

October 2016



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

Pros, advantages and obligations resulting from EU membership

Structured dialogue on possible suspension of structural funds for Spain and Portugal

On Monday, 3 October 2016, the Committee on Regional Development and Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, as part of the structured dialogue, hold an extraordinary joint meeting in which Vice-President Jyrki Katainen and Commissioner Corina Crețu present the Commission's plans regarding the possible suspensions of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds). In July, the Council found that Spain and Portugal had not taken effective action to reduce their deficits below the EU's reference value. Consequently, the Commission was invited to present a proposal to suspend European Structural and Investment Funds in the two Member States, after having a structured dialogue with the European Parliament.

<http://audiovisual.europarl.europa.eu/Page.aspx?id=3056>

STATE AID: COMMISSION APPROVES €60 MILLION PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY BUSES AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN PORTUGAL

The European Commission has found Portuguese plans to support the purchase of low-emission buses for public infrastructure in urban areas to be in line with EU state aid rules. The measure contributes to reducing CO2 emissions while limiting distortions of competition in the Single Market.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3521_en.htm?locale=en

General development of the EU

EU budget: We have to deal with the problem caused by Brexit

The UK's decision to leave the Union will already affect the EU's budget for next year. "There has already been an unforeseeable situation and now we have to deal with this problem," said Jens Geier, the MEP who will negotiate on behalf of the Parliament regarding the bulk of the EU's budget for 2017. MEPs will vote on Parliament's position in plenary on 26 October. We talked to the German S&D member about how Brexit is affecting the budget and the upcoming negotiations with the Council.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20161014STO47383/eu-budget-we-have-to-deal-with-the-problem-caused-by-brexit>

Climate change: Council adopts decision for EU ratification of Paris Agreement

On 4.10.2016, the Council adopted the decision on the EU ratification of the Paris Agreement. This agreement sets the framework for global action on climate change. It will enter into force 30 days after the ratification by at least 55 countries accounting for at least 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions. So far 63 countries have ratified, accounting for 52.11% of global emissions.

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/10/04-adoption-paris-agreement/>

<p>Introduction to EU institutions and their Functioning</p>	<p>Legislative Train: new tool for checking progress on Commission priorities The <u>Legislative Train</u> schedule shows when a piece of legislation arrives at the Parliament. It's also possible to see which proposals are blocked and where. Clicking on a carriage reveals all details about a proposal, such as the priority it is linked to and the MEP responsible for steering it through Parliament. The tool is limited to the plans outlined in the Commission's working programme, so does not cover all EU legislation dealt with by Parliament. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train</p>
<p>Introduction to EU law</p>	<p>Return and readmission: Council adopts a uniform European travel document On 13 October 2016, the Council adopted a regulation that establishes a uniform European travel document for the return of illegally staying third-country nationals (European travel document for return), in particular its format, security features and technical specifications. http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/10/13-european-travel-document-for-return/</p>
<p>Decentralized management of EU funds</p>	<p>EUR 1 BILLION MARK REACHED AS THE EU STEPS UP SUPPORT FOR MICRO-ENTREPRENEURS Since the EU started its microfinance initiatives, more than 100 agreements have been signed with microfinance providers, to support over 100,000 micro-entrepreneurs in 23 EU member states. This cooperation between the European Investment Fund (EIF), the European Commission, and microfinance providers aims to mobilise over EUR 1 billion of microfinance loans for micro-borrowers across the EU under Progress Microfinance and the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). Target borrowers include unemployed micro-entrepreneurs, young self-employed, minority groups, women and rural communities where microfinance can help with work-integration, health care, social housing and education. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3550_en.htm?locale=en</p> <p>More funds needed for young people and jobs in 2017 to honour EU's pledges, say MEPs Parliament demanded more funds, to help young people into jobs, boost economic growth and assist third countries with a view to mitigating the migration crisis. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20161020IPR47865/more-funds-needed-for-youth-and-jobs-in-2017-to-honour-eu%E2%80%99s-pledges-say-meps</p> <p>Cohesion Policy Funds Invest in Sustainable Transport in Hungary The Commission has approved a major project, with a contribution of EUR 30 million from the Cohesion Fund to improve the railway connection between Budapest and Székesfehérvár, in central Hungary. The project, which started in the 2007-2013 period, aims to modernise railway line n°30, on the Mediterranean corridor of the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T). This line connects Hungary to Slovenia and the Mediterranean region, and is an important international transport route for both freight and passengers. http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/policy/what/investment-policy/esif-country-factsheet/esi_funds_country_factsheet_hu_en.pdf</p>

<p>Multi-level governance</p>	<p>New call for proposals for local and regional authorities to build partnerships for work-based learning and apprenticeship The call support partnerships between local or regional authorities, vocational education and training providers and small, medium or large enterprise or chamber or other sectoral/professional organisation. The total budget available for projects is EUR 6 million and the deadline for the submission of proposals is 17 January 2017. https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/ka3-%E2%80%93-vet-business-partnerships-work-based-learning-and-apprenticeships_en</p> <p>New Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies: Smart scientific support for EU regions and cities The Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies is a collaborative effort by the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) and the European Committee of the Regions. It will offer a single point of access to data, policy analysis, interactive tools and methods for policy makers, scientists and other stakeholders. http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/New-Knowledge-Centre.aspx</p>
<p>Introduction to different negotiation chapters</p>	<p>MEMO: 2016 EU TRANSPORT SCOREBORD The 2016 edition of the EU Transport Scoreboard compares Member State performance in 30 transport-related categories and highlights the five top and bottom performers in each of these categories. An interactive viewer makes it possible to track Member State progress over time and to compare the performance of two or more Member States as regards individual indicators. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-16-3532_en.htm?locale=en</p> <p>Emission measurements in the automotive sector On 17 December 2015 the European Parliament decided to set up the EMIS Committee to investigate in detail alleged contraventions and maladministration in relation to emission measurements in the automotive sector. During its twelve-month mandate our Committee, with its 45 Members and 45 substitute Members, will make use of various methods to investigate the alleged failures: it will hold hearings with experts, invite witnesses, request documents and undertake fact-finding missions when needed. The investigations shall be concluded with the submission of an intermediate and a final report within respectively 6 and 12 months of starting of the work of the Committee. http://audiovisual.europarl.europa.eu/Page.aspx?id=2903</p> <p>Annual Competition Policy Report The Report on Competition policy, published annually, provides detailed information on the most important policy and legislatives, and on decisions adopted by the European Commission in application of the EU competition law during the previous year. http://audiovisual.europarl.europa.eu/Page.aspx?id=3070</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 2016-ANNUAL INFLATION UP TO 0.4% IN THE EURO AREA-UP TO 0.4% IN THE EU Euro area annual inflation was 0.4% in September 2016, up from 0.2% in August.</p>

	<p>In September 2015 the rate was -0.1%. European Union annual inflation was also 0.4% in September 2016, up from 0.3% in August. A year earlier the rate was -0.1%. These figures come from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/news/news-releases</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>MIGRATION</p> <p>Europe is faced with a significant influx of migrants: hundreds of thousands of people fleeing from war and poverty are travelling to Europe in search of safety and a better life. As the EU searches for the best approach to deal with this unprecedented increase in migration, MEPs press for a comprehensive and fair asylum system. According to EU border agency Frontex the total number of detections of illegal crossings in the EU external borders reached 1.83 million in 2015 (compared to 283,500 the year before) although it should be noted that a person can illegally cross an external border more than once and thus may be counted more than once too.</p> <p>http://audiovisual.europarl.europa.eu/Page.aspx?id=3039</p>
<p>Introduction to different sector policies(regional policy, trade policy, agricultural policy, social policy).</p>	<p>Commission puts forward commitments to reach global targets in sustainable urban development</p> <p>In the context of the U.N. Habitat III conference, the European Commission has presented three commitments to meet the New Urban Agenda's global objectives.</p> <p>The New Urban Agenda, adopted at the U.N. Habitat III Conference taking place this week in Quito, Ecuador, contains guidelines to make cities all over the world more inclusive, green, safe and prosperous. It is a cornerstone in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other milestone reform agendas, in particular the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2016/10/20-10-2016-commission-puts-forward-commitments-to-reach-global-targets-in-sustainable-urban-development</p>
<p>Promotion of EU upcoming events and news</p>	<p>5th Annual Forum of the EU macro regional Strategy for the Danube Region 03/11/2016 - 04/11/2016 / Bratislava, Slovakia</p> <p>Innovative Flows - Water, Knowledge and Innovation in the Danube Region. The 5th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), jointly organised by the Slovak Republic (holding the current Presidency of the EUSDR) and the European Commission (Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, DG REGIO and Directorate-General of the Joint Research Center, DG JRC) will officially be open on 3th November 2016 at 13:45.</p> <p>http://www.danube-forum-bratislava.eu/danube-forum-bratislava</p> <p>7TH STRATEGY FORUM OF THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION, 8-9/11/2016 / STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN</p> <p>800 stakeholders from all around the Baltic Sea region will gather to discuss the future of the region within a 2030 perspective. We expect two inspiring days to discuss the development and cooperation in the Baltic Sea region on a wide range of themes ranging from the economic state of the region, the environmental state of the Baltic Sea, digital markets, innovation, connectivity to youth social entrepreneurship. More than 50 sessions and seminars will gather</p>

key persons and drivers of change from business, politics and civil society.
<http://www.strategyforum2016.eu/registration-practical-info/registration-31743586>

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://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/events/2016/11/new-pressures-on-cities-and-regions

Urban Development Network (UDN) - Smart, Innovative & Sustainable urban mobility Bringing together European Innovation Partnership for Smart Cities (the Urban Mobility Cluster) and cities investing Structural Funds on urban mobility challenges.

23/11/2016 / Brussel, Belgium

The European Commission (DGREGIO and DGMOVE) is organising an URBAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK event on 23 November in Brussels bringing together cities to exchange knowledge and experiences in Smart, Innovative & Sustainable urban mobility. Participants will be able to learn about the state of the art in innovative and tested urban transport solutions like electric buses, cleaner logistics, shared mobility, walking and cycling, and new mobility services.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/conferences/udn_brussels_2016/

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.