

November 2015 II

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union**EU integration process in CEE countries****EU and Andorra finalise negotiations on new tax transparency agreement**

Under the new agreement, Andorra and EU Member States will automatically exchange information on the financial accounts of each other's residents from 2018.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5987_en.htm

The Commission adopts an overarching strategy on enlargement policy covering the period of its mandate

The European Commission has made a number of changes to this year's enlargement package, compared to previous years. It confirms the "fundamentals first" approach, highlights the importance of regional cooperation and the connectivity agenda, and addresses the current refugee crisis.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-6040_en.htm

Enlargement package report on Serbia

Major steps were taken in the accession negotiations with Serbia. The analytical examination of the acquis was completed in March 2015. Serbia completed comprehensive action plans required for the opening of rule of law chapters 23 and 24 and has reached key agreements with Kosovo as part of the normalisation process, dealt with under chapter 35.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-6037_en.htm

Key findings of the 2015 report on Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Commission concluded that Bosnia and Herzegovina is back on the reform track and has started to address the outstanding priorities on its EU accession path as demonstrated through the adoption of the Reform Agenda in July. For the country to further progress towards the EU, meaningful progress on the implementation of the Reform Agenda is necessary as a condition for the EU to consider an EU membership application from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-6034_en.htm

2015 enlargement package report on Turkey

The Report highlights that the EU and Turkey continued to enhance cooperation in the areas of joint interest, which support and complement the accession negotiations. Political dialogue on foreign and security policy continued, including on counter-terrorism, against the background of Turkey joining the international coalition against Da'esh. Cooperation on visas, mobility and migration was pursued in the framework of the visa liberalisation dialogue launched in December 2013.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-6039_en.htm

	<p>Report on Albania's 2015 Enlargement Package The European Commission concluded that Albania made steady progress as regards the political criteria, by continuing to implement and consolidate reforms in the rule of law area. In public administration reform, Albania has adopted key legislation and comprehensive reform strategies. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-15-6035_en.htm</p> <p>Key findings of the 2015 report on Montenegro During the reporting period, eight negotiating chapters were opened, and closing benchmarks were set for them. Concerning the rule of law chapters, 23 and 24, good progress was made in improving the legislative framework for the independence of the judiciary and the fight against corruption. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-15-6036_en.htm</p> <p>Enlargement package report on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia In the light of the progress made so far in the implementation of the June/July political agreement, the Commission is prepared to extend its recommendation to open accession negotiations with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-15-6038_en.htm</p>
<p>Pros, advantages and obligations resulting from EU membership</p>	<p>European Commission awards €16.43 million in emergency funding to Croatia The European Commission has awarded an amount of €16.43 million in emergency funding to Croatia to support the country in managing the high influx of migrants and improve the situation on the ground. The funding comes from the Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa (ISF) and from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) which make available €3.99 million and €12.43 million respectively. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release IP-15-6025_en.htm</p> <p>Commission orders Estonia to recover incompatible aid from national air carrier Estonian Air Following an in-depth investigation, the European Commission has concluded that aid measures by Estonia in favour of national flag carrier Estonian Air gave the company an undue advantage over its competitors in breach of EU state aid rules. Estonian Air therefore needs to pay back the state aid already received, which according to the Commission's information amounts to about €85 million plus interest, and cannot receive an additional €40 million of restructuring aid. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release IP-15-6023_en.htm</p>
<p>General development of the EU</p>	<p>Hübner: “Nobody wins if the UK leaves the European Union” In or out? Britain will decide on its future in Europe with a referendum once negotiations with the EU have been concluded. A delegation from the Parliament's constitutional affairs committee went to London on 16 and 17 November to discuss the upcoming EU membership referendum with ministers, parliamentary committees and think-tanks.</p>

	<p>http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20151116STO02848/html/H%C3%BCbner-%E2%80%9CNobody-wins-if-the-UK-leaves-the-European-Union%E2%80%9D</p>
<p>Introduction to EU institutions and their Functioning</p>	<p>EU to pursue the most ambitious sustainable development, labour and environment provisions in TTIP</p> <p>"Trade is not just about our economic interests, but also about values. That's why we are proposing a very ambitious approach to sustainable development in the EU-US trade talks."</p> <p>The proposed chapter on sustainable development in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) offers the most ambitious provisions ever put forward on these issues to any trading partner. This approach follows the new EU trade strategy, 'Trade for all', which aims at more responsible trade policies both at home and globally.</p> <p>http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5993_en.htm</p>
<p>Introduction to EU law</p>	<p>Deal on new rules to attract non-EU students, researchers and interns to the EU</p> <p>Harmonised EU entry and residence rules that will make it easier and more attractive for students and researchers from third countries to study or do research at EU universities were informally agreed by MEPs and ministers on Tuesday. The deal also has provisions to clarify and improve conditions for non-EU interns, volunteers, school pupils and au pairs, so as to facilitate cultural exchanges. These rules still need to be approved by Parliament as a whole and the Council of Ministers.</p> <p>http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20151117IPR03054/html/Deal-on-new-rules-to-attract-non-EU-students-researchers-and-interns-to-the-EU</p>
<p>Decentralized management of EU funds</p>	<p>State aid: Commission approves two schemes aimed at encouraging investment in innovative SMEs</p> <p>The European Commission has decided that two schemes planned by France with the aim of facilitating investment in innovative small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) are in line with the EU rules on State aid. In particular, the Commission is of the view that the two measures make up for a real gap in the market without unduly affecting competition within the single market. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-6001_en.htm</p> <p>€7.6 BILLION OF EUROPEAN INVESTMENT TO SUPPORT KEY TRANSPORT PROJECTS</p> <p>The Commission is launching the second call for proposals of the Connecting Europe Facility, with more than €7.6 billion of investment to finance transport projects. €6.5 billion are earmarked for countries with Cohesion Fund eligibility. €6.5 billion are earmarked for projects in Member States eligible to the EU Cohesion Fund[1], in order to better integrate these countries into the internal market. Along with the Investment Plan presented by Commission in November 2014 – and in particular the new European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) , the CEF aims at bridging</p>

	<p>the investment gap in Europe to kick-start growth and job creations, a priority of President Jean-Claude Juncker. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5990_en.htm</p> <p>European Court of Auditors signs off the EU accounts for 8th year in a row The European Court of Auditors has today given the EU accounts a clean bill of health for the 8th year in a row. Both the revenue side and administrative expenditure are free from significant errors. The overall error rate in payments has declined for a second consecutive year, to 4.4% in 2014. The Court also, in its annual report on the implementation of the EU budget in 2014, stresses the progress made by the Commission to increase transparency and absorption concerning the management of EU funds. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-6024_en.htm</p>
<p>Multi-level governance</p>	<p>CoR President: Regions play a key role in supporting and managing investment projects In 2015 the European Union and China celebrate 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties. Both sides have agreed to deepen cooperation in key areas such as investment and connectivity. On Monday 9 November the Chinese Mission to the EU and the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) invited senior officials, representatives from Chinese and European regional and local authorities, business and academic representatives to conclude this fruitful year and to look ahead to further developing ties with China at local and regional level. http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/european-regions-and-china-look-to-strengthen-ties-on-investment.aspx</p>
<p>Introduction to different negotiation chapters Chapter 1: Free movement of goods Chapter 2: Freedom of movement for workers Chapter 3: Right of establishment and freedom to provide services Chapter 4: Free movement of capital Chapter 5: Public procurement Chapter 6: Company Law Chapter 7: Intellectual property law Chapter 8: Competition Chapter 9: Financial services Chapter 10: Information society and media Chapter 11: Agriculture and</p>	<p>Education and Training Monitor: More investment needed to spread benefits of education across society The Education and Training Monitor 2015 shows progress in education attainment across Europe but reveals investment is needed to make education more inclusive and boost social mobility. The 2015 edition of the EU's Education and Training Monitor shows more Member States have now reached their goals in increasing the number of students completing higher levels of education and minimising those leaving education early. This means Europe is on track to reach the targets set in its growth and jobs strategy by 2020. However, this progress is uneven, with discrepancies between and within Member States. Pupils from disadvantaged and immigrant backgrounds are most at risk of not reaching minimal educational standards. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-6052_en.htm</p> <p>Commission proposes fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and North Sea for 2016 The European Commission proposes fish quotas (Total Allowable Catches) for 2016 for the Atlantic and the North Sea. The Commission proposes to maintain or increase the fish quotas for 35 stocks, and reduce catches for 28 stocks on the basis of the scientific advice received. The Commission is</p>

rural development
Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy
Chapter 13: Fisheries
Chapter 14: Transport policy
Chapter 15: Energy
Chapter 16: Taxation
Chapter 17: Economic and monetary policy
Chapter 18: Statistics
Chapter 19: Social policy and employment
Chapter 20: Enterprise and 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

proposing an increase in fishing opportunities to help fishermen in the transition to the new obligation to land all catches. This is the first time the Commission proposes so-called quota "top ups" for all the fisheries under the landing obligation as of 2016. This extra quota aims to compensate fishermen for the extra fish they will have to land. On the basis of scientific advice to be received by mid-November the Commission will, later in the month, propose the catch increase including all the quantities that need to be landed. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-6016_en.htm

Flash estimate for the third quarter of 2015 GDP up by 0.3% in the euro area and by 0.4% in the EU28 +1.6% and +1.9% respectively compared with the third quarter of 2014

Seasonally adjusted GDP rose by 0.3% in the euro area (EA19) and by 0.4% in the EU28 during the third quarter of 2015, compared with the previous quarter, according to flash estimates published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In the second quarter of 2015, GDP grew by 0.4% in both areas.

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-press-releases>

Parliament is first EU institution to become 100 % carbon neutral

As of 2016, the European Parliament's irreducible carbon emissions can be fully offset, making it the first EU institution to become 100% carbon-neutral, Parliament's Bureau (President, Vice-Presidents and Quaestors), decided some weeks ahead of COP 21 in Paris. At the same time, Parliament is continuing to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions and make better use of energy, water and paper, in line with its environmental policy to first and foremost prevent or limit emissions.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20151113IPR02622/html/Parliament-is-first-EU-institution-to-become-100-carbon-neutral>

Easy as ABC: Filing public documents in another EU country to be simplified

Freedom of movement means you are allowed to live, work or start a business in another EU country, but there are often bureaucratic hurdles to overcome. Getting public documents recognised can be costly and time consuming. On 12 November Parliament's legal affairs committee approved an agreement with the Council to make it easier. Before the vote, we spoke to Mady Delvaux, a Luxembourg member of the S&D group who negotiated with the Council on this, about how the new procedure would work.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20151110STO01877/html/Easy-as-ABC-Filing-public-documents-in-another-EU-country-to-be-simplified>

Specific issues relating to the

- European arrest warrant,
- Stockholm

President Juncker launches the EU Emergency Trust Fund to tackle root causes of irregular migration in Africa

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker launched with other EU Member States and other European donors the EU's Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and

<p>programme: Europe of rights, Europe of justice, Europe that protects, Access to Europe, Europe of solidarity, Europe in a globalised world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third pillar: the pillar devoted to police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, which came under Title VI of the Treaty on European Union <p>Recognition of professional qualifications</p>	<p>displaced persons in Africa. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, together with some European Heads of State, launched today in Valletta the EU's Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-6055_en.htm</p> <p>Budget 2016 deal: Parliament ensures more funding for refugees and jobs The European Parliament has reached a provisional deal with the Council on the 2016 European budget in the early hours of Saturday. Parliamentary negotiators fought for more money for the migration, jobs and competitiveness priorities of the Parliament. After budget MEPs and the Council formally endorse the deal, the new budget of the European Union will be adopted at the November plenary session of Parliament. The preliminary figures are €155 billion in commitment appropriations and €143.8 billion in payment appropriations. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20151109IPR01734/html/Budget-2016-deal-Parliament-ensures-more-funding-for-refugees-and-jobs</p>
<p>Introduction to different sector policies (regional policy, trade policy, agricultural policy, social policy).</p>	<p>EU finalises proposal for investment protection and Court System for TTIP The EU has formally presented to the US its proposal for a reformed approach on investment protection and a new and more transparent system for resolving disputes between investors and states: the Investment Court System. The European Commission has finalised its new and reformed approach on investment protection and investment dispute resolution for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). This follows another round of extensive consultations with the Council and the European Parliament. The proposal for the Investment Court System has been formally transmitted to the United States and has been made public. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-6059_en.htm</p> <p>Commission approves new promotion programmes for agricultural products The Commission has approved 33 new programmes to promote agricultural products. Worth €108 million, these programmes will contribute to opening new markets for EU products and to increasing consumption within the EU. The European Commission has approved 33 new programmes to promote EU agricultural products in the EU and on third country markets. These programmes are worth €108 million over 3 years, half of which (€54 million) comes from the EU budget. The programmes will contribute to opening up new markets and increasing the consumption of promoted products inside and outside the EU. The measures financed can consist of different types of promotional campaigns highlighting the advantages of EU products, especially in terms of quality, food safety and hygiene, nutrition, labelling, animal welfare or environmentally-friendly production methods. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-6061_en.htm</p>

Promotion of EU upcoming events and news

Scenarios of regional development for the Danube region

19- 20/11/2015, Ispra, Italy

The objective of the workshop is to discuss with relevant stakeholders the definition of socio-economic and environmental scenarios for the Danube Region - focusing on different topics, such as population projections, economic trends (including transport and energy), factors related to technological innovation and the role of EU investment and development policies.

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/workshop/scenarios-regional-development-danube-region?search>

Communicating at local level: EU showcases, trends and tools

26/11/2015 - 26/11/2015 9.00 am- 5.00 pm| Vilnius City Council Hall

The event is co- organised by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Association of Local Authorities of Lithuania (ALAL), in partnership with the City of Vilnius. It will be aimed at communication/public relations officers and spokespersons responsible for working with media (web, social media, regional and national media) in all the 60 Lithuanian municipalities invited, to develop their communication strategies in order to become more visible, more popular and more open to their citizens.

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/vilnius-com.aspx>

The role of city-regions in the achievement of low-carbon economy

24/11/2015 / Brussels, Belgium

The COST association and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) will host a joint workshop aiming at revisiting the importance of both bottom-up and top-down approaches in accelerating the penetration of low-carbon policies into practice: the first must set the framework and incentives, so that the latter can occur in the broader market, ideally identifying and implementing best practices.

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/workshop/role-city-regions-achievement-low-carbon-economy?search>

Modelling energy scenarios for South Eastern Europe

15/12/2015 / Vienna, Austria

The objective of this workshop is to explore possible energy scenarios up to 2030-2050 for the South Eastern Europe. The workshop should serve as an exchange of know how between policymakers, energy regulators, academics, energy companies, system modellers, consultants and other relevant stakeholders of this region.

http://europa.eu/newsroom/calendar/events/2015/12/15_energy_scenarios_south_east_europe_en.htm

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