle violence against women and girls](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 05-09-2017

Author JURVISTE Ulla | SHREEVES Rosamund

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword Council of Europe | criminal law | domestic violence | European organisations | fight against crime | gender equality | help for victims | international affairs | international convention | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination | sexual violence | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | women's rights

Summary The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) is the first instrument in Europe to set legally binding standards specifically to prevent gender-based violence, protect victims of violence and punish perpetrators. Following the EU's signing of the Convention in June 2017, the European Parliament's consent is required for the EU's accession to the Convention. Pending Council's formal request for that consent, Parliament is due to discuss an interim report on the process in September 2017.

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

[The Western Balkans](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-09-2017

Author DE MUNTER André

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession to the European Union | CEFTA | cooperation policy | economic geography | EU visa policy | European construction | European integration | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | regional cooperation | stabilisation and association agreement | Western Balkans

Summary The EU has developed a policy to support the gradual integration of the Western Balkan countries with the Union. On 1 July 2013, Croatia became the first of the seven countries to join, and Montenegro, Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania are official candidates. Accession negotiations and chapters have been opened with Montenegro and Serbia. Bosnia and Herzegovina (which submitted its membership application in early 2016) and Kosovo are potential candidate countries.

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

[The European Economic Area \(EEA\), Switzerland and the North](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-09-2017

Author BARTCZAK Krzysztof | GARCES DE LOS FAYOS TOURNAN Fernando

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession to the European Union | application of EU law | economic geography | EEA joint institution | EFTA | enlargement of an international organisation | Europe | European construction | European Economic Area | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | Iceland | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Norway | political geography | single market | Switzerland

Summary The European Economic Area (EEA) was set up in 1994 to extend the EU's provisions on its internal market to the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) countries. Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein are parties to the EEA. Switzerland is a member of EFTA but does not take part in the EEA. The EU and EEA partners (Norway and Iceland) are also linked by various 'northern policies' and forums which focus on the rapidly evolving northern reaches of Europe and the Arctic region as a whole.

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

[Human rights](#)

Publication type EU Fact Sheets

Date 01-09-2017

Author LERCH Marika

Policy area Human Rights

Keyword agreement (EU) | anti-discriminatory measure | civil society | Council of Europe | democracy | election monitoring | electoral procedure and voting | EU finance | EU financial instrument | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European External Action Service | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | fundamental rights | human rights | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | political framework | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | United Nations | UNO

Summary The European Union is committed to supporting democracy and human rights in its external relations, in accordance with its founding principles of liberty, democracy and respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. The EU seeks to mainstream human rights concerns into all its policies and programmes, and it has different human rights policy instruments for specific actions — including financing specific projects through the EU financing instruments.

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

[Towards a comprehensive EU protection system for minorities](#)

Publication type Study

Date 30-08-2017

External author Sergio CARRERA, CEPS(Coordinator), Brussels, Belgium
Elspeth GUILD, CEPS, Brussels, Belgium
Lina VOSYLIŪTĖ, CEPS, Brussels, Belgium
Petra BARD, National Institute of Criminology/ Central European University (CEU)/ ELTE School of Law, Budapest, Hungary

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword cooperation policy | economic geography | ethnic discrimination | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | EU Member State | European construction | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | freedom of movement | freedom of religious beliefs | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | judicial cooperation | LAW | linguistic discrimination | parliament | petition | political framework | POLITICS | protection of minorities | rights and freedoms | rule of law

Summary This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee, examines the added value of developing a democratic rule of law and fundamental rights-based approach to the protection of minorities in the EU legal system, from an 'intersectional' viewpoint. It presents the state of play regarding the main challenges characterising the protection of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in a selection of 11 European countries, in light of existing international and regional legal standards. Minority protection has been an EU priority in enlargement processes as a conditional criterion for candidate countries to accede to the Union. Yet a similar scrutiny mechanism is lacking after accession. The study puts forward several policy options to address this gap. It suggests specific ways in which a Union Pact for democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights, could help to ensure a comprehensive EU approach to minority protection.

Study [EN](#)

[Multimodal and Combined Freight Transport: Implementation Appraisal](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 07-07-2017

Author REMAC Milan

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

Keyword BusinessEurope | carriage of goods | combined transport | commercial vehicle | EC Directive | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU institution | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | impact study | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | land transport | maritime and inland waterway transport | non-governmental organisations | organisation of transport | rail transport | road transport | trans-European network | TRANSPORT | waterway transport

Summary Council Directive 92/106/EEC lays down rules applicable to combined transport of goods. Various resources show that there are currently several challenges linked with the implementation of the directive. These include, for instance, a broad and ambiguous definition of combined transport, outdated provisions of the directive, the need to align these provisions with the new economic reality and a need for a unified combined transport document. These challenges influence harmonisation of combined freight transport and limit the fulfilment of the directive's goals. The European Parliament has called on the European Commission to update the directive to respond to these challenges. Similar recommendations have come from the European Economic and Social Committee and from representatives of various stakeholder groups. Finally, the European Commission itself has expressed its intention to revise the directive as part of the enhancement of the social legislation in the area of road transport. It is expected that the European Commission will submit this proposal in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Briefing [EN](#)

[In Pursuit of an International Investment Court. Recently Negotiated Investment Chapters in EU Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements in Comparative Perspective](#)

Publication type Study

Date 04-07-2017

External author Prof. Dr. Steffen HINDELANG, LL.M., Department of Law, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany and Ass. iur. Teoman M. HAGEMEYER, Dipl. iur. oec., Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Law, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Policy area International Trade

Keyword access to information | America | appeal | Asia and Oceania | Canada | comparative law | comparative study | court of arbitration | Court of Justice of the European Union | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | free-trade agreement | GEOGRAPHY | information and information processing | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | investment protection | judge | judicial proceedings | justice | LAW | organisation of the legal system | political geography | Singapore | sources and branches of the law | TRADE | trade agreement (EU) | Vietnam

Summary The study compares the revised and signed text of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EUVFTA) and the EU Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) in respect of important procedural aspects relating to investor State dispute settlement. The findings are juxtaposed to the procedural rules governing the preliminary reference procedure and direct action (action for annulment) before the Court of Justice of the European Union as well as the individual application before the European Court of Human Rights. In doing so, it provides a tool and manual to evaluate the EU's today's and future progress in reforming the international investment law regime. By outlining key features of the procedural frameworks governing two international courts, some 'tried and tested' concepts as source of inspiration for the possible design of a 'multilateral investment court' might be found.

Study [EN](#)

New radio frequencies for mobile internet services

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-07-2017

Author SZCZEPANSKI Marcin

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

Keyword audiovisual communications policy | communications | digital single market | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European Broadcasting Union | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | harmonisation of standards | innovation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | radio telecommunications | regulation of telecommunications | research and intellectual property | technology and technical regulations | transmission network | waveband

Summary While radio spectrum management is predominantly a national competence, EU policy plays an increasingly important role in its coordination and harmonisation. The EU actively seeks ways to harmonise use of the different bands of the spectrum to meet the ever-growing demand for wireless mobile broadband. Nevertheless, spectrum allocation in the EU remains fragmented and varies among Member States. Following developments in the international framework, as well as the considerations of high-level expert groups and a public consultation, the Commission adopted a long-term strategy for use of the 470-790 MHz frequency band. The strategy proposes to repurpose the 694-790 MHz band, to use it for wireless broadband rather than television broadcasting. The latter is to have priority in the 470-694 MHz band. Under the agreement among the co-legislators, Member States will reassign the 694-790 MHz band by 30 June 2020. This reallocation may be delayed by up to two years in duly justified cases, examples of which are given in the agreed text. Broadcasting services will maintain priority in 470-694 MHz band at least until 2030, but the Member States will have certain flexibility to use this range for other purposes. This updates an earlier edition, of December 2016: PE 595.856.

Briefing [EN](#)

Study in focus: Review of EU-third country cooperation on policies falling within the ITRE domain in relation to Brexit

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-06-2017

External author J. Scott MARCUS, Georgios PETROPOULOS, André SAPIR, Simone TAGLIAPIETRA, Alessio TERZI, Reinhilde VEUGELERS, Georg ZACHMANN

Policy area Energy | Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union | International Trade | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword bilateral agreement | cooperation policy | economic geography | EFTA | ENERGY | energy cooperation | energy policy | energy research | EU research policy | Europe | European construction | European Economic Area | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | Framework Programme for Research and Development | free-trade agreement | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international trade | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | third country | TRADE | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU

Summary The study provides a critical assessment of the implications of existing models of cooperation of third countries with the European Union in each of four thematic areas for which the ITRE is responsible (energy, electronic communications, research policy, and small business policy). This briefing provides short summary of this study. Link to the original publication: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/602057/IPOL_STU\(2017\)602057_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/602057/IPOL_STU(2017)602057_EN.pdf)

Briefing [EN](#)

Foreign direct investment screening: A debate in light of China-EU FDI flows

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-05-2017

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword Asia and Oceania | China | economic geography | economic policy | economic policy | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EFTA | EU Member State | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | foreign investment | GEOGRAPHY | industrial policy | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | market economy | single market

Summary In 2016, the flow of Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) into the EU hit record levels, in sharp contrast to the continued decline in EU FDI flows to China. Chinese FDI was mainly driven by market-seeking and strategic asset-seeking motives and focused on big EU economies, targeting cutting-edge technologies in particular. In 2016, a number of Chinese proposals for transactions in strategic sectors came under scrutiny during security reviews at EU Member-State level. Some were delayed, and some were ultimately withdrawn by the Chinese investors. In this context, new challenges going beyond national security have emerged in terms of economic security. Such challenges may arise from alleged 'unfair competition' from China, which the current regulatory framework seems unable to address. This has sparked a debate about whether the patchwork of different mechanisms for screening FDI on national security grounds currently in place in nearly half of the EU Member States, coupled with the scrutiny of mergers and acquisitions under EU competition rules, are adequate regulatory tools for tackling the perceived new challenges. It also raises the question of whether the Member States' diverging approaches should be upgraded, better coordinated or even replaced by a new consistent FDI screening mechanism at EU level. Australia, Canada, Japan and the USA operate FDI screening mechanisms, which the EU could use as sources of reference but not emulate entirely. The use of these screening mechanisms for, and their deterrence effect on, Chinese investors in a growing protectionist climate is, however, likely to have an impact on the EU.

Briefing [EN](#)

The future of multilateralism: Crisis or opportunity?

Publication type Briefing

Date 10-05-2017

Author LAZAROU Eleni

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Global Governance | Security and Defence

Keyword Bank for International Settlements | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | Council of Europe | European construction | European organisations | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | G20 | geopolitics | humanities | international affairs | international cooperation | International Monetary Fund | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | multilateral relations | OSCE | SCIENCE | the EU's international role | UN General Assembly | UN programmes and funds | UN Security Council | United Nations | World Bank | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary Multilateralism lies at the core of the EU's identity and of its engagement with the world. Both the 2003 European Security Strategy and the 2016 Global Strategy emphasised the importance of a rules-based global order with multilateralism as its key principle and the United Nations (UN) at its core, and made its promotion part of the EU's strategic goals. Yet, in spite of widespread acknowledgement of the achievements of the multilateral international order established after the Second World War, and in particular of the attainment of long-lasting peace, multilateral institutions and the liberal international order in which they are embedded have recently been the subject of severe criticism. The rise of populist nationalism has been interpreted, among other things, as a crisis in support for the multilateral order. Some of the causes of this crisis are related to the emergence of new actors in the global scene, the expansive nature of multilateral institutions, the widening gap between publics and international institutions and the decline of American power. The election of Donald Trump, who had repeatedly questioned the value of multilateral organisations such as the UN, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), has led to even greater preoccupation about the future of global governance. In this scenario, several scholars suggest that the EU and the G20 should be proactive in safeguarding multilateralism, while acknowledging and promoting the necessary reforms to the architecture of global governance.

Briefing [EN](#)

Securing the Copernicus programme: Why EU earth observation matters

Publication type Briefing

Date 06-04-2017

Author REILLON Vincent

Policy area Research Policy

Keyword aerospace industry | air and space transport | data collection | economic structure | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental monitoring | environmental policy | EU programme | European construction | European organisations | European Space Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | geodesy | INDUSTRY | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | mechanical engineering | natural and applied sciences | observation | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | SCIENCE | space technology | tertiary sector | TRANSPORT

Summary The Copernicus programme is a user-driven programme which provides six free-of-charge operational services (atmosphere monitoring, marine environment monitoring, land monitoring, climate change, emergency management and security) to EU, national, and regional institutions, as well as to the private sector. The programme builds on the initiative on global monitoring for environment and security launched in 2001. It aims at filling the gaps in European earth observation capacities. Data is provided from space infrastructures, particularly the sentinel missions developed under the programme, and in situ infrastructure supported by the Member States. Copernicus services are mainly operated by European Union (EU) agencies. Copernicus requires a high level of continuity in data and service provision. A strong political commitment at EU level is required to provide adequate funding for the development of the operational earth observation missions and services. The EU – under the framework programme for research and operational programmes – and the European Space Agency (ESA) have invested more than €7 billion in Copernicus since 2002. By the end of 2017, four of the six sentinel missions should be fully deployed and the last of the six services should become fully operational. As Copernicus reaches its full operational stage, the focus of the programme is shifting towards the uptake of the services and the development of a downstream sector that would provide additional commercial services to the users. This aspect is a key priority of the space strategy adopted by the European Commission in October 2016. The development of the downstream sector is dependent on the long-term continuity of service, to be ensured by improved governance of the programme and renewed long-term political and financial commitments for the next EU budgetary period.

Briefing [EN](#)

The Training of Judges and Legal Practitioners - Ensuring the Full Application of EU Law

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 31-03-2017

External author Tatiana TERMACIC, Eva PASTRANA, EJTN, Pier Giovanni TRAVERSA, Sieglinde GAMSJÄGER, Roberta RIBEIRO OERTEL, Peter I.B. GOLDSCHMIDT

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword cooperation policy | Council of Europe | economic geography | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | Europe | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | judge | judicial cooperation | LAW | organisation of the legal system | political geography | rights and freedoms | Russia | updating of skills | vocational training | Western Balkans

Summary The workshop, organised by the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs upon request by the Committees on Legal Affairs and on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament, provides an opportunity to discuss about the training of judges and of other legal professionals in EU law and in the law of other Member States. The European Commission, in its 2011 Communication on "Building trust in EU-wide justice", set the objective of enabling half of the legal practitioners in the EU to participate in European judicial training activities by 2020. The workshop will be an forum to discuss to what extent this objective is being attained, as well as to understand the existing challenges and good practices that have been developed in the training of several categories of legal professionals.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

European space policy: Historical perspective, specific aspects and key challenges

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 30-01-2017

Author REILLON Vincent

Policy area Industry | Research Policy

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | communications | cooperation policy | defence | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | European defence policy | European GNSS Agency | European organisations | European Space Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | observation | private sector | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | satellite communications | space policy | space research | third country

Summary Space has been a cooperative endeavour in Europe for over 50 years. The first collaborative structures between the Member States in the 1960s led to the establishment of the European Space Agency (ESA) in 1975. The European Union began to be involved in the field in the 1990s, especially through the design of EU space programmes – Galileo for satellite navigation and Copernicus for earth observation – implemented in cooperation with ESA. European space policy is defined and implemented by the EU, ESA and their member states. This diversity offers some flexibility, but also creates fragmentation, leading to inefficiency in areas such as the implementation of EU programmes or the development of international relations. New developments, including the role of private actors in the field and the growing importance of security and defence aspects also challenge current European space policy governance.

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

Prison Conditions in the Member States: Selected European Standards and Best Practices

Publication type Briefing

Date 17-01-2017

Author RAFFAELLI Rosa

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Human Rights | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Public international law

Keyword area of freedom, security and justice | child | Council of Europe | criminal law | demography and population | economic geography | EU Member State | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | health | health care | imprisonment | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | mental illness | prison system | public hygiene | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This paper provides an overview of European standards and good practices regarding prison conditions. Action by the EU in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters is affected by detention conditions across EU Member States. The Council of Europe has adopted numerous recommendations and standards on conditions of life in prison, and the European Court of Human Rights has found that detention conditions may breach the prohibition against torture and ill-treatment. The paper provides an overview of common problems affecting prisons in the EU Member States (from overcrowding to general conditions of life in prison) and describes some of the identified best practices to solve them. Specific attention is paid to pre-trial detention, to the use of alternative (non-custodial) measures, to measures aimed at social reintegration and prevention of recidivism, and to the special safeguards and standards developed as regards vulnerable prisoners (such as children, women, or mentally ill detainees).

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

Potential Concepts for the Future EU-UK Relationship in Financial Services

Publication type Study

Date 15-12-2016

External author Christos V. GORTSOS

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

Keyword central bank | cooperation policy | economic geography | EFTA | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU banking union | Europe | European construction | European Economic Area | European organisations | European Union | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | financial services | free movement of capital | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | monetary economics | payment system | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | right of establishment | supervisory body | third country | United Kingdom | withdrawal from the EU

Summary This study assesses the key impacts of the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union on the financial system and its infrastructures, on financial firms and financial services under three alternative concepts for the future EU-UK relationship. In addition to the impact on the 'passporting rights' of financial firms, particular emphasis is given to the impact on the regulatory framework governing i.a. credit institutions under a 'third-country status' scenario for the UK, the impact on payment systems and market infrastructures, as well as to certain aspects of the EU institutional framework governing the monetary and the financial system could be affected. This study was prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the ECON Committee.

Study [EN](#)

EU Options for Improving Access to Medicines

Publication type Study

Date 12-09-2016

External author Paola Banfi, Rachel DEMPSEY, Manon EMONTS and Hana SPANIKOVA

Policy area European Added Value | Human Rights | Public Health

Keyword administrative transparency | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | consumer price | European construction | European organisations | European Patent Office | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | FINANCE | health | health costs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | medicine | monopoly | patent | pharmaceutical legislation | POLITICS | prices | pricing of medicines | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and development | research and intellectual property | single market | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary This document summarises the presentations and discussions of the workshop on access to medicines, held at the European Parliament in Brussels on Thursday 14 July 2016. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the latest trends and the current situation as regards the availability of affordable medicines in Europe, to present a range of EU initiatives, and to raise awareness on prices, accessibility, acceptability, affordability and availability of medicines in the EU. During the first part of the workshop, the current situation on access to medicines was analysed by different stakeholder groups. The second part of the workshop analysed pharmaceutical systems in the EU, covering topics such as intellectual property, pricing and reimbursement systems, and competition enforcement laws. The third part of the workshop concerned authorisation procedures and systems for pricing and reimbursement. Here, an overview of the role of the EMA, the benefits of health technology assessment and improving affordability were presented. Proposals to improve access to medicines were discussed in the final workshop session. This workshop and the respective document were prepared by the Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

Study [EN](#)

The Istanbul Convention: A tool to tackle violence against women and girls

Publication type At a Glance

Date 19-07-2016

Author JURVISTE Ulla

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword Council of Europe | criminal law | domestic violence | European organisations | fight against crime | gender equality | help for victims | international affairs | international convention | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination | sexual violence | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | women's rights

Summary A powerful international tool, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) entered into force in August 2014, having been opened for signature in May 2011. It is the first instrument in Europe to set legally binding standards specifically to prevent gender-based violence, protect victims of violence and punish perpetrators. This is an updated edition of an EPRS note published in November 2015.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[EU Arctic Policy in Regional Context](#)

Publication type Study

Date 06-07-2016

External author Gerald STANG (European Union Institute for Security Studies)

Policy area Energy | Environment | Foreign Affairs | Global Governance | Human Rights | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Public international law | Research Policy | Security and Defence

Keyword America | Arctic | Canada | climate change policy | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | demography and population | Denmark | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENERGY | energy resources | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | Europe | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | Finland | GEOGRAPHY | Greenland | hydrocarbon | Iceland | indigenous population | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | natural environment | Nordic Council | Norway | oil industry | political geography | Russia | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | soft energy | soft energy | sustainable development | Sweden | United States

Summary EU Arctic policy has evolved significantly in recent years, culminating in the April 2016 Joint Communication from the European Commission and the HRVP for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The Communication focuses on the environment and climate change, sustainable development, and peaceful international cooperation, with overarching support for scientific research. This coincides with most of the priorities of the EU's Arctic Member States, Denmark, Finland and Sweden. The Communication does not focus on security issues or on hydrocarbon development. Arctic oil and gas are not the primary keys to EU energy security, but do play a role, and are important for the EU's two main suppliers, Norway and Russia – sustainable management of these resources is in the EU's interest. While the region has been a model for cooperation – Arctic collaboration with Russia continues via multiple mechanisms, despite wider tensions. That it will remain so cannot be taken for granted. The EU supports peaceful Arctic cooperation via multiple mechanisms, including the Arctic Council, the Barents-Euro Arctic Council, and via multiple cross-border collaboration platforms. As the EU becomes increasingly engaged in Arctic issues, continued focus on policy coherence, engagement with other Arctic stakeholders, and the priorities of the region's citizens will be essential.

Study [EN](#)

[CIA renditions and secret detention programme](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 02-06-2016

Author CIRLIG Carmen-Cristina

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword America | criminal law | defence | economic geography | EU Member State | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | GEOGRAPHY | illegal restraint | imprisonment | international human rights law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | judicial investigation | justice | LAW | parliament | parliamentary inquiry | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | removal | rights and freedoms | secret service | terrorism | United States

Summary The CIA's extraordinary rendition and secret detention programme has again come under the scrutiny of the European Parliament, which will ask the Commission and the Council during the June plenary about the measures taken to implement Parliament's recommendations on the matter.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Recognition of Professional Qualifications in Inland Navigation](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-06-2016

Author DOSSI Samuele

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

Keyword Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine | crew | drafting of EU law | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | impact study | inland waterway transport | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | labour market | maritime and inland waterway transport | organisation of transport | professional qualifications | recognition of vocational training qualifications | TRANSPORT

Summary The IA clearly identifies and defines the problems, demonstrating that EU action is necessary to address them. The analysis emphasises that, in this case, EU action is further justified by the limited provisions offered by the existing EU legislative framework and potential offered by the IWT sector towards the objectives of the Single Market. Although the legislative proposal is limited to aspects of labour mobility, the analysis presents a wide array of policy measures that can be adopted to tackle the main problem drivers as presented in the impact assessment, and provides an explanation for the measures that were discarded prior to the analysis. Some criticism can be made concerning the weak quantification of impacts. This is recognised through the analysis, and justified on the basis of the high regional diversification of the sector concerned by the EU action, and the difficulties linked to the monitoring and data collection processes.

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

[Comparing EU and EFTA Trade Agreements: Drivers, Actors, Benefits, and Costs](#)

Publication type	Study
Date	30-05-2016
External author	Andreas MAURER
Policy area	Foreign Affairs Industry Internal Market and Customs Union International Trade
Keyword	bilateral agreement common commercial policy comparative study documentation economic geography EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS EFTA Europe European construction European Economic Area European organisations EUROPEAN UNION GEOGRAPHY Iceland international affairs INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS international trade negotiation of an agreement (EU) Norway political geography Switzerland TRADE trade agreement trade agreement (EU) trade policy trade policy
Summary	<p>EFTA states have built up a network of 26 preferential trade agreements (PTAs) with 37 partners, compared to more than 120 trade agreements concluded by the EU with more than 45 partners.</p> <p>There are substantial differences between EU and EFTA PTAs in terms of scope and ambition. EFTA agreements still focus on traditional areas of market access, while the post-1990 EU agreements are more elaborate, values-driven, political and comprehensive.</p> <p>As a bloc, the EU has more leverage when it negotiates around the world. The size of its market and its highly developed common policies mean that the EU can bring more to the negotiating table and has stronger tools to enforce its economic interests and political conditions compared to the smaller EFTA states whose political and economic cooperation is limited.</p> <p>Although the EFTA states do not form a customs union like the EU, they usually negotiate PTAs as a group, bringing their combined economic and political weight to bear. However, they retain the right to reach bilateral trade agreements with third countries outside the EFTA framework, such as Switzerland's PTAs with Japan and China, and Iceland's bilateral PTA with China.</p> <p>EFTA's small size nonetheless has some benefits. Since EFTA states are not so constrained by — often diverging — interests they can be more flexible in their negotiations. In some cases EFTA has concluded trade deals relatively quickly compared to the EU, but this has been at the expense of relatively shallow trade agreements.</p>
	Study EN

[Research for TRAN Committee - Status Report on the Deployment of SESAR](#)

Publication type	Study
Date	13-05-2016
External author	Washington Yotto Ochieng (FREng) and Milena Studic
Policy area	Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice Transport
Keyword	air and space transport air safety air space air traffic control BUSINESS AND COMPETITION business classification civil aviation cooperation policy development plan economic policy ECONOMICS EFTA Eurocontrol European construction European organisations EUROPEAN UNION executive power and public service International Civil Aviation Organisation international law INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS joint venture LAW management POLITICS project evaluation public-private partnership Single European Sky single market technical cooperation TRANSPORT transport policy United Nations
Summary	<p>This report captures the status of deployment of SESAR through the Pilot Common Project (PCP) in terms of state of play, costs and timeliness. It is concluded that the PCP implementation is on time and underpinned by a credible management structure. The expenditure to date through the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) mechanism is EUR 325.4 million, out of EUR 3 billion planned for 2014-2020. However, as the PCP implementation is at an early stage, the benefits are still to be quantified.</p>
	Study EN

[Free trade agreements between EFTA and third countries: An overview](#)

Publication type	Briefing
Date	18-04-2016
Author	KOCAK Konur Alp
Policy area	Foreign Affairs International Trade
Keyword	bilateral agreement cooperation policy economic geography economic integration economic policy ECONOMICS EEA joint institution EFTA EFTA countries European construction European Economic Area European organisations EUROPEAN UNION free-trade agreement GEOGRAPHY international affairs INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS international trade marketing single market third country TRADE trade agreement trade cooperation trade statistics
Summary	<p>The biggest trading partner of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is the EU, but third countries have made up an increasing share of EFTA's trade since it began exploring new markets through free trade agreements (FTAs) following the end of the Cold War. Since international trade accounts for a significant share of EFTA countries' national economies, boosting trade with new markets is a priority for the association. Trade between the EU and three of the four EFTA states (the EEA EFTA states) is subject to the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement, meaning these countries adopt EU legislation relevant to the Single Market. As the EU accounts for almost 70% of EFTA's total trade, EU rules and regulations play a major role in its trade relations. This has tended to restrict EFTA members' trade policies towards third countries. EFTA began to negotiate FTAs around the world in the 1990s. Today, EFTA's network of preferential trade relations consists of 25 FTAs covering 36 countries. Further negotiations and exploratory talks are ongoing with major emerging economies such as India, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Modernisation and extension of some existing (first generation) FTAs, to incorporate new areas such as trade in services and investment, is also under way. Because EFTA is a free trade area not requiring the harmonisation of member countries' external trade policies, EFTA members are free to decide their own trade policies towards third countries. They have therefore signed bilateral FTAs with a number of third countries. The Iceland-China FTA, China's first with a European country, is one noteworthy example. Norway has signed two bilateral FTAs (with the Faroe Islands and Greenland), while Switzerland, which has been in a customs union with Liechtenstein since 1923, has concluded bilateral FTAs with three countries – China, Japan, and the Faroe Islands. For the most part, EFTA has been able to speak with one voice whilst allowing its individual members to decide their own bilateral policies.</p>
	Briefing EN

The Frozen Conflicts of the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Their Impact on the Respect of Human Rights

Publication type Study

Date 08-04-2016

External author Andras RACZ (Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Finland)

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights | Security and Defence

Keyword access to the courts | autonomous movement | Azerbaijan | civil society | Council of Europe | economic geography | ethnic group | Europe | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | Georgia | human rights | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | justice | LAW | legal profession | Moldova | occupied territory | organisation of the legal system | OSCE | political geography | political violence | POLITICS | politics and public safety | regional security | rights and freedoms | Russia | settlement of disputes | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | territorial dispute | the EU's international role | Ukraine | world organisations

Summary The present study provides a detailed overview of the actual human rights situation in the frozen conflict regions of EU's Eastern neighbourhood, namely in Crimea, Transnistria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh. The focus of the analysis is on the access to the justice system, as well as on the abilities of the de jure or de facto authorities to administer justice. Particular attention is paid to Crimea because the rapidly worsening human rights situation there affects far more people than the population of the other four frozen conflicts combined. International community actions, as well as the role of civil society in protecting human rights are also analysed.

Study [EN](#)

The Future of EU Defence Research

Publication type Study

Date 30-03-2016

External author Frédéric MAURO and Klaus THOMA

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword arms industry | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | defence | defence budget | EU finance | EU financing | EU-NATO cooperation | European arms policy | European construction | European Defence Agency | European organisations | European security | European Space Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | industrial restructuring | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | institutional reform | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | military research | POLITICS | politics and public safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | research budget | research programme

Summary There is an increasing demand for the EU to become a 'Security Provider'. This demand comes from Europe's best ally, namely the U.S., but also from Member States themselves. For the first time ever the defence solidarity clause of article 42.7 of the Treaty on European Union was invoked in November 2015. Ultimately the demand to put 'more defence in the Union' comes from European citizens who wonder why Europe does not protect them in the current turmoil. From the answer to this question depends not only Europe's 'strategic autonomy', but possibly the future of the whole European project. Several steps have already been initiated to answer the call for more defence in Europe. Since the beginning of his mandate, President Juncker has declared defence a 'priority', called for the implementation of the Permanent Structured Cooperation enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty and reiterated the long term vision of a 'European army'. In June 2016, a 'global strategy' will be issued and a Commission Defence Action Plan should follow by the end of 2016. A 'Pilot Project', adopted by the European Parliament in autumn 2014, has been launched and should open the path to a 'Preparatory Action on Defence Research' that may be voted in 2016 for the 2017-2020 budgets. A natural underpinning of those efforts should be the undertaking of a full-fledged Union programme in defence research. The size, the shape and the steps to be taken towards setting it up are the subject of the present report.

Study [EN](#)

Recognition and modernisation of professional qualifications in inland navigation: Implementation Appraisal

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-01-2016

Author GONZALEZ JIMENEZ DAVID RICARDO | REMAC Milan

Policy area Employment | Transport

Keyword Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine | common transport policy | crew | drafting of EU law | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU programme | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | inland waterway transport | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | labour market | maritime and inland waterway transport | organisation of transport | professional qualifications | recognition of vocational training qualifications | TRANSPORT | transport policy

Summary The existing EU legislation on professional qualifications in inland navigation is diverse, as are the bodies that adopt the rules applicable to the profession of boatmaster: EU, Member States and river commissions with the status of international organisations. As a consequence, this may lead to a situation where there are different requirements for the profession of boatmaster on various rivers. This has an impact on the labour mobility in this sector, but it can also influence the attractiveness of this work as such. Despite the endeavour of various bodies, such as the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine, to mutually recognise the professional qualifications in inland navigation, the legislation remains fragmented and outdated. Studies show that broader harmonisation in the field of the professional qualifications in inland navigation is necessary as it could bring more clarity and transparency and, as a result, help to create jobs. One of the ways to achieve such harmonisation could be an amendment of the existing European legislation.

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

[Space Market Uptake in Europe](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 19-01-2016

External author Laura DELPONTE (Centre for Industrial Studies - CSIL, Milan, Italy), Julie PELLEGRIN (Centre for Industrial Studies - CSIL, Milan, Italy), Emanuela SIRTORI (Centre for Industrial Studies - CSIL, Milan, Italy), Marco GIANINETTO (Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy) and Luigi BOSCHETTI (University of Idaho, USA)

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Forward Planning | Industry

Keyword aerospace industry | air and space transport | communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European organisations | European Space Agency | FINANCE | financing and investment | harmonisation of standards | INDUSTRY | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | investment promotion | LAW | mechanical engineering | organisation of transport | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | satellite communications | satellite navigation | space policy | space technology | technology and technical regulations | TRANSPORT | use of outer space

Summary This study, provided by Policy Department A at the request of the ITRE committee, aims to shed light on the potential applicability of data acquired from the EU Galileo and Copernicus satellite systems in both the public and private sector, and on the reasons why such potential still remains largely underutilized. The regulatory framework, market characteristics and policy actions that are being taken to make use of space data, are comprehensively analysed. The study also addresses recommendations for different policy levels.

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

[The EU's mutual assistance clause: The first ever activation of article 42\(7\) TEU](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 27-11-2015

Author CIRLIG Carmen-Cristina

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword Belgium | common security and defence policy | cooperation policy | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | France | GEOGRAPHY | Germany | intergovernmental cooperation (EU) | international affairs | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | military cooperation | military intervention | mutual assistance | NATO | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | powers of the institutions (EU) | terrorism | Treaty on European Union | United Kingdom | United Nations Charter | Western European Union | world organisations

Summary On 17 November 2015, France invoked for the first time article 42(7) or the mutual assistance clause of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU), asking for aid and assistance from the other European Union (EU) Member States in the aftermath of the deadly terrorist attacks in Paris on 13 November 2015.

Included in EU primary law in 2009 by the Lisbon Treaty, under the specific provisions on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), the EU mutual assistance clause (or the EU mutual defence clause as it is called by many), has never been used so far. As there is no precedent, many questions have arisen with regard to its scope, implementation and role of the EU institutions, as well as to the relationship with other provisions in EU law which refer to the expression of solidarity between EU Member States, in particular the EU solidarity clause contained in article 222 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

France's decision to request assistance from the other Member States under article 42(7) TEU over other possibilities has been explained in various ways, not least through the preference of dealing bilaterally with the other EU governments, without involving the EU institutions. All EU Member State have unanimously promised their full aid and support for France, but the process of concretely defining their commitments is still ongoing.

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

[The Istanbul Convention: A tool to tackle violence against women and girls](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 25-11-2015

Author JURVISTE Ulla

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword accession to an agreement | Council of Europe | criminal law | data collection | domestic violence | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU Member State | European construction | European convention | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | information technology and data processing | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | position of women | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination | sexual violence | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | the EU's international role

Summary A powerful international tool, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) was opened for signature in May 2011 and entered into force in August 2014. It is the first instrument in Europe to set legally binding standards specifically to prevent gender-based violence, protect victims of violence and punish perpetrators.

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

[The 1995 enlargement of the European Union: The accession of Finland and Sweden](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 04-11-2015

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword [accession to the European Union](#) | [Community acquis](#) | [economic geography](#) | [EFTA](#) | [Europe](#) | [European construction](#) | [European Economic Area](#) | [European organisations](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [Finland](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [history of Europe](#) | [international law](#) | [INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [international security](#) | [LAW](#) | [national sovereignty](#) | [neutrality](#) | [Nordic Council](#) | [Norway](#) | [political geography](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Treaty on European Union](#)

Summary This year, Finland and Sweden, like Austria, celebrate the twentieth anniversary of their accession to the European Union. This historical study focuses specifically on the entry into the Union of the first two countries. Distinct economic and social policies, as well as issues of neutrality during the Cold War, had kept the two Nordic countries from developing closer relations with the European Community. However, economic and geopolitical changes allowed this situation to evolve into a deeper and mutually beneficial relationship. This is the latest study in the European Union History Series, which is primarily based on documents preserved in and made available to the public by the Historical Archives of the Parliament and the archives of other EU institutions.

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

[Online consumer reviews: The case of misleading or fake reviews](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 27-10-2015

Author VALANT Jana

Policy area Consumer Protection

Keyword [BEUC](#) | [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [business ethics](#) | [business organisation](#) | [communications](#) | [consumer behaviour](#) | [consumer protection](#) | [consumer survey](#) | [consumption](#) | [drafting of EU law](#) | [economic geography](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [electronic commerce](#) | [Europe](#) | [European construction](#) | [European Consumer Centres Network](#) | [European organisations](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [France](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [Germany](#) | [INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS](#) | [Internet site](#) | [ISO](#) | [marketing](#) | [non-governmental organisations](#) | [political geography](#) | [single market](#) | [TRADE](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [virtual community](#)

Summary Online consumer review sites and platforms are tools that are widely used by consumers and are becoming embedded in both consumer behaviour and business models. A 2013 European Consumer Centres' Network web survey showed that 82% of respondents read consumer reviews before shopping. Tools for increasing consumer awareness and raising their trust in the market should not, however, mislead consumers with fake reviews, which, according to different estimates, represent between 1% and 16% of all 'consumer' reviews.

Directive 2005/29/EC, the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive, concerning unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices in the internal market defines misleading or aggressive commercial practices and prohibits, in particular, the practice of falsely representing oneself as a consumer. Misleading or fake reviews undermine consumers' confidence in the integrity of online reviews and lead to consumer detriment. A fake review can be defined as a positive, neutral or negative review that is not an actual consumer's honest and impartial opinion or that does not reflect a consumer's genuine experience of a product, service or business. Some European consumer organisations say review sites would benefit from being regulated, or to some extent standardised.

The problem of fake online reviews not only concerns individual consumers; it can lead to an erosion of consumer confidence in the online market, which can reduce competition. To deal with this issue, some guidelines have already been adopted by consumer enforcement bodies, regulators and other stakeholders, in the EU and internationally. Enforcement actions have also been taken. Fake online reviews should be taken seriously, as more and more consumers buy online, and the practice is becoming increasingly sophisticated.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Parliamentary Immunity in a European Context](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 01-10-2015

External author Sascha Hardt

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword [access to the courts](#) | [case law \(EU\)](#) | [Court of Justice of the European Union](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [European Convention on Human Rights](#) | [European Court of Human Rights](#) | [European organisations](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European Union law](#) | [freedom of expression](#) | [freedom of opinion](#) | [international affairs](#) | [INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [justice](#) | [LAW](#) | [Member of the European Parliament](#) | [parliament](#) | [parliamentary immunity](#) | [political behaviour](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [politics and public safety](#) | [privilege](#) | [rights and freedoms](#)

Summary This in-depth analysis was commissioned by the policy department on citizens' rights and constitutional affairs at the request of the JURI committee. It examines the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union on the matter of parliamentary immunity. From this case law, it derives the conclusion that both courts are developing a 'functional approach' towards parliamentary immunity. It explains the meaning of this approach both for national systems of parliamentary immunity and for that of the European Parliament.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Parliamentary Immunity in Italy

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-10-2015

External author Marco Cerase

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword bicameral system | constitution | constitutional court | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | freedom of expression | freedom of opinion | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | Italy | judicial proceedings | justice | LAW | national parliament | organisation of the legal system | parliament | parliamentary immunity | parliamentary proceedings | parliamentary vote | political behaviour | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | privilege | protection of communications | rights and freedoms | sources and branches of the law

Summary This in-depth analysis was commissioned by the policy department on citizens' rights and constitutional affairs at the request of the JURI committee. It proposes to view the legal basis and practical developments of parliamentary privilege in Italy, providing an insight into the peculiarities of the country's experience, with reference also to recent cases.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

A Quest for Accountability? EU and Member State Inquiries into the CIA Rendition and Secret Detention Programme

Publication type Study

Date 15-09-2015

External author Didier Bigo (King's College, London, the UK ; Science Po, Paris, France ; Centre for Study of Conflicts, Liberty and Security), Sergio Carrera (Centre for European Policy Studies - CEPS ; University of Maastricht, the Netherlands), Elspeth Guild (Centre for European Policy Studies - CEPS ; Radboud University Nijmegen and Queen Mary, University of London, the UK) and Raluca Radescu (Centre for European Policy Studies - CEPS)

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword America | area of freedom, security and justice | defence | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | Europe | European construction | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | government violence | human rights | independence of the judiciary | information and information processing | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Italy | judicial inquiry | justice | LAW | Lithuania | organisation of the legal system | parliament | parliamentary inquiry | Poland | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | Romania | rule of law | secret service | State secret | United Kingdom | United States

Summary At the request of the LIBE Committee, this study assesses the extent to which EU Member States have delivered accountability for their complicity in the US CIA-led extraordinary rendition and secret detention programme and its serious human rights violations. It offers a scoreboard of political inquiries and judicial investigations in supranational and national arenas in relation to Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and the United Kingdom. The study takes as a starting point two recent and far-reaching developments in delivering accountability and establishing the truth: the publication of the executive summary of the US Senate Intelligence Committee (Feinstein) Report and new European Court of Human Rights judgments regarding EU Member States' complicity with the CIA. The study identifies significant obstacles to further accountability in the five EU Member States under investigation: notably the lack of independent and effective official investigations and the use of the 'state secrets doctrine' to prevent disclosure of the facts, evade responsibility and hinder redress to the victims. The study puts forward a set of policy recommendations for the European Parliament to address these obstacles to effective accountability.

Study [EN](#)

Trafficking in Human Organs

Publication type Study

Date 18-06-2015

External author Michael BOS (Eurotransplant International Foundation, the Netherlands)

Policy area Human Rights | International Trade | Public Health | Social Policy

Keyword accounting | Africa | America | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | cooperation policy | Council of Europe | criminal law | criminal proceedings | economic geography | EU activity | Europe | European construction | European convention | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | health | health care profession | health risk | illicit trade | India | international affairs | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | judicial cooperation | justice | Kosovo | LAW | organ transplant | organised crime | OSCE | police cooperation | political geography | profit | shortage | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | South Africa | TRADE | trade | trade in organs | trade policy | trafficking in human beings | UN convention | United Nations | United States | World Health Organisation | world organisations

Summary The commercial trade in human organs, including trafficking in persons for organ removal has developed into a global problem. This report describes the current situation regarding international organ trafficking, committed often by transnational criminal networks. It zooms in on the role of traffickers, international brokers, health professionals, and the recipients and suppliers. To combat and prevent organ commercialism and trafficking, a legal framework for the criminalisation of trafficking offences, and tailor-made law enforcement instruments have been developed by a number of international organisations. A number of recent trafficking cases in which European citizens were involved, have been analysed in detail to highlight the different forms of organ trafficking and to demonstrate how investigation and prosecution can result in an effective justice response to these crimes. The efforts of the EU and other European organisations, such as the Council of Europe or the OSCE, to develop binding legal instruments and formulate policy actions to step up law enforcement and legal cooperation in the combat against trafficking in organs, are described. The report concludes with observations and recommendations for the EU to prepare next steps in successfully fighting and preventing trafficking in organs and organ commercialism.

Study [EN](#)

[Bosnia and Herzegovina: The 'Sejdić-Finci' case](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 12-06-2015

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights

Keyword accession to the European Union | Bosnia and Herzegovina | constitutional revision | economic geography | electoral law | electoral procedure and voting | ethnic discrimination | Europe | European construction | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | Jew | justice | LAW | parliamentary election | political geography | POLITICS | presidential election | right to stand for election | rights and freedoms | Roma | ruling | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sources and branches of the law | stabilisation and association agreement

Summary Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was identified as a potential candidate for EU membership in 2003. In order to join the EU, BiH has to meet the EU's human-rights criteria, among others. To this end, the execution of the Sejdić-Finci judgment of the European Court of Human Rights is a key prerequisite as it promotes equal political rights for all BiH citizens. Its implementation would not mean automatic accession to the EU, but would be a significant step in that direction. Since the judgment's delivery in 2009, however, little has been done to address this complex issue.

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

[Strengthening air passenger rights in the EU](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 27-05-2015

Author Niestadt Maria

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Tourism | Transport

Keyword air and space transport | aircraft fleet | airline | airport | carriage of passengers | civil aviation | customers | distributive trades | EU institutions and European civil service | European Civil Aviation Conference | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | facilities for the disabled | implementing Regulation | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | International Civil Aviation Organisation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | liberalisation of the market | organisation of transport | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sustainable mobility | TRADE | trade policy | TRANSPORT | transport policy | United Nations

Summary Over recent decades, the liberalisation of air transport in the EU has brought notable benefits to air passengers, including some lower air fares and a wider choice of airlines and services. At the same time, however, increased numbers of passengers and planes travelling through bigger and more crowded airports, and fragmented air space, increase the risk of problems such as flight delays and cancellations, and lost luggage.

The EU has adopted several regulations on air passenger rights, which complement the relevant international conventions and recommendations, to deal with such problems. However, not all passengers are aware of, or insist on, enforcement of their rights. For their part, airlines claim to struggle with financial costs and legal uncertainty. Grey areas, gaps in the current legislation and inconsistent implementation have led to numerous cases on passenger rights coming before the Court of Justice of the EU.

In 2013, to address these shortcomings and the Court's decisions, the European Commission proposed to modify the existing air passenger rights regulations. Among other provisions, it specified in greater detail certain air passenger rights, clarified key definitions, and modified certain time thresholds for compensation measures, as well as limiting the obligation for airlines to provide assistance in case of long delays.

The outgoing Parliament adopted its first-reading position on the proposal in February 2014. It introduced certain new elements and rejected some provisions that, in Parliament's view, weakened air passenger rights. Although the Council has made some progress on the file, it has not agreed on a general approach for negotiations with the Parliament. Stakeholders generally welcomed the clarifications in the Commission proposal and the EP's position, although they do not support all the modifications.

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

[Press freedom in the EU: Legal framework and challenges](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-04-2015

Author POPTCHEVA Eva-Maria Alexandrova

Policy area Democracy

Keyword case law (EU) | communications | communications profession | democracy | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | European Convention on Human Rights | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | freedom of expression | freedom of the press | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | labour law and labour relations | LAW | pluralism in the media | political framework | POLITICS | professional ethics | rights and freedoms | self-regulation | sources and branches of the law

Summary Freedom of expression and information, as well as the freedom of the press, which provides the most powerful platform for the first two, contribute significantly to the formation of public opinion, thus allowing people to make informed choices in their political decisions. These freedoms are therefore essential for democracy, which is one of the fundamental values common to all Member States, on which the European Union is founded (Article 2 TEU). Within the EU legal framework, press freedom is a fundamental right established in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, with its provision closely resembling that on press freedom in the European Convention on Human Rights.

At EU level media freedom was long dealt with purely relative to the Single Market, and thus from a rather economic point of view. However, the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU), for its part, started to see the importance of media pluralism very early, not only for the free movement of services across the EU but also in order to ensure a pluralism in views. The Court's rulings underlined the importance of media pluralism and media freedom not only for the internal market but also for democracy in the EU.

The European Parliament has repeatedly advocated press freedom and media pluralism in the EU and abroad. It has recently addressed the issue of the effectiveness of press freedom as an EU fundamental right and an objective EU value, in view of the scarce possibility for the EU institutions to act to enforce respect for EU fundamental rights and values by Member States.

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

[Endangered languages in the EU](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-04-2015

Author PASIKOWSKA-SCHNASS Magdalena | SHEIL Sarah

Policy area Education

Keyword Council of Europe | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European language | European organisations | humanities | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | language policy | language teaching | linguistic group | minority language | multilingualism | regional language | SCIENCE | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | teaching | Unesco | United Nations

Summary Many languages currently spoken in Europe are endangered and some are at imminent risk of extinction. Though education and language policies remain the competence of Member States, the EU has taken initiatives to promote multilingualism and preserve its linguistic diversity, including measures in support of regional or minority languages. A decline in linguistic diversity has been increasingly acknowledged to entail losses in terms of knowledge and cultural heritage.

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

[Surveillance and Censorship: The Impact of Technologies on Human Rights](#)

Publication type Study

Date 16-04-2015

External author Ben WAGNER, Joanna BRONOWICKA, Cathleen BERGER and Thomas BEHRNDT (Centre for Internet and Human Rights, European University Viadrina, Germany)

Policy area Democracy | Human Rights | Social Policy

Keyword communications | control of communications | cooperation policy | Council of Europe | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | extra-territoriality | freedom of assembly | freedom of expression | freedom of religious beliefs | impact of information technology | information and information processing | information society | information technology and data processing | international human rights law | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Internet | LAW | OSCE | protection of privacy | rights and freedoms | social rights | the EU's international role | third country | Wassenaar arrangement | world organisations

Summary As human lives transition online, so do human rights. The main challenge for the European Union and other actors is to transition all human rights to the digital sphere. This report argues that the human rights-based approach can be helpful in focusing discussions about security on individuals rather than states. It provides an overview of countries and companies that pose risks to human rights in the digital sphere. It lists the most relevant international laws and standards, technical standards, business guidelines, Internet principles and policy initiatives that have been crucial in transitioning the human rights regime to the digital sphere. It also analyses the impact of recent EU actions related to Internet and human rights issues. It concludes that different elements of EU strategic policy on human rights and digital policy need be better integrated and coordinated to ensure that technologies have a positive impact on human rights. The report concludes that EU should promote digital rights in national legislation of the third countries, but also in its own digital strategies.

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

[The European Patent Office - State of Play](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-04-2015

Author BUX Udo

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

Keyword budget | budgetary resources | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | enhanced cooperation | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European organisations | European patent | European Patent Office | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | institutional structure | international court | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | organisation of the legal system | patent law | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | single market | statistics

Summary On invitation of its president, the JURI Committee, on 4-5 May 2015 has visited the European Patent Offices seat in Munich and discussed the state of play of implementation of the new unitary patent, ethical questions of patentability, as well as technical issues deriving from the new challenges after the agreement on a European unitary Patent and in view of ongoing negotiations on international trade partnership agreements. This In-Depth analysis gives some background information on the economic importance and nature of patents, of the new Unitary patent, the legal foundation of the Office, as well as the ways of protecting this intellectual property right.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Single European Sky](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 31-03-2015

Author DEBYSER Ariane

Policy area Transport

Keyword air and space transport | air safety | air space | air traffic | air traffic control | airport | civil aviation | common transport policy | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | Eurocontrol | European Aviation Safety Agency | European construction | European Joint Undertaking | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | labour law and labour relations | LAW | liberalisation of the market | organisation of transport | single market | TRADE | trade policy | trade union | TRANSPORT | transport capacity | transport policy

Summary Building on the achievements of the internal market and the need to cope with growth in air transport and congestion, the European Commission launched the Single European Sky (SES) initiative in 1999. Its core objective is to reform the architecture of air traffic control in the EU in order to meet future capacity and safety needs, through improving the overall performance of air traffic management and air navigation services. Two SES packages have been adopted: SES I, which set the principal legal framework, and SES II, which aimed at tackling substantial air traffic growth, increasing safety, reducing costs and delays and the impact of air traffic on the environment. Nonetheless, European airspace remains heavily fragmented and SES is experiencing significant delays, in particular in terms of achievement of its performance goals and deployment of its basic elements such as 'functional airspace blocks'. In order to speed up its implementation, the Commission undertook a review of the SES legal framework, and in June 2013 presented an SES2+ package. While airline associations welcomed the initiative, trade unions have been much more critical on certain provisions. The European Parliament, which has underlined the need to push ahead with SES implementation, adopted its first reading position on the SES2+ package in March 2014. In December 2014, the outcome of the Transport Council somewhat reduced the ambitions of the Commission's initial objectives. However, progress on SES2+ remains blocked over the disputed question of its application to Gibraltar airport. The adoption of the package still requires the approval of both the Council and the European Parliament.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Radio spectrum: a key resource for the Digital Single Market](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-03-2015

Author DAVIES Ron

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

Keyword auction sale | CEPT | communications | data transmission | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic commerce | ETSI | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | International Telecommunication Union | marketing | radio telecommunications | regulation of telecommunications | single market | telecommunications industry | telecommunications policy | the EU's international role | TRADE | United Nations | waveband

Summary Radio spectrum refers to a specific range of frequencies of electromagnetic energy that is used to communicate information. Applications important for society such as radio and television broadcasting, civil aviation, satellites, defence and emergency services depend on specific allocations of radio frequency. Recently the demand for spectrum has increased dramatically, driven by growing quantities of data transmitted over the internet and rapidly increasing numbers of wireless devices, including smartphones and tablets, Wi-Fi networks and everyday objects connected to the internet. Radio spectrum is a finite natural resource that needs to be managed to realise the maximum economic and social benefits. Countries have traditionally regulated radio spectrum within their territories. However despite the increasing involvement of the European Union (EU) in radio spectrum policy over the past 10 to 15 years, many observers feel that the management of radio spectrum in the EU is fragmented in ways which makes the internal market inefficient, restrains economic development, and hinders the achievement of certain goals of the Digital Agenda for Europe. In 2013, the European Commission proposed legislation on electronic communications that among other measures, provided for greater coordination in spectrum management in the EU, but this has stalled in the face of opposition within the Council. In setting out his political priorities, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has indicated that ambitious telecommunication reforms, to break down national silos in the management of radio spectrum, are an important step in the creation of a Digital Single Market. The Commission plans to propose a Digital Single Market package in May 2015, which may again address this issue.

Briefing [EN](#)

[International cooperation in \(Sub-\)Arctic Europe](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 09-02-2015

Author BENTZEN Naja

Policy area Global Governance

Keyword America | Arctic | climate change policy | common foreign and security policy | cooperation policy | Council of the Baltic Sea States | cross-border cooperation | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | Europe | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | exploitation of resources | GEOGRAPHY | international affairs | international cooperation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | natural environment | Nordic Council | political geography | Russia | summit meeting | sustainable development | United States

Summary The dynamics in and the perceived relevance of regional cooperation in the European (Sub-)Arctic reflect current and anticipated future developments in the region. While the Arctic Council mirrors the increasing interest and potential future challenges in the region, other cooperation fora are less likely to face major changes or attract attention any time soon. They nevertheless remain very relevant, not least for engaging with Moscow at a time when ties with Russia are strained.

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

[Ensuring Europe's parents can rely on the safety of toys](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 18-12-2014

Author VALANT Jana

Policy area Consumer Protection

Keyword BEUC | consumption | deterioration of the environment | EC conformity marking | EC Directive | ENVIRONMENT | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | INDUSTRY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | judgment of the Court (EU) | labelling | market approval | marketing | miscellaneous industries | noise level | product safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technology and technical regulations | toxic substance | toy industry | TRADE

Summary As consumers embark on the annual Christmas shopping spree they should be aware of the potential health or safety hazards for children that may be concealed in dangerous toys on the market. Toy safety is vital for consumers' trust in the European Union's toy industry – which currently generates about €5.8 billion per year. To protect children, the EU has the highest safety requirements worldwide, especially regarding the use of chemical substances. As a result, dangerous toys account for around 25% of all the products – from across the internal market – notified to the Commission under the RAPEX system, allowing their removal from the market.

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

[An overview of Europe's film industry](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-12-2014

Author KATSAROVA Ivana

Policy area Culture

Keyword America | audiovisual co-production | audiovisual piracy | communications | copyright | Council of Europe | cultural exception | cultural prize | culture and religion | economic analysis | economic geography | economic policy | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU finance | EU financing arrangements | EU market | EU production | EU programme | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | film industry | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | participation of women | political geography | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | State aid | statistics | TRADE | trade policy | United States

Summary In spite of the fact that Europe pioneered both technological and content innovation in cinema, at present the EU film landscape is characterised by the strong presence of Hollywood productions. In 2013, they held a share of nearly 70% of the EU market, while European productions represented only 26%. What makes the major US companies so powerful is the fact that they are vertically integrated, with activities spanning production and distribution, allowing them to spread risks over several films, and reinvest profits in new projects. To offset the financing challenges facing EU film companies, different types of film-support schemes have been set up, accounting in 2009 for an estimated €2.1 billion (excluding tax incentives and interventions by publicly funded banks and credit institutions).

Notwithstanding the ever-increasing presence of Hollywood majors, the European film industry is quite dynamic and encompasses over 75 000 companies, employing more than 370 000 people, and reaping some €60 billion in revenue in 2010. Within the EU, the 'Big Five' – France, Germany, United Kingdom, Italy and Spain – account for around 80% of releases, industry turnover, and persons employed.

In its 2014 communication on European film in the digital era, the European Commission identified a number of structural weaknesses which prevent the EU film industry from reaching potential audiences in the EU and globally. Along with the fragmentation of production and issues related to financing, there is greater focus on production, resulting in limited attention to distribution and promotion, and insufficient opportunities for international projects.

Helping overcome distribution barriers for European films is also one of the European Parliament's goals through the LUX Prize, awarded annually since 2007. The winner of the prize does not receive a direct grant. Instead, during the LUX Film Days, the three films in competition are subtitled in the 24 official EU languages and are screened in more than 40 cities and at 18 festivals, allowing many Europeans to see them.

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

[Freedom of Media in the Western Balkans](#)

Publication type Study

Date 22-10-2014

External author Elda BROGI, Alina DOBREVA and Pier Luigi PARCU

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Forward Planning | Human Rights

Keyword Albania | Bosnia and Herzegovina | communications | communications profession | Community acquis | cooperation policy | Council of Europe | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | enlargement of the Union | EU finance | EU financial instrument | EU policy | Europe | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | freedom of communication | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Kosovo | LAW | mass media | Montenegro | North Macedonia | OSCE | pluralism in the media | political geography | protection of freedoms | regional cooperation | rights and freedoms | Serbia | world organisations

Summary The study analyses media freedom and pluralism in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia) in light of the EU enlargement policy. Despite the different stages of their EU accession paths, these countries share similar challenges, even if they are of different intensities. The study analyses the overall legal framework and its unsatisfactory levels of implementation, the role and the independence of PSB, the media market, and the status of journalists. It also outlines country-specific profiles, regarding these categories.
The paper outlines and analyses the current EU policies and financial instruments to foster media freedom and media pluralism in the region, including the Stabilisation and Association Process and specific acquis. It also analyses the issues in the context of the EU 'internal' and 'external' policy on media freedom and media pluralism. The study outlines the complementary roles of the CoE and the OSCE as setting common standards on media freedom in Europe and the EU institutions as being the main engine and guarantor for their implementation. Finally, the recommendations point towards the EU establishing a more long-term, integrated and comprehensive strategy of external help, monitoring and capacity building, as well as further co-ordination with the CoE and OSCE.

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

[Azerbaijan: Human rights situation](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 08-10-2014

Author LECARTE Jacques

Policy area Human Rights

Keyword authoritarian regime | Azerbaijan | civil society | cooperation agreement (EU) | Council of Europe | Europe | European construction | European Convention on Human Rights | European neighbourhood policy | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | human rights movement | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | UN convention

Summary Azerbaijan is considered by many international NGOs to be an authoritarian country in which civil and political rights are severely restricted and frequently violated. The EU may soon be ready to agree on a Strategic Modernisation Partnership with Azerbaijan. Nevertheless, the Council and the EP have stressed deep concerns about the persecution of human-rights defenders in the country.

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

[Political, Social and Economic Impacts of European Union Policies with its Mediterranean Partners - Focus on 'Investment' and Recommendations for Improved Integration](#)

Publication type Study

Date 25-04-2014

External author Amal CHEVREAU (Ipemed, France)

Policy area Financial and Banking Issues | Foreign Affairs | Industry

Keyword Africa | cooperation policy | development aid | EBRD | economic analysis | economic geography | economic integration | economic policy | ECONOMICS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | EU finance | EU financial instrument | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Investment Bank | European neighbourhood policy | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | geographical mobility | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | investment policy | Libya | management of resources | Mediterranean third countries | migration | political geography | private investment | public investment | regional integration | regions and regional policy | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | statistics | Union for the Mediterranean

Summary Since the 2011 Arab revolutions, the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries (SEMCs) have been undergoing multiple transitions (political, social, cultural, religious, etc.). These revolutions have brought to light two main areas requiring action: the upgrading of infrastructures and the creation of jobs for the younger generation. Although the relationship between these countries and Europe is strong, it needs to be renewed. This renewal must be comprehensive and must focus on investment, joint management of energy transition, and mobility, which requires special treatment due to its human dimension. Certain measures would need to be put in place for this, for example a fund dedicated to infrastructures, bringing together all of the financial support from Europe; increased mobilisation in favour of SMEs, and management of the mobility of professionals. As far as the SEMCs are concerned, the establishment of a regional economic area will be achieved through improvement of the business climate. This will entail the modernisation of the legal framework by means of regional convergence so that the EU operators and the SEMCs have shared and mutually compatible legal tools at their disposal, as well as taking a progressive step towards the modernisation of the financial system in accordance with a schedule set out by each country.

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

[Background Information for the LIBE Delegation to Italy on the Situation of Prisons - 26-28 March 2014](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 14-03-2014

Author DAVOLI Alessandro | RAFFAELLI Rosa

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

Keyword carrying out of sentence | criminal law | cruel and degrading treatment | detention before trial | economic geography | EU law - national law | Europe | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | GEOGRAPHY | government bill | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | Italy | justice | LAW | parliamentary proceedings | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | prison administration | prison system | right to justice | rights and freedoms | torture

Summary Upon request by the LIBE Committee, this internal note provides background information for the delegation of the Committee on civil liberties, justice and home affairs (LIBE) to Italy on the situation of prisons on 26-28 March 2014. After a preliminary overview of some initiatives on detention conditions at EU level (by the European Parliament and the European Commission), the note analyses the Italian situation regarding overcrowding of prisons and conditions of detention, defined by the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights as inhuman and degrading treatment in some cases. The note also refers to recent Italian legislative and jurisprudential developments, whose effects on the situation of prisons have yet to be determined.

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

[Single European sky: state of play](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-03-2014

Author DEBYSER Ariane

Policy area Transport

Keyword air and space transport | air safety | air traffic | air traffic control | application of EU law | common transport policy | EU institutions and European civil service | Eurocontrol | European Aviation Safety Agency | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | political framework | POLITICS | proposal (EU) | supervisory body | TRANSPORT | transport policy

Summary More than ten years after its launch, the Single European Sky remains far from being in place. The costs of fragmentation of European airspace, coupled with the anticipated growth in traffic, have led the European Commission to launch recently an interim update of the Single European Sky rules, known as SES2+, in order to speed up implementation.

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

[Violence against women in the EU: State of play](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 04-02-2014

Author DIMITROVA -STULL Anna

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword Council of Europe | criminal law | domestic violence | economic geography | EU Member State | EU policy - national policy | EU programme | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | gender equality | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | position of women | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination | sexual violence | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | United Nations | UNO

Summary Violence against women is a violation of human rights and a form of genderbased discrimination. Rooted in inequalities between men and women, it takes many forms. Estimates about the scale of the problem are alarming. Such violence has a major impact on victims and imposes a significant cost burden on society.

[Briefing](#) [BG](#), [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [PL](#)

[Bosnia & Herzegovina: continuing standstill](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 30-01-2014

Author LECARTE Jacques

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession to the European Union | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Community acquis | economic geography | ethnic discrimination | Europe | European construction | European Court of Human Rights | European integration | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | GEOGRAPHY | government policy | interim agreement (EU) | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | political geography | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | stabilisation and association agreement

Summary Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) made very limited progress towards EU membership in 2013. The lack of measures to address discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, and thus implement the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights is preventing BiH from moving closer to the EU.

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

[Space, Sovereignty and European Security - Building European Capabilities in an Advanced Institutional Framework](#)

Publication type Study

Date 29-01-2014

External author Anna C. VECLANI (Istituto Affari Internazionali - IAI, ITALY), Nicolò SARTORI (Istituto Affari Internazionali - IAI, ITALY), Emiliano Jr. BATTISTI (Istituto Affari Internazionali - IAI, ITALY), Jean Pierre DARNIS (Scientific Supervisor, Istituto Affari Internazionali - IAI, ITALY) and Elena CESCA (Research Support, Istituto Affari Internazionali - IAI, ITALY)

Policy area Research Policy | Security and Defence

Keyword aerospace industry | common foreign and security policy | communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European GNSS Agency | European organisations | European security | European Space Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | INDUSTRY | information technology and data processing | institutional structure | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | mechanical engineering | militarisation of space | organisation of transport | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | remote sensing | research and intellectual property | satellite communications | satellite navigation | space policy | TRANSPORT | Treaty of Lisbon

Summary The study aims to offer a comprehensive analysis of the role of space-based capabilities in supporting the security and defence policies of the European Union and of its Member States. Moving from the description of the current and future space-based systems developed at the national, intergovernmental and European level, the study tries in first place to point out the contribution of these assets to the security initiatives undertaken in Europe. Second, it describes the roles of the actors and the functioning of the institutional framework through which these capabilities are developed and exploited for Europe's security purposes. Finally, it provides options regarding the development of space capabilities for European security which could be implemented under the current treaties and within the scope of the forthcoming Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) of the Union.

Study [EN](#)

[Human rights applied to CSDP operations and missions](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 21-01-2014

Author POPTCHEVA Eva-Maria Alexandrova

Policy area Human Rights | Security and Defence

Keyword civil law | diplomatic immunity | EU law - national law | EU military mission | EU police mission | European construction | European Convention on Human Rights | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | international affairs | international human rights law | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | liability | multinational force | public international law | rights and freedoms

Summary The European Union must not only promote the observance of human rights by other international actors, but also respect them itself in the course of all its actions abroad. However, the applicability of international human rights instruments to EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operations is problematic since the EU itself, as opposed to its Member States, is not party to these instruments.

Briefing [EN](#)

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

Publication type Study

Date 15-11-2013

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

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

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

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

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

Comparing International Trade Policies: The EU, United States, EFTA and Japanese PTA Strategies

Publication type Study

Date 05-11-2013

External author Kenneth HEYDON (International Trade Policy Unit, London School of Economics, the UK) and Stephen WOOLCOCK (International Trade Policy Unit, London School of Economics, the UK)

Policy area International Trade

Keyword America | Asia and Oceania | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | economic geography | EFTA | EFTA countries | European organisations | FINANCE | financing and investment | GEOGRAPHY | intellectual property | international competition | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | investment | Japan | liberalisation of trade | originating product | political geography | preferential agreement | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public contract | research and intellectual property | tariff policy | tariff policy | technical barrier | TRADE | trade policy | trade policy | trade relations | United States

Summary This paper assesses the substance of EU preferential trade agreements compared to those of the United States, EFTA and Japan. The topic is important because of the growth of PTAs but also because PTAs are destined to remain at centre stage. The debate on PTAs is not therefore about whether and how they might grow in importance but rather how they reflect trade policy preferences of the parties and how preferential and multilateral approaches will interact. While PTAs can promote liberalisation in particular sectors and help generate economic growth, preferential liberalisation will always be second best to multilateral liberalisation on an MFN basis because of the trade and investment diversion inherent in preferential deals. In this light, the paper proposes policy recommendations for the EU, covering, first, the broad objectives and desired outcomes of EU trade policy in general, second, the overall framework of EU PTA policy; and third, specific, sectoral, goals of EU PTA policy.

Study [EN](#)

Towards an EU industrial policy for space

Publication type Briefing

Date 31-07-2013

Author DAVIES Ron

Policy area Budget | Industry | Research Policy

Keyword aerospace industry | air and space transport | communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European organisations | European Space Agency | industrial research | INDUSTRY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | mechanical engineering | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | research programme | satellite communications | space policy | space technology | TRANSPORT

Summary The European space industry occupies a strategic niche in the EU economy. The European Commission is proposing to develop a new EU space industrial policy that can support innovation and efficiency in the space industry, while creating new opportunities for jobs and growth.

Briefing [EN](#)

National Practices with Regard to the Accessibility of Court Documents

Publication type Study

Date 15-04-2013

External author Vesna NAGLIČ (Policy Department C -Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, DG IPOL, European Parliament)

Policy area Consumer Protection | EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword access to EU information | access to information | America | Canada | Court of Justice of the European Union | documentation | EC Regulation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EFTA Court | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | Finland | GEOGRAPHY | information and information processing | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | national law | political geography | provision of documents | right to information | rights and freedoms | Slovenia | sources and branches of the law

Summary This study examines national practices regarding access to court files. After presenting some national regimes giving the members of the public very broad access to court files, the study focuses on the accessibility of court files of the Court of Justice of the European Union. Finally, arguments in favour of greater access to the court files of the CJEU are analysed. Recommendations are developed on how to enable more comprehensive access by the general public to be achieved to the court files of the CJEU.

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

The Implications of EIB and EBRD Co-Financing for the EU Budget - Follow up

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-03-2013

External author Nicholas Robinson (School of Politics and international Studies, University of Leeds, the UK)

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword audit | budget | budgetary control | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | co-financing | EBRD | EU budget | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Court of Auditors | European Investment Bank | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | management

Summary This study is a follow up to the 2011 study commissioned by the European Parliament's Committee on Budgets "The implications of EIB and EBRD co-financing for the EU budget". It explores how the recommendations made in that earlier study have been taken up by the actors within the EU institutions, evaluates how far changes have been implemented which are in line with the proposals contained within that report and reflects on how visible EP studies are in general. It finds that although visibility needs to be improved, this study has had a clear policy impact nevertheless.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Best Practices of Parliamentary Committee Cooperation](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-02-2013

External author Maja Andlovic

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Keyword Belgium | Council of Europe | Denmark | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | Europe | European organisations | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | Finland | France | GEOGRAPHY | Germany | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | Italy | operation of the Institutions | parliament | parliamentary committee | Poland | political geography | POLITICS | Sweden

Summary The present briefing paper provides a comprehensive summary of best practices of parliamentary committee cooperation in selected EU national parliaments in order to put forward recommendations and policy-relevant advices for decisionmakers. An analysis is based on the results from a survey conducted in the EU member states.

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

[Single European Sky: state of play](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 03-01-2013

Author DEBYSER Ariane

Policy area Transport

Keyword air and space transport | air space | air traffic | air traffic control | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | civil aviation | Eurocontrol | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | joint venture | LAW | national implementing measure | single market | TRANSPORT | transport policy

Summary More than ten years after its launch, the Single European Sky remains far from being achieved. The costs of fragmentation of European airspace, coupled with the anticipated growth in traffic, have led both the European Commission and the European Parliament to call for measures to speed up the implementation of the Single European Sky.

Briefing [EN](#)

[The unitary patent](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-12-2012

Author ZIBOLD Franziska

Policy area Industry | Intellectual Property Law | Research Policy

Keyword administrative formalities | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | dissemination of information | documentation | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | enhanced cooperation | European construction | European organisations | European patent | European Patent Office | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | information and information processing | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | POLITICS | politics and public safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and development | research and intellectual property | single market | small and medium-sized enterprises | translation | use of languages

Summary Harmonising patent law in Europe has been a constant goal since the 1960s. However significant challenges, particularly relating to languages and litigation of patent cases, have repeatedly blocked attempts. Now, 25 Member States have signed up to a compromise under enhanced cooperation. Spain and Italy abstained because of objections to the language rules.

At a Glance [EN](#)

[Switzerland's implementation of EU legislation](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 08-10-2012

Author KLUGMAN-VUTZ Cornelia | ZIBOLD Franziska

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

Keyword agreement (EU) | application of EU law | economic geography | EFTA | Europe | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | financial institutions and credit | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | law of banking | political geography | principle of legal certainty | single market | Switzerland

Summary Switzerland and the EU are linked via more than 120 bilateral agreements, which concern the single market and other sectors. Binding obligations to implement EU law are enshrined in the various bilateral agreements, but mostly they do not extend to take account of changes in EU law. The EU is trying to convince Switzerland to put relations into a more systematic framework with effective institutions.

Briefing [EN](#)

Reforming the European Court of Human Rights: The Interlaken process

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 27-08-2012

Author COPELAND Nicholas

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

Keyword admissibility | enforcement of ruling | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | human rights | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | judicial reform | justice | LAW | organisation of the legal system | right to justice | rights and freedoms

Summary The European Court of Human Rights has been in a constant state of reform since the permanent Court was established in Strasbourg in 1998. Its creation was a response to an increasing workload, a situation which has continued and worsened over the following 14 years.

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

Unfair Contract Terms in Business-to-Consumer Contracts in the Proposed Common European Sales

Law : BEUC's Viewpoint

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 15-05-2012

External author Ursula Pachi and Agustín Reyna (BEUC, The European Consumer Organisation)

Policy area Consumer Protection | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law

Keyword BEUC | civil law | consumer protection | consumption | contractual liability | European organisations | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | marketing | producer's liability | sale | TRADE | unfair terms of contract

Summary This note presents the perspective of consumer organisation across the EU on the proposed regulation on a Common European Sales Law and its rules on unfair contract terms. It identifies the problematic impact on individual consumers and on the future development of the EU consumer law acquis. It indicates general and specific issues in relation to the introduction of an optional regime on unfair contract terms that should be taken into account by the EU legislators and proposes alternative means for promoting cross border shopping in the EU.

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

Main Trends in the Recent Case Law of the EU Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights in the Field of Fundamental Rights

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 16-04-2012

External author Alejandro Saiz Arnaiz and Aida Torres Pérez (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)

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

Keyword case law (EU) | case-law | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | European construction | European Convention on Human Rights | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | human rights | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | jurisdiction | LAW | organisation of the legal system | rights and freedoms | sources and branches of the law | the EU's international role | Treaty of Lisbon

Summary The goal of this study is to offer an overview of the case law from the Luxembourg and Strasbourg Courts regarding fundamental rights over 2010 and 2011. This study identifies the main trends and fields of conflict and focuses on the role played by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. Furthermore, the study examines the nature and intensity of crossreferences between both Courts.

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

The Influence of ECJ and ECtHR Case Law on Asylum and Immigration

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 16-04-2012

External author Henri Labayle (Université de Pau et des pays de l'Adour, Faculté de Droit de Bayonne) et Philippe De Bruycker (Institut d'Etudes Européennes et Université Libre de Bruxelles)

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

Keyword case-law | Court of Justice of the European Union | criminal law | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | human rights | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | migration | political asylum | removal | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sources and branches of the law

Summary Measuring the influence of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union enables important observations to be made. The Strasbourg Court should continue to play a decisive role in asylum and immigration proceedings. Based on the protection of fundamental rights, its abundant case law has shaped European asylum and immigration law. In contrast, the case law of the Luxembourg Court is lacking in volume, regardless of the progress in judicial protection made by the Treaty of Lisbon. However, the quality of some of the decisions given demonstrates the great potential of the Luxembourg Court in interpreting EU law and framing Member States' actions. Even the planned EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights, which may be satisfactory for lawyers who are familiar with the system, opens up new perspectives. However, this group of lawyers are out of touch with the realities. It is difficult to comprehend the low number of EU proceedings given the everyday reality. Of course, this observation still lacks the background needed to be able to judge the situation. However, shortcomings in the system can be seen. It thus remains difficult to accept that we had to wait until the end of 2011 for the Dublin system crisis to be dealt with in Luxembourg, even though the European Court had prepared the groundwork. Similarly, the low number of referrals for a preliminary ruling is surprising given the complexity of European law. With everything that is happening, it as though national courts, as it were, do not feel the need to use EU courts, disregarding the national standards in force. Finally, it seems that the Commission has reduced its role as guardian of the treaties to merely respecting time limits for transposition regardless of the quality of national standards and their effective implementation in practice. Furthermore, the protection of human rights currently seems to be more effective in the Strasbourg Court

[Study](#) [FR](#)

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

The EU's accession to the ECHR

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 13-04-2012

Author COPELAND Nicholas

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

Keyword accession to an agreement | case law (EU) | Court of Justice of the European Union | EU institutions and European civil service | European Convention on Human Rights | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fundamental rights | general legal principle | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | rights and freedoms | sources and branches of the law

Summary The integration of the substantive provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) has been a goal of Community Institutions since 1953. Moreover, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) has recognised the ECHR's "special significance" for over 30 years. However until the Lisbon Treaty, the EU lacked the legal competence to enact general rules or to conclude international conventions in the human rights field.

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

Youth programmes and policies in the EU

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 09-12-2011

Author COPELAND Nicholas

Policy area Education

Keyword continuing education | Council of Europe fund | culture and religion | economic geography | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | educational exchange | EU Member State | European organisations | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | youth exchange scheme | youth policy

Summary Whilst commonly understood, "youth" is a difficult concept to define from a policy-making perspective. Nevertheless in the eyes of national governments and European leaders, youth policy has grown increasingly important in recent years.

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

[The Implications of EIB and EBRD Co-Financing for the EU Budget](#)

Publication type Study

Date 16-03-2011

External author Nick Robinson (School of Politics and international Studies, University of Leeds, UK) and Robert Bain (RBconsult Ltd, Weald, Kent, UK)

Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Financial and Banking Issues

Keyword budget | budgetary control | co-financing | Community loan | coordination of financing | EBRD | EU finance | EU institutions and European civil service | European Investment Bank | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | financing and investment | general budget (EU) | institutional structure | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Summary Recent years have seen the growth of a number of EU co-financing instruments designed to enhance the leverage of the EU budget by working more closely with the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. However, the growth of such instruments raises potential concerns in relation to financial control and liability, in relation to governance, transparency and visibility and in relation to the extent to which such activity helps the deliverability of EU objectives.

Study [EN](#)

[The EU as a Global Actor : Its Evolving Role in Multilateral Organizations](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-03-2011

External author PALACIO Vicente (Fundación Alternativas), DE LA ROCHA V. Manuel (Fundación Alternativas), ESCARIO José Luis (Fundación Alternativas) and RUIZ Doménec (Fundación Alternativas)

Policy area Global Governance

Keyword Council of Europe | Ecosoc | EU-NATO cooperation | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FAO | international affairs | International Monetary Fund | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | multilateral relations | OECD | OSCE | the EU's international role | Treaty of Lisbon | UN General Assembly | United Nations | world organisations | World Trade Organisation

Summary This study explores ways through which the EU could meet its full potential as a global actor and, specifically how it can act more effectively in the multilateral organizations and forums. The main obstacle for the EU is the fragmented and divergent positions among the member states that occasionally arise over major international issues, and prevent the Union from acting with speed and determination required in international affairs. The departure point of this analysis is a thorough assessment of the Lisbon Treaty. The latter provides the EU with legal personality and with new tools and competences that, if there was enough political will, could enable it to maximize its current capacity to act. Assessed against the division of competences between the EU and its Member States enshrined in the Treaty, the study looks at the current status of the EU in the most important multilateral organizations that form the central nucleus of the world governance, both in the political, defense and economic realms. For each of those organizations, the report proposes ways and means to enhance the membership status and influence of the Union. At the same time, it is recognized that the international architecture is clearly imperfect and unsuitable for global governance, often reflecting the old order and powers that emerged from World War II. Therefore, this report also provides suggestions on how to reform the system for global governance if it is to be more representative and efficient while allowing a more adequate insertion of the EU.

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

[The Evolution of Fundamental Rights Charters and Case Law - A Comparison of the United Nations, Council of Europe and European Union Systems of Human Rights Protection](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-02-2011

External author Project Co-ordinator : Liora Lazarus (University of Oxford)
Lead researchers : Cathryn Costello (University of Oxford), Nazila Ghanea (University of Oxford) and Katja Ziegler (University of Oxford)
Researchers : Rajendra Desai (Matrix Chambers), Lawrence Hill-Cawthorne (University of Oxford) and Benjamin Jones (University of Oxford)

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Human Rights

Keyword comparative law | Council of Europe | European construction | European organisations | European Union | EUROPEAN UNION | fundamental rights | human rights | international affairs | international instrument | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | protection of minorities | rights and freedoms | sources and branches of the law | United Nations | UNO

Summary This report examines the human rights protection systems of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union. It explores the substantive rights, protection mechanisms, modes of engagement within, and the interactions between each system. The report also outlines the protection of minority rights, and the political processes through which human rights and institutions evolve and interact. A series of recommendations are made on how to advance the EU human rights system.

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

The European Citizens' Initiative online? Some European and national experiences

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-07-2010

Author LEHMANN Wilhelm

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

Keyword citizens' Europe | communications | Council of Europe | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | European construction | European organisations | European Parliament | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | GEOGRAPHY | governance | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | Internet | parliament | participatory democracy | petition | political framework | POLITICS | Treaty of Lisbon

Summary The inclusion of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) in the Lisbon Treaty is a recognition of earlier developments in many parts of the democratic world. The implementation of its practical parameters will be a crucial element for the acceptance of the ECI by EU citizens and will send an important message to other regions and countries. The purpose of this study is to provide background information on the present situation in the Member States of the EU, and on the European level, as far as the use of modern technical equipment such as online registration of popular initiatives, referendums or petitions is concerned. Since there is no direct equivalent to the new ECI at Member State level any comparisons are necessarily limited but nevertheless instructive.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

EUROPEAN STANDARDISATION: CURRENT CHALLENGES - FUTURE ACTIONS

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 09-07-2010

Author MELLAR Balazs

Policy area Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword consumption | European construction | European organisations | European standardisation body | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public contract | service | single market | standardisation | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | trade policy

Summary European standards can contribute to the development of the European internal market. EU standardisation is managed by independent organisations promoting cooperation amongst industry, users, public authorities and other interested parties on a voluntary basis. Despite the European Standardisation System's success, there are a number of challenges still to be addressed: greater participation of societal stakeholders in the standardisation process; use of standards in the services sector; improved access to EU standards; use of standards in public procurement; and reinforcement of EU's role in international standardisation.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Private properties issues following the change of political regime in former socialist or communist countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Serbia

Publication type Study

Date 15-04-2010

External author Romanian Academic Society (RAS), Romania ; with the collaboration of: Centre for Liberal Strategies (CLS), Bulgaria, Partnership for Social Development (PSD), Croatia

Policy area Human Rights | Petitions to the European Parliament | Private international law and judicial cooperation in civil matters | Public international law

Keyword change of political system | civil law | economic structure | ECONOMICS | European construction | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | expropriation | former socialist countries | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | post-communism | private property | the EU's international role

Summary Some transformations occurred in the area of private property ownership following the change of political regime in former socialist or communist countries. The six analysed countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Serbia) illustrate well the whole range of contentious problems in a region where the Communist regimes have varied tremendously in their approach to private property, intensity of social control, repression and overall legitimacy. This diversity of situations poses today different types of dilemmas for the property restitution process and these six countries responded in different manners to these general challenges, in the context of their own peculiar social and economic history.

Study [EN](#)

[Blacklist of banned airlines](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-04-2010

Author FREITAS Tiago

Policy area Transport

Keyword air and space transport | air safety | air traffic control | air transport | airline | EU institutions and European civil service | Eurocontrol | European Aviation Safety Agency | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | International Civil Aviation Organisation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | TRANSPORT | transport policy | United Nations

Summary With the experience gained from the implementation of the list of banned airlines in the EU, the European Commission (EC) is now seeking the creation of a global blacklist to improve aviation safety worldwide and grant more protection to passengers flying within third countries. The progress report on the implementation of the list, published by the EC in January 2010, includes possible actions to take in upcoming meetings of the International Civil Aviation Organisation, where global aviation safety will be discussed.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Current Policy Issues in the Governance of the European Patent System](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-12-2009

External author Víctor RODRIGUEZ (TNO), Jos LEIJTEN (TNO), Giuseppe SCELLATO (Fondazione Rosselli), Bianca POTI (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - CNR) and Ove GRANSTRAND (Chalmers University of Technology)

Policy area Industry | Intellectual Property Law | Research Policy

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | competition | competition | European organisations | European patent | European Patent Office | innovation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | patent law | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property

Summary The European Parliament has been working towards building a discussion platform and a resource for further policy actions in the field of intellectual property rights. The Science and Technology Options Assessment Panel has set the goal of further enlarging the area of investigation in light of recent policy developments at the European level. In particular, the current study covers current policy issues in the governance of the European patent system, such as the backlog issue, the enhancement of patent awareness within the European Parliament, patent enforcement, the regional dimension of intellectual property in Europe, patents and standardisation, the use of existing patents, and patents and competition. These issues were discussed in the conference with stakeholders from European to national patent offices, from private to public sector actors. As a result of the conference, it was stated the need for an IP strategy for Europe.

Study [EN](#)

[Regional Cooperation and the European Economic Area \(EEA\)](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 18-03-2009

External author Mindaugas Jurkynas (Lithuania)

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

Keyword cooperation policy | economic geography | EFTA | EFTA countries | EP Committee | EU institutions and European civil service | European Commission | European construction | European Economic Area | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | interinstitutional relations | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | POLITICS | politics and public safety | regional cooperation

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Issues Underlying Space Exploration in Europe](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 10-03-2009

External author Nicolas PETER (European Space Policy Institute - ESPI, Vienna, Austria)

Policy area Industry | Research Policy

Keyword air and space transport | European organisations | European Space Agency | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | natural and applied sciences | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | SCIENCE | space navigation | space research | space science | space vehicle | TRANSPORT | use of outer space

Summary This briefing note addresses several issues underlying space exploration in Europe: (i) the pros and cons of exploring the solar system via the means of either humans or robots, (ii) how can the increasing knowledge of space help the EU citizens understand and mitigate problems we face on Earth, (iii) the socio-economic aspects of the space sector in particular the added value of investing in space activity coupled with high human capital and specialised research establishments.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

The Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Freedom of Expression

Publication type Study

Date 18-02-2009

External author Malcolm EVANS

Policy area Democracy | Human Rights

Keyword criminal law | culture and religion | defamation | democracy | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | freedom of expression | freedom of opinion | freedom of religious beliefs | human rights | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | political framework | POLITICS | religion | religious group | rights and freedoms | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Executive summary

There is increasing scrutiny of the practice of states in relation to matters of religion or belief and whilst such practice takes place - and is subject to analysis - on many levels, one of the most important issues concerns the manner in which it bears upon the enjoyment of other fundamental rights. Given the importance placed upon the freedom of expression in the western liberal democratic tradition, it is easy to see why the relationship between religion, belief and expression has become so significant an issue and why the manner in which any tensions are addressed tends to assume something of a totemic significance in the eyes of some observers.

Study [EN](#)

Proposal for a Regulation Establishing the Criteria and Mechanisms for Determining the Member States Responsible for Examining an Application for International Protection Lodged in one of the Member States by a Third-country National or a Stateless Person (Recast), COM (2008) 820 Final

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 16-02-2009

External author Kay Hailbronner (Konstanz, Germany)

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

Keyword criminal law | EU migration policy | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | family migration | foreign national | illegal migration | imprisonment | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | migration | refugee | right of asylum | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary The note offers an assessment of the following aspects: extension of the scope of application for subsidiary protection, the question of effective judicial protection, detention, the extension of the term "family member", the discretionary clauses, the new mechanism of temporary suspension of transfers.

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

Recruitment and Equal Opportunities Systems in National, European and International Civil Services

Publication type Study

Date 14-11-2008

External author Herma Kuperus, Cristiana Turchetti and Anita Rode

Policy area Employment | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword civil service | Council of Europe | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | equal pay | EU institutions and European civil service | European civil service | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | female work | gender equality | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | personnel management and staff remuneration | POLITICS | recruitment | rights and freedoms

Summary After defining the civil service, their size and the proportion of women, this study offers an overview of recruitment systems and equal opportunities policies in the public administrations of the Member States of the European Union, the European institutions, the Secretariat of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Secretariat of the Council of Europe.

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

Study on third-party testing of toys

Publication type Study

Date 15-10-2008

External author Janne Sylvest and Benita Kidmose Rytz (Ramboll Management - Denmark)

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

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | consumer movement | consumption | European organisations | European standardisation body | INDUSTRY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | market approval | marketing | miscellaneous industries | product safety | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | small and medium-sized enterprises | technology and technical regulations | testing | toy industry | TRADE

Summary Executive summary

The European Toy Safety Directive 88/378/EEC (TSD) regulates the EU toy sector through safety criteria and essential requirements which toys must meet before being placed on the EU market. The European Commission has now put forward a proposal for a new TSD. One of the key questions during drafting of the proposal for a new Directive was whether to make it mandatory for all toys to be tested by an independent third-party tester, which is not the case today. However, based on an Impact Assessment carried out in 2004, the Commission decided not to include mandatory third-party testing of toys in the proposal for a new TSD. The objective of this study is to outline the merits and drawbacks of mandatory third-party testing of toys, by providing facts on the current situation and different stakeholders' opinions on mandatory third-party testing of toys.

Study [EN](#)

[EU space policy and its potential for EU industrial sector competitiveness](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-09-2008

External author Evgueni Poliakov (coordinator), Chris Bremmer, Marc Lieshout and Monique Roso (TNO - Delft, Netherlands)

Policy area Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union | Research Policy

Keyword advanced technology industry | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | ENVIRONMENT | environmental monitoring | environmental policy | European organisations | European Space Agency | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | innovation | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | natural and applied sciences | organisation of transport | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and development | research and intellectual property | satellite navigation | SCIENCE | space policy | space science | TRANSPORT

Summary This study prepared by TNO analyzes a part of European Space Policy and Programme under three main themes: space related applications and market players; benefits from the European Space Policy and Program; and governance aspects and policy implications. As instructed by study's administrators, the report concentrates on two primary sectors of interest – Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS), including Galileo, and Earth Observation, including the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security initiative (GMES). In addition, the report covers, albeit in fewer detail, access to space and European launcher programme and contains a general analysis of European Space Programme (including a view from international perspective).

Study [EN](#)

[The Legal Ramifications of the Case for Closure of the AK Party in View of the Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights - Prohibition of Political Parties in Turkey - The Case of the AKP](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 05-09-2008

External author Christian Rumpf and Ekrem Akartürk

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights

Keyword Asia and Oceania | economic geography | Europe | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | formation of a party | freedom of assembly | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | party financing | political geography | political party | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | Türkiye

Summary Introduction
The Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi (Justice and Development Party; officially abbreviated to 'Akparti' or AKP) was founded in 2001 by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, former Lord Mayor of Istanbul, and a group of politicians, including some from the outlawed Refah Partisi (Welfare Party) as well as a number of supporters of other parties who did not stand out as having a particularly religious mindset. Erdoğan thus reinforced his profile as a religiously oriented but pragmatic politician open to the values of modern democracy. He had already made a name for himself in the Refah Partisi as a moderate politician with little in common with the ideological principles of Necmettin Erbakan. [...]

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

[Human Rights and Frozen Conflicts in the Eastern Neighbourhood](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 07-11-2007

External author Martina Bielawski, Centre of International Studies, University of Cambridge, UK
Nicu Popescu, European Council on Foreign Relations,
London office and Central European University, Budapest

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Human Rights

Keyword Caucasus countries | Commonwealth of Independent States | economic geography | Europe | European construction | European Court of Human Rights | European neighbourhood policy | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | Moldova | OSCE | political geography | political rights | rights and freedoms | Russia | settlement of disputes | Ukraine | United Nations | UNO | world organisations

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Implementation of the EIDHR - the Example of EHRAC's Work in Russia / Chechnya](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 27-11-2006

External author Philip LEACH (EHRAC, UNITED KINGDOM)

Policy area Democracy | Human Rights

Keyword Chechen question | democracy | economic geography | Europe | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | non-governmental organisation | non-governmental organisations | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | rights and freedoms | Russia

Summary EHRAC - a success story of the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights.

Briefing [EN](#)

Europe's Space Policies and their relevance to ESDP

Publication type Study

Date 19-06-2006

External author Dr Rebecca E. Johnson, Acronym Institute

Policy area Research Policy | Security and Defence

Keyword air and space transport | common security and defence policy | defence | ENVIRONMENT | environmental monitoring | environmental policy | European construction | European defence policy | European organisations | European security | European Space Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | militarisation of space | organisation of transport | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and development | research and intellectual property | satellite navigation | space policy | space technology | TRANSPORT

Study [EN](#)

What Lessons Can Be Drawn, for the Future EU Fundamental Rights Agency, from the Experiences at Member State Level, by the Bodies or Institutions That Have a Similar Competence in the Field of Human Rights at National Level

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-02-2006

External author Olivier de Schutter

Policy area Human Rights

Keyword administrative structures | advisory power | Council of Europe | economic geography | EU institutions and European civil service | EU Member State | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights | executive power and public service | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | mediator | political framework | POLITICS | rights and freedoms

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

How to Establish, in the Most Efficient Manner, a Relationship Between the Future EU Fundamental Rights Agency and the Other European and International Bodies Competent in the Field of Human Rights; in the First Instance the Council of Europe and the OSCE, to Benefit from Each Others Complementary Roles whilst Avoiding Duplication

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-02-2006

External author Olivier de Schutter

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

Keyword Council of Europe | EU institutions and European civil service | EU police cooperation | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights | interinstitutional relations | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the EU | OSCE | POLITICS | politics and public safety | world organisations

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

The European Neighbourhood Policy and the Broader Middle East Institutional options for a Coherent Policy and Reinforced Multilateral Partnership in the Light of the Review of the Barcelona Process

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 10-04-2005

External author Nick Lambert and Eugenio Mantovani (European Institute for Research on the Middle East)

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

Keyword cooperation policy | economic cooperation | economic geography | European construction | European neighbourhood policy | European organisation | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | institutional reform | interinstitutional relations | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Mediterranean third countries | NATO | OSCE | political framework | POLITICS | politics and public safety | power of decision | regional cooperation | Union for the Mediterranean | world organisations

Summary This policy paper is one of a series of four such papers requested by the EP's Committee on Foreign Affairs in connection with the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). It examines institutional aspects of the ENP as it applies to the Union's partner countries in the Mediterranean and Middle East and makes proposals for changes to the current arrangements governing the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[The Consequences of EMU for the EEA/EFTA Countries](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 01-05-2002

Author [LIHA Aida](#)

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

Keyword [Economic and Monetary Union](#) | [economic policy](#) | [economic policy](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EFTA](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [euro](#) | [European Central Bank](#) | [European construction](#) | [European Economic Area](#) | [European organisations](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [FINANCE](#) | [INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS](#) | [monetary economics](#) | [monetary policy](#) | [monetary relations](#) | [national currency](#)

Summary This briefing examines the consequences for Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland of the creation of the euro. It analyses each of these countries' economic and monetary policies, and also the possible links between the exchange rates of their currencies and that of the euro. Finally, it examines the possible effects of EMU and of the policies of the European Central Bank on the conduct of monetary, exchange rate, fiscal and other policies in third countries, and in those of the EFTA in particular.

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

[Reforming the Implementation of Community Competition Rules: Impact on the European Economic Area](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 01-09-2001

External author [Olivier Delattre](#), [Robert Schuman Scholar](#)

Policy area [Economics and Monetary Issues](#) | [Internal Market and Customs Union](#)

Keyword [BUSINESS AND COMPETITION](#) | [competition](#) | [competition policy](#) | [dominant position](#) | [economic geography](#) | [EFTA](#) | [EFTA countries](#) | [European construction](#) | [European Economic Area](#) | [European organisations](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS](#) | [restrictive trade practice](#)

Summary Considering the legal homogeneity principle on which the European Economic Area is based, reforms currently under discussion in the European Community concerning the implementation of Articles 81 and 82 EC will have to be incorporated within the EEA framework once adopted, especially in the so-called EEA EFTA Pillar side. From a technical point of view, this requires sine qua non legal amendments to some EEA Agreement Protocols, to Protocol n°4 of the Agreement between EFTA States on the Establishment of a Surveillance Authority and a Court of Justice, as well as to EEA EFTA States national legislation. However, the EEA EFTA pillar authorities have stated their wish to see additional changes carried out. This might lead the EC institutions to take these claims into account in the shaping of the final text concerning reforms. But this will probably not hinder the incorporation of the new EC competition rules into EEA legislation. It should be noted, in particular, that EFTA authorities have expressed broad support for the core aspects of the reforms.

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

[Gaetano Martino. Ten years in the European Parliament \(1957-1967\). A scientist at the service of Europe.](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 01-01-2001

Author [SILVESTRO Massimo](#)

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

Keyword [commemoration](#) | [cultural promotion](#) | [culture and religion](#) | [deepening of the European Union](#) | [European construction](#) | [European organisations](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [European University Institute](#) | [INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS](#) | [promotion of the European idea](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary Gaetano Martino, the centenary of whose birth was commemorated by the European Parliament on 29 November 2000, was unquestionably one of its most striking personalities, having twice been its President at the beginning of the 1960s. The speeches he made in Strasbourg between 1958 and 1967 reveal a high level of moral consent and very acute political awareness.

Study [DA](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FI](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [NL](#), [PT](#), [SV](#)

[Recruitment and Equal Opportunities Systems](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 15-11-2000

Author [GONZALEZ GARCIA Isaac](#)

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

Keyword [civil service](#) | [Council of Europe](#) | [economic geography](#) | [EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS](#) | [equal treatment](#) | [EU institutions and European civil service](#) | [EU Member State](#) | [European civil service](#) | [European organisations](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [executive power and public service](#) | [gender equality](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS](#) | [LAW](#) | [personnel management and staff remuneration](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [recruitment](#) | [rights and freedoms](#) | [United Nations](#) | [UNO](#)

Summary The aim of this study is to describe and analyse the specific aspects of the various recruitment systems and equal opportunities policies for men and women of the civil services of the Members States of the Union, the European Institutions and international organisations (the Council of Europe and the United Nations).

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

Executive summary [FR](#)

Fundamental Rights - Access to the Courts

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 14-01-2000

External author Eva Vega Rodriguez

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Human Rights

Keyword access to the courts | Court of Justice of the European Union | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | European Convention on Human Rights | European Court of Human Rights | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | fundamental rights | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | justice | LAW | rights and freedoms | Treaty of Amsterdam

Summary The aim of this report is to provide the reader with a clear overview of the most recent developments in the European Union with regard to human rights.

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

Violence Against Women

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-12-1997

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword Council of Europe | criminal law | domestic violence | European Community | European construction | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | non-governmental organisation | non-governmental organisations | rights and freedoms | sexual offence | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | trafficking in human beings | United Nations | UNO | women's rights

Summary Violence against women is a widespread phenomenon found throughout society. It is acknowledged to be one of the most serious infringements of the rights of the individual. This paper sets out the different types of violence and gives a description of all the initiatives which have been taken to date by international and European organisations and as a result of the contribution of NGOs. It also refers to the existing legal instruments in this field and gives a brief description of current Community action.

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

The Information Society and the European Economic Area

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-06-1997

Author LENSEN Anton

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

Keyword communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EFTA | European construction | European Economic Area | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | information and information processing | information society | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | liberalisation of the market | single market | telecommunications | TRADE | trade policy | trans-European network

Summary The EEA Treaty has an important impact on the Information Society policies of the EEA/EFTA States. International Telecommunication Union statistics show that the EEA/EFTA States dispose of a superior Information Society infrastructure than most of the EU Member States. The EEA States have taken all the legislative measures in telecommunications, television broadcasting and other Information Society domains which were included in the EEA Agreement. The paper also analyses other forms of participation of the EEA/EFTA countries in the EU Information Society programmes, via the R Framework Programme or the Trans-European Networks.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

Economic Aspects of Remote Sensing

Publication type Study

Date 01-12-1995

Author COMFORT Anthony

Policy area Industry | Research Policy

Keyword aerospace industry | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business organisation | competitiveness | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU research policy | European organisations | European Space Agency | FINANCE | financing and investment | INDUSTRY | information technology and data processing | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | mechanical engineering | observation | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public investment | remote sensing | research and intellectual property | space policy | technological change | technology and technical regulations

Summary Given the large volume of funds provided in the past to this area of the EU's research policy, the study investigates the return to the EU economy of the investments made in earth observation by satellite and the problem of ensuring wide dissemination of the benefits. It also examines the current state of the industry in Europe and its prospects.

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

[Organizations Representing Regional and Local Authorities at the European Level](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-04-1994

Author COMFORT Anthony

Policy area Regional Development

Keyword association of local authorities | Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe | Council of European Municipalities and Regions | EU institutions and European civil service | European Committee of the Regions | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | non-governmental organisations | POLITICS | regional and local authorities

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

[Agreement on the European Economic Area - Background and Contents](#)

Publication type Study

Date 28-09-1993

Author KRISTOFFERSEN Niels

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

Keyword economic geography | EEA joint institution | EFTA | EFTA countries | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | European construction | European Economic Area | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | free movement of capital | free movement of capital | free movement of goods | free movement of persons | freedom to provide services | GEOGRAPHY | international law | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | international trade | LAW | TRADE

Study [EN](#)

[Selection of Basic Texts on European Security and Defence](#)

Publication type Study

Date 01-12-1992

Policy area Security and Defence

Keyword common foreign and security policy | European construction | European organisations | European security | EUROPEAN UNION | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | multilateral agreement | NATO | OSCE | Western European Union | world organisations

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

[European Free Trade Association \(EFTA\) and the Community's internal market](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-10-1989

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

Keyword cooperation policy | economic cooperation | economic geography | EFTA | EFTA countries | European construction | European Economic Area | European integration | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | single market

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

[Macroeconomic Research in European Parliamentary Assemblies - An experiment in Cooperation](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-02-1989

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

Keyword economic analysis | economic forecasting | economic model | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation | European organisations | exchange of information | information and information processing | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | macroeconomics | parliamentary assembly

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

[Convention on the Navigation of the Rhine, Signed at Mannheim](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-05-1979

Policy area Transport

Keyword Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine | ECONOMICS | European organisations | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | inland waterway shipping | international affairs | international convention | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | maritime and inland waterway transport | principle of legal certainty | regions and regional policy | Rhine Valley | TRANSPORT

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