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EU integration process in CEE countries	<p>New EU support to boost private sector development and strengthen institutions in the Eastern Partnership</p> <p>Implementing the renewed European Neighbourhood Policy: new €79.8 million to support reform efforts, economic diversification and private sector development, an active civil society and regional cooperation in the Eastern Partnership. The European Union announces a new assistance package of €79.8 million to boost socio-economic development and SMEs, youth employability and connectivity in the Eastern Partnership countries. This includes bilateral cooperation with Azerbaijan and Belarus focusing on economic diversification and the strengthening of institutions. This assistance is provided through the European Neighbourhood Instrument in the framework of the renewed European Neighbourhood policy.</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/southern-neighbourhood/index_en.htm</p> <p>Facility for Refugees in Turkey: EU signs grants worth €600 million to help refugees on education and health</p> <p>The European Commission signed two direct grants worth €600 million to support Syrian refugees and host communities in Turkey in the areas of education and health. Since March this year, the EU has mobilised more than €2 billion out of its total budget of €3 billion under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. The Facility supports the implementation of both the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan and the EU-Turkey Statement and is designed to address the most critical needs of Syrian refugees and host communities living in Turkey today.</p> <p>http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3191_en.htm</p> <p>Commissioner Bulc in Montenegro and Serbia to promote regional transport cooperation</p> <p>Transport is one of the main areas of cooperation between the EU and the Western Balkans who agreed on a "Connectivity Agenda" covering both infrastructure development and policy reforms in this sector. During her visit, Commissioner Bulc will recall the importance to implement this Agenda, in order to bridge the development gap and support regional stability and prosperity.</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/news_corner/news/2016/09/20160905_en.htm</p>
Pros, advantages and obligations resulting from EU membership	<p>September infringements' package: key decisions</p> <p>In its monthly package of infringement decisions, the European Commission is pursuing legal action against Member States for failing to comply with their obligations under EU law. The key decisions taken by the Commission (including 9 letters of formal notice, 54 reasoned opinions, and 5 referrals to the Court of Justice of the European Union) are presented below and grouped by policy area. The Commission is also closing 122 cases in which the issues with the Member States concerned have been solved without the Commission</p>

	<p>needing to pursue the procedure further. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-3125_en.htm</p>
Introduction to EU institutions and their functioning	<p>European Commission and EIB present guidance paper on the Eurostat treatment of PPPs EU-Commissioner Marianne Thyssen and Vice-President Jan Vapaavuori of the European Investment Bank (EIB) have presented a new Guide to the Statistical Treatment of Public Private Partnerships in Brussels today. The guide is a joint effort of Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Commission) and the European PPP Expertise Centre (EPEC) of the EIB. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3209_en.htm</p>
Decentralized management of EU funds	<p>One year on: High Level Group presents key recommendations to make access to the European Structural and Investment Funds easier for businesses. In line with the initiative "EU budget focused on results" and with the efforts for Better Regulation, today the Commission is taking stock of the work conducted by the High Level Group on Simplification for the beneficiaries of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds). https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/system/files/ged/hlg_16_0003_00_conclusions_and_recommendations_on_access_to_eu_funding_for_smes.pdf</p> <p>Investment Plan for Europe: EUR 65 million for innovative businesses in Bulgaria and Slovakia as EIF and CIBANK sign agreement The European Investment Fund (EIF) and CIBANK JSC (CIBANK) have signed a guarantee agreement to enhance access to finance to innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and mid-caps in Bulgaria and Slovakia. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/katainen/announcements/investment-plan-europe-eur-65-million-innovative-businesses-bulgaria-and-slovakia-eif-and-cibank_en</p>
Multi-level governance	<p>Restoring trust in Europe must start in regions and cities Nothing can be achieved without continuous dialogue and partnership: learning and working together is key. Increasing human capital is what matters and in particular in the European Union we see on a daily basis the importance of joining forces. This applies to individuals and institutions alike. As cities and regions are the powerhouses for progress and societal innovation. we, the EU's cities and regions, commit to working in partnership with the EU institutions and Member States to effectively bridge the innovation, skills and investment gaps. http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/State-of-the-EU.aspx</p>
Introduction to different negotiation chapters	<p>International Day of Older Persons - Nearly 27 million people aged 80 or over in the European Union - Almost 10 years' life expectancy at the age of 80 In 2015, almost 27 million people aged 80 or over (hereafter "elderly people") were living in the European Union (EU), 7 million more than in 2005. An increase in both their absolute number and their share in total population is observed in nearly every EU Member State. The rising share of elderly people in the EU (from 4.0% in 2005 to 5.3% in 2015) means that in 2015 one in every</p>

20 persons living in the EU was aged 80 or over. The ageing of the population structure is, at least partly, the result of an increasing life expectancy, which grew at the age of 80 from 8.4 years in 2004 to 9.5 years in 2014.
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7672228/3-29092016-AP-EN.pdf/4b90f6bb-43c1-45ed-985b-dfbe9564157a>

European Day of Languages - More than 80% of primary school pupils in the EU were studying a foreign language in 2014 - English clearly dominant

In 2014, more than 18 million primary school pupils (or 84% of all the pupils at this level) in the European Union (EU) were studying at least one foreign language, including nearly 1 million (around 5%) studying two foreign languages or more. At primary level, English was by far the most popular language, studied by over 17 million pupils.

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7662394/3-23092016-AP-EN.pdf/57d3442c-7250-4aae-8844-c2130eba8e0e>

Euro area unemployment at 10.1% / EU28 at 8.6%

The euro area (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.1% in August 2016, stable compared to July 2016 and down from 10.7% in August 2015. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since July 2011. The EU28 unemployment rate was 8.6% in August 2016, stable compared to July 2016 and down from 9.3% in August 2015. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the EU28 since March 2009. These figures are published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7672391/3-30092016-AP-EN.pdf/8edaae35-cb0e-46db-b8c7-6148cc6970d1>

Antitrust: Commission publishes initial findings of e-commerce sector inquiry

The European Commission's preliminary report on its e-commerce sector inquiry confirms the fast growth of e-commerce in the EU and identifies business practices that might restrict competition and limit consumer choice. Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said: "*E-commerce has become important for consumers and it has significant impact on the business and strategies of companies. Businesses should have the freedom to determine their sales strategies online. At the same time, antitrust authorities must ensure that they do not engage in anti-competitive business practices. These practices can prevent European consumers from reaping the full benefits of e-commerce in terms of greater choice and lower prices.*"

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/antitrust/sector_inquiries_e_commerce.html

Specific issues relating to the arrest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European warrant, • Stockholm programme • Third pillar
Recognition of professional qualifications	

State of the Union 2016: EU External Investment Plan

The European Commission has proposed on 14 September an ambitious External Investment Plan in order to support investment in our partner countries, in Africa and the European Neighbourhood, to strengthen our partnerships, promote a new model of participation of the private sector and contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. This is part of the broader efforts the EU is pursuing on the basis of the new Partnership Framework that was adopted in June.

	http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-3031_en.htm
Introduction to different sector policies (regional policy, trade policy, agricultural policy, social policy).	<p>The EU at work to bridge the investment gap in transport and stimulate the European economy</p> <p>Bridging the investment gap in Europe to stimulate the European economy is one of President Juncker's top priorities. The transport sector can make an important contribution to this agenda. Transport faces a wide range of financing challenges across the EU: underinvestment, lack of suitable financing solutions, ageing infrastructure, insufficiently developed and non-transparent pipelines of transport projects, continuous growth of urban populations, and regulatory and administrative barriers. The European Commission's Investment Plan can help address these issues, paving the way for the competitive and sustainable EU transport system of tomorrow.</p> <p>http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-2196_en.htm</p> <p>Total Percentage of Available Fund</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm</p> <p>STUDY: THE USE OF NEW PROVISIONS DURING THE PROGRAMMING PHASE OF THE ESI FUNDS</p> <p>The analysis of all the 28 Partnership Agreements and of 292 operational and co-operation programmes for the 2014-2020 period financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Social Fund, completed with a survey of managing authorities and interviews at European, national and regional levels, revealed that the new regulatory framework has significantly altered the Member States' approach to programming. The new provisions required programmers to link strategic thinking and result-based management, and relate strategic thinking with the objectives and the means of the Europe 2020 strategy.</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/studies/2016/the-use-of-new-provisions-during-the-programming-phase-of-the-european-structural-and-investment-funds</p>
Promotion of EU upcoming events and news	<p>Human capital for territorial growth</p> <p>11 October 2016</p> <p>The Joint Research Centre Annual Conference 2016 will focus on the importance of human capital for the prosperity of regions and cities. The conference will take place on 11 October, at the Bozar in Brussels, within the framework of the European Week of Regions and Cities.</p> <p>http://ec-jrc2016annualconference.com/pro/fiche/quest.jsp;jsessionid=1hxLaB205ioZJR2drfjVoMR.q1</p> <p>7th Strategy Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region</p> <p>08/11/2016 -09/11/2016 / Stockholm, Sweden</p> <p>The event, entitled "One Region, One Future - Vision 2030 for the Baltic Sea Region", is hosted by Sweden together with the Nordic Council of Ministers, in close cooperation with the European Commission, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy.</p> <p>http://www.strategyforum2016.eu/</p>

5th Annual Forum of the EU macro regional Strategy for the Danube Region

03/11/2016 - 04/11/2016 / Bratislava, Slovakia

Innovative Flows - Water, Knowledge and Innovation in the Danube Region. The Forum will put a strong emphasis on the challenges and perspectives of water management and research and innovation. The key question to answer will be how to best transform political commitment into operational policies and measures.

<http://www.danube-forum-bratislava.eu/danube-forum-bratislava>

New Pressures on Cities and Regions

24/11/2016 - 25/11/2016 / London, United Kingdom

This conference provides an intellectual and policy-relevant platform for scholars around the world to address the new and emerging challenges facing cities and regions. The global economic slowdown poses major concerns to many territories – through shortfalls in employment, household incomes, corporate profitability and tax revenues.

<http://www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/rsawinter2016>

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