

Newsletter

Focus

EU's Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) - strategic dialogue with the European Parliament



Dear Reader,

In the context of the new Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) (2014-2020) the European Commission made a declaration on conducting a Strategic Dialogue with the European Parliament. This is important as it allows the Parliament an early involvement in the key decision-making process before the programming documents are finalised.

Since January, the DEVE Committee has been engaged in this Strategic Dialogue with the Commission, the EEAS and civil society. It has been an intense process in which DG EXPO's Policy Department provided vital expertise and support. The Strategic Dialogue has not only given the Parliament a say on important strategic considerations of the DCI programming, but is also a firm basis for the next legislature to conduct a democratic scrutiny and review process of this instrument.

*Eva Joly, MEP
 Chair of the Committee on Development*

FACT SHEETS ON THE EU

The Fact Sheets provide an overview of European integration and of the European Parliament's contribution to that process. They cover six main themes:

- how the European Union works;
- citizens' Europe;
- the internal market;
- the economic and monetary union;
- sectoral policies; and
- the EU's external relations.

The online version is reviewed and updated regularly throughout the year.



All Fact Sheets:
www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Committee	Title	Publication date
AFET	How to feed EU's energy needs? The effects of the Ukrainian crisis on energy security	April 2014
BUDG	EU budget and national budgets: facts, figures and impact	April 2014
CULT	Communicating Europe to its citizens: state of affairs and prospects	May 2014
ECON	State aid to banks and credit to SMEs: is there a need for conditionality?	May 2014
JURI	Handbook on the incompatibilities and immunity of the Members of the European Parliament	May 2014

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

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SELECTION OF NEW PUBLICATIONS

The European Parliament's role in relation to human rights in trade and investment agreements

Policy Department on External Policies

February 2014



The EU has included human rights clauses in its international trade and cooperation agreements since the early 1990s. They permit a party to a trade agreement to adopt 'appropriate measures' in the event that the other party violates human rights or democratic principles. This study reviews the design and operation of these clauses in light of the EU's new competences and the European Parliament's new powers under the Lisbon Treaty. It concludes with recommendations for future human rights clauses, and discusses legal and practical issues relating to their implementation.



The policy on gender equality in Italy

Policy Department on Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs

March 2014



Upon request of the FEMM committee, this note provides an overview of the existing gender-equality legislation and policies in Italy, focussing on their recent developments and achievements in the last decades. It discusses gender equality in employment, reconciliation of work and family life, presence of women in decision-making positions, recent measures to fight violence against women, and health and reproductive rights. Italy is still far from reaching satisfactory results, in spite of relevant progress under the pressure of women's movement, civil society and European legislation.



The obligation to land all catches - consequences for the Mediterranean

Policy Department on Structural and Cohesion Policies

March 2014



The high level of discards in Europe was identified by the Commission as one of the structural weaknesses of the Common Fisheries Policy. The new CFP introduces, on a gradual basis, the obligation to land discards. However, the landing obligation of regulated species in the EU Mediterranean is raising some concerns about its effective implementation. This report assesses the consequences of the discard ban in the Mediterranean and provides recommendations on tackling the problem of juvenile catches.



'Gold-plating' in the EAFRD: to what extent do national rules unnecessarily add to complexity and, as a result, increase the risk of errors?

Policy Department on Budgetary Affairs

February 2014



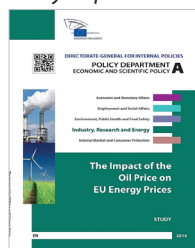
The study gives a description and some examples of gold-plating found in the different phases of programming and implementation for the countries studied (AT, BG, CZ, ES, IT, PL, PT). It concludes that actors involved need to be selective and target measures while keeping procedures simple. Supporting capacity building, coordination and cooperation, as well as identification of areas of excessive regulation and reducing excessive documentation requests are among the recommendations for long term solutions to the problems identified.



The impact of the oil price on EU energy prices

Policy Department on Economic and Scientific Policy

February 2014



Oil prices have increased considerably over the past years at global level, while natural gas and other energy prices have seen differing developments in each world region. The European Commission, the European Parliament, and the European Council have recently expressed their concerns about high energy prices in Europe, while emphasizing that both affordability and sustainability are equally crucial. The present report examines the level of impact of high oil prices on European energy prices and analyses the underlying mechanisms. Policy options to reduce this impact are discussed.

