



DECEMBER 2014

EU integration process in CEE countries

Future relations between the UK and the EU

Negotiations between the EU and the UK will be delicate. Whatever the outcome, the EU would have to stick to certain principles.

<http://www.europeanvoice.com/other-voices/future-relations-between-the-uk-and-the-eu/>

2014 Annual report on the EU's development

Foreign Affairs (Development) Council adopted a certain conclusions

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/146178.pdf

Thursday 1 January 2015: Lithuania becomes the 19th Member State to adopt the euro

Lithuania will adopt the euro on 1 January 2015, which is a major achievement for Lithuania and for the euro area as a whole. Following the euro adoption in Lithuania, 19 EU Member States and 337 million Europeans will share the same currency.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_AGENDA-14-2622_en.htm#2

CoR and EP representatives discuss Montenegro's EU perspectives

On 9 December 2014 Mr Stanislaw Szwabski, the co-chair of the Joint Consultative Committee between the CoR and Montenegro met with Ms Anneliese Dodds, the chair of the Delegation to the EU-Montenegro Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee at the European Parliament. The talks focused on the current situation of Montenegro as a candidate country to accession to the European Union and on both bodies' cooperation in various areas and with representatives of national and local level respectively.

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/cor-and-ep-representatives-discuss-montenegro.aspx>

Commissioner Moscovici signs Memorandum of Understanding on Macro-Financial Assistance for Georgia

Georgia can count on continuing support from the European Union. Commissioner Moscovici signed on 11 December 2014 the Memorandum of Understanding for a €46 million Macro-Financial Assistance programme to Georgia.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-2602_en.htm

Pros, advantages and obligations resulting from EU

EU consumers to benefit from better labelling as of 13 December 2014

<p>membership</p>	<p>As of 13 December 2014, new EU food labelling[1] rules, adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in 2011, will ensure that consumers receive clearer, more comprehensive and accurate information on food content, and help them make informed choices about what they eat. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-2560_en.htm</p> <p>First three Rural Development Programmes get green light. The European Commission has approved the first three of 118 Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) aimed at improving the competitiveness of the EU farming sector, caring for the countryside and climate, and strengthening the economic and social fabric of rural communities in the period until 2020. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-2606_en.htm</p>
<p>General development of the EU</p>	<p>Cohesion Policy Achievements 2010-2014 Johannes Hahn summed up the EU Cohesion Policy achievements during his term in the office. The main achievements are as follows http://insideurope.eu/</p> <p>Investing in long-term Europe Pierre Moscovici, about investing in long-term Europe:Re-launching Fixed, Network and Social Infrastructure. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-14-2631_en.htm?locale=en</p>
<p>Introduction to EU institutions and their functioning</p>	<p>Council conclusions on a stronger role of the private sector in development cooperation The Council adopted the following conclusions http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/146174.pdf</p> <p>Europe in 2015: the EESC and the European Parliament In the EESC plenary session, the organization President presented the Committee's contribution to the 2015 Work Programme of the European Commission. At the EESC plenary session, in the presence of Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, Henri Malosse, the EESC President, presented the Committee's contribution to the 2015 Work Programme of the European Commission, a plan that sets out Europe's priorities for the year ahead. http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.press-releases.34272</p> <p>Council Conclusions on Finance for Growth and the Long-term Financing of the European Economy</p> <p>With regard to the next steps, the Council notes the Commission's intention to consult with a view to an Action Plan on Capital Markets Union by summer 2015; encourages the Commission to actively involve Member States and relevant stakeholders in the consultation, bringing out their specific experiences, contributing with best practices, stressing the existing obstacles to capital market finance and putting forward suggestions to build a fully integrated Capital Markets Union; and so on.</p>

	<p>http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ecofin/146132.pdf</p>
<p>Introduction to EU law</p>	<p>Revised EU food labelling rules take effect today</p> <p>From 13 December 2016, nutrition declaration becomes mandatory for the majority of prepacked foods. However, in case the nutrition declaration is provided on labels of foodstuffs placed on the market or labelled after 13 December 2014, it should comply with the rules in Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011</p> <p>http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/revised-eu-food-labelling-rules-take-effect-today/</p> <p>EU court nails Austria, Poland over breaches to green energy rules</p> <p>A decision of EU Court of Justice shows that Austria is breaking European Union law with its plans to shelter energy-intensive industries from the cost of subsidising renewable power. In a separate decision, an advocate general to the EU's highest tribunal, found that Poland had failed to implement in full the EU renewable energy law and should be ordered to pay a daily fine.</p> <p>http://www.euractiv.com/sections/energy/eu-court-nails-austria-poland-over-breaches-green-energy-rules-310775</p>
<p>Decentralised management of EU funds</p>	<p>Decentralized Cooperation Lower Normandy/ Macedonia opens a new call for projects</p> <p>The Cooperation Lower Normandy/ Macedonia is opening a new call for projects that will be implemented in the period 2015/2016. The applicants should be local authorities and cultural, educational associations or institutions from Lower Normandy and Macedonia. Applications should be submitted by 11 February 2015. More information available on: http://www.bn-mk.org/</p> <p>EU Investment Plan</p> <p>After analyzing the investment situation in Europe was concluded that Europe is lagging investment. Investment in the EU fell by more than 430 billion from peak levels by 2007. EU investment is € 270 billion to € 340 billion in sustainable historical norms. Investments prevent poor short-term recovery and long-term growth hurt. To combat these negative effects was made a plan that aims at unlocking public and private investment in the real economy at least € 315 billion over the next three years (2015-2017).</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/jobs-growth-investment/plan/index_en.htm</p> <p>COTER discusses the links between the Structural Funds and macroeconomic governance</p> <p>The Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy regions Committee</p>

meets to discuss the draft opinion on the "Guidelines on measures linking the FESI and good economic governance" presented by the rapporteur Mr Bernard Soulage , Vice-President of the Regional Council of Rhône-Alpes. The rapporteur Mr Ivan Zagar , Mayor of Slovenska Bistrica, also discuss the development of the future draft opinion "Results of the negotiations on the partnership agreements and operational programs"

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/coter-preoccupations-efficacite-fonds.aspx>

EU to invest over 1 billion euro in Scotland for research, innovation and a resource-efficient economy

The European Commission has today adopted the 2014-2020 'Operational Programme' for Scotland worth over 1 billion euro, with some €477 million coming from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The investments will boost research, technological development and innovation, particularly in sectors of regional importance, such as offshore wind, wave and tidal energy production, marine bio-sciences and the food and drink sector.

http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/cretu/announcements/eu-invest-over-1-billion-euro-scotland-research-innovation-and-resource-efficient-economy_en

Multi-level governance

CoR calls for multilevel governance to be taken on board in the review of the EU's Growth Strategy

For the first time multi-level governance (MLG) has been firmly anchored as a guiding principle in the EU Cohesion Policy for 2014-2020. This new approach should inspire the upcoming review of the Europe 2020 Strategy in inciting greater ownership of local and regional authorities and effective delivery of growth and jobs on the ground.

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/multilevelgovernance-to-be-taken-on-board-in-eugrowth-strategy-review.aspx>

Governing a multilevel Europe, COR conference, 2 December 2014

For the Committee of the Regions, European integration is linked to giving voice and visibility to the EU's multiple levels of government. It is of daily evidence for the Committee's members, presidents of regions, mayors, councilors and members of regional parliaments and assemblies that all levels of governance in the EU are interdependent and interconnected as it is for local and regional administrations which apply and implement EU legislation and programmes. The recently adopted Committee of the Regions' Charter on Multilevel Governance highlights the role of Europe's regions and cities in EU policy-making and seeks for a Europe-wide recognition of it. The programme of the conference and

	<p>the presentation are published on: http://www.cor.europa.eu/ro/events/Pages/governing-a-multi-level-europe.aspx?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Romania-November-2014</p> <p>Regions & Cities of Europe No. 89 - Decentralising power to the regions What next for Europe? The bi-monthly magazine "Regions & Cities of Europe" is published in English and is sent by post free of charge. Each issue provides a comprehensive analysis of crucial EU debates, the latest news about the Committee of the Regions as well as a regional angle on EU policies. The number for November and December was published.</p> <p>More information are available on: http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/regions-and-cities-of-europe/Pages/regions-and-cities-89-2014.aspx</p> <p>“Territories Acting for Economic Growth Using territorial evidence to meet challenges towards 2020”, ESPON seminar in Rome</p> <p>This seminar in Rome focused on ESPON 2013 Programme results in relation to thematic priorities of the Trio of EU Presidency countries, Italy, Latvia and Luxembourg. The seminar addressed themes and integrated approaches that can stimulate territories, regions and cities in providing the necessary contributions to economic growth. In doing so, it also looked towards the long term future of the European territory. The event was organised in cooperation with the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The programme and the speakers presentations are on available on the website: http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Events/Menu_OpenSeminars/Seminar_14120405_after.html</p>
<p>Introduction to different negotiation chapters Chapter 1: Free movement of goods Chapter 2: Freedom of movement for workers Chapter 3: Right of establishment and freedom to provide services Chapter 4: Free movement of capital Chapter 5: Public procurement Chapter 6: Company Law Chapter 7: Intellectual property law Chapter 8: Competition Chapter 9: Financial services Chapter 10: Information</p>	<p>Commissioner Malmström: 'TTIP is more than just a trade negotiation' EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström insisted that the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) needed to be negotiated openly, honestly and in the public interest, given the vital issues it covers. http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1219</p> <p>EU cooperation and new technology can revolutionise Europe's healthcare The Committee of the Regions has called on the EU to improve cooperation and exploit the potential of new technologies to improve the quality of healthcare across Europe. A common EU strategy should be launched that significantly increases the sharing of knowledge and information across Member States and uses mobile technology (mHealth) as a way to cut costs, improve access and create socially inclusive healthcare services of the future. http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/EU-cooperation-healthcare.aspx</p>

<p>society and media</p> <p>Chapter 11: Agriculture and rural development</p> <p>Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy</p> <p>Chapter 13: Fisheries</p> <p>Chapter 14: Transport policy</p> <p>Chapter 15: Energy</p> <p>Chapter 16: Taxation</p> <p>Chapter 17: Economic and monetary policy</p> <p>Chapter 18: Statistics</p> <p>Chapter 19: Social policy and employment</p> <p>Chapter 20: Enterprise and industrial policy</p> <p>Chapter 21: Trans-European networks</p> <p>Chapter 22: Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments</p> <p>Chapter 23: Judiciary and fundamental rights</p> <p>Chapter 24: Justice, freedom and security</p> <p>Chapter 25: Research and development</p> <p>Chapter 26: Education and culture</p> <p>Chapter 27: Environment</p> <p>Chapter 28: Consumer and health protection</p> <p>Chapter 29: Customs union</p> <p>Chapter 30: External relations</p> <p>Chapter 31: Foreign, security and defence policy</p> <p>Chapter 32: Financial control</p> <p>Chapter 33: Financial and budgetary provisions</p>	<p>EU-ACP Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Strasbourg</p> <p>As a forum for discussing key development issues and connecting with people in Europe and our partner countries through their directly elected representatives, the Joint Parliamentary Assembly is both unique and vital.</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/mimica/announcements/eu-acp-joint-parliamentary-assembly-strasbourg_en</p> <p>Economic Dialogue and exchange of views on the AGS and the Alert Mechanism Report</p> <p>ECON and EMPL held a Joint Economic Dialogue and exchange of views on the Annual Growth Survey 2015 (AGS) with Valdis Dombrovskis, Vice-President of the European Commission, Pierre Moscovici, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, and Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, on Tuesday 2 December in Brussels. This meeting provided an opportunity for Members to ask questions on the AGS which has been published on 13 November, a document that takes stock of 2014 and outlines the economic policy priorities at the EU level for 2015.</p> <p>http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2014/528780/IPOL_BRI%282014%29528780_EN.pdf</p> <p>Market support for perishable fruit & vegetable to continue in 2015</p> <p>The European Commission intends to adopt additional emergency market measures for perishable fruit & vegetables in response to the market disturbances resulting from the Russian ban on imports of certain EU agricultural products. The additional measure will run until the end of June 2015. The scheme provides for new eligible volumes of certain fruit and vegetables in specific Member States that may be withdrawn from the market. The quantities will be based on export volumes for this period in the last 3 years to Russia.</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/newsroom/181_en.htm</p> <p>Commission provides broader forum to discuss implementation of Rural Development programmes in practice.</p> <p>The Commission has adopted a new structure to reinforce dialogue on Rural Development programmes in practice, bringing together the stakeholder of the well-established European Network for Rural Development and the European Innovation Partnership network.</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/newsroom/178_en.htm</p>
<p>Specific issues relating to the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European arrest warrant, • Stockholm programme: Europe of rights, Europe of justice, Europe that protects, Access 	<p>Council conclusions on promoting young people's access to rights in order to foster their autonomy and participation in civil society, obtained after EDUCATION, YOUTH, Culture and Sport Council meeting, in Brussels, 12 December 2014</p> <p>http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/146207.pdf</p>

<p>to Europe, Europe of solidarity, Europe in a globalised world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third pillar: the pillar devoted to police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, which came under Title VI of the Treaty on European Union • Recognition of professional qualifications 	<p>UK's block opt-out and partial re-opt-in to the ex-third pillar acquis The Council and the European Commission have adopted their respective decisions concerning the notification of the United Kingdom of its wish to take part in 35 of the pre-Lisbon EU rules in the field of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters (the so-called "ex-third pillar measures"). Protocol 36 to the Treaties enabled the UK to decide, by 31 May 2014, whether it would continue to be bound by the approximately 130 "ex-third pillar" measures or if it would exercise its right to opt out from them. http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/145981.pdf</p> <p>EU strategy and action plan on customs risk management: tackling risks, strengthening supply chain security and facilitating trade The Council adopted conclusions after having examined the Communication from the Commission on the EU Strategy and Action Plan for customs risk management: tackling risks, strengthening supply chain security and facilitating trade of 21 August 2014, and, in particular its Annex I. http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/146030.pdf</p> <p>Insolvency proceedings: new rules to promote economic recovery The Council approved a political agreement reached with the European Parliament on new EUwide rules on insolvency proceedings (15414/14 + ADD 1). The new rules are aimed at making cross-border insolvency proceedings more efficient and effective, benefiting debtors and creditors, facilitating the survival of businesses and presenting a second chance for entrepreneurs. They also bring the current insolvency regulation into line with developments in national insolvency laws introduced since its entry into force in 2002. http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/146041.pdf</p>
<p>Introduction to different sector policies (regional policy, trade policy, agricultural policy, social policy)</p>	<p>EU embraces private sector in development Member states say the EU should strengthen the private sectors of developing countries, including financial services for women and young entrepreneurs. The European Union's member states have agreed that the EU's development policy should make a concerted effort to strengthen the private sector in developing countries. http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/eu-embraces-private-sector-in-development/</p> <p>Immigration policy: the Committee of the Regions calls for more solidarity and support for local authorities With migratory pressures constantly increasing in the EU, the Committee of the Regions is calling for support to be stepped up for local authorities</p>

on the front line so that they can cope with migratory flows, manage reception of immigrants and refugees, and deliver an appropriate humanitarian response.

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/cor-demande-plus-de-solidarite-et-de-soutien-aux-collectivites-locales.aspx>

Investment package for EU worth 1.3 trillion Euros

An investment package like Europe never seen before, is set to be implemented during the near future in EU countries in order to reboot the labor markets and by default the European economy as a whole. While such measure could entice the markets onto a more vigorous path of action, it might very well prove to be another setback hence such investment packages envisioned with wide-area effects know their own risks. The first that comes to mind is the desire to influence EU as a whole and not a single or a group of particular states, desire which could deem to be more difficult to implement than anticipated since each member state has its own issues when it comes to implementing internal social-economic policies, even more EU agendas. Truth to be told, in the end, in my humble opinion EU authorities are taking the proper steps to rejuvenate European markets, but they should understand at the same time that progress takes time, and many times small steps. In conclusion, no investment package in this world will change the way people work, react, act and think. But, it is a good place to start none-the-less.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-2480_en.htm

European Single Digital Market

The speech is presenting the description of the European endeavor to alter the current legal framework on which anything internet related affairs are based, and set in motion a single EU-wide legal core that would be the starting point of any future data connection agreements between citizens – internet providers, or institutions – internet providers. An extensive rights legal package for home-users that would consolidate their security and freedom at the same time is expected. Rights activists should be in their own rights to state that “we won” (people), once this process is over.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-14-2504_en.htm

Tax avoidance and unfair tax competition on the agenda of EU council

Since the major corporations are failing to understand the need of a proper path to morally handle their tax related problems, appealing to EU’s rather fragile tax legal framework, European Commission is thrilled by the new Council agreements on this delicate matter which is expected to deliver a positive feedback on tax related problems.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-14-2501_en.htm

Promotion of EU upcoming events and news

3362nd Council meeting - Brussels, 16 December 2014

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/EN/genaff/146155.pdf

3360th meeting of the COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Agriculture and Fisheries)

Brussels, 15 and 16 December 2014

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/meetings/open-sessions>

3rd Annual World Intelligent Cities Summit 2014 - Turkey, 10 - 11 December, Istanbul, Turkey

EurAsia Strategies is organising the 3rd Annual World Intelligent Cities Summit and Exhibition, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey. Drive Innovation, Boost Efficiency, Leverage Data, Upgrade Service Delivery and Achieve Economic Prosperity for municipalities and regions of all sizes will be the mottoes of this *event*.

http://www.eukn.org/Meetings/3rd_Annual_World_Intelligent_Cities_Summit_2014_Turkey_10_11_December_Istanbul_Turkey

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM, 15-17 JUNE 2015, LISBON, PORTUGAL

5th annual European postgraduate symposium

The Sustainable Development Symposium (SDS) is an event geared mainly toward young researchers. It is an important annual conference organised in Europe, since 2011. **Abstracts can be submitted to this conference till the 20th of December 2014.**

<http://sdsymposium2015lisbon.weebly.com/>

The 23rd European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS 2015) in Münster.

Modern society is a networked society permeated by information technology (IT), which defines ECIS 2015's Conference Theme. ECIS 2015 should be a meeting place for European and non-European IS researchers from various cultures and countries, and should reflect specific and innovative IS research dealing with the overarching networked society.

<http://www.ecis2015.eu/>

Legal Risks and New Technologies: Challenges for the Modern Enterprise 22–23 January 2015, The Hotel, Brussels, Belgium **The conference presented by the IBA Technology Law Committee is supported by the European Regional Forum.** The topics include are: Integration issues: Risks associated with combining new technologies, Governance issues and the dispute settlement process, etc

<http://www.ibanet.org/Article/Detail.aspx?ArticleUid=a983ebe4-50da-424d-96db-3fc8e8988d41>

LATVIA'S EU PRESIDENCY: A COMMON EU AGENDA?

On 21 January, European voice will host a debate to discuss the programme, priorities and preoccupations of Latvia's presidency of the council of the EU. The debate will feature questions from members of the European press corps and from our audience of policymakers,

diplomats and interest groups.
<http://www.europeanvoice.com>