

Newsletter

Focus

An EU Budget fit for purpose



Dear Reader,

Yet again the annual budget negotiations are proving very difficult because Council seems reluctant to pay for the political commitments to which they have signed up and particularly for expenses linked to growth and investment. Part of the problem with payments lies in the way the EU budget is financed. That is why reform of Own Resources has been a key demand of Parliament's in the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). In the political agreement on the MFF between Parliament, Council and the Commission reached on 3 July 2013, the creation of a High Level Group on Own Resources was agreed.

Parliament's other key demands were also met, including a revision clause that will allow the MFF ceilings to be revisited in 2016 in the light of the then prevailing economic climate, flexibility in the way the limited resources available can be used, extra help for Parliament's priorities in the fields of youth employment and research policies, Erasmus for all and SMEs, and EUR 1 billion extra aid for the most deprived.

Hopefully the conditions for legislative agreement to the MFF will soon be met, allowing Parliament to vote in time for its entry into force on 1 January 2014. The Policy Department has provided support and expertise throughout the long and difficult negotiations on the MFF.

Alain Lamassoure, MEP
 Chair of the Committee on Budgets

FORTHCOMING STUDIES

Committee	Title	Publication date
CONT	Aspects of durability in the assessment of effectiveness of support for businesses under structural and cohesion funds	Nov. 2013
ECON	Review of the new European system of financial supervision (ESFS)	Nov. 2013
JURI	Study on the application of Brussels I to extra-EU disputes	Nov. 2013
REGI	An assessment of multilevel governance in cohesion policy 2007-2013	Jan./Feb. 2014
AFET	Parliamentary regulatory cooperation in the aftermath of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership	March 2014

Link to the studies: www.europarl.europa.eu/studies

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Barcelona targets revisited FEMM
 Workshop

25 November 2013 - 16:00 to 18:30 - ASP1G2

Invasive alien species ENVI
 Workshop

17 December 2013 - 12:30 to 15:30

Afghanistan and Central Asia: prospects and challenges after withdrawal of NATO/ISAF Forces AFET
 High Level Conference

18 December 2013 - 09:00 to 15:30 - JAN 4Q1

How can regional and cohesion policies tackle demographic challenges? REGI
 Study presentation

18 December 2013 - 15:00 to 18:30 - PHS 3C050



[More workshops](#)

“FACT SHEETS

The new Fact Sheets on the European Union, providing an overview of the European integration process and the European Parliament's role in this development, are now online. They are updated regularly by experts working in all five policy departments.



[Link to the Fact Sheets](#) ”

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SELECTION OF NEW STUDIES

The income of fully self-financed agencies and the EU budget

Policy Department on Budgetary Affairs

September 2013



This study analyses the determination of fees, the treatment of budgetary surpluses and the discharge procedure of the two fully self-financed EU agencies, namely the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) and the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trade Marks and Designs) (OHIM). It describes the current legal situation, discusses issues such as governance structures and rules on fee determination and the treatment of surpluses. Furthermore it presents and examines current proposals for review of the existing rules and procedures.



Turkey-Armenia relations

Policy Department on External Policies

October 2013



The two protocols signed by the Armenian and Turkish foreign ministers in Zurich in October 2009 addressed the twin issues of establishing diplomatic relations and reopening the closed border. They offered a strategic roadmap to “normalise” relations as a first step toward the broader process of reconciliation. Since the signing of the protocols, however, the “normalisation” process has dramatically stalled, with official state-level engagement suspended. During this period, each side has retreated to their previously hard-line positions.



European historical memory: policies, challenges and perspectives

Policy Department on Structural and Cohesion Policies

September 2013



This note seeks to provide some reflections on the challenges, current policies and possible future prospects of “historical memory” in a European context. Based on acknowledging the complex nature of collective memories in general and shared European historical remembrance in particular, including their susceptibility to political instrumentalisation, it is argued that a critical “culture of remembrance” needs to be developed. Such a culture requires increased efforts for nation states to come to terms with their own respective pasts in an unbiased way, yet at the same time embracing common European principles and values. In this context, the vital role of education as a tool to create an informed historical consciousness is emphasised, which provides the basis for dealing confidently not only with Europe’s past, but also present and future.



Empowerment of Roma women within the European framework of national Roma inclusion strategies

Policy Department on Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs

September 2013



This study focuses on the concept of empowerment of Romani women to analyse the existing living conditions of Romani women, interpret the national Roma inclusion strategy and to scrutinise good practices. The analysis shows that the present living conditions of Romani women in European Member States call for intervention. Romani women’s empowerment and gender mainstreaming approaches have to be fostered in National Roma Inclusion Strategies.



The role and activities of employment agencies

Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policy

June 2013



This study analyses the role of employment agencies as well as their legal framework (WTO, ILO, EU) in selected countries. Its focus lies on temporary work agencies, a significantly growing market within the EU. Due to limited data, there is no clear-cut result on the agencies’ longer-term impact. However, the four identified market types (market driven, social dialogue based, legislator driven and emerging markets) show that there is a wide diversity of the branch, which needs to be taken into account when reviewing EU Directive 2008/104/EC.



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