



Newsletter

Focus

Research and Expertise for Better Law-Making



Dear Reader,

In an increasingly complex and multifaceted global environment, effective legislation depends on high-quality and impartial expertise that is governed by rigorous standards of excellence. Such expertise is provided by our Policy Departments, whose work has proved to be invaluable for the EP in general and the CULT Committee in particular. This is especially true for 2013, which was challenging for the Committee, with three major European programmes for the period 2014-2020 (Erasmus+, Creative Europe and Europe for Citizens) on the agenda.

The research of the Policy Departments is characterised by its encompassing nature: the Departments do not only provide crucial input for on-going legislative projects, but also serve as a scholarly think tank, identifying key areas and issues of possible European political action in the future. Thus, they underpin the EP's claim of playing more than just a reactive role in the EU's institutional framework.

Doris Pack, MEP
 Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Reboosting the Mediation Directive **JURI**
 Presentation of external study
 20 January 2014 - time tbc - PHS 4B001

Measures at farm level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from EU agriculture **AGRI**
 Workshop
 21 January 2014 - 15:00 to 17:00 - room tbc

New approaches to nuclear disarmament **SEDE**
 Workshop
 21 January 2014 - time and room tbc

Cigarette smuggling - Illicit tobacco trade and its impact on the EU **CONT**
 Workshop
 22 January 2014 - 09:10 to 12:30 - ASP 5G3

Discrimination in healthcare **ENVI**
 Workshop
 22 January 2014 - 12:30 to 14:45 - PHS 7C050

[More workshops](#)



FORTHCOMING STUDIES

Committee	Title	Publication date
IMCO	Consumer protection aspects of financial services	January 2014
DEVE	Mali: economic factors behind the crisis	January 2014
JURI	Comparative study on the law and practice of selected Member States with respect to contractual arrangements applicable to creators	February 2014
REGI	An assessment of multilevel governance in cohesion policy 2007-2013	February 2014
BUDG	How do Member States handle contributions to the EU budget in their own national budgets?	April 2014

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

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SELECTION OF NEW STUDIES

European Capitals of Culture: success strategies and long-term effects

Policy Department on Structural and Cohesion Policies

November 2013



The European City/Capital of Culture Programme was launched in 1985. Since then, the title has been awarded to nearly 60 cities in 30 countries. The Programme has become a key platform for city positioning and a catalyst for economic and cultural regeneration. This report documents common approaches and success strategies, highlights the strongest claims of long-term effect and analyses recurrent challenges that limit the Programme's ability to reach its full potential.



The European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought 1988-2013 - a quarter century's engagement in human rights

Policy Department on External Policies

December 2013



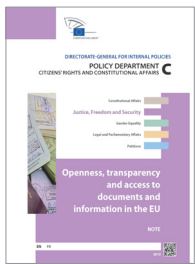
The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, which celebrates its 25th anniversary, stands out among other initiatives as the best-known and most widely appreciated instrument of the European Parliament in the field of human rights. This study builds upon empirical research on the personal and political circumstances of Sakharov Prize laureates, as well as on the political impact of the prize in different countries, to suggest concrete ways to further enhance the Prize's impact.



Openness, transparency and access to documents and information in the European Union

Policy Department on Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs

November 2013



The Treaty of Lisbon updates the terms under which the principles of transparency and openness clarify the right of public access to documents in the European Union. This right is both a fundamental right of individuals and an institutional principle. The revision of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, which sets out the arrangements for this, is influenced, to a large extent, by the numerous interpretations from the Court of Justice of the European Union, particularly during the last five years. Observation of the practice followed by the EU institutions and the broad lines of the practices followed nationally indicate that EU law needs to undergo extensive revision, with the aim of both leveraging the case law experience acquired and bringing itself up to date.



The employment and social situation in Greece

Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policy

October 2013



This briefing note provides an overview of the social and employment situation in Greece following the financial and economic crisis, as well as an overview of the policies put forward as a response to it in the areas of employment, poverty and social exclusion. A special section in the report is allocated to the priorities of the Greek presidency of the Council. The last section addresses currently important issues in employment and social affairs.



The strategic impact and cost-effectiveness of EU budget support with regard to supporting democratic transitions in southern Mediterranean countries - (Synthesis Report) (Country Reports)

Policy Department on Budgetary Affairs

October 2013



To what extent has the EU budget support provided to Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria changed due to the Arab Spring? To what extent has the EU budget support contributed to the democratic transitions in those countries? This study provides some insights on these strategic questions together with information on i) how the European Parliament resolutions have been translated into budget support, ii) how the monitoring and reporting systems have been organised and iii) how respect of human rights have been taken into account in the budget support programme.

