

# Jean Monnet European Module Newsletter #3

“THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CONSTITUTION  
AFTER THE LISBON TREATY: UNDERTAKINGS  
IN THE NEW SOCIAL MARKET ECONOMY”

The latest updates on major developments in the five most relevant areas of the European Union integration process.

1. Energy policy
2. Public procurement
3. Internal market
4. Human rights
5. Environmental policy



## CONTENTS

Energy Policy.....	2
Public Procurement .....	8
Internal Market.....	12
Human Rights .....	13
Environmental Policy....	19

More info available at [Jean Monnet Module website](#)

or email Professor [Martina Conticelli](#)

---

# ENERGY POLICY

---



## EDITORS

Daniele Esposito

Federico Fasano

Lorenzo Ferrari

David Giannicchi

Lorenzo Migliaccio

Massimo Privitera

Marta Putorti

---

## STATE AID: COMMISSION APPROVES UK RENEWABLE HEAT SCHEME FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Brussels, 12nd June 2012.

The European Commission has found a UK scheme in support of renewable energy sources used to generate heat in Northern Ireland to be in line with EU state aid rules, because it furthers environmental protection and the limitation of carbon emissions, in line with the Europe 2020 strategy for sustainable growth, without unduly distorting competition in the internal market.

In the context of reaching its objectives of 12% renewable heat and 30% renewable electricity by

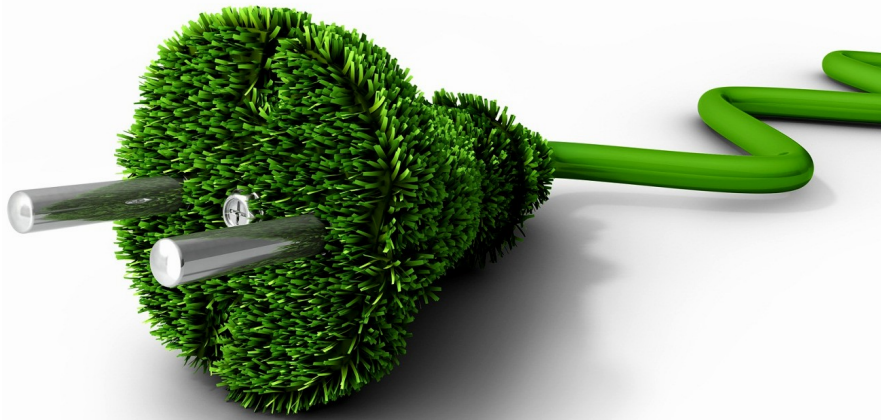
2020, the UK intends to incentivize the use of renewable energy sources for the production of heat and hot water, and in particular biomass, ground source, biogas and solar energy sources in Northern Ireland. The incentive will come as a series of tariffs per unit of heat produced and divided into bands according to the technology used. In the scheme notified by the UK authorities, the tariffs would be paid to the commercial users of those energy sources, as they are the most energy-intensive players.

## RENEWABLES: COMMISSION CONFIRMS MARKET INTEGRATION AND THE NEED FOR GROWTH TO GO BEYOND 2020

Brussels, 6th June 2012.

The European Union is committed to achieving a 20% share of renewable energy by 2020. This goal can be reached only in a cost-efficient manner if all policies currently in place are implemented across all Member States and if support schemes converge. In the Communication adopted today, the Commission is therefore calling for a more coordinated European approach in the establishment and reform of support schemes and an increased use of renewable energy trading among Member States. Moreover, the fact that investors need regulatory certainty makes crucial to start discussing the future and building a solid framework beyond 2020.

[More info](#)



## SMART METERS: CONSUMER PROFILING WILL TRACK MUCH MORE THAN ENERGY CONSUMPTION IF NOT PROPERLY SAFEGUARDED, SAYS THE EDPS

Brussels, 8th June 2012

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) adopted his opinion on the Commission Recommendation on preparations for the roll-out of smart metering systems, which gives guidance to Member States to prepare for the roll-out of these systems.

While the Europe-wide rollout of smart metering systems may bring significant benefits, it will also enable massive collection of personal data which can track what members of a household do within the privacy of their own homes, whether they are away on holiday or at work, if someone uses a specific medical device or a baby-monitor, how they like to spend their free time and so on. These patterns can be useful for analysing our energy use for energy conservation but together with data from other sources, the potential for extensive data mining is very significant. Patterns and profiles can be used for many other purposes, including marketing, advertising and price discrimination by third parties.

In light of these risks, the EDPS welcomes the efforts by the Commission to provide guidance to Member States. In particular, the EDPS supports the plan to prepare a template for a data protection impact assessment and submit it to the Article 29 Data Protection Working Party for advice.

[More info](#)

## THE EU GAS MARKET: THE COMMISSION CALLS ON FRANCE TO REVISE ITS SYSTEM OF REGULATED PRICES FOR NON-HOUSEHOLD USERS

Brussels, 31st May 2012

Today, the European Commission officially called on France to bring its legislation on regulated tariffs for non-household end-users of natural gas into line with European Union law. Under European internal energy market legislation, prices should primarily be determined by supply and demand. State-set tariffs for non-household end-users, as provided for in the French 'Energy Code', impede new arrivals from entering the market.

[More info](#)



## INTERNAL ENERGY MARKET

Brussels, 31st May 2012

The best way for ensuring security of supply and competitive energy prices for all is to open energy markets to competition. An efficient, interconnected and transparent European internal energy market will make the market more accessible to different suppliers and thereby offer consumers a wider choice between different companies supplying gas and electricity.

The Electricity and Gas Directives of the Third Energy Package had to be transposed by the Member States by 3 March 2011. To date Poland has not informed the Commission of all the necessary transposition measures for fully transposing the Electricity Directive.

[More info](#)

## THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION CONVENED A ROUNDTABLE ON EU REFINING INDUSTRY

15th May 2012

On 15 May European Commissioner for Energy Günther Oettinger met with stakeholders to discuss the difficulties of the EU refining sector. The event brought together representatives of the Member States with an oil refining presence. Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the EU refining industry and of trade unions also participated in the debate. In recent years, the sector has been experiencing depressed margins

at a time of falling demand, coupled with excess capacity. In response to market conditions, refining operations have been halted at a growing number of plants in the EU. The main objectives of the Roundtable was to allow Member States that have developed national refining plans and/or undertaken an assessment of the difficulties faced by their refining sector to share their recommendations and/or findings and to assess the need for coordinated action at the EU level to deal with the sector's

## ENERGIZING DEVELOPMENT: COMMISSION'S NEW INITIATIVE TO HELP ACHIEVE ENERGY ACCESS FOR ALL BY 2030

Brussels, 16th April 2012

A new EU energy initiative which will provide access to sustainable energy for an additional 500 million people in developing countries by 2030 was today announced by European Commission President, José Manuel Barroso. Speaking at the EU Sustainable Energy for All Summit in Brussels, the President unveiled this EU commitment in the framework of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4All) launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon last year.

The Commission's proposals include a new EU Technical Assistance Facility worth €50 million over the next two years, which will support those developing partners that "opt in" to the initiative by providing EU expertise in the field; thereby promoting sustainable development and inclusive growth.



## NUCLEAR SAFETY: GREEK, POLISH AND PORTUGUESE LEGISLATION IS NOT IN LINE WITH EU LAW

Brussels, 26th April 2012

Nuclear safety is paramount to EU citizens and it is of major concern for EU law-makers. The EU nuclear safety directive (2009/71/Euratom) sets comprehensive and legally binding rules that ensure the safety of all nuclear installations all over the EU. In the light of on-going safety checks of all nuclear power plants it is essential that the directive is properly implemented in all Member States. Together this will enhance the EU nuclear safety regime and guarantee that workers of nuclear installations and general public as well as the environment will be protected against any risk of radioactive contamination.

[More info](#)

## ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS: COMMISSION REFERS ITALY TO COURT

Brussels, 26th April 2012

Buildings are responsible for around 40% of energy consumption and 36% of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the European Union. The European legislation aims to achieve a significant reduction in the energy consumption of buildings, thus helping to combat climate change and strengthen the EU's energy security. Large energy savings will also enable households to drastically reduce their bills. It is therefore essential

that Member States fully apply this legislation.

Günther Oettinger said: "This extensive report is a major element of our stress tests. Now, we will do additional visits of power plants and analyse some safety aspects in more detail. EU citizens have the right to know and understand how safe the nuclear power plants are they live close to. Soundness is more important than timing. "

[More info](#)

## SMART ENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE ICT CONFERENCE

3-4th May in Brussels  
The European Commission is organising a conference on sustainable ICT, smart grids and smart cities. The two-day conference will be opened by Commissioners Günther Oettinger and Neelie Kroes. It will bring together policy makers and stakeholders such as telecom companies, energy providers, regulators and consumer organisations. It will provide a platform for discussions on the challenges faced in deploying smart grids, be they technical, regulatory, financial or linked to public acceptance. The conference will investigate how ICT can make our cities greener by an exchange of best practices. It will also touch upon the important issue of how to deliver transparent metrics around the positive contribution of ICT to solving our energy and climate problems. Registration is free of charge, but obligatory and will open at the end of March.

[More info](#)





### CLEARED ACQUISITION OF CONTROLLING STAKE IN GERMAN WIND FARM BORKUM RIFFGRUND BY BOSTON HOLDING

Brussels, 10 May 2012

The European Commission has cleared under the EU Merger Regulation the proposed acquisition of joint control over the North Sea wind farm Borkum Riffgrund I of Germany by DONG Energy Borkum Riffgrund of Germany and Boston Holding of Denmark. The Commission found that the proposed transaction would not raise competition concerns because it will not alter the market structure.

[More info](#)

## ENERGY LABELLING: COMMISSION URGES CZECH REPUBLIC AND POLAND TO ADOPT CONSUMER-FRIENDLY LEGISLATION

Brussels, 22nd March 2012

The Energy labelling directive is a key instrument to promote energy efficiency and raising consumers' awareness. By giving consumers comparative information on the energy consumption of the products they buy, the energy label aims at triggering more cost-effective and energy saving decisions from consumers. In addition, it encourages manufacturers to develop products with a good energy efficiency rating. Moreover, defining common EU thresholds related to energy efficiency (B, A, A+ etc.) provides Member States with a clear framework when it comes to purchase requirements.

This framework is useful also for other stakeholders such as private companies in their advertising activities.

The EU legislation aims at giving these possibilities in all countries. Despite letters of formal notice sent on 18 July 2011, Czech Republic and Poland have not yet informed the Commission of the full transposition of the Directive into their national legislation.

Therefore the Commission has today decided to send reasoned opinions to these Member States. If they do not comply with their legal obligations within two months, the Commission may refer them to the Court of Justice.

## COMMISSION URGES CYPRUS, ROMANIA AND ITALY TO ADOPT CONSUMER-FRIENDLY LEGISLATION

Brussels, 27th February 2012

The Energy labelling directive is important in promoting energy efficiency and raising consumers' awareness. By giving consumers comparative information on the energy consumption of the products they buy, the energy label favours better energy and cost saving decisions. In addition, it encourages manufacturers to develop products with a good energy efficiency rating. Moreover, defining common EU thresholds related to energy efficiency (B, A, A+ etc.) provides Member States with a clear framework when it comes to purchase requirements. This framework is useful also for other stakeholders such as private companies in their advertising activities.

The EU legislation aims at giving these possibilities in all countries. Despite letters of formal notice sent on 18 July 2011, Cyprus, Romania and Italy have not yet informed the Commission of the full transposition of the Directive into their national legislation.

## NATIONAL LEGISLATION IN 8 MEMBER STATES STILL NOT IN LINE WITH EU RULES

Brussels, 27th February 2012

Opening energy markets for competition is key to competitiveness of the EU economy as a whole. An efficient, interconnected and transparent European internal energy market will also offer consumers a choice between different companies supplying gas and electricity and will make the market accessible to all suppliers.

The Electricity and Gas Directives of the Third Energy Package had to be transposed by the Member States by 3 March 2011. As to date Bulgaria, Cyprus, Spain, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania and Slovakia have not informed the Commission of any transposition measures for the two Directives and Estonia has not done so as regards the Gas Directive. Consequently, the Commission sent today 15 Reasoned Opinions to these 8 Member States to urge them to comply with their legal obligation. The Member States now have two months to respond. If they fail to comply the Commission may refer them to the Court of Justice of the European Union.

## DIGITAL AGENDA: EU FUNDED PROJECT HELPS CITIZENS COMPARE AND REDUCE THEIR ENERGY CONSUMPTION VIA TV, PC AND SOCIAL NETWORKS APPLICATIONS

Brussels, 17th February 2012

Citizens and business often waste energy because they do not realise which appliances and lighting use the most energy. An EU-funded project tested in the United Kingdom and Bulgaria is helping to change that – showing consumers reduced energy usage by an average of 8% when provided with an "information dashboard" about their energy use.

The Digital Environment Home

Energy Management System (DEHEMS) project shows that when a consumer receives more information about their energy use, and can share and compare this with neighbours and family, they are more likely to change their behaviour. The EU-funded system presents data every 6 seconds through a small digital display. The data can also be displayed in real time via a TV screen, mobile phone, PC or social media app.



## THE ENERGY COUNCIL DISCUSSED TRANS-EUROPEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE.

Brussels, 14th Feb 2012.

The Council started with an orientation debate on the Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, followed by an information point from the Presidency on the state of play of negotiations on the Proposal for a Directive on energy efficiency. The afternoon session started with a policy debate on the Europe 2020 strategy. The Presidency informed the Member States on the state of play of negotiations on the Decision setting up an information exchange mechanism with regard to intergovernmental agreements between Member States and third countries in the field of energy. The meeting continued with information by the Presidency on the preparation of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The Commission then gave an update on the recent developments in external relations in the field of energy .

# PUBLIC PROCUREMENT



## EDITORS

Sara Del Vecchio

Yessica Rada Maury

Nadia Mastrangelo

Raffaele Squillacioti

Livia Vichi

## MOST RECENT INFRINGEMENT PROCEDURES

Commission requests Bulgaria and Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Austria and Poland to fully transpose the EU rules in the area of defence procurement

[Directive 2009/81/EC](#) concerns the implementation of rules regarding public procurement in defence, security equipment and the related markets. More in details, the directive introduces the following instructions for all Member States:

- rules aiming at reaching a fair and transparent access to the security and defence market
- possibility for the contracting authorities to be more elastic in negotiating the features of complex contracts
- possibility for the contracting authorities to require guaranties from suppliers in order to avoid unauthorised access to reserved information, and to impose suppliers reliability in order to have armed forces receiving their deliveries in time, especially in times of crisis and armed conflict.

The directive covers contracts regarding two main fields: military equipment and related works, and sensitive security equipment as well as works and services involving the access to the reserved information.

The commission complained that the following Member States have failed in carrying out **the implementation** of the Directive concerning procurement of arms, munitions and war materials for defence purposes, and also the procurement of sensitive supplies:

22/03/2012: Bulgaria and Luxembourg have not yet implemented the whole Directive and their transposition process is still very slow. Reference IP/12/290

26/04/2012: United Kingdom has not yet transposed the Directive in its whole territory, missing in fact Gibraltar. Reference IP/12/416

31/05/2012: Austria has not yet transposed the Directive in its whole territory, missing in fact Carinthia. Poland has not yet communicated any measures aimed at implement the mentioned Directive. Reference IP/12/533

21/06/2012: Slovenia has not yet communicated any measures aimed at implement the Directive. Reference IP/12/664

All these Member States should have implemented the rules at stake by 20 August 2011. The importance of the Directive in question is highlighted by the fact that, in the absence of this, companies and taxpayers cannot benefit from a transparent and competitive defence market.

In this case the Commission's request to the Member States takes the form of a reasoned opinion, to which the actors must respond by implementing the necessary measures within two months.

[More info](#)



## IMPROVEMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Brussels, 21 March 2012

Commission launched a new initiative to foster a fair and non discriminatory competition in public procurement markets

Government procurement accounts for 19% of GDP in the European Union and worldwide it draws more than €1000 billion per year. It is therefore considered as a significant growth-enhancing driver, especially during economic downturns. For this reason, the European Commission has launched a new initiative aimed at improving not only the EU procurement markets but also at expanding EU firms opportunities into the public procurement sector worldwide. The main objective of the initiative is to ensure a level playing field for both European and non-European companies by guaranteeing a fair access to all

international competition, however, European companies do not always face the same degree of openness. In particular, major trade partners have restrictions and discriminate against foreign bidders. This is particularly unfavourable to European companies because in some sectors the EU is highly competitive; that is, construction, public transport, medical devices, power generation and pharmaceuticals.

In order to address this problem the Commission has introduced such initiative, setting incentives for trade partners to open up their public procurement markets to EU bidders, ensuring equal footing of EU and foreign firms. This will expand companies business opportunities, in turns it will lead to job creation and it will foster innovation in the EU.



*This initiative is in line with the WTO Government Procurement Agreement and bilateral trade agreements. Moreover, it presents in depth legally binding international commitments of the European Union regarding European contracting authorities.*

firms to those markets and supporting effective competition.

[More info](#)

The European public procurement market is traditionally considered fairly open. When it comes to



## THE CHALLENGES OF E-PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN 2011-2016 , THE NEW AGENDA

Brussels, 20 March 2012

One of the main objectives to modernize public procurement in the EU is to make the e-procurement process a rule, and not an exception. The first step was taken during 2004 to 2010, when the first plan was implemented in order to modernize the procedure for public procurement in Europe through the e-procurement technological instrument.

The New Digital Agenda for Europe and the e-Government Action Plan 2011-2016 are aimed at consolidating the e-procurement system in all the countries of the Union, through measures that allow significant savings for taxpayers in the procedure.

The press-release refers to the possibility of generating savings for European taxpayers from 5% to 25% as result of the use of e-procurement in Europe. It highlights the savings in procurement expenditures of the public entities that have already implemented e-procurement Plan, since the EU's procurement market is estimated to account for more than 2 trillion euros, so each 5% saved could result in about 100 billion euros of savings per year which is equivalent to building more than 150 large size hospitals. It also emphasized the fact that savings can increase public spending , driving economic growth and job creation. with respect to the tender opportunities, the e-procurement can create transparency and reduce the cost of participating in the procurement procedures of the SMEs, and intensify their participation.

However, e-procurement is still used in only 5-10% of procurement procedures

carried out across the EU, although the plan is part of the European Public Procurement Directive, adopted in 2011. The first year of the plan implementation was developed slowly, taking into account that during mid-2006 e-procurement should have been the standard method of procurement in the EU. For this reason it is necessary a prompted transition to e-procurement from EU countries. The measures proposed by the commission are both financial and technological supported, in order to establish the e-procurement infrastructure, monitoring process and identifying best practices and benefits in the process. The Press releases also announces a new deadline by mid-2015, making preventive solutions for member states before the program ends.

Finally, the press- release presented the legislative proposals to modernize European public procurement, adopted by the European Commission in December 2011: First by making electronic communication during the tender processes, enabling effective interaction among those involved in the processes by mid-2014 and, then by making electronic means of communication mandatory for all contracting authorities and all procurement procedures by mid-2016.

During the conference “Electronic procurement - challenges and opportunities” on June 2012, all member states and different European organisations gathered to discuss the benefits of e-procurement. The results of the conferences haven't been officially published.

[More info](#)

## COMMISSION CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP TO STAKEHOLDER EXPERT GROUP

Brussels, 12 February 2012

This year the Commission will be active in the field of public procurement in particular in the context of Commission Decision of 3 September 2011. It regards the setting up of a Commission stakeholder expert group in the field of public procurement. The decision established the aim of this group to be to provide the Commission with the necessary competence and experience in order to meet the new challenges in the field of public procurement. In line with the Europe 2020 strategy the decision should ensure the most efficient use of public funds and keep procurement markets opened at European Union level. This will improve the business environment, especially for small and medium enterprises. It will also support the shift towards a resource efficient economy. Moreover the decision requires the group to help the Commission in developing a high quality procurement debate and policy. The group shall prepare reports or issue opinions to support the Commission in implementing Union policy and legislation on public procurement. Tasks of the group include:

- providing legal and economic analysis and comments on important developments or structural trends of public procurement, and their implications for the Union policy framework;
- providing feedback to the Commission services on the challenges and developments in specific sectors which may require public procurement response and to propose adequate solutions;
- providing input aimed at improving the effectiveness of the Union's public procurement policy;
- providing input in the framework of preparatory legislative work of the Commission in the field of public procurement;
- assisting the Commission services in analysing the relevant case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union.



---

*The Commission has issued on 12 February 2012 a call for applications addressed to qualified experts for participating in a new stakeholder group on public procurement. The application deadline is on 05 March 2012.*

---

[More info](#)

# INTERNAL MARKET



## EDITOR

Nadia Mastrangelo

## AFTER THIRTY YEARS OF NEGOTIATION ... AN UNITARY EUROPEAN PATENT SYSTEM!

On 29 June was concluded the long negotiation about the EU's future unitary PATENT SYSTEM.

The agreement, which is not yet finalized, will make possible for European business to apply for patent in just one place, obtaining a patent valid in all participating member states, enhancing growth and business in Europe.

The seat of the Unified Patent Court's Central Division of the Court of the First Instance should be seat in Paris, as well as the office of the Court's President, with two specialized sections, one in London and the other one in Munich, while The first President of the Court should come from the member state Hosting the Court's Central Division.

The Unified Patent Court will have exclusive competence on judging the validity or infringement actions of the European unitary patents.

The single patent litigation

the same patent and the risk that different courts rule in different ways for the same disputes.

Moreover the single litigation system will sharply reduce patent litigation costs for businesses.

On December 2011 the European Parliament and member states agreed on two Regulation which legislate on the unitary patent itself and on the translation arrangement of the patents. The language to be used for the registration of the patents should be English, France and German, reducing the costs of acquiring patent protection.

The European Parliament will vote on the unitary patent "package" in July 2011 and after the Council will adopt the two Regulation, then in the second half of the 2012 member states will sign the Unified Patent agreement and when it will be ratify by at least 13 member states it will enter into force together with the other two regulations.

*The European Council has concluded the negotiation on the EU's prospective unitary Patent system, but a few remaining issue remain unaddressed.*

system will eliminate the risk of multiple patent lawsuits in different member state regarding

[More info](#)

# HUMAN RIGHTS

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND DISCRIMINATION IN THE FIELD OF HOUSING BENEFITS

Luxembourg, 24th April 2012

The case Kanderaj regards a preliminary ruling issued in the Province of Bolzano to the European Court of Justice. The parties involved are Mr Kamberaj - an Albanian national with a residence permit for an indefinite period of time - and other lawyer colleagues of him, the autonomous province of Bolzano and several European governments.

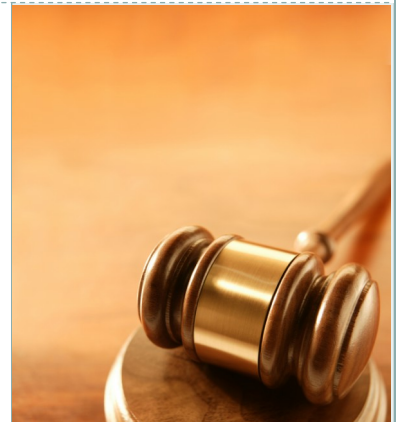
The reference made in proceedings between Mr Kamberaj and various local authorities of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano claims that his application for receiving housing benefits was refused on the grounds that such benefits – in particular those destined to third country nationals – had been exhausted.

Equal treatment is claimed on behalf of directive 2000/43, and the approximation in treatment of long-term resident third-country nationals to the one of EU citizens on behalf of directive 2003/109.

The purpose of the preliminary ruling is to check whether there might be incompatibility issues between local legislation on social benefit matters with relevant EU legislation.

Concluding, the benefits embedded in the aforementioned directives have to be considered applicable through equal treatment among nationals, EU-citizens and third-country nationals for what concerns the housing benefits in question.

[More info](#)



### EDITORS

Antonio Cappelleri

Elvira Iacutone

Francesca Mastromattei

Giulia Simonelli





## HUMAN RIGHTS, DISCRIMINATION AND JOB-SEEKING

Luxembourg, 19th April 2012

This case of the European Court of Justice regards an issue of equal treatment irrespective of age, sex and ethnicity. The parties are Ms Galina Meister and Speech Design Carries Systems. Directives 2000/43, 2006/54 and 2000/78 are the EU legislation which is object of the dispute. Access to vocational training and job opportunities need to be provided under consideration of the principle of equality. Galina Meister, a Russian national which holds a Russian engineering degree deemed equivalent by German authorities, was not able to apply for a job position as experienced software developer in the aforementioned software company. She wasn't provided any

motivation by the personnel of the company.

Since Ms Meister felt that she had suffered because of a less favorable treatment on grounds of nationality, she referred to the German Labor Court. Through a reference to the European Court of Justice it was ruled that the secondary legislation regarding the case does not entitle a job applicant to be provided information about the reasons why their application has been rejected. However, it still needs to be assessed by the national labour court whether the company's behavior towards Ms Meister has been discriminatory on grounds of nationality.

[More info](#)

## "YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO... A LETTER OF RIGHTS"

Brussels, June 7, 2012

A new law to grant the right to information in criminal proceedings throughout the European Union has been published in the Official Journal: this means the second step in order to set common EU minimum standards in criminal cases.

The directive on the right to information was proposed by the European Commission in July 2010, voted by the European Parliament on 13 December 2011 and now the Member States have two years to implement the directive.

The aim of this law is to avoid

miscarriages of justice by ensuring that anyone arrested in any EU Member State is given a Letter of Rights listing basic rights during criminal proceedings. This letter should be drafted in a simple language, provided to suspects upon arrest in all cases and translated if needed.

The most relevant rights listed in the Letter are: To remain in silent. to a lawyer, to be informed of the charge, to be brought promptly before a court following arrest, to inform someone else about the arrest or detention.

[More info](#)

# THE EU STRATEGY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Brussels, 19 June 2012

*With the "EU Strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in Human Beings (2012-2016)", the Commission is focusing on concrete actions for the implementation of EU legislation on trafficking (Directive 2011/36/EU)*

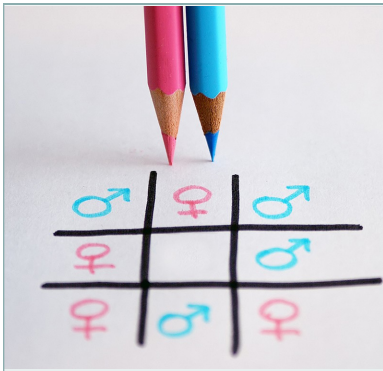
The Commission adopted the "EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings (2012-2016)", a set of concrete and practical measures to be implemented over the next five years.

The strategy includes prevention, protection and support of the victims, as well as the prosecution of the traffickers. It identifies and outlines a series of initiatives, i.e.:

- Supporting the establishment of national law enforcement units specialised in human trafficking
- Providing clear information to victims on their rights under EU law and national legislation
- Establishing a European Business Coalition against trafficking in Human Beings to improve cooperation between companies and stakeholders
- Creating an EU Mechanism to better identify, refer, protect and assist trafficked victims

These measures are the result of extensive consultations with experts, governments, civil society and international organisations, social partners and academics. They reflect their main concerns and will complement existing efforts.

[More info](#)



## NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN EU AND UN WOMEN TO ENHANCE GENDER EQUALITY

Brussels, April 16, 2012

This new cooperation reaffirms the partnership between the EU and UN to support gender equality and women's empowerment around the world and ensures closer collaboration; sharing information, expertise and analysis in order to effectively advance women's rights.

The main issues in which this cooperation will focus on are:

- ensuring women's representation in decision-making in the fields of economics, politics and justice worldwide, as well as better access for women to work and social opportunities;
- take action on combating sexual and gender-based violence. This will include a commitment to provide more support and protection to survivors of violence and increasing access to support and services for those women affected;
- enhancing women's participation in peace-building and post-conflict planning in Liberia, Timor-Leste and Kosovo (The new Memorandum of Understanding confirms this partnership)

High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice President of the Commission Catherine Ashton, said: "Discrimination against women and girls remains the most pervasive and persistent form of inequality. Together with UN Women we will work to improve the role of women in political and economic decision-making. We will also fight impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence, ensure better protection of women and improve their access to justice. These are issues that need our full attention and this new partnership enhances our ability to work even harder to reach these goals."

[More info](#)

## EUROPEAN BOOST IN HUMANITARIAN AIDS FOR SYRIA

Brussels, June 20, 2012

---

### *Commissioner Georgieva visits Syrian refugees*

---

On World Refugee day, the commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva, met Syrian refugees at Kilis, in Turkey, with Turkey's Minister for EU affairs, Egemen Bağış.

She announced that the European Commission is increasing its humanitarian aids by EUR 10 millions: this increase brings to EUR 43 million the amount spent by the Commission in response to the Syrian crisis (23 millions come from the European Neighborhood and partnership instrument, while EU member states have provided 24.6 millions).

It is estimated that these aids will reach about 700.000 people and will be used in order to provide shelter, food, medical and health supplies, clean drinking and improved sanitation.

Speaking at Kilis Commissioner Georgieva said: "At this desperate time my thoughts are with all those people who are suffering grievously as a result of the indiscriminate violence taking place in Syria. A lingering civil war beckons and I expect the scale of the humanitarian challenges to rise dramatically. We will continue to stand with the innocent victims of violence and today I repeat my call to all the parties to the fighting to spare human life, respect human rights and to afford all protection and assistance to those who are trying to provide relief to the most vulnerable."

The Commission will continue to raise funds through its partners, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as well as the United Nations' Refugee Agency.

[More info](#)

## FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND MISCONCEPTION

April 16, 2012

Anyone who thinks their rights have been infringed through the implementation of EU law could bring the case to the national court and if not satisfied with response they could complaint to the European commission which is responsible for ensuring the respect of the fundamental rights.

The 2011 report made by the Commission notes that EU proposals have increased protection of some rights such as travelling and security checks.

Further more in 2011, court decisions were influenced by this charter, like the right of asylum seekers to protection from inhuman or degrading treatment and different insurance premiums for men and women discriminatory.

Though the clearness of the charter, EU citizens often are confused about its aim. In fact a lot of letters have been sent to the Commission on topics about it(65% of Europeans would like learn more about the charter's rights).

[More info](#)



## EU LAW AND THE GRANTING FAMILY BENEFITS

Luxembourg, June 12, 2012

According to the Regulation No 1408/71 workers are subject to the legislation of the Member State in which they usually are employed even if they are posted to carry out work, or they perform a work on temporary basis, in another Member State.

The story of Mr. Waldemar Hudzinski (C-611/10) and Mr. Jaroslaw Wawrzyniak (C-612/10) is one of two Polish nationals, resident in Poland and covered by the Polish social security system. Mr. Hudzinski is father of two children and he is a self-employed farmer, employed as a seasonal worker in a horticultural business in Germany from 20 August to 7 December 2007. Mr. Wawrzyniak, who has one daughter, worked in Germany as a posted worker from February to December 2006. Under German law the family benefits are entitled only if the worker is subject to unlimited income tax liability and they are not payable if similar benefits are received in another Member State. In fact according to the Regulation No 1408/71 and the Polish law, the request about the benefits made by the two workers, after be subject to unlimited income tax liability in German, was refused. The Bundesfinanzhof has asked the Court of Justice that even if Germany is not the competent Member State, EU law prevents Germany from granting family benefits, whether a Member State may exclude entitlement to family benefits in the case where similar benefits can be received in another member State.

The Court concludes with an interpretation of Regulation No 1408/71 permitting a Member State to grant family benefits in a situation in which those are liable to contribute to the improvement of living standards and conditions of employment of migrant workers by

*The national rule which excludes the benefits for posted and temporary workers could be an obstacle to the free movement of workers.*

affording them greater social protection. Moreover this interpretation contributes to the objective of those provisions, which is to facilitate the free movement of workers.

According to that the two workers are entitle to that benefits by reason of the fact that they were subject to unlimited income tax liability in Germany.

[More info](#)



# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



## ROADMAP TO A RESOURCE EFFICIENT EUROPE

In order to achieve resource efficient, EU designed a roadmap that the vision by 2050 highly considers the sustainable resource management (from raw materials to energy, water, air, land and soil), the respect on environmental impacts and the concern on climate change. It surely provides challenges and opportunities for Europe.

In order to communicate a resource-efficient Europe, EU makes a Flagship initiative under the Europe 2020 Strategy. It is about communication from the commission to the European parliament, the council, the

European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the regions. It stresses why resource efficient is important because continuing the current patterns of resource use is not an option. By communicating a vision of where Europe should be in 2050 and a long-term policy framework can provide a clear path for businesses and investors. It is important to sharpen the focus on the action that has to be taken in the next ten years to put Europe on the right track and to speed up the transition.

[More info](#)

### EDITORS

Marzia De Gregorio

Uswatun Hasanah

Arianna Norcini Pala

Gianluca Trotta

## SEVESO III

The new *Seveso*, the Directive on control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances, has been adopted by the European Parliament at its plenary meeting on 14 June 2012 and subsequently by the Council on 26 June 2012 in its meeting (Official Journal of the European Union L 197, 24.7.2012, p. 1.)

The new Directive 2012/18/EU, that will replace Directive 96/82/EC by 1 June 2015, adapts the discipline of the major accidents in the changing on the EU system on classification of dangerous substances and mixtures (Regulation 1272/2008 on classification, labeling and packaging of dangerous substances and mixtures), through the amendment of Annex I. Moreover, according to the provisions of the Aarhus Convention, it strengthens the provisions to public access on environmental information, participation in decision-making and access to justice. Concerning the inspections of installations, the new Directive introduces the more precise standards to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of safety rules.

[More info](#)



## WATER PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT (WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE)

In terms of water, EU has established a Community framework for water protection and management. The Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 are establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy. The ultimate objective is to achieve “good ecological and chemical status” for all Community waters by 2015.

From 2010, Member States must ensure that water pricing policies provide adequate incentives for users to use water resources efficiently and that the various economic sectors contribute to the

recovery of the costs of water services, including those relating to the environment and resources. Moreover, Member States must introduce arrangements to ensure that effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties are imposed in the event of breaches of the provisions of this Framework Directive.

A list of priority substances selected from among the ones which present a significant risk to the aquatic environment has been drawn up at European level. This list is set out in Annex X to this Framework-Directive.

[More info](#)

## INTERNATIONAL WATER LAW

In this section, we provide some Directives of the European Parliament and of the Council like Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration, 12 December 2006 and Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council 2000/EC/60, Establishing a Framework for Community Action in the Field of Water Policy, 23 October 2000.

Furthermore, there is some Directives of the European Economic Community that covers some issues like the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances (Council Directive 80/68/EEC of 17 December 1979), the quality of fresh waters needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life (Council Directive 78/659/EEC of 18 July 1978) and more.

It also provides Agreements of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe like UN/ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Trans-boundary Watercourses and International Lakes, done at Helsinki, 17 March 1992. 31 I.L.M. 1312 (1992); UN/ECE Draft Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Trans-boundary Watercourses and International Lakes (final draft as adopted June 17, 1999); UN/ECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Trans-boundary Context, 30 I.L.M. 800 (1991) and more.

European Frontier Water Agreements are also covered like Agreement on reciprocal access to fishing in the Skagerrak and the Kattegat (with Protocol). Signed at Copenhagen, on 19 December 1966; Came into force on 7 August 1967. Denmark, Norway and Sweden; Treaty Between the Hungarian People's Republic and the Republic of Austria Concerning the Regulation of Water Economy Questions in the Frontier Region, signed at Vienna, 9 April 1956; in force, 31 July 1956 and more.

[More info](#)

## CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS DOWN

The European Environment Agency (EEA) published provisional data on average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new passenger cars registered in 2011. As reported, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from new cars down by 3%. There were 12.8 million new cars registered in the EU in 2011. The average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from these cars were 135.7g CO<sub>2</sub> per kilometer, which is 4.6g CO<sub>2</sub>/km less than in 2010 – a reduction of 3.3%

The 2011 is the last year before the CO<sub>2</sub> targets become binding. The phase-in of the mandatory target of 130g CO<sub>2</sub>/km to be met in 2015 will start on the basis of the data for 2012. According to EEA analysis, a combination of changes in buying behavior, improved technology and engine efficiency was mostly responsible for this drop.

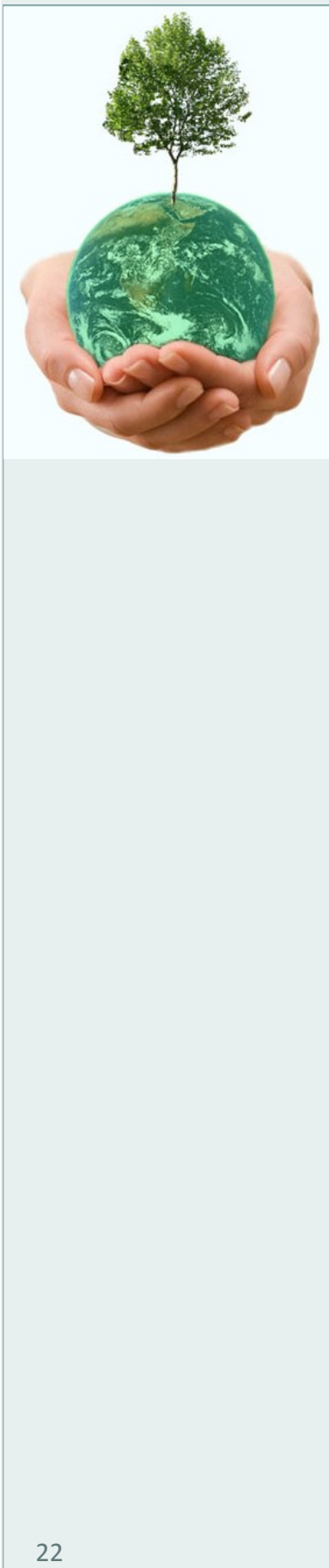
Car manufacturers will now be asked to verify these preliminary figures before they are confirmed by the Commission later this year.

---

*It means that the Europeans citizens are buying more efficient cars. Average carbon dioxide emissions, according to preliminary figures released on 20 June, from cars continue to fall in Europe.*

---

[More info](#)



## THE GOALS AND PRIORITIES OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The 6th EAP helped to provide environment policy an overarching framework for a decade during which environmental legislation was consolidated and completed to cover almost all areas of environment, with the exception of soil. Adoption by co-decision has been seen by stakeholders as giving it more legitimacy and helped to create a wider sense of ownership for subsequent policy proposals. But it also shows shortcomings and limitations: in particular, inclusion in the EAP is no guarantee that Member States are actually committed to these objectives.

Major accomplishments during the

past ten years include the extension of the Natura 2000 network of protected areas to cover over 18% of the EU's land area, the introduction of a comprehensive chemicals policy, and robust policy action on climate change. However, the EU is still progress to be made in implementing agreed EU environmental legislation and in halting biodiversity loss and improving soil and water quality. Furthermore, efforts to decouple resource use from economic growth have not yet brought about a decrease in overall resources use.

[More info](#)

## EC: ENSURING IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

By delivering the communication (2012) 95 of 7 March 2012 the European Commission supplements the previously communications no. 502 (2007) and 773 (2008) by developing ideas that are primarily aimed to provide Member States with better tools to improve the implementation of environmental legislation.

In fact, delayed or inadequate implementation has many negative consequences and it ultimately harms the environment and human health. Furthermore it generates uncertainty for industry in terms of regulation and puts in question the level playing field of the single market. The costs of not implementing current legislation are broadly estimated at around € 50 billion a year.

The purpose of the communication (2012) 95 is to examine means of helping Member States, within lies the chief responsibility for implementation, to achieve a fully systematic approach in knowledge collection and dissemination and to create greater responsiveness to the problems on the ground. It is proposed not only to look at the effective access to justice but also at the inspections and surveillance, complaint mechanisms and formalizing partnerships to ensure implementation.

[More info](#)





## HOW WE CAN DO MORE WITH LESS?

One of the greatest challenges of this century will be to balance the demands of a growing global population with the planet's carrying capacity. One approach to do this is to "do more with less", or in other words, become resource efficient. Despite (or maybe due to) technological advancement our society's use of resources is not very efficient. This is evident when comparing the total amounts of resources that are extracted from nature, with the amount of resources that are actually used and finally the amount ends up as waste and pollution.

This study - Assessment of resource efficiency indicators and targets Final report, European Commission DG Environment, 19 June 2012 - investigates how indicators and targets of resource use can be used to increase resource efficiency in the EU as part of the European Commission's Flagship Initiative

for a Resource Efficient Europe.

The study, analysed several existing indicators that track the different types of resource flows in the economy, such as materials (abiotic and biotic), energy, water and land use. The selected indicators were then evaluated for their appropriateness for target setting at the EU policy level. The outcome of the study is a framework for a set (or basket) of indicators for resource use and their associated environmental impacts. This basket of indicators was used as a basis for proposing a corresponding set of targets for the EU in 2020 and 2050. The implications of setting resource use targets were evaluated to provide the Commission with possible ideas on how to concentrate their efforts towards setting medium and long-term resource efficiency targets

[More info](#)

## CONSULTATION ON THE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE

The European Commission is collecting opinions and experiences on the current and implementation EU noise policy. The consultation is referred on the 2011 implementation Report on the Environmental Noise Directive. The Report explains the achievements and gaps which have been identified since the adoption of the Directive.

Two main areas of possible follow-up action have been identified: improvements in implementation, and further regulation of noise sources.

The purpose of this consultation is to give all interested bodies (citizens, stakeholders and public authorities) the opportunity to express their views on these two issues. The consultation is open until 25 September 2012.

[More info](#)





## WHICH CITY WILL BE CHOSEN AS THE EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL 2015?

Copenhagen has won on 29 June 2012 the European Green Capital Award for 2014.

Copenhagen received special praise for its achievements, notably in terms of eco-innovation and sustainable mobility, its commitment to act as a role model for the green economy, in Europe and beyond, and for an exceptionally promising communication strategy.

In this framework the Commission has launched a tender to find the city that will win the European Green Capital title in 2015. The European Green Capital Award has the objective to encourage European cities to become more attractive and healthy places – “cities fit for life”.

The award "European Green Capital 2015" is open to:

- all cities across Europe with more than 200,000 inhabitants;
- EU Member States,
- acceding states (Croatia),
- candidate countries (Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland and Serbia),
- other European Economic Area countries (Norway and Liechtenstein).

The award is chaired by an international jury and it is composed by a panel of experts in different environmental fields. They will evaluate the entries of all cities based on the following 12 indicators:

climate change, local transport, green urban areas incorporating sustainable land use, promotion of nature and biodiversity, quality of local ambient air, quality of the acoustic environment, waste production and management, water consumption, waste water treatment, eco-innovation and sustainable employment, environmental management of the local authority and energy performance.

Cities can apply online at [www.europeangreencapital.eu](http://www.europeangreencapital.eu). The deadline for applications for the 2015 title is 15 October 2012.

[More info](#)

## PROMOTE THE EUROPE 2020 PRIORITIES AND INVOLVE OUR CITIZENS



In order to promote and spread the Europe 2020 priorities, different events are organized:

hosted a lively, high-level policy conference in Brussels. Almost 4 000 people from more than 50

*Regions and Cities communicate Europe 2020 priorities through different events in order to involve citizens*

The Open Days European Week of Regions and Cities is organized by the Committee of the regions and the Commission's DG for Regional Policy. It is the key annual event for regional and local authorities to show their capacity for creating growth and jobs.

The European e-Skills Week is a European campaign focused on showing people how to get jobs through e-skills. Together with industry partners, education bodies and public authorities, the campaign will deliver an exciting programme of events and activities in more than 30 countries; culminating in a dedicated e-Skills Week between 26 and 30 March 2012.

The Green Week is the biggest annual conference on European environment policy, will take place from 22 to 25 May 2012 in Brussels. This year's theme is "Water". Over the past decade, the conference has established itself as an unmissable event for anyone involved with protecting the environment. Green Week offers a unique opportunity for debate and exchanges of experience and best practice.

EU Sustainable Energy Week

countries attended to exchange ideas with other players in the sustainable energy sector.

The RACES initiative: Raising Awareness on Climate and Energy aims to inform the general public about the local impact of climate change and raise awareness of certain target groups: teachers, families and stakeholders.

The European SME Week aims to provide information on what the EU and national, regional and local authorities are offering as support to small and medium-sized businesses; promote entrepreneurship so that more people, and in particular younger ones, seriously consider becoming an entrepreneur as a career option; and give recognition to entrepreneurs for their contribution to Europe's welfare, jobs, innovation and competitiveness.

The European Employment Forum is An annual conference and exhibition focusing on the major social and economic issues surrounding employment and creating an effective discussion and meeting forum.

[More info](#)

## DIRECTIVE ON INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS: RECENT LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

### *Corrigendum to the Directive 2010/75 on Industrial emissions*

On 19 June 2012 it was published in the Official Journal of the European Union a corrigendum to the Directive 2010/75/EU of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control), through which have been replaced seven Directives on pollution from industrial installations, covering the regimes for integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC), large combustion plants (LCPs), waste incineration, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and organic solvents, and production of titanium dioxide.

The corrections include:

- amendment to Article 46 (4), in order to determine the emission levels in the final discharge of waste water, it was re-directed to a wrong part to Annex VI;
- amendment to Article 82 (5) (b) which is advanced by one day (7 to 6 January 2013) the deadline up to which will be applied to plants with waste co-incineration Annex VI, part 4;
- modification of the formula to the calculation of the emissions restrict values for the co-incineration of waste (Annex VI, Part 4).

Moreover, by implementing the regulation 2012/119/EU of 10 February 2012, the European Commission has established rules concerning guidance on the collection of data and the drawing up of BAT (Best Available Techniques) reference documents and their quality assurance referred to in Directive 2010/75/EU.

[More info](#)



## CODIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Environment Impact Assessments (EIAs) are designed to ensure that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before the decisions are made.

EIAs can be undertaken for individual projects, on the basis of the EIA Directive. The main principle of the EIA Directive is to ensure that projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their authorization. The EIA Directive has been in force since 1985, and applies to a wide range of defined public and private projects, such as power stations, roads, railway lines, waste installations, industrial installations, energy infrastructure (see Practice note, Environmental Impact Assessments and planning applications).

On 28 January 2012, Directive 2011/92/EU on the effects of public and private projects on the environment was published in the Official Journal. Directive 2011/92/EU codifies Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA Directive), which has been amended several times. Directive 2011/92/EU fully preserves the content of the acts

being codified and does no more than bring them together with only such formal amendments as are required by the codification exercise itself. Publication in the Official Journal follows adoption by the General Affairs on 15 November 2011 (see Legal update, Assessment of the effects of public and private projects on the environment: Council adopts codifying Directive).

Directive 2011/92/EU enters into force on the 20th day following its publication in the Official Journal. Member states need to communicate to the Commission the texts of the provisions of national law which they adopt in the field covered by Directive 2011/92/EU.

Member states and the European Commission will exchange information on the experience gained in applying Directive 2011/92/EU. On the basis of that exchange of information, the Commission will, if necessary, submit additional proposals to the European Parliament and to the Council, with a view to ensuring that Directive 2011/92/EU is applied in a sufficiently co-ordinated manner.

[More info](#)



## THE NEWSLETTER

Students are divided into working groups, according to their interests. Each working group is assigned a topic and it is in charge of following the latest news in relation to it. The news are collected by each working group in short memoranda to be published in the website and disseminated by the newsletter.

## JEAN MONNET MODULE

The European Module is part of the Jean Monnet Action under the Lifelong Learning Programme by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission. The purpose of the course is to analyse the impact of the Lisbon Treaty on the European Economic Constitution; the interplay between market integration and the European Social Model, as well as duties, rights and remedies for undertakings in the legal framework of the new social market economy will be thoroughly examined. Teaching activities will be carried on by the professors involved but also through lectures and seminars held by other invited guests, highly specialised in the field. The guest lectures/seminars will give students the chance to have a view different from the one of the ordinary professor of their course.

Guest speakers will intervene on the following topics:

- the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and its the enforcement
- the social dimension of European integration after Lisbon
- the European energy policy
- services of general economic interest
- the European environmental policy

University of Rome  
Torvergata  
School of Economics

Via Columbia 2  
00133 Rome  
Italy

[website](#)



### Disclaimer:

All photos included in this file are being used for entertainment purposes only and are taken from sources provided to the public.

Editing by:  
[Sara Del Vecchio](#)