EPRS
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH SERVICE

Selected recent publications

6 February 2018

In the spirit of the co-operation agreement between the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee, the **European Parliamentary Research Service** (EPRS) would like draw to your attention to a selection of its more recent publications, which we hope you will find of use.

EPRS publications fall into four categories: '**At-a-Glance**' notes (which offer a quick overview of a topic), '**Briefings**' (providing a general overview of policies, issues or legislation), and '**In-depth Analyses**' or '**Studies**' (which give a more comprehensive and detailed analysis of policies, issues or legislation).

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This month's highlights

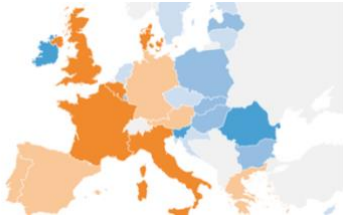The Juncker Commission's ten priorities: State of play in early 2018

This latest edition of this six-monthly EPRS In-depth Analysis provides an up-to-date overview and detailed analysis of the state of play in delivery by the European Commission on each of the ten priorities which its President asserted when taking office in 2014. The paper aims to respond to growing interest in assessing progress towards the targets the Commission has set itself, and to identify areas where there are still difficulties, as the Commission enters its final full calendar year.

Ten issues to watch in 2018

This is the second edition of an annual EPRS publication designed to identify key issues that are likely to impact on the political agenda of the EU over the coming year. The challenges featured include: terrorism threats, the North Korean issue, the security challenges posed by disinformation, fake news and cyber-threats, the ongoing migration crisis and rising inequalities. Other

important policy areas covered are youth empowerment, the EU Budget, the future of the euro area, the run up to the European elections in 2019 and, last but not least, Brexit.

Economic and Budgetary Outlook for the European Union 2018

This study, the second in an annual series from EPRS, provides an overview of the economic and budgetary outlook for the European Union (EU) in 2018 and beyond. It summarises the main economic indicators in the EU and euro area, and their two-year trends. Economic projections point to robust growth, easing in the future, and falling unemployment. Risks are broadly balanced, but both internal and external challenges persist and may weaken economic recovery. A special 'economic focus' looks at industry and industrial policy in Europe, and provides an overview of various recent EU-level initiatives. The study also explains the annual EU Budget, and sets out the wider budgetary framework. Amounting to €160.1 billion, the 2018 EU Budget focuses on priorities such as promoting sustainable growth, creating employment, especially for young people, and addressing migration and security challenges.

Demographic Outlook for the European Union

Demography matters. The economy, labour market, healthcare, pensions, the environment, intergenerational fairness, election results and the EU's very place in the world are all driven by demography, as this study, the first in an annual series, shows. With the world population more than doubling since 1960, reaching around 7.3 billion today and expected to continue to grow strongly, passing 10 billion in 2055, the EU represents an ever-shrinking proportion of the world population. Its 500 million people represent just 6.9 % of the global population today (down from 13.5 % in 1960), and this is projected to fall further to just 4.1 % by the end of this century. The EU population is also ageing dramatically (in common with many other parts of the world), as life expectancy increases and fertility rates are lower than in the past. This has serious implications across a range of areas. Free movement within the EU and migration from third countries also plays an important role in shaping demography in individual Member States and regions. While, at the EU level, both men and women have seen their average life expectancy increase by over 10 years between the early 1960s and today, health data, although inconsistent, suggests that people are not necessarily living these extra years without suffering limitations to their usual activity.

Plenary round-up: January 2018

Plenary round-up – Strasbourg, January 2018

This regular EPRS publication aims to provide a succinct summary of the main outcomes of the most recent EP plenary part-session. This 'At a glance' note picks up where our pre-plenary notes on key topics left off. It covers both the main legislative decisions and major debates.

EP Plenary at a glance: February 2018

Composition of the European Parliament

The European Parliament is due to discuss and vote on a proposal from the Constitutional Affairs Committee (AFCO) on the redistribution of seats for the 2019 European elections. As our 'At a glance' note explains, even before the prospect of UK withdrawal from the EU, the distribution of seats at the last election did not formally meet the condition of 'degressive proportionality' set down in the EU Treaties. Brexit, and thus the freeing up of 73 seats, provides the opportunity to adjust the current distribution of seats, taking account of demographic shifts. Moreover, 46 of the current UK seats would be held in reserve, either for a future transnational constituency or for possible further EU enlargement.

- EU emissions trading system: Post-2020 reform (DE – ES - FR – IT – PL)
- European Central Bank annual report 2016 (DE – ES – FR – IT – PL)
- Zimbabwe: Beginning of a new era? (DE – ES – FR – IT – PL)
- E-commerce: Ban on unjustified geo-blocking and discrimination practices among customers (DE – ES - FR – IT – PL)
- Guarantee Fund for External Action and the EIB's external lending mandate
- Zero tolerance for female genital mutilation
- Recast of the Brussels IIa Regulation (DE - ES - FR - IT - PL)
- Implementation of EU macro-regional strategies (DE - ES - FR - IT - PL)
- Conclusion of the Marrakesh Treaty (DE - ES - FR - IT - PL)
- South Pacific fisheries management measures (DE - ES - FR - IT - PL)
- New framework for fisheries technical measures (DE - ES - FR - IT - PL)
- Clean energy in the European Union (DE - ES - FR - IT - PL)

Economic and budgetary policies

Understanding artificial intelligence (Podcast)

So called Artificial intelligence (AI) systems already permeate daily life: they drive cars, decide on mortgage applications, translate texts, create artworks, play games, and intervene in conflict zones. This Briefing explores the roots of the AI revolution that emerged from the combination of machine-learning techniques and 'big data'. It also explores the current limitations of these systems: they perform single tasks, can be biased and are opaque in their decision making. The development of AI systems requires adaptation of legal frameworks on the collection, use and storage of data. But more importantly, the key issue remains the level of autonomy given to AI systems to make decisions that could be life-changing. If the threat of a 'super-intelligence' able to self-improve and dominate humans remains unrealistic, AI systems are expected to impact on society, especially the labour market, and could increase inequalities.

- ENISA and a new cybersecurity act: EU Legislation in Progress
- Tax transparency for intermediaries: EU Legislation in Progress
- Understanding the rationale for compiling 'tax haven' lists
- The European Union: A year of hope - What Think Tanks are thinking:

- Mutual recognition of goods: EU Legislation in Progress
- Common rules for gas pipelines entering the EU internal market: EU Legislation in Progress
- Land use in the EU 2030 climate and energy framework: EU Legislation in Progress (update)
- CO2 emissions from aviation: EU Legislation in Progress (update)
- Limits on exposure to carcinogens and mutagens at work: EU Legislation in Progress (update)
- Common rules and new framework for securitisation: EU Legislation in Progress (update)
- Securitisation and capital requirements: EU Legislation in Progress (update)
- Extension of the European statistical programme (ESP) to 2018-2020: EU Legislation in Progress (update)
- The EU's next long-term budget: What Think Tanks are thinking

Structural and citizens' policies

Urban agriculture in Europe: Patterns, challenges and policies

By 2050, it is estimated that 67 % of the world's population will be living in urban areas. How will cities in the future be able to secure an adequate food supply? What role could be performed by urban agriculture? Drawing on a range of research studies and reviews from both Europe and the US, this In-depth Analysis examines the diversity of urban farming practices from four perspectives: food security, economics, social aspects and the environment. Evidence is presented on the potential benefits and drawbacks of urban and peri-urban agricultural initiatives.

- European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (eu-LISA): EU Legislation in Progress
- Resettlement of refugees: EU framework: EU Legislation in Progress: (update)
- Revision of the Blue Card Directive: EU Legislation in Progress: (update)
- The Brexit process: Moving to the second phase of negotiations
- What Think Tanks are thinking: The Brexit process
- International Migrants Day – 18 December
- Jewish communities in the European Union (FR)
- Article 17 TFEU: the EU institutions' dialogue with confessional and non-confessional organisations (FR)
- The European Union and remembering the Holocaust
- Goods vehicles hired without drivers: EU Legislation in Progress
- Access to the occupation of road transport operator and to the international road haulage market: EU Legislation in Progress
- Transposing international measures for Atlantic tuna fisheries into EU law: EU Legislation in Progress (update)
- Outermost regions of the EU: A stronger and renewed partnership (update)

External policies

Europe's online encyclopaedias: Equal access to knowledge of general interest?

At a time when information is increasingly being manipulated for ideological and economic purposes, reliable background information about history, culture, society and politics is a key part of our societies' complex knowledge ecosystem, and an important tool for any citizen searching for knowledge, facts and figures. In this context, this in-depth analysis aims to answer the question: 'Do all Europeans have equal access to general-interest knowledge?'

– EU efforts on counter-terrorism - Capacity-building in third countries (Podcast)
– United States Congress: Facts and Figures
– Recent migration flows to the EU (Infographic)
– Review of dual-use export controls: EU Legislation in Progress
– A global compact on migration: Placing human rights at the heart of migration management
– US recognition of Jerusalem as capital of Israel
– Religion and the EU's external policies: Increasing engagement
– EU-Japan trade deal finalised
– EU framework programme processes: Adoption, implementation, evaluation
– ENISA and a new cybersecurity act: EU Legislation in Progress
– EU framework programme processes: Adoption, implementation, evaluation
– EU framework for FDI screening: EU Legislation in Progress
– Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons — the 'Ban Treaty'
– Western Balkans in the spotlight in 2018
– Russia in the southern Caucasus
– Sanctions over Ukraine: Impact on Russia (update)

European Council oversight

– Outcome of the meetings of EU leaders of 14-15 December 2017
– Outlook for the meetings of EU leaders on 14-15 December 2017
– Euro Summits: Role and expectations ahead of the meeting of 15 December 2017
– European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (update)
– Current membership of the European Council (update)

Impact assessment, Scientific foresight and European added value

The Victims' Rights Directive 2012/29/EU: European Implementation Assessment

The Victims' Rights Directive (Directive 2012/29/EU), aims to strengthen victims' rights across the EU. It establishes minimum standards and safeguards, as well as important procedural provisions: the right to be heard, to understand and to be understood; the right to receive information, to make a complaint and to access support services. This study assesses the implementation of the directive, covering

various aspects of its application: legal transposition measures at Member State level, implementation, the benefits to victims, and challenges.

- Road Infrastructure and tunnels safety: Implementation Appraisal
- European Market Infrastructure Regulation - Authorisation of central counterparties (CCPs) and recognition of third-country CCPs: Initial Appraisal of a European Commission Impact Assessment
- European Market Infrastructure Regulation-Regulatory Fitness and Performance (REFIT) proposal: Initial Appraisal of a European Commission Impact Assessment
- Rail passengers' rights and obligations: Initial Appraisal of a European Commission Impact Assessment
- Review of the European supervisory authorities (ESAs): Initial Appraisal of a European Commission Impact Assessment
- EU Cybersecurity Agency and cybersecurity certification: Initial Appraisal of a European Commission Impact Assessment
- Import of cultural goods: Initial Appraisal of a European Commission Impact Assessment
- Common rules for certain types of combined transport of goods: Initial Appraisal of a European Commission Impact Assessment
- Upgrading EU Company Law for digital solutions and cross-border operations: Implementation Appraisal
- Revised framework for investment firms: Implementation Appraisal
- Making the market for bus and coach transport work better: Implementation Appraisal
- Odometer manipulation in motor vehicles (Annex I): European Added Value Assessment
- Free movement of goods within the EU Single Market: European Added Value in Action
- Common agricultural policy: European Added Value in Action
- What if all our meat were grown in a lab?
- Achieving a sovereign and trustworthy ICT industry in the EU - Annex I
- Assistive technologies for people with disabilities - Annexes I; II; III; IV

3 Key Questions on… Nuclear applications and ballistic missiles

Listen for three minutes to learn the essentials about nuclear applications and ballistic missiles in the light of recent developments. Our Policy Analyst, Vincent Reillon, **answers three key questions on camera**. You can also read our full Briefing on the subject, Understanding nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, on the EP Think Tank.

Recent EPRS Podcasts

- How the EU Budget is spent: Galileo and EGNOS
- Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons - the 'Ban Treaty'
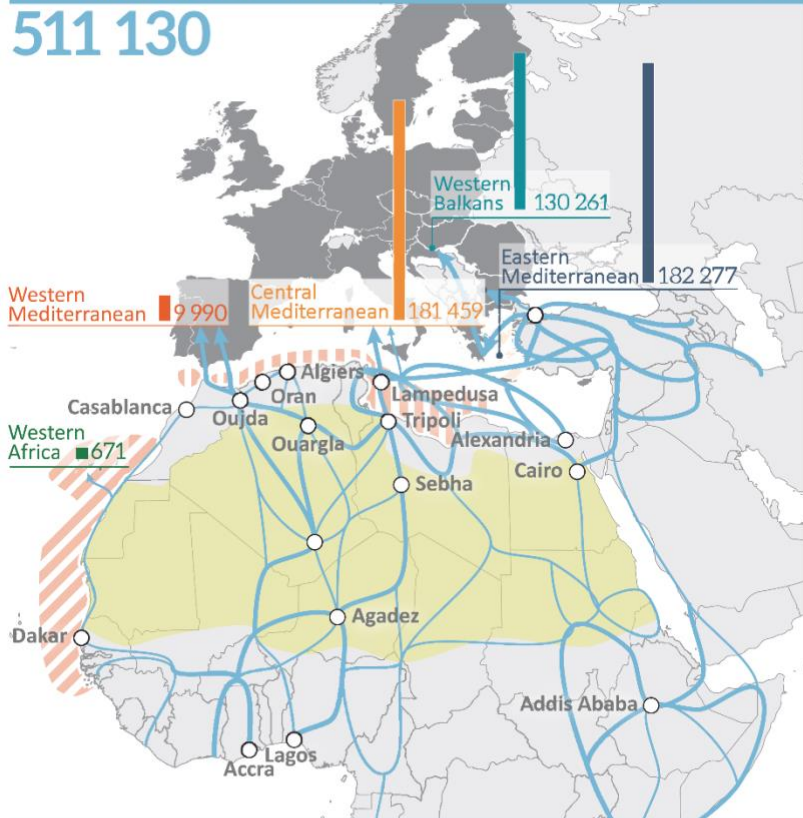- What if all our meat were grown in a lab?

EPRS graphics

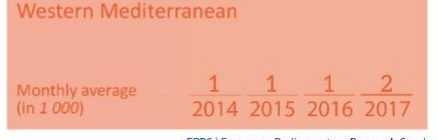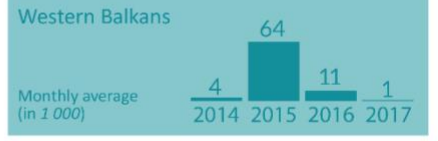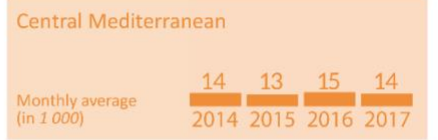See more about recent migration flows to the EU in our Briefing.

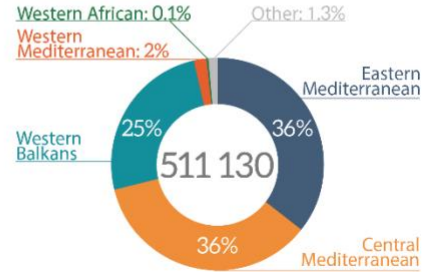## Detections of illegal border crossings in the EU (2016)

Detections of illegal border crossings in the EU in 2016   (1 822 177 in 2015)

511 130

Western Balkans **130 261**

Eastern Mediterranean **182 277**

Western Mediterranean **9 990**

Central Mediterranean **181 459**

Western Africa **671**

Casablanca · Oujda · Oran · Algiers · Ouargla · Lampedusa · Tripoli · Sebha · Alexandria · Cairo · Agadez · Addis Ababa · Dakar · Lagos · Accra

Migratory routes

All routes   6 monthly data (in 1 000)

91 · 192 · 228 · 1 594 · 360 · 151 · 114

2014 · 2015 · 2016 · 2017

Western African: 0.1% · Other: 1.3%
Western Mediterranean: 2%
Eastern Mediterranean 36%
Central Mediterranean 36%
Western Balkans 25%

511 130

Eastern Mediterranean
Monthly average (in 1 000): 4 · 74 · 15 · 2
2014 · 2015 · 2016 · 2017

Central Mediterranean
Monthly average (in 1 000): 14 · 13 · 15 · 14
2014 · 2015 · 2016 · 2017

Western Balkans
Monthly average (in 1 000): 4 · 64 · 11 · 1
2014 · 2015 · 2016 · 2017

Western Mediterranean
Monthly average (in 1 000): 1 · 1 · 1 · 2
2014 · 2015 · 2016 · 2017

Top ten migrant nationalities (2016)   (in 1 000)

Unknown, 104	Afghanistan, 54	Eritrea, 21	Others, 112
		Pakistan, 18	
Syria, 89	Nigeria, 38	Guinea, 16	
		Côte d'Ivoire, 14	
	Iraq, 32	Gambia, 13	

Data sources: Frontex

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EPRS on social media: highlights

Blog: **EP Plenary Session: February 2018**
Twitter: The Juncker Commission's ten priorities
LinkedIn: Smart Borders: EU Entry/Exit System
YouTube: Policy Podcasts | Scientific and Foresight Podcast

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