

# Newsletter

## Focus

### Eliminating violence against women as a top policy priority



Dear Reader,

The International Women's Day is an annual event to discuss topical issues related to women's rights and gender equality with Members of national parliaments. This year, on 5 March, we will address the prevention of violence against women as a challenge for all. On the basis of the findings of the biggest ever survey on violence against women carried out by the Fundamental Rights Agency, we will explore strategic action to remove all forms of violence and discrimination based on sex.

During the year, with the support of the Policy Department, FEMM creates other opportunities to increase the salience of this topic on the political agenda. With studies like "The overview of the worldwide best practices for rape prevention and for assisting women victims of rape", FEMM can broaden the knowledge base and enhance communication on the need to combat violence against women with a view to a positive implementation of the corresponding legislative own-initiative report.

*Mikael Gustafsson, MEP  
 Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### European citizens' initiative

PETI

Presentation of interim study  
 10 February 2014 - 15:30 - PHS 4B001

### Inland fisheries and the Common Fisheries Policy

PECH

Study presentation  
 11 February 2014 - 11:30 - room tbc

### Towards a European cancer information system

ENVI

Workshop  
 12 February 2014 - 12:30 to 14:45 - ASP 1E2

### Psychiatry as a tool for coercion in Post-Soviet countries

AFET

DROI

Study presentation  
 20 March 2014 - time and room tbc

### More workshops



## FORTHCOMING STUDIES

Committee	Title	Publication date
AFET DEVE	The implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES)	February 2014
ECON	Proceedings of the workshop on "The Monday effect - fuel price manipulation?"	February 2014
FEMM	Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls from a European Union perspective	March 2014
BUDG	Partly self-financed EU agencies and the principle of fee-setting	April 2014
TRAN	Improving the concept of 'motorways of the sea'	April 2014

Link to the studies: [www.europarl.europa.eu/studies](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/studies)

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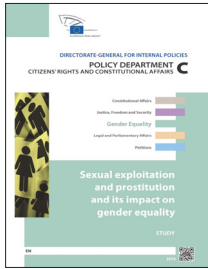


## SELECTION OF NEW STUDIES

### Sexual exploitation and prostitution and its impact on gender equality

Policy Department on Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs

January 2014



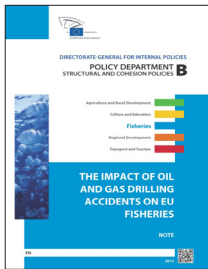
The objective of this briefing paper is to provide background information drawn from the international literature on sexual exploitation and prostitution and its impact on gender equality in relation to a report of the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee. The study concentrates on the debate on whether prostitution could be voluntary or has rather to be regarded in any case as a violation of women's human rights. It also presents an overview of the policies on prostitution in the Member States as well as four case studies: Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden. Conclusions are presented with the view to enhance the debate.



### The impact of oil and gas drilling accidents on EU fisheries

Policy Department on Structural and Cohesion Policies

January 2014



Accidents occurring offshore in relation to the Oil and Gas (O&G) industry may produce significant damaging effects on the marine environment and particularly on the fishing and aquaculture industries. The economic cost of the impact that major offshore accidents have on fisheries is most frequently assessed with the Social Cost method, accepted by the current international compensation framework. The cost of the impact of minor incidents is evaluated by the compensation mechanism and is therefore known by the value of settled claims. Recently approved European legislation aims to maximize safety conditions in all stages of the offshore O&G industry, minimizing the number of incidents and alleviating harmful impacts to the environment.



### Modernising ODA in the framework of the post-MDG agenda: challenges and opportunities

Policy Department on External Policies

January 2014



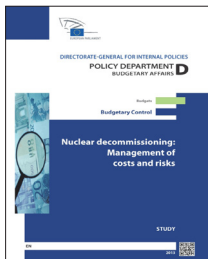
The year 2015 marks an important milestone in international development cooperation. It is the deadline both for the achievement of the current Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as the European Union's (EU) formal undertaking to collectively commit 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) to Official Development Assistance (ODA). At the same time, a new development framework will be adopted in 2015, which will set the international community's development agenda until 2030.



### Nuclear decommissioning: management of costs and risks

Policy Department on Budgetary Affairs

November 2013



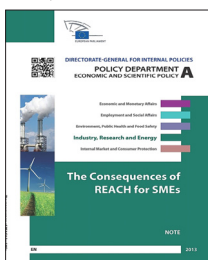
The decommissioning of former Soviet Union nuclear reactors in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia is financially supported by the European Commission. This study analyses the best practice of selected decommissioning projects and contrasts those with the management in the three eastern European cases. Best practices are identified in Germany and France. Comparison with the three eastern European countries documented several areas where the process organisation should be urgently improved and a clearer attribution of responsibilities is required.



### The consequences of REACH for SMEs

Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policy

October 2013



The Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) is a very demanding system for any business, large or small. Based on a review of the literature and a set of interviews with a sample of firms, this note examines the consequences of the REACH legislation for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) since its entry into force in June 2007. It looks at impacts on the internal organisation of firms (including human resources), on strategy and on business activities. It also assesses the experience of SMEs with available support and the perceived added value of REACH for SMEs.

