



EUROBULLETIN

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EU integration process in CEE countries

Joint statement by High Representatives on key measures on Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU path

The agreements reached this weekend in Bosnia and Herzegovina - on the coordination mechanism and on the decision to proceed with an IMF programme - are very welcome news. With them, the country's leadership, at all levels, has further demonstrated its commitment to the EU integration path of the country, in line with their citizens' expectations.

The coordination mechanism aims at improving the country's policy coordination and implementation, including as regards EU financial assistance, as well as ensuring better interaction with the EU. The decision to proceed with an IMF programme will provide crucial support for the implementation of the Reform Agenda, a comprehensive set of socio-economic, rule of law and public administration reforms. [\(Read more\)](#)

Pros, advantages and obligations resulting from EU membership

Simplification of the implementation of Cohesion Policy is the means not the end

The process for using the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) is getting more complicated not just with every programming period, but virtually every year. For this reason, I very much welcome the fact that the European Commission has started to seriously tackle simplification and to this end has not only set up a high-level group (HLG), but has also invited the other partners to debate the issue. Part of the simplification process has to be a focus on making the fundamental idea and spirit of cohesion policy as such a reality, and this should be a regional policy. [\(Read more\)](#)

General development of the EU

Hollande tries to bring together Europe's South

At a meeting of socialist leaders yesterday (25 August), French President François Hollande pleaded against the rise of populism. He also announced his participation in another summit of the EU's southern countries in Athens, on 9 September. [\(Read more\)](#)

Introduction to EU institutions and their functioning

EU's 2017 budget: Parliament starts drawing up its position

The Commission has proposed an EU budget of €134.9 billion in payments and €157.7 billion in commitments for next year.. However, the Council wants to cut the budget for commitments by €1.3 billion in commitments (-0.81%) and for payments by €1.1 billion (-0,82%). According to the Parliament, the budget priorities should continue to be tackling the migration crisis while helping the economic recovery. [\(Read more\)](#)

Introduction to EU law

Report from the Commission on the application of Directive 2008/52/EC on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters

The directive seeks to facilitate access to alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and to promote the amicable settlement of disputes, by encouraging the use of mediation and by ensuring a sound relationship between mediation and judicial proceedings. It applies in cross-border disputes to civil and commercial matters and had to be transposed into national law by 21 May 2011. This evaluation of the application of the Directive is carried out in accordance with Article 11 of the Directive. [\(Read more\)](#)

Decentralized management of EU funds

State aid: Commission approves support schemes for renewable energy in Luxembourg and Malta

The European Commission has found plans by Luxembourg and Malta to support power generation from renewable sources to be in line with EU state aid rules. The schemes will increase electricity produced from renewable sources, in line with EU energy objectives, without unduly distorting competition. The Luxembourg scheme introduces premium payments to support operators of wind, solar, biogas, hydropower and biomass installations. The total budget of the measure will be approximately €150 million, allocated between 2016 and 2020. [\(Read more\)](#)

State aid: Commission approves hydropower and biogas support schemes in Czech Republic

The European Commission has found that two Czech schemes to support electricity and heat production from hydropower and biogas are in line with EU state aid rules. The schemes will increase energy produced from renewable sources, in line with EU objectives, without unduly distorting competition. The two measures will encourage the deployment of renewable energy installations and help the Czech Republic achieve its 2020 renewable energy targets. [\(Read more\)](#)

Commission proposes fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea for 2017

The proposal is based on the recently adopted multiannual fisheries management plan for the Baltic Sea, and takes into consideration scientific advice received in May 2016. The Commission proposes to increase catch limits for 6 out of 10 fish stocks (Western, Bothnian and Central herring, sprat, plaice and main basin salmon) and to decrease catch limits for 2 stocks (Gulf of Riga herring and Gulf of Finland salmon). [\(Read more\)](#)

Multi-level governance

Interview with Jeremy Rifkin: "We have to invest in smart and sustainable regions and cities"

In 2014 Mr Rifkin published his latest book, *The Zero Marginal Cost Society: The Internet of Things, the Collaborative Commons, and the Eclipse of Capitalism*. In 2011, Jeremy Rifkin published the New York Times bestseller *The Third Industrial Revolution*, which captured the attention of the world. Mr Rifkin's vision of a sustainable, post-carbon economic era has been endorsed by the European Union and the United Nations. Mr Rifkin is the principle architect of the European Union's Third Industrial Revolution long-term economic sustainability plan to address the triple challenge of the global economic crisis, energy security, and climate change. ([Read more](#))

Introduction to different negotiation chapters

Towards better social statistics for a social Europe

The European Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation on new, integrated ways to collect and use data from social surveys so as to better support policy making in general and social policy in particular. The proposed framework Regulation will allow data to be published faster, as it reduces the transmission deadlines in a number of areas. It will also increase the comparability and coherence of EU social statistics, by bringing together seven existing household surveys that are currently carried out in the EU. ([Read more](#))

Review of Directive 2006/1/EC on the use of hired vehicles for the carriage of goods by road. Consultation period until 4/11/2016

This consultation will last for 12 weeks. Questionnaires should be returned by 4 November 2016 at the very latest. All citizens and organisations are welcome to contribute to this consultation. The consultation can particularly be of interest for citizens or undertakings using road transport services in their activity, road transport workers and companies engaged in the transport chain. It can also be of particular interest for regional, national or international public authorities and other organisations directly involved in the road transport sector. ([Read more](#))

Commission publishes Strategy for low-emission mobility

The Commission presented on 20 July 2016 a package of measures to accelerate the transition to low-carbon emissions in all sectors of the economy in Europe. As concerns transport, the Commission's "Strategy for low-emission mobility" sets clear guiding principles to prepare for the future. It frames the initiatives that the Commission is planning in the coming years, and it maps the areas in which it is exploring options. It also shows how initiatives in related fields are linked and how synergies can be achieved. ([Read more](#))

EU and UNICEF widen partnership to better protect child rights in South-East Europe

The European Union (EU) and UNICEF have broadened an important regional partnership that aims to protect children from violence and better include children with disabilities into society. Since 2011, UNICEF and the EU have been working together with countries currently in the process of joining the EU, such as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Turkey. This partnership is now expanding to include Kosovo*, Montenegro, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. ([Read more](#))

Verheugen: more specific car emission rules

Former Commissioner Verheugen argued that as Commissioner for industry his main responsibility was to keep the EU car industry globally leading and competitive, with rules best suited for technological development, including pollutants' limits. He relied on experts for the drafting of the directives on Euro 5 (on particles) and Euro 6 (NOx). It was clear that type approval tests didn't represent real driving conditions and therefore a new test started to be developed in 2007 but no one suspected that manufacturers would cheat using so-called defeat devices. ([Read more](#))

July 2016 - Euro area unemployment at 10.1% - EU28 at 8.6%

The euro area (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.1% in July 2016, stable compared to June 2016 and down from 10.8% in July 2015. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since July 2011. The EU28 unemployment rate was 8.6% in July 2016, stable compared to June 2016 and down from 9.4% in July 2015. This remains the lowest rate recorded in the EU28 since March 2009. These figures are published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.. ([Read more](#))

The 3rd pillar devoted to police and judicial cooperation

EESC delegation to Moscow in support of a continued dialogue with Russian civil society organisations

As the European body representing European organised civil society in the EU legislative process, in line with the guiding principles of the EU's policy towards Russia, and convinced of the need for civil society dialogue between the EU and Russia to remain open at all times, the EESC affirms its continued interest in engaging in people-to-people contacts and in supporting Russian civil society organisations representing different and diverse interests and views. ([Read more](#))

Introduction to different sector policies

First quarter 2016 compared with fourth quarter 2015- 15% of unemployed persons in the EU found a job

Out of all persons in the European Union (EU) who were unemployed in the fourth quarter 2015, 65.7% (13.0 million persons) remained unemployed in the first quarter 2016, while 15.4% (3.0 million) moved into employment and 18.9% (3.7 million) towards economic inactivity in Q1 2016. ([Read more](#))

Promotion of EU upcoming events and news

1st Summit of the Blue Economy Business and Science Forum

12 - 13/09/2016
Hamburg, Germany
([Read more](#))

Factories of the Future Conference 2016

15 -16/09/2016
Brussels
([Read more](#))

Smart urban mobility: opportunities for cooperation and finance

22/09/2016
Prague, Czech Republic
([Read more](#))

Horizon 2020 InfoDay 'Smart, green and integrated transport'

28/09/2016
Brussels
([Read more](#))

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