

June 2015 II



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EU integration process in CEE countries

The EU and Georgia held the eighth round of their annual Human Rights Dialogue, this year in Tbilisi.

The dialogue led to an open and constructive exchange on the human rights situation in Georgia and on the country's commitment to achieving sustainable progress in this area.

http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2015/150615_01_en.htm

EU Bank works towards supporting the agri-food sector in the Ukraine

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and Ukraine have signed a Declaration of Intent to start a new initiative in the field of financing projects in the agri-food sector, to help the country benefit from the opportunities offered by the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area ("DCFTA") established by the Association Agreement with the European Union.

<http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2015/2015-120-eu-bank-works-towards-supporting-the-agri-food-sector-in-the-ukraine.htm?media=rss&language=en>

Pros, advantages and obligations resulting from EU membership

Commission acts to simplify access to European Structural and Investment Funds

The Commission announced its intention to create a High Level Group on simplification. It aims to reduce the administrative burden for beneficiaries to access the five European Structural and Investment Funds.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5130_en.htm

Commission approves creation of Latvian development institution to facilitate SME financing

The European Commission has concluded that Latvia's project to establish a financial institution (the Latvian Single Development Institution - SDI) is compatible with EU state aid rules. The SDI will facilitate access to finance for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and other players that face obstacles to raise financing in the market.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5146_en.htm

Commission, France, Portugal and Spain set up High Level Group to break energy barriers

Building missing cross-border links between the Iberian Peninsula and the rest of the EU energy market is therefore a priority for the European Commission, which has set up a new High Level Group to drive forward key energy infrastructure projects in South-West Europe.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5187_en.htm?locale=en

The VI Annual Forum of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region took place under the banner "Achieving e-Quality by Connecting

	<p>the Region"</p> <p>An updated version of the Action Plan of the Baltic Sea Region Strategy is set to be implemented beginning this summer. It includes 13 policy areas and 4 horizontal actions.</p> <p>http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/markkula-the-eu-baltic-sea-strategy-needs-better-connectivity.aspx</p>
<p>General development of the EU</p>	<p>DEVELOPMENT MEPS CALL FOR ACTION TO TARGET TAX EVASION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES</p> <p>Development MEPs called on companies in all countries to adopt country-by-country reporting and make all information public in order to fight tax evasion and illicit money flows in developing countries, in a resolution adopted on Monday afternoon. It also called on the EU's financial institutions to ensure that companies receiving EU support do not participate in tax evasion and avoidance.</p> <p>http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150601IPR61336/html/Development-MEPs-call-for-action-to-target-tax-evasion-in-developing-countries</p>
<p>Introduction to EU institutions and their Functioning</p>	<p>EP THIS WEEK: PNR, TAXES, ANIMAL DISEASES, DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>The civil liberties committee discusses passenger name records on Thursday, while the tax rulings committee looks at the international dimension of tax rulings. Parliament and Council negotiators will try to agree on a proposal linking animal welfare with public health. The foreign affairs and development committees discuss upcoming events on development organised by the UN and political groups will prepare for next week's plenary session.</p> <p>http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150529STO61064/html/EP-this-week-PNR-taxes-animal-diseases-development</p> <p>PRESIDENT OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ENVIRONMENT ESSENTIAL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>"We cannot have sustainable development without addressing social, development and environmental issues," said Sam Kahamba Kutesa, the President of the United Nations General Assembly, during his visit to the Parliament on 3 June. He was there to discuss new Sustainable Development Goals with the foreign affairs committee. We talked to him about issues such as climate change and migration.</p> <p>http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150603STO62105/html/President-of-UN-General-Assembly-Environment-vital-for-sustainable-development</p> <p>PRESIDENT OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ENVIRONMENT ESSENTIAL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>"We cannot have sustainable development without addressing social, development and environmental issues," said Sam Kahamba Kutesa, the President of the United Nations General Assembly, during his visit to the Parliament on 3 June. He was there to discuss new Sustainable Development Goals with the foreign affairs committee. We talked to him about issues such as climate change and migration.</p>

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150603STO62105/html/President-of-UN-General-Assembly-Environment-vital-for-sustainable-development>

EUROPEAN CITIZEN'S PRIZE: HONOURING ENGAGED EUROPEANS

The European Parliament has honoured 47 people from across the EU with this year's Citizen's Prize for their contribution to European cooperation and the promotion of common values. The list of the winners was published on 3 June, after a consultation of the 74 proposals that made it through to the national juries.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150604STO62606/html/European-Citizen's-Prize-honouring-engaged-Europeans>

"A MAJOR STEP IN HISTORY": SCHULZ PAYS TRIBUTE TO SPAIN AND PORTUGAL SIGNING EU ACCESSION TREATY 30 YEARS AGO

Martin Schulz has paid tribute to Portugal and Spain on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the two countries signing the EU accession treaty this Friday. "This was a major step in European history," the president of the European Parliament said in his opening remarks of the 8-11 June plenary session in Strasbourg. At the time the EU was still known as the European Economic Community and after the accession of Portugal and Spain consisted of 12 member states.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150605STO63231/html/Schulz-pays-tribute-to-Spain-and-Portugal-signing-accession-treaty-30-years-ago>

Introduction to EU law

EUROPEANS COULD GET DATA PROTECTION RIGHTS IN U.S.

Europe currently gives data protection rights to U.S. citizens whose data is held by EU agencies, but the U.S. does not return the favor. The bipartisan bill introduced this week would extend to Europeans certain rights that Americans have under the Privacy Act of 1974.

<http://www.politico.eu/article/europeans-data-protection-rights-snowden-senate/>

EU BID TO BEEF UP MEDICAL DEVICE RULES MOVES FORWARD

Health ministers moved forward on Friday to beef up rules to regulate medical devices throughout the EU, spurred by a scandal of rupturing French-made breast implants that sent one company official to jail.

<http://www.politico.eu/article/eu-bid-to-beef-up-medical-device-rules-moves-forward/>

COMMISSION QUESTIONS COMPANIES ON GEO-BLOCKING

European Commission investigators kicked off a wide-ranging antitrust probe into Europe's digital sector Thursday, sending the first round of questionnaires to audio-visual companies, POLITICO has learned.

<http://www.politico.eu/article/commission-questions-companies-on-geo-blocking/>

<p>Decentralised management of EU funds</p>	<p>ESTABLISHMENT OF STRUCTURAL REFORM SUPPORT SERVICE The Service will use the expertise and know-how of the Task Force for Greece and the Support Group for Cyprus. The Structural Reform Support Service will offer technical assistance to the Member States in order to facilitate their administrative and structural reforms. It will be housed by the Secretariat-General and will start its operations on 11th of July. – http://insideurope.eu/node/573</p> <p>ECOFIN FOCUSES ON BANKING STRUCTURAL REFORM AND CAPITAL MARKETS UNION The Council agreed its negotiating stance on structural measures to improve the resilience of EU credit institutions. The proposal is aimed at strengthening financial stability by protecting the deposit-taking business of the largest and most complex EU banks from potentially risky trading activities. https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/2362-ecofin-focuses-on-banking-structural-reform-and-capital-markets-union</p> <p>EU BOOSTS HUMANITARIAN AID TO THOSE DISPLACED BY BOKO HARAM VIOLENCE The European Commission is providing €21 million to help the populations in Nigeria and the neighbouring countries that are affected by the violence inflicted by Boko Haram. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5213_en.htm?locale=en</p>
<p>Multi-level governance</p>	<p>CoR President Markku Markkula: the EU Baltic Sea Strategy needs better connectivity, innovative governance and simpler procedures An updated version of the Action Plan of the Baltic Sea Region Strategy is set to be implemented beginning this summer. It includes 13 policy areas and 4 horizontal actions. "From the CoR's perspective, the main challenges in the implementation of the Baltic Sea Strategy can be subsumed under three imperatives: apply innovative governance, simplify procedures and seek full territorial integration". http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/markkula-the-eu-baltic-sea-strategy-needs-better-connectivity.aspx</p> <p>UfM promoting sustainable urban development in the Mediterranean UPFI's purpose is to identify and select sustainable and innovative urban development projects that offer bottom-up, regionally replicable solutions to the major urban development challenges facing the region. http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/ufm-promoting-sustainable-urban-development-in-the-mediterranean.aspx</p> <p>EU regions and EC President: investment for growth and better regulation must be Europe's top priorities "Regions and cities are on your side to bridge the gap between Europe and citizens through bold initiatives such as the EU Investment Plan and the migration agenda". These opening words by the President of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), Markku Markkula, launched a debate with the European Commission's President, Jean-Claude Juncker, on the EU's political</p>

	<p>priorities for the coming years. http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/EU-regions-top-priorities.aspx</p> <p>EXPERTS: DYNAMIC AND SUSTAINABLE EU REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS DECISIVE FOR ENSURING COMPETITIVENESS OF EUROPE AT GLOBAL SCALE</p> <p>On 11-12 June, during the Latvian Presidency an informal meeting of the Structural Actions Working Party took place in Riga. During the meeting, experts from Member States and representatives from the European Commission discussed the main challenges for the Cohesion Policy and shared experience of reducing regional inequality across Europe through effective implementation of EU funds. https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/2173-experts-dynamic-and-sustainable-eu-regional-development-is-decisive-for-ensuring-competitiveness-of-europe-at-global-scale</p>
<p>Introduction to different negotiation chapters</p> <p><i>Chapter 1: Free movement of goods</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 2: Freedom of movement for workers</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 3: Right of establishment and freedom to provide services</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 4: Free movement of capital</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 5: Public procurement</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 6: Company Law</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 7: Intellectual property law</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 8: Competition</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 9: Financial services</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 10: Information society and media</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 11: Agriculture and rural development</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 13: Fisheries</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 14: Transport policy</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 15: Energy</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 16: Taxation</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 17: Economic and monetary policy</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 18: Statistics</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 19: Social policy and employment</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 20: Enterprise and</i></p>	<p>TAXING VOCABULARY: A GLOSSARY OF THE TERMS USED BY THE TAX RULINGS COMMITTEE</p> <p>Paying taxes can be complicated, but so can the vocabulary that goes with it. Tax avoidance is legal, but tax evasion isn't and just what exactly is base erosion? As the Parliament's special committee on tax rulings holds a meeting on Monday 1 June to discuss the international aspects of tax rulings, we take a closer look at the jargon. Read on for an explanation of the terms used and follow the hearing live online from 14.00 CET. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150529STO61068/html/Taxing-vocabulary-a-glossary-of-the-terms-used-by-the-tax-rulings-committee</p> <p>MAY GUEST PHOTOGRAPHER CONTEST TOPIC: PEACE AND SECURITY</p> <p>Take part in our new guest photographer contest, inspired by 2015 being the European Year for Development. Every month until September we will be announcing a different topic linked to development. Send us your photo inspired by the theme of that month, along with the submission form and you could be invited to Strasbourg to make a photo reportage. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150602STO61925/html/May-guest-photographer-contest-topic-peace-and-security</p> <p>ANIMAL HEALTH: "THE PRINCIPLE IS THE SAME WHETHER YOU ARE TAKING CARE OF A DOG, A CAT OR 3,000 PIGS"</p> <p>A proposal to streamline and simplify complicated animal health rules in the EU was informally agreed by MEPs, the European Commission and the national governments on 1 June. Marit Paulsen, the Parliament's lead negotiator, described the result as "fantastic": "Its most important principle is to prevent rather than to cure." We talked to Paulsen, who has been pushing animal welfare issues for four decades, about her interest in animals and how the new rules will make a difference. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150602STO61707/html/Animal-health-The-principle-is-the-</p>

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

[same-whether-taking-care-of-a-dog-or-pigs](#)

TRANSMISSIBLE ANIMAL DISEASES: MEPS AND MINISTERS STRIKE INFORMAL DEAL

Measures to prevent and treat animal diseases such as avian flu or African swine fever were informally agreed by MEPs, the Latvian Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the European Commission on Monday. The draft EU law, on diseases that are transmissible among animals and potentially to humans too, will merge and update many scattered items of old legislation, so as to help prevent and halt new outbreaks and keep pace with scientific progress.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150601IPR61240/html/Transmissible-animal-diseases-MEPs-and-ministers-strike-informal-deal>

GABRIELIUS LANDSBERGIS: "SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA ARE ALREADY BEARING FRUIT"

EU-Russia relations were discussed today during the plenary session in Strasbourg and tomorrow MEPs will vote on a report on the state of EU-Russia relations. We spoke to Lithuanian EPP member Gabrielius Landsbergis, who wrote the report, about the impact of sanctions against Russia and the country's recent entry ban on EU politicians and officials.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150325STO37718/html/Gabrielius-Landsbergis-Sanctions-against-Russia-are-already-bearing-fruit>

CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT: FROM KYOTO TO DOHA AND BEYOND

December's climate change conference in Paris aims to come up with an international agreement to help limit global warming after 2020, but it is far from the first one. MEPs are this week voting on a recommendation to ensure that the Doha climate agreement, setting targets for emissions reductions up to 2020, is still ratified by the end of the year. Read on to find out more about the first climate change agreements and the efforts to come up with a new global deal to help fight global warming.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150605STO63228/html/Climate-change-agreement-from-Kyoto-to-Doha-and-beyond>

GRAPHENE: THE WONDER MATERIAL OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Bendable and transparent smart phones, lighter air planes... All this and much more could soon become reality thanks to graphene. On 2 June, MEPs discussed with experts the potential of using the wonder material in various sectors, from electronics to health. Nobel Prize laureate Konstantin Novoselov, who co-discovered graphene, said: "Science is the easy part. To develop a technology, you should know what products you are aiming at, and this should be coming from the industry."

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150603STO62104/html/Graphene-the-wonder-material-of-the-21st-century>

PAȘCU: SECURITY CHALLENGE IN BLACK SEA CANNOT BE IGNORED OR LEFT ENTIRELY TO NATO

Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea has also raised questions about the strategic military situation in the Black Sea Basin. As MEPs prepare to vote on a resolution on this on Thursday 11 June, we spoke to report author and EP Vice-President Ioan Mircea Pașcu about the situation. The Romanian S&D member told us: "The deployment and the aggressive modernisation of the fleet put forward by Russia is a security challenge, which cannot be ignored or left entirely to Nato."

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150605STO63325/html/Pa%C5%9Fcu-Black-Sea-security-challenge-cannot-be-ignored-or-left-entirely-to-Nato>

WATCH LIVE: MEPS DEBATE FIFA CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS

Fifa, the world's governing body for football, is being investigated over corruption allegations. MEPs will discuss the accusations during a plenary debate on Wednesday evening, followed by a debate on the upcoming European Games in Baku in the light of host country's Azerbaijan's patchy human rights record.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150605STO63301/html/Watch-live-MEPs-debate-Fifa-corruption-allegations>

RUSSIA IS NO LONGER A STRATEGIC PARTNER OF THE EU, SAY MEPS

The EU must critically re-assess its relations with Russia, which are profoundly damaged by Russia's deliberate violation of democratic principles, fundamental values and international law with its violent action and destabilisation of its neighbours, MEPs said on Wednesday. The EU must now devise a soft-power contingency plan to counter Russia's aggressive and divisive policies, they said.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150604IPR62878/html/Russia-is-no-longer-a-strategic-partner-of-the-EU-say-MEPs>

Specific issues relating to the 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
Recognition of professional qualifications

HOW THE MAJORITY OF EU LEGISLATION GETS CREATED

The media often report on how Brussels has decided on a new piece of legislation, but this is a simple version of what is a very complicated process. In our interactive infographic you find a more precise overview of how decisions that affect the EU and the people living in it are taken by MEPs and the member states.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150601STO61315/html/How-the-majority-of-EU-legislation-gets-created>

GENDER EQUALITY: MEPS DEBATE STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

A new EU strategy for equality between women and men beyond 2015 will be debated by MEPs on Monday 8 June. The draft EP resolution drafted by Maria Noichl states that progress in the EU has been slow and that much remains to be done over the next five years. Watch the debate live on our website on

Monday 8 June from 18.00 CET and check out our infographic to see how successful member states have been in achieving gender equality.
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150603STO62138/html/Gender-equality-MEPs-debate-strategy-for-the-next-five-years>

LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE VOTES ON NEW COPYRIGHT APPROACH

Nearly half of all people have failed to use streaming services from their own country while on holiday abroad. This practice known as geo-blocking is because of copyright protection. Current copyright rules date from 2001, but the European Commission will propose an update by the end of the year. German Greens/EFA member Julia Reda has drafted a report to serve as Parliament's input to the new legislation. The legal affairs committee votes on it on Tuesday 16 June.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150615STO66409/html/Live-legal-affairs-committee-votes-on-new-copyright-approach>

HUMAN RIGHTS: CHILD PREGNANCIES IN PARAGUAY; PALMYRA; CHILDREN IN NEPAL

MEPs state their concern at the high number of child pregnancies in Paraguay, calling for "access to safe and legal abortion" when the health and life of women or girls are in danger, "where there is severe foetal impairment and in cases of rape and incest". In separate resolutions they also call for the protection of the Palmyra site and draw attention to the situation of children in Nepal.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150605IPR63114/html/Human-rights-child-pregnancies-in-Paraguay-Palmyra-children-in-Nepal>

Introduction to different sector policies (regional policy, trade policy, agricultural policy, social policy).

MEPS DEBATE STRATEGIES FOR PROTECTING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Fake products are harmful to the economy, not only to those who have invested in the original products, but also to consumers, whose health and safety are at risk. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) exist to help counter these dangers. On Monday 8 June MEPs debate two reports dealing with IPR infringements and vote on them the following day.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150603STO62107/html/MEPs-debate-strategies-for-protecting-intellectual-property-rights>

MINISTERS REACH AGREEMENT ON DATA PROTECTION AND FREE MOVEMENT OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

On Monday, 15 June, the Minister for Justice Dzintars Rasnačs chaired the meeting of the EU Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA) in Luxembourg. During the meeting the EU Member States discussed legislation on data protection, set up of a European Public Prosecutor's Office and other issues.

<https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/2246-ministers-reach-agreement-on-data-protection-and-free-movement-of-public-documents>

MINISTERS DEBATE AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN THE EU

On Monday, 15 June, the Minister for Minister for Environmental Protection Kaspars Gerhards chaired the meeting of the EU Environment Council (ENVI) in Luxembourg. During the meeting the EU Member States discussed legislation on air quality, climate change and other issues.

<https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/2241-ministers-debate-air-quality-improvement-in-the-eu>

MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE JĀNIS DŪKLAVS: EU IS READY TO PROVIDE FURTHER SUPPORT FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SUPPLY IN THE WORLD

The 39th session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (UN FAO), under the Latvian Presidency of EU Council, has been finalised in Rome (Italy). At the general debates the European Union was represented by Latvian Minister for Agriculture, Jānis Dūklavs, expressing a common position of the EU.

<https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/2214-minister-for-agriculture-janis-dukklavs-eu-is-ready-to-provide-further-support-for-rural-development-and-food-supply-in-the-world>

DISCUSS BEST PRACTICE OF EU COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD OF INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT

On 16-17 June, under the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union the Latvian State Border Guard is organising the 12th meeting of the Eastern Partnership Integrated Border Management Panel.

<https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/2194-discuss-best-practice-of-eu-countries-in-the-field-of-integrated-border-management>

HEADS OF EUPAN INSTITUTIONS AGREE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The 64th meeting of the heads of institutions of the European Public Administration Network (EUPAN) and Trade Unions' National and European Administration Delegation (TUNED) concluded with a resolution on the development of public administration of the EU Member States. The meeting was organised by the Latvian State Chancellery within the framework of the Latvian Presidency of the EU Council.

<https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/2202-heads-of-eupan-institutions-in-riga-agree-on-the-future-of-european-public-administration>

MINISTERS AGREE ON INTEROPERABILITY PROGRAMME TO MODERNISE EUROPEAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS

On 12 June 2015, the Council adopted a general approach on a programme to help Member States provide interoperable digital services (ISA²). The aim is to make sure that European public administrations can interact electronically with each other and with citizens and businesses in a seamless manner. The ISA² programme will support both cross-border and cross-sector interaction. It is set to run from 2016 to 2020.

<https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/2181-ministers-agree-on-interoperability-programme-to-modernise-european-public-administrations>

	<p>EU MINISTERS REACH AGREEMENT ON THE RIGA DECLARATION “TOWARDS THE EU URBAN AGENDA”</p> <p>On Wednesday 10 June, the informal meeting of Ministers responsible for Cohesion policy, Territorial Cohesion and Urban Matters entered its second day, as the Ministers responsible for Territorial and Urban Development met in Riga to discuss the development of the EU Urban Agenda. https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/2122-eu-ministers-reach-agreement-on-the-riga-declaration-towards-the-eu-urban-agenda</p> <p>COHESION POLICY MINISTERS: EU FUNDS SHOULD BE MORE RESULT-ORIENTED IN THE NEW PROGRAMMING PERIOD</p> <p>On 9 June, the first session of the informal meeting of Ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy, Territorial Cohesion and Urban Matters took place in Riga. During the meeting, chaired by the Latvian Finance Minister, Jānis Reirs, the EU Ministers discussed how to use financial instruments more actively in the new EU funds programming period and how to strengthen good governance so that the resources invested from EU funds would be of the greatest possible benefit to the economic development of the Member States. https://eu2015.lv/news/media-releases/2092-cohesion-policy-ministers-in-the-new-programming-period-eu-funds-should-be-more-result-oriented</p>
<p>Promotion of EU upcoming events and news</p>	<p>ACER invites you to its Annual Conference 2015 09/07/2015</p> <p>Following the publication of the European Commission’s Energy Union strategy, the ACER annual conference will aim at identifying the benefits that this strategy will be able to deliver to EU energy consumers. https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/events/acer-invites-you-its-annual-conference-2015-energy-union-consumers</p> <p>LAUNCH EVENT – GUIDE TO COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENT PROJECTS 02/07/2015</p> <p>This major conference, organised by the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy together with JASPERS (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions) will introduce to the wider public the major legislative, procedural and methodological changes related to major projects; present the updated Guide; and offer a platform for information and dialogue, facilitating the work of all stakeholders in their preparations for the 2014-2020 period. http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/conferences/cba/</p> <p>THE NEW EUROPEAN FUND FOR STRATEGIC INVESTMENT (EFSI): WHAT'S IN IT FOR REGIONS AND CITIES? 07/07/2015 Brussels, Belgium</p> <p>The new European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI) should be operational this summer. During a lunchtime briefing on 7 July 2015, 13:00-14:30, representatives of the European Commission's DG for Economic and Financial Affairs and of the EIB will present the potential of the EFSI for regional and local stakeholders while addressing these questions:</p>

How will the EFSI be implemented and how can regions and cities benefit from it?

How will the EFSI relate to other EU funding mechanisms with a strong regional impact, such as the European Structural and Investment Funds? To what extent does the final EFSI regulation respond to the needs and concerns of Europe's regional and local leaders? The briefing will be web streamed live on the web.

<http://selectsurvey-gen.cor.europa.eu/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=96KH7o9M>

**EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION ANNUAL MEETING 2015
5/09/2015 - 16/09/2015 Esch-Belval, Luxembourg**

The 2015 annual meeting of the Commission and the Managing authorities of the European territorial cooperation programmes will address the most acute issues relating to the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes taking into account the specific requirements of the European territorial cooperation goal. This annual meeting will take place on 15 September 2015 from 9:00 to 12:00 and will be followed by the conference celebrating 25 years of Interreg on 15 and 16 September 2015 (from lunch to lunch) in the same venue.

<https://scic.ec.europa.eu/fmi/ezreg/ETC2015/start>

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