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<p><b>EU integration process in CEE countries</b></p>	<p><b>EU invests €34 million in the border regions of Croatia and Serbia</b> The new Interreg-IPA cross border programme adopted by the Commission will invest in the border regions of Croatia and Serbia for job creation and growth. Funding will be focused on improving the quality of public social and health services. <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2015/08/eu-invests-eur34-million-in-the-border-regions-of-croatia-and-serbia">http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2015/08/eu-invests-eur34-million-in-the-border-regions-of-croatia-and-serbia</a></p> <p><b>New €92.5 million EU support to Eastern Partnership</b> The European Union has announced a new package of EUR 92.5 million to support environment in Belarus, employment and business development in rural areas of Azerbaijan and regional cooperation in the Eastern Partnership. <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/news_corner/news/2015/09/20150910_2_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/news_corner/news/2015/09/20150910_2_en.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Pros, advantages and obligations resulting from EU membership</b></p>	<p><b>European Commission Statement following the temporary reintroduction of border controls by Germany, particularly at the German-Austrian border</b> The temporary reintroduction of border controls between Member States is an exceptional possibility explicitly foreseen in and regulated by the Schengen Borders Code, in case of a crisis situation. The current situation in Germany, prima facie, appears to be a situation covered by the rules. <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-5638_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-5638_en.htm</a></p>
<p><b>General development of the EU</b></p>	<p><b>How is the EU doing compared with the other major economies of the world?</b> Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, releases the latest edition of the publication “The EU in the world”, which provides a portrait of the EU, considered as a single entity, in relation to the other major economies of the world. <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-press-releases/-/1-03092015-BP">http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-press-releases/-/1-03092015-BP</a></p> <p><b>A new, more inclusive vision of education and training up to 2020</b> A draft joint report by the Commission calls for strengthening cooperation in education and training up to 2020 and especially to promote social inclusion. The Commission is proposing to strengthen cooperation at European level in the field of education and training up to 2020. Its draft of a joint report by the Commission and Member States published today calls for making European education and training systems more socially inclusive, as part of the wider efforts to tackle radicalisation following the 2015 attacks in Paris and Copenhagen. <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5568_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5568_en.htm</a></p> <p><b>Ministerial Meeting in the framework of the EU-Bosnia and Herzegovina Structured Dialogue</b> The meeting was an opportunity to take stock of the results achieved so far in the context of the Structured Dialogue, as well as to build consensus on reforms related to the functioning of the judicial system in BiH. Since the Structured Dialogue was launched in 2011, the European Commission has indeed supported BiH authorities to identify shortcomings in the current system and agree on possible solutions. The ultimate objective remains to consolidate the functioning of the judiciary at all</p>

	<p>levels throughout BiH, in line with the relevant European standards and acquis.  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/news_corner/news/2015/09/20150910_1_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/news_corner/news/2015/09/20150910_1_en.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Introduction to EU institutions and their Functioning</b></p>	<p><b>MEPs call for free, gender-equal public education for all children</b>  Gender equality measures must apply at all levels of the education system, including the curriculum and teacher training, so as to end gender stereotyping and help close the gap between women's education and their professional development.  <a href="http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150903IPR91528/html/MEPs-call-for-free-gender-equal-public-education-for-all-children">http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150903IPR91528/html/MEPs-call-for-free-gender-equal-public-education-for-all-children</a></p> <p><b>Commission presses Member States on VAT revenue collection</b>  VAT revenue collection has failed to show significant improvement across EU Member States according to the latest figures released by the European Commission . Based on VAT collection figures from 2013, the overall difference between the expected VAT revenue and the amount actually collected (the so-called "VAT Gap") did not improve on 2012. While 15 Member States including Latvia, Malta and Slovakia saw an improvement in their figures, 11 Member States such as Estonia and Poland saw deterioration.  <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5592_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5592_en.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Introduction to EU law</b></p>	<p><b>Migration and refugee crisis: MEPs react to new Commission proposals</b>  New migration management proposals, including relocating 120,000 asylum seekers within the EU - on top of the May proposal to relocate 40,000 - a permanent distribution mechanism for the future, a list of safe countries of origin to ensure faster returns of those whose asylum request is rejected, and legal migration channels to the EU, were outlined by the Commission and debated in Parliament this morning. MEPs urged member states to act and praised EU citizens for warmly welcoming refugees.  <a href="http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150903IPR91516/html/Migration-and-refugee-crisis-MEPs-react-to-new-Commission-proposals">http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150903IPR91516/html/Migration-and-refugee-crisis-MEPs-react-to-new-Commission-proposals</a></p>
<p><b>Decentralized management of EU funds</b></p>	<p><b>Connecting Greece and Bulgaria's border regions: adoption of a new Interreg programme worth €129 million</b>  The European Commission adopted the 2014-2020 cross border cooperation ('Interreg') programme for Greece and Bulgaria. It is worth €129 million, with more than €110 million coming from the European Regional Development Fund. The programme's first priority is to boost the competitiveness of SMEs and help them expand beyond local markets</p> <p><b>European Commission presents a €500 million comprehensive package of measures to support European farmers</b>  The Commission is announcing a comprehensive support package worth €500 million, recognising the difficulties being experienced by producers. The focus of this response is threefold: (1) addressing the cash-flow difficulties farmers are facing, (2) stabilising markets and (3) addressing the functioning of the supply chain.  <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5599_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5599_en.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Multi-level governance</b></p>	<p><b>EU Urban Agenda: "European Parliament joins regions and cities in urging a Commission proposal in 2016" says rapporteur Verkerk</b>  "We wholeheartedly welcome the European Parliament vote in favour of the timely launch of an EU Urban Agenda. The adopted report takes on board all key requests</p>

	<p>formulated by local and regional representatives in relation to identifying clear and shared objectives on sustainable urban development, to be achieved by better coordinating all EU policies impacting on cities" commented the rapporteur of European Committee of the Regions on the Urban Agenda, Bas Verkerk, Mayor of Delft (NL/ALDE) adding that: "Now we expect that the Commission includes a proper proposal in his work programme 2016".  <a href="http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/ep-joins-regions-and-cities-in-urging-a-commission-proposal-in-2016.aspx">http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/ep-joins-regions-and-cities-in-urging-a-commission-proposal-in-2016.aspx</a></p>
<p><b>Introduction to different negotiation chapters</b>  <b>Chapter 1: Free movement of goods</b>  <b>Chapter 2: Freedom of movement for workers</b>  <b>Chapter 3: Right of establishment and freedom to provide services</b>  <b>Chapter 4: Free movement of capital</b>  <b>Chapter 5: Public procurement</b>  <b>Chapter 6: Company Law</b>  <b>Chapter 7: Intellectual property law</b>  <b>Chapter 8: Competition</b>  <b>Chapter 9: Financial services</b>  <b>Chapter 10: Information society and media</b>  <b>Chapter 11: Agriculture and rural development</b>  <b>Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy</b>  <b>Chapter 13: Fisheries</b>  <b>Chapter 14: Transport policy</b>  <b>Chapter 15: Energy</b>  <b>Chapter 16: Taxation</b>  <b>Chapter 17: Economic and monetary policy</b>  <b>Chapter 18: Statistics</b>  <b>Chapter 19: Social policy and employment</b>  <b>Chapter 20: Enterprise and industrial policy</b>  <b>Chapter 21: Trans-European networks</b>  <b>Chapter 22: Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments</b>  <b>Chapter 23: Judiciary and fundamental rights</b>  <b>Chapter 24: Justice, freedom and security</b>  <b>Chapter 25: Research and development</b>  <b>Chapter 26: Education and culture</b>  <b>Chapter 27: Environment</b>  <b>Chapter 28: Consumer and health protection</b>  <b>Chapter 29: Customs union</b>  <b>Chapter 30: External relations</b>  <b>Chapter 31: Foreign, security and</b></p>	<p><b>EU boosts socio-economic development and supports better living conditions in the Southern Mediterranean</b>  The EU has mobilised a substantial assistance package worth €235.7 million to foster socio-economic development and support better living conditions in the Southern Neighbourhood partner countries. Of this package, €162 million will support bilateral cooperation that will benefit citizens in Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine through the creation of increased economic opportunities, institution-building, improving living conditions, as well as the protection of citizen's rights and the most vulnerable sectors of society.  <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5622_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5622_en.htm</a></p> <p><b>Second estimate for the second quarter of 2015 GDP up by 0.4% in both euro area and EU28 +1.5% and +1.9% respectively compared with second quarter of 2014</b>  Seasonally adjusted GDP rose by 0.4% in both the euro area (EA19) and the EU28 during the second quarter of 2015, compared with the previous quarter, according to a second estimate published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In the first quarter of 2015, GDP grew by 0.5% in both areas.  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-press-releases/-/2-08092015-AP">http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-press-releases/-/2-08092015-AP</a></p> <p><b>Public Consultation on the Needs for Internet Speed and Quality Beyond 2020</b>  The European Commission has prepared the public consultation to look into the needs for Internet speed and quality beyond 2020. The purpose is to assess and understand those needs better with a view in developing a policy helping the investors to deploy the future-proof connectivity networks and to ensure that all users, being households, businesses, public institutions, can take advantage of the digital economy and society.  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/public-consultation-needs-internet-speed-and-quality-beyond-2020">http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/public-consultation-needs-internet-speed-and-quality-beyond-2020</a></p> <p><b>Blue growth key to EU economic prosperity</b>  CoR rapporteur Adam Banaszak calls for public-private partnerships to unlock the maritime sector's full potential (from The Parliament Magazine). As we slowly emerge from one of the most crippling economic crises of our time, economic growth and job creation is a priority for all governments. Europe's maritime and marine sector offers a solution: the 'blue economy' employs approximately 5.4 million people, generating almost €500bn a year - income and jobs that form the backbone of many of the EU's 439 coastal regions' economies.  <a href="http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/blue-growth-key-to-EU-economic-prosperity.aspx">http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/blue-growth-key-to-EU-economic-prosperity.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Outcome of the bilateral EU-Russia gas meeting in Vienna</b>  The meeting focused on the actions needed to ensure stable gas supplies to Ukraine and via Ukraine to the EU during winter. It was also the occasion to</p>

<p><b>defence policy</b>  <b>Chapter 32: Financial control</b>  <b>Chapter 33: Financial and budgetary provisions</b></p>	<p>exchange views on matters regarding the EU-Russia energy relations. The meeting took place in a constructive atmosphere and focused on the actions needed to ensure stable gas supplies to Ukraine and via Ukraine to the EU during winter. The meeting was also the occasion to exchange views on matters regarding the EU-Russia energy relations such as energy infrastructure.  <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-5630_en.htm?locale=en">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-5630_en.htm?locale=en</a></p> <p><b>EP wants animal cloning ban extended to offspring and imports</b>  Parliament beefed up the Commission's initial proposal to ban animal cloning to include the cloning of all farm animals, their descendants and products derived from them, including imports into the EU.  <a href="http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150903IPR91517/html/EP-wants-animal-cloning-ban-extended-to-offspring-and-imports">http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150903IPR91517/html/EP-wants-animal-cloning-ban-extended-to-offspring-and-imports</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>  Europe of rights,  Europe of justice,  Europe that protects, Access to Europe,  Europe of solidarity, Europe in a globalised world</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>Outcome of the Trilateral Talks on the Implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement/Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area</b>  Joint Operational Conclusions by the European Commission, the Russian Federation and Ukraine following trilateral talks on the Implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement/Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area. The EU Trade Commissioner Malmström, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Klimkin and Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation Ulyukayev held today in Brussels the fourth round of talks on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement/Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (AA/DCFTA) with a view to finding practical solutions to Russian concerns about the implementation of the DCFTA, which will be provisionally applied as of 1 January 2016.  <a href="http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-5603_en.htm">http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-5603_en.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Introduction to different sector policies (regional policy, trade policy, agricultural policy, social policy).</b></p>	<p><b>EIB AND COMMITTEE OF REGIONS INTENSIFY CO-OPERATION TO BOOST EUROPE'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY</b>  President of the Committee of Regions (CoR) - Markku Markkula - met with European Investment Bank (EIB) President Werner Hoyer in Luxembourg to discuss joint efforts to enhance private investment and recovery across Europe.  <a href="http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/EIB-and-CoR-intensify-cooperation-to-boost-Europes-economic-recovery.aspx">http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/EIB-and-CoR-intensify-cooperation-to-boost-Europes-economic-recovery.aspx</a></p>
<p><b>Promotion of EU upcoming events and news</b></p>	<p><b>SEMINAR SERIES ON FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS DELIVERING ESI FUNDS: REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN</b>  The registrations for the <i>fi-compass</i> seminar series in Member States about Financial Instruments delivering ESI Funds are open for the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bratislava, 2 October 2015</li> <li>Sofia, 6 October 2015</li> <li>Bucharest, 8 October 2015</li> <li>Rome, 22 October 2015</li> <li>Riga, 30 October 2015</li> <li>Prague, 10 November 2015</li> <li>Madrid, 18 November 2015</li> <li>Zagreb, 24 November 2015</li> </ul> <p>Please find detailed information on the <i>fi-compass</i> seminars here.  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2015/09/seminar-series-on-financial-instruments-delivering-esi-funds-registrations-are-open">http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2015/09/seminar-series-on-financial-instruments-delivering-esi-funds-registrations-are-open</a></p>

#### **EU PRIZE FOR WOMEN INNOVATORS 2016**

The European Commission has launched the 3rd edition of the EU Prize for Women Innovators. The competition is open until 20 October 2015! This Prize aims to raise public awareness on the need for more innovation and more women innovators. It will reward three women who have achieved outstanding innovations and brought them to market.

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index\\_en.cfm?section=women-innovators](http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=women-innovators)

#### **REGIONS, EU INSTITUTIONS AND POLICYMAKING: A FREE ONLINE COURSE**

Online course, 19 October - 11 December 2015 including lunchtime briefing every Friday, 1 p.m. - 2.15 p.m., JDE building, room 51 Between 19 October and 11 December 2015, the CoR will offer the first-ever online course or MOOC on "Regions, EU institutions and policy-making".

The course is offered via iversity.org and can be accessed at:

<https://iversity.org/en/courses/regions-eu-institutions-and-policy-making>

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/CoR-online-MOOC.aspx>

#### **CFP: SMART CITY-REGIONAL GOVERNANCE SYMPOSIUM**

Date- 08 to 09 October 2015

Location- Brussels

This symposium sets out to explore the meaning and practice of 'smartness' in city-regional governance as it seeks to balance the competing quests for urban international competitiveness, national economic development and societal cohesion. The symposium also marks the decennial of 'Regionalisation Symposia' regularly organised since 2005 by the Centre for Urban and Regional Governance (University of Westminster) and the International City-Regional Policy Network (ICRPol.Net).

<http://www.eukn.eu/events/upcoming-events/detail/cfp-smart-city-regional-governance-symposium/>

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