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EU integration process in CEE countries

Fighting tax evasion: EU and Andorra sign new tax transparency agreement

The EU and Andorra have signed a new tax transparency agreement that will make it harder for EU citizens to hide undeclared income in financial institutions in Andorra. This will ensure that both sides are better equipped to detect and pursue tax evaders, who will no longer be able to exploit bank secrecy to hide income and assets abroad. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-288_en.htm

EU-Tunisia: Commission proposes further EUR 500 million in macro-financial assistance

Following a request by Tunisia, the European Commission is ready to further assistance in overcoming its economic difficulties and achieving more sustainable growth. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-289_en.htm

MEPs call on Serbia and Kosovo to pursue their reform agenda

The start of EU accession negotiations with Serbia and the progress made in normalising relations between Serbia and Kosovo was welcomed by MEPs in two resolutions. They also stressed that these relations would be helped if all EU member states were to recognise Kosovo.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160129IPR11940/MEPs-call-on-Serbia-and-Kosovo-to-pursue-their-reform-agenda>

Bosnia and Herzegovina applied for EU membership today

Bosnia and Herzegovina applied for EU membership on 15 of February 2016. Minister Koenders received the application on behalf of the EU member states in his capacity of Presidency of the Council. Minister Koenders welcomed the European aspirations of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the adoption of the Reform Agenda and its accompanying Action Plan last year.

<http://english.eu2016.nl/latest/news/2016/02/15/bosnia-and-herzegovina-applied-for-eu-membership-today>

Pros, advantages and obligations resulting from EU membership

Commission approves impaired asset management measures for banks in Hungary and Italy

The Commission concluded that the pricing models used by the Hungarian asset management company ensure it will buy non-performing loans at market prices. The Commission also decided that under the state guarantee scheme chosen by the Italian authorities, the State will be remunerated in line with market conditions for the risk it will assume by granting a guarantee on securitised non-performing loans.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-279_en.htm

European Commission adopts Opinion on Portugal's 2016 Draft Budgetary Plan

The European Commission considers that the Portuguese government's 2016 Draft Budgetary Plan is at risk of non-compliance with the provisions of the Stability and Growth Pact. In its opinion, the Commission therefore invites the authorities to take

	<p>the necessary measures within the national budgetary process to ensure that the 2016 budget will be compliant with the Stability and Growth Pact. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-253_en.htm</p>
General development of the EU	<p>European Commission and the United States Commodity Futures Commission: Common approach for transatlantic CCPs The agreement will ensure that European CCPs will be able to do business in the United States more easily and that US CCPs can continue to provide services to EU companies. To implement the agreement, the European Commission intends to adopt shortly an equivalence decision with respect to CFTC requirements, which will allow ESMA to recognise US CCPs as soon as is practicable. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-281_en.htm</p> <p>Implementing the European Agenda on Migration: Progress on Priority Actions In view of next week's European Council, the Commission is today reporting on the implementation of the priority actions under the European Agenda for Migration and highlighting key areas where immediate action is needed to restore control. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-271_en.htm</p>
Introduction to EU institutions and their Functioning	<p>EU launches new European Medical Corps to respond faster to emergencies Through the European Medical Corps, EU Member States and other European countries participating in the system can make medical teams and assets available for rapid deployment before an emergency strikes – thus ensuring a faster and more predictable response. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-263_en.htm</p> <p>New platform for consumers and traders The European Commission launched a new platform to help consumers and traders solve online disputes over a purchase made online. The Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) platform offers a single point of entry that allows EU consumers and traders to settle their disputes for both domestic and cross-border online purchases. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-297_en.htm</p>
Introduction to EU law	<p>New rules to guarantee presumption of innocence Ministers from the EU Member States have adopted new rules that will guarantee the presumption of innocence of anyone accused or suspected of a crime by the police or justice authorities. The Directive also ensures that everyone benefits from the right to be present at their trial. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-291_en.htm</p>
Decentralized management of EU funds	<p>Regions can now apply online for the RegioStars Awards 2016 Until 15 April, regions can submit their applications online for the RegioStars Awards, which honour each year Europe's most inspiring and innovating projects supported by Cohesion Policy funds. This year the jury will select an EU-funded project in five categories. http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2016/02/16-02-2016-regions-can-now-apply-online-for-the-regiostars-awards-2016</p> <p>European Structural and Investment Funds in Cyprus As a condition for Cyprus' EUR 10 billion financial, the country is under an economic</p>

	<p>adjustment programme covering the 2013-2016 period. In the context of a still-challenging economic environment, Cyprus is losing ground on some of its national targets for the Europe 2020 strategy. For example, its current employment and poverty rates deviate considerably from the national targets. http://insideeurope.eu/node/609#sthash.gIYP35Db.dpuf</p> <p>Guide on public procurement to help administrations and beneficiaries make the most out of EU investments available in all languages The aim of this document, now available in all EU languages, is to provide guidance to public officials, involved in the management of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), helping them to identify and avoid areas of potential risk of errors and adopt best practices when it comes to carrying out public procurement procedures, a major source of irregularities in the management of the funds. http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2016/02/02-02-2016-guide-on-public-procurement-to-help-administrations-and-beneficiaries-make-the-most-out-of-eu-investments-available-in-all-languages</p>
<p>Multi-level governance</p>	<p>Moving Beyond GDP: New Regional Social Progress Index The draft version of the regional Social Progress Index aims to measure the social progress for 272 European regions as a complement. The index scores absolute performance on a 0-100 scale for each of the 50 indicators included to measure the Index components. to traditional measures of economic progress. http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2016/02/16-02-2016-moving-beyond-gdp-new-regional-social-progress-index</p> <p>“Quality of Life in European Cities” Survey sheds light on people's satisfaction of their city The European Commission has today the results of the fifth Flash Eurobarometer survey on the “Perception of Quality of Life in European Cities”. The survey was conducted in a total of 79 European cities of all EU Member States as well as Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. More than 40,000 people were interviewed on a range of urban issues. http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2016/01/29-01-2016-quality-of-life-in-european-cities-survey-sheds-light-on-people-s-satisfaction-of-their-city</p>
<p>Introduction to different negotiation chapters</p>	<p>Commission extends by one year the application date for the MiFID II package The European Commission has today proposed granting national competent authorities and market participants one additional year to comply with the rules set out in the revised Markets in Financial Instruments Directive, known as MiFID II. The new deadline is 3 January 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-265_en.htm</p> <p>Commission adopts Schengen Evaluation Report on Greece Following a positive opinion by the Schengen evaluation committee, the College of Commissioners has adopted the Schengen Evaluation Report on Greece and a proposal for a Council Recommendation on addressing the serious deficiencies identified in the evaluation report on the application of Schengen rules in the field of management of the external borders by Greece. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-211_en.htm</p>

	<p>Long-term unemployment: Council Recommendation– frequently asked questions</p> <p>The number of long-term unemployed persons doubled between 2008 and 2014 and currently account for half of total unemployed in the EU. In the third quarter of 2015 long-term unemployment affected 10.5 million people (4.3% of the active EU population), 63% of whom have been out of work for more than two years.</p> <p>Long-term unemployment is an acute problem because the longer people are out of work, the more problematic it is to return. Long-term unemployed persons - people who are out of work for over a year - have about twice as low chances of finding employment than the other unemployed. Many risk leaving the labour market altogether. Each year, a fifth even stop trying to find a job and are classified as inactive. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-16-302 en.htm?locale=en</p>
<p>Specific issues relating to the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European arrest warrant, • Stockholm programme • Third pillar <p>Recognition of professional qualifications</p>	<p>EU approves additional €10 million to help the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia deal with the refugee crisis</p> <p>An additional €10 million programme in EU assistance was adopted by the European Commission to help the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia improve its border and migration management systems in the context of the refugee crisis. Migration is by its very nature a regional issue and the EU is ready to extend the assistance to other Western Balkan countries facing similar challenges. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release IP-16-304 en.htm</p> <p>Women's rights: MEPs urge Commission to table a new gender equality strategy</p> <p>The European Commission must table a communication on a new strategy for gender equality and women's rights 2016-2020 as soon as possible and deliver on its political commitments, say MEPs in a resolution voted on February 3rd. The communication should address gender equality issues which is in line with the international agenda, they add. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160129IPR11936/Women's-rights-MEPs-urge-Commission-to-table-a-new-gender-equality-strategy</p>
<p>Introduction to different sector policies (regional policy, trade policy, agricultural policy, social policy).</p>	<p>Commission launches new anti-dumping investigations into several steel products</p> <p>The European Commission opened new anti-dumping investigations to determine whether imports of three steel products have been dumped on the EU market. If this is found to be the case, the Commission will take measures to protect the European industry from damaging effects of unfair trade. The EU now has 37 trade defence measures in place on imports of steel products, while nine investigations are still ongoing. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release IP-16-287 en.htm</p> <p>EU islands: call for action to overcome permanent handicaps The European Entrepreneurial Region (EER) is a project that identifies and rewards EU regions which show an outstanding and innovative entrepreneurial policy strategy, irrespective of their size, wealth and competences. The regions with the most credible, forward-thinking and promising vision plan are granted the label "European Entrepreneurial Region" (EER) for a specific year.</p> <p>MEPs urge the European Commission to take concrete steps to address the permanent handicaps that EU islands face and make full use of their potential. The text also stresses the unique difficulties that southern insular regions face due to the</p>

	<p>increased migration flows and asks that special tax regimes should continue. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160129IPR11941/EU-islands-call-for-action-to-overcome-permanent-handicaps</p> <p>Local leaders call the EU to modernise rural areas to tackle urban-rural development gap Local leaders have put forward concrete proposals to boost the modernisation of European rural areas and tackle the growing urban-rural development gap during the Committee of the Regions plenary session today in Brussels. Rural population decline is a serious problem in Europe, with more funds now needed for rural development programmes that stimulate growth and create employment, local authorities recall. The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) supports a White Paper on a post-2020 development policy for rural areas as preparations for the forthcoming allocation of EU funds open shortly. http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Local-leaders-modernise-rural-areas.aspx</p>
<p>Promotion of EU upcoming events and news</p>	<p>22-02-2016 - Respect for Democracy, Fundamental rights and the Rule of law: the role of judiciary Location : Altiero Spinelli, room 3E2 (Brussels) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/events.html?id=20160222CHE00191</p> <p>23-02-2016 - Broadening the scope of the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights (Article 51) Location : ALTIERO SPINELLI BUILDING - ROOM A3G-2 http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/events.html?id=20160223CHE00221</p> <p>23-02-2016 - Public Hearing on "Energy Costs and EU Industry Competitiveness" Location : PHS 1A002 http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/events.html?id=20160223CHE00111</p> <p>23-02-2016 - Real driving emissions tests Location : JAN 4Q2 http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/events.html?id=20160122CHE00101</p> <p>14-16 June 2016, EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) Policy Conference 2016 Brussels, deadline for applications is Monday 22 February 2016 http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2016/02/15-02-2016-eu-sustainable-energy-week-eusew-policy-conference-2016-call-for-contribution</p> <p>Metropolitan Solutions: Conference for Smart Cities Conference, Berlin 31 May 2016 - 02 June 2016 Metropolitan Solutions is a world-leading showcase on intelligent and sustainable urban development that brings together the twin benefits of a congress and a trade fair. The congress program is extremely diverse, comprising a synergistic mix of about 30 parallel conferences and workshops organized by various independent expert partners. At the heart of the various congress activities is the trade fair, which presents a range of innovative technologies and services for cities and functions as a</p>

central gathering point for all conference participants.
<http://www.metropolitansolutions.de/home>

53rd International Making Cities Livable Conference

13 - 17 June 2016

Location: Pontificia Università Urbaniana, Vatican City / Rome, Italy

At this conference, it will be share knowledge of the effects of the built environment on the health of humans and the earth; foster interdisciplinary collaboration on real sustainable and equitable practices; and define a universal charter (or road map) for the improvement of the anthropized environment.

<http://www.eukn.eu/events/upcoming-events/detail/53rd-international-making-cities-livable-conference/>

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