



Newsletter

Focus

Significant input: Need for better Single Market information



Dear Reader,

As Chair of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection I greatly appreciate the Policy Department's contribution to our work. Briefings, studies and workshops have provided useful input for many of our legislative projects, whether on core policy principles as in the case of the Concessions Directive, or on highly technical subjects like the Classification of Water Craft.

Expertise can also provide food for thought and inform own-initiative reports: Our study on points of contact, presented in committee last week, provides clear insight into the need for a more integrated and better functioning source of Single Market information for businesses and consumers. Our forthcoming initiative report will draw heavily on this very significant research.

Malcolm Harbour CBE MEP
 Chair of Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee

FORTHCOMING STUDIES

Committee	Title	Publication date
ENVI	Potential Implications of the EU-US Trade and Investment Partnership on Areas of Environmental, Public Health and Food Safety Regulation	October 2013
REGI	Financial Engineering Instruments in Cohesion Policy	July 2013
LIBE	The Commission's legislative proposals on "Smart borders"	October 2013
BUDG	The strategic impact and cost-effectiveness of EU budget support with regard to supporting democratic transitions in Southern Mediterranean countries: case studies	September 2013
SEDE	Comparing the national security and defence strategies / reviews of the EU Member States	September 2013

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Product Safety and Market Surveillance package

IMCO

Workshop
 11 July 2013 - 10:00 to 12:30 - PHS 7C50

Legal aspects of free and open source software

JURI

Workshop
 9 July 2013 - 15:30 to 18:00 - JAN 4Q1

The proposal for a Common European Sales Law: the way forward

JURI

Workshop
 10 July 2013 - 09:30 to 13:00 - JAN 4Q1
[Link to the programme](#)

Preparation of the autumn 2013 regional elections in Russia

AFET

Workshop
 3 July 2013 - 15:00 -16:30 - LOW N1.3
[Link to the programme](#)

The implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy

SEDE

Workshop
 10 July 2013 - 11:00 -13:00 - JAN 6Q2

[More workshops](#)



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SELECTION OF NEW STUDIES

European Single Point of Contact

Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policy

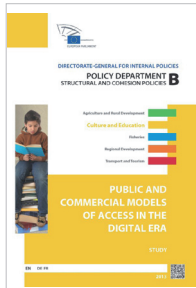


The Single Market remains beset by gaps in information among businesses and consumers, as well as in the implementation and application of its rules by the various actors. Awareness and understanding of existing online support services are generally low, and not helped by the large number of such services at European, national and lower levels. A common platform providing a single point of entry to these services could help improve citizens' perception and understanding of the value of Single Market rules and EU action.



Public and Commercial Models of Access in the Digital Era

Policy Department on Structural and Cohesion Policies

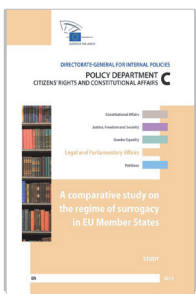


This study provides an overview of the status and potential evolution of how content is delivered to the wider public in Europe, including the experience of the public sector and commercial providers. On the basis of problems and causes identified, a series of recommendations are made to respond to the challenges of the digital era regarding access to content in Europe.



A Comparative Study on the Regime of Surrogacy in EU Member States

Policy Department on Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs

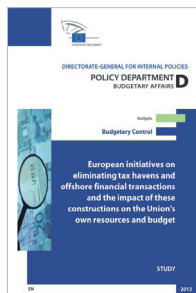


This study provides a preliminary overview of the wide range of policy concerns relating to surrogacy as a practice at national, European and global level. It undertakes an extensive examination of national legal approaches to surrogacy. It also analyses existing European Union law and the law of the European Convention of Human Rights to determine what obligations and possibilities surround national and transnational surrogacy. The study concludes that it is impossible to indicate a particular legal trend across the EU, however all Member States appear to agree on the need for a child to have clearly defined legal parents and civil status.



European initiatives on eliminating tax havens and offshore financial transactions and the impact of these constructions on the Union's own resources and budget

Policy Department on Budgetary Affairs

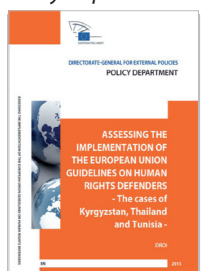


This study reviews the impact of tax havens, secrecy jurisdiction, and similar structures on the EU. It concludes that the availability of these structures constrains the EU budget and undermines the fiscal recovery of EU Member States. They distort markets by conferring advantages on large companies that engage in transfer pricing. The study recommends the development of objectively verifiable criteria to identify high risk jurisdictions, combined with mandatory country by country reporting by multinational companies operating in the EU.



Assessing the implementation of the European Union guidelines on human rights defenders

Policy Department on External Policies



In 2012 the EU launched its Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy including some benchmarked actions to take on behalf of human rights defenders (HRDs) and preparing human rights country strategies (HRCS). To ensure effective implementation of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders across European missions and join it up with the HRCS process the EU should mainstream knowledge of the Guidelines throughout EU sections and missions, show more consideration for HRDs and ensure attention to the most vulnerable HRDs.

