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Uvodnik

Dne 4. novembra je Univerza v Ljubljani, v sodelovanju s SGRZ, organizirala posvetovanje o sodelovanju med akademsko sfero in gospodarstvom. Dogodek je imel značaj akcije v okviru široke manifestacije »Open days«, ki potekajo v Bruslju že vrsto let in kjer se srečujejo predstavniki evropskih regij in mest ter organizacij iz raznih področij, vključno z akademsko sfero.

Z zadovoljstvom lahko ugotovimo, da je ta tema v zadnjem času v Sloveniji posebej aktualna, saj se intenzivno sprašujemo, zakaj smo izgubili toliko razvojnega zagona in kako bi naše potenciale – zlasti človeške – mobilizirali za nov razvojni cikel.

Udeležba je bila zelo dobra in odprtih je bilo veliko vprašanj, ki terjajo čim prej ustrezne odgovore in učinkovite rešitve. Rektor prof. dr. Stanislav R. Pejovnik je v uvodu zelo jasno in odkrito odgovoril na vprašanje zakaj ni več pretoka znanja med sferama v Sloveniji. Glavni razlog je v pomanjkanju ustreznega, kvalitetnega in uporabljivega znanja. Ko govorimo o odličnosti v evropskem in svetovnem merilu, je treba takoj postaviti vprašanje kritične mase. Tej se – ob že siceršnjih omejitvah malega naroda – dodatno odpovedujemo z drobljenjem zmogljivosti: imamo precej odličnih posameznikov, a sodobne raziskave zahtevajo večje interdisciplinarnе skupine, ki jih mi preprosto ne uspemo oblikovati. K temu je treba dodati še vrsto sistemskih pomanjkljivosti, zaradi katerih ni pravih motivov in mehanizmov za sodelovanje med univerzo, javnimi raziskovalnimi zavodi in gospodarstvom ter drugimi deležniki. Brez takih timov in tovrstnega sodelovanja pa ne moremo razvijati inovativne družbe in gospodarstva, zasnovanega na znanju.

Medtem ko je pred tranzicijo Slovenija imela veliko več raziskovalnega in razvojnega dela v gospodarstvu, se je zdaj znašla v položaju, ko številna podjetja rešujejo svoj obstoj s prodajo

neinovativnih proizvodov – torej živega dela, kar pa je v obdobju globalizacije in neustavljive kitajske (in druge) konkurence, za Evropo preprosto nevzdržno.

Oba sodelujoča ministra M. Gaspari in prof. dr. Lukšič, sta podala kritično sliko prevladujočega vedenja v obeh sferah, pa tudi splošnega, systemskega pristopa, s katerim želimo Slovenci vzpostaviti družbo znanja. V sedanji krizi, ko gre dobesedno za obstoj, velja pri nas glavna pozornost visoko zvenečim strategijam in financiranju iz državnega proračuna.

Še posebej ker namenjamo za visoko šolstvo premalo denarja (zlasti v primerjavi s primarnim izobraževanjem) je potrebna selekcija institucij po področjih in regijah, nekatere pa bi bilo treba ukiniti. Nezadostno sodelovanja med akademsko sfero in gospodarstvom je tudi posledica prevelike normativne urejenosti in birokratske »dovršnosti«, ki je profesorje in raziskovalce naredila za državne uslužbenke.

V majhni Sloveniji je nekaj majhnih lobijev, ki pa imajo neverjetno velik vpliv, kar je negativno. Na podlagi prednostnih usmeritev moramo omogočiti uporabnikom javnih sredstev za R&R, da jih odgovorno usmerjajo v tematiko, za katero je zainteresirano gospodarstvo.

Zato je vlada sprejela ustrezne dokumente in – kljub proračunskim težavam in naraščajoči zadolženosti – povečala javno financiranje R&R dejavnosti. Hkrati je s formiranjem centrov odličnosti, grozdov, kompetenčnih in razvojnih centrov pričakovati vsaj določene premike v odnosih med dvema sferama. To je nedvomno pohvalno, problem pa je, koliko smo z oblikami financiranja prispevali, da bodo raziskave dejansko bolj v podporo gospodarstvu in, da bodo rezultati dovolj hitro in učinkovito uporabljeni za razvoj novih, konkurenčnih proizvodov.

Raven financiranja visokega šolstva (kot deleža BDP) v Sloveniji je nad EU povprečjem, hkrati pa v gospodarstvu niso zadovoljni s kvaliteto, oz. »uporabljivostjo« diplomantov. Bistveno premalo jih je tudi na naravoslovno-matematičnih vedah, čeprav država vpliva na število odprtih mest za nove študente po fakultetah. Poleg tega imamo med vsemi EU članicami najdaljšo povprečno dobo študija (preko 7 let!), kar pa je »umetni problem«, saj se med 15 in 20% študentov vpisuje samo zaradi socialnih ugodnosti, ki jih prinaša status študenta. Hkrati ta populacija obremenjuje visokošolske zavode in profesorje, ki imajo večje skupine kot v večini EU držav.

Na posvetu je bilo predstavljenih nekaj vzpodbudnih primerov: od Tehnološkega parka Ljubljana, Inkubatorja Univerze v Ljubljani, do Podjetja Vesolje.Si – ki dokazujejo, da imamo inovativni potencial, ki ga je treba bolj učinkovito aktivirati.

Predstavniki Evropske komisije M. Koch je seznanil udeležence posveta z novimi finančnimi storitvami, s katerimi bo v prihodnje podprta inovativna dejavnost v Evropi. Poleg dosedanjega financiranja z nepovratnimi sredstvi, je predvideno povečanje ugodnejšega kreditiranja preko nacionalnih finančnih institucij, katerim bo Komisija z delitvijo rizika pomagala podpirati večje pa tudi manjše projekte.

Splošna slika, ko primerjamo Slovenijo s povprečjem EU in ko se primerjamo z najboljšimi v svetu je zaskrbljujoča in alarmantna. Naš relativni položaj je namreč slabši, kot se zavedamo. To npr. pokažeta že naslednja podatka: medtem ko je bil naš BDP na prebivalca pred 25-30 leti praktično enak avstrijskemu, je zdaj njihov natanko 100% višji. Ko smo se osamosvojili, je bil češki BDP kar 60% nižji od našega, zdaj pa je ta razlika le še dobrih 20%.

Po deležu visoko izobraženega prebivalstva, deležu raziskovalcev med zaposlenimi, po številu inovativnih podjetij smo slabo uvrščeni in razmerje med kazalci za inpute in outpute kaže na slabo učinkovitost. Posledično pristajamo – na IMD lestvici konkurenčnosti držav - iz leta v leto na slabšem mestu. Tudi kazalci podjetništva niso ugodni in to je bistveno za inovativno gospodarstvo. Pod parolo »nacionalnega interesa« zadržujemo delež tujih investicij na ravni, kjer na dnu EU-27 ni velike konkurence, hkrati pa ohranjamo velik del gospodarstva v državni lasti – vendar žal s slabimi rezultati gospodarjenja.

V takih razmerah je težko pričakovati, da bomo z boljšim sodelovanjem in partnerstvom lahko hitreje gradili družbo in ekonomijo znanja. Sodelovanje med dvema sferama se bo lahko razvijalo, če bomo presegli izrazito dvojnost: odprto gospodarstvo in zaprta akademska sfera. Pred novo slovensko vlado so velike naloge in pot iz krize je mogoča le, če bomo uspešnejše kot doslej šli po poti družbe znanja, razvijali človeški potencial in mu skozi produktivno angažiranje omogočili, da se uveljavlja kot človeški kapital.

V prispevkih govornikov in razpravi so bile – med drugim - izpostavljene naslednje prioritete:

- akademska sfera bo lažje opredelila svojo vlogo in prispevek, ko bo država opredelila svoje srednje in dolgoročne razvojne prioritete in presegla prakso presplošnih razvojnih strategij;
- družbo znanja bomo uspeli razvijati le tako, da bosta postali znanje in inovacija osrednja družbena vrednota, podprta z vsemi potrebnimi instrumenti in politikami (od razvojne, izobraževalne, raziskovalne, podjetniške, inovacijske, do finančne in davčne);
- namesto uveljavljene fragmentacije raziskovalnih in razvojnih potencialov je treba vzpodbujati njihovo dolgoročno sodelovanje, partnerstvo in povezovanje, tako med seboj, kakor tudi z gospodarstvom;
- na tej osnovi je treba težiti k mednarodni odličnosti, ki jo je treba prioritarno podpirati;
- podpirati večjo odprtost visokošolske in raziskovalne sfere ter povezovanje z najboljšimi v Evropi in na svetu (z mobilnostjo do uspešnejšega kroženja možganov).
- visokošolske ustanove naj pri razvoju študijskih programov bolj sodelujejo z gospodarstvom upoštevajo tudi potrebe svojega regionalnega okolja.

Isti dan je bil pri predsedniku Republike dr. Danilu Turku prvi sestanek Programskega odbora za mednarodno konferenco o vlogi intelektualnega potenciala za krepitev Evrope, s posebnim poudarkom na partnerstvu med akademsko sfero in gospodarstvom. Konferenco, ki bo med 10. in 13. aprilom v Ljubljani, pripravljata Institut Jožef Stefan in naše Združenje, sodelovali pa bodo še Ministrstvo za visoko šolstvo, znanost in tehnologijo, Sekretariat Srednjeevropske pobude iz Trsta in Evropska komisija.

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1. AKTUALNE NOVICE

■ *Evropska komisija je predstavila jesensko gospodarsko napoved*

Gospodarska rast v Sloveniji bo v letošnjem letu 1,1-odstotna, prihodnje leto 1-odstotna, v letu 2013 pa 1,5-odstotna v jesenski gospodarski napovedi ocenjuje Evropska komisija. Za EU in evroobmočje ugotavlja, da se je okrevanje gospodarstva ustavilo in je pred vrati nova recesija. Za evroobmočje ocenjuje, da bo letošnja gospodarska rast 1,5-odstotna, prihodnje leto bo padla na 0,5 odstotka in v letu 2013 dosegla 1,3 odstotka. V EU bo po oceni Evropske komisije letošnja gospodarska rast 1,6-odstotna, prihodnje leto 0,6-odstotna, v letu 2013 pa 1,5-odstotna. Razmere v Sloveniji so po njeni oceni v največji meri odvisne od izvoza in od razmer v gradbeništvu. Zaradi težav bank, zlasti največje, je problem tudi kreditiranje gospodarstva. Evropska komisija spomni, da je NLB kljub spomladanski dokapitalizaciji letos komajda opravila obremenilni (stresni) test, problem je servisiranje kreditov podjetjem, ki so zelo zadolžena. Velika je verjetnost, da bodo občutno padle cene nepremičnin, kar bo bankam povzročilo dodatne težave. Proračunski primanjkljaj bo letos po oceni Evropske komisije v Sloveniji dosegel 5,7 odstotka BDP, prihodnje leto 5,3 odstotka, v letu 2013 pa bo spet narasel na 5,7 odstotka, predvsem zaradi povečanja transferjev za socialno varnost in izplačil nadomestil za brezposelnost. Število brezposelnih bo namreč še naprej naraščalo. V skladu z Maastrichtskimi merili bi smel doseči največ 3 odstotke BDP. Še naprej bo naraščal tudi javni dolg. Letos bo dosegel 45,5 odstotka BDP, prihodnje leto 50,1 odstotka BDP, v letu 2013 pa bo znašal 54,6 odstotka BDP. V skladu z Maastrichtskimi merili je zgornja meja za javni dolg 60 odstotkov BDP. Evropska komisija je ocenila, da bodo stroški slovenske države za obresti zaradi naraščanja javnega dolga letos narasli na 2 odstotka BDP, lani pa so znašali 1,6 odstotka BDP. Medtem ko se bo rast plač v zasebnem sektorju v letošnjem in prihodnjem letu zmanjšala, bodo ob nespremenjenih pogojih še naprej rastle plače v javnem sektorju, ker bo rast produktivnosti zmerna, se bodo stroški na enoto dela v letošnjem in prihodnjem letu v Sloveniji povečali za približno 1 odstotek, v letu 2013 pa za 1,4 odstotka, za Slovenijo piše v jesenski gospodarski napovedi Evropske komisije.

Več:

[Jesenska gospodarska napoved Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Napoved za Slovenijo](#)

in

[Spletna stran z napovedjo](#)

■ *Evropska komisija je objavila predlog za skupno kmetijsko politiko EU po letu 2013*

V predlogu za skupno kmetijsko politiko EU po letu 2013, ki obsega okrog 400 strani, Evropska komisija izpostavlja deset ključnih predlogov. Da bi bila neposredna plačila bolj učinkovita, predlaga njihovo izplačevanje le aktivnim kmetom, najvišji mogoči znesek za posamezno kmetijsko gospodarstvo pa ne bi mogel biti višji od 300 tisoč evrov na leto. Ker se razmere na trgu s kmetijskimi pridelki in hrano hitro spreminjajo, Evropska komisija predlaga učinkovitejša orodja za intervencije na trgu za preprečevanje kriz. V okviru ukrepov za ozelenitev kmetijstva predlaga, da bi države članice 30 odstotkov denarja, ki ga imajo na voljo za neposredna plačila kmetom, razdelila tistim, ki izvajajo ukrepe za trajnostno izrabo naravnih virov, to so kolobarjenje, ohranjanje pašnikov, ohranjanje ekoloških rezervatov in podobno. Če se bodo države članice v okviru Sveta EU in poslanci Evropskega parlamenta, ki imajo zadnjo besedo pri potrditvi predloga skupne kmetijske politike, strinjali, bo v obdobju od leta 2014 do 2020 na voljo enkrat več denarja za raziskave in inovacije na področju kmetijstva. Po mnenju Komisije bi bilo treba v prehranjevalni verigi tudi okrepiti vlogo kmetov, to je predvsem s podporo organizacijam pridelovalcev. Ohranjanje in obnavljanje ekosistemov ter boj proti podnebnim spremembam bi morali biti dve od šestih prednostnih nalog na področju razvoja podeželja. Ker je dve tretjini kmetov v EU starejših od 55 let, je treba zagotoviti spodbude za mlajše od 40 let, ki se na novo odločijo za kmetovanje. Poskrbeti je treba za spodbude za razvoj gospodarskih dejavnosti na kmetijah. Evropska komisija predlaga, da bi države članice lahko z dodatnimi odškodninami podprle kmete iz območij z naravnimi ovirami. Ta pomoč bi lahko dodale drugim podporam, ki so že na voljo v okviru politike razvoja podeželja. Komisija prav tako predlaga poenostavitev sistema za podpore malim kmetom z uvedbo pavšalnega plačila med 500 in 1000 evrov na leto na kmetijo. Evropska komisija pričakuje, da bosta Svet EU in Evropski parlament, kjer se je že začela razprava, predloge za skupno kmetijsko politiko EU v obdobju od leta 2014 do 2020

potrdila do konca leta 2013, da bodo leta 2014 lahko začeli veljati. Poslanci Evropskega parlamenta so na seji odbora za kmetijstvo zahtevali zmanjšanje birokracije za kmete in vnovičen razmislek o predlogih za financiranje ukrepov s področja varovanja okolja.

Več:

[Spletna stran s predlogi Evropske komisije](#)
in
[Sporočilo Evropskega parlamenta](#)

■ ***Načrt za stabilnost in rast***

Evropska komisija je za oktobrsko vrhunsko zasedanje voditeljev EU predložila načrt za stabilnost in rast. V njem je navedla pet točk, ki so odločno ukrepanje glede Grčije, izvedba sklepov, ki so jih voditelji evroobmočja sprejeli 21. julija glede okrepitve reševalnega sklada EFSF, enoten pristop pri dokapitalizaciji bank, pospešitev izvajanja politik za spodbujanje rasti in delovnih mest, vzpostavitev trdnega in celovitega gospodarskega upravljanja.

Več:

[Predlog načrta](#)

■ ***Evropski svet je potrdil dokapitalizacijo bank, vrh evroobmočja pa okrepitev reševalnega sklada EFSF***

Evropski svet je na zasedanju oktobra potrdil sklep o dokapitalizaciji evropskih sistemskih banki, med katerimi je iz Slovenije Nova ljubljanska banka. Za njo je Evropska bančna agencija ocenila, da potrebuje dokapitalizacijo v višini 297 milijonov evrov, da bo lahko delež najbolj kakovostnega kapitala povečala z najmanj 5 na najmanj 9 odstotkov. Voditelji držav z evrom pa so se dogovorili o okrepitvi posojilne sposobnosti evropskega reševalnega sklada EFSF na najmanj 1000 milijard evrov. Podrobnosti, kako to doseči, bodo znane do konca novembra.

Več:

[Zaključki Evropskega sveta 23. oktobra](#)
in
[Zaključki Evropskega sveta 26. oktobra](#)
in
[Izjava voditeljev evroobmočja](#)

■ ***Nov instrument za spodbujanje gradnje evropske infrastrukture***

Evropska komisija je objavila predlog, da bi na podlagi prihodnjega finančnega okvira, ki bo v letih od 2014 do 2020 osnova za sprejem letnih proračunov EU, uvedli nov instrument za izboljšanje evropskih prometnih, energetskih in digitalnih omrežij. Zanj bi namenila 50 milijard evrov, od tega 31,7 milijarde evrov za prometno infrastrukturo, 9,2 milijarde evrov za infrastrukturo za zagotovitev širokopasovnih omrežij in 9,1 milijarde evrov za gradnjo energetske infrastrukture. Med indikativnimi projekti, za katere bi bilo mogoče dobiti ta denar, so tudi prometni in energetski projekti iz Slovenije. Hkrati Evropska komisija predlaga tudi uvedbo pilotnega projekta za financiranje infrastrukturnih projektov z evropskimi projektnimi obveznicami.

Več:

[Predlog Evropske komisije za uvedbo novega instrumenta](#)
in
[Spletna stran Evropske komisije o novem finančnem okviru](#)
in
[Predlog pilotnega projekta za projektne obveznice](#)

2. KRATKE NOVICE

■ ***Državljeni EU so zaskrbljeni zaradi razmer v gospodarstvu***

Anketa Eurobarometra je pokazala, da so državljani EU bolj zaskrbljeni zaradi razmer v gospodarstvu kot zaradi svojega osebnega položaja. Najbolj jih skrbita povečevanje socialnih razlik in revščine.

Več:

[Rezultati ankete Eurobarometra](#)
in
[Povzetek rezultatov](#)

■ ***Priporočilo za definicijo nanomateriala***

Nanomateriali so materiali, katerih glavni sestavni deli so veliki med eno in sto milijardinkami metra, piše v priporočilu za definicijo teh materialov, ki ga je sprejela Evropska komisija. S to odločitvijo je opredelila, kateri materiali potrebujejo posebno obdelavo v konkretni zakonodaji.

Več:

[Priporočilo Evropske komisije](#)
in

■ **Začela se je zadnja faza pogajanj o proračunu EU za leto 2012**

Svet EU in Evropski parlament sta začela zadnjo fazo pogajanj o proračunu EU za leto 2012. Svet EU da v primerjavi z Evropskim parlamentom zahteva za 1,5 milijarde evrov manj pri postavki za zaveze in 4 milijarde evrov manj pri postavki plačila.

Več:

[Stališče Evropskega parlamenta](#)

in

[Stališče Sveta EU](#)

■ **Rezultati konference o finančnem okviru EU za obdobje od leta 2014 do 2020**

Nacionalni poslanci, ministri in druge zainteresirane strani ter predstavniki institucij EU so na dvodnevni konferenci na visoki ravni razpravljali o večletnem finančnem okviru za obdobje 2014–2020. Med drugim so se strinjali, da je treba doseči največjo možno dodano vrednost med proračunom strategijo Evropa 2020, se usmeriti na ukrepe, ki jih je mogoče najbolje izvesti na evropski ravni, nadaljevati ta dialog in zlasti dodatno vključiti nacionalne parlamente. Dansko predsedstvo EU je najavilo, da namerava v prvi polovici leta 2012 organizirati drugo tovrstno konferenco.

Več:

[Spletna stran konference](#)

■ **Dogovor med EU in Rusijo o pogojih za vstop EU v Svetovno trgovinsko organizacijo (WTO)**

EU in Rusija sta sklenili dogovor o pogojih za vstop Rusije v Svetovno trgovinsko organizacijo (WTO). Gre za dogovor glede investicij v proizvodnjo avtomobilov, pravilih za izvoz kmetijskih pridelkov in hrane v Rusijo, kvotah za izvoz lesa. predvideno je, da bo Rusija dobila politično podporo za vstop v WTO na decembrski ministrski konferenci WTO.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

■ **Program za sodelovanje med carinskimi in davčnimi organi**

Evropska komisija je objavila program FISCUS, ki bo podpiral sodelovanje med carinskimi in davčnimi organi ter drugimi strankami, da bi pripomogli k povečanju njihove učinkovitosti in se izognili neuskkljenosti pri njihovem delu. Olajšal bo povezovanje v omrežja, skupne ukrepe in usposabljanje za osebe carinskih in davčnih uprav, hkrati pa bo financiral tudi najmodernejše sisteme IT, ki bodo omogočili razvoj samostojnih e-uprav na področju carine in obdavčenja.

Več:

[Predlog programa FISCUS](#)

in

[Spletna stran Evropske komisije o programu FISCUS](#)

■ **Evropsko računsko sodišče je objavilo revizijsko poročilo za leto 2010**

Kohezija, energetika in promet so področja, kjer je pri plačilih iz proračuna EU Evropsko računsko sodišče pri revidiranju plačil za leto 2010 ugotovilo najvišjo stopnjo ocenjene napake, to je 7,7 odstotka. Glavne napake, ki so jih odkrili, so bile neupravičena vključitev stroškov in neupoštevanje predpisov s področja javnega naročanja.

Več:

[Poročilo Evropskega računskega sodišča za leto 2010](#)

in

[Spletna stran Evropskega računskega sodišča](#)

■ **Pravila javnega naročanja morajo biti bolj enostavna**

Poenostaviti je treba pravila za javna naročila v EU in tako omogočiti, da bodo te posle lažje dobivala tudi majhna in srednja podjetja, zahtevajo poslanci Evropskega parlamenta. Evropska komisija namerava decembra objaviti svoj predlog za spremembo pravil javnega naročanja v EU.

Več:

[Besedilo, ki ga je potrdil Evropski parlament](#)

3. NOVA ZAKONODAJA

■ **Nova uredba o izvoznih kreditih**

Svet EU je sprejel uredbo, s katero so pravila OECD za izvozne kredite postala del pravnega reda EU. V skladu z novo uredbo bodo morale države članice vsako leto Evropski komisiji poslati poročilo o aktivnostih na tem področju.

Več:

[Uredba](#)

■ **Nova direktiva o okrepitvi nadzora nad finančnimi konglomerati**

Nova direktiva o okrepljenem nadzoru nad finančnimi konglomerati, ki jo je sprejel Svet EU, vsebuje določbe, ki odpravljajo pravne vrzeli v obstoječih evropskih predpisih, uvaja pa tudi dodatni nadzor finančnih pravnih oseb znotraj finančnih konglomeratov.

Več:

[Direktiva](#)

in

[Stališče Sveta EU in Evropskega parlamenta](#)

■ **Zakonodaja za okrepitev gospodarskega upravljanja (six pack) je dokončno potrjena**

Svet EU je dokončno potrdil sveženj predpisov za okrepitev gospodarskega upravljanja, ki so ga poimenovali six pack (šesterec). Novi predpisi bodo predvidoma začeli veljati decembra.

Več:

[Sporočilo Sveta EU o potrditvi svežnja](#)

4. GOSPODARSKE NOVICE

■ **Poročilo o konkurenčnosti industrije držav članic EU**

Evropska komisija je objavila poročilo o konkurenčnosti industrije v državah članicah. V njem je ugotovila, da so med njimi znatne razlike. Povprečna produktivnost dela v proizvodnem sektorju recimo na Irskem znaša 125 odstotkov bruto dodane vrednosti na zaposlenega, v Bolgariji pa manj kot 20 odstotkov. Delež inovativnih podjetij je v Nemčiji 80 odstotkov, v Latviji pa le 25 odstotkov. najbolj prijazno poslovno okolje

imajo podjetja na Finskem, na zadnjem mestu v tej kategoriji pa je Italija. Za Slovenijo Komisija navaja, da mora povečati tako konkurenčnost sektorjev, ki so usmerjeni v izvoz, kot sektorjev, ki so osredotočeni na domači trg. Izboljšati je treba regulacijo na področju storitev. Evropska komisija je hkrati objavila tudi in poročilo o uspešnosti in politikah držav članic na področju konkurenčnosti.

Več:

[Spletna stran Evropske komisije s poročili](#)

in

[Poročilo za Slovenijo](#)

■ **Javno posvetovanje o zaščiti evropskih podjetij pred goljufijami in nepoštenimi praksami**

Do 16. decembra je odprto javno posvetovanje, prek katerega želi Evropska komisija od podjetij in drugih prizadetih zbrati več informacij o vrsti in obsegu nepoštenih praks, vključno s spletnimi goljufijami. Po zaključku posvetovanja bo ocenila, kako bi nepoštenim družbam najlažje preprečila zlorabe prek lukenj v pravilih ter učinkovito zaščitila poštena podjetja.

Več:

[Vprašalnik za sodelovanje v javnem posvetovanju](#)

in

[Spletna stran Evropske komisije s predpisi o zavajajočem oglaševanju in nepoštenih praksah](#)

■ **Evropska komisija je predstavila sveženj ukrepov za podporo podjetništvu in odgovornemu poslovanju**

V okviru svežnja ukrepov za podporo podjetništvu in odgovornemu poslovanju Evropska komisija na podlagi določb Akta za mala podjetja predlaga izboljšanje transparentnosti in spodbujanje trajnostnega podjetništva med multinacionalkami. Družbe na področju rudarstva in gozdarstva bi morale biti bolj odprte glede davkov, licenčnin in bonusov, ki jih plačujejo po svetu. Komisija predlaga tudi poenostavitev računovodskih pravil za mala in srednja podjetja. Ti predlogi bi tudi zmanjšali obveznosti poročanja za podjetja, katerih delnice kotirajo na borzi.

Več:

■ ***Evropska komisija predlaga novo partnerstvo za lažji prodor majhnih in srednjih podjetij v svet***

Mala in srednja podjetja morajo bolje izkoristiti priložnosti novih, hitro rastočih trgov, kakršni so na Kitajskem, v Indiji in Rusiji ali v regijah, kot sta Jugovzhodna Azija in Latinska Amerika, meni Evropska komisija. Kako to doseči, je objavila v sporočilu Malo podjetje, velik svet – novo partnerstvo za možnosti malih in srednjih podjetij v svetu. V njem predlaga okrepitev podpornih storitev in izboljšanje usklajenosti in uporabe obstoječih virov, vključno z mrežo Enterprise Europe, kar bo podjetjem omogočilo boljši dostop do ustrežnejših informacij in pomoči pri vstopanju na nove trge ter navezovanju stikov s primernimi lokalnimi partnerji.

Več:

[Predlog Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran Evropske komisije o mednarodnih aktivnostih srednjih in malih podjetij](#)

■ ***Komunikacija o izogibanju dvojnemu obdavčevanju***

Evropska komisija je predstavila komunikacijo o izogibanju dvojnemu obdavčevanju. V njej navaja, na katerih področjih je v EU največ dvojnega obdavčevanja in katere ukrepe bo pripravila, da bi odpravila ta problem.

Več:

[Komunikacija Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Predlog direktive](#)

■ ***Evropski parlament podpira spremembe predpisov za DDV***

Poslanci Evropskega parlamenta so v resoluciji glede prihodnje zakonodaje s področja DDV navedli, da je treba poskrbeti za ohranitev prihodkov iz tega vira, a hkrati tudi zagotoviti, da sistem ne bo ovira za podjetja. Predvsem je treba okrepiti boj proti goljufijam pri plačevanju tega davka in ukiniti številne izjeme. Resolucija je ena od osnov za pripravo strategije o DDV, ki jo namerava Evropska komisija objaviti do konca leta.

Več:

■ ***Odprtje trga dela za delavce iz Bolgarije in Romunije***

Poročilo, ki ga je objavila Evropska komisija, kaže, da delavci iz Bolgarije in Romunije v celoti pozitivno vplivajo na gospodarstvo držav, kjer se zaposlijo. Študije niso pokazale znatnega učinka na brezposelnost ali plače lokalnih delavcev v državah, kjer se zaposlijo. Članice EU lahko do konca leta 2013 uporabljajo omejitve za zaposlovanje ljudi iz Bolgarije in Romunije. Poslanci Evropskega parlamenta menijo, da bi te omejitve morale odpraviti že zdaj.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Sporočilo Evropskega parlamenta](#)

■ ***Med zaposlenimi za krajši delovni čas je 20 odstotkov pripravljenih delati več ur***

V EU je bilo lani 41,3 milijona ljudi bilo zaposlenih za določen čas, od tega je bilo tri četrtine žensk. Evropski statistični urad Eurostat navaja, da bi 8,5 milijona ali 21 odstotkov ljudi, ki so zaposleni za krajši delovni čas, želelo delati več ur. V Sloveniji je pripravljenih delati več ur 19 tisoč ljudi, kar je 18 odstotkov ljudi, ki so bili lani zaposleni za krajši delovni čas.

Več:

[Sporočilo Eurostata](#)

5. FINANČNE STORITVE

■ ***Ukrepi proti trgovanju z notranjimi informacijami in tržni manipulaciji***

Evropska komisija je sprejela predlog uredbe o trgovanju z notranjimi informacijami in tržni manipulaciji (zlorabi trga). Namen predloga je posodobiti in okrepiti obstoječi okvir, ki bo omogočil učinkovitejši boj proti zlorabi trga na blagovnih borzah in povezanih trgih izvedenih finančnih instrumentov. Če bo predlog Komisije sprejet v okviru Sveta EU in v Evropskem parlamentu, bodo regulatorji dobili večja pooblastila za preiskovanje in sankcioniranje, upravna obremenitev malih in srednjih izdajateljev pa bo manjša.

Več:

[Predlog uredbe](#)

in

[Spletna stran Evropske komisije s predlaganimi dokumenti](#)

■ **Evropska komisija želi uvesti kazenske sankcije za trgovanje z notranjimi informacijami in tržno manipulacijo**

Evropska komisija je predlagala uvedbo vseevropskih predpisov, s katerimi bi se določile minimalne kazenske sankcije za trgovanje z notranjimi informacijami in tržno manipulacijo. V predlogu direktive je predvideno, da bi morale države članice z ustreznimi ukrepi zagotoviti, da so za kazniva dejanja v povezavi s trgovanjem z notranjimi informacijami in tržno manipulacijo predvidene kazenske sankcije. Države članice bi morale kazenske sankcije uvesti tudi za spodbujanje k zlorabi trga, pomoč in podporo v zvezi s tem ter za poskus takega kaznivega dejanja. Predlog direktive je v postopku obravnave in sprejema v Svet EU, ki med evropskimi institucijami predstavlja države članice, in Evropskem parlamentu.

Več:

[Predlog direktive](#)

■ **Predlogi za spremembe Direktive o trgih finančnih instrumentov (MiFID)**

Evropska komisija je objavila predloge za spremembe Direktive o trgih finančnih instrumentov (MiFID). Njihov namen je povečanje učinkovitosti, odpornosti ter preglednosti finančnih trgov in povečanje zaščite vlagateljev. Novi okvir bo poleg tega okreplil tudi nadzorna pooblastila upravnih organov in določil jasna pravila delovanja za vse dejavnosti trgovanja, pravijo na Evropski komisiji.

Več:

[Povzetek predlogov Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran Evropske komisije o MiFID](#)

6. REGIONALNA POLITIKA

■ **Ljubljana kandidira za Zeleno prestolnico Evrope leta 2014**

Ljubljana je med 19 mest iz 14 držav, ki kandidirajo za Zeleno prestolnico Evrope v letu 2014. Skupina izvedencev bo prijave najprej ocenila na podlagi 12 kriterijev in tako izbrala 3 ali 4 mesta, ki se bodo uvrstila v zaključni izbor. Ta mesta bodo strokovni žiriji nato predstavila akcijske načrte in strategijo komuniciranja. Na podlagi teh predstavitev bodo člani žirije izbrali mesto, ki bo leta 2014 zelena prestolnica Evrope. razglasitev je predvidena junija 2012. Letos je zelena prestolnica Evrope nemško mesto Hamburg.

Več:

[Spletna stran Evropske komisije o Zeleni prestolnici Evrope](#)

■ **Objavljene so kategorije za nagrado RegioStars 2013**

Evropska komisija je objavila kategorije za nagrado RegioStars 2013. Projekte, za katere so prejele plačilo iz evropskih strukturnih skladov v obdobju od leta 2000 do 2006 in od 2007 do 2013 lahko predlaga vseh 273 regij v EU. Kategorije pa so povezovanje univerz s pametno rastjo, spodbujanje gospodarne rabe virov v majhnih podjetjih, socialne inovacije, trajnostni urbani razvoj in komunikacije. Predloge bodo zbirali do 20. aprila 2012.

Več:

[Spletna stran Evropske komisije o nagradah RegioStars](#)

7. TRANSPORT IN ENERGETIKA

● **Peti razpis na podlagi programa Marco Polo**

Evropska komisija je na podlagi programa Marco Polo objavila razpis za projekte za vzpostavitev ali nadgradnjo storitev za blagovni transport. Izbrala bo projekte, ki bodo zagotavljali rešitve za zmanjšanje zastojev na cestah in izboljšanje varovanja okolja na področju blagovnega transporta. Na voljo je 57 milijonov evrov, rok za oddajo ponudb pa 16. januar 2012.

Več:

[Spletna stran, na kateri je objavljen razpis](#)

8. EKOLOGIJA IN TRAJNOSTNI RAZVOJ

● **Evropska okoljska agencija je objavila študijo o učinkoviti rabi virov**

Kako učinkovito posamezne države uporabljajo vire, je Evropska okoljska agencija objavila v študiji o učinkoviti rabi virov. Evropska komisija je v svojem načrtu za gospodarno rabo virov navedla, da imajo države članice ključno vlogo pri zagotovitvi učinkovite in gospodarne rabe virov, od njih pričakuje, da za to izdelajo svoje nacionalne strategije. Za Slovenijo Evropska okoljska agencija v študiji ugotavlja, da nima strateškega dokumenta za učinkovito rabo virov. To temo vključujejo nekateri drugi področni dokumenti, a na različne načine.

Več:

[Ugotovitve študije za Slovenijo](#)

in

[Spletna stran s poročilom](#)

in

[Spletna stran s podatki po državah](#)

● **Začela se je kampanja o gospodarnem ravnanju z viri**

Začela se je kampanja EU z naslovom Budna generacija. S svojimi odločitvami spreminjate svet! Njen namen je potrošnike spodbuditi, da postane učinkovita raba naravnih virov njihova navada. Namen akcije je ozavestiti ljudi, kako pomembna je pametna uporaba omejenih naravnih virov, ter jih spodbuditi, da razmislijo, kako njegovi nakupi vplivajo na planet.

Več:

[Spletna stran kampanje](#)

● **Eurostat je objavil podatke o uresničevanju strategije za trajnostni razvoj**

Evropski statistični urad Eurostat vsaki dve leti pripravi poročilo o napredku pri uresničevanju strategije o trajnostnem razvoju. V letošnjem ugotavlja, da na podlagi doseženih rezultatov za večino kazalnikov, s katerimi meri napredek, ne more reči, da je EU na poti trajnostnega razvoja. Na uresničevanje strategije zelo vplivata finančna in gospodarska kriza. Njuni učinki segajo bistveno dalj, kot zgolj na področje gospodarstva, navaja Eurostat.

Več:

[Poročilo Eurostata](#)

9. VARSTVO POTROŠNIKOV

● **Predlog za evropsko prodajno pravo**

Evropska komisija predlaga uvedbo enotnega evropskega prodajnega prava, to pomeni, da bi podjetja in potrošniki imeli na voljo možnost, da bi v kateri koli državi članici lahko namesto njenega nacionalnega prava za trgovanje uporabili enotno evropsko pravo. Predlog Evropske komisije je zdaj v postopku obravnave in sprejema na Svetu EU, ki med evropskimi institucijami predstavlja države članice, in v Evropskem parlamentu.

Več:

[Spletna stran s predlogom Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran Evropske komisije o pogodbenem pravu](#)

● **Evropska komisija je objavila pregled stanja potrošniških trgov**

Na trgih finančnih storitev, naložb (vključno s pokojninami in vrednostnimi papirji), hipotek in nepremičninskih storitev je največja verjetnost, da pričakovanja potrošnikov ne bodo izpolnjena, je pokazal pregled stanja potrošniških trgov, ki ga je objavila Evropska komisija. Med trgi blaga so najslabše ocenjeni rabljeni avtomobili in oskrba z gorivi. Največje poslabšanje v primerjavi z letom 2010 so pripravljavci pregleda trgov opazili na področju oskrbe z električno energijo in na področju oskrbe z gorivi.

Več:

[Pregled stanja potrošniških trgov](#)

in

[Spletna stran Evropske komisije, kjer je objavljen pregled](#)

● **Nov program za zdravje in varstvo potrošnikov**

Evropska komisija je predstavila predloga novih programov za zdravje in za varstvo potrošnikov. Izvajati ju namerava v obdobju med letoma 2014 in 2020, za program za zdravje predvideva proračun v višini 446 milijonov evrov, za program za varstvo potrošnikov pa 197 milijonov evrov.

Več:

[Predlog programa za zdravje](#)

in

[Predlog programa za varstvo potrošnikov](#)

in

[Spletna stran Evropske komisije o novem finančnem okviru](#)

RAPEX

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

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=410

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=409

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=408

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=407

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=403

10. RR IN INOVACIJE

Prvi rezultati pobude Proof of Concept

Evropski raziskovalni svet (ERC) je objavil prve rezultate pobude Proof of Concept. Zanj namenja subvencije v višini do 150 tisoč evrov. Dobijo jih je že 30 vrhunskih znanstvenikov kot pomoč za prenos rezultatov svojih raziskav na trg. S tem denarjem lahko pokrijejo stroške za zaščito pravic intelektualne lastnine, tehnično preveritev, raziskave trga, iskanje poslovnih priložnosti na trgu.

Več:

[Sporočilo ERC s primeri izbranih projektov](#)

Krka in Helios sta med tisoč najbolj inovativnimi podjetji v EU v letu 2010

Evropska komisija je objavila lestvico podjetij, ki so v EU in na globalni ravni v letu 2010 največ vlagala v raziskave in razvoj. Iz Slovenije sta na lestvici tisoč takšnih podjetij v EU družbi Krka in Helios. Evropska komisija ugotavlja, da so več kot dve tretjini zneska za naložbe v raziskave in razvoj v EU zagotovila podjetja iz treh največjih članic, v manjših članicah pa največ denarja dajejo za ta namen večja podjetja.

Več:

[Spletna stran Evropske komisije s poročilom](#)

11. KULTURA IN IZOBRAŽEVANJE

Pobuda za digitalizacijo kulturne dediščine

Evropska komisija države članice EU poziva, naj okrepijo prizadevanja in združijo vire pri digitalizaciji kulturne dediščine ter vanjo vključijo zasebni sektor. To je ključnega pomena, da bo evropska kulturna dediščina postala širše dostopna. Digitalizirano gradivo mora biti dostopno preko Europeane, evropske digitalne knjižnice, arhiva in muzeja. Komisija v priporočilu države članice tudi spodbuja, da pripravijo vzdržne načrte in sklenejo partnerstva za vnos 30 milijonov objektov v Europeano do leta 2015 (danes jih je na voljo 19 milijonov), da na spletu objavijo več avtorsko zaščitene gradiva in na trgu nedostopnega gradiva ter prilagodijo nacionalno zakonodajo in strategije, da bodo zagotovile dolgoročno hrambo digitalnega gradiva.

Več:

[Priporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Europeana](#)

V EU je v razredu na učitelja med 10 in 20 otrok

Evropski statistični urad Eurostat je objavil podatke o številu učencev v razredu v osnovni šoli na učitelja v EU. To število se giblje med 10 in 20. Med letom 2000 in 2009 je število učencev na učitelja v 18 od 22 držav članic, za katere je Eurosta dobil podatke, padlo. V osnovnih šolah v Sloveniji je bilo predlani v razredu 16 učencev na učitelja, leta 2000 pa 13.

Več:

[Sporočilo Eurostata](#)

Podatki o sistemih izobraževanja in usposabljanja v EU

Evropski statistični urad Eurostat je objavil podatke o sistemih izobraževanja in usposabljanja v EU v obdobju od leta 2000 do 2009. Ti podatki kažejo, da se je v tem obdobju precej povečalo število otrok, ki so vključeni v predšolsko vzgojo, šolanje pa v povprečju traja 17 let. Zlasti v Vzhodnoevropskih državah se je

bistveno zmanjšalo število učencev v obveznem izobraževanju.

Več:

[Analiza Eurostata](#)

12. KMETIJSTVO

Število kmetijskih gospodarstev se je zmanjšalo za 20 odstotkov

Evropski statistični urad Eurostat je objavil podatke o številu kmetijskih gospodarstev v obdobju od leta 2003 do 2010. Ugotovil je, da se je njihovo število zmanjšalo za 20 odstotkov. Ker se je površina obdelovalnih zemljišč v enakem obdobju zmanjšala le za 2 odstotka, sklepa, da se kmetijska gospodarstva združujejo. To potrjuje tudi podatek o povprečni velikosti kmetijskega gospodarstva v EU, ki je bila 12 hektarov leta 2003 in se je leta 2010 povečala na 14 hektarov. V Sloveniji se je med letom 2003 in 2010 število kmetijskih gospodarstev zmanjšalo za 3,2 odstotka, površina obdelovalnih zemljišč pa za 2 odstotka. Povprečna velikost kmetijskega gospodarstva je v Sloveniji 6,4 hektara. To pomeni, da Slovenija sodi med pet članic EU, ki imajo najmanjša kmetijska gospodarstva.

Več:

[Podatki Eurostata](#)

Malo administrativnih ovir pri izvajanju programa za razvoj podeželja

Evropska komisija je objavila rezultate študije, ki je pokazala, da je raven administrativnih ovir za kmete pri izvajanju programov za razvoj podeželja nižja od 5 odstotkov porabe denarja za ta namen. V poročilu je navedla tudi nekaj primerov dobrih praks pri izvajanju tega programa. Slovenije ni med državami članicami, ki so bile izbrane za izvedbo študije.

Več:

[Spletna stran Evropske komisije s poročilom](#)

Nova spletna stran s podatki o trgih žit

Evropska komisija je vzpostavila novo spletno stran, na kateri bo objavljala poročila o razmerah na trgu z žiti, oljnicami in rižem. Poročila bo objavljala mesečno.

Več:

[Spletna stran](#)

Nova brošura s podatki o kmetijstvu v EU

Evropski statistični urad je objavil brošuro s podatki o kmetijstvu v EU. V njej je mogoče med drugim najti podatke, katera država članica pridelava največ žit, katera je največja proizvajalka sira, kje je največja proizvodnja raznih vrst mesa in podobno.

Več:

[Brošura](#)

Boljša zaščita živali med transportom, a narediti je treba več

Evropska komisija je objavila poročilo o izvajanju evropske zakonodaje za zaščito živali med transportom. Njena glavna ugotovitev je, da so se pogoji transporta v glavnem izboljšali zaradi uporabe boljših vozil in opreme, še vedno pa je šibka uporaba zakonodaje, zlasti zaradi različnih razlag pravil, zato namerava Evropska komisija predlagati spremembe. Tudi možnosti za uporabi navigacijskih sistemov niso povsem izkoriščene.

Več:

[Poročilo Evropske komisije](#)

13. JUGOVZHODNA EVROPA IN SOSEDSKA POLITIKA

Poročila o napredku kandidatk in potencialnih kandidatk za vstop v EU

Evropska komisija še naprej podpira širitev EU. Hrvaška bo 9. decembra v Bruslju podpisala pristopno pogodbo, ker je tudi Evropski parlament že zagotovil, da jo bo potrdil, se bo potem lahko začel proces ratifikacije v državah članicah. Evropska komisija v svežnju poročil o napredku kandidatk in potencialnih kandidatk za vstop v EU navaja, da bi Hrvaška lahko 1. julija 2013 postala članica EU. Hkrati v tem svežnju poročil za Črno goro predlaga status kandidatke in začetek pogajanj o vstopu v EU, za Srbijo pa status kandidatke, datum za začetek pogajanj o vstopu v EU pa naj bi Srbija dobila, ko bi zagotovila napredek pri pogajanjih s Kosovom v okviru dialoga Beograd-Priština. Ali bosta omenjeni državi dobili status kandidatke in datum za začetek pogajanj, s

soglasjem odločajo države članice. Po prvih odzivih sodeč bodo odločanje o tem preložile na leto 2013. Tako rekoč nikakršnega napredka pri približevanju EU pa v zadnjem letu dni nista dosegli Makedonija, za katero Komisija ponavlja predlog za dodelitev datuma za začetek pogajanj, in Bosna in Hercegovina. Kosovu pa je Komisija obljubila, da bo do konca leta lahko začela dialog o vizumih. Kosovo je edino na območju nekdanje Jugoslavije, za katerega ne velja odprava vizumov za vstop v schengensko območje.

Več:

[Spletna stran s poročili Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Povzetek poročila za Hrvaško](#)

in

[Povzetek poročila za Srbijo](#)

in

[Povzetek poročila za Črno goro](#)

in

[Povzetek poročila za Makedonijo](#)

in

[Povzetek poročila za BIH](#)

in

[Povzetek poročila za Kosovo](#)

Evropska investicijska banka (EIB) ima nov mandat za posojila zunaj EU

Evropska investicijska banka (EIB) je s 1. novembrom dobila nov mandat za odobravanje posojil za projekte zunaj EU z garancijo proračuna EU. Gre za posojila državam v okviru ukrepov za boj proti podnebnim spremembam in za podporo državam v okviru Vzhodnega partnerstva in Unije za Sredozemlje. EIB ima za kredite državam, ki niso članice EU za obdobje od leta 2007 do 2013 na voljo 25,8 milijarde evrov. Dodatno k temu ima za podporo ukrepom za boj proti podnebnim spremembam na voljo 2 milijardi evrov, za podporo kandidatkam in potencialnim kandidatkam za vstop v EU in drugim sosedam pa 1,7 milijarde evrov.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

Brezcarinski uvoz iz držav Zahodnega Balkana

Države Zahodnega Balkana bodo s potrditvijo predloga uredbe o uvedbi izjemnih trgovinskih ukrepov do konca leta 2015 še naprej upravičene do brezcarinskega dostopa na trge EU za skoraj vse svoje izdelke. Status bi sicer

potekel že konec leta 2010, tako pa se bodo spremenjena pravila začela uporabljati retroaktivno, od 1. januarja 2011.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropskega parlamenta](#)

14. NAJAVE DOGODKOV

Joint Workshop "Risk Governance of Manufactured Nanoparticles"

Brussels, November 21, 2011

Več informacij [tukaj](#)

International Conference on Economic Instruments and Waste Prevention

Brussels, November 22, 2011

Več informacij [tukaj](#)

Reducing Transport Noise in Cities

Brussels, November 23, 2011

Več informacij [tukaj](#)

Workshop: MOFs for industrial applications

Bergamo, November 23, 2011

Več informacij [tukaj](#)

Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation Collaboration in the Food Sector

Brussels, November 24, 2011

Več informacij [tukaj](#)

2011 Barcelona Workshop on Regional and Urban Economics: Inequality and Regional Growth and Cohesion

Barcelona, November 24 – 25, 2011

Več informacij [tukaj](#)

Conference »Accessibility Reaching Everywhere«

Brussels, November 28 - 30, 2011

Več informacij [tukaj](#)

ICBBE 2011 : "International Conference on Bioinformatics and Bioscience Engineering"

Venice, November 28 – 30, 2011

Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Conference Innovation in transport for sustainable cities and region**

Brussels, November 29 -30, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Publishing on the move**

Brussels, November 30, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **17th online EDUCA Berlin conference**

Berlin, November 30 – December 2, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Towards advanced road transport for the urban environment**

Brussels, December 01, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Public hearing on Advertising for young people and children**

Brussels, December 01, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Conference for countries of the southern neighbourhood**

Warsaw, December 01 – 02, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **19th Annual conference on business and marketing strategies for Central & Eastern Europe**

Vienna, December 01 – 03, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **International Conference on Leadership, Technology, and Innovation Management**

Istanbul, December 02 – 04, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Capacity building seminar: Skilled territories - New tourism development in the Mediterranean countries**

Trento, December 04 – 07, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **First Innovation Convention organised by the European Commission**

Brussels, December 05 – 06, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **IEEE Innovative Smart Grid Technologies 2011 Conference**

Manchester, December 05 – 07, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Helping European Railways Transition to the Digital Future through Cooperation**

Brussels, December 06, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **The 9th Global Forum: The new policy frontiers of investment globalisation**

Paris, December 06, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **International Science and Technology Conference**

Istanbul, December 07 – 09, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Dresdner Materials Symposium »Materials for Mobility«**

Dresden, December 8 – 9, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **We care, how can EU care?**

Brussels, December 09, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Business in the Community's National Environment Conference**

Leeds, December 09, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **The political economy of the design of local taxation and environmental protection**

Ancona, December 09 – 10, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **EU research and innovation: What role for regions and cities after 2013?**

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

✚ **Food Security 2011**

London, December 14 – 15, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Successful Fundraising for Arts and Cultural Organizations: Strategies in the Changing World**

15. ZANIMIVE PUBLIKACIJE

- ✚ [Why stricter rules threaten the eurozone,](#)
- ✚ [Global trade imbalances threaten free trade](#)
- ✚ [EU climate policies without an international framework](#)
- ✚ [A farewell to open borders? The Danish Approach](#)
- ✚ [Towards a New EU Legal Framework for Data Protection and Privacy: Challenges, Principles and the Role of the European Parliament](#)
- ✚ [Informal Care, Labour Force Participation and Unmet Needs for Formal Care in the EU-27, Croatia and Turkey](#)
- ✚ [Next Generation Innovation Policy: The future of EU innovation policy to support market growth](#)
- ✚ [Why has the crisis been bad for private pensions, but good for the flat tax? The sustainability of 'neoliberal' reforms in the new EU member states](#)
- ✚ [Eurozone Bank Recapitalisations: Pouring water into a leaky bucket](#)
- ✚ [A closer look at Dexia: The case of the misleading capital ratios](#)
- ✚ [A Three-Pillar Firepower to Solve the European Sovereign Crisis: A last chance!](#)

Leibnitz, December 17 – 21, 2011
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **International Green Week 2012**

Berlin, January 20 – 29, 2012
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

- ✚ [The EU, Still Seeking Legitimacy](#)
- ✚ [Europe must use bonds to fight the debt crisis on two fronts](#)
- ✚ [OTC derivatives market](#)
- ✚ [CIS Monthly Monitor](#)
- ✚ [Emissions trading in aviation](#)
- ✚ [Euroland's hidden balance-of-payments crisis](#)
- ✚ [Electromobility](#)
- ✚ [Communicating EU rural development policy](#)
- ✚ [Erasmus](#)
- ✚ [Cordis](#)
- ✚ [Number of asylum applicants on rise during the first quarter of 2011](#)
- ✚ [Financial Centres and International Capital Flows in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries](#)
- ✚ [The Macroeconomic and Financial Landscape in the Aftermath of the 2007 Crisis: New Challenges and Perspectives](#)
- ✚ [C20 Paper for the G20 Summit Cannes 3-4 November 2011](#)
- ✚ [Labour market statistics](#)
- ✚ [The Demand for Safe Assets in Emerging Economies and Global Imbalances](#)
- ✚ [World Energy Outlook 2011](#)

- ✦ [Austria: Public Sector Inefficiencies Have Become Less Affordable](#)
- ✦ [Promoting Infrastructure Development in Brazil](#)
- ✦ [Key World Energy Statistics 2011](#)
- ✦ [Oil and Gas Emergency Policy - Norway 2011 update](#)
- ✦ [CO₂ Emissions from Fuel Combustion 2011 – Highlights](#)
- ✦ [Good Practice Policy Framework for Energy Technology Research Development and Demonstration \(RD&D\)](#)
- ✦ [The Puppet Masters: How the Corrupt Use Legal Structures to Hide Stolen Assets and What to Do About It](#)
- ✦ [Doing Business 2012: Doing Business in a More Transparent World](#)
- ✦ [World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development](#)
- ✦ [Operational Risk Management and Business Continuity Planning for Modern State Treasuries](#)

16. PRILOGE

PRILOGA 1: What is holding Italy back?

CEPS/ Brussels

Italy's economy has clearly underperformed since it joined the eurozone, both relative to its peers and relative to the previous decade. Italy's growth rate averaged only a little more than 1% per annum during the boom years preceding the crisis. Then GDP plunged by 5% and instead of rebounding, it now again grows only at around 1%. At this rate Italy's public debt at 120% of GDP becomes an existential threat for the entire euro area.

Understanding and curing Italy's growth problems is thus vital for the survival of the euro. The key point of this contribution is that if one wants to explain the deteriorating growth performance of Italy, one cannot just point to the well-known weaknesses that have held back Italy for ages. Instead, one has to search for growth factors that have clearly deteriorated since about 1999-2000. This is not easy.

The three most important measurable growth factors actually improved in both absolute and relative terms:

- Investment in physical and human capital (the former is high and the latter is improving rapidly);
- Structural indicators in terms of product and labour market regulation (all improving absolutely and relative to Germany, according to OECD indicators) and
- Investment in R&D (improving).

The only factors that have deteriorated absolutely and relative to the core of the euro area are indicators of governance, such as corruption and rule of law. Reversing this political decline will take years of national commitment – of which there is little sign yet.

1. Italy's relative underperformance cannot be due to a shortage of either physical or human capital.

In almost every year over the past decade, Italy has invested close to 20% of its GDP, a higher percentage than Germany (and the same is the case for investment in plant and equipment). But despite this effort, GDP is now barely higher than it was ten years ago.¹ This implies that the efficiency of this investment has been abysmal. Between 1999 and 2009, the economy-wide (net) capital stock of Italy increased by 19%; but real GDP increased only by 5%. By contrast, Germany's capital stock increased by less (about 13%), but its GDP increased by much more (almost 9%). More investment is thus unlikely to provide a solution to the growth problem. Infrastructure investment by the government is often cited as another reason for low growth.

But it has actually fluctuated around 2.5% of GDP over the last 20 years, which is in line with the EU average (and again higher than in Germany). More infrastructure investment is thus also unlikely to unlock higher growth. The same observation applies to human capital: the Italian workforce is today actually better educated than it was ten years ago. The percentage of those with a tertiary degree has increased from 13 to 18% of the working age population (and the percentage of those with only primary education has fallen). While the share of tertiary education graduates in the active population is still lower than in partner countries, it progressed faster in the last decade. It is apparent that Italy has made much more progress than Germany. In terms of human capital Italy has thus considerably narrowed the difference with Germany.

2. Structural reforms?

How about the most common prescription for Italy, which is 'structural reforms'? Here again the evidence indicates a relative and absolute improvement. For example, the OECD indices on labour market and product market actually show a substantial improvement if one compares more recent values to the readings of about ten years ago. Moreover, Italy seems to have reached about the same level of (formal) employment protection and product market regulation as Germany.

3. Innovation?

Another growth inhibiting factor often cited is the low level of investment in R&D in Italy. The level of R&D spending as a proportion of GDP is low in Italy, at 1.27% of GDP, corresponding to 62% of the euro area average. But in Italy, the share of R&D in GDP has actually increased by about one-fourth over the last decade, proportionally about the same as in Germany, and much more than in the rest of the euro area. It is difficult to explain a slowdown of growth with low R&D spending when it has actually increased relative to most of Italy's peers.

4. So: What factors have deteriorated and could thus explain the worsening of growth?

There is only one set of indicators on which the performance of Italy has clearly declined: the governance of the country. This can be measured by the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) from the World Bank. The three most important indicators for the economy are: the rule of law, government effectiveness in general and control of corruption. Italy's performance on all three indicators has deteriorated dramatically over the last decade.

5. Conclusions

Growth in modern industrialised economies is a complex process. Italy stands out among its peers as having experienced a 'lost decade', although most of the normal growth factors have improved. Until 2008, the macroeconomic environment was also not especially challenging, at least not more so than for other euro area countries. The only area where there has been a clear deterioration is in the governance of the country. The available indicators in this respect point to a significant deterioration over the last ten years. This is one area where a reversal of the trend appears most difficult and it is also an area where external pressure cannot make much difference. Unfortunately the importance of better governance has not yet been fully grasped in the country (or in the European institutions) and receives little attention in the national political debate.

This implies that it will be difficult to organise a sustained effort to combat corruption, foster adherence to the rule of law and improve the efficiency of the administration in general. In the end, however, progress on these fronts might be more important for growth than the reforms now being imposed by the EU.

PRIOLOGA 2: A glass half full

Bruegel/ Brussels

After a dramatic marathon summit, euro area heads of state and government have come up with a significant Euro Summit Statement. It is difficult to form a final judgement on the overall package until all details are clarified. Nevertheless, here is my first take on the package.

1) Greece: The debate on Greece has finally moved in the right direction. Growth assumptions and expected privatisation receipts are more realistic than before thanks to the more realistic analysis of the Troika. The 50 percent haircut offers a chance of finding a viable solution for Greece. We will have to review all the exact numbers but it appears that significant IMF financing is still needed to meet the financing needs as computed by the Troika. But the envisaged debt reduction is only a necessary, not a sufficient condition for putting Greece back on a sustainable path. Structural challenges for growth and fiscal consolidation in Greece remain and are huge. The Summit Statement therefore rightly puts a lot of emphasis on the need to have a significant permanent staff in Athens in order to help Greek authorities in the implementation of the reforms.

2) EFSF: It is welcome that there has been an agreement on leveraging the EFSF in principle. The current size of the EFSF would have been too small to avoid contagion. It remains to be seen which of the proposed solutions will ultimately be pursued (if a choice is made) and how much money can be raised in the capital market. The Cannes G20 summit will also be decisive as regards the contribution from non-EU countries. Overall, we will only then be able to say if enough resources are available either through the EFSF or with the support of IMF precautionary facility to limit contagion. It appears likely that the European Central Bank will have to continue to be involved as ultimately only the ECB can provide unlimited liquidity.

3) Bank recapitalisation: It is welcome that bank recapitalization is high on the agenda and a decision has been made to move forward on this. The intention is that banks increase their Tier 1 capital by June 2012 to 9 percent and that access to short term funding will be improved in a coordinated way. The headline figure of 109bn appears to be on the lower side of what will ultimately be needed. It is also deplorable that again the stress test that form the basis of the recapitalization are very broad and do not constitute true and intrusive tests of the strength of individual banks on all potential risks.

In the financial assistance countries, funds from the programmes will be used for providing the capital. For the other countries, the capital should be raised in the capital market, if this is not possible, national taxpayer's money should be used and the EFSF is only the last resort. The heads of state and government clearly state that they wish the strengthening of balance sheets to be achieved by raising capital, not by decreasing lending. This is again an important detail but we do not know how governments wish to make sure that a credit crunch is avoided. If the pressure is to come from national supervisors, there is a significant risk that banks will deleverage their cross-border activity. This could lead to a fragmentation of banking activity and a retreat within national borders. It will be of utmost importance that this path is not taken. In addition, the commitment by governments to help banks to raise more term funding through guarantees is likely to be very positive but the nature and effectiveness of the coordinated approach that it calls for is very unclear at this stage.

4) Governance: The Summit Statement includes a number of very important improvements for the governance of the euro area. The six-pack and the European Semester is rightly put in the center of the ex-ante surveillance. It is also welcome that the Eurogroup Working Group chair becomes a permanent Council official, that the lines of reporting become streamlined and clearer and that the Head of the Euro Summit will meet monthly with the President of the European Commission and the Eurogroup. Crucially, limited and quick Treaty changes remain on the agenda. It will, however, likely turn out to be insufficient to envisage limited Treaty changes only and more fundamental Treaty changes will be needed.

5) Italy: The key to the success of the euro will be the ability of Italy to deliver on the promised reforms. The Euro Summit rightly put a lot of emphasis on the necessary reforms in Italy and the clear Italian letter of intent is a milestone for the euro area. However, the Commission will have to closely monitor progress in the implementation of these reforms. The Italian economy needs to be made fit for the euro. Unleashing the sources of Italian growth is central.

Overall, the package is a step in the right direction but certainly falls short of what ultimately will be needed to put the euro on a sustainable path. In particular, it fails to agree on the single most important reform needed: the creation of a true euro area banking supervisory and resolution authority. The second most important element, massive structural reforms, is clearly important but for this all will depend on the ability of national political systems to deliver.

PRIOLOGA 3: Eurozone exits no longer taboo

EPC/ Brussels

The crisis has entered yet another phase, with Greece's membership of the euro zone being openly contested by commentators and even EU leaders. Provoked by Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou's unilateral decision to hold a referendum, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy – supported by other EU leaders – asked the Greek government to quickly provide a clear answer as to whether the country is ready to stick to its commitments in order to remain within the euro area on the basis of the agreement reached at last week's Euro Summit. In addition, the sixth tranche of aid from partner countries and the IMF, which was scheduled for November, was put on ice.

Political developments in Greece are still fluid. The referendum is off the table and Papandreou's premiership seems to be reaching an end as his party's biggest players have further distanced themselves from the prime minister following the national and international turmoil provoked by the referendum idea. To overcome the political impasse, it now seems that Greece is moving towards a provisional government of unity supported by the two main parties (Pasok and Nea Demokratia). A potential 'government of national rescue' composed of (mainly) 'technocrats' would have to fulfil three

main tasks: avoiding an immediate 'hard default' by first and foremost securing the transfer of the sixth tranche; implementing the decisions taken consensually by the Euro-17 on 26-27 October; and preparing the country for elections, probably in the early months of 2012. The main parties in the Greek parliament still have to agree on the new government's concrete mandate, timeframe, competences and composition.

The transitional government and every other future Greek government will face a tremendous task. With respect to its partners, Greece will in a very short period of time have to do everything to regain trust by providing evidence of the country's firm commitment and ability to fulfil its obligations. Efforts to attain a primary surplus and to reduce the country's debt to a sustainable level by 2020, in-depth reform of the public sector and the resurrection of the Greek economy will be a long and painful marathon – and it is by no means certain whether the country will in the end reach the finish line.

However, the chances of success have at least increased over the last couple of days, as the danger of being forced to leave the euro zone has become a realistic possibility. Although the proposal to hold a referendum is off the table, the genie has left the bottle: a potential 'voluntary' exit from the euro is no longer a taboo subject. The danger of a disorderly default has grown larger than ever and a growing number of politicians and commentators outside Greece argue that the country is a special case. The stability of the euro would – according to them – profit if Athens were to decide to exit the common currency.

In this situation, EU leaders and governments are sending different signals to Athens. On the one hand, they have further increased political and financial pressure on Greece by putting the disbursement of additional rescue funds on hold. Leading EU figures including the president of the Eurogroup, Jean-Claude Juncker, have declared that the euro zone must prepare itself for a potential Greek exit in order to avoid the negative effects of such a move for other EU countries and to boost the overall stability of the common currency. At the same time, eurozone leaders are reiterating their readiness to support Athens and expressing their desire to keep the country in the euro area – provided that it satisfies the agreed conditions.

But will Greece be able to live up to these expectations? No-one can really answer that question. However, one factor might help change the tide: the threat of being compelled to abandon the euro is fostering a more honest debate about the economic, social and political consequences of Greece returning to the drachma. Almost two years into the crisis, ordinary Greeks are suffering from the negative socio-economic effects of the crisis (high unemployment, cuts in wages and pensions, strikes etc.). Despair, frustration and anger are widespread. But the Sword of Damocles of a hard default and the threat of a 'voluntary' exit from the euro zone (or even the EU?) is increasing public and political awareness of what needs to be done in order to prevent much worse – unprecedented mass impoverishment, fundamental political instability and conflict, and increasing social tensions.

The gravity of the moment signals that the time for muddling through and political manoeuvring is clearly over. The potential establishment of a unity government with a well-defined mandate would be an important signal and a decisive first step in the right direction. But the spirit of cooperation among major political parties will have to continue, especially if the next elections do not provide a platform for one-party government, as current polls seem to indicate.

The realisation that exiting the euro zone is no longer taboo does not 'only' affect Greece: it is also a significant step for the entire euro area, in both positive and negative terms. On the one hand, fear of being forced to leave the common currency increases the ability of governments and the EU institutions to exert influence on those countries that are not playing by the rules – although the potential leverage is admittedly smaller with respect to some of the bigger and more economically powerful countries. On the other hand, breaking the exit taboo undermines the overall credibility of the euro zone and risks even more negative market reactions, especially if investors fear that other countries might eventually also end up like Greece.

It would be naïve, irresponsible and even dangerous to underestimate the potential financial, economic and political costs of allowing Greece or any other country to step out into the abyss. It is more than ever in the self-interest of everyone in the EU and especially in the euro zone for Greece to turn the wheel around and remain in the safe haven of the euro. But the level of uncertainty and risk has once again increased, putting the future of the euro on a knife edge.

PRIOLOGA 4: The future of farming

Friends of Europe/ Brussels

This background briefing for the Greening Europe Forum's Autumn 2011 roundtable "The Future of Farming" focuses on two essential dimensions of the Commission's recent reform proposals for a Common Agricultural Policy from 2014: ecological sustainability and social equality. The authors believe the current round of reforms will be mainly a debate between the EU institutions and member states on the size and division of the CAP's post-2013 budget, instead of a comprehensive new policy design reflecting the fundamentally different political and economic context of food and farming policy in the 21st century. The Friends of Europe roundtable will therefore ask whether this reform will make Europe's farming "ripe for the future" - as it is sometimes claimed - or a missed opportunity.

This briefing consists of contributions from 3 independent think-tanks: Ecosocial Forum Europe, headed by former European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Franz Fischler; the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP); and Friends of Europe's Greening Europe Forum.

The purpose of this briefing is not to set out specific policy recommendations but rather to widen the debate on the future of European agriculture to include questions which are often forgotten when the CAP is reviewed and countries focus on defending their shortterm budget interests.

Franz Fischler, Chairman of Ecosocial Forum Europe and former European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development

Europe's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has more or less mirrored the development of the European Union. In addition, it is the only almost fully communitised area of EU policy and as such is inherently subject to many different demands. The changes undergone in agriculture over past decades are of such a fundamental and dynamic nature that they are not comparable to any other sector in Europe. It is true that the original goals of the CAP, as stated in the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, remain valid in principle – increasing agricultural productivity, ensuring a fair standard of living for the rural community, stabilising markets and securing the availability of supplies for consumers at reasonable prices. However, numerous new goals have been added over the course of time. These include the principle of sustainable development, high quality standards, protection of the environment, conservation of natural resources, consumer protection and the promotion of disadvantaged rural areas.

These are all ambitious goals that touch on and, in some cases, significantly influence many other political spheres. The means employed to achieve these goals have also naturally undergone comprehensive change by means of various reforms. In the face of enormous global demands expected in the future, long-term development through far-reaching reforms is necessary. By 2050, global agriculture will have to sustain 9 billion people. In the meantime, natural resources are becoming increasingly scarce, diversity is being reduced and climate change is progressing. In addition, global nutritional habits are changing – think of the increase in meat consumption observed in newly industrialised countries – and society's expectations of agriculture are growing and becoming more and more diverse.

EU objectives such as Europe 2020 also have a strong impact on the future of agriculture. Agriculture will have to make its own contribution to the 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, but will also benefit by playing a major part in increasing the contribution of renewables to energy supply (it should reach 20% of total supply). Agriculture can also further the goal of achieving a sustainable balance between ecology, economics and social responsibility in Europe and it must become a central player in the knowledge based economy.

In a global context, CAP's further development must of course remain in accord with the goal of "global food security" and the requirements of international trade regulations. The Doha Development Round is still open, but without a result in sight. A positive conclusion of the negotiations would bring about the greatest liberalisation yet seen in global agricultural trade. Europe, as the biggest exporter and importer of agricultural products, holds an enormous interest in the sensible design of global

agricultural markets and is so far alone in having fully opened its markets to the poorest states of the world.

European agricultural policy must be able to provide convincing and solid answers to the following questions: What shall European farmers produce in the future, and how? Which measures shall be financially supported, and to what extent? Agriculture will have to provide sufficient “public goods and services”, and these services must largely be funded by the public sector whilst the markets for these are still lacking.

Faced with so many goals and critical discussions, European farmers are sometimes tempted to make things easy for themselves and claim that society wants agriculture to achieve the impossible: safe and high quality food, conservation of resources, high standards of environmental and animal protection, attractive natural environments for habitation and leisure time, and all of that at the lowest price. The agricultural community thus has to explain to society the uses of their many services for the wider community. EU citizens still need to be provided with much more information in this realm. In this context, the often idyllic and romanticised image of agriculture must be questioned and contrasted with a more informed image of modern agriculture.

The pressure for the envisaged CAP reforms to succeed is enormous. The greatly increased volatility of prices in the agricultural markets must be brought under control and mechanisms must be found to achieve greater market transparency. We also need a fairer distribution and capping of funds in order to bring direct payments more in line with social goals. CAP 'greening' can moreover help to further underline and thus improve the public services provided by agriculture. It is an essential task of politics to ensure that future growth in productivity is not achieved at the expense of the environment. Environmental programmes with quantifiable goals can further our understanding of the efficiency of environmental measures. One of the Commission's original goals will certainly not be met by the proposed changes to legislation: the simplification of the administrative process.

The crux of the reform, though, is its funding. While the agricultural budget does take up a very high proportion of the EU budget, it still only makes up about 1 per cent of total public spending. One must ask whether the common public goods are too cheap to be sufficiently appreciated. Last but not least, CAP is everyone's business: it is social policy, welfare policy, economic policy and, of course, environmental policy, as well as European policy. It also makes an important contribution to global policy, dealing with the question of how 9 billion people are to be fed in the future: While these global challenges can only be solved on a global level, Europe has to make an adequate contribution.

Greening the CAP to the future agenda

Kaley Hart, Senior Fellow and Head of the Agriculture and Land Management Programme at the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)

Given the current economic crisis, the serious challenges of food security, climate change, sustainable resource use and declining biodiversity and ecosystem services, the demands on agriculture are growing, both in Europe and globally. If ever there was a time for a fundamental overhaul of agricultural policy, this is it.

The proposals for a reformed CAP post-2013 have been heralded by the Commission as providing ‘a new partnership between Europe and its farmers in order to meet the challenges of food security, sustainable use of natural resources and growth’. Claiming that this represents one of the most significant reforms for many years, they suggest that the proposals ‘will make it possible to promote innovation, strengthen both the economic and ecological competitiveness of the agricultural sector, combat climate change, and sustain employment and growth’. These are bold and ambitious claims.

Indeed this is the first time since the late 1990s that the reform process has encompassed all elements of the CAP at the same time. It therefore provides the opportunity to make a significant change in the design and focus of the CAP to set the path for the long-term future of a sustainable and competitive agricultural sector in the EU. But do the proposals really grasp this challenge, as the rhetoric suggests, or is it simply clever packaging masking a continuation of the status quo?

Although officially the CAP has been governed by the same set of objectives since its introduction in 1960s, in practice these objectives have been updated over time and the policy measures themselves

have been altered. At the outset the CAP was designed to allow European farmers sufficient protection and support to raise both their incomes and production without radical structural change. These domestic economic and social priorities were addressed through border tariffs and price support for a wide range of commodities. The question was about feeding Europe, not the rest of the world, and environmental issues were not addressed at all. During the 1970s production grew to a level where surpluses were too expensive to export to the world market without subsidy. A series of measures were adopted to curtail production and the costs of the CAP, while still protecting farm incomes in order to regulate the steady exodus from the land.

Subsidised EU exports were criticised as undermining the competitiveness of farmers in the developing world and pressure to reduce trade distorting EU subsidies increased. By the late 1980s this agenda was augmented by a new and powerful critique from the environmental side. The contribution of more intensive, specialised and larger scale farming was damaging many elements of the environment, in some cases aggravated by production subsidies. The rationale for decoupling farm income support from production grew and new forms of support for environmentally sensitive management were introduced, initially on a small scale. When it became compulsory for all member states to introduce such measures in the 1992 reform, it was the beginning of a new era, albeit one that has only dawned slowly.

Since the early 1990s there has been a shift towards decoupled payments, the introduction of environmental conditionality through the use of instruments such as cross compliance, and the extended use of incentive payments to encourage management practices that are environmentally beneficial. This has been crystallised in the current CAP structure, with its two 'pillars' – Pillar 1 providing income support to farmers, with Pillar 2 focussing upon rural development policy. Thus a range of measures are provided for member states to use in a flexible way to promote the economic, environmental and social sustainability of rural areas and to address regional priorities. Over the past few years it has become increasingly apparent that responses to global food and energy security challenges need to respect the environment and be achieved in a way that does not deplete our natural resources or accelerate climate change. Finding the right balance between the production of crops, livestock and energy on the one hand and conserving resources, cultural and ecological distinctiveness on the other, has become a key challenge for the agricultural sector. Not only will it be critical to maintain High Nature Value farming systems that predominate in large parts of the EU, but, equally, increased emphasis needs to be placed on increasing food production and managing land in ways that are not damaging to the environment.

There is a need for a new social contract between farmers and society where food, fibre and fuel are supplied in ways that are resource efficient, help address climate change and deliver high levels of biodiversity and farm animal welfare – all within the context of diverse and vibrant rural areas. At the same time, global priorities must be respected. So, do the current proposals for the 2014-2020 CAP help deliver this new social contract? Certainly the concept of incorporating payments for environmental management within Pillar 1 as a means of 'greening' the CAP is a bold move and in theory places the environment as more central to the CAP.

The introduction of a European Innovation Partnership for agricultural competitiveness and sustainability in Pillar 2 may help to encourage the development of new solutions to the challenges facing the long term sustainability of agriculture. However, in practice, the proposals leave considerable doubt as to whether they really will deliver a net improvement for the environment. The detailed requirements for these measures, particularly the ecological focus areas, will be critical to maximise the outcomes delivered for the €95 billion allocated to these payments in Pillar 1.

Rural development policy remains the core element of the CAP for achieving real improvements in rural areas for both climate and the environment. The proposal to ringfence 25% of funds for land management and climate action is essential to ensure that limited funds are not diverted wholly into measures for competitiveness and risk management without taking account of environmental priorities. However, despite attempts to ensure adequate financing of rural development policy, its budget continues to be dwarfed by that for Pillar 1 and is declining in real terms over the next period. Alarming, for the first time, 12 member states are permitted to transfer a proportion of their rural development budget to Pillar 1 in order to help bring their income support payments nearer to the EU average, thereby reducing an already stretched budget even further.

Therefore, in their current form, the CAP proposals look unlikely to prepare agriculture sufficiently for a future in a resourceconstrained world. The ambition to increase the legitimacy of income support to farmers by 'greening' the CAP would appear to have been delivered more in name than in practice. Significant changes are needed if the measures proposed are to deliver real greening.

The new CAP review: Vestiges of the past instead of a signpost to the future
Willy De Backer, Head of Friends of Europe's Greening Europe Forum

The European Union is once again in the process of reforming its Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). With nearly 40% of the current EU budget going to farming and national budgets heavily constrained by the sovereign debt crisis and anaemic economic growth, the debate on this post-2013 CAP is likely to be yet another battleground between those member states who want more European cooperation and those countries which prioritise national interests. Unfortunately, the debate will focus predominantly on the budget aspects of the CAP (who gets how much for what) neglecting to a large extent the real key challenges facing future farming: resource scarcity, climate change and social austerity.

The Commission's new reform proposals focus on a fairer and better direct payments system with a mandatory "green" component (stimulating farming practices which will lead to climate protection and environmental benefits). They also intend to improve the current market measures and make them more balanced and transparent. Last but not least, they aim at strengthening rural development policy through increased research and innovation, good management of natural resources, support for new young farmers and more local initiatives.

Overall, this "modernisation" of the CAP is continuing business as usual, with a bit of "greening" and a few technical improvements and simplifications here and there, but it does next to nothing to address the major ecological and energetic challenges facing our global and European food production system. Let's consider the reasons why. Several major developments are likely to have a negative impact on global agriculture and the world's industrialised food system in the 21st century.

The decisive drivers of these developments are population growth (expected to increase from 7 to 9 billion by 2050) and the changing nutritional habits of the new middle classes (shifting to meat) in the emerging economies. This trend, coupled with rising energy prices, has already caused important increases in food prices in the last few years, provoking popular revolt or uprisings in some countries. A future EU agricultural policy has to keep this big picture in mind when defining its new farming policies after 2013. In an increasingly interconnected world, EU farming policy also has to be development policy.

Secondly, there is now strong scientific evidence that the impacts of climate change will place significant strain on existing farming productivity and output. The current humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa, caused by drought and predicted by the climate models, gives us a clear picture of 'the shape of things to come'. Although there are lots of references to climate change in the reform proposals, there is very little to be found on how to decarbonise the farming sector or find effective and resilient answers to changes in climate conditions.

Thirdly, the dependency of our industrialised agricultural system on fossil fuels (for fertilisers but also for global food transport) will come under immense pressure as we enter an era of tightening and more expensive oil supplies and booming demand. Higher prices for oil will without doubt have severe repercussions. Ideas for 'slow food' and re-localised production will only become more successful and attractive for farmers as a result, but on this, too, the Commission's proposals remain rather silent.

Freshwater shortages and water pollution are other well-known resource concerns for future agriculture. According to some studies, agriculture wastes 60%, or 1,500 trillion litres, of the 2,500 trillion litres of water it uses each year – that is 70% of the world's accessible water. More efficient use of water in food production is an absolute necessity. Less well known is the fact that the world's agricultural system will experience a crisis of peak phosphates in the near future. Phosphates are used in modern farming as fertilisers. Originally, farmers used natural phosphates (manure and human excrement) but over time phosphates came from mining phosphate rocks.

These rocks are finite and several recent studies have indicated that the world could be 25-30 years away from peak phosphates. This would, of course, have big implications for the fertiliser industry, which is now facing higher prices as the cheap quality rocks have already been mined. Three countries dominate the market for phosphate rock: China, Morocco and the US. As the world hits the phosphates demand-supply challenge, it can turn to alternatives such as urban mining or recovering phosphates from human urine and excreta, but the global infrastructure needed to keep up with rising demand for the fertiliser could become a major problem.

Last but not least, the world's food production is confronted with increasing loss of top quality soil through erosion, salinization, sealing, desertification, soil contamination and decreasing soil biodiversity. During the last 40 years, nearly one-third of the world's arable land has been lost to erosion and continues to be lost at a rate of more than 10 million hectares per year. None of these highly critical sustainability issues are new to the European Commission. For most of them, policy proposals have been put forward in the past (e.g. the Thematic Strategy on soil, the climate and energy package etc.) or debates have been organised (e.g. on soil depletion and phosphates in the 2011 Green Week on resource efficiency). That said, the current CAP review proposals have not been framed around these resource challenges but remain exclusively focused on the predominant architecture of EU agricultural policy. The bit of "green paint" added to the current proposals will hardly make our European farming "ripe" to face an uncertain and challenging future.

Conclusions

The European Commission's new reform proposals will not put European farming policy on a sustainable path as they fail to effectively address major sustainability challenges such as climate change, energy security and future resource constraints. The reform will also do very little to limit the risks of more global food crises when commodity and energy prices rise in the future. In that sense, the new CAP will not be delivering for the world as a whole. This is not the fundamental reform which the CAP needed to become fit for the 21st century. Maybe it is time to send this proposal back to the drawing board?

PRILOGA 5: Rare Earth Elements: The Next Oil

Institute for Security & Development Policy/ Stockholm

Rare earth elements (REE) are increasingly becoming a critical strategic resource. The 17 elements can be found in most high-tech gadgets from advanced military technology to mobile phones. China currently holds claim to 95 percent of the world's production. Recent Chinese export reductions have forced high-tech firms to relocate to China and forced other governments, particularly in the developed world, to pour money into their exploration and production. This month Japan's Trade Minister met with his Chinese counterpart, at the top of the agenda was REEs. Rare earths are fast becoming "the next oil."

Former Chinese President Deng Xiaoping recognized the importance of rare earth elements (REEs) almost two decades ago. "The Middle East has oil and China has rare earth," he said in 1992. His foresight was impressive. Today, REEs are used in most high-tech products predominantly in the form of heavy-duty batteries and magnets. They are pivotal in defense technology—lasers, radars and electromagnetic weaponry—as well as green technology. It is therefore not surprising that China's near monopoly of their production has industry and government worried.

Several governments have begun fast-tracking new policy to increase production. Backroom debates over whether to stockpile the strategic resource have begun, most notably by the U.S. Department of Defense. Earlier this year the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) updated its global reserve-estimate data of rare earth elements as it narrowed its definition of recoverable minerals. The result saw reserve estimates in China rise from 36 megatons (Mt) to 55Mt—exactly half of the world's reserves. U.S. estimates remain at 15Mt; the Commonwealth of Independent States (Russia and former Soviet republics) are reported to have reserves of 19Mt; while estimates of Australia's reserves declined from 5.4 to 1.6Mt.

Yet the untapped reserves of the resource mean little; it is the production that counts. And it is China that is a clear leader supplying 95 percent of world production. Driving the new policy initiative is the upsurge of global demand for REEs. According to the USGS demand is increasing 10 percent

annually. Demand is similarly rising in China —the country's consumption of the resource has quadrupled since 2000. The growing domestic demand has been cited as the reason for sharp declines in export quotas, cut by 37 percent in 2010 and a 35 percent cut in the first half of 2011.

China's near monopoly on production, and its subsequent reductions in exports, have seen prices of REEs increase ten-fold on last year's per kilo prices. Just as worrying has been China's predatory pricing which has run other REE mines and companies out of business, or at least into the red. The curbing of exports has similarly forced high-tech manufactures to relocate to China to ensure adequate supply, thereby harming the growth of high-tech industry in many other countries such as Japan, South Korea and Europe. In doing so China appears to be creating a high-tech industry almost overnight.

In Rare Abundance

The name, rare earth element, is a misnomer. The elements are far more abundant than many precious minerals. Yet their dispersion means they are rarely found in economically viable quantities. There are 17 REEs—15 lanthanides, and scandium and yttrium. The 15 lanthanide elements occupy atomic numbers 57–71 on the periodic table. The similarity of their chemical properties, demonstrated by their close proximity on the table, makes them very difficult to separate. Their extraction is capital- and skill- intensive.

End uses for REEs are varied. Figures cited by the USGS noted that in the U.S. in 2009 the distribution of rare earths for end use was largely for chemical catalysts (22 percent), petroleum refining catalysts (21 percent), automotive catalytic converters (14 percent) and approximately 40 percent was for battery alloys, ceramics and magnets (sectors which are growing 4–10 percent annually). The extent to which REEs are used in defense technology is such that without their production modern warfare—fighter jets, drones, and most computer controlled equipment—would not be possible. A sovereign monopoly of such a resource is therefore a serious concern for any nation.

The next generation of warfare, in which the U.S. government continues to invest significantly, is heavily dependent on REEs. Electromagnetic weapons minimize human casualties and are therefore considered better weapons for military interventions and vessel defense. Such technology is emerging as the future of defense; as such, REEs will be crucial to this future. It is therefore not surprising that the U.S. is scrambling to implement new policy to secure the resources.

Policy & Diplomacy for the Strategic Resource

It was this state of urgency to secure reserves that saw the U.S. propose the 2011 RESTART (Rare Earths Supply- Chain Technology and Resources Transformation) Act. The measure would promote greater research and innovation within the REE sector. Also included in the Act is the proposal to start a national stockpile of REEs within the U.S. Department of Defense to supply the defense and technology industry in the event of future shortages.

Yet the U.S. is not the only country boosting exploration and production. Economic assessments to determine the viability of mining have recently taken place in numerous locations across the USA, Canada, Australia and Malawi amongst others. Sweden has also returned to the fray, beginning a significant exploration and production program. In May, China expanded the definition of REEs to include iron alloys containing more than 10 percent of REEs. These will now be subject to the same export quota. This expansion of the quota was to curb the export of the elements under different guises such as in alloys. The practice, according to sources, had become very common in order to avoid the quota.

In 2010, China temporarily halted shipments of REEs to Japan following a diplomatic crisis. China's move scared the Japanese, whose industry is vitally dependent on REEs. In February of this year a trade official announced that Japan would try to reduce its dependency on Chinese REEs by cutting consumption by 10,000 tons annually over the coming years. Almost half a billion U.S. dollars would be paid in subsidies to support the initiative. In July, Japan reported the discovery of significant deposits of REEs in the mud of its sea bed. While the finding is important, given the difficulty of recovering the elements, it does not change the playing field in the short-term. Japan's Trade Minister Yukio Edano recently met his Chinese counterpart Chen Deming. Edano was the first minister in the recently inaugurated Noda cabinet to meet Chinese leaders.

On the top of Edano's agenda was a request to China to ensure a stable supply of REEs and address their price differences in the country and abroad (Japan Times, Oct. 15, 2011). It has also been revealed that Japan has initiated REEs trade talks with Myanmar. In its attempts to diversify its supply chain, Japan plans to jointly, with Myanmar, develop REEs and other natural resources (Japan Times, Sep. 26, 2011).

Towards a Sustainable Future

REEs have become an economic and diplomatic power for China to wield. Just as oil is used as a coercive instrument of foreign policy in other parts of the world, similarly China will try to use REEs to its advantage. Indeed, they have played their cards well, now it is time for other governments and industry around the world to try and catch up. This in itself may prove a long process. While substitutes are available for most applications of REEs, they are usually less efficient and undesirable.

In our modern day race for more efficient high-tech devices and the greater government spending in high-tech weaponry, REEs look set to become "the new oil." It will be increasingly important for governments to secure national reserves of rare earth elements to support local high-tech industries and prevent future conflicts over the resource.