

## Jean Monnet European Module

*“The European Economic Constitution after the Lisbon Treaty:  
Undertakings in the new social market economy”*

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<http://www.economia.uniroma2.it/master-science/msc.asp?a=976>

Or write us at:

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## PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

### **The Netherlands take the right way**

#### **The Netherlands agrees to apply EU rules for land development projects in Ede and for public contracts for fire insurance**

*Brussels, 19 May 2011*

Finally the Netherlands have applied public procurement rules in the field of land development projects and fire insurance, so that the public contracts can be awarded in a fair and transparent manner and are open to all interested companies in the EU.

The problem arose when the Dutch municipality of Ede awarded several contracts for the land development project "Het Nieuwe Landgoed" to one developer, without having carried out a pan-European tender procedure. The contractor was to develop a centre for commercial and social use, including a sports hall, as well as approximately 1 168 parking spaces and 648 houses, including 60 for social housing, for a total value of the contracts of approximately €140 million. For these reasons the Commission opened an infringement procedure, since it considered that the contracts concerned were public works contracts and a public works concession and as such should have been awarded following the publication of contract notices in the EU Official Journal and the completion of a tendering process. The Dutch authorities decided to annul those contracts relating to the development of the sports hall and the parking spaces and the building obligations for the development of the houses and the centre for commercial and social use were removed from the contract. In this way, the revised contract now solely concerns the sale of land and not works and should not be considered to be a public works concession anymore.

Beyond land, it seems that Netherlands had also problems with the "fire". Indeed there was a general administrative practice of awarding public contracts for fire insurance by means of a negotiated procedure with publication of a contract notice. But negotiated procedure can be used, according to public procurement rules, only in exceptional cases; moreover rules on the publication of contract notices in the EU Official Journal have not been respected. Following the intervention of the Commission, the Dutch authorities publicly clarified that they consider this general administrative practice to be in violation of the EU public procurement rules and they are now applying the correct procedures and indicating all the relevant information in the contract award notices in the EU Official Journal. Don't play with fire!

[Further Information](#)

**Did you make a suggestion to European Commission?**

**European Commission consults public authorities, business and civil society on access to external public procurement markets**

*Brussels, 07 June 2011*

Public authorities, stakeholders and members of the civil society of the EU states have been called to reply to a questionnaire launched by the European Commission in order to know views on a new policy on access to the EU's public procurement markets as announced in the Single Market Act of April 2011.

The questionnaire has been closed on 2<sup>nd</sup> August and we are now waiting for the results.

The aim pursued is to create increased leverage for negotiating access to the procurement markets of other trading partners. This should help expand business opportunities for EU companies, as outlined in the EU's renewed trade strategy "Trade, Growth and World Affairs" presented in November 2010. In addition, the legislation seeks to establish clear terms of access to the EU's 1,800 billion government procurement market for suppliers from outside the EU. This should bring more legal certainty for both the EU public entities that need goods and services and their prospective international suppliers.

[For further information and updates](#)

**Save money with the Public Procurement**

**EU public procurement framework has saved around 20 billions euros**

*Brussels, 24 June 2011*

One of the 12 priority actions articulated in the Single Market Act, adopted in April 2011, is the reform of public procurement legislation, with the purpose of ensuring a more efficient use of public money, to reduce costs and the duration of contracting procedures.

The European Commission made an [evaluation](#) in order to assess the impact and effectiveness of EU public procurement legislation; the results show that EU public procurement Directives have helped to establish a culture of transparency and outcome-driven procurement in the EU. This has triggered competition for public contracts, and generated savings and improvements in the quality of procurement outcomes. Open and competitive public procurement has driven down costs by around 4%, generating savings of approximately €20 billion. This far exceeds the costs generated by the regulatory framework, which are estimated to be €5 billion.

[Further information](#)

### **An important initiative in favour of e-procurement**

#### **The Commission moves to support make-up of e-procurement**

*Brussels, 29 July 2011*

The importance of e-procurement is growing day-to-day, and can be a good system for public purchasers around the EU to save money. A research of the Deutsche Bank reveal that the full conversion to e-procurement can save between €50 and €70 billion per year.

The European Commission is launching three important initiatives to encourage the development of e-procurement in the EU.

Firstly, the Commission is calling for the creation of a new group of expert on e-tendering. The aim of this informal group is the development, by the end of 2012, of a blue print for common solutions for electronic submission of offers. The deadline for applications is 30.09.2011.

Secondly, It is starting to monitor the use of e-procurement across the member States, with two aims: to help policy-makers to support the switchover from traditional to e-procurement, and to develop a case-book of best practices on e-procurement in Europe. The deadline for applications is 30.09.2011.

Thirdly, the Commission is publishing the response to the e-procurement Green Paper ([IP/10/1347](#)) which support the use of legislation to create standardised e-procurement solutions.

[Further Information](#)

### **Broader access to UE public procurement**

#### **Consultation on the access of third countries to EU public procurement market**

*Brussels, 2 August 2011*

EPSU, European Federation of Public Service Unions, responded to the European Commission (EC) consultation on “access of third countries to the EU’s public procurement market”. EPSU is not positive about the initiative since the EC aims at increasing pressure on certain countries to open their service sector, including many public services to competition while they should be excluded. Moreover, the initiative is premature given the ongoing revision of the current EU procurement directives. Furthermore, proposal to allow greater access to EU procurement market should clarify what the implications are for mobility of workers of companies that win a public contract: this implies that the respect for trade union, information, and consultation rights, health and safety, working conditions and collective agreements can be enforced also against a company from a non EU country.

[Further information](#)

### **Uk Government should “come clean” on procurement**

#### **Uk Government’s proposal on the modernisation of public procurement**

*06 September 2011*

Last month the United Kingdom government published its response to the European Commission green paper on the modernization of public procurement policy, setting out the government's vision for how the rules should be brought up to date. The government's proposals sound promising but show up a number of contradictions that need explaining.

Firstly, mutuals: the government effectively admits in its response that it cannot carry out its much vaunted mutualisation programme; moving 100,000 civil servants into joint ventures within the private sector and then awarding it the contract, without a change to the procurement rules. As this is one of the main goals of the Opening Public Services white paper, it is unclear where it leaves that programme. Secondly, foreign companies: having stated that it would back procurement bids from UK based companies over foreign competition in the context of Thameslink contract which Siemens won, the government now says it would always choose the most competitive, value-for-money bid regardless of nationality. While it is true that the government has recently announced a delay to the Crossrail rolling stock tender for this aspect to be reviewed in depth, the general principles embodied in the response would seem at odds with any outcome from the Crossrail review, other than business as usual. Interestingly, one of the bidders, Alstom, has already pulled out of the Crossrail tender following the announcement of the review.

Thirdly, the future of competitive dialogue: after backing the competitive dialogue procedure as recently as last November and notwithstanding the huge increase in bid costs arising from competitive dialogue, the government is now advocating a generally available negotiated procedure where negotiation is possible once a bid has been submitted, which was where we were five years ago. It would be interesting if someone in the Cabinet Office could join up the dots between the November 2010 report and the response. Finally, SMEs: although the government suggests opening bids to more SMEs it seems unmoved on changing the rules to allow the fundamental things to happen so that SMEs can win government contracts.

The government has now published a Procurement Policy Note (05/11) setting out how it intends to engage with the commission on the reform of the rules. The note states that the rules as they currently stand are too complex, onerous and costly and encourage a risk-averse and over-bureaucratic approach to procurement within the EU. The note confirms that the government will be actively influencing the commission, other EU member states and the European Parliament in the run up to the publication of the commission's proposals for revised and updated directives, and calls on those in the public procurement community who may have links to such bodies or other stakeholders to participate in that process and push the UK message. Whether the government will be successful; only time will tell. In the meantime it could let us know where it stands on the above issues.

### **A “healthier” Public Procurement**

#### **European Parliament health committee opinion on public procurement**

*ENVI committee, 06 September 2011*

**The ENVI Committee** – Environment, Public Health and Food safety Committee within the European Parliament - has adopted its opinion on the modernization of EU public procurement policy, prepared by rapporteur Åsa Westlund (S&D, Sweden). The opinion contains a number of the suggestions brought forward by EPHA – European Public Health Alliance - in its consultation response earlier this year.

The ENVI is particularly interested as to what extent environmental criteria should be made mandatory or not; they are also interested in cross-border access, as well as inclusion of social criteria for awarding public contracts.

[The ENVI's opinion](#)  
[For further information](#)

### **Let the cooperation start**

#### **European Commission issues a guidance on public authorities cooperation**

*Brussels, 06 October 2011*

European Commission has prepared a document concerning the application of EU public procurement law to relations between contracting authorities, the so called "public - public cooperation". There can be several situations where contracting authorities seek together to ensure the performance of their public task, and it is not always clear whether or not the EU Public Procurement Directives apply to such situations. The document, that summarizes the existing Case Law of the Court of Justice, does not create new rules, but tries to provide a better understanding of the legal environment.

[Further Information](#)  
[Commission staff Working paper](#)

### **Buying green!**

#### **Handbook on Green Public Procurement 2.0**

*European Commission, 25 October 2011*

The European Commission has issued a revised version of the Handbook on Green Public Procurement, a concrete tool to help public authorities to buy goods and services with a lower environmental impact. It is also a useful reference for policy makers and businesses responding to green tenders.

The second version of the Handbook includes:

- a Guidance on how environmental considerations can be included at each stage of the procurement process;
- Examples drawn from contracting authorities across EU Member States;
- Sector-specific GPP approaches for buildings, food and catering services, electricity and timber.

[Further information on Green Public Procurement](#)

[Summary of the Handbook](#)

[Buying Green! Handbook](#)

### **European Commission recalls Greece and Malta to their duties**

#### **European Commission requests compliance to EU rules**

*Brussels, 24 November 2011*

The EU Commission found some leaks in public procurement legislations of both Greece and Malta, holding that they do not completely conform some EU rules.

The Greek legislation provisions - exemptions - that that permit Greek authorities to directly award public works contracts without a competitive procedure. Without specific justification, the authorities can declare that some projects, for instance the construction of a road or bridge, are of "special nature"; and the project can be directly assigned. Conversely the EU Commission argues that a reasoned justification is indispensable.

Concerning Malta, the Commission has requested to amend the national review procedures concerning decisions to award public contracts, specifically those rules that do not conform the [Remedies Directive](#).

The two Member States have two months to solve the situation, otherwise the Commission will require the intervention of the Court of Justice.

[Further Information](#)

### **Did Czech Republic learn the lesson?**

#### **European Commission closes its investigation against the Czech republic**

*Brussels, 24 November 2011*

In 2009 Czech Republic purchased 4 military transport aircraft without using a European wide - tendering procedure, but directly awarding the contract. For this reason the EU Commission referred the [case](#) to the Court of Justice.

Now the investigation has been closed, since the Czech Republic has ensured to limit the use of the derogation from public procurement procedures for military purchases to cases in which the derogation is essential to safeguard national interests. Moreover, given the fact that the contract has been already fully implemented, a referral to the ECJ is no longer necessary.

[Further information](#)

### **New Year, New thresholds**

#### **Commission Regulation 1251/2011 of 30 November 2011**

*Official Journal Of European Union, 2 December 2011*

The Commission Regulation published at the beginning of December amends the Directives 2004/17/EC, 2004/18/EC and 2009/81/EC in respect of the application of the thresholds for the procedures for the award of contracts. The new thresholds are applied from the 1st January 2012.

[Further information](#)

[Communication of the Commission on the corresponding values of the thresholds Regulation 1251/2011](#)



### **The EU got more market access through the GPA**

#### **The WTO's government procurement negotiations have been concluded**

*Brussels, 15 December 2011*

A successful conclusion of the World Trade Organization negotiations on government procurement, with the sign of the GPA - Government Procurement Agreement - by the [15 parties](#) involved (one Europe as a whole). The parties agreed to grant more market access to foreign companies, and consequently they agreed to open up the public procurement market to foreign bidders. A strong signal, given the crisis the Europe is passing through.

The GPA establishes new and more transparent rules for international public procurement, ensures new market access opportunities (for instance U.S granted access to its central level entities, including US federal agencies), ensures benefits for developing countries.

[Further Information](#)

[More on GPA](#)

[Full text](#)

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## FOUR FREEDOMS

### Summary

Since the last issue was published, several legislative instruments were communicated mainly in the fields of free movement of goods, services and capital. In the free movement of goods area, the Commission issued an implementing regulation regarding the concept of originating products, relating to Cape Verde trade. In the free movement of services, the Commission issued legislative tools mainly involving public procurement. A general implementing regulation delivered better ways to communicate information in public procurement procedures. Other implementing regulations, considered exemptions and other facilitating tools for Italy and Denmark and the Czech Republic. A European Parliament and Council Directive was signed to improve consumer's protection for a better functioning internal market. Whereas additional Directive harmonized an improved control over investment fund managers. Finally, in the free movement of capital area, we find a European Parliament and Council Regulation for better monitoring the credit rating agencies.

### FREE MOVMENT OF GOODS

#### **BETTER FUNCTIONING MARKET- CONSIDERING 'ORIGINATING PRODUCTS' CONCEPT**

*Brussels, 6 of May 2011*

Here the commission implementing regulation (EU) No **439/2011** deals with the derogation from past Regulation (EEC No 2454/93) in respect of the definition of the concept of originating products used for the purposes of the scheme of generalized tariff preferences. The Commission here takes to account the special situation of Cape Verde regarding exports of certain fisheries products to the European Union and the effect of the definition of the concept of originating products upon the trade between the parties. without the derogation, the ability of the Cape Verdean fish processing industry to continue to export to the Union would be significantly affected, which might deter further development of the Cape Verdean fleet for small pelagic fishing. In this way the fish products produced in Cape Verde from non-originating fish shall be regarded as originating in Cape Verde. This holds a slightly different picture from the rigid country of origin concepts of goods circulating in the internal market.

*For further information here:*

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:119:0001:01:EN:HTML>

### FREE MOVMENT OF SERVICES

#### **BETTER WAY TO COMMUNICATE INFORMATION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES**

*Brussels, 19 of August 2011*

Here the Commission based an Implementing Regulation (EU) No **842/2011** regarding the establishment of standard forms for the publication of notices in the field of public procurement and repealing past Regulation (EC) No 1564/2005. In the regulation the Commission specifies standard forms to be used by contracting authorities and entities in the the Official Journal of the European Union.

*For further information here:*

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32011R0842:EN:NOT>

## Italy and Denmark:

### **ATTENTION TO PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES- CONSIDERATION BY EXEMPTION**

*Brussels, 24 of June – 28 of July 2011*

The Commission relates to a complicated past Directive 2004/17/EC of the European Parliament and Council coordinate the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors. Responding the addresses of Italian and Danish authorities the Commission regulated two Implementing decisions in respect to each member state granting a conditional exemption from the implementation of the directive.

This decision convolves and facilitates the activities of 29 companies in the Danish territory and 4 main companies in Italian territory in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors, all by exempting exploration for oil and gas and exploitation of oil.

*For further information here:*

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32011D0372:EN:NOT>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32011D0481:EN:NOT>

## Czech Republic:

### **COORDINATING AND FACILITATING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES**

*Brussels, 20 of May 2011*

The Commission here responds to an exempt request from the Czech authorities in Implementing Decision **2011/306/EU**. This regulation relates to past Directive 2004/17/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council in coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors is not applicable to the bituminous coal mining. Specifically in the Czech Republic, Article 30(1) of the Directive receives a special reference as a problematic situation reviled in the matter of restricted competition in that market. The Czech Office for the Protection of Competition analyzed the conditions of access to the relevant market and found it to be unrestricted. However, the opinion does not state that the other conditions relating to the direct exposure to competition were met in respect of bituminous coal mining as the only entity engaged in bituminous coal mining in the Czech Republic is a soul privet company owned 100 % by a private Dutch Holding.

*For further information here:*

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32011D0306:EN:NOT>

## **IMPROVING CONSUMERS PROTECTION FOR A BETTER FUNCTIONING INTERNAL MARKET**

### **European Parliament and Council Directive**

*Brussels, 25 of October 2011*

The purpose of **Directive 2011/83/EU**, through the achievement of a high level of consumer protection, is to contribute to the proper functioning of the internal market. The directive lays approximations on certain aspects of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning contracts concluded between consumers and traders.

This Directive has a direct effect caricature as it applies, to any contract concluded between a trader and a consumer. It shall also apply to contracts for the supply of water, gas, electricity or district heating, including by public providers, to the extent that these commodities are provided on a contractual basis. Member States are bound to it maintain the applicability of this directive combining it along with national law.

This Directive also specify: Information requirements for contracts other than distance or off-premises contracts; Information requirements for distance and off-premises contracts; Formal requirements for off-premises and distance contracts; Right of withdrawal; Omission of information on the right of withdrawal; Exercise of the right of withdrawal; Effects of withdrawal; Obligations of the trader and consumer in the event of withdrawal. Furthermore it identifies enforcements and penalties for Member States infringing the directive's principals.

*For further information here:*

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32011L0083:EN:NOT>

## **GETTING OUT OF THE CRISIS- BETTER CONTROL OVER THE INVESTMENT FUND MANAGERS**

### **European Parliament and Council Directive**

*Brussels, 8 of June 2011*

By establishing **Directive 2011/61/EU** the European Parliament and the Council are grounding common requirements governing the authorization and supervision over Managers of alternative investment funds (AIFMs) in order to provide a coherent approach to the related risks and their impact on investors and markets in the Union. The union's institutions realize the important influence of AIFMs on markets and companies in which they invest, as the assets involved upon their management account for significant amounts of trading in markets for financial instruments.

The directive thrive for harmonized and stringent regulatory and supervisory framework for the activities within the Union of all AIFMs, including those which have their registered office in a Member State (EU AIFMs) and those which have their registered office in a third country (non-EU AIFMs).

It lays down the rules for the authorization, ongoing operation and transparency of the managers of alternative investment funds (AIFMs) which manage and/or market alternative investment funds (AIFs) in the Union. In practice, the directive set the requirements regarding the manner in which AIFMs should manage AIFs under their responsibility. For non-EU AIFMs this is limited to the management of EU AIFs and other AIFs the units or shares of which are also marketed to professional investors in the Union.

*For further information here:*

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32011L0061:EN:NOT>

**DRIVING EUROPEAN RECOVERY- REGULATING CREDIT RATING AGENCIES****European Parliament and Council Regulation**

*Brussels, 11 of May 2011*

In Regulation (EU) No **513/2011** the European institutions protract the foundation of the European System of Financial Supervisors regulated earlier this year. Here a special attention is given to the capabilities of the new common financial institution, the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), regarding matters relating to the registration and ongoing supervision of registered credit rating agencies. This regulation emphasizes the exclusive power of the new authority to conclude cooperation agreements on information exchange with the supervisory authorities of third countries. To the extent that competent authorities participate in the decision-making process within ESMA or when executing tasks on behalf of ESMA, they should be covered by those cooperation agreements.

The regulation responds to the need for an effective instrument to establish harmonized regulatory technical standards to ensure a level playing field and the adequate protection of investors and consumers across the Union.

*For further information here:*

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32011R0513:EN:NOT>

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## EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

### ***Downgrade co2 emissions***

*11 May 2011, Setting emission performance standards for new light commercial vehicles as part of the Union's integrated approach to reduce CO2 emissions from light-duty vehicles*

This Regulation sets the average CO2 emissions for new light commercial vehicles at 175 g CO2/km, this value should be reached due to vehicle technology.

From 2020, this Regulation sets a target of 147 g CO2/km for the average emissions of new light commercial vehicles registered in the Union subject to confirmation of its feasibility, as specified in Article 13(1).

(<http://eurlex.europa.eu/Notice.do?val=573674%3Acs&lang=en&list=573674%3Acs%2C&pos=1&page=1&nbl=1&pgs=10&hwords=&checktexte=checkbox&visu=>)

### ***Let's talk about emissions***

*16 May 2011, Commission Decision of 16 May 2011 establishing a forum for the exchange of information*

The European Commission decided to start a forum to promote the exchange of information on industrial emissions and its tasks shall be to provide its opinion on the practical arrangements for the exchange of information to discuss about the proposed content of BAT reference documents.

This forum is a great resource because some experts could join the discussion and it's also a way to discuss cheaply because the participants in the activities of the forum shall not be remunerated for the services they render.

(<http://eurlex.europa.eu/Notice.do?val=572494%3Acs&lang=en&list=601029%3Acs%2C572494%3Acs%2C&pos=2&page=1&nbl=2&pgs=10&hwords=&checktexte=checkbox&visu=>)

### ***"first of a kind" to kill pollution***

*18 June 2011, Launch of the European Advanced Biofuels Flightpath*

The promotion, storage and distribution of sustainably produced drop-in biofuels for use in aviation is a way to cutting down pollution from the jet fuel. A shared and voluntary commitment by the member states established an appropriate mechanism of financial support for construction of an industrial "first of a kind" advanced biofuels production plants. The aim is to reach 2 million tons of consumption by 2020.

***The working methods and governance will be the ones established in the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) of the European Union, as presented by the Commission and endorsed by the European Parliament and the Heads of States and Governments on 4 February 2011.***

([http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/initiatives/doc/20110622\\_biofuels\\_flight\\_path\\_launch.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/technology/initiatives/doc/20110622_biofuels_flight_path_launch.pdf))

### **INSPIRE a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth!**

*The INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) Conference 2011 took place from 27th June to 1st July 2011 in Edinburgh, Scotland*

The INSPIRE directive aims to create a European Union (EU) spatial data infrastructure, in order to enable the quick and easy sharing of environmental spatial information across Europe. The conference, moreover, is held for stakeholders in order to discuss the latest developments of the INSPIRE directives

This edition of the Conference is an opportunity to know deeply the INSPIRE's contribution to Europe's 2020 strategic goals and to root it's further development in the EU 2020 follow-up programmers. The conference examined and reported the progress that was made in the development of the INSPIRE directives.

*([http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire\\_2011/?page=outline#](http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2011/?page=outline#))*

### **A New Road towards Europe 2020**

*1 July 2011, The launch of the European Energy Efficiency Fund (EEEF)*

The European Commission, the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP) and Deutsche Bank announced the launch of the European Energy Efficiency Fund (EEEF) in Brussels today. The EEEF aims to provide market-based financing for commercially viable public energy efficiency and renewable energy projects within the European Union.

The launch of the Fund is a big step towards the reaching of the aims fixed by Europe 2020. Thanks to a successful joint of private and public sector, the Fund targets to raise the total volume from currently EUR 265 million to approximately EUR 800 million by attracting further investors, either investing directly in projects or via financial institutions.

*(<http://www.eib.org/about/press/2011/2011-098-european-energy-efficiency-fund-eeef-launched.htm?lang=en&>)*

*EEEF home: <http://www.eeef.eu/>*

### **New rules to be safe**

*20 July 2011,*

Ministers from EU member states agreed on disposal of radioactive waste from Europe's 143 nuclear reactors to be buried in future in secure bunkers.

The new rules force national nuclear authorities to draw up disposal plans by 2015, which will be vetted by Europe's Energy Commissioner Guenther Oettinger.

Safety standards drawn up by the International Atomic Energy Agency will also become legally binding as part of the plan.

*(<http://www.euractiv.com/climate-environment/eu-agrees-bury-nuclear-waste-secure-bunkers-news-506664>)*

### **A Final Evaluation: good prevention versus expensive remediation**

*31 August 2011, The Final Assessment of the 6<sup>th</sup> EAP as stated by Article 11 of Decision No 1600/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2002 laying down the Sixth Community Environment Action Programme.*

The Communication on the Final Assessment was adopted on 31 August 2011 by the Commission.

The assessment reports the accomplishing of the major objectives in the legal environmental field, with a substantial help in the developing of the environment legislation.

Anyway, further improvements are needed, in particular with a focus on prevention of degradation instead of remediation. This aim will be reached through a better implementation of EU rules by Member States, closing the gap between the 6<sup>th</sup> EAP's legislative ambitions and its end-results.

*([http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/pdf/com\\_2011\\_531/en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/pdf/com_2011_531/en.pdf))*

### **Local role to fight climate change**

*02 September 2011, Opinion of the Committee of the Regions on "Climate change mainstreaming and the future EU budget"*

The Committee of the Regions stresses the idea that local and regional authorities have a key role to play in the implementation of Europe 2020, referring to local and regional possibilities and to the need for further action and investment that are necessary to fight the climate change through some systems of financing at local level.

*([http://eurlex.europa.eu/Notice.do?val=601366%3Acs&lang=en&list=601408%3Acs%2C601394%3Acs%2C601359%3Acs%2C601395%3Acs%2C601374%3Acs%2C601369%3Acs%2C601366%3Acs%2C601361%3Acs%2C601381%3Acs%2C601411%3Acs%2C&pos=7&page=2&nbl=30&pgs=10&hwords=&checktexte=checkbox&visu=\)](http://eurlex.europa.eu/Notice.do?val=601366%3Acs&lang=en&list=601408%3Acs%2C601394%3Acs%2C601359%3Acs%2C601395%3Acs%2C601374%3Acs%2C601369%3Acs%2C601366%3Acs%2C601361%3Acs%2C601381%3Acs%2C601411%3Acs%2C&pos=7&page=2&nbl=30&pgs=10&hwords=&checktexte=checkbox&visu=))*

### **It's all about connection**

*21 October 2011,*

Commission Recommendation on the research joint programming initiative "Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe".

Member States have to cooperate and coordinate in the field of research, to strengthen exchanges of information, resources, best practices, methodologies and guidelines, to identify activities that would benefit from coordination, to define modalities for joint research, to create networks to feed with scientific information the policy-making level at national and European Union level.

*([http://eurlex.europa.eu/Notice.do?val=622207%3Acs&lang=en&list=622121%3Acs%2C622224%3Acs%2C622142%3Acs%2C622102%3Acs%2C622193%3Acs%2C622205%3Acs%2C622160%3Acs%2C622123%3Acs%2C622208%3Acs%2C622207%3Acs%2C&pos=10&page=32&nbl=840&pgs=10&hwords=&checktexte=checkbox&visu=\)](http://eurlex.europa.eu/Notice.do?val=622207%3Acs&lang=en&list=622121%3Acs%2C622224%3Acs%2C622142%3Acs%2C622102%3Acs%2C622193%3Acs%2C622205%3Acs%2C622160%3Acs%2C622123%3Acs%2C622208%3Acs%2C622207%3Acs%2C&pos=10&page=32&nbl=840&pgs=10&hwords=&checktexte=checkbox&visu=))*



### ***Two rings to reduce fires, deaths and injuries***

*14 November 2011, EU move to reduce cigarette ignited fires to save hundreds of lives each year.*

Data from Member States covering 2003 to 2008 show that, in the EU, cigarette related fires cause more than 30,000 fires every year, with more than 1,000 deaths and over 4,000 injuries.

The introduction of 'Reduced Ignition Propensity' (RIP) can reduce by over 40% of fatalities caused by unattended cigarettes. This safety measure is already in place in some countries like US, Canada and Australia. From 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2011, as published in EU Official Journal, all the cigarettes sold in Europe must comply with this new rules.

In fact, cigarette paper manufacturers have added two rings of thicker paper at two points along the cigarette. If cigarettes are left unattended the burning tobacco will hit one of these rings which restricts the oxygen supply, in this way the cigarettes will self extinguish.

"A RIP cigarette cuts down the burning time, thus reducing the chance to ignite furniture".

*(<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1342&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>)*

### ***The awards for eco-innovators***

*18 November 2011, the proclamation of this year's winners of the European Eco-Management and Audit (EMAS) Scheme Awards.*

EMAS is a management tool for organisations that want to communicate their environmental and financial performance. This management tool leads to enhanced performance and credibility. In fact, since 1995 more than 4,400 organisations across Europe have registered with EMAS. From 2005 the European Commission decided to reward the organisations that showed excellence in respecting and safeguarding the environment, applying innovative solutions to involve different stakeholders.

The theme of the 2011 EMAS Awards is "Stakeholder involvement, including employee involvement, leading to continuous improvement".

The six winners, selected by a jury of stakeholders and environment experts, are This year's winners, selected from among 36 entries, are: Belvas Organic Chocolate (Belgium), ebswien hauptkläranlage (Austria), Eurobank EFG Bank (Greece), Fritz-Erler-Schule Pforzheim (Germany), Kneissler Brünieretechnik (Germany) and the Municipality of Ravenna (Italy).

*(<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/emasawards/index.htm>)*

### **A twenty-year wait is finally over, but is this proposal satisfactory enough?**

*9 December 2011,*

After a twenty-year wait, the European Commission has finally proposed new standards to cut noise levels from cars, vans, buses and lorries. The new regulation now needs approval from European Parliament and the member states.

Anyway, doubts rise. The proposal was long-awaited, but it needs to be said that the vast majority of cars off sale already meet step 1 of the proposal itself and almost a quarter even achieve step 2. These steps are clearly not tough enough. A third cut is recommended by 2020.

According to Nina Renshaw also, deputy director at Transport and Environment: "It's far cheaper to add readily-available noise reducing technology to vehicles than for cash-strapped local authorities to spend millions on noise barriers along roads. The benefits outweigh the costs by 20 to 1, so there is no excuse for inaction."

*(<http://www.transportenvironment.org/News/2011/12/New-vehicle-noise-standards-proposed/>)*

### **The big change**

*11 December 2011, climate negotiators agreed a pact on Sunday that would for the first time force all the biggest polluters to take action on greenhouse gas emissions.*

A package of accords agreed after marathon U.N. talks in South Africa extended the 1997 Kyoto Protocol - the only global pact enforcing carbon cuts - allowing five more years to finalize a wider pact which has so far eluded negotiators.

Negotiators agreed to start work on a new climate deal that would have legal force and, crucially, require both developed and developing countries to cut their carbon emissions. The terms now need to be agreed by 2015 and come into effect from 2020.

The agreement – dubbed the "Durban platform" – is different from the other partial deals that have been struck during the past two decades, with developing countries, including China, the world's biggest emitter, agreeing to be legally bound to curb their greenhouse gases. Previously, poorer nations have insisted that they should not bear any legal obligations for tackling climate change, whereas rich nations – which over more than a century have produced most of the carbon currently in the atmosphere – should.

*(<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/interactive/2011/dec/12/durban-climate-change-conference-2011-global-climate-talks>)*

*(<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/dec/11/global-climate-change-treaty-durban>)*

### **A step back in the global warming fight?**

*12 December 2011,*

Canada is formally withdrawing from the Kyoto Protocol, becoming the first country to abandon the agreement on climate change after ratifying it, its environment minister announced Monday.

Canada agreed under the protocol to reduce CO2 emissions to 6.0 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, but its emissions of the gases blamed for damaging Earth's fragile climate system have instead increased sharply.

Pulling out of Kyoto now allows Canada to avoid paying penalties of up to \$13.6bn for missing its targets.

*(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-16151310>)*

#### **Enviromental law Group:**

Riccardo Di Gennaro  
Andrea Ghisellini  
Sandro Lucci  
Chiara Vuilleumier  
Cheng Wenjuan



## EUROPEAN ENERGY POLICY

### **EU law: Commission acts to ensure that European legislation is fully and properly implemented**

[http://ec.europa.eu/eu\\_law/infringements/infringements\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/eu_law/infringements/infringements_en.htm)

In its monthly package of infringement decisions, the European Commission is pursuing legal action against 27 Member States for failing to comply properly with their obligations under EU law. These decisions cover many sectors. They aim at ensuring proper application of EU law for the benefit of citizens and businesses. The Commission has taken today 500 decisions, including 5 decisions to refer Member States to the European Union's Court of Justice. In this package there are no decisions related to failure to respect a previous Court ruling.

### **Proposal for a Council Directive: Basic safety standards for protection against the dangers of ionising radiation**

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation\\_protection/doc/com\\_2011\\_0593.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation_protection/doc/com_2011_0593.pdf)

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation\\_protection/doc/com\\_2011\\_0593\\_citizen\\_summary.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/nuclear/radiation_protection/doc/com_2011_0593_citizen_summary.pdf)

*Brussels, 29 September 2011*

The European Commission adopted the Proposal for a Council Directive laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation. The proposed new Basic Safety Standards Directive offers the highest protection of workers, patients and the public based on the current scientific knowledge.

### **Connecting Europe Facility: Commission adopts plan for €50 billion boost to European networks**

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/infrastructure/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/infrastructure/index_en.htm)

*Brussels, 19 October 2011*

The European Commission has today tabled a plan which will fund €50 billion worth of investment to improve Europe's transport, energy and digital networks. Targeted investments in key infrastructures will help to create jobs and boost Europe's competitiveness at a time when Europe needs this most. The "Connecting Europe Facility" will finance projects which fill the missing links in Europe's energy, transport and digital backbone. It will also make Europe's economy greener by promoting cleaner transport modes, high speed broadband connections and facilitating the use of renewable energy in line with the Europe 2020 Strategy. In addition the funding for energy networks will further integrate the internal energy market, reduce the EU's energy dependency and bolster the security of supply. To assist with the financing of the Connecting Europe Facility, the Commission has also adopted the terms for the Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative which will be one of a number of risk-sharing instruments upon which the facility may draw in order to attract private finance in projects. The pilot phase will start already next year.

### **Energy Community – Five years of regional cooperation**

[http://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC\\_HOME](http://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC_HOME)

*Brussels, 21 October 2011*

The Energy Community will celebrate its fifth anniversary on Monday 24 October. Established to increase socio-economic stability and security of supply, the Energy Community has set a good example of regional cooperation in which the EU and the South-Eastern European countries can diversify their energy sources. It has created a functioning institutional framework and more legal certainty for investors. Next steps are to enhance market reforms and to boost investments in the energy sector. The final objective is that the regional market should be fully integrated in the European's internal energy market.

### **Energy markets: Commission welcomes adoption of new rules on wholesale electricity and gas trading**

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/gas\\_electricity/markets/wholesale\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/gas_electricity/markets/wholesale_en.htm)

*Brussels, 10 October 2011*

The EU has adopted today new stringent rules on wholesale energy trading. The main objective is to prevent use of insider information and other forms of market abuse which distort wholesale energy prices and normally mean that businesses and consumers pay more for their energy than they need. The new law will enter into force by the end of this year. For the first time energy trading will be screened at EU level to uncover abuses. National authorities in Member States will put in place penalties to help stop and prevent market manipulation.

### **Intelligent Energy – Europe: For sustainable future**

<http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/>

*20<sup>th</sup> December 2011*

The EU has set itself ambitious targets to achieve clean and secure energy for tomorrow. An optimal use of available tools is necessary to meet these targets. A wide range of technologies and methods exist to improve energy efficiency, turn renewable into viable energy sources and reduce emissions. However, market conditions prevent them from reaching their full potential. This is where the intelligent energy- Europe programme comes in. The intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) Programme is giving a boost to clean and sustainable solutions. It supports their use and dissemination and the Europe-wide exchange of related knowledge and know-how. Targeted funding is provided for creative projects putting this idea into practice. The projects help to further the three main objectives: Promoting the energy efficiency and encouraging the rational use of energy sources. Increasing use of new and renewable energy sources as well as encouraging energy diversification. Stimulating energy efficiency and renewable in the field of transport

### Digital Agenda: Commission Consults on massive expansion of LED lighting in Europe

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/digital-agenda/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/digital-agenda/index_en.htm)

Brussels 15 December 2011

The European Commission today adopted Green paper and launched a public consultation on the future of LED-based lighting. LED lighting is one of the most energy efficient and versatile forms of lighting –saving up to 70% energy and money compared to other lighting technologies. Faster LED deployment will ensure the success of Europe’s lighting industry and help reduce the use energy use from lighting to 20\$ by 2020. But Europe also faces the number of challenges and more input is needed from citizens and businesses to refine the policy. To ensure end consultation will run until 29 February 2012 to collect feedback on the commission’s ideas. European Commission Vice president Neelie Kroes said: “Expanding LED lighting is ‘no brainer’. It means more money in your pocket and a healthier planet. Please give us your idea on how to speed up its deployment and maximise the number of jobs and savings Europe can gain from expanding the use of the LED lighting”..

### Towards a competitive a competitive low carbon energy sector

[http://ec.europa.eu/news/energy/111219\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/news/energy/111219_en.htm)

19<sup>th</sup> December 2011



Committed to reducing the greenhouse gas emission to 80%-95% below 1990 levels by 2050, the EU is exploring the challenges of de-carbonation

In March this year the EU published its low-carbon roadmap covering all sections of the economy. It is also producing specific plans to cover individual economic sectors. The latest to be unveiled is the energy roadmap 2050.

As future needs and supply are difficult to predict, the plan presents numerous scenarios examining the possible impacts, challenges and opportunities of modernising the energy system. They take into accounts potential changes in carbon prices, technology and networks

#### **Routes towards De-carbonation.**

Scenarios where created by combining the four de-carbonation options-energy efficiency, renewable energy nuclear and carbon capture and storage. The main findings suggest: de-carbonation is possible and could be less costly than current policies in the long run energy efficiency and renewable are critical, regardless of the energy mix chosen.

### **EU energy research funding puts 2020 targets at risk**

[http://www.ewea.org/index.php?id=60&no\\_cache=1&tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=1925&tx\\_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=1&cHash=001315b3a83cd7744614f2a822298575](http://www.ewea.org/index.php?id=60&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=1925&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=1&cHash=001315b3a83cd7744614f2a822298575)

December 1<sup>st</sup> 2011

EU funds for the non-nuclear energy R&D double in the new research budget proposed by the European Commission but are nothing like enough to fund what the European Commission says is necessary to achieve its 2020 targets.

The European Commission today unveiled 'Horizon 2020' - its proposal for a new Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for the seven years from 2014 to 2020.

Under the proposal, all non-nuclear energy gets only 7.5% of the research budget – 6.5bn Euros out of 87.7bn Euros. Nuclear alone gets 1.8bn for just five years under Euratom- as well as additional funds for ITER (and even a slice of the SET plan). R&D for low-carbon technologies (contained in the SET plan as part of the 6.5bn Euros for non-nuclear energy) appears to be severely underfunded published today.

### **Digital Agenda: Commission consults on massive expansion of LED lighting in Europe**

<http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy/newsletter/dg/2011/1222newsletter.html>

Brussels, 15 December 2011

The European Commission today adopted a Green Paper and launched a public consultation on the future of LED-based lighting. LED lighting is one of the most energy-efficient and versatile forms of lighting - saving up to 70% energy and money compared to other lighting technologies. Faster LED deployment will ensure the success of Europe's lighting industry and help reduce energy use from lighting by 20% by 2020. But Europe also faces a number of challenges and more input is needed from citizens and businesses to refine the policy. To this end a consultation will run until 29 February 2012 to collect feedback on the Commission's ideas.



### **European Energy awarded Entrepreneur of the year 2011 in the category Cleantech**

<http://www.europeanenergy.dk/european-energy/press/nyheder/display-single-should-be-hidden-in-menu/artikel/european-energy-nominated-entrepreneur-of-the-year-2011-in-the-category-cleantech/>

24<sup>th</sup> November 2011

The jury took note that European Energy's business model and various technologies are instrumental in promoting the establishment of wind and solar power plants and thereby reducing pollution. Its success is largely based on the ability to work with multiple technologies and successful use of a dynamic financial model. In addition the jury was impressed by how the winner has managed to build a portfolio of profitable plants in a few years, thereby laying the foundation for substantially developing its current activities over the coming years.

### **Planning new transmission lines in EU and the US: A strategy of the anti-commons?**

<http://www.energypolicyblog.com/2011/12/20/planning-new-transmission-lines-in-eu-and-us-a-tragedy-of-the-anticommons/>

20<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Huge investments in new transmission power lines are required on both sides of the Atlantic in the next two decades. Financial, technologies and regulatory uncertainties jeopardize their timely implementation. The European Commission (EC) and the Federal Energy regulatory Commission (FERC) have recently started to design a more favorable regulatory framework. Will they succeed ? And do their proposals differ ?

### **Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond**

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/infrastructure/strategy/2020\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/infrastructure/strategy/2020_en.htm)

19<sup>th</sup> October 2011

On 19 October 2011, the European Commission unveiled its proposal for a regulation on "Guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure". This proposal aims at ensuring that strategic energy networks and storage facilities are completed by 2020. To this end the commission has identified 12 priority corridors and areas covering electricity, gas oil and carbon and dioxide transport networks.

#### **Energy Policies Group:**

Elona Guga  
Serena Merrino  
Viviane Filippi  
Ernest Theophilus Opoku  
Xin Liu



## HUMAN RIGHTS

### NO MORE IRON CURTAIN!

*Brussels, 5 May 2011*

On 4 May 2011, the European Union and the Russian Federation hold their thirteenth round of human rights consultations in Brussels. The consultations concerned several important humanitarian issues such as children rights, racism and right of expression and assembly.

EU and Russia put the basis for a strengthened collaboration on the safeguard and insurance of fundamental human rights. It is important to underline the EU commitment in affirming its fundamental principles also outside Europe boarder.

*More information here:*

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/121874.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/121874.pdf)

### DE KEYSER REPORT

*Strasbourg, 6 July 2011*

Human rights must be central to all EU policy!

Catherine Ashton EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on de Keyser report on democracy European Parliament in Strasbourg reminds the necessity of solving critical Political situations such as Belarus regime.

The speech moreover remarks the successful achievements on death penalty and religious intolerance thanks to an heavier role of EU inside UN.

*More information here:*

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/11/506&format=HTML&aged=0&language=en&guiLanguage=en>

### BE YOURSELF

*Brussels, 17 May 2011*

To commemorate the International Day against Homophobia on 17 May 2011, Vice President Viviane Reding, the EU's Justice Commissioner, on behalf of the EU, reaffirms the commitment against any kind of sexual discrimination remarking the principles contained in the Charter of Fundamental Rights regarding this field. EU calls on all States to end acts of violence, criminal sanctions and human rights violations against individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. It was about time for Europe to intervene on this ground in order to remind not only to EU's institutions and citizens but also to the whole world that sexual intolerance is still an actual human gender shame.

*More information here:*

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/303&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### STAY HUMAN

*Brussels, 26 June 2011*

Catherine Ashton High Representative on Behalf of firmly remarks the need of a world free from torture, cruel and inhuman punishment. All MS are supposed to take effective measures against torture. The High Representative calls for a worldwide accession to the 1984 Convention Against Torture. Moreover, every MS is requested to ensure the full rehabilitation in mind and in body of the victims.

*More information here:*

[http://consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/123115.pdf](http://consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/123115.pdf)

### LABOUR IS AN ADULT BUSINESS!

*Brussels, 12 June 2011*

The commemoration of the world day against child labour take place in Brussels on 12 June 2011. The statement emphasizes the decline in child labour since 2006 when the International Labour Organization (ILO) set the ambitious target to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016. Although some relevant results have already been reached, the decrease in child labour is still an emergency in several regions and among all categories of children.

*More information here:*

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/122654.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/122654.pdf)

### DO NOT TOUCH CHILDREN

*Brussels, 30 June 2011*

Violence against children is a global concern.

Unicef and Eu launch a project against violence on children. This project is addressed especially toward south-eastern Europe Countries (Western Balkan Area and Turkey).

The core of the project is to enhance the partnership between civil society and decision makers, together to eliminate violence in schools, home and communities.

*More information here:*

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/822&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### STOP THAT TRAIN!

*Brussels, 20 December 2011*

The European Commission extended the list of goods subject to export control to prevent their use for torture, capital punishment and other inhuman treatment.

This measure follows a series of Council regulations starting from 2005, year from which E Commission started to boost against death penalty and other cruel punishments through restrictions on exports towards countries which have not yet abolished this kind of treatment.

*More information here:*

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1578&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## **THE MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK: THE PROPOSALS ON EXTERNAL ACTION INSTRUMENTS**

7 December 2011

The role of Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is fundamental. It sets annual maximum amounts for EU expenditure. The MFF also transforms the political priorities of European Union (for seven years) into financial terms. The proposals for the MFF 2014-2020 were published on the 29 of June 2011. They represent a budget for investment and growth to ease the pressure on Member States' finances, focusing on Europe 2020 priorities, impacts and results. They will also enable the EU to further reinforce its role on the global stage and promote its interests and values. They will allow the Union to fulfill its responsibility on the global stage: fighting poverty and promoting democracy, peace, stability and prosperity. The legislative package presented today is part of the proposals of the next MFF. It is compound by a main Communication entitled '**Global Europe**' and by legislative proposals for nine geographic and thematic instruments.

The main goal of European Union and of its partners is to strengthen the following policies: enlargement, neighborhood, cooperation with strategic partners and development cooperation.

The budget proposed for the period 2014-2020 as rely this external relation package is €96,249.4 million. The revolutionary aspect is that the EU will target its resources mostly where they are needed and where they could give the most important results.

The package contains nine financial instruments and one horizontal regulation concerning implementation modalities. **The Partnership Instrument (PI)** replaces the Industrial Cooperation Instrument (ICI). The existing financing instruments that remain valid and have been revised to adjust to the new realities, be more strategic and easy to use, are:

- THE INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA)
- EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD INSTRUMENT (ENI)
- DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION INSTRUMENT (DCI)
- THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF)
- INSTRUMENT FOR STABILITY (Ifs)
- INSTRUMENT FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY COOPERATION (INSC)
- EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS (EIDHR)
- INSTRUMENT FOR GREENLAND
- COMMON IMPLEMENTING REGULATION

The common implementing regulations offers a new harmonized, simplified and flexible decision-making procedures common to four geographic instruments (IPA, ENI, DCI and PI) and three thematic instruments (INSC, EIDHR, Ifs).

*More information here:*

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/878&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### THE 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

October 2011

The EU annual report on Human Rights and democracy in the world in 2010 was published. The report puts Human Rights policies at the heart of the Union enhancing the effectiveness of EU in promoting and safeguarding Human Rights in its relationship with third countries.

More information here:

### THE DAY FOR LIFE!

Brussels, 10 October 2011

The 10th of October is the World and European Day against death penalty. Capital punishment is always one of the main objectives of the EU's human rights policy.

The strong commitment of EU in the abolition of death penalty is remarked by several initiatives and concrete projects such as:

- EU political support to civil society organizations for the abolition of death penalty
- The EU engagement in promoting the signature of the Second optional protocol to the international covenant on civil and political rights, considered the most effective instrument against death penalty.
- The restriction on trade in goods used for capital punishment.

More information here:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/1160&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Human Rights Group

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