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<p>EU integration process in CEE countries</p>	<p>Funding to main migration-related activities in the Western Balkans and Turkey For candidate countries (Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey) and potential candidates (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo), the EU provides both financial and technical support. The aim of this support is to help the beneficiaries make political and economic reforms and to help them meet the obligations necessary for membership of the EU. This is done primarily through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-5535_en.htm</p>
<p>Pros, advantages and obligations resulting from EU membership</p>	<p>Budgetary measures under the European Agenda on Migration Days after the College of Commissioners presented a set of priority actions to be taken within the next six months to manage the refugee crisis, the European Commission has made a first set of concrete proposals for €1.7 billion of EU funding in 2015 and 2016 in order to address the refugee crisis. The money will provide emergency assistance to the most affected EU Member States http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5729_en.htm</p> <p>Investment Plan for Europe goes global: China announces its contribution At the High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue in Beijing today, China announced its intention to contribute to the Investment Plan, as well as closer cooperation with the EU on investment issues in general. The European Commission and the Chinese government also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the EU-China Connectivity Platform to enhance synergies between China's "One Belt One Road" initiative and the EU's connectivity initiatives such as the Trans-European Transport Network policy. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5723_en.htm</p> <p>Commission approves aid for Finland's first LNG terminal The European Commission has concluded that Finland's plans to grant €23 million of public funding for the construction of a small scale LNG terminal at Pori, in the Satakunta region on Finland's west coast, are compatible with EU state aid rules. The project aims to encourage the use of LNG as fuel for ships, in place of fuel oils and liquefied petroleum gases. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5689_en.htm</p> <p>Budget MEPs approve EU aid for redundant workers in Germany, Belgium and Italy Germany, Belgium and Italy should get over €14.6 million in EU aid to help more than 7,300 workers made redundant by three firms get back on to the job market, following a vote by the budgets committee on Tuesday. The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) aid still needs to be approved by Parliament as a whole and by the Council of the EU. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150929IPR94901/html/Budget-MEPs-approve-EU-aid-for-redundant-workers-in-Germany-Belgium-and-Italy</p>
<p>General development of the EU</p>	<p>Development summit: how to translate ambitious goals into concrete</p>

	<p>proposals World leaders are set to adopt 17 Sustainable Development Goals during the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York on 25-27 September. A delegation from Parliament's Development committee will attend to discuss with a broad range of officials, experts and stakeholders how these goals should then be concretely translated into EU and national policies. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150923STO94355/html/Development-summit-how-to-translate-ambitious-goals-into-concrete-proposals</p> <p>"We will not hesitate to act if inflation outlook weakens", draghi tells meps ECB President Mario Draghi painted a somewhat downbeat picture of economic developments in the Eurozone but assured Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee MEPs that the ECB "will not hesitate to act if some of the downward risks weaken the inflation outlook over the mid-term more fundamentally than we project at present". He hinted at the possibility of adjusting the size, composition and duration of the ECB's asset purchase programme, to add monetary policy impetus if necessary. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150921IPR94090/html/We-will-not-hesitate-to-act-if-inflation-outlook-weakens-Draghi-tells-MEPs</p> <p>Parliament reverses Council cuts to draft 2016 budget, adds funds for migration, jobs, youth Council cuts in EU 2016 budget funding for refugees and agencies dealing with migrants were reversed by Budgets Committee MEPs in votes on Monday and Tuesday. MEPs also added funding for youth employment programmes, the Erasmus + student mobility programme and for research, transport and energy networks. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150929IPR94907/html/EP-adds-funds-for-migration-jobs-youth-to-draft-EU-budget-2016</p>
<p>Introduction to EU institutions and their Functioning</p>	<p>An example to follow": Schulz praises Sweden's refugee policy during visit EP President Martin Schulz praised Sweden's response to the refugee crisis during a visit to the country on Monday 14 September. Migration and the refugee crisis topped the agenda when he met his counterpart Urban Ahlin, the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament. Schulz also had meetings with King Carl XVI Gustaf and with Prime Minister Stefan Löfven. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150915STO93205/html/An-example-to-follow-Schulz-praises-Sweden's-refugee-policy-during-visit</p> <p>Opening: Parliament fast-tracks vote on 120,000 refugee relocation plan An emergency proposal to relocate 120,000 asylum seekers from Greece, Italy and Hungary to other EU member states will be put to a vote, as a matter of urgency. This recourse to the urgency procedure (Rule 154) was proposed by President Schulz and approved in a plenary vote at the opening. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150915IPR93224/html/Opening-Parliament-fast-tracks-vote-on-120000-refugee-relocation-plan</p> <p>Economic policies: how parliament insists on transparency and democratic accountability Parliament, as one of the EU's two legislative bodies, is closely involved in shaping legislation in every field the EU is responsible for, from agriculture to banking. The debt crisis in Greece and scandals involving tax rulings that help multinationals ease</p>

	<p>their tax burden have thrust economic issues into the foreground. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150921STO94067/html/Economic-policies-how-MEPs-insist-on-transparency-and-democratic-accountability</p>
<p>Introduction to EU law</p>	<p>Council approves protocol on trade facilitation The Council adopted a decision approving, on behalf of the EU, the conclusion of a WTO protocol establishing a trade facilitation agreement. The aim is to help smaller businesses exploit export opportunities and to facilitate developing countries' participation in international trade. Http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2015/10/01-wto-trade-facilitation/</p> <p>Roaming and open internet rules adopted by the council The Council formally approved new rules to end mobile roaming charges in the EU as of mid-2017. The new law will also include the first EU-wide provisions to safeguard open internet access. http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2015/10/01-roaming-charges/</p> <p>European Commission statement following the temporary reintroduction of controls by Slovenia at the border with Hungary European Commission received a notification from the Slovenian authorities informing about their intention to temporarily reintroduce controls at the border with Hungary, as of today for an initial period of 10 days. The temporary reintroduction of border controls between Member States is an exceptional possibility explicitly foreseen in and regulated by the Schengen Borders Code, in case of a serious threat to public policy or internal security. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-5667_en.htm?locale=en</p>
<p>Decentralized management of EU funds</p>	<p>Call for evidence: EU regulatory framework for financial services The call for evidence is a public consultation in which the Commission invites all interested parties to provide feedback and empirical evidence on the benefits, unintended effects, consistency and coherence of the financial legislation adopted in response to the financial crisis. The complete list of the issues covered in this public consultation is accessible at the following page: http://ec.europa.eu/finance/consultations/2015/financial-regulatory-framework-review/index_en.htm. All interested parties can submit their contributions by 6 January 2016.</p> <p>Investment plan for Europe goes global: China announces its contribution to #investeu During the High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue in Beijing, Vice-Premier Ma Kai informed Commission Vice-President Jyrki Katainen that China will contribute to the Commission's €315 billion Investment Plan for Europe. China is the first non-EU country to announce its contribution to the Plan. The European Commission and the Chinese government also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the EU-China Connectivity Platform to enhance synergies between China's "One Belt One Road" initiative and the EU's connectivity initiatives such as the Trans-European Transport Network policy. Http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_ip-15-5723_en.htm?locale=en</p> <p>EIB provides EUR 500 million for co-financing projects with EU structural</p>

	<p>funds in Hungary The European Investment Bank (EIB) is granting EUR 500 million, the first tranche of an approved loan amount of EUR 1.5 billion, to Hungary to co-finance priority projects, the EIB loan will back development of the knowledge economy, particularly RDI, higher education and ICT, and on the other it will contribute to improving education and employability, health and social inclusion. http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2015/2015-210-eib-provides-eur-500-million-for-co-financing-projects-with-eu-structural-funds-in-hungary.htm?media=rss&language=en</p> <p>Corina Cretu: Regional policy is now the main European investment tool Corina Cretu, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, discuss the current challenges Europe is facing in supporting jobs and economic growth. She stressed that, 40 years after its creation, regional policy is the most important investment tool of the EU. The new 2014-2020 priorities are research and innovation, the digital agenda, support to SMEs and the low-carbon economy. Regarding green growth, European Union will invest more than EUR 38 billion in the low-carbon economy, which is twice the amount spent during the previous funding period Commissioner Crețu also stressed that we have to cut red tape. http://insideurope.eu/node/596#sthash.gcfqVbPJ.dpuf</p>
<p>Multi-level governance</p>	<p>CORLEAP members meeting in Yerevan set up priorities for the territorial level of the EU's Eastern Partnership The CORLEAP Action Plan for 2016-2017, approved by the Bureau members in Yerevan, defines priorities for further actions regarding decentralisation, capacity building and funding opportunities for local and regional authorities in the Eastern Partnership countries. http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/corleap-yerevan.aspx</p>
<p>Introduction to different negotiation chapters Chapter 1: Free movement of goods Chapter 2: Freedom of movement for workers Chapter 3: Right of establishment and freedom to provide services Chapter 4: Free movement of capital Chapter 5: Public procurement Chapter 6: Company Law Chapter 7: Intellectual property law Chapter 8: Competition Chapter 9: Financial services Chapter 10: Information society and media Chapter 11: Agriculture and rural development Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy Chapter 13: Fisheries Chapter 14: Transport policy Chapter 15: Energy</p>	<p>Environment MEPs vote to curb off-road engine Draft rules to cut emissions of major air pollutants from non-road mobile machinery (NRMM), ranging from lawn mowers to bulldozers, tractors and inland waterway vessels, were backed by Environment Committee MEPs on Tuesday. NRMM engines account for about 15% of all NOx and 5% of particulate emissions in the EU. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150915IPR93225/html/Environment-MEPs-vote-to-curb-off-road-engine-pollution</p> <p>Agricultural crisis: €500m aid package not enough, say meps The Commission's €500 million aid package is a step in the right direction but it might be not enough to get farmers struggling with falling prices back on their feet, many MEPs told Commissioner Phil Hogan in a debate. Crisis management instruments should be improved, and the position of farmers in the food supply chain strengthened, said MEPs. Some also ask the Commission to immediately increase intervention prices to tackle the current crisis. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150915IPR93232/html/Agricultural-crisis-%E2%82%AC500m-aid-package-not-enough-say-MEPs</p> <p>Grammatikakis: the discovery of water on mars reopens the question of life in the universe The sky and stars have always fascinated us and life outside our planet remains one of the great mysteries facing mankind. NASA announced that it has serious evidence</p>

<p>Chapter 16: Taxation Chapter 17: Economic and monetary policy Chapter 18: Statistics Chapter 19: Social policy and employment Chapter 20: Enterprise and industrial policy Chapter 21: Trans-European networks Chapter 22: Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments Chapter 23: Judiciary and fundamental rights Chapter 24: Justice, freedom and security Chapter 25: Research and development Chapter 26: Education and culture Chapter 27: Environment Chapter 28: Consumer and health protection Chapter 29: Customs union Chapter 30: External relations Chapter 31: Foreign, security and defence policy Chapter 32: Financial control Chapter 33: Financial and budgetary provisions</p>	<p>of water on the surface of Mars. We asked MEP and astrophysicist Giorgos Grammatikakis (S&D, Greece), to talk to us about Mars and what this discovery means. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150929STO94927/html/Grammatikakis-Discovery-of-water-on-Mars-reopens-question-of-life-in-universe</p> <p>La via on the car emissions scandal: "we want a real assessment of emissions" Volkswagen, the German car manufacturer, has acknowledged that many millions of its cars sold worldwide have been specially equipped to trick emission tests, so as to appear less polluting. In the European Parliament, the Environment committee deals with emissions legislation. Committee chair, Italian EPP MEP Giovanni La Via, told us in an interview that the affair needs to be thoroughly investigated, rules on emissions toughened and proper oversight ensured at the EU level. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150925STO94603/html/La-Via-on-the-car-emissions-scandal-We-want-a-real-assessment-of-emissions</p> <p>EU Labour mobility: SEDEC members urge European Commission to ensure "fair mobility" and proper enforcement of mobile workers' rights The European Commission has announced it will present a Labour Mobility Package by the end of 2015 so as to support more efficient and fairer labour mobility, and tackle fraud and abuse. The European Commission intends to do so by means of better coordination of social security systems, targeted review of the Posting of Workers Directive and an enhanced EURES - the European job mobility portal. http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/SEDEC-labour-mobility-debate.aspx</p> <p>Committee of the Regions supports European Countryside Movement's call to the European Commission to make proposals on rural development post The White Paper on Rurality was seen as a focal point for the many stakeholders present and a necessary step on the road to making European policies after 2020 better suited to the dynamics of rural areas. http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/pour-un-livre-blanc-de-la-ruralite.aspx</p> <p>European Commission statement on air pollutant car emissions European Commission calls for full disclosure, zero tolerance and strict compliance with EU rules on pollutant emissions. In the wake of revelations that car manufacturer Volkswagen used a "defeat device" software to circumvent emissions standards for certain air pollutants, the Commission calls on national authorities to look into the implications for vehicles sold in Europe and ensure that EU pollutant emission standards are scrupulously respected. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-5713_en.htm</p>
<p>Specific issues relating to the European arrest warrant, Stockholm programme: Europe of rights, Europe of justice, Europe that protects, Access to Europe, Europe of solidarity, Europe in a globalised world Third pillar: the pillar devoted to</p>	<p>Refugee crisis: EU ministers have yet again failed to act, regrets EP Civil Liberties Committee Chair "Member states have yet again failed to make tough decisions and provide a compassionate response to the refugee crisis", said the Chair of the European Parliament's Committee responsible for migration and asylum, Claude Moraes. "We are running out of time - the meeting on 8 October is the EU's final chance to agree an organised response to the biggest refugee crisis since World War II in Europe", he added. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150915IPR93206/html/Refugees-EU-ministers-failed-to-act-says-Civil-Liberties-Committee-Chair</p>

police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, which came under Title VI of the Treaty on European Union
Recognition of professional qualifications

Jacqueline Foster on new rules for drones: 'The key here is to ensure their safe use'

Europe's drones sector offers exciting opportunities for growth, however new rules are needed to ensure they can be used safely, but without deterring investment. The transport committee adopted a report on this on 15 September.
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150916STO93307/html/Foster-on-new-rules-for-drones-'The-key-here-is-to-ensure-their-safe-use>

Migration: Civil liberties committee to debate commission plan for permanent relocation scheme

The civil liberties committee discussed on Tuesday 22 September new proposals by the European Commission to tackle the refugee crisis. Proposed measures include a permanent relocation mechanism, a common EU list of safe countries of origin and an effective return policy.
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150921STO94019/html/Migration-civil-liberties-committee-to-debate-permanent-relocation-scheme>

Refugee crisis: Present and future eu military operations in the mediterranean

The EU military operation against people smugglers in the Mediterranean is about to enter its next phase. After gathering intelligence and setting up the structure, the operation will now focus on arresting traffickers and disabling smugglers vessel.
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150923STO94304/html/Refugee-crisis-present-and-future-EU-military-operations-in-the-Mediterranean>

Sakharov prize: The nominations for 2015 presented

The nominations for Parliament's 2015 Sakharov Prize were formally presented on 28th of September at a joint meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Development committees and the Human Rights subcommittee. The Sakharov prize is awarded every year to honour exceptional individuals who combat intolerance, fanaticism and oppression. The winner will be selected in late October.
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150910STO92624/html/Sakharov-Prize-the-nominations-for-2015-presented>

Introduction to different sector policies (regional policy, trade policy, agricultural policy, social policy).

The state of housing in the EU 2015

"Housing is the foundation for people's lives and their priority among their needs." – With this statement, the policy report on the state of housing in the European Union 2015 stresses the importance prioritising the topic of (affordable) housing. The paper presents developments in the EU housing sector since the beginning of the economic crisis with an overview of national practices, policy gaps and new initiatives.
<http://www.eukn.eu/news/detail/the-state-of-housing-in-the-eu-2015/>

The Inclusive City: Approaches to combat urban poverty and social exclusion in Europe

The European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) presented at the beginning of the Italian Presidency of the EU a report on the socio-economic and spatial dimensions of poverty in Europe. The study provides an overview of urban poverty in the European context and analyses good practices in various European cities.
<http://www.eukn.eu/news/detail/the-inclusive-city-approaches-to-combat-urban-poverty-and-social-exclusion-in-europe-1/>

	<p>Anti-torture rules: Trade meps call for bans on goods marketing and EU transit</p> <p>Goods or substances that may be misused for torture or execution should not be promoted for export, so as to prevent their spread, said the International Trade Committee, voting to strengthen EU "Anti-torture" rules. MEPs want to widen today's EU ban to include services, e.g. marketing in expos or online catalogues, but also finance, transport and insurance. They also want to ban transit of prohibited goods via the EU and add a "catch-all" clause to allow checks on dubious new ones.</p> <p>http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150922IPR94208/html/Anti-torture-rules-Trade-MEPs-call-for-bans-on-goods-marketing-and-EU-transit</p> <p>Cities and regions express their views on the sharing economy, the Trade in Services Agreement and a fair corporate tax system</p> <p>On 29 September, the Commission for Economic Policy (ECON) of the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR) held an external meeting in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, at the invitation of Markus Töns (DE/PES), member of the North Rhine-Westphalia Regional Parliament. On the agenda was the adoption of the draft opinions on the sharing economy, which includes businesses like Uber and Airbnb, on the local and regional dimension of the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) and on proposals for a fair and efficient corporate tax system.</p> <p>http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/cities-and-regions-express-their-views-on-the-sharing-economy-trade-in-services-agreement-and-fair-corporate-tax-system.aspx</p>
<p>Promotion of EU upcoming events and news</p>	<p>Open online course "Regions, EU institutions and decision-making"</p> <p>During its eight thematic weekly chapters, the first opening on 19 October 2015, politicians (including CoR members, MEPs), experts (from the EC) and academics will have their voice on topics of interest for local and regional authorities, such as EU cohesion policy, smart specialization, migration and access to EU programmes, and more.</p> <p>Http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/pages/cor-online-mooc.aspx</p> <p>Greencities & sustainability - Smart solutions to urban sustainability <i>08/10/2015-09/10/2015, Malaga/Spain</i></p> <p>In Green cities & sustainability, we find the latest trends and innovation and sustainability successful cases in the ICT and sustainability forum, the most recent scientific communications in the aula green cities and many workshops, products and services presentations in the GreenLab.</p> <p>Http://www.eukn.eu/events/upcoming-events/detail/greencities-sustainability-smart-solutions-to-urban-sustainability/</p> <p>Cfp: smart city-regional governance symposium <i>08/10/2015-09/10/2015, Brussels/Belgium</i></p> <p>This symposium sets out to explore the meaning and practice of 'smartness' in city-regional governance as it seeks to balance the competing quests for urban international competitiveness, national economic development and societal cohesion. The symposium also marks the decennial of 'Regionalisation Symposia' regularly organised since 2005 by the Centre for Urban and Regional Governance (University of Westminster) and the International City-Regional Policy Network (ICRPoL.Net).</p> <p>Http://www.eukn.eu/events/upcoming-events/detail/cfp-smart-city-regional-governance-symposium/</p> <p>European Week of Regions and Cities - OPEN DAYS 2015 <i>12/10/2015-15/10/2015, Brussels/Belgium</i></p>

For the third time, a Master Class for European PhD students and early-career researchers will be held on EU Cohesion Policy and regional/urban development in Brussels. In parallel with the 13th European Week of Regions and Cities-OPEN DAYS (12-15 October 2015), the Master Class aims at improving the understanding of EU Cohesion Policy and its research potential and in particular

[Http://www.eukn.eu/events/upcoming-events/detail/open-days-2015-master-class-on-eu-cohesion-policy/](http://www.eukn.eu/events/upcoming-events/detail/open-days-2015-master-class-on-eu-cohesion-policy/)

Living cities – sustainable growth and quality of life

EUROCITIES annual conference 2015, Copenhagen/Malmö, 4-6 November 2015

The objective is to reinforce the important role that local governments should play in a multilevel governance structure. EUROCITIES aims to shape the opinions of Brussels stakeholders and ultimately shift the focus of EU legislation in a way which allows city governments to tackle strategic challenges at local level.

<http://www.eurocities.eu/eurocities/events/EUROCITIES-2015-Copenhagen-Malmo->

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