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Slovensko gospodarsko in raziskovalno združenje Bruselj

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## UVODNIK

Poleg dolžniške krize in reševanja Grčije, dominirajo zadnje tedne v bruseljskih razpravah še druge, enako pomembne teme, kot je npr. predlog finančnega okvira (proračuna) EU za obdobje 2014-2020.

Komisija je nekaj kasneje kot je bilo prvotno napovedano, predstavila svoj izhodiščni predlog, ki predvideva glede na obdobje 2007-2013 povečanje za 5%. Z ozirom na širše naloge EU institucij ter širjenje Unije je to - tudi v sedanjih ekonomskih razmerah - razumen predlog, ki pa je naletel na značilne in vsekakor zanimive reakcije. Prva se je oglasila britanska vlada, z negativno reakcijo, sledile so tudi Francija in Nemčija, negotovanje pa prihaja tudi iz nekaj drugih prestolnic, zlati starejših članic. Po drugi strani pa se je Poljska, kot največja, nova članica, jasno opredelila proti zmanjševanju kohezijske politike, ki je največja postavka nove finančne perspektive. Komisiji je dal politično podporo tudi Evropski parlament.

Evropska komisija je tukaj v zelo težkem položaju. Glede na pomanjkanje politične volje v znatnem delu držav članic, da se integracija intenzivira, kakor tudi napačnih predstav o »ceni« Evrope med državljani, da ne govorimo o aktualnih ekonomskih težavah, s katerimi se zdaj sooča večina držav, bo to verjetno ena najtežjih bitk, ki čaka Komisijo v naslednjih 18-24 mesecih.

Koliko pa proračun EU sploh predstavlja v odnosu na BDP držav članic? Še nikoli se v praksi ni niti približal 1,27% kolikor je nekoč sprejel Evropski svet kot zgornjo mejo. V sedanji finančni

perspektivi znaša le 1,01% BDP držav članic (nacionalni proračuni pa predstavljajo v povprečju 44%). V obdobju 2000 – 2010 so se nacionalni proračuni dvignili za 62%, EU proračun pa le za 37%.

Kaj pomeni »strošek Evrope« v stvarnosti? Vsak državljan EU prispeva v proračun dnevno le 67 € centov in na letni ravni za to dela le 4 dni, da zasluži za nacionalne davke pa mora delati okoli 5 mesecev v letu!

Za celotno EU administracijo se porabi manj kot 5% proračuna, preko 80% se porabi direktno v državah članicah, nadaljnih 15% pa za skupne evropske programe, ki so v korist članic in njihovih državljanov.

Državljanji smo tudi premalo obveščeni o koristih Evrope. Za to je delno kriva tudi sama Evropska komisija, ki se premalo predstavlja državljanom, v veliko večji meri pa so za to krive same države članice, katerih predstavniki pogosto raje govorijo o svojih »zaslugah«, kot pa o prispevku EU k reševanju ekonomskih, socialnih in drugih problemov. Npr. kohezijska politika je v teku prejšnjih 7 let omogočila odprtje 5,6 milijona delovnih mest. Ali, samo z uveljavljanjem antikartelne politike EU smo potrošniki v letu 2010 pridobili 7,2 milijarde EUR.

Evropska komisija ima zaenkrat le simbolične lastne prihodke, večino proračuna zbere skozi nacionalna vplačila. Zdaj je Komisija predlagala, da bi uvedli evropski davek na finančne transakcije (ki že obstaja v nekaterih državah), ki bi omogočil, da bi se višina državnih vplačil zmanjšala. Vendar so npr. iz Londona že sporočili, da je to za njih nesprejemljivo. To ne preseneča, saj bi se s tem položaj Komisije okrepil, kar pa nekaterim ni všeč.

Skrozi debato o bodočem proračunu se bodo iskrala prav ta, temeljna vprašanja, od rešitve katerih v veliki meri zavisi naša prihodnost.

V Evropi se mnogi očitno še vedno ne zavedajo dovolj svoje omejenosti v primerjavi z drugimi globalnimi akterji. Če tega ne bomo pravočasno spregledali in se osvobodili iluzij grajenih na zgodovinskem spominu na nekdanjo slavo in moč, bomo prispevali k procesu marginalizacije stare celine. To se že dogaja skozi padanje konkurenčne sposobnosti, kot posledici razdrobljenosti in nepovezanosti potencialov, vključno s človeškim kapitalom, ki nam ga močnejši centri že dolgo odtujujejo in se tako krepijo tudi na naš račun.

Pomanjkanje leadership-a oz. vizije in politične modrosti pa se kaže tudi pri reševanju grške krize, oz. krize okoli Grčije. Namreč, povsem je jasno, da gre tukaj za 3 temeljna vprašanja. Prvič: Grki so že dolgo živeli daleč čez svoje možnosti in kako so s ponarejenimi podatki lahko prišli v Evro območje? Zakaj je monetarna unija regulatorno hudo deficitarna? Je to posledica naivnosti njenih tvorcev, ali pa predvsem pomanjkanja volje, da se pristojnosti na fiskalnem področju prenašajo na skupne organe. In končno, ali sistem odločanja v EU omogoča, da se resna sistemska vprašanja rešujejo dovolj strokovno, ekspeditivno in odgovorno?

Čeprav to lahko zveni cinično, bomo rekli, da se v vseh teh vprašanjih Evropa ni pokazala dorasla izzivom in se tudi reševanja nakopičenih problemov skoraj praviloma loteva premalo strokovno in premalo odločno.

Tisto, kar so mnogi strokovnjaki trdili že pred meseci – namreč, da se Grčija sooča z dolgoročno solventnostjo, ne pa s kratkoročnim pomanjkanjem likvidnosti – postaja zdaj jasno vsakemu opazovalcu. Prav tako je jasno, da Grčija vseh bolečih, strukturnih reform ne bo sposobna izpeljati in da ima EU v osnovi samo dve možnosti: sprejeti stečaj in Grčijo začasno izločiti iz Evro območja, ali pa se sprijazniti z ogromnimi finančnimi injekcijami, ki jih bo Grčija terjala še vrsto let. Po novem načrtu reševanja naj bi Grčiji odobrili (poleg dosedanjih 200 milijard EUR) še novih 110 milijard EUR. Vendar tudi to ne bo dovolj, če bo prebivalstvo nadaljevalo z dvigovanjem denarja iz bank, kar je dokaj verjetno. Praviloma prihaja po šoku do streznitve in več kot zanimivo bo videti, kaj bodo sklenili na jutrišnjem, izrednem Evropskem vrhu.

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## 1. AKTUALNE NOVICE

### ■ **Evropska komisija je objavila predlog finančnega okvira za obdobje od leta 2014 do 2020**

Evropska komisija je objavila predlog novega finančnega okvira, ki bo v obdobju od leta 2014 do 2020 osnova za pripravo letnih proračunov EU. Ta predlog bo tudi osnova za pogajanja z državami članicami v okviru Sveta EU in Evropskim parlamentom. Evropska komisija predlaga, da bi v novem finančnem okviru, torej v novi sedemletki, bilo na voljo za obveznosti (to je znesek, za katerega je dovoljno objaviti razpise in podpisati pogodbe) 1025 milijarde evrov, za dejanska izplačila pa 972 milijard evrov. Hkrati komisija predlaga tudi lastni vir za financiranje proračuna EU, to je evropski davek na finančne transakcije, kakršnega na nacionalni ravni že ima deset članic EU. Ta davek bi po njenih izračunih omogočil, da bi se delež vplačil držav članic v evropski proračun občutno zmanjšal.

Ena od novosti je tudi, da je za kmetijstvo predvideno manj denarja kot za regionalni razvoj. Na področju kmetijstva Komisija predlaga spremembe še pri neposrednih plačilih, saj naj bi 30 odstotkov tega denarja bilo izplačanega kmetom pod pogojem, da izvedejo ukrepe za ozelenitev kmetijstva. Na področju regionalnega razvoja Komisija predlaga uvedbo vmesnih regij kot novo kategorijo za tiste regije, ki za malenkost presežejo razvitost, ki je meja za pridobitev denarja za regionalni razvoj (80% povprečja BDP na prebivalca). Za dograditev ključne infrastrukture na področju prometa, energije in telekomunikacij je predložena ustanovitev novega mehanizma. Med poslanci Evropskega parlamenta je v okviru prve razprave Evropska komisija slišala tako pohvale kot kritike.

Več o tem:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Vprašanja in odgovori o novem finančnem okviru](#)

in

[Spletna stran o novem finančnem okviru](#)

in

[Sporočilo Evropskega parlamenta](#)

### ■ **Evropski parlament je podprl ženske kvote**

Evropski poslanci menijo, da bi morale ženske do leta 2015 doseči vsaj 30-odstotno zastopanost v upravnih odborih največjih evropskih podjetij, katerih delnice kotirajo na borzah, do leta 2020 pa bi se moral delež žensk zvišati na 40 odstotkov. Norveška je s pomočjo zakonske kvote v 6 letih dosegla 43%. Če prostovoljni ukrepi za povečanje števila žensk na vodilnih položajih ne bi uspeli, bi bilo treba po mnenju poslancev sprejeti zavezujočo zakonodajo. Trenutno je med direktorji v evropskih velikih podjetjih le desetina žensk, med predsedniki uprav pa le trije odstotki.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropskega parlamenta](#)

in

[Besedilo, ki ga je potrdil Parlament](#)

### ■ **Evropski svet je potrdil priporočila za države članice o varčevalnih ukrepih in reformah**

Na podlagi ocene, ki jo je predložila Evropska komisija, so voditelji na zasedanju Evropskega sveta razpravljali o politikah in ukrepih, ki so jih predstavile države članice. Za Slovenijo je Evropska komisija navedla šest priporočil. Države članice, ki sodelujejo pri Paktu evro plus, so predstavile zaveze, ki skupno zajemajo več kot 100 ločenih ukrepov. Te zaveze so po oceni voditeljev dober prvi korak proti izpolnitvi ciljev pakta in jih je zdaj treba izpolniti na nacionalni ravni.

Več:

[Sklepi Evropskega sveta](#)

### ■ **Evropski parlament nasprotuje nadzoru na mejah znotraj schengenskega območja**

Evropski poslanci odločno nasprotujejo vnovični uvedbi mejnega nadzora v schengenskem območju. Pritok priseljencev in prosilcev za azil po njihovem mnenju ne more biti razlog za tak ukrep. V resoluciji Evropski parlament močno obžaluje, da več članic poskuša vnovič uvesti nadzor na mejah. Poslanci poudarjajo tudi, da odločno nasprotujejo kakršnemu koli novemu schengenskem mehanizmu, ki bi imel drugačne cilje kot omogočiti svobodo gibanja in krepiti EU pri upravljanju območja. Poslanci menijo, da so vsi potrebni pogoji za začasno ponovno uvedbo nadzora na notranjih mejah v izrednih okoliščinah že določeni v sedanjih

pravilih, ki predvidevajo možnost ponovne uvedbe nadzora na notranjih mejah zgolj v primeru resne grožnje javnemu redu ali notranji varnosti.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropskega parlamenta](#)

in

[Resolucija](#)

- **Od prvega julija nižje cene za mobilno gostovanje in nov predlog Evropske komisije za pocenitev gostovanja**

Prvega julija so začele veljati nove nižje cene za pogovore po mobilnem telefonu in kratka sporočila v času gostovanja v tujih omrežjih (roaming). Evropska komisija pa je predstavila predlog za podaljšanje regulacije teh cen do sredine leta 2016 in ukrepe, za katere računa, da bodo omogočili povečanje konkurence z vstopom novih ponudnikov na trg.

Več o tem:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije o znižanju cen s prvim julijem](#)

in

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije o novih ukrepih](#)

in

[Predlog za uvedbo novih ukrepov](#)

in

[Spletna stran o gostovanju](#)

## 2. KRATKE NOVICE

- **Mario Draghi bo nov predsednik Evropske centralne banke**

Voditelji članic EU so na rednem zasedanju Evropskega sveta v Bruslju potrdili guvernerja italijanske centralne banke za novega predsednika Evropske centralne banke. Mandat bo začel 1. novembra, ko se izteče mandat sedanjemu predsedniku Jeanu-Claudu Trichetu.

Več o tem:

[Odločitev Evropskega sveta](#)

- **Evropski parlament proti krčenju proračuna EU po letu 2014**

Evropski parlament opozarja, da proračuna EU za obdobje od leta 2014 do 2020 ne bo mogoče krčiti brez posega v že dogovorjene politike. Tiste države članice, ki zahtevajo zmanjšanje, morajo po mnenju poslancev povedati, katerim prednostnim nalogam se bo

treba zaradi tega odpovedati. Poslanci ocenjujejo, da bi moralo biti na podlagi novega programskega okvira glede na leto 2013 v proračunu EU na voljo vsaj 5 odstotkov več denarja, da bi lahko izvedli vse sprejete politike.

Več o tem:

[Sporočilo Evropskega parlamenta](#)

in

[Besedilo, ki je bilo sprejeto v Evropskem parlamentu](#)

- **Islandija je tudi dejansko začela pogajanja o vstopu v EU**

Islandija je na pristopni konferenci v Bruslju odprla prva štiri poglavja, o katerih se pogaja z EU. Prvi dve je takoj lahko tudi zaprla. To sta poglavje znanost in raziskave in poglavje izobraževanje in kultura.

Več:

[Spletna stran o odnosih med EU in Islandijo](#)

in

[Sporočilo o pristopni konferenci](#)

- **Evropska komisija napoveduje dva nova zakonska predloga za napotene delavce**

Evropska komisija je napovedala, da bo do konca leta objavila dva zakonska predloga za napotene delavce. V njih namerava predvsem opredeliti pogoje, pod katerimi lahko sindikati organizirajo stavko v podjetjih, ki poslujejo v več državah.

Več:

[Spletna stran s sporočilom pristojnega komisarja](#)

- **Za najbolj ogrožene Evropejce bo v letu 2013 na voljo 113 milijonov evrov**

Evropska komisija je za program za dobavo hrane za najbolj ogrožene v letu 2013 namenila 113 milijonov evrov. Program financira evropski kmetijski jamstveni sklad. Leta 2012 bo v programu sodelovalo 20 članic EU. Slovenija je med njimi, prejela pa bo 515 tisoč evrov. Predlagani znesek pomoči v višini 113 milijonov evrov na ravni EU je bistveno nižji kot do zdaj, ko je znašal okrog 500 milijonov evrov na leto. Razlog za to je sodba Sodišča EU, ki je presodilo, da mora večina hrane za najbolj ogrožene biti zagotovljena iz javnih zalog.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran o hrani za najbolj ogrožene](#)

#### **■ Zaključki Sveta EU o spodbujanju zaposlovanja mladih**

Ministri, pristojni za delo, so na rednem zasedanju sprejeli zaključke o spodbudah za zaposlovanje mladih v skladu s cilji iz razvojne strategije Evropa 2020. Izpostavili so, da bo imel pomembno vlogo pri tem Evropski socialni sklad, države članice pa so pozvali, naj izvedejo potrebne reforme, zlasti na področju izobraževanja in usposabljanja.

Več:

[Zaključki ministrov o zaposlovanju mladih](#)

in

[Zaključki zasedanja](#)

in

[Statistična analiza trga dela v EU](#)

### **3. NOVA ZAKONODAJA**

#### **■ Uredba o gensko spremenjenih organizmih v uvoženi krmi**

Evropska komisija je sprejela uredbo, katere namen je poenotenje sistema analiz vsebnosti sledi gensko spremenjenih organizmov v uvoženi krmi v vseh državah članicah. V uredbi je določena tehnična ničla 0,1 odstotka kot najnižja dovoljena stopnja vsebnosti gensko spremenjenih organizmov, ki v EU niso dovoljeni v krmi (soja, koruza).

Več o tem:

[Pojasnila Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Uredba](#)

#### **■ Nova uredba o katalogu posamičnih krmil**

Sedmega julija je začela veljati uredba o katalogu posamičnih krmil. V skladu s to uredbo morajo proizvajalci uporabljati bolj natančna imena/izraze za krmila, ki jih dajejo na trg. Evropska komisija zagotavlja, da je uredba rezultat sodelovanja med javnim in zasebnim sektorjem.

Več:

[Uredba](#)

#### **■ Veljati je začel prostotrgovinski sporazum med EU in Južno Korejo**

Prvega julija je stopil v veljavo prostotrgovinski sporazum med EU in Južno Korejo. Na njegovi podlagi bosta Južna Koreja in EU v petih letih odpravili 98,7 odstotka carin v tržni vrednosti. Do konca prehodnih obdobja bodo odpravljene uvozne dajatve na vse industrijske proizvode in večino kmetijskih proizvodov, razen nekaj izjem, kot je riž.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran o sporazumu](#)

#### **■ Nova direktiva za nakupovanje prek spleta**

Poslanci Evropskega parlamenta so sprejeli direktivo, ki med drugim omogoča, da bodo kupci lahko odstopili od nakupa prek spleta še dva tedna po prejemu naročenega blaga, določa pa tudi več obveznosti za spletne prodajalce glede zagotavljanja natančnih informacij o celotni ceni, naročenih izdelkih in kontaktnih podatkih trgovca. Države članice bodo morale nova pravila prenesti v svojo zakonodajo najkasneje v dveh letih po začetku veljavnosti direktive.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropskega parlamenta](#)

in

[Besedilo direktive](#)

#### **■ Jasnejša pravila za označevanje živil**

Evropski parlament je sprejel uredbo o zagotavljanju informacij o živilih. V skladu s to uredbo bo morala biti na embalaži živil jasno označena njihova energijska vrednost, vsebnost maščob, nasičenih maščob, ogljikovih hidratov, sladkorjev, beljakovin in soli. Po objavi zakonodaje v Uradnem listu EU se bodo morala živilska podjetja prilagoditi novim pravilom v treh letih, še dodatni dve leti pa bodo imela na voljo za uvedbo oznak hranilne vrednosti.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropskega parlamenta](#)

in

[Besedilo uredbe](#)

in

[Vprašanja in odgovori o dogovoru med Svetom EU in Evropskim parlamentom](#)

## RAPEX

Hitri sistem obveščanja EU o nevarnih proizvodih, ki krožijo na evropskem trgu. Posodobitve za junij-julij:

[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create\\_rapex.cfm?rx\\_id=365](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=365)

[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create\\_rapex.cfm?rx\\_id=364](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=364)

[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create\\_rapex.cfm?rx\\_id=363](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=363)

[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create\\_rapex.cfm?rx\\_id=362](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=362)

## 4. GOSPODARSKE NOVICE

- **Stroški za uro dela so se v prvem četrtletju letos povečali za 2,6 odstotka**

Evropski statistični urad Eurostat je sporočil, da so se stroški za uro dela v evroobmočju v prvih treh mesecih letos v primerjavi z enakim obdobjem lani povečali za 2,6 odstotka. V Sloveniji so se v enakem obdobju povečali za 2,7 odstotka.

Več:

[Sporočilo Eurostata](#)

- **Evropski statistični urad je objavil prve podatke o BDP na prebivalca v članicah EU**

Bruto domači proizvod v članicah EU se je po prvih podatkih, ki jih je objavil evropski statistični urad Eurostat, gibal med 43 odstotkov in 283 odstotkov povprečja v EU. V Sloveniji je dosegel 87 odstotkov povprečja v EU, med novimi članicami je na prvem mestu z 98 odstotki povprečja EU še vedno Ciper.

Več:

[Sporočilo Eurostata](#)

## 5. FINANČNE STORITVE

- **Evropski poslanci so zaključili prvo razpravo o novih predpisih za izvedene finančne instrumente**

Poslanci Evropskega parlamenta so podprli tri predloge, ki naj bi uredili trgovanje z

izvedenimi finančnimi instrumenti, zmanjšali špekulacije ob prodajah na kratko, ter skrajšali rok za vzpostavitev odškodninskih shem. Ti predlogi so osnova za pogajanja z državami članicami. Dopolnila k zakonodaji o odškodninskih shemah naj bi okrepila zaščito zasebnih vlagateljev pred investicijskimi hišami, ki poslujejo prevarantsko ali ne izpolnjujejo obveznosti. Zakonodaja o prodaji na kratko naj bi prinesla dve novosti: posredniki bodo morali poravnati svoje nepokrite kratke pozicije do konca vsakega trgovalnega dne, pravica do nakupa pogodb kreditnih zamenjav pa naj bi bila dovoljena samo lastnikom povezanih državnih obveznic ali enakovrednih deležev. Uredba o izvedenih finančnih instrumentih s katerimi se trguje na prostem trgu (OTC), centralnih klirinških strankah (CCP) in registrih trgovanja naj bi zagotovila večjo varnost, preglednost in stabilnost na trgu.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropskega parlamenta](#)

- **Recesija je znižala davčne prihodke, izražene v deležu BDP**

Evropski statistični urad Eurostat ugotavlja, da so se v letu 2009 zaradi recesije v EU davčni prihodki znižali na 38,4 odstotka BDP. V evroobmočju ta delež znaša 39,1 odstotka, v Sloveniji pa 37,6 odstotka, kar je na ravni iz let 2008 in 2000.

Več o tem:

[Sporočilo Eurostata](#)

in

[Širša analiza](#)

- **Javno posvetovanje o evropskem potnem listu za sklade tveganega kapitala**

Do 10. avgusta Evropska komisija prek javnega posvetovanja zbira mnenja in predloge o enotnem evropskem dovoljenju (potnem listu) za sklade tveganega kapitala. Ta potni list bi tem skladom omogočil, da bi lahko na celotnem trgu EU iskali in pridobivali kapital od investitorjev in ga investirali v inovativna majhna in srednja podjetja, ne da bi se morali posebej registrirati v vsaki državi članici. Zadostovala bi registracija v eni državi.

Več o tem:

[Dokument, ki je v javni razpravi](#)

in

[Spletna stran za sodelovanje v javnem posvetovanju](#)

## 6. REGIONALNA POLITIKA

### ■ **Evropski poslanci za kohezijsko politiko po letu 2013 zahtevajo ustrezen proračun**

EU bi morala kohezijsko politiko za obdobje 2014-2020 zastaviti s proračunom, ki bo vsaj tak kot zdaj, da bodo revnejše regije lahko dohitele razvitejše. Vsem območjem, tudi podeželskim, pa je treba omogočiti razvoj njihovih gospodarskih in inovacijskih potencialov v okviru strategije Evropa 2020. Parlament se zavzema za ohranitev sedanje organiziranosti strukturnih skladov. V razpravi s komisarjem za regionalni razvoj Johannesom Hahnom so parlamentarci poudarili, da odločno nasprotujejo vsem poskusom nacionalizacije ali sektorizacije kohezijske politike, še posebej z novimi skladi za podnebje, energijo in promet. Večina poslancev pa se strinja s pobudo Komisije o oblikovanju vmesne kategorije regij, ki bi bile v obdobju 2014-2020 še naprej upravičene do sredstev iz kohezijskih skladov.

Več o tem:

[Sporočilo Evropskega parlamenta](#)

in

[Resolucija o prihodnji kohezijski politiki](#)

in

[Sporočilo o vmesnih regijah](#)

### ■ **Evropska komisija je razglasila dobitnike nagrad RegioStars**

Letošnje nagrade za najbolj inovativne regionalne projekte RegioStars so s Portugalske, Nizozemske, Švedske, Velike Britanije, med zmagovalci so zaradi sodelovanja tudi občine na Finskem, Norveškem, Švedskem, Islandiji in Ferskih otokih. Sicer pa je v tekmovanju sodelovalo 66 projektov iz 18 članic, tudi iz Slovenije.

Več:

[Spletna stran RegioStars](#)

### ■ **Pobuda Pametna mesta in skupnosti**

Evropski komisar za energijo je predstavil pobudo Pametna mesta in skupnosti, prek katere bi zagotovili, da bi evropska mesta postala energetska učinkovita. Za mesta, ki bodo izbrana za sodelovanje v pilotnem projektu, je na voljo 80 milijonov evrov. Prijave komisija zbira prek javnega razpisa na podlagi

sedmega okvirnega programa za znanost in raziskave (FP7). Datum objave razpisa je 20. julij.

Več:

[Spletna stran o pobudi](#)

## 7. TRANSPORT IN ENERGETIKA

### ◆ **Eurobarometer: Evropejci so na splošno zadovoljni z železniškimi storitvami, a hočejo več informacij**

Anketa, ki so jo izvedli anketarji Eurobarometra, je pokazala, da so Evropejci na splošno zadovoljni z železniškimi postajami, vlaki, možnostjo za nakup vozovnic, na postajah in na vlakih se počutijo varne, bi pa želeli imeti več informacij o pravicah potnikov, boljše informacije potrebujejo tudi, ko ima vlak zamudo. Slovenci so na železniških postajah najbolj zadovoljni s sistemom za nakup vozovnic, na vlaku pa z osebno varnostjo. Niso pa v glavnem zadovoljni z možnostmi za parkiranje na železniški postaji in pogostostjo vlakov.

Več o tem:

[Anketa Eurobarometra](#)

### ◆ **Dogovor o skupnem pristopu k osnutku direktive o vzpostavitvi skupnega železniškega območja**

Ministri, pristojni za promet, so na rednem zasedanju Sveta EU za transport sprejeli dogovor o skupnem pristopu k osnutku direktive o vzpostavitvi enotnega evropskega železniškega območja. Soglasja niso mogli doseči, ker določenim predlogom nekatere članice nasprotujejo. S sprejetjem direktive mora soglašati tudi Evropski parlament, ki pa še ni izdal mnenja v prvi obravnavi.

Več:

[Sporočilo Sveta EU](#)

### ◆ **Trije razpisi za sofinanciranje gradnje transportne infrastrukture**

Evropska komisija je na podlagi programa Transevropskih prometnih omrežij (TEN-T) objavila tri javne razpise, prek katerih bo za transportno infrastrukturo razdelila 180 milijonov evrov. Denar bo razdelila za projekte s področja železnic, pomorskih avtocest in rečnega prometa.

Več o tem:

[Spletna stran z razpisi](#)

#### ● **Ustanovljen je sklad za energetske učinkovitost**

Od prvega julija je vzpostavljen evropski sklad za energetske učinkovitost, v katerem je na voljo 265 milijonov evrov, od tega 146 milijonov evrov, ki jih države niso mogle porabiti za energetske projekte na podlagi protikriznega programa EU. Potencialni upravičenci do sredstev iz tega sklada so lokalne ali regionalne skupnosti ter javna ali zasebna podjetja, ki delujejo v imenu teh javnih organov. To so lokalne javne gospodarske službe, podjetja za energetske storitve, podjetja, ki nudijo daljinsko ogrevanje s sproizvodnjo toplote in elektrike, ali javni ponudniki prevoza.

Več o tem:

[Spletna stran o skladu](#)

in

[Vprašanja in odgovori](#)

## 8. EKOLOGIJA IN TRAJNOSTNI RAZVOJ

#### ● **Okolje je za večino Evropejcev vrednota, je pokazala anketa Eurobarometra**

Zaradi stanja okolje je prav v vseh članicah EU zaskrbljenih več kot 90 odstotkov vprašanih, je pokazala anketa Eurobarometra. Devet od desetih vprašanih meni, da bi morala EU nameniti sredstva za razvoj okolju prijaznih dejavnosti, vse bolj Evropejce skrbi tudi omejenost naravnih virov. V Sloveniji je anketa pokazala, da ljudi najbolj skrbi onesnaževanje vode in naraščanje količine odpadkov.

Več o tem

[Rezultati ankete Eurobarometer](#)

in

[Rezultati za Slovenijo](#)

#### ● **EU bo oblikovala enotne standarde za dostop do okoljskih informacij**

Evropska unija bo z infrastrukturo za prostorske informacije v Evropi INSPIRE oblikovala skupne standarde, s katerimi bo omogočila hiter in enostaven dostop do okoljskih informacij. Gre za specifikacije podatkov, ki zajemajo 25 tem, med drugim pojave na zemeljskem površju, zgradbe, tla,

rabo zemljišč, energijo, zdravje in varnost. Evropska komisija bo do 21. oktobra o tem predlogu prek javnega posvetovanja zbirala mnenja in predloge.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran za sodelovanje v javnem posvetovanju](#)

in

[Spletna stran o direktivi INSPIRE](#)

#### ● **Javno posvetovanje o izboljšanju politike EU o kakovosti zraka**

V okviru celovitega pregleda evropskih predpisov o kakovosti zraka, je Evropska komisija razpisala javno posvetovanje, prek katerega zbira mnenja in predloge o sedanjih predpisih in kaj bi bilo treba izboljšati, spremeniti. Javno posvetovanje je odprto do 30. septembra.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran za sodelovanje v javnem posvetovanju](#)

in

[Spletna stran o zraku](#)

#### ● **Ministri za okolje so potrdili strategijo EU za biotsko raznovrstnost do leta 2020**

Strategija o biotski raznovrstnosti, ki so jo sprejeli ministri za okolje članic EU, je ključni instrument, s katerim bi EU lahko uresničila cilj o zaščiti biotske raznovrstnosti do leta 2020. Vključuje šest ciljev, ki se nanašajo na stanje ohranjenosti vrst in habitatov, ki jih zajema zakonodaja EU o varovanju narave, na ohranjanje in obnavljanje ekosistemov, na območja, ki so zajeta z ukrepi, povezanimi z biotsko raznovrstnostjo v okviru skupne kmetijske politike, ter z ukrepi, povezanimi z gozdovi in ribištvom, pa tudi z ukrepi za odpravljanje groženj zaradi invazivnih tujerodnih vrst.

Več:

[Zaključki Sveta EU](#)

#### ● **Potrjeni so sklepi o varstvu vodnih virov**

Ministri za okolje članic EU so v sklepih o varstvu vodnih virov izpostavili, da so vode zelo ogrožene, zaskrbljeni pa so tudi zaradi

izrednih hidroloških pojavov v zadnjih letih, ki bi zaradi podnebnih sprememb lahko postali še hujši. Navedli so tudi, da bi bilo treba izredne vremenske pojave obravnavati celovito, in sicer v okviru politik, ki urejajo rabo tal in gospodarjenje s tlemi, kmetijstvo, ohranjanje narave in infrastrukturo.

Več:

[Sporočilo Sveta EU](#)

#### ● **Statistična analiza ravnanja s komunalnimi odpadki v EU**

Evropski statistični urad ugotavlja, da se je po letu 2000 količina komunalnih odpadkov v EU ustalila pri 520 kilogramih na prebivalca. V Sloveniji je leta 2009 znašala okrog 450 kilogramov na prebivalca.

Več:

[Analiza Eurostata](#)

## 9. VARSTVO POTROŠNIKOV

### ● **Nova uredba o specializirani hrani**

Z namenom potrošnikom zagotoviti boljše informacije o specializirani hrani, kot so živila, ki ne vsebujejo laktoze, je Evropska komisija predložila predlog uredbe. Z njo ukinja klasifikacijo dietetični izdelki, za te izdelke bo po uveljavitvi nove uredbe veljala druga evropska zakonodaja, kot je uredba o prehranskih in zdravstvenih trditvah na živilih in uredba o dodatkih viraminov, mineralov in drugih snovi hrani. Predlog nove uredbe je Komisija poslala v odločanje in sprejem Svetu EU in Evropskemu parlamentu. Če bo pravočasno potrjena, bo lahko začela veljati že leta 2012.

Več o tem:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Predlog uredbe](#)

## 10. RR IN INOVACIJE

### ● **Smernice za ključne spodbujevalne tehnologije (KET)**

Skupina strokovnjakov, ki jo je ustanovila Evropska komisija, je objavila smernice za ključne spodbujevalne tehnologije, ki naj bi evropski industriji omogočile konkurenčno

prednost pri razvoju tehnologij prihodnosti. Skupina pravi, da je temeljni dokument za to prihodnji program za financiranje raziskav, razvoja in inovacij za obdobje od leta 2014 do 2020.

Več:

[Spletna stran z dokumenti](#)

### ● **Objavljen je letošnji razpis za ekoinovacije**

Do 8. septembra je odprt letošnji razpis za ekoinovacije, prek katerega bo Evropska komisija razdelila 38 milijonov evrov. Poleg projektov na področjih recikliranja materialov, trajnostne gradnje, prehranske industrije in industrije pijač ter zelenega poslovanja je mogoče prijaviti tudi projekte na področju ohranjanja vodnih virov.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran o razpisu](#)

## 11. KULTURA IN IZOBRAŽEVANJE

### ● **Javno posvetovanje o spremembi direktive o poklicnih kvalifikacijah**

Prek javnega posvetovanja, ki je odprto do 20. septembra, Evropska komisija zbira mnenja in predloge o spremembi direktive o poklicnih kvalifikacijah. V zeleni knjigi, v kateri je navedla predloge za javno posvetovanje, Komisija predlaga uvedbo poklicne izkaznice, uvedbo novih platform, ki naj bi olajšale mobilnost strokovnjakov, minimalne zahteve glede usposabljanja.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran za sodelovanje v javnem posvetovanju](#)

in

[Zelena knjiga](#)

in

[Spletna stran o prostem pretoku strokovnjakov](#)

### ● **Predlog novega programa za absolvente študija kemije**

Evropska komisija predlaga nov program, ki bi absolventom študija kemije omogočil seznanitev z delom Evropske kemijske agencije v Helsinkih, s poudarkom na izvajanju

direktive REACH. Natančnejše podatke o predlogu objavlja konec letošnjega leta.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran Evropske kemijske agencije \(ECHA\)](#)

**● Nova pomoč EU za projekte na področju visokošolskega izobraževanja v državah v sosedstvu in Rusiji**

Evropska komisija je objavila, da bo na podlagi programa Tempus zagotovila 47 milijonov evrov za projekte na področju visokošolskega izobraževanja v državah v sosedstvu in Rusiji. S tem denarjem bo mogoče podpreti približno 60 multinacionalnih partnerstev.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran programa Tempus za sodelovanje s sosednjimi državami](#)

in

[Spletna stran programa Tempus](#)

in

[Spletna stran o medregionalnem sodelovanju](#)

**● V EU je treba izboljšati bralne sposobnosti**

Vsak peti petnajstletnik in številni odrasli v Evropi imajo težave pri branju. Evropska komisija je predstavila ukrepe, ki jih morajo po njeni oceni izvesti države za izboljšanje bralne pismenosti. Te predlaga na podlagi študije, ki jo je naredila mreža Eurydice. Ta se osredotoča na štiri glavne teme: učne metode, spopadanje s težavami pri branju, izobraževanje učiteljev in spodbujanje branja zunaj šole. Študija je pokazala, da ima samo osem držav (Danska, Finska, Islandija, Irska, Malta, Norveška, Švedska in Združeno kraljestvo) v šolah strokovnjake za branje, ki nudijo podporo učiteljem in učencem.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Študija](#)

**● Javno posvetovanje o podpori filmski industriji**

Evropska komisija je objavila javno posvetovanje o merilih za dodelitev državne pomoči filmski industriji. Komisija ocenjuje, da

je obstoječa merila treba pregledati, kajti sporočilo o kinematografiji je staro že 10 let. Javno posvetovanje je odprto do 30. septembra.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran za sodelovanje v javnem posvetovanju](#)

## 12. KMETIJSTVO

**■ Za promocijo kmetijskih pridelkov je Evropska komisija letos razdelila 37,6 milijona evrov**

Evropska komisija je za projekte promocije kmetijskih pridelkov in živil državam članicam, med katerimi žal ni Slovenije, razdelila 37,6 milijona evrov. To je polovica skupne vrednosti projektov, saj jih Evropska komisija sofinancira v deležu 50 odstotkov. Med izbranimi projekti je med drugim predvidena promocija vina, izdelkov, ki imajo evropske oznake za kakovost, biološko pridelane hrane, sadja in zelenjave, mleka in mlečnih izdelkov, jajc in medu.

Več o tem:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

**■ Evropski poslanci po letu 2013 zahtevajo bolj okolju prijazno in pravičnejšo kmetijsko politiko**

Evropski poslanci želijo do leta 2020 ohraniti trenutno raven kmetijskega proračuna, da bi tako spodbudili kmete k zagotavljanju varne preskrbe s hrano, varovanju okolja, ustvarjanju novih delovnih mest in za večjo konkurenčnost kmetijstva v EU. Poslanci poudarjajo, da je treba za hkratno zagotovitev varne oskrbe s hrano visoke kakovosti, varovanje okolja in uporabo obnovljivih virov energije tudi ustrezno financirati kmetijsko politiko, saj bodo kmetje z ustreznimi spodbudami v večji meri uporabljali sodobne, okolju prijazne tehnike.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropskega parlamenta](#)

in

[Resolucija Evropskega parlamenta](#)

**■ Evropski poslanci so odločili o pogojih za prepoved gojenja gensko spremenjenih rastlin**

Članicam EU je treba omogočiti, da bodo lahko omejile ali prepovedale gojenje gensko spremenjenih rastlin na svojem ozemlju, kot razlog bi lahko navedle tudi varovanje okolja, so odločili evropski poslanci. A ta predlog je osnova za pogajanja z državami članicami v okviru Sveta EU, kjer so mnenja zelo deljena.

Več o tem:

[Sporočilo Evropskega parlamenta](#)

in

[Resolucija](#)

#### **Nov bilten o cenah kmetijskih pridelkov na mednarodnih trgih**

Evropska komisija je na spletni strani objavila nov bilten o gibanju cen kmetijskih pridelkov na mednarodnih trgih. Analitiki ugotavljajo, da na rast cen in nagle spremembe cen vpliva povečano povpraševanje, znižanje rasti hektarskega donosa in vse večji vpliv sprememb cen na borzi. Zunaj kmetijskega sektorja, pa so razlogi za sedanje gibanje cen kmetijskih pridelkov predvsem povezava z energijo in vse večja povezava z gibanji na trgu dobrin.

Več o tem:

[Bilten](#)

#### **Gozdovi pokrivajo 40 odstotkov ozemlja EU**

Evropski statistični urad Eurostat je objavil podatke o pokritosti EU z gozdovi. Ti potrjujejo, da je Slovenija med šestimi članicami, kjer gozdovi pokrivajo več kot polovico ozemlja. Eurostat objavlja tudi podatke o uporabi lesa za biomaso in lesa kot surovine, opozarja tudi na pomen gozda za okolje.

Več:

[Sporočilo Eurostata](#)

#### **Eurostat je objavil podatke o prehranski verigi**

Evropski statistični urad Eurostat je objavil podatke o prehranski verigi v EU. Čerpav se ta začne na kmetiji, je večina hrane v EU proizvedena v industriji.

Več:

[Sporočilo Eurostata](#)

in

[Širša analiza](#)

### 13. JUGOVZHODNA EVROPA IN SOSEDSKA POLITIKA

#### **Hrvaška je zaključila pogajanja o vstopu v EU**

Hrvaška je na pristopni konferenci konec junija zaključila pogajanja o vstopu v EU. Zdaj so na vrsti pogajanja o pristopni pogodbi. Podpis te pogodbe je predviden do konca leta. To pogodbo morajo nato ratificirati vse države članice.

Več:

[Sporočilo o zaključku pogajanj](#)

#### **Zunanji ministri pričakujejo nov finančni instrument za financiranje sosedske politike**

Zunanji ministri članic EU so opravili prvo razpravo o predlogu nove sosedske politike EU, ki ga je predložila Evropska komisija. Ministri v okviru novega finančnega okvira od Evropske komisije pričakujejo predlog za uvedbo novega instrumenta, ki bo poenostavil financiranje predlagane sosedske politike.

Več o tem:

[Zaključki ministrov](#)

in

[Spletna stran o evropski sosedski politiki](#)

#### **Na drugem zasedanju stabilizacijskega sveta so pregledali sodelovanje med EU in Črno goro**

Sestal se je stabilizacijski svet med EU in Črno goro. Na zasedanju so pozdravili nadpovprečno uspešno črpanje denarja iz predpristopne pomoči, ki jo je Črna gora imela na voljo v obdobju od leta 2007 do 2010. Program za leto 2011 je še v pripravi.

Več o tem:

[Sporočilo Sveta EU](#)

#### 14. NAJAVE DOGODKOV & ZANIMIVE PUBLIKACIJE

✚ **6th Annual Green Economics Conference**

Oxford, July 28 - 30, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Fifth International Workshop on Natural Energies (IWONE 2011)**

Höör, August 05 – 07, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **ECI International Symposium on the Environmental Damage in Structural Materials Under Static/Cyclic Loads at Ambient Temperatures**

Krakow, August 14 - 19, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Educational Travel - Expanding Horizons**

Tallin, August 19 - 21, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **ACES 2011: Conservation Conflicts: Strategies for coping with a changing world**

Aberdeen, August 22 - 24, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Deviance, Devastation and Decay: Considering Contemporary Urban Crises**

Grimsby, September 01 - 02, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **2nd edition of the PARADISO international conference**

Brussels, September 07 - 09, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **5th International Conference on Globalization The Scale of Globalization: Global, Local, Individual**

Ostrava, September 08 - 09 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **12th International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology (CEST2011)**

Rhodos, Septebmer 08 - 10, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **IX Annual ESPAnet Conference 2011**

Valencia, August 08 - 10, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **International Conference on Veterinary and Animal Ethics**

London, September 12 – 13, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Marco Polo Information Day**

Brussels, September 13, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **2nd International Student Conference on Microbial Communication (MiCom2011)**

Jena, September 13 - 16, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **IV International Conference on Environmental, Industrial and Applied Microbiology (BioMicroWorld2011)**

Malaga, September 14 - 16, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Energy from Waste**

London, September 19 - 20, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **19th International Conference on Modelling, Monitoring and Management of Air Pollution**

Malta, September 19 - 21, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **European Conference: "Competence Modelling for the Water Sector"**

Brussels, September 21, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **4th European Conference: "Innovations in the Environmental Sector" (INES) Competence Models, E - Learning, Social Communities**

Brussels, September 21, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

- ✚ **Learning later in life – uncovering the potential of investing in an ageing workforce**

Brussels, September 21 - 22, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

- ✚ **6th Dubrovnik Conference on Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems**

Dubrovnik, September 25 - 29, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

- ✚ **Science for the environment - environment for society**

Aarhus, October 05 - 06, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

- ✚ **Open Days 2011: Regions and cities delivering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**

Brussels, October 10 - 13, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

- ✚ **ePractice Event: Addressing evolving needs for cross-border eGovernment services**

Brussels, October 11, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

- ✚ **European Conference on Public Communication 2011**

Brussels, October 19 - 20, 2011  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

## ZANIMIVE PUBLIKACIJE

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- ✚ State of the Nation 2010 - Canada's Science, Technology and Innovation System  
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- ✚ The "added value" in EU budgetary debates: one concept, four meanings

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- ✚ Thinking the EU budget and public spending in Europe: the need to use an aggregate approach  
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- [http://www.notre-europe.eu/uploads/tx\\_publication/PolicyPaper\\_45\\_NChambon\\_EN.pdf](http://www.notre-europe.eu/uploads/tx_publication/PolicyPaper_45_NChambon_EN.pdf)
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## 15. PRILOGA 1

# History repeating itself: From the Argentine default to the Greek tragedy?

## CEPS / Brussels

Since the onset of the debt crisis in late 2009, the comparisons between Greece and Argentina have multiplied, with an emphasis more on the similarities than the differences. This is not surprising given the stunning parallels. This Commentary draws a systematic comparison between the two countries over the decade before the crisis and the management of the crisis. Overall it suggests that there may be little left to do for Greece to avoid a repeat of the Argentine default, but in larger scale.

### **A decade of 'quasi' monetary union and Monetary Union**

Since early 2010, almost all independent observers have stressed that Greece was facing a solvency, and not a liquidity problem. This was also the case ten years ago with Argentina, yet in both cases the crisis was addressed as one having a liquidity nature. But let us start from the beginning. In 1991, in order to achieve inflation stability, Argentina embarked on a radical experiment: the currency board.

The arrangement consisted of entering into a 'quasi' monetary union with the US by (almost) replacing the national currency and monetary policy by the US dollar and the Federal Reserve policy, respectively. Initially the new arrangement worked very well: growth returned and the confidence of foreign investors was such that large inflows of foreign direct investment, especially the banking sector, began to materialise.

Then 10 years later, Greece went through a similar experience: in 2001 it joined the European Monetary Union, giving up monetary sovereignty and its own currency with the purpose, among others, of curing years of fiscal problems and inflation. For about nine years, the balance of the experience was definitely positive: inflation was brought under control and significant growth was fuelled by abundant and cheap capital inflows induced by growing economic and financial integration within the monetary union.

For Argentina the problem developed into the 1990s. A series of external shocks (the Mexican crisis in 1994, the strong appreciation of the dollar in 1995, the crisis in East Asia in 1997, the Russian default in 1998 and, most importantly, the currency crisis in Brazil in 1999) made the national currency largely overvalued under the hard peg regime to the dollar, external deficits started to emerge in a persistent fashion and growth to slow down. At the same time, fiscal imbalances, driven by widespread corruption and rampant public expenditure, had become pervasive. By 2000 investors started to worry about future developments in the country and the more generally about its solvency; as consequence the price of government bonds started to drop.

Similarly to Argentina, the Greek troubles started to emerge on the wave of a large external shock. Following the financial crisis of 2008, the risk perception dramatically changed, capital flows to Greece reduced and with them growth. Combined with the revelation of doctored statistics, the huge public and external debt accumulated after years of fiscal and external imbalances, rapidly appeared unsustainable to international investors. Yields on bonds issued by the Greek government soared dramatically over a very less than one year time.

#### **Facing the crisis: Fiscal austerity and zero deficit promises**

Despite a public primary balance almost always positive over the 1990s, the stock of public debt in Argentina had almost doubled over the decade (from 34% to more than 60% of GDP), driven by increasing financing needs to fund off-budget expenditures (mainly recognition of pre-existing debt such as overdue obligations to pensioners and suppliers) and current expenditures hidden by an opaque fiscal system. Starting from 1999, mostly under the pressure of the IMF and the conditionality associated with the three consecutive programmes, the government approved a sequence (four in two years) of laws aiming at controlling public deficit and restoring market confidence. The last and tougher one, the so-called 'Zero deficit law' endorsed in July 2001, committed to a balanced budget by the fourth quarter of the same year. Regrettably at the end of 2001, the deficit was not zero but it had reached 6% of GDP, growth was at -4.5 against the expected +3.5% as foreseen in the consolidation plan and violent protests broke out in the streets of the country.

The current Greek experience with the control of current expenditures is not much different. Since the start of the troubles, the Greek government has proposed and endorsed three different consolidation plans. In January 2010 (before the first IMF programme), the newly elected Greek government had planned budget reforms aimed at reducing the fiscal deficit from 12.9% of GDP to below 3% in 2012. Despite the endorsement of the plan by the European Commission, quickly enough the details of plan turned out to be not credible. In early May 2010, following the approval of official program with a loan to Greece, the IMF designed a more plausible (at least a priori) fiscal consolidation plan aiming at getting a general government deficit below 3% by 2014. However, at the time of the third review in June 2011, the plan's intermediate targets were assessed as not being met and the IMF conditioned the issuance of the new tranche of payments to the existence of an additional emergency plan. As result, the Greek government had to present a new austerity plan of €28.6 billion to take effect in 2012-15. The plan was approved on June 29th and it is a precondition for Greece to get a second emergency plan of about €90 billion from euro area member states. One difference between Argentina and Greece is noteworthy: the latest Greek programme includes a large plan of assets sales (officially about €50 billion, but more realistically, it will likely less than this sum) as one of the key elements for debt reduction; Argentina could not resort to privatisations given that almost all of the state-owned assets had already been sold during the 1990s.

### **The External Aid: The IMF and the others**

In the case of Argentina, when foreign creditors started to doubt the ability of the country to service the debt, the international community responded with large financial support packages. In March 2000, the IMF approved a three-year stand-by credit (\$7.2 billion) to be treated as 'precautionary'. The programme envisaged a resumption of growth, a decline in fiscal deficit and structural reforms. Even if targets were subsequently revised and reduced in the following reviews, none of them was achieved. Given the continuing external financing difficulties and the country's inability to access international capital markets, in January 2001, the IMF granted Argentina an augmentation of the stand-by arrangement to \$13.7 billion. At the same time, additional financing was arranged from official and private sources. A total plan of about \$40 billion was presented by the Argentine government as the blindaje, a shielding system of loans issued (other than the IMF) by the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the government of Spain, combined with financing assurances from the private sector<sup>3</sup> that would have protected Argentina against the lack of market access. However, the failure in meeting fiscal targets (the third IMF review was indeed negative) was at the source of persisting troubles and on 7 September 2001, based on Argentina's commitment to implement the Zero Deficit Law immediately, the IMF augmented its first agreement for a second time, increasing lending commitment by another \$8 billion (to a total of about \$22 billion).

Once again the experience of Greece is strikingly similar in frame, but bigger in size. In May 2010, the IMF and some member states of the European Monetary Union agreed on an emergency package to help Greece facing, supposedly, a liquidity problem and imposed a tough adjustment programme on Greece aiming at reducing fiscal deficit. Despite the Government's efforts, the intermediate objectives have been missed systematically. Facing a concrete risk of default, a new package of about €80 billion is under discussion, conditional to the endorsement of the new austerity plan.

It is worth noting that the fact that Greece belongs to a real monetary union gives Greece access to another official lender: Greek banks can benefit from the European Central Bank refinancing instruments. Thanks to it, they have been able to refinance themselves by about €90 billion (40% of GDP) and survive both their insulation in the interbank market and a significant deposit flight. Hence, including all different sources of official lending, Greece has already received as much as €200 billion (i.e. more than 80% of its GDP). This is likely to increase up to €310 billion over the coming days (following the new European emergency plan) and even to a higher amount if deposits flight were to continue and the ECB to provide substitute for them (see the section below on the state of deposits). In relative terms, this is a much larger financial support than Argentina received.

### **The private sector involvement: the voluntary restructuring attempt**

In June 2001, as it became clear that Argentina was unable to grow out of its debt problem, the government announced a debt swap<sup>5</sup> to try to stabilise debt dynamics. It was a voluntary, market based debt exchange under which short-term debt held by residents was exchanged for new debt with longer maturities. It was called the megacanje. Despite the success of the operation, which amounted to about \$29.5 billion, and the reduced debt service that it implied for the period 2001-05, the mega swap did not represent an alternative to the default. The implicit annual interest rate on the new debt was more than 17%, well above the expected growth rate of the economy and clearly unsustainable. Rating agencies did not consider the event as a default trigger but the following month, both S&P and Moody's, downgraded long terms sovereign rating further. The credit event was announced in early November, when S&P lowered the rating to selective default (SD), after the announcement of a voluntary restructuring of all debt<sup>6</sup> and the presentation of an additional fiscal package.

Like Argentina, the option of a voluntary restructuring is now under examination for Greece. Just as we write, at the suggestion of the French government, French banks (who are the most exposed to the Greek debt) have put forward a proposal to roll over their short-term debt coming due until 2014 (i.e. over the time frame of the second rescue package). Although details have not been disclosed, the idea seems to be designed along the lines of the Brady bonds experience in the 1990s. It seems that the banks would in effect obtain a combination of guarantees for about 50% of the bonds coming due (this might be 30 percentage points in cash and 20 percentage points in EFSF or other AAA rated bonds). The remaining 50% would be rolled into a 30-year discount bond which banks would presumably be able to hold at face value in their banking book. The economic value of these long term bonds at market prices would be very low, so that the banks are effectively taking a large 'mark to market' loss (compared to face value). But those banks that which had already written down their holds (e.g. those held in the trading book) would actually record a mark to market gain since the

combined value of the one half paid in cash/guarantees plus the other half in the discount bond might very well be above the current mark to market value of a 3-year bond today. The discount bond might foresee some additional earlier payments in case GDP growth is stronger than expected. It would with all likelihood de facto have a junior status, at least with respect to official loans.

### **The final race for deposits**

In Argentina the situation deteriorated irreversibly and default could not be averted any longer when locals started withdrawing deposits. At that point, the ten years of successful hard pegging were clearly over. The succession of three IMF programmes of rapidly growing size had not prevented the worst scenario: investors were not convinced about debt sustainability and the resistance of the population to further adjustments grew along with the austerity efforts of the government. On 30 November 2001, the race began: central bank reserves fell by \$2 billion in one day. In response, President de la Rúa imposed a wide range of controls on banking and foreign exchange transactions in order to stop a bank run: el corallito, which included \$1,000 per month limitation on personal bank withdrawals and only from account denominated in pesos. Figure 2 shows the behaviour of deposits over the 24 months that preceded the default and the rebound of the deposits after the corallito was introduced. From the comparison of the developments in the Greek deposits with the pattern of deposits in Greece over the last 24 months, it emerges that the volatility in the Greek data is significantly smaller, but deposits have decreased steadily.

As mentioned earlier, it should be also taken into account that belonging to a real monetary union puts Greece in a much better position than Argentina had, in terms of financing of the banking system. If Greece were not in the eurozone (or if the euro area's monetary policy had been structured like that of the US, i.e. working through money centre banks), the country's banking system would have broken down already some time ago.

### **History repeating itself: Where are we heading?**

This commentary has emphasised stunning similarities between the experience of Argentina and Greece, both in the nature of the crisis and the approach to its management. Given this background, the question is how should one assess the chances of Greece avoiding an Argentine scenario today? A quick look at the economic fundamentals of Greece today versus the situation of Argentina before the default is not encouraging. So where are we heading? As in Argentina in 2001, the population of Greece seems determined today to push the country towards the worst of all options: a disorderly default without having implemented first the structural reforms which would allow the country to emerge leaner and stronger from this 'catharsis'. In the short-run the behaviour of deposits will make the difference about which scenario will materialise: If deposit flight continues or increases, the Argentine scenario becomes more and more likely. Overall the management of a large fiscal crisis has a crucial political connotation. Avoiding the worst scenario for a country as whole requires a collective commitment involving the entire political class as well as the whole population. This is ultimately a manifestation of social and national cohesion. Unfortunately Argentina dramatically lacked this element. Governments fell one after another and social unrest dominated the streets for months. Until now, in Greece, the government has managed to stay in power, despite a tiny majority in Parliament and a reshuffle of the cabinet in June, but the violent demonstrations against the austerity plan prove that social cohesion is low and the lack of support from the opposition in the Parliament witnesses also a lack of national union. Overall there is very little Europe can do to avoid this outcome. It is often said that history repeats itself only as a farce. In the case of Greece, it may look more like a tragedy.

## **15. PRILOGA 2**

# **EIP 1.0 – time to address macroeconomic imbalances forcefully!**

### **Bruegel / Brussels**

This column argues that the euro zone has no time to waste for structural reforms given the risk of default of Greece. The new excessive imbalance procedure (EIP) could play a crucial role in fostering such structural reforms. If needed, the Commission should start the EIP procedure as early as September should countries such as Spain not deliver on their reform commitments. The European Parliament and the public should monitor that the Regulation is applied forcefully and timely.

Greece is at the brink of default and the domestic political situation is fragile. A significant reduction of Greek debt appears inevitable (Darvas 2011). Greece thus depends on the willingness of the rest of the euro area to provide finance and political leaders in several of the major donor countries are under heavy pressure from their voters to discontinue support. Opinions are divided on when a debt restructuring (be it orderly or disorderly) will happen. Some argue that it could happen as early as September of this year. The official position is still that until 2013 no country of the euro area will default while after that default cannot be excluded.

A default would generate significant knock-on effects to other economies and there is a case to prepare well for that eventuality. In the financial area, the ESRB should try to prepare for the worst<sup>[1]</sup>. A central further determinant of contagion effects will be sound economic fundamentals. Only countries with sound economic fundamentals will be able to insulate themselves from financial market pressure and be able to avoid sudden stops in financing. To date, in particular Spain is perceived by the markets to risk difficulties with financing its debt. Strong and effective structural policy action has the potential to reverse such market perception.

Policymakers have shown their resolve to significantly step up the governance of the euro area. The so-called “six-pack” consisting of 6 pieces of legislation is in the final stage of becoming effective EU law: the trilogue discussions between the European Parliament, Council and Commission close to final. The remaining differences between the Council the positions of the European Parliament as voted on June 23 should as soon as possible be resolved so that the package can be implemented early. The six-pack has a completely new “Regulation for the prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances” (EIP), which has the potential to revolutionize European governance. So should the EIP be applied to Spain to insulate Spain from contagion? And if yes, when and how?

The European Commission Staff Working Paper on Spain of 7 June highlights five major challenges, which are shared by the ECOFIN:

1. Reduce the high structural deficit and improve the long-term sustainability of public finances.
2. Stabilize the real-estate sector and ensure a well-functioning financial sector.
3. Facilitate wage and price adjustment and enhance productivity to regain and sustain competitiveness.
4. Improve the functioning of the labour market in particular as regards labour market segmentation and wage bargaining.
5. Ensure a stronger contribution of the education and training system at all levels of human capital formation.

A number of important reforms have been passed or are in the process of being implemented. The commitment to fiscal consolidation is significant and deficit and debt figures have surprised on the positive side. Significant financial reforms have been enacted but the Commission finds that “the reform of the savings bank law does not fully address the problems created by the involvement of local authorities in the governance of savings banks”. This could be seen as not fulfilling the commitments under the Euro Plus Pact to finalize the restructuring of the sector by end of September 2011. Significant and potentially far reaching labour market reforms have been enacted and it will be important to evaluate progress made. Spain appeared to be lacking behind with the reform of the collective wage bargaining system, but recent government decision appears to solve this concern. Finally, competition in professional services remains limited putting a drag on growth dynamics. Overall, the Commission therefore comes to a positive assessment of the Spanish reform program but shortcomings are identified.

Several of the policy issues identified fall under the EIP. A well functioning real estate and financial sector would clearly qualify to be of relevance for the proper functioning of EMU (Art. 121) and would therefore fall under the new Regulation. Labour market and wage bargaining systems would also qualify. Finally, measures to boost productivity and increase human capital will be crucial for the success of reforms and therefore also for the functioning of EMU. Should a proper assessment reveal that the policy action taken is insufficient, the EIP procedure should be invoked.

The Commission faces two options as regards timing:

- Wait with any further EU policy pressure until the start of the regular European Semester<sup>[2]</sup> in January 2012. The main advantage of this option would be that the current reforms are allowed to

have an effect. This option may also be more appropriate given the political situation in the country. However this option would not lead to policy recommendations earlier than by the summer of 2012.

Alternatively, the Commission could carefully monitor the enacting of policy measures in the next months. Should the Spanish government fail to deliver on a number of commitments, it could threaten to start the EIP procedure already in September or October of this year. The EIP procedure explicitly allows for an application outside the regular European Semester. The main advantage of this option is to increase pressure on an outgoing government not to stop reforms until the election in the spring of next year. If reform measures falls strongly short of what is needed, the Commission should also significantly step-up its contacts with all major political parties in the country to underline the urgency of the situation.

Decision makers will need to deliberate carefully, which option to choose. An important factor in the decision is the clear risk that Greek government debt may be restructured in early 2013. Gaining nine months to enact far-reaching structural reforms could be an important asset in the attempt to avoid contagion. A further issue to consider carefully is whether an early start of the EIP procedure would be perceived as a pre-program mode of surveillance, thereby triggering a bond market panic by itself. The relevance of this argument can be debated in a situation of markets highly attentive to policy action. One should nevertheless consider the option of using flexible credit lines (FCL) to support the reform and prevent self-fulfilling crises. Finally, policy action to boost growth and domestic demand is also needed in current account surplus countries but the degree of urgency is smaller. The European Parliament and the public at large should hold the Commission and Council to account on these policy options. Let's make the EIP already a success in version 1.0 and not waste precious time.

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[1] In Wolff (2011), I have argued that the European Systemic Risk Board should be working on the issue.

[2] For a discussion of the European Semester, see Hallerberg, Marzinotto, Wolff (forthcoming), The European Semester: how effective? How legitimate?, European Parliament Policy Paper.

## 15. PRILOGA 3

# Croatia: pathfinder for EU enlargement

## EPC / Brussels

Croatia's successful conclusion on 30 June of the accession negotiations that began in October 2005 marks a historic moment for the country, and new momentum for the EU's enlargement policy. Although further stages need to be completed – approval of the European Parliament before signature of an accession treaty later this year, then a referendum in Croatia and ratification by all the national parliaments of EU members – Croatia is expected to become the 28th Member State on 1 July 2013.

### Lessons from Croatia's experience

Compared with preceding enlargements, which brought 10 new members in 2004 and two more in 2007, this expansion will have a limited impact on the EU. Adding Croatia with its population of four and a half million – less than one percent of the size of the EU – will pose no threat in economic or budgetary terms and will not disturb the functioning of its institutions. More significant for the EU, this move demonstrates that its door is not closed to future members, provided they fulfil the criteria laid down.

This is a signal, therefore, to the Balkan countries – Serbia, Bosnia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) – that the prospect of accession is real. In recent years, despite the promise of membership made to them by the EU's leaders at Thessaloniki in 2003, the spectre of 'enlargement fatigue' has haunted the process. Realisation that Romania and Bulgaria's entry in 2007 was preceded by inadequate preparation prompted the EU to become more exacting in applying the accession criteria, with the definition of 'benchmarks' for progress in the negotiations. Questions of 'good governance' – maintenance of the rule of law, independent judiciary, efficient public administration, and the fight against corruption – have increasingly been highlighted by the EU in the accession process with the Western Balkans. Croatia is the first country to complete this rigorous course: its journey has not been easy, and questions still remain about its ability to assume the obligations of membership.

The slow progress of Zagreb in fulfilling the requirement of full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) stalled the ratification of Croatia's Stabilisation and Association Agreement for three years, and delayed the start of its accession talks until 2005, when the fugitive general Ante Gotovina – indicted by the ICTY for war crimes – was finally arrested and extradited to The Hague.

The country continued to encounter stumbling blocks. Differences with Italy over property and ethnic minority rights were ironed out only in mid-2006. Then a border dispute with Slovenia regarding the Gulf of Piran blocked Zagreb's accession negotiations until agreement on international mediation was reached in 2009, and ratified in 2010 by referendum in Slovenia. Fisheries policy proved another bone of contention with Italy and Slovenia that was at last resolved in June this year.

Croatia's experience is thus a powerful reminder to aspirant states that failure to address as a matter of priority the EU's political criteria, in particular its requirement of 'good governance', and solve any problems of relations with neighbours, will make for a bumpy ride to the EU. Although Zagreb has made remarkable efforts in the last year to finalise its membership bid, the job is not yet done. The EU has been clear that the country must keep up the reform momentum, especially in two key areas: Judiciary and Fundamental Rights and Competition Policy. In the period between the closing of accession negotiations and Croatia's planned entry, the Commission will monitor and report every six months on Zagreb's compliance with its commitments on the implementation of the rule of law and restructuring of the shipbuilding industry and steel sector.

Member States and their national parliaments will continue to be vigilant, and if deficiencies persist they may decide to postpone ratification of the accession treaty and delay accession. By ruling out a post-accession monitoring mechanism of the kind imposed on Romania and Bulgaria, the EU seems to indicate to Croatia (and to the rest of the membership queue) that shortcuts or dispensations on conditionality are definitely not on the cards anymore. Critics, however, view the monitoring plans until 2013 as a mere formality, unlikely to encourage whistleblowers or stop Croatia's admission to the EU. Sceptical that external supervision offers sufficient guarantees, Croatian non-governmental organisations have pressed for the creation of a parallel domestic monitoring mechanism to reinforce the EU's strategy. Their concern with a premature decision on accession is echoed also by Croatia's low rankings on corruption and the rule of law recently published by Transparency International and the Heritage Foundation.

Domestic politics have naturally played a role in the Croatian government's wish to conclude negotiations swiftly. Parliamentary elections must be held before 11 March 2012 and the incumbent government hopes to capitalise on its EU success. Polls suggest that the party in office has fallen from grace with the electorate as a result of economic hardship and high-level corruption scandals, such as that concerning former Prime Minister Ivo Sanader. Another equally important internal consideration is the referendum that Croatia must organise 30 days after the signing of the accession treaty. Euroscepticism – traditionally strong in Croatia – was manifested vividly in April when the EU flag was burned at a protest in Zagreb against the sentencing of Gotovina. The late start of the "Yes" campaign without a timely mobilisation of civil society means that the government will have its work cut out to secure public support in the vote on EU accession.

### **Prospects for EU enlargement policy**

For the rest of the Balkans, the conclusion of Croatia's accession negotiations is proof of the credibility of the EU's enlargement policy: genuine reform efforts and concrete results can unlock the gates to accession. The other countries can hope for progress, already in the second half of 2011. A positive Opinion from the Commission, after last month's arrest of Ratko Mladić, could lead to Serbia obtaining "candidate status". And a long-overdue solution of FYROM's name dispute with Greece could finally allow it to open negotiations, and thus reverse its current spiral into crisis. Turkey and Iceland may also draw encouragement from Croatia's progress, though their situations and problems are different. To EU policy-makers and public, Croatia's progress on the road to membership shows that enlargement policy continues to exercise 'soft power' and promote political and economic reform in applicant countries. European integration was conceived in the 20th century as a means of reconciling countries that had warred with each other for generations. It marked a profound break with history. We can hope that in the 21st century the same process of reconciliation will allow the countries of the Western Balkans to break with their unhappy history and return to peace and prosperity.

## 15. PRILOGA 4

# An 8-point strategy to revitalize the EU

### Friends of Europe / Brussels

Europe isn't in a good place these days. The drive towards closer integration is losing momentum and appears in great danger of slipping backwards. The eurozone sovereign debt crisis looms larger than ever, but also European leaders must craft a credible new domestic agenda and a forceful foreign policy or risk the EU becoming a marginal player in a globalised world whose rapid change is clearly not to Europe's advantage.

We therefore urge the following initiatives as a concerted strategy by EU leaders:

1) Herman Van Rompuy, the EU Council President, and José Manuel Barroso, European Commission President, should not allow the current policy focus on the eurozone economy to be at the expense of other key European and global challenges. Europe must remain essential in the 21st Century.

2) European leaders must develop a powerful new pro-European narrative with arguments that underline the reasons we are together, EU countries' common aspirations and goals and a timetable for realising them. Europe must urgently demonstrate to the world its common purpose and common interests.

3) President Barroso should craft a new vision to re-establish Europe's credibility with European citizens, focusing on key social and economic concerns, especially job creation. The gap between Europe and its citizens is widening; Europeans are anxious and uneasy about the delays in securing agreement on EU institutional reform, the eurozone crisis and ever-faster globalization. They need much greater reassurance on Europe's future than has been the case for several years.

4) The European Parliament, with its new powers under the Lisbon treaty, should help the European Commission to regain fully its monopoly of initiative, halting the trend in which Europe's national governments rather than the EU are increasingly in the driving seat on foreign and security policy. This is especially true in the economic domain where there is a global perception that Germany matters more than the EU and on security issues where France and the UK eclipse the rest of Europe.

5) President Barroso and his fellow Commissioners must play a more public role in promoting European integration and setting out a new agenda for the future. Michel Barnier's forward-looking Berlin speech in May at Humboldt University remains an exception to the rule. Members of the Commission need to engage more actively in public discussions to outline their views on Europe.

6) The EU institutions together with EU member governments must challenge populist parties more forcefully, not pander to them. Instead of implicitly accepting the far-right rhetoric against immigrants and multiculturalism, EU political leaders at all levels must develop a convincing counter-narrative to the deceptively simple anti-European rhetoric of the far right, and place closer integration far higher on the political agenda. Europe must continue to be a place which welcomes immigrants who are needed to ensure the sustainability of our welfare systems, and the dynamism of our economies.

7) Catherine Ashton, the EU High Representative for foreign and security policy, must forge a more ambitious trade, aid and investment agenda to sustain the Arab spring. She must work more closely with the region's new leaders to make sure that democracy, human rights and the rule of law are respected and there is no discrimination against women and minorities. Learning from the past failures, Ashton must make sure that the EU focus will be on working with pro-reformist leaders and the Arab world's civil society representatives.

8) Ashton must enhance Europe's global role by engaging and partnering more actively with emerging countries to tackle today's array of non-traditional, non-military challenges, including climate change, faster population growth in developing countries, food insecurity and access to resources. Europe

must build on its worldwide reputation as the champion of climate change policies now that global warming is a reality with rising sea levels and accelerating drought. The demographic challenge is equally daunting. As the global population rises above 9 billion over the next 40 years, from 6.9 billion today, Europe should be prepared for increasing competition for food and energy resources. Even though the world has seen unheard of growth and prosperity in recent years, more than 1.4 billion people still live in extreme poverty, many of them in Asia.

9) Our world is clearly entering a new era of change and transformation. Events are speeding up in the Middle East and North Africa and emerging countries everywhere are impatient for more power, and a more authoritative voice – in short a new world order. And here in Europe, citizens need to believe once again in the common European enterprise.

The stakes are high. We can either move with the times, meeting the challenge of a new vision for Europe and new partnerships with the super-powers of the future to improve global living conditions, fight poverty and create hope and jobs for young people. Or we can watch the changing world as passive bystanders. The effort must be Europe-wide, but the first rallying calls have to come from Brussels.

## **15. PRILOGA 5**

# **Lack of women in top jobs to cause 'problems' for EU economy**

## **EU Observer/ Brussels**

The EU's internal market will suffer if companies do not put more women on their boards, the EU's gender equality commissioner Viviane Reding said Tuesday (11 July). Reding made the claim while standing alongside Chantal Gaemperle, a board member at French luxury label LVMH, who had just signed an EU-sponsored pledge to increase the number of women in the company.

The commissioner said that come March next year she will look to see whether companies have made a "clear, precise and measurable evolution" towards greater gender balance within their walls. "If yes, there will be no need for European legislation. If no, we will have a problem with the internal market," said the commissioner explaining that major companies who work across the EU will be confronted with different national laws on women quotas.

Reding's thinking is that if there is a public procurement tender in Spain, for example, Spanish companies who already have to oblige by national quota laws will have an immediate advantage over a German company, which does not. France, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Italy all have national rules concerning the representation of women in business.

The commissioner, who wants to boost female boardroom positions to 30 percent by 2015 and to 40 percent by 2020, said she is "completely supported" by internal market commissioner Michel Barnier. Currently women make up 10 percent of directors and 3 percent of chief executive officers in the EU's largest companies, with the number of women on corporate boards increasing by around half a percentage point per year.

Although Reding has been increasingly vocal about her campaign, to date only seven companies have signed up to the public pledge, up and running since March. And while LVMH is the largest company to have done so, the move represents something of a hollow victory for Reding as a French law, in place since early 2011, requires that the company's board be made up of 40 percent women by 2017.

Reding, in her third term as EU commissioner, has experience with these types of uphill battles. She took on the mobile phone companies in her previous commission life using similar tactics. When mobile phone companies ignored her, she regulated to bring prices down. She is supported by the EU parliament, which earlier this month said Brussels should make such quotas mandatory. An EU law in an area dealing with employment and social policy is likely to be controversial among member states, however.

