

May 2015



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EU integration process in CEE countries

EU and Ukraine leaders discuss reform and EU assistance

The 17th EU-Ukraine summit took place in Kyiv on 27 April 2015. This was the first summit taking place under the framework of the Association Agreement.
<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2015/04/27/>

Albania and Bosnia & Herzegovina need to resolve domestic differences, say MEPs

Political wrangling held back the progress of reform in Albania and Bosnia & Herzegovina in 2014, say MEPs in two separate resolutions voted on Thursday. Both countries need to strengthen their democratic processes, tackle corruption and put in place professional and depoliticised public administrations. By cooperating to achieve these aims, their political forces can move them closer to the EU
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150424IPR45741/html/Albania-and-Bosnia-Herzegovina-need-to-resolve-domestic-differences-say-MEPs>

EU-Georgia: Commission disburses €10 million assistance

The European Commission, on behalf of the EU, disbursed €10 million in loans to Georgia. This represents the loan part of the first tranche of the EU's €46 million Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) for Georgia approved in August 2013. It is part of the EU's wider engagement in Eastern Europe and serves as an exceptional crisis-response instrument for neighbouring countries.
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4812_en.htm

EU Commission disburses €250 million assistance to Ukraine

The European Commission disbursed a loan of €250 million to Ukraine. This is the last disbursement under the first Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) operation for Ukraine, which amounts to a total of €610 million. The objective of the MFA programme is to address Ukraine's urgent financing needs, while supporting Ukraine's economic stabilisation and reform agenda.
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4811_en.htm

Pros, advantages and obligations resulting from EU membership

€1 billion for Youth Employment Initiative in 2015

One billion euro in EU funding to help member states get up to 650,000 young people into work will be delivered in 2015 thanks to European Social Fund rule changes approved by Parliament on Wednesday. This EU Youth Employment Initiative funding tops up European Social Fund (ESF) money in the 20 member states with regions where youth unemployment exceeds 25%.
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150424IPR45731/html/%E2%82%AC1-billion-for-Youth-Employment-Initiative-in-2015>

Parliament, Council start negotiations on investment fund

Negotiators of the European Parliament and the Council opened negotiations on the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). They agreed that making the investment fund deliver new investments for Europe fast is crucial for sustainable growth, jobs and recovery.
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150423IPR45422/html/Parliament-Council-start-negotiations-on-investment-fund>

	<p>MEPs vote on new fund to put EU investment plan into practice The Parliament’s budget and economic committees vote on 20 April on the establishment of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), a key element of the EU’s €315 billion plan to overcome the shortage of investment in the European economy caused by the crisis. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150417STO42603/html/MEPs-vote-on-new-fund-to-put-EU-investment-plan-into-practice</p> <p>New European Agenda on Security The Commission adopts a new European Agenda on Security 2015-2020 to support better cooperation between Member States in the fight against terrorism, organised crime and cybercrime. http://ec.europa.eu/news/2015/04/20150428_en.htm</p> <p>EU proposes new Joint Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy The European Commission and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs Security Policy adopted a joint Communication on an EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy which will cover the period 2015-2019. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4893_en.htm</p>
<p>General development of the EU</p>	<p>Questions and Answers: the new EU strategy on capacity building of partner countries and regional organisations in support of security and development Joint Communication adopted by the European Commission and High Representative Federica Mogherini outlines options to help partner countries and regional organisations more effectively to develop their capacities to prevent and manage crises. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-4870_en.htm</p> <p>The Commission adopts its monthly infringements package On Wednesday, 29 April 2015 the European Commission has adopted its monthly infringements package. These decisions cover all Member States and most of EU policies and seek to enforce EU law across Europe in the interest of both citizens and businesses. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_AGENDA-15-4847_en.htm#2</p>
<p>Introduction to EU institutions and their Functioning</p>	<p>Things we learnt in plenary: migration, plastic bags, road safety, alcohol MEPs called for more measures to prevent the loss of migrant lives in the Mediterranean, including more funding for search and rescue missions, during the plenary session on 27-30 April. They also voted in favour of phasing out plastic bags in the EU and installing emergency call devices in new car models, while calling for an alcohol strategy to tackle the negative effects of alcohol consumption. Read on for our summary of the plenary session in Strasbourg. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150429STO47878/html/Things-we-learnt-in-plenary-migration-plastic-bags-road-safety-alcohol</p> <p>EP this week: €315 billion investment plan, robots and consumer safety MEPs vote this month on the €315 billion investment plan to boost the EU economy and new rules to ensure safety equipment works as advertised. A new working group on robotics meets for the first time, while MEPs also discuss a proposal to urge the Swiss Government to respect its agreements on migration with the EU. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150417STO42602/html/EP-this-week-%E2%82%AC315-billion-investment-plan-robots-and-consumer-safety</p>

<p>Introduction to EU law</p>	<p>EUROPEAN COMMISSION VS GOOGLE: The search giant has 10 weeks to respond to an antitrust accusation. The accusation is from years into the probe with three rejected settlement offers. http://www.politico.eu/article/european-commission-v-google-it-could-take-a-while/</p> <p>EU citizens to enjoy improved access to consular protection abroad In third countries, unrepresented EU citizens are entitled to consular protection provided by another member state on the same conditions as the nationals of that member state. The new rules set out how member states will cooperate to ensure that citizens can exercise this right. They come in the wake of the Lisbon Treaty, which reinforced the status of Union citizenship. https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/1320-eu-citizens-to-enjoy-improved-access-to-consular-protection-abroad</p> <p>MONEY LAUNDERING: COUNCIL APPROVES STRENGTHENED RULES The Council on 20 April 2015 adopted its position at first reading on new rules aimed at preventing money laundering and terrorist financing. The directive and regulation will strengthen EU rules against money laundering and ensure consistency with the approach followed at international level. The regulation deals more specifically with information accompanying transfers of funds. https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/1316-money-laundering-council-approves-strengthened-rules</p>
<p>Decentralised management of EU funds</p>	<p>COMMISSION REPORT SHOWS THAT SMES STAND TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT GAINS FROM THE TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (TTIP) BETWEEN THE EU AND THE US The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) has significant potential for small and medium sized enterprises, according to a report released in Brussels today. It presents the results of a survey of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) carried out in 2014 on challenges they face when exporting to the United States. It also uses newly available data to look at the scale of exports by EU SMEs to the United States. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4802_en.htm</p> <p>THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT COMMITTEES' VOTE ON THE REGULATION FOR A EUROPEAN FUND FOR STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS (EFSI) Commission Vice-President Jyrki Katainen, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, had welcomed the vote on the Regulation establishing the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) in the European Parliament's committees on Budget and Economic and Monetary Affairs. After Member States agree their position on the legal text unanimously in March, this step means that negotiations on the centre-piece of the Investment Plan for Europe can now enter the final phase. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-4815_en.htm?locale=en</p> <p>LONG-TERM INVESTMENT FUNDS: COUNCIL ADOPTS NEW RULES The Council adopted on 20 April 2015 a regulation aimed at increasing the pool of capital available for long-term investment in the EU economy by creating a new form of fund vehicle. European long-term investment funds (ELTIFs), by virtue of the asset classes that they will be allowed to invest in, are expected to provide investors with long-term, stable returns. https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/1315-long-term-investment-funds-council-adopts-new-rules</p>

<p>Multi-level governance</p>	<p>Contribution of cultural heritage and sustainable tourism to local and regional development must be given further incentives In a conference organised by the Committee of the Regions' SEDEC commission and the Cantabria Region, local and regional representatives debated with policy makers from different levels of government, representatives of the European Commission, cultural heritage organisations and academia, new visions to promote "Cultural heritage and sustainable tourism as key contributors to local and regional development." http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/sedec-santander.aspx</p> <p>Eastern Partnership: local and regional representatives call for stronger local and citizen's participation ahead of Riga Summit Participants discussed the current state of affairs and challenges in EU's Eastern neighbourhood with Heidi Hautala, Member of the European Parliament and Co-President of the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly, and Christian Danielsson, Director General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations at the European Commission. Ms Hautala emphasised the importance of the local level dialogue and cooperation as the means to build mutual trust and confidence amongst the countries in the conflictual area. "EU needs to give all its support to the initiatives of joint interest as a way to strengthen cooperation", the EURONEST co-president said. http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/corleap-meeting-23-april.aspx</p> <p>The CoR calls for the building of a polycentric Europe for effective development of all European regions According to Marek Woźniak (PL/EPP), the CoR's rapporteur for <i>The improvement of the implementation of the Territorial Agenda of the EU 2020</i>, this kind of approach is only possible using multilevel governance and cohesive strategic planning, which help to reduce development disparities between individual regions without weakening overall economic growth in Europe. http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/KR-wzywa-do-budowania.aspx</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 society and media Chapter 11: Agriculture and rural development Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy Chapter 13: Fisheries Chapter 14: Transport policy Chapter 15: Energy</p>	<p>Debate: MEPs condemn the killing of 147 Christian students in Kenya Nearly 150 students were massacred on 2 April at the Garissa university campus in Kenya, the latest in a series of atrocities perpetrated against Christians by the Somalia-based Al-Shabaab terrorist group. MEPs condemned the killings in the harshest of terms during a debate on 29 April, demanding that the EU supports Kenya in its efforts to combat extremists. On 30 April, MEPs will vote on a resolution on the persecution of Christians around the world. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150429STO47919/html/Debate-MEPs-condemn-the-killing-of-147-Christian-students-in-Kenya</p> <p>Alcoholic drinks should state calorie content, say MEPs Plans for labelling the calorie content of alcoholic beverages should be tabled by the European Commission at the latest in 2016, said MEPs on Wednesday. The resolution calls for a new EU Alcohol Strategy focusing on alcohol consumption by minors and EU-wide labelling to discourage drink driving and drinking while pregnant. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150424IPR45726/html/Alcoholic-drinks-should-state-calorie-content-say-MEPs</p> <p>New EU forest strategy: better management can boost rural jobs, say MEPs The new EU forest strategy must focus on managing forests sustainably, promoting efficient use of the raw materials that they produce, and boosting the competitiveness of forest-related industry so as to create jobs, says a non-legislative resolution voted by Parliament on Tuesday, 28th of April. "The new strategy must therefore promote sustainable use of timber and other forest materials without adding red tape for forest owners and the sector", said rapporteur on Parliament's reply to the new EU forest</p>

Chapter 16: Taxation
Chapter 17: Economic and monetary policy
Chapter 18: Statistics
Chapter 19: Social policy and employment
Chapter 20: Enterprise and industrial policy
Chapter 21: Trans-European networks
Chapter 22: Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments
Chapter 23: Judiciary and fundamental rights
Chapter 24: Justice, freedom and security
Chapter 25: Research and development
Chapter 26: Education and culture
Chapter 27: Environment
Chapter 28: Consumer and health protection
Chapter 29: Customs union
Chapter 30: External relations
Chapter 31: Foreign, security and defence policy
Chapter 32: Financial control
Chapter 33: Financial and budgetary provisions

strategy Elisabeth Köstinger (EPP, AT).
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150424IPR45802/html/New-EU-forest-strategy-better-management-can-boost-rural-jobs-say-MEPs>

Parliament supports shift towards advanced biofuels

A draft law to cap crop-derived biofuel production and accelerate the shift to alternative sources was voted by Parliament on Tuesday. It aims to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions caused by the growing use of farm land for biofuel crops. "We succeeded in getting a very technical, technological and ideological file to go ahead", said lead MEP Nils Torvalds (ALDE, FI), after Parliament endorsed the law (the draft had already been agreed informally by MEPs and ministers).

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150424IPR45730/html/Parliament-supports-shift-towards-advanced-biofuels>

Fish discard ban: MEPs delay sanctions

Fishermen will have two years to "adapt" before sanctions for failing to comply with the new fish "discard" ban take effect, under a law passed by Parliament on Tuesday, 28TH of April. "The new rules oblige fishermen to land all fish caught during a fishing trip. The agreement we have found helps mitigate some of the negative effects of the new rules for fishermen", said rapporteur and Fisheries Committee chair Alain Cadec (EPP, FR).

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150424IPR45725/html/Fish-discard-ban-MEPs-delay-sanctions>

Ships' CO2 emissions: MEPs approve new reporting rules

Draft EU rules requiring ship owners using EU ports to monitor and report CO2 emissions each year received the support of the House on Tuesday. The new rules, already informally agreed with the Council of Ministers, will apply from 2018 on to ships over 5,000 gross tons, regardless of the country in which they are registered, as a first step towards cutting their greenhouse gas emissions.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150424IPR45728/html/Ships%E2%80%99-CO2-emissions-MEPs-approve-new-reporting-rules>

MEPs clamp down on wasteful use of plastic carrier bags

EU countries will be required to reduce the use of the commonest and most polluting plastic bags drastically under new rules voted by Parliament on Tuesday, 28TH of April. "Billions of plastic bags end up directly in nature as untreated waste. It damages nature, harms fish, birds, and we have to get to grips with this", said Margrete Auken (Greens/EFA, DK), who is steering the legislation through Parliament.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150424IPR45708/html/MEPs-clamp-down-on-wasteful-use-of-plastic-carrier-bags>

Automatic emergency call devices in all new car models from spring 2018

Emergency call devices that automatically alert rescue services to car crashes (eCall) will have to be fitted to all new models of cars and light vans by 31 March 2018 under rules voted by European Parliament on Tuesday, 28TH of April. Road accidents took 25,700 lives in the EU in 2014 – a death toll that the new devices could cut by an estimated 10% a year.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150424IPR45714/html/Automatic-emergency-call-devices-in-all-new-car-models-from-spring-2018>

Alcohol: the risks of excessive consumption

Alcohol poses a major risk to public health: the direct and indirect social cost of alcohol

	<p>abuse in Europe in 2010 alone is estimated at €155.8 billion. Although alcohol is high in calories and can contribute to obesity, most people have no idea how many calories there are in their drinks. A draft resolution to be debated today and voted on Wednesday calls among other things for mandatory labelling of calories in alcoholic drinks. Check out our chart on alcohol consumption in the EU. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150424STO46092/html/Alcohol-the-risks-of-excessive-consumption</p> <p>Mady Delvaux: "Robotics will bring about a revolution" Robots used to exist only in the realm of science fiction, but these days they are rapidly becoming a part of everyday life in the shape of drones, intelligent cars, industrial robots and robotic vacuum cleaners. The Parliament's legal affairs committee has decided to set up a working group to come up with proposals for legislation on how to make best use of robotics. Luxembourg S&D member Mady Delvaux will write a report on this on behalf of the working group. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150422STO43701/html/Mady-Delvaux-Robotics-will-bring-about-a-revolution</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 to Europe, Europe of solidarity, Europe in a globalised world • Third pillar: the pillar devoted to police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, which came under Title VI of the Treaty on European Union <p>Recognition of professional qualifications</p>	<p>Mightier than the sword: Sakharov Prize laureates discuss the importance of press freedom The European Parliament has awarded the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to several journalists and advocates of freedom of press since it was launched in 1988. We talked to some of those laureates about their experiences, current challenges and the importance of the press ahead of World Press Freedom Day on Sunday 3 May. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150422STO43601/html/Mightier-than-the-sword-Sakharov-Prize-laureates-discuss-press-freedom</p> <p>Migration: Parliament calls for urgent measures to save lives The EU should do everything possible to prevent further loss of life at sea, e.g. by expanding the mandate of "Triton" operation in the Mediterranean to include "search and rescue operations at EU level", says a resolution voted by Parliament on Wednesday. MEPs also call for a binding quota for distributing asylum seekers among all EU countries, bigger contributions to resettlement programmes, better cooperation with third countries and tougher measures against people smugglers. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150424IPR45723/html/Migration-Parliament-calls-for-urgent-measures-to-save-lives</p> <p>€150,000 for a kidney: the lethal trade in illegal organs The demand for organs far outstrips what is available, leading to illegal trafficking in organs all over the world. With Europeans travelling to other countries to receive one of these illegally harvested organs, it also forms a challenge for the EU. The EP's public health committee and human rights subcommittee held a workshop on 21 April dedicated to organ harvesting in China to discuss these issues. However, MEPs warned that the problem was not limited to China http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150422STO43903/html/%E2%82%AC150000-for-a-kidney-the-lethal-trade-in-illegal-organs</p> <p>Terrorism: tackling the threats to the EU's security Terrorism continues to pose a threat to Europe's security, but what is the best way to tackle it? The Parliament's civil liberties committee held a hearing on 14 April to discuss with experts the evolving terrorist threats, the fight against extremism and radicalisation and what the EU could do to help. Experts discussed how Europeans could become radicalised in a short period of time and</p>

	<p>the role played by the internet and social media. They also talked about the EU's existing policy instruments and how to improve them. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150416STO42480/html/Terrorism-tackling-the-threats-to-the-EU's-security</p>
<p>Introduction to different sector policies (regional policy, trade policy, agricultural policy, social policy).</p>	<p>Olive trees: MEPs to demand answers on how to tackle spread of killer bacteria Parliament will quiz the Commission Thursday morning on plans to tackle the outbreak of Xylella fastidiosa bacteria, which have infected several thousand hectares of olive plantations in Italy, and prevent it spreading to other EU regions. The Commission will also be asked how any growers whose trees have to be destroyed are to be compensated. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150424IPR45825/html/Olive-trees-MEPs-to-demand-answers-on-how-to-tackle-spread-of-killer-bacteria</p> <p>ZANDA KALNIŅA-LUKAŠEVICA: THE INTEGRATION OF ALBANIA AND BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA INTO THE EUROPEAN UNION PROMOTES THE REGION'S DEVELOPMENT AND STABILITY On 29 April in Strasbourg, the Latvian Foreign Ministry's Parliamentary State Secretary for EU Affairs, Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, speaking on behalf of the Council of the European Union, expressed her appreciation for the positive development of the EU's relations with Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, while at the same time indicating that both countries need to honour political commitments and implement reforms. The debate took place as the European Parliament prepares to adopt a resolution on the European Commission's recommendations for Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina. https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/1542-zanda-kalnina-lukasevica-the-integration-of-albania-and-bosnia-and-herzegovina-into-the-european-union-promotes-the-region-s-development-and-stability</p> <p>THE EU MILITARY COMMITTEE AWAY DAYS MEETING TO TAKE PLACE IN RIGA On May 4-5 in Riga, the away days meeting for the EU Military Committee will take place to prepare for the meeting of chiefs of defence of the EU Military Committee on May 19 and for the European Council discussion on defence in June. https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/1545-the-eu-military-committee-away-days-meeting-to-take-place-in-riga</p> <p>MEETING OF THE MUTUAL INFORMATION SYSTEM ON SOCIAL PROTECTION EXPERTS TO BE HELD IN RIGA The meeting of the Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSOC) experts will take place on 5-6 May and is organised in cooperation with the European Commission under the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU). https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/1540-meeting-of-the-mutual-information-system-on-social-protection-experts-to-be-held-in-riga</p> <p>ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE SET-UP OF THE EUROPEAN FUND FOR STRATEGIC INVESTMENT On 29 April the European Parliament and the Council held their second political meeting to discuss the legislative proposal on the set up of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) that intends to bring an additional 315 billion euro in investments for jobs and growth. The discussions between the two co-legislators are taking up speed, particularly on governance, the use of the guarantee, and the advisory hub. https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/1534-one-step-closer-to-the-set-up-of-the-european-fund-for-strategic-investment</p> <p>SAFE AND HEALTHY WORK ENVIRONMENT AND KNOWLEDGE ARE PREREQUISITES FOR PRODUCTIVITY AND HEALTHY EMPLOYEES</p>

	<p>On the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, the necessity to improve working conditions and knowledge about occupational health and safety issues were emphasised at the Presidency Conference on Occupational Safety and Health, commemorating victims of occupational accidents and illnesses. https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/1512-safe-and-healthy-work-environment-and-knowledge-are-prerequisites-for-productivity-and-healthy-employees</p> <p>RECOVERY OF WORK CAPACITY SHOULD BE A NATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITY European governments and the EU institutions should prioritise the management of chronic diseases and early intervention principles to help enhance the work capacity of EU citizens. This will be emphasised at the Fit for Work Conference on “Healthcare Solutions to Improve Work Ability” in Riga on 29 April. The conference will bring together key policy-makers and stakeholders from 25 countries including EU Member States, Canada, the USA, Ukraine, etc. https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/1478-recovery-of-work-capacity-should-be-a-national-health-priority</p> <p>RIGA CONSUMER PROTECTION CONFERENCE OUTLINES FUTURE CONSUMER POLICY PRIORITIES IN THE DIGITAL ERA Under the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, a two-day Consumer Protection Conference entitled “Future Priorities of Consumer Policy in the Digital Era” took place in Riga on 23-24 April. https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/1494-riga-consumer-protection-conference-outlines-future-consumer-policy-priorities-in-the-digital-era</p> <p>GERMANY PRESSES FOR QUOTA SYSTEM FOR EU MIGRANT DISTRIBUTION Germany has thrown its weight behind long-stalled efforts to revamp Europe’s dealings with refugees, demanding a quota system that would distribute migrants coming to Europe more equitably among the 28 countries of the European Union. http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/29/germany-quota-system-eu-migrant-distribution</p>
<p>Promotion of EU upcoming events and news</p>	<p>Milan Expo 2015: EU must foster global food security, MEPs say The EU should use the Milan Expo 2015 to encourage sustainable agronomic practices, promote fairness in the supply chain, and fight food waste and malnutrition, says a resolution voted by Parliament on Thursday, the eve of the official opening of the event. The ultimate aim of these efforts should be to strengthen global food security, it adds. Members of the Agriculture, Energy and International Trade committees will visit the Milan Expo on 18-19 June to promote efforts to enhance global food security, fight food waste and encourage healthy lifestyles. The Development and Food Safety committees will follow suit later. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150424IPR45743/html/Milan-Expo-2015-EU-must-foster-global-food-security-MEPs-say</p> <p>REAL CORP 2015, 20th International Conference on Urban Planning and Regional Development in the Information Society Ruimte Vlaanderen, CORP association (Competence Center of Urban and Regional Planning) and ISOCARP (International Society of City and Regional Planners) are cooperating to organize CORP 2015, the 20th International Conference on Urban Planning and Regional Development in the Information Society from the 5th to the 7th of May 2015 in Gent, Belgium. The Call for Papers (registration of presentations) is OPEN until 23 December 2014. http://www.eukn.eu/events/upcoming-events/detail/real-corp-2015-20th-international-conference-on-urban-planning-and-regional-development-in-the-info/</p> <p>URBACT City Festival</p>

The URBACT programme invites to join for a unique three day Festival of in-depth conversations and idea generation about the future of cities in Europe.

The first ever URBACT City Festival will take place in Riga, Latvia on 6-9 May 2015. In true URBACT tradition, and in the spirit of co-creation, the URBACT City Festival will put cities, and the people who run them, centre stage.

<http://www.eukn.eu/events/upcoming-events/detail/urbact-city-festival/>

Nature and Urban Wellbeing: Nature-Based Solutions to Societal Challenges

In collaboration with the European Commission and under the auspices of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, ALTER-Net hosts an international conference on Nature-Based Solutions, in Ghent, Belgium on 18-20 May 2015. Relevant to research in many disciplines and communities, to EU policies and to practitioners, 'Nature and Urban Wellbeing' offers rich possibilities to share, learn and connect.

<http://www.eukn.eu/events/upcoming-events/detail/nature-and-urban-wellbeing-nature-based-solutions-to-societal-challenges/>

Meeting of Urban Academics, Experts and Practitioners hosted by IHS

As academics and practitioners they have to critically review their own ways of knowledge creation and knowledge dissemination. They therefore propose to convene an open meeting to spark discussions between people involved in different ways in capacity building for urban development, that will take place in Rotterdam, on 20th May 2015. Participants should engage around thematic tables related to the 11th Sustainable Development Goal: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".

<http://www.eukn.eu/events/upcoming-events/detail/meeting-of-urban-academics-experts-and-practitioners-hosted-by-ihs/>

EuroPCom 2015: 6th European Conference for Public Communication

The 6th edition of EuroPCom, the European Conference on Public Communication, will take place on 21 and 22 October 2015 in Brussels. The conference will bring together communication managers and senior experts of local, regional, national and European authorities. Over 800 colleagues from all EU member states attend this annual networking event. Lectures, debates and interactive workshops will focus on major challenges in both EU and public communication.

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/europcom/Pages/europcom-2015-conference.aspx>