

June 2016



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

<p><b>EU integration process in CEE countries</b></p>	<p><b>Members of the College attend meeting with the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, with EU-Ukraine cooperation strengthened through the association of Ukraine to EURATOM and Eurojust</b></p> <p>The meeting was an opportunity to discuss matters of importance to both the EU and Ukraine, including the positive steps made by Ukraine to implement reforms, including in the area of the judiciary and the visa liberalisation process. <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-27-06-2016.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/midday-express-27-06-2016.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Pros, advantages and obligations resulting from EU membership</b></p>	<p><b>New Commission proposal helps Cyprus and Greece fully seize investment opportunities under ESI Funds</b></p> <p>The Commission proposes to maintain the EU co-financing rate of 85% for Cyprus and to extend the "top-up" mechanism, which can benefit Greece. The Commission has decided to continue helping these Member States to make the most out of the investment opportunities offered by the ESI Funds in the 2014-2020 programming period. <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2299_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2299_en.htm</a></p> <p><b>Commission endorses Italy's ultra-broadband plan for 2016-2022</b></p> <p>The European Commission has found Italy's high-speed broadband plan, with a budget of about €4 billion, to be in line with EU state aid rules. The scheme will bring fast internet access to areas where it is currently not available, without unduly distorting competition. <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2363_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2363_en.htm</a></p> <p><b>UK Referendum on Membership of the European Union</b></p> <p>The European Commission takes note of the outcome of the UK Referendum. Proceedings under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union will have to be launched. <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-2328_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-16-2328_en.htm</a></p> <p><b>June infringements' package: key decisions</b></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. These decisions, covering various sectors and EU policy areas, aim to ensure proper application of EU law for the benefit of citizens and businesses <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-2097_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-16-2097_en.htm</a></p>
<p><b>General development of the EU</b></p>	<p><b>The European Union sets its sights high on ambitions with China</b></p> <p>The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission adopted a Joint Communication, entitled "Elements for a new EU strategy on China", which maps out the European Union's relationship with China for the next five years. <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2259_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2259_en.htm</a></p>

	<p><b>European Border and Coast Guard agreed</b>  The European Border and Coast Guard will combine a new reinforced Agency, building on the foundations laid by Frontex, with the ability to draw on a reserve pool of people and equipment. Member States will continue to keep their competence and sovereignty over their borders. They will continue to manage the external border day to day.  <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2292_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2292_en.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Introduction to EU institutions and their Functioning</b></p>	<p><b>Commissioner Lord Hill resigns from the European Commission</b>  Commissioner Lord Hill, responsible for Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union, has informed European Commission President Juncker of his decision to resign from his post as European Commissioner and on the transfer of the Financial Services portfolio to Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis  <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-16-2332_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-16-2332_en.htm</a></p> <p><b>European Commission appoints new Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy</b>  The European Commission appointed Marc Lemaître as Director-General of its department for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO). Mr Lemaître, a national from Luxembourg, is currently Director of the Office for Administration and Payment of individual entitlements (PMO). He will take up his new role on 1 September  <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2267_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2267_en.htm</a></p> <p><b>TAIEX: 20 years of successfully sharing EU expertise</b>  This year marks the 20th anniversary of the European Commission's Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX), one of its most successful support instruments for countries wanting to join or reinforce their cooperation with the European Union. TAIEX is a unique form of peer to peer assistance that helps with public administration reform and promotes cooperation on fundamental principles and policies.  <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2157_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2157_en.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Introduction to EU law</b></p>	<p><b>Final adoption of new rules to cut red tape on citizens' public documents</b>  The European Parliament has adopted the regulation to cut costs and formalities for citizens who need to present a public document in another EU country. Currently, citizens must obtain a stamp to prove that their public documents are authentic. Under the new regulation, this stamp and the bureaucratic procedures linked to it will no longer be required when presenting public documents issued in one EU country to the authorities of another EU country.  <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2092_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2092_en.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Decentralized management of EU funds</b></p>	<p><b>The European Investment Fund (EIF) have launched a new initiative to help SMEs in the cultural and creative sectors access credit</b>  The €121 million which will be invested by the EU in this financial instrument until the end of 2020 is expected to leverage more than €600 million worth of bank loans over the next 6 years.  <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-2346_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-2346_en.htm</a></p>

	<p><b>The College announces the extension of the European Fund for Strategic Investments after its successful first year.</b>  The fund extension modernises the EU's standardisation policy and takes the next steps on Glyphosate and the rule of law in Poland.  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/news/2016/06/20160601_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/news/2016/06/20160601_en.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Multi-level governance</b></p>	<p><b>Urban Agenda: cities' new role shall bring EU closer to citizens</b>  The President of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), Markku Markkula, welcomes the adoption, on 24 June, of the conclusions establishing an Urban Agenda for the EU at the General Affairs Council.  "In such a challenging time for Europe, cities can help boost the EU's capacity to create better rules contributing to delivering vital objectives such as growth, social inclusion and a cleaner environment. The creation of an Urban Agenda is an important step towards a Union that closer meets the needs of citizens, is easier to understand and delivers results on the ground.  <a href="http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Urban-Agenda-cities-new-role-shall-bring-EU-closer-to-citizens.aspx">http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Urban-Agenda-cities-new-role-shall-bring-EU-closer-to-citizens.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Enlargement process needs to involve local and regional levels</b>  Members of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) called for more work to be done on improving the administrative capacity of local and regional governments in these countries. In its opinion on the EU's enlargement process, the CoR also says that the EU's work with the western Balkans states and Turkey needs to show more clearly the benefits of closer relations with the EU. The CoR's annual opinion on the EU's enlargement negotiations identifies ways in which local and regional authorities can play a role in four areas: the rule of law, economic development, regional cooperation and migration.  <a href="http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Enlargement-process-needs-to-involve-local-and-regional-levels.aspx">http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Enlargement-process-needs-to-involve-local-and-regional-levels.aspx</a></p>
<p><b>Introduction to different negotiation chapters</b></p>	<p><b>Creative Europe's guarantee facility for the cultural and creative sectors</b>  The European Commission and the European Investment Fund (EIF) have launched a new initiative to help SMEs in the cultural and creative sectors access credit. The €121 million which will be invested by the EU in this financial instrument until the end of 2020 is expected to leverage more than €600 million worth of bank loans over the next 6 years.  <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/financial-guarantee-facility-culture-creative">https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/financial-guarantee-facility-culture-creative</a></p> <p><b>Q&amp;A: new EU rules on data protection put the citizen back in the driving seat</b>  New EU data protection legislation aims to create a uniform set of rules across the EU fit for the digital era, improve certainty as to the law and boost trust in the digital single market for citizens and businesses alike. Clear and affirmative consent to data processing, the right to be forgotten and tough fines for firms breaking the rules are some of the new features.  <a href="http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160413BKG22980/QA-new-EU-rules-on-data-protection-put-the-citizen-back-in-the-driving-seat">http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160413BKG22980/QA-new-EU-rules-on-data-protection-put-the-citizen-back-in-the-driving-seat</a></p>

	<p><b>Conflict minerals: MEPs secure mandatory due diligence for importers</b>  All but the smallest EU firms importing tin, tungsten, tantalum, gold and their ores will have to do "due diligence" checks on their suppliers, to stop this trade being used to help fund conflicts and human rights abuses, says a political understanding reached by MEPs, ministers and the EU Commission. Due diligence will also be mandatory for smelters and refiners. The EU Commission will press big manufacturers to disclose details of products that might contain conflict minerals.  <a href="http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160615IPR32320/Conflict-minerals-MEPs-secure-mandatory-due-diligence-for-importers">http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160615IPR32320/Conflict-minerals-MEPs-secure-mandatory-due-diligence-for-importers</a></p> <p><b>Moving abroad in the EU? MEPs vote new rules to ensure your papers are accepted</b>  New EU rules to ease free movement for citizens by making it simpler to prove the authenticity of documents such as birth or marriage certificates in another EU member state were voted by Parliament. To avoid any need for translation, new multilingual EU forms are to be attached to the documents. The vote endorsed an informal deal previously struck by Parliament and Council negotiators.  <a href="http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160603IPR30205/Moving-abroad-in-the-EU-MEPs-vote-new-rules-to-ensure-your-papers-are-accepted">http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160603IPR30205/Moving-abroad-in-the-EU-MEPs-vote-new-rules-to-ensure-your-papers-are-accepted</a></p> <p><b>Air quality: agreement on stricter limits for pollutant emissions</b>  On 30 June 2016 the Council and the European Parliament reached a provisional agreement on a directive to reduce emissions of air pollutants. This so-called new NEC Directive sets stricter national limits from 2020 to 2029 and from 2030 onwards.  <a href="http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/06/30-air-quality/">http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/06/30-air-quality/</a></p>
<p><b>Specific issues relating to the</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>European arrest warrant,</b></li> <li>• <b>Stockholm programme:</b></li> <li>• <b>Third pillar: the pillar devoted to police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, which came under Title VI of the Treaty on European Union</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Recognition of professional qualifications</b></p>	<p><b>“Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe”. A Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy</b>  Foreword by Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Vice-President of the European Commission: The purpose, even existence, of our Union is being questioned. Yet, our citizens and the world need a strong European Union like never before. Our wider region has become more unstable and more insecure. The crises within and beyond our borders are affecting directly our citizens’ lives.  <a href="http://eeas.europa.eu/top_stories/pdf/eugs_review_web.pdf">http://eeas.europa.eu/top_stories/pdf/eugs_review_web.pdf</a></p> <p><b>EU-Jordan: Commission proposes further EUR 200 million in Macro-Financial Assistance</b>  Following a request by Jordan, the European Commission is ready to assist the country further in overcoming its economic difficulties and achieving sustainable growth. The Commission has proposed additional Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) to Jordan of up to EUR 200 million in medium-term loans at favourable financing conditions.  <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2330_en.htm?locale=en">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2330_en.htm?locale=en</a></p>
<p><b>Introduction to different sector policies (regional policy, trade policy,</b></p>	<p><b>MEPs and ministers agree to beef up official food checks from farm to fork</b>  Draft plans to tighten up official controls from farm to fork were informally agreed by food safety MEPs and the Dutch Presidency of the Council on Wednesday. It</p>

<p><b>agricultural policy, social policy).</b></p>	<p>aims to guarantee that the food consumers buy and eat in Europe is safe and wholesome, hence improving consumer's health and preventing food crises. The legislation aims to provide a comprehensive, integrated and more effective control system in the areas of food and feed safety rules, veterinary and plant health requirements, organic production and protected geographical indication rules.  <a href="http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160616IPR32569/MEPs-and-ministers-agree-to-beef-up-official-food-checks-from-farm-to-fork">http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160616IPR32569/MEPs-and-ministers-agree-to-beef-up-official-food-checks-from-farm-to-fork</a></p>
<p><b>Promotion of EU upcoming events and news</b></p>	<p><b>Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 15-16/07/2016</b>  On 15-16 July, Mongolia will host the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). European Council President, Donald Tusk, European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, and High Representative Federica Mogherini will represent the European Union at the summit.  <a href="http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2016/07/15-16/">http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2016/07/15-16/</a></p> <p><b>The European Award for Accessible Cities is now open for entries!</b>  The European Commission is launching the competition for the 2017 Access City Award - the European award for cities that are accessible to disabled and older people. EU cities over 50,000 inhabitants are invited to submit their applications by 8 September 2016.  <a href="http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/European-Award-for-Accessible-Cities.aspx">http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/European-Award-for-Accessible-Cities.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Open Living Lab Days 2016, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> August</b>  OpenLivingLab Days is the annual summit of the worldwide Living Lab community, formally the ENoLL Summer School. The annual 4 day event includes interactive sessions, workshops, lively discussion panels with excursions and off-site visits with the aim of giving the participants a wider insight about models, theories and technologies related to Living Labs. Participants have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience from the leading experts on the subject and to network with other Living Lab enthusiasts. <a href="https://openlivinglabdays.com/">https://openlivinglabdays.com/</a></p> <p><b>EuroPCom 2016: 7th European conference on public communication</b>  20/10/2016 - 21/10/2016, European Parliament, Brussels  The conference is organised by the European Committee of the Regions, in close cooperation with the European Parliament, the Council of the EU, the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee. More than 700 EU communication professionals are expected to attend the event. During the event the European Public Communication Awards will be granted to outstanding EU information and communication strategies.  <a href="http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/europcom/Pages/europcom-2016-conference.aspx">http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/europcom/Pages/europcom-2016-conference.aspx</a></p>

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.