



EUROBULLETIN

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Pros, advantages and obligations resulting from EU membership

Structured dialogue on possible suspension of structural funds for Spain and Portugal

On Monday, 3 October 2016, the Committee on Regional Development and Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, as part of the structured dialogue, hold an extraordinary joint meeting in which Vice-President Jyrki Katainen and Commissioner Corina Crețu present the Commission's plans regarding the possible suspensions of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds). In July, the Council found that Spain and Portugal had not taken effective action to reduce their deficits below the EU's reference value. Consequently, the Commission was invited to present a proposal to suspend European Structural and Investment Funds in the two Member States, after having a structured dialogue with the European Parliament ([Read more](#))

Commission Approves €60 Million Public Support for Environmentally Friendly Buses and Related Infrastructure in Portugal

The European Commission has found Portuguese plans to support the purchase of low-emission buses for public infrastructure in urban areas to be in line with EU state aid rules. The measure contributes to reducing CO2 emissions while limiting distortions of competition in the Single Market. ([Read more](#))

Introduction to EU law

Return and readmission: Council adopts a uniform European travel document

On 13 October 2016, the Council adopted a regulation that establishes a uniform European travel document for the return of illegally staying third-country nationals (European travel document for return), in particular its format, security features and technical specifications. ([Read more](#))

Introduction to EU institutions and their functioning

Legislative Train: new tool for checking progress on Commission priorities

The Legislative Train schedule shows when a piece of legislation arrives at the Parliament. It's also possible to see which proposals are blocked and where. Clicking on a carriage reveals all details about a proposal, such as the priority it is linked to and the MEP responsible for steering it through Parliament. The tool is limited to the plans outlined in the Commission's working programme, so does not cover all EU legislation dealt with by Parliament. ([Read more](#))

General development of the EU

EU budget: "We have to deal with the problem caused by Brexit"

The UK's decision to leave the Union will already affect the EU's budget for next year. "There has already been an unforeseeable situation and now we have to deal with this problem," said Jens Geier, the MEP who will negotiate on behalf of the Parliament regarding the bulk of the EU's budget for 2017. MEPs will vote on Parliament's position in plenary on 26 October. We talked to the German S&D member about how Brexit is affecting the budget and the upcoming negotiations with the Council. ([Read more](#))

Climate change: Council adopts decision for EU ratification of Paris Agreement

On 4 October 2016, the Council adopted the decision on the EU ratification of the Paris Agreement. This agreement sets the framework for global action on climate change. The agreement will enter into force 30 days after the ratification by at least 55 countries accounting for at least 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions. So far 63 countries have ratified, accounting for 52.11% of global emissions ([Read more](#))

Decentralized management of EU funds

Eur 1 Billion Mark Reached as the Eu Steps Up Support for Micro-Entrepreneurs

Since the EU started its microfinance initiatives, more than 100 agreements have been signed with microfinance providers, to support over 100,000 micro-entrepreneurs in 23 EU member states. This cooperation between the European Investment Fund (EIF), the European Commission, and microfinance providers aims to mobilise over EUR 1 billion of microfinance loans for micro-borrowers across the EU under Progress Microfinance and the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). Target borrowers include unemployed micro-entrepreneurs, young self-employed. ([Read more](#))

More funds needed for young people and jobs in 2017 to honour EU's pledges, say MEPs

Parliament demanded more funds, to help young people into jobs, boost economic growth and assist third countries with a view to mitigating the migration crisis ([Read more](#))

Cohesion Policy Funds Invest in Sustainable Transport in Hungary

The Commission has approved a major project, with a contribution of EUR 30 million from the Cohesion Fund to improve the railway connection between Budapest and Székesfehérvár, in central Hungary. The project, which started in the 2007-2013 period, aims to modernise railway line n°30, on the Mediterranean corridor of the Trans-European Transport Networks. This line connects Hungary to Slovenia and the Mediterranean region, and is an important international transport route for both freight and passengers. ([Read more](#))

Multi-level governance

Local and regional authorities to build partnerships for work-based learning and apprenticeship

The call support partnerships between local or regional authorities, vocational education and training providers and small, medium or large enterprise or chamber or other sectoral/professional organisation. The total budget available for projects is EUR 6 million and the deadline for the submission of proposals is 17 January 2017. ([Read more](#))

New Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies

The Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies is a collaborative effort by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy and the European Committee of the Regions. It will offer a single point of access to data, policy analysis, interactive tools and methods for policy makers, scientists and other stakeholders. ([Read more](#))

Introduction to different sector policies

Commission puts forward commitments to reach global targets in sustainable urban development

In the context of the U.N. Habitat III conference, the European Commission has presented three commitments to meet the New Urban Agenda's global objectives. The New Urban Agenda, adopted at the U.N. Habitat III Conference taking place this week in Quito, contains guidelines to make cities all over the world more inclusive, green, safe and prosperous. It is a cornerstone in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other milestone reform agendas, in particular Paris Agreement. ([Read more](#))

Introduction to different negotiation chapters

Memo: 2016 EU Transport Scoreboard

The 2016 edition of the EU Transport Scoreboard compares Member State performance in 30 transport-related categories and highlights the five top and bottom performers in each of these categories. An interactive viewer makes it possible to track Member State progress over time and to compare the performance of two or more Member States as regards individual indicators. ([Read more](#))

Annual Competition Policy Report

The Report on Competition policy, published annually, provides detailed information on the most important policy and legislatives, and on decisions adopted by the European Commission in application of the EU competition law during the previous year. ([Read more](#))

September 2016-Annual Inflation Up To 0.4% In The Euro Area-and EU

Euro area annual inflation was 0.4% in September 2016, up from 0.2% in August. In September 2015 the rate was -0.1%. European Union annual inflation was also 0.4% in September 2016, up from 0.3% in August. A year earlier the rate was -0.1%. ([Read more](#))

The 3rd pillar devoted to police and judicial cooperation

MEPs press for a comprehensive and fair asylum system

According to EU border agency Frontex the total number of detections of illegal crossings in the EU external borders reached 1.83 million in 2015 (compared to 283,500 the year before) although it should be noted that a person can illegally cross an external border more than once and thus may be counted more than once too. ([Read more](#))

Promotion of EU upcoming events and news

5th Annual Forum of the EU macro regional Strategy for the Danube Region

03/11/2016 - 04/11/2016

Bratislava, Slovakia

The 5th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), jointly organised by the Slovak Republic (holding the current Presidency of the EUSDR) and the European Commission (Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, DG REGIO and Directorate-General of the Joint Research Center, DG JRC) will officially be open on 3th November 2016 at 13:45. ([Read more](#))

7th Strategy Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

08/11/2016 - 09/11/2016

Stockholm, Sweden

800 stakeholders from all around the Baltic Sea region will gather to discuss the future of the region within a 2030 perspective. We expect two inspiring days to discuss the development and cooperation in the Baltic Sea region on a wide range of themes. More than 50 sessions and seminars will gather key persons and drivers of change from business, politics and civil society. ([Read more](#))

New Pressures on Cities and Regions

24/11/2016 - 25/11/2016

London, United Kingdom

This conference provides an intellectual and policy-relevant platform for scholars around the world to address the new and emerging challenges facing cities and regions. The global economic slowdown poses major concerns to many territories – through shortfalls in employment, household incomes, corporate profitability and tax revenues. ([Read more](#))

UDN seminar Urban Mobility

23/11/2016

Brussel, Belgium

The European Commission is organising an Urban Development Network to Brussels bring together cities to exchange knowledge and experiences in Smart, Innovative & Sustainable urban mobility. Participants will learn about the state of the art in innovative and tested urban transport modern solutions, shared mobility, walking and cycling, and new mobility services. ([Read more](#))

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