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Slovensko gospodarsko in raziskovalno združenje Bruselj

## B I L T E N

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### Ustanovni člani SGRZ:

Gospodarska zbornica Slovenije; Univerza v Ljubljani; Univerza v Mariboru; Inštitut Jožef Stefan; Zadruga zveza Slovenije; s finančno podporo Ministrstva za visoko šolstvo, znanost in tehnologijo

### Pridruženi člani SGRZ:

Obrtna zbornica Slovenije; Sava d.d.; Riko d.d., Univerza na Primorskem, Mestna občina Ljubljana, Mestna občina Maribor; Mestna občina Novo mesto; Mestna občina Celje; Perutnina Ptuj d.d.; Fakulteta za kemijo in kemijsko tehnologijo, UL; Korona d.d.; Visoka šola za dizajn; Kmetijsko gozdarska zbornica Slovenije; Mestna občina Ptuj; Biotehniška fakulteta, UL; Slovenske železnice; Institut za materiale in tehnologijo, IMT; Termoelektrarna toplarna Ljubljana, TeTol; Javna agencija za raziskovalno dejavnost RS, ARRS; DRI upravljanje investicij d.o.o.

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### Uvodnik

Leto se izteka in – kot vsi – tudi na Združenju delamo obračun in ocenjujemo rezultate ter sprejemamo programe za prihodnje leto. To bo opravil tudi Svet SGRZ, ko se sestane v torek 20. decembra na rektoratu ljubljanske univerze.

Naša ocena je, da je bilo 2011 eno od uspešnejših let v 12-letni zgodovini SGRZ. Kaj so glavne značilnosti?

- SGRZ zaključuje leto kadrovske in finančne okrepitve: za raziskovalno področje imamo novega sodelavca Borisa Šavleta (ki je 5 let pomagal organizirati EREF Forum v Novi Gorici in zdaj dela tudi na KEN Forumu v Mariboru), in zunanjega sodelavca dr. Bojana Jenka (ki je bil doslej koordinator slovenskih nacionalnih kontaktnih točk, NCP-jev za 7. Okvirni program RTD). Okrepili smo sodelovanje z Ministrstvom za visoko šolstvo, znanost in tehnologijo ter Javno agencijo za raziskovalno dejavnost, ARRS. Pristopajo novi člani: Slovenska razvojna banka, SID; Univerza v Mariboru in Gozdarski inštitut Slovenije.
- Poglobili in intenzivirali smo članski servis na področju vključevanja v EU projekte in pridobivanje nepovratnih evropskih sredstev (delavnice pri posameznih članih, informativni dnevi, aktiviranje Mreže za koriščenje evropskih sredstev, povezovanje s partnerji in vključevanje v projekte).
- Ustanovili smo Mrežo ekonomije znanja, KEN, ki ima že 52 članov v 13 državah in regijah. Člani SGRZ ste avtomatično in brez dodatnih obveznosti tudi člani KEN mreže in prejimate njene elektronske publikacije (mesečni bilten, tedenske kratke informacije in mesečni pregled dogodkov na tematiko ekonomije in družbe znanja).

Kakšni pa so načrti za prihodnje leto?

- Nadaljevali bomo s konsolidacijo članstva, oz. skušali pridobiti nekaj dodatnih članov (predvsem med mestnimi občinami: Murska Sobota, Slovenska Bistrica, Kranj in Koper), kakor tudi iz gospodarske sfere - s poudarkom na energetiki (HSE, ELES, Petrol, Plinovodi).
- Za člane bomo izdelali pregled najbolj relevantnih EU programov, da bi jim olajšali izdelavo lastne strategije na področju EU projektov. Ugotavljamo namreč, da je osnovna težava pri članih razvoj projektov, ki odgovarjajo njihovim ugotovljenim, strateškim potrebam, hkrati pa ustrezajo usmeritvam in prioritetam določenega EU programa.
- Z istim namenom bomo intenzivno spremljali priprave nove EU finančne perspektive (2014-2020) in še posebej spremembe v kohezijski politiki ter novi 7-letni, okvirni program raziskav, z imenom Obzorje-2020.
- Načrtujemo, da bo KEN mreža s približno 150 člani prisotna v kakih 30 državah, 11-12. junija bo v Mariboru drugi KEN Forum, pred tem pa vrsta delavnic v državah, kjer imamo partnerje Italija, Avstrija, Norveška in Turčija. Začeli pa bomo priprave na delavnice, ki bodo naslednje leto v Indiji in morda tudi na Kitajskem.

Kot vidite nam ambicioznih načrtov ne manjka, veliko pa je odvisno tudi od vaše odzivnosti in uspešnega sodelovanja.

V januarju bomo ponovno izvedli on-line anketo, da preverimo, kako ocenjujete naše storitve v preteklem letu, hkrati pa posnamemo vaša pričakovanja in prioritete za sodelovanje v prihodnje.

Spoštovani člani, bralci Biltena, dovolite, da vam v imenu Upravnega odbora in sodelavcev SGRZ zaželim prijetne božične in novoletne praznike ter obilo sreče in zadovoljstva v novem letu,

Boris Cizelj  
Predsednik Uprave  
**Urednik**

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## 1. AKTUALNE NOVICE

### ■ **Dogovor o fiskalnem paktu**

Dogovor o paktu za krepitev fiskalne unije so dosegli voditelji članic EU na tokratnem vrhu EU. Ker se z vstopom ne strinja Velika Britanija, ta dogovor ne bo uresničen s spremembo evropskih pogodb, ampak na podlagi meddržavnega dogovora, ki ga nameravajo podpisati marca prihodnje leto. Dogovor predvideva, da bodo države članice morale zagotoviti uravnotežene proračune, kar pomeni, da letni strukturni primanjkljaj ne bo smel preseči 0,5 odstotka bruto domačega proizvoda, države članice, ki bodo pri javnofinančnem primanjkljaju prekoračile mejo 3 odstotkov BDP, bodo čakale avtomatične sankcije zgolj na podlagi sklepa Evropske komisije. Hkrati so se voditelji dogovorili, da bo stalni evropski reševalni sklad ESM začel delovati in bo nadomestil sedanjega začasnega EFSF že sredi leta 2012. EFSF bo s svojimi aktivnostmi nadaljeval tudi po začetku delovanja ESM, a samo za članice, ki prek njega prejema pomoč. Za zdaj posojilna sposobnost ESM ostaja 500 milijard evrov, a bo imel pomembnejšo vlogo pri reševanju prezadolženih članic z evrom Mednarodni denarni sklad (IMF). Zanj bodo države članice zagotovile 200 milijard evrov dodatnega kapitala, od tega 150 milijard evrov države z evrom, 50 milijard evrov pa preostale države. Koliko bo prispevala posamezna država, bodo odločile nacionalne centralne banke, za Slovenijo torej Banka Slovenije.

Več:

[Zaključki voditeljev](#)

### ■ **Evropska komisija je predstavila nov program za raziskave, znanost in inovacije Obzorje 2020**

Prvič v zgodovini bo vse financiranje za raziskave in inovacije združeno v enem samem programu, to bo program Obzorje 2020, je ob predstavitvi zagotovila Evropska komisija. V sedmih letih, ko bo veljal nov finančni okvir za obdobje od leta 2014 do 2020 zanj predlaga proračun v višini 80 milijard evrov. Predlaga tudi znatno zmanjšanje števila potrebnih administrativnih postopkov za sodelovanje na javnih razpisih, zlasti prek poenostavljanja pravil in postopkov. Novost bo tudi uvedba enotne točke dostopa za sodelujoče, manj administracije pri pripravi predlogov in odpravo nepotrebnih kontrol in

revizij. Eden izmed ključnih ciljev je skrajšati čas med oddajo prošnje za odobritev sredstev in dejanskega prejetja sredstev v povprečju za 100 dni. Program Obzorje 2020 se osredotoča na tri poglavitne cilje. Prvi je ohranitev vodilnega položaja EU na področju znanosti (Odlična znanost), drugi cilj vključuje zagotovitev vodilne vloge industrije na področju inovacij. V okviru tretjega cilja Evropska komisija predlaga obravnavanje najpomembnejših vprašanj, ki pestijo Evropejce. Gre za šest tem, ki so zdravje, demografske spremembe in dobro počutje; preskrba s hrano, trajnostno kmetijstvo, morsko in pomorsko raziskovanje ter biogospodarstvo; varna, čista in učinkovita energija; pameten, okolju prijazen in povezan promet; podnebni ukrepi, učinkovitost virov in surovine; ter vključujoče, inovativne in varne družbe. V okviru programa Obzorje 2020 želi Evropska komisija zagotoviti tudi denar za razvoj evropskih industrijskih zmogljivosti znotraj ključnih tehnologij omogočanja, ki so fotonika, mikro- in nanoelektronika, nanotehnologije, sodobni materiali ter sodobna proizvodnja in obdelava, biotehnologija. Program Obzorje 2020 je zdaj v postopku obravnave v Svetu EU, ki med evropskimi institucijami predstavlja države članice, in v Evropskem parlamentu.

Več:

[Spletna stran programa Obzorje 2020](#)

in

[Vprašanja in odgovori o programu Obzorje 2020](#)

### ■ **Predlog novega programa za konkurenčnost in podjetja - COSME**

Program za konkurenčnost in podjetja (COSME) bo v obdobju od leta 2014 do 2020 v veliki meri nadaljeval dejavnosti v okviru sedanjega Programa za konkurenčnost in inovacije (CIP). Zanj Evropska komisija predlaga proračun v višini 2,5 milijarde evrov. Osredotočil se bo na finančne instrumente in podporo internacionalizaciji podjetij. Ima tri splošne cilje. Prvi je izboljšati dostop do financiranja za majhna in srednja podjetja v obliki kapitala in dolga. Drugi cilj je podjetjem izboljšati dostop do trgov v EU prek mreže Enterprise Europe Network, s čimer bo olajšana širitev poslovanja na enotnem trgu. Tretji cilj je spodbuditi podjetništvo. Evropska komisija je predlog programa poslala v obravnavo in sprejem državam članicam v okviru Sveta EU in v Evropski parlament. O problemih srednjih in majhnih podjetij pri

dostopu do kapitala je razpravljajal odbor za peticije v Evropskem parlamentu.

Več:

[Vprašanja in odgovori o programu COSME](#)

in

[Spletna stran programa COSME](#)

in

[Sporočilo s seje Odbora za peticije](#)

### ■ **Predlog novega sistema za DDV**

Sedanji sistem DDV, ki ga je EU uvedla pred 40 leti, ne ustreza več današnjemu gospodarstvu, ki je usmerjeno v storitve in temelji na tehnologiji. Prišel je čas za ambiciozno reformo sistema DDV, pravi Evropska komisija. Kako bi ga bilo treba spremeniti, predlaga v sporočilu o prihodnosti DDV. Pravi, da mora nov sistem biti prijaznejši do podjetij, enostavnejši in preglednejši sistem DDV bi podjetja razbremenil znatnih upravnih bremen in spodbudil povečanje čezmejne trgovine. Nov sistem mora biti učinkovitejši. Z razširitvijo davčnih osnov in omejitvijo uporabe znižanih davčnih stopenj bi po mnenju Komisije lahko ustvarili nove prihodke za države članice, ne da bi bilo treba dvigniti stopnje. In preprečiti je treba sedanje velike izgube prihodkov zaradi neplačanega DDV in goljufov. Svoj predlog je Evropska komisija poslala v obravnavo državam članicam v okviru Sveta EU in v Evropski parlament.

Več:

[Predlog Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Vprašanja in odgovori](#)

### ■ **Sprejet je proračun EU za leto 2012**

Svet EU in Evropski parlament sta sprejela proračun EU za leto 2012. V njem je za dejanska izplačila na voljo 129 milijard evrov, za obveznosti, to je znesek, za katerega Evropska komisija lahko objavi javne razpise in sklenske pogodbe, pa 147 milijard evrov. Ker se zaključuje sedanje sedemletno finančno obdobje, Evropska komisija dobiva več in večje račune za plačilo obveznosti za odobrene večletne projekte. Če bo za ta izplačila potrebovala več, kot je predvideno v sprejetem proračunu, sta se Svet EU in Evropski parlament zavezala, da ji bosta dodatno odobrila ustrezen znesek.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropskega parlamenta](#)

in

[Sporočilo Sveta EU](#)

## 2. KRATKE NOVICE

### ■ **Delovni program Evropske komisije za leto 2012**

Evropska prenova, je Evropska komisija naslovila svoj delovni program za leto 2012. Glavne prednostne naloge so Evropa stabilnosti in odgovornosti, Unija gospodarske rasti in solidarnosti in Močnejši vpliv EU v svetu.

Več:

[Spletna stran s programom](#)

in

[Program](#)

### ■ **Na Dunaju je začel delovati Evropski pravni inštitut**

Evropski pravni inštitut, ki ima sedež na Dunaju in je začel z delom, bo po pojasnilih Evropske komisije pomagal graditi evropsko pravno kulturo. Združuje pravnike in akademike iz vse Evrope, ki bodo pomagali analizirati težave, s katerimi se spopadajo pravni strokovnjaki, opredeliti možne rešitve za izboljšanje uporabe prava EU in pripravljati predloge za reforme zakonodaje EU na vseh področjih. Inštitut bo deloval tudi kot forum, v okviru katerega bo prostor za izmenjavo mnenj ter razprave pravnikov, akademikov in strokovnjakov.

Več:

[Spletna stran Evropskega pravnega inštituta](#)

### ■ **Potrebna je sprememba koncepta za splošne storitve, ki vključujejo mobilne komunikacije in širokopasovna omrežja na ravni EU**

Evropska komisija na podlagi rezultatov javnega posvetovanja ugotavlja, da je na ravni EU potrebna sprememba koncepta splošnih storitev, ki vključujejo mobilne komunikacije in širokopasovna omrežja. Dodatne smernice za države članice so potrebne na področju kriterijev za količino podatkov, ki jih je mogoče prenesti prek interneta pod pogoji nacionalnih pravil za splošne storitve, na področju mehanizmov za določanje izvajalcev splošnih storitev, določanju stroškov za omrežje,

finančnih mehanizmov in končne porabnike, ki so invalidi.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran o splošnih storitvah na področju širokopasovnih omrežij](#)

### ■ **Strožja pravila za revizorje**

Evropska komisija predlaga strožje predpise za revizorje, katerih namen bo okrepiti neodvisnost revizorjev in zagotoviti več konkurence na tem trgu. Komisija predlaga tudi vzpostavitev enotnega trga za storitve obvezne revizije, ki bo revizorjem omogočal prosto opravljanje svojega poklica brez težav po vsej Evropi, ko bodo enkrat prejeli licenco v eni izmed držav članic.

Več:

[Vprašanja in odgovori o predlogih Komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran s predlogi](#)

### ■ **Praktični nasveti za tujce, ki se priselijo v EU**

Evropska komisija je odprla portal o priseljevanju, na katerem lahko ljudje, ki se priselijo v EU dobijo praktične informacije, kot so, kako v posamezni državi članici zaprositi za delovno dovoljenje, na koga se obrniti, če je priseljenec žrtev izkoriščanja na delovnem mestu.

Več:

[Portal o priseljevanju](#)

### ■ **Nov sklad EU za pomorstvo in ribištvo**

Evropska komisija predlaga nov sklad za pomorsko in ribiško politiko EU za obdobje 2014–2020. poimenovala ga je Evropski sklad za pomorstvo in ribištvo. Prek njega namerava financirati projekte, ki ustvarjajo nova delovna mesta, in zagotavljajo izboljšanje kakovosti življenja ob evropskih obalah. Nadomestil bo obstoječi Evropski sklad za ribištvo in številne druge instrumente. Evropska komisija zanj predlaga proračun v višini 6,5 milijona evrov. Predlog je v postopku obravnave in sprejema na Svetu EU, ki med evropskimi institucijami predstavlja države članice, in v Evropskem parlamentu.

Več:

[Vprašanja in odgovori o novem skladu](#)

in

[Predlog Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran o ribiški in pomorski politiki EU](#)

## 3. NOVA ZAKONODAJA

### ■ **Veljati so začela nova pravila za nadzor finančnih konglomeratov**

Direktiva, ki finančnim nadzornikom omogoča boljši nadzor finančnih konglomeratov, kot so holdingi, je začela veljati v petek, 9. decembra. Omogočila naj bi, da bi prej odkrili probleme, ki bi posamezni konglomerat spravili v težave.

Več:

[Spletna stran o nadzoru finančnih konglomeratov](#)

in

[Sklep sveta Ecofin](#)

### ■ **Veljati je začela zakonodaja šesterec (six pack), ki zagotavlja okrepljeno gospodarsko sodelovanje**

Svet EU za ekonomske in finančne zadeve (Ecofin) je potrdil sveženj predpisov za vzpostavitev okrepljenega gospodarskega upravljanja v evroobmočju, v katerem so predvidene sankcije za države članice s prevelikim proračunskim primanjkljajem in javnim dolgom.

Več:

[Sklepi Sveta Ecofin](#)

### ■ **Sprejeta je uredba o izvoznih kreditih**

Svet EU za ekonomske in finančne zadeve (Ecofin) je sprejel uredbo, ki uveljavlja dogovor z OECD o izvoznih kreditih. Na tej podlagi bodo morale države pošiljati letna poročila, da bi zagotovili večjo transparentnost pri odobravanju teh kreditov.

Več:

[Sporočilo Sveta EU](#)

## 4. GOSPODARSKE NOVICE

### ■ **Zaključki Sveta EU o okrepitvi industrijske politike v EU**

Svet EU za konkurenčnost je potrdil zaključke o okrepitvi industrijske politike v EU. Med prednostnimi področji za Evropsko komisijo in države članice omenja oblikovanja okvira za države članice s pogoji za zagotovitev konkurenčnosti industrije, odpravo razlik med shemami za podporo inovacijam, povečanje pozornosti trgov za raziskovalne rešitve, ustrezna podpora inovacijam v celotni verigi, promocija boljšega dostopa do tveganega kapitala. Zagotoviti je treba ustrezne in poštene cene energije in surovin, pa tudi njihovo učinkovito rabo. Zagotovitev konkurence med ponudniki storitev, zagotovitev kakovostnih in učinkovitih javnih storitev, spodbujanje delitve znanja.

Več:

[Zaključki Sveta EU za konkurenčnost](#)

### ■ **Nova evropska mreža mentoric za pomoč podjetnicam**

Delovati je začela nova evropska mreža, ki vključuje mentorice, ki jih ženske, ki se odločijo postati podjetnice, zaprosijo za pomoč in svetovanje. Evropska komisija pojasnjuje, da bodo mentorice podjetnicam, ki bodo na novo ustanovile podjetje, pomagale s konkretnimi nasveti o vodenju in razvoju podjetij v tej zgodnji in kritični fazi poslovanja, jim pomagale razviti potrebne socialne spretnosti ter jih usmerjale. Mreža bo zajemala 17 evropskih držav, v njej bo sodelovalo 170 mentoric.

Več:

[Spletna stran s podatki o mreži](#)

in

[Seznam kontaktnih oseb v državah članicah, tudi v Sloveniji](#)

### ■ **Poenostavitve za mikro in majhna podjetja**

Evropska komisija je predstavila poročilo, v katerem je predvidela, da si bo prizadevala, ko bo le mogoče, mikro in majhna podjetja izvzeti iz obveznosti, ki izhajajo iz zakonodaje EU in tako poskrbela za poenostavitve pri njihovem poslovanju. Napovedala je tudi, da bo uvedla učinkovitejše postopke, s katerimi bo mikropodjetjem ter malim in srednjim podjetjem omogočila vpliv na oblikovanje novih pobud EU.

Več:

[Poročilo Evropske komisije](#)

## 5. FINANČNE STORITVE

### ■ **Novi predlogi za ureditev bonitetnih agencij**

Evropska komisija je predložila predlog sprememb uredbe o bonitetnih agencijah in predlog direktive za spremembo direktive o usklajevanju zakonov in drugih predpisov o kolektivnih naložbenih podjetjih za vlaganja v prenosljive vrednostne papirje in spremembi direktive o upraviteljih alternativnih investicijskih skladov v zvezi s prevelikim zanašanjem na bonitetne ocene. Namen predlaganih sprememb je dodatno regulirati delo bonitetnih agencij. Ob predstavitvi predlogov je izpostavila štiri glavne cilje novih predpisov, ki so Zagotoviti, da finančne institucije pri odločitvah glede naložb ne bodo več slepo zaupale zgolj bonitetnim ocenam, Uvedba preglednejših in pogostejših ocen državnega dolga, Zagotovitev večje raznolikosti in večje neodvisnosti bonitetnih agencij vključno z odpravo navzkrižij interesov in Zagotoviti, da bodo bonitetne agencije v večji meri odgovarjale za ocene, ki jih objavijo.

Več:

[Predlog sprememb uredbe o bonitetnih agencijah](#)

in

[Predlog direktive](#)

in

[Vprašanja in odgovori](#)

### ■ **Novi ukrepi za spodbujanje socialnih podjetij**

Sektor socialnih podjetij v Evropi je čedalje večji in predstavlja že 10 odstotkov vseh evropskih podjetij ter zaposluje več kot 11 milijonov ljudi, navaja Evropska komisija. Čeprav ta podjetja pogosto prejemajo javno podporo, so za njihovo rast še vedno ključne zasebne naložbe prek skladov, ki vlagajo v socialne podjetnike. Takšni specializirani skladi za solidarnostne naložbe pa so redki in premajhni. Čezmejne naložbe v takšne sklade so po nepotrebem zapletene in drage. Komisija zato predlaga uredbo, s katero bi uvedli novo oznako »evropskih skladov za socialno podjetništvo«, da bodo vlagatelji lahko enostavno prepoznali sklade, ki vlagajo v evropska socialna podjetja.

Več:

[Predlog uredbe](#)

in

[Vprašanja in odgovori o predlogu](#)

## ■ **Predlog strategije o dostopu srednjih in majhnih podjetij do tveganega kapitala**

Evropska komisija je predstavila strategijo za spodbujanje boljšega dostopa majhnih in srednjih podjetij do finančnih sredstev z akcijskim načrtom EU, ki vključuje povečanje finančne podpore iz proračuna EU in Evropske investicijske banke (EIB) ter predlog uredbe, ki določa enotna pravila za trženje skladov tveganega kapitala.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Vprašanja in odgovori](#)

## 6. REGIONALNA POLITIKA

### ■ **Statistika o evropskih regijah**

Evropski statistični urad Eurostat je objavil publikacijo, v kateri so statistični podatki o regijah v EU. V njej je med drugim mogoče najti podatek, v kateri regiji živi največji delež ljudi z dokončano visokošolsko izobrazbo, v katerih mestih prebivalci menijo, da je revščina problem, v katerih mestih je kakovost zraka najslabša.

Več:

[Sporočilo o publikaciji](#)

in

[Publikacija](#)

### ■ **Razmere na trgu dela v evropskih regijah**

Evropski statistični urad Eurostat je objavil podatke o razmerah na trgu dela v evropskih regijah. Najnižje stopnje zaposlenosti imajo v južni Španiji, južni Italiji, Grčiji, na Poljskem, Madžarskem, v Bolgariji, Romuniji in na Malti. Relativno visoko stopnjo zaposlenosti pa imajo regije na severu Evrope.

Več:

[Podatki Eurostata](#)

### ■ **Dopolnjeni podatki o znanosti in raziskavah v evropskih regijah**

Evropski statistični urad Eurostat je s podatki od letošnjega marca dopolnil svoje poročilo o znanosti in raziskavah v evropskih regijah. Po teh podatkih 25 od 260o regij za ta namen

porabi več kot 3 odstotke BDP. Grozd štirih regij, ki nadpovprečno veliko vlagajo v raziskave in razvoj, je v jugozahodnem delu Nemčije, saj njihova vlaganja skupaj dosegajo 8 odstotkov vlaganj v raziskave in razvoj v EU.

Več:

[Podatki Eurostata](#)

## 7. TRANSPORT IN ENERGETIKA

### ● **Evropska komisija bo razdelila 66 milijonov za projekte na podlagi programa Inteligentne Energije za Evropo**

Evropska komisija je na podlagi letošnjega razpisa na podlagi programa Inteligentna Energija za Evropo med več kot 340 projekti izbrala 54, ki jim bo razdelila 66 milijonov evrov. V teh projektih bo sodelovala več kot 600 organizacij iz vse Evrope, pokrivajo pa področja energetske učinkovitosti, obnovljivih virov energije, čistega transporta in lokalnih energetskih investicij.

Več:

[Spletna stran Inteligentna Energija za Evropo](#)

### ● **Mednarodni dogovor o pravilih za uvedbo električnih vozil**

Na pobudo EU so se EU, ZDA in Japonska v Ženevi dogovorili za enotna pravila, ki bodo pripomogla k pospešeni uvedbi električnih vozil. Na podlagi tega dogovora bosta ustanovljeni dve mednarodni delovni skupini. Prva se bo ukvarjala z varnostjo električnih vozil, druga se bo osredotočila na okoljsko zakonodajo.

Več:

[Spletna stran o sporazumu in delovnih skupinah](#)

### ● **Obremenilni (stresni) testi jedrskih elektrarn potekajo po načrtu**

Evropska komisija je predstavila vmesno poročilo o poteku obremenilnih (stresnih) testov, za katere so se države, ki imajo jedrske elektrarne, odločile po nesreči v Fukušimi. Upravljalci jedrskih elektrarn so morali do 15. avgusta posredovati prve podatke o

testiranju izjemnih situacij nacionalnim regulatorjem, ti pa so do 15. septembra Komisiji predložili svoja vmesna nacionalna poročila.

Več:

[Vmesno poročilo](#)

in

[Spletna stran o testih](#)

### ● **Začelo se je glasovanje o elektronskih načrtovalcih potovanj**

Evropska komisija vabi državljane, podjetja in druge zainteresirane naj glasujejo za svoj najbolj priljubljeni načrtovalec potovanj. Na natečaju, ki bo odprt do 13. januarja 2012, je predloženih 28 načrtovalcev potovanj in 22 novih inovativnih idej.

Več:

[Spletna stran za sodelovanje na natečaju](#)

## **8. EKOLOGIJA IN TRAJNOSTNI RAZVOJ**

### ● **Razširitev območij, ki so pod varstvom Nature 2000**

Omrežje zavarovanih območij Natura 2000 je zdaj večje za skoraj 18.800 kvadratnih kilometrov, od tega je bilo dodanih 17 tisoč kvadratnih kilometrov morskega območja, je sporočila Evropska komisija. Omrežje zdaj zajema skoraj 18 odstotkov kopnega ozemlja EU in več kot 145 tisoč kvadratnih kilometrov morja.

Več:

[Vprašanja in odgovori o širitvi](#)

in

[Spletna stran o Naturi 2000](#)

### ● **Skrb zbujajoče zmanjšanje števila sladkovodnih rib, mehkužcev in rastlin**

Velik del mehkužcev, sladkovodnih rib in vaskularnih rastlin v Evropi je ogroženih, v pred kratkim objavljenem poročilu ugotavlja Mednarodna zveza za ohranjanje narave. EU se odziva na ogroženost sladkovodnih rib, mehkužcev in drugih vrst biotske raznovrstnosti z novo Strategijo o biotski raznovrstnosti, ki je bila sprejeta maja tega leta, pravijo na Evropski komisiji.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

### ● **Dodatna pravila EU o spremljanju izpustov toplogrednih plinov**

Evropska komisija je predlagala zakonodajni akt za znatno okrepitev spremljanja in sporočanja izpustov toplogrednih plinov, zlasti za izpolnjevanje zahtev iz podnebno-energetskega svežnja za obdobje 2013–2020. Evropska komisija v predlogu nove uredbe predlaga razširitev obstoječega mehanizma za spremljanje in sporočanje v skladu z zahtevami iz podnebno-energetskega svežnja iz leta 2009. Predlog uredbe je poslala v obravnavo in sprejem državam članicam v okviru Sveta EU in v Evropski parlament.

Več:

[Vprašanja in odgovori o predlogu](#)

in

[Spletna stran s predlogom](#)

### ● **Predlog za zmanjšanje hrupa vozil**

Evropska komisija predlaga zmanjšanje hrupa, ki ga povzročajo vozila. To zmanjšanje predlaga v dveh fazah. Predlog vključuje osebna vozila, kombije, avtobuse, lahka in težka tovorna vozila. Zagotoviti namerava tudi, da bo merjenje hrupa izvedeno z najsodobnejšimi instrumenti.

Več:

[Spletna stran s predlogom](#)

## **9. VARSTVO POTROŠNIKOV**

### ● **Večja varnost izdelkov iz devetih industrijskih panog**

Evropska komisija predlaga sprejem devetih direktiv, ki naj bi zagotovile izboljšanje kakovosti izdelkov z devetih industrijskih panog, ki so električni in elektronski izdelki, dvigala, merilni instrumenti, eksplozivi za civilno rabo, pirotehnični izdelki in oprema.

Več:

[Spletna stran s predlogi Komisije](#)

## ● **Predlogi za hitrejšo, enostavnejšo in cenejšo reševanje sporov s trgovci**

Evropska komisija je predstavila sveženj zakonodajnih predlogov, na podlagi katerih bodo lahko vsi potrošniki EU reševali svoje težave brez sodišča, ne glede na vrsto izdelka ali storitve, ki je predmet pogodbenega spora, in ne glede na to, kje so izdelek ali storitev kupili na evropskem enotnem trgu (torej doma ali v tujini). Za potrošnike, ki kupujejo na spletu iz druge države EU, želi Komisija odpreti vseevropsko enotno spletno platformo, s katero bo mogoče pogodbene spore rešiti v celoti na spletu v 30 dneh. Evropski parlament in Svet EU, ki med evropskimi institucijami predstavlja države članice, sta se zavezala, da bosta predlagani zakonodajni sveženj sprejela do konca leta 2012 kot prednostni ukrep Akta za enotni trg.

Več:

[Vprašanja in odgovori o svežnju](#)  
in  
[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

## ● **Evropska kampanja za varstvo igrač**

Evropska komisija je začela evropsko kampanjo za varnost igrač, ki vsebuje nasvete, kako izbrati najvarnejše igrače in jih varno uporabljati. Na televizijskih postajah po Evropi predvajajo videoposnetek, v katerem so pojasnjena vprašanja o varnosti igrač, obenem pa bi morali potrošniki ob nakupu igrač po vsej EU dobiti letake z varnostnimi nasveti.

Več:

[Videoposnetek](#)  
in  
[Spletna stran z informacijami o varnosti igrač](#)

## ● **RAPEX**

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

[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create\\_rapex.cfm?rx\\_id=414](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=414)

[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create\\_rapex.cfm?rx\\_id=413](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=413)

[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create\\_rapex.cfm?rx\\_id=412](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=412)

[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create\\_rapex.cfm?rx\\_id=411](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/dyna/rapex/create_rapex.cfm?rx_id=411)

## 10. RR IN INOVACIJE

### ● **Nova shema za posojila majhnim in srednjim podjetjem za projekte s področja raziskav in inovacij**

Evropska komisija in Evropska investicijska banka (EIB) majhnim in srednjim podjetjem ponujata novo shemo za zagotavljanje posojil za inovativne in raziskovalne projekte. Ta posojila bodo imela na voljo prek bank. Predvideno, da bo do konca leta 2013 poleg obstoječih virov na voljo dodatnih 6 milijard evrov.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

### ● **Evropski inštitut za inovacije in tehnologije (EIT) bo ustanovil nova inovacijska središča**

Evropski inštitut za inovacije in tehnologijo (EIT) bo v obdobju od leta 2014 do 2020 ustanovil šest novih čezmejnih inovacijskih središč, imenovanih skupnosti znanja in inovacij (KIC), napoveduje Evropska komisija. Za ta namen v prihodnjem finančnem okviru predlaga 2,8 milijarde evrov. Komisija računa, da bo s tem denarjem EIT lahko razširil in utrdil tudi delovanje obstoječih KIC, katerih dejavnost bodo podnebne spremembe, trajnostna energija in informacijsko-komunikacijska tehnologija.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)  
in  
[Spletna stran o EIT](#)

### ● **Razdeljene so letošnje nagrade za ekoinovacije**

Evropska komisija je razglasila letošnje dobitnike nagrad evropskega sistema za okoljsko ravnanje in presojo. Med 36 nominiranci so bili izbrani Belvas, biološka čokolada (Belgija), ebswien hauptkläranlage (Avstrija), Eurobank EFG Bank (Grčija), Fritz-Erler-Schule Pforzheim (Nemčija), Kneissler Brünieretechnik (Nemčija) in občina Ravena (Italija).

Več:

[Spletna stran z informacijami o nagradah](#)

### **Zaključki o partnerstvih na področju raziskav in inovacij**

Svet EU za konkurenčnost je potrdil zaključke o partnerstvih na področju raziskav in inovacij. V njih med drugim za javno-javna partnerstva ugotavlja, da je treba izboljšati učinkovitost obstoječih instrumentov in razpravo o tem pričakuje v okviru postopka sprejemanja novega programa za znanost, raziskave in inovacije Obzorje 2020. V zaključkih o javno-zasebnih partnerstvih med drugim spodbuja Evropsko komisijo in države članice, naj preučijo dodatne možnosti za poenostavitev in uskladitev administrativnih postopkov, da bi bilo sodelovanje v teh partnerstvih za zasebni sektor bolj privlačno. Za evropska partnerstva na področju inovacij med drugim ugotavlja, da bi bilo treba v odločanje o tem vključiti države članice.

Več:

[Zaključki Sveta za konkurenčnost](#)

### **Pet skupnih programskih pobud za raziskave**

Svet EU za konkurenčnost je sprejel zaključke o petih skupnih programskih pobudah za raziskave. Te pobude so zdrava in produktivna morja in oceani, Urbana Evropa – urbani globalni izzivi, Povezovanje znanja o podnebnju za Evropo, Izzivi na področju voda, Mikrobnih izzivi – vse večji izziv za zdravje ljudi.

Več:

[Zaključki Sveta EU za konkurenčnost](#)

## **11. KULTURA IN IZOBRAŽEVANJE**

### **Predlog programa Erasmus**

Erasmus za vse je Evropska komisija poimenovala novi program EU za izobraževanje, usposabljanje, mlade in šport, ki ga je poslala v obravnavo in sprejem državam članicam v okviru Sveta EU in Evropskemu parlamentu. Veljati bo začel leta 2014. V sedmih letih zanj v okviru novega finančnega okvira, ki bo veljal v obdobju od leta 2014 do 2020, zanj predlaga 19 milijard evrov. Erasmus za vse naj bi združil vse sedanje programe EU in mednarodne programe na področju izobraževanja, usposabljanja, mladih in športa ter nadomestil

sedem obstoječih programov, predlaga Evropska komisija.

Več:

[Vprašanja in odgovori o programu Erasmus za vse](#)

in

[Spletna stran programa](#)

### **Zaključki Sveta EU za izobraževanje o posodobitvi visokošolskega izobraževanja**

Svet EU za izobraževanje je v zaključkih o posodobitvi visokošolskega izobraževanja med drugim izpostavil, da je v sedanjih razmerah ključna povezava med izobraževanjem, znanostjo in inovacijami. Opozoril je, da zdaj izobrazba in sposobnosti diplomantov pogosto ne ustrezajo potrebam delodajalcev, da je moč evropskih visokošolskih ustanov v njihovi raznolikosti, a hkrati skušajo biti konkurenčni na preveč različnih področjih.

Več:

[Zaključki Sveta EU](#)

### **Nov program za spodbujanje kreativnih in kulturnih industrij**

Evropska komisija je predstavila predlog programa Ustvarjalna Evropa, s katerim namerava zagotoviti večjo podporo EU za ljudi, ki delajo na področju kinematografije, televizije, kulture, scenskih umetnosti kulturne dediščine in drugih sorodnih področjih. V predlogu novega finančnega okvira zanj za sedem let od leta 2014 do 2020 predlaga proračun v višini 1,8 milijarde evrov.

Več:

[Vprašanja in odgovori o programu](#)

in

[Spletna stran programa Ustvarjalna Evropa](#)

### **Izboljšati je treba poučevanje matematike in naravoslovnih predmetov**

Evropska komisija je objavila poročilo o poučevanju matematike, ki kaže, da je le pet evropskih držav (Velika Britanija, Italija, Nizozemska, Irska in Norveška) določilo nacionalne cilje za izboljšanje učnega uspeha, čeprav ima večina držav članic EU splošne smernice za obravnavanje težav učencev na tem področju. Poročilo o naravoslovju pa kaže, da nobena država članica nima posebnih

nacionalnih podpornih politik za učence s slabim učnim uspehom, čeprav je pet držav (Bolgarija, Nemčija, Španija, Francija in Poljska) vzpostavilo programe za izboljšanje učnega uspeha na splošno. Avtorji poročil ugotavljajo, da so države članice naredile veliko pri posodabljanju učnih načrtov na področju matematike in naravoslovja, učitelji, ki so odgovorni za izvajanje teh sprememb, pa še vedno nimajo dovolj podpore. Poročili je pripravila mreža Eurydice, njeni analitiki so se osredotočili na reforme učnih načrtov, poučevanje in metode ocenjevanja.

Več:

[Poročilo o poučevanju matematike](#)

in

[Poročilo o poučevanju naravoslovja](#)

in

[Mreža Eurydice](#)

## 12. KMETIJSTVO

### **Predloga novih uredb za aditive**

Evropska komisija predlaga sprejem dveh novih uredb za aditive. Če ju bodo sprejeli države članice v okviru Sveta EU in Evropski parlament, bosta uzakonili dva seznama. Prvi seznam, ki se nanaša na aditive v živilih, se bo začel uporabljati junija 2013, drugi seznam, ki se nanaša na aditive v živilskih sestavinah, kot so drugi aditivi, encimi, arome in hranila, pa bo začel veljati 20 dni po objavi v Uradnem listu Evropske unije.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran s seznamom aditivov, ki jih je dovoljeno dodajati živilom](#)

in

[Navodila za pripravo dokumentacije za odobritev novih aditivov](#)

in

[Spletna stran s predpisi o aditivih](#)

in

[Uredba o aditivih za živila](#)

**Izboljšanje delovanja** Pogodbene prakse, konkurenčnost v kmetijsko-prehrabeni industriji in nadzor cen živil bodo v letu 2012 glavne teme, s katerimi se bo ukvarjal Forum za izboljšanje delovanja prehrabene verige.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran o forumu](#)

### **Evropska komisija je razdelila denar za promocijo kmetijskih proizvodov v tretjih državah**

Evropska komisija je potrdila 20 programov za promocijo kmetijskih pridelkov v tretjih državah, zanje bo namenila 30,1 milijonov evrov. Trajali bodo tri leta, njihova celotna vrednost pa je 60 milijonov evrov, kar pomeni, da bo EU pokrila polovico stroškov. Slovenski GIZ Mlekarstva je za promocijo mleka v Makedoniji in Bosni in Hercegovini dobil 352 tisoč evrov.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

### **Objavljen je povzetek mnenj in stališč iz javnega posvetovanja o promociji evropskih kmetijskih pridelkov Okus Evrope**

Evropska komisija je objavila povzetek mnenj, predlogov in stališč z javnega posvetovanja o promociji kmetijskih proizvodov. Večina udeležencev meni, da mora EU posodobiti svoj sistem promocije kmetijskih pridelkov in hrane, imajo pa različne predloge, kako to narediti. Evropska komisija bo na podlagi teh mnenj in stališč v prvi polovici prihodnjega leta objavila komunikacijo, zakonske predloge pa v drugi polovici leta.

Več:

[Spletna stran s povzetkom](#)

### **Kodeks za označevanje hrane za domače ljubljence**

Evropska komisija je objavila kodeks za označevanje hrane za domače ljubljence. Po njenih besedah bo ta kodeks lastnikom omogočil, da bodo lažje izbrali pravo hrano za svoje živali, proizvajalcem pa, da bodo lažje izpolnili zahteve evropske zakonodaje na tem področju.

Več:

[Kodeks](#)

## 13. JUGOVZHODNA EVROPA IN SOSEDSKA POLITIKA

### **Hrvaška je podpisala pristopno pogodbo**

Hrvaška je v Bruslju podpisala pogodbo za vstop v EU. Zdaj sledijo ratifikacije te pogodbe v vseh 27 članicah EU. Te naj bi bile zaključene do sredine leta 2013, ko je predvideno, da bo Hrvaška postala 28. članica EU. Za Slovenijo podpis pristopne pogodbe pomeni, da začnejo teči postopki glede arbitražnega sporazuma za določitev meje s Hrvaško.

Več:

[Sporočilo o podpisu pristopne pogodbe](#)

### **Srbija še ni dobila statusa kandidatke, Črna gora pa ne datuma za začetek pogajanj**

Voditelji članic EU so se dogovorili, da bo Srbija ob izpolnitvi pogojev marca dobila status kandidatke za vstop v EU, Črna gora pa lahko junija 2012 pričakuje začetek pogajanj o vstopu v EU. Tudi odločitev o določitvi datuma za začetek pogajanj Makedonije so preložili na leto 2012.

Več:

[Zaključki Evropskega sveta](#)

### **Evropska komisija je objavila drugi del programa za Vzhodno partnerstvo**

Drugi del programa EU za Vzhodno partnerstvo, ki ga je Evropska komisija poimenovala Vzhodni regionalni akcijski program 2011, je vreden 62,5 milijona evrov in obsega področja upravljanja meja, teritorialno sodelovanje, mladi, podnebne spremembe in transport.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

in

[Spletna stran o pomoči EU vzhodnim sosedam](#)

### **Podpora EU za Ukrajino**

Evropska komisija je sprejela finančni načrt za pomoč Ukrajini na področju javne administracije, regionalnega razvoja, energetske učinkovitosti in varovanja okolja. Za te ukrepe je na voljo 105 milijonov evrov.

Več:

[Sporočilo Evropske komisije](#)

### **Predlog proračuna EU za zunanje zadeve, sosedsko politiko in širitev**

Evropska komisija za finančno obdobje od leta 2014 do 2020 predlaga proračun v višini 96,2 milijarde evrov. Od tega za predpristopno pomoč predlaga 14 milijard evrov in za sosedsko politiko 18 milijard evrov. V okviru prenovljenega pristopa k evropski sosedski politiki bo novi evropski sosedski instrument zagotavljal usmerjeno pomoč istim 16 partnerskim državam kot nekdanji Evropski instrument sosedstva in partnerstva. Instrument za predpristopno pomoč bo še naprej na voljo kot pomoč pri izvajanju celovitih reformnih strategij, potrebnih za pripravo na članstvo, pri čemer bo poudarek na regionalnem sodelovanju, izvajanju zakonov in standardov EU, sposobnosti za izvajanje notranjih politik EU po pristopu ter na doseganju oprijemljivih družbeno-ekonomskih koristi v državah upravičenkah. Predvideno je tudi boljše izkoriščanje inovativnih načinov financiranja, ki so vzpostavljeni pri mednarodnih finančnih institucijah, in sicer tako, da bodo sredstva EU pomenila spodbudo za naložbe v infrastrukturo. Predlog Evropske komisije je v postopku obravnave v Svetu EU, ki med evropskimi institucijami predstavlja države članice, in v Evropskem parlamentu.

Več:

[Spletna stran o novem predlogu](#)

in

[Vprašanja in odgovori](#)

### **Zaključki o carinskem sodelovanju z vzhodnimi sosedami**

Svet EU za konkurenčnost je sprejel zaključke o sodelovanju na področju carin s sosedami na vzhodu. Med prednostnimi nalogami je izpostavil zagotavljanje varne in tekoče trgovine, boj proti goljufijam in investicije v posodobitev carinskega nadzora v regiji.

Več:

[Zaključki Sveta EU za konkurenčnost](#)

## **14. NAJAVE DOGODKOV**

### **Seminar 'The European Energy Roadmap 2050'**

Bruselj, december 20, 2011

Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Energy Industry 2012: 19th Handelsblatt Annual Conference**

Berlin, januar 17 – 19, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **WORKSHOP: Social attitudes toward fostering entrepreneurship and innovation demand**

Bruselj, januar 19, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Modern and Current Trends in the Public Sector Research**

Brno, januar 19 – 20, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Retrofit 2012 Academic Conference**

Salford, januar 24 – 26, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Transport Ticketing**

London, januar 24 – 26, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **ENTER 2012 'eTourism Present and Future Services and Applications'**

Helsingborg, januar 24 – 27  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Business Strategies and Approaches for Effective Engineering Management**

Siegen, januar 30, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Molecular Ecology**

Dunaj, februar 4 – 7, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Mastering the Challenges in Higher Education: Considering the way students learn, cheat and enhance performance**

Bielefeld, februar 7 – 9, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **The Future of European Rail 2012**

Berlin, februar 13, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **47th Croatian & 7th International Symposium on Agriculture**

Opatija, februar 13 – 17  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **The 2012 Athens Tourism Symposium - International Scientific Congress on Current Trends in Tourism Management and Tourism Policy**

Atene, februar 15 – 16, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Global Strategic Procurement Congress 2012**

Dunaj, februar 15 – 16, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Environmental Bonds 2012**

London, februar 15, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **International Food and Agriculture Congress**

Antalya, februar 15, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Plant Growth, Nutrition & Environment Interactions**

Dunaj, februar 18 – 21, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **Power Sources (Batteries, Fuel Cells, EV's) seminar**

Vimercate, februar 21, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **3rd Annual Renewable Energy Finance & Infrastructure Summit**

Dunaj, februar 22 – 23, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **RailTel Europe 2012**

Dunaj, februar 28 – 29, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

✚ **10th World Food Technology & Innovation Forum 2012**

Dublin, februar 29, 2012  
Več informacij [tukaj](#)

## 15. ZANIMIVE PUBLIKACIJE

- ✦ [Eurostat regional yearbook 2011](#)
- ✦ [Steps for success: Farnet guide 4](#)
- ✦ [Lifelong guidance across Europe: Reviewing policy progress and future prospects](#)
- ✦ [Towards standards in synthetic biology: An exploratory workshop of the US-EU task force in biotechnology](#)
- ✦ [Generic public health preparedness in Europe](#)
- ✦ [Securing the future](#)
- ✦ [GEOSS for water: The GEO water societal benefit area](#)
- ✦ [Toolkit gender in EU-funded research](#)
- ✦ [Sharing knowledge](#)
- ✦ [Project management in public health in Europe](#)
- ✦ [Occupational safety and health culture assessment - a review of main approaches and selected tools](#)
- ✦ [BLOSSOM — Bridging long-term scenario and strategy analysis](#)
- ✦ [The European Cluster Observatory: Priority sector report: creative and cultural industries](#)
- ✦ [Research, Higher Education and Innovation: Redesigning European Governance in an Period of Crisis](#)
- ✦ [Debt crisis, sovereignty crisis](#)
- ✦ [Qualified majority voting from the Single European Act to present day: an unexpected permanence](#)
- ✦ [The EU and migration: A call for action](#)
- ✦ [EUROCITIES Statement on the Multiannual Financial Framework proposal](#)
- ✦ [Russia, China and the geopolitics of energy in Central Asia](#)
- ✦ [Green, safe, cheap: Where next for EU energy policy?](#)
- ✦ [Foreign currency indebtedness: A potential systemic risk in emerging Europe](#)
- ✦ [A European External Action Service of the whole Union? Geographical and gender balance among the heads of EU delegations](#)
- ✦ [Division of labour gives competitive edge](#)
- ✦ [Revenue, competition, growth: Potential for privatization in the euro area](#)
- ✦ [Costa Rica: Frontier country report](#)
- ✦ [China's financial integration into the world economy: Scrutinizing China's international investment position](#)
- ✦ [Net neutrality: Innovation and differentiation are not polar opposites](#)
- ✦ [EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change](#)
- ✦ [Greece: Fifth Review Under the Stand-By Arrangement, Rephasing and Request for Waivers of Nonobservance of Performance Criteria; Press Release on the Executive Board Discussion; and Statement by the Executive Director for Greece](#)
- ✦ [IMF Research Bulletin, December 2011](#)
- ✦ [Using Credit Subsidies to Counteract a Credit Bust: Evidence from Serbia](#)

## 16. PRILOGE

### 📍 **PRILOGA 1: Can Austerity Be Self-defeating?**

CEPS/ Brussels

With European governments cutting back on spending, many are asking whether this could make matters worse. In the UK for instance, recent OECD estimates suggest that 'austerity' will lead to another recession, which in turn may lead to a higher debt-to-GDP ratio than before. As the debate heats up, this commentary attempts to provide some cool economic logic. Could 'austerity' be self-defeating? Could a reduction in government expenditure lead to such a strong fall in activity that fiscal performance indicators actually get worse?

It is sometimes argued that a cut in expenditure (or an increase in taxes) would be self-defeating because it reduces demand so much that tax revenues fall so strongly that as a result the deficit actually increases. In standard models this kind of 'Laffer curve' effect is actually not possible. Moreover, if it were true, it would follow that an increase in expenditure could actually lead to lower deficits because higher growth could increase tax revenues so much that they outweigh the increase in expenditure. This proposition has been tested several times in the US, and always found to be false.

Can austerity raise debt/GDP ratios?

In Europe today the concern is instead with the debt/GDP ratio. The perspective here is that 'austerity' might be self-defeating in the sense that the resulting GDP drop is so large that the debt/GDP ratio increases. This matters since the debt/GDP ratio is often taken by financial markets as an indicator of the sustainability. Thus, a lower deficit might actually heighten tensions in financial markets.

This paper shows that this sort of outcome could indeed occur, but only in the short run. Over the medium to long run, the debt/GDP ratio must improve even if cutting the deficit lowers the GDP. Anticipating the results of the reasoning, it can be shown in a standard model that in the short run a fiscal adjustment can be self-defeating if the product of the starting debt/GDP ratio and the multiplier (of fiscal policy on output) exceeds one.

For example, this condition might be satisfied for countries with a debt/GDP ratio higher than 100%, if we believe certain 'Keynesian' models with fiscal multipliers that exceed one (i.e. the impact of higher expenditure on output is larger than the amount of expenditure itself). However, in most 'neo-Keynesian' models, the 'multipliers' are often considerably lower than this. If these models offer a closer description of reality, it is unlikely that austerity could be self-defeating – even in the short run.

Simple calculations

Here is how the short-run self-defeating mechanism could work. Assume Italy – with its debt/GDP ratio of 120% reduces its deficit by 1% of GDP by cutting public expenditure.

- If the multiplier is 1.5, the spending cut would lower GDP 1.5%.
- The GDP drop would – on its own – increase the debt/GDP ratio by 1.8 percentage points.

But this is more than the reduction in the debt achieved directly by the cut in expenditure. The long-run calculation is slightly more involved. There are two reasons for the general result that a fiscal adjustment cannot be self-defeating in the long run:

- First, most models assume that a cut in expenditure lowers demand in the short run, but that the economy recovers after a while to its previous path. In this case, the debt/GDP will be lower in the long run since GDP returns to path but debt does not – it remains lower than it would have been without the austerity. It follows that any short-run increase in debt/GDP due to the short-run fall in demand must be fully compensated in the long run. Therefore the long-run impact of a lower deficit on debt/GDP is equal to the reduction in the deficit itself.

- Second, assuming both the cut in public expenditure and its impact on GDP are permanent, debt/GDP must improve in the long run. The basic point is simple. The permanent deficit cut lowers the growth rate of debt, while the permanent impact on GDP is of the path-lowering type, not the

growth-lowering type. Thus any initial increase in debt/GDP will be reversed over time. Of course an even more extreme version would have it that permanent deficit cuts reduce the long-run growth rate, but this is not a result found in even the most extreme Keynesian models.

Does the short or long run matter?

The key question in the context of the current euro zone crisis is thus whether financial markets focus on the short run or long run. Prospective buyers of Italian one-year bonds should look at the longer-run impact of deficit-cutting on the debt level, which is pretty certain to be positive. Of course, if markets are not rational and react only to the short-run effect, the result might be different.

Policy conclusions

So what should governments do? Abandon austerity because financial markets might be short-sighted? This would only delay the day of reckoning as debt ratios would increase in the long run.

- A country that enters a period of heightened risk aversion with a large debt overhang faces only bad choices.
- Implementing credible austerity plans constitutes the lesser evil, even if this aggravates the cyclical downturn in the short.

All in all, the conclusion is that it is difficult to argue that the peripheral countries in the euro zone should abandon attempts to reduce their deficits because the results will arrive only in the long run (de Grauwe, 2011).

## 🌀 **PRILOGA 2: A German Fiscal Union?**

Bruegel/ Brussels

The euro area has come to a critical point. Failure to act will lead to disintegration with non-calculable costs for all member state economies, massive increases in unemployment and a large drop in well-fare. Why has no viable solution been found so far in face of such massive cost? The main reason is a classic coordination problem. In the absence of trust or a strong supra-national institution, individual countries will negotiate based on narrowly defined national interest, despite the fact that the final result will be worse for everybody.

From a technical point of view, three things need to be addressed. First, a lender of last resort needs to be created in order to stop self-fulfilling sovereign crises. Interest rates paid on sovereign bonds in a number of countries are clearly the result of self-fulfilling crisis, which will ultimately force default even on a country like Italy with devastating consequences for the euro area as a whole. This lender of last resort needs to have significant firing power to be credible. In principle, such liquidity crises can most easily be addressed with the Central Bank and in the short term there may be little other option. However, often liquidity and solvency crises are difficult to distinguish thereby risking a monetary financing of insolvencies. It may therefore be preferable in the long run to rely on a fiscal lender of last resort. Second, the very real and dangerous problem of moral hazard needs to be addressed. Unfortunately, the experience of this summer has documented this risk. The help provided by the ECB for Italy has led to less not more reforms. Third, the integrated euro area banking system needs an integrated and powerful banking supervision and resolution authority backed by enough means to prevent bank runs. The current system centred around national supervisors and national fiscal resources is clearly fragile and bank runs have started in a number of countries.

At the heart of these problems is the absence of a supranational authority. The euro area needs a strong euro area authority that can fulfil these three functions by being able to raise taxes, being strong to veto countries' economic policies and having enough power and resources to backstop and close banks if necessary. The crisis resolution strategy so far has failed to deliver that. Even worse, by relying on intergovernmental approaches such as the EFSF it has aggravated the situation and increased the veto power of any member state. Thus, the strengthening of an intergovernmental approach has prevented effective solutions by increasing the coordination failure in the euro area.

More and more commentators and even the Polish foreign minister Radoslaw Sikorski are calling for German leadership. The expressed hope is that Germany as the largest and most powerful economy will act in almost a supranational manner to save the euro. The historic dimension of these calls is

breath-taking. However, Germany does not have the economic and political ability to save the euro by itself. Economically, German resources are insufficient to back up euro area debt and banks. Politically, German leadership will not be strong and balanced enough to come to an outcome that prevents moral hazard and ensures prosperity in the euro area.

20th century history points to one exclusive possibility of how Germany can exercise leadership: it is within the EU. German leadership therefore now calls for the creation of a strong supra-national euro area authority within the EU. This euro area authority will need to have true federal powers and accordingly national powers will have to be reduced. This will have to include a reduction in the power of national parliaments, including that of the Bundestag. Such a supra-national structure would require treaty changes but it would have the benefit of creating a true coordinator of European policy making. This supra-national authority will also need to derive its legitimacy from a supra-national level. In other words, more democratic legitimacy at the EU level will be important. Ultimately, more Europe will be to the benefit of France, Germany and all the countries of the EU by creating a stable and prosperous economic area that can act on the global scene. Let us hope that our leaders understand the historic dimension of their decisions: releasing power will ultimately increase it.

### **PRILOGA 3: The Priorities of the Danish Presidency of the EU**

EPC/ Brussels

Denmark won't formally adopt a programme for its EU presidency until after the final Council summit of the year. But it has already drafted an agenda and planned how to approach it, said Jeppe Tranholm Mikkelsen, permanent representative of Denmark to the European Union.

The first priority of any EU presidency holder is to address the most pressing issue of the day, and for the foreseeable future that will continue to be the euro crisis, the ambassador predicted. "Growth is slowing, unemployment is rising and governments are falling. The crisis is hitting the whole of the Western world," Tranholm-Mikkelsen said, adding that underneath immediate concerns over deficit levels lay a wider European competitiveness crisis linked to the rise of the BRIC countries.

He identified five key priority areas for the Danish EU Presidency:

1. Overcoming the euro zone debt crisis.
2. Setting a new green growth agenda.
3. Making progress on negotiations over the EU's next multi-annual financial framework (MFF).
4. Making progress on justice and home affairs issues, including Schengen and asylum.
5. External matters, for example free trade agreements.

Overcoming the euro crisis has to be top of the list, the ambassador insisted. Identifying implementation of measures already agreed by EU governments as a top priority, Tranholm-Mikkelsen said it was high time for new instruments like the six-pack on economic governance, the Euro-Plus Pact and the European semester to deliver their potential. Another priority will be making sure that the new financial services legislation introduced in the wake of the financial crisis is actually implemented. The Danish EU Presidency will address the future of the euro zone and seek to secure the currency's medium and long-term stability. If doing so requires treaty change, then Denmark wants that to be as quick and as limited as possible, the ambassador said.

Setting a new growth agenda for Europe that focuses on green growth would have been the top priority of Denmark's presidency had the euro crisis not taken centre stage, Tranholm-Mikkelsen explained. "We fail to set a growth path at our peril, because the rest of world won't sit still," he warned, welcoming EU leaders' recognition in October that the single market – and especially the digital single market – must be completed without delay.

The EU's next MFF (seven-year budget) is the largest single item on the Danish Presidency's agenda, according to Tranholm-Mikkelsen. Denmark had been hoping to secure a deal by next June. "But it's become evidently clear that this won't happen: the hope now is for the second half of 2012," he said. On justice and home affairs, Copenhagen wants to make progress on the Stockholm Programme in key areas like criminal and civil law, the European Arrest Warrant and passenger name records. On external affairs, "we're well aware that the EU now has Herman Van Rompuy and Catherine Ashton, so we won't be setting out specific presidency priorities in this regard," he said.

He promised that Denmark would be “supportive” of the European External Action Service and emphasised the importance of building it effectively. Denmark will provide ministers to help Ashton whenever needed, he added. “We hope for progress on the Doha Round [of international trade talks] in the WTO, but we’re also moving on a bilateral track,” Tranholm-Mikkelsen said, expressing hope that under Denmark’s watch, the EU would conclude a deep and comprehensive free trade agreement with India and open negotiations with Japan.

On enlargement, he said accession negotiations with Turkey would continue according to current political parameters. “No accession negotiations have been opened for over a year, so I’m not promising stellar progress,” he warned. “Iceland’s negotiations are progressing more quickly. Iceland is already applying many parts of the *acquis*, so some chapters we’ll just open and close again. But fishing will pose problems further down the line,” Tranholm-Mikkelsen said. He also expected to see progress with Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

## **PRILOGA 4: Europe and China: Rivals or Strategic Partners?**

Friends of Europe/ Brussels

China looms ever larger on Europe’s foreign policy agenda, eclipsing ties with other Asian countries. Increasingly, relations with Beijing are also a key European domestic concern. Europe’s focus on China, the world’s most dynamic economic powerhouse and an increasingly influential international political actor, is understandable. Having undergone a remarkable period of rapid growth following the historic shift from a centrally planned to a market-based economy in 1978, China has raced ahead of Japan to become the world’s second largest economy (after the US).

The International Monetary Fund predicts that, using GDP figures based on “purchasing power parity”, the size of the Chinese economy will surpass America’s by 2016. Significantly, the country’s 3.2 trillion dollar foreign exchange reserves have prompted speculation that Beijing could come to the rescue of embattled Euro zone economies. European Union exports to the large Chinese market are growing rapidly and are crucial for Europe’s economic recovery. In addition, tackling global challenges such as climate change require cooperation and consultation with China as do international efforts to end the crisis in Iran, pressure for democracy in Burma and defusing tensions in many parts of Africa, including Sudan.

It’s a two-way street, however. The EU is China’s top trading partner. China needs European markets, investments and technology to maintain high economic growth rates that are required to combat poverty, especially in the rural areas, meet the aspirations of an increasingly-aware and demanding urban population and to avoid falling into the middle income trap of economic stagnation. Building stronger ties with the EU is an essential part of Beijing’s expanded global ambitions and its vision of a multi-polar world.

China also has a strong vested interest in a return to stability of the Euro zone since any prolongation of the current crisis would impact on its own economy. Despite these ties, however, Europeans are still struggling to come to terms with China’s rise and its impact on Europe and the rest of the world. Anxieties about globalisation, including the eastward-flow of jobs and investments continue to colour Europe’s public discourse on China. Meanwhile, China’s main foreign policy preoccupation is with the US. The focus on Washington is expected to grow following President Barack Obama’s recent Asian tour and commitment to remain a “Pacific power”. In fact, for all the rhetoric, Europe and China have yet to make up their mind on whether they are rivals and competitors or true, long-term partners.

A strategic partnership?

Europe and China claim to have a comprehensive strategic partnership which allows them to work together in a spirit of “equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit”. The speeches refer to shared challenges and common aspirations. “We live in an interdependent world dominated by global challenges that need common answers,” Herman Van Rompuy, the European Council President, said during a much-publicised visit to China in May 2011. The strong connections and linkages mean that “we want China to succeed”, he said, adding: “My ultimate goal is for the EU and China to work closer together with reinforced vigour and dynamism.”

Chinese leaders are equally eloquent in evoking the need for stronger EU-Chinese relations, with Jia

Qinglin, a leading Politburo member once again referring to China's "strategic partnership" with Europe during a recent trip to Greece. The rhetoric may be inspiring; the reality of EU-China relations is much more mundane, however. Contacts between China and Europe are certainly frequent. China is European leaders' most popular Asian destination. Catherine Ashton, the High- Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, often criticised for her rare appearances in Asian capitals, travels regularly to China. Leaders from both sides meet for annual summits – although the one scheduled for 2011 was postponed because of the EU's emergency talks on the Euro zone crisis – regular high-level discussions on economic and foreign policy issues while Chinese and European officials hold over 50 sectoral dialogues covering an array of questions including human rights. Dialogues, photo opportunities and wordy communiqués, however, do not in themselves constitute a "strategic partnership".

#### The struggle for "one EU voice"?

For the EU, forging a united stance in dealings with Asia's most powerful economy remains an uphill struggle. The 27 EU governments compete for business in China and either cosy up to or cold-shoulder Beijing, depending on the state of their bilateral relations and the domestic public mood. Officials in Brussels often rightly complain that while they are tasked with bringing up difficult issues like human rights in EU-China meetings, individual European governments are often busy doing lucrative business deals with Beijing. In his recent meetings with Chinese leaders, Van Rompuy has warned that China's public image and influence will be shaped by factors going beyond economic performance. "Safeguarding human rights and the rule of law is part of this," said Van Rompuy.

#### Lost for words

Unlike US relations with Beijing, EU-China ties are free of tensions over Taiwan or coloured by military competition. Also missing are historical disputes that bedevil China's relations with Japan and South Korea. As pointed out by a Chinese government paper in 2003: "There is no fundamental conflict of interest between China and the EU and neither side poses a threat to the other." However, since they forged diplomatic relations with China in 1975, European governments have struggled to define the content and tone of their relations with a rising and increasing self-confident China, sending mixed messages both to the country and to European public opinion.

The EU's first strategy paper on China, issued in 1995, acknowledged the rapid economic changes taking place in China and voiced the need to develop "a long-term relationship" with Beijing. Three years later, the European Commission called for the building of a "comprehensive partnership" with China and by 2003, the Commission view was that EU-China relations were "a maturing partnership". Commission President Barroso argued in 2005 that the EU and China should develop "a strategic and enduring relationship" while a European Competitiveness Report referred to China as "a competitive challenger". In a 2006 strategy paper entitled "Closer Partners, Growing Responsibilities", the Commission said it would strongly defend openness in European trade with China but also seek to ensure that China meets its WTO obligations and continues to liberalise access to its goods, services, investment and public procurement markets.

#### Honeymoons and sulks

European governments' over-arching challenge is to reconcile their desire for strong business and trade ties with China with ongoing public concern over the country's human-rights record. Since this is difficult if not impossible, EU-China relations have been subject to sudden swings in mood, ranging from anger and recrimination over human rights, especially following the riots in Tibet which took place before the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, to euphoric "honeymoon" periods such as in 2004 when the EU became China's largest trading partner. Relations hit bad times again at the EU-China summit in 2010 after European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso publicly denounced China's refusal to devalue the Renimibi. Barroso and Wen appear to have mended relations in recent months.

Recent visits to China by Van Rompuy and Ashton as well as hard work by officials and diplomats on both sides have gone a long way in dispersing the earlier chill. However, relations are by no means on a stable footing and official contacts, however frequent, do not appear to have made an impact on a sceptical public in either Europe or China.

#### Public opinion

China's political system provokes public unease in Europe as does its human rights record, treatment of minorities and increased military spending. A recent BBC poll spotlights growing public concern in

Europe at China's increasing economic power, suggesting also that worries about China's economic growth are related to perceptions that China's trade practices with other countries are unfair. More recently, there is unease at Chinese investments in Europe and concern that any injection of cash into the Euro zone rescue fund could come with political and economic strings attached, a perception reinforced by suggestions by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao that any move by Beijing on the euro would be linked to securing market economy status in the EU.

Even before the euro crisis, Chinese public views of the EU were not too favourable. A 2007 study points out that for many Chinese, "Europe simply does not exist as a political centre of power, especially compared with the US". More recently, Chinese policymakers, scholars and journalists have made a point of criticising the handling of the Euro zone debt crisis. For Premier Wen, the euro crisis has shown the "long term accumulation of internal problems within the EU and the Euro zone," which need "fundamental financial reforms in addition to emergency bailout measures". A recent editorial carried by state news agency Xinhua warns: "While China and other emerging countries indicated they won't be bystanders of the Euro zone crisis, it would be unfair to ask them to shoulder the same responsibility as those directly responsible for the crisis. Emerging economies should not be seen as the EU's Good Samaritans – in the end, the EU has to pull itself out of the crisis. "Beijing is also worried that any contribution to a European bailout will run into opposition from an increasingly well-informed and critical populace. Still the picture is not completely bleak. According to another recent survey, the Chinese think much more favourably about the EU than of the US or Japan, with interest focusing on football, cars and fashion. However, only 42 per cent of those polled thought current China-EU relations were good.

#### Persistent "irritants"

Although the issue is no longer raised publicly by Chinese leaders, China makes no secret of its irritation at the EU's refusal to lift the weapons embargo imposed following the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989. A short-lived attempt by the Spanish EU Presidency in early 2010 to try and put the lifting of the arms embargo on the EU agenda was quickly rejected by the United Kingdom and other EU states who argue that such a move could trigger an arms race in the Asia-Pacific and destabilise improved Cross-Straits relations. As in 2004 when former French President Jacques Chirac and Germany's Gerhard Schroeder first suggested an end to the sanctions, the US, Japan, Taiwan and Australia continue to oppose such a move. As indicated earlier, EU criticism of China's patchy human rights record and especially its treatment of dissidents such as Ai Weiwei remain a thorn in ties.

There is also frustration in Beijing at being unable to convince the EU to give China market-economy status, a move that would make it more difficult for the EU to impose anti-dumping duties on Chinese products. Since China is set to attain market economy status automatically in 2016 under World Trade Organisation rules, some analysts argue that the EU could use the issue as a "bargaining chip" to secure immediate better reciprocal access to Chinese markets. China, meanwhile, sees the EU's inaction as proof of its unease and distrust at China's growing economic power, saying the EU is "practising protectionism in the name of fair trade". As indicated above, Premier Wen has linked any possible Chinese help to bolster the Euro zone rescue fund to EU moves on giving China market economy status.

#### Trade is buoyant – but not investment flows

EU-China trade remains buoyant despite the global economic slowdown. According to Chinese statistics, the EU stayed firm as China's top trading partner during the January-October 2011 period, with trade amounting to 466.94 bn U.S. dollars, up 20.2 percent year-on-year. Figures released by the European Commission show that EU exports of goods to China stood at 113.1 bn euros in 2010, up 38 per cent from 2009 while EU imports of goods from China in 2010 were valued at 281.9 bn euros (up 31 per cent on 2009). EU services exports to China in 2010 were estimated at 20.2 bn euros and services imports from China in 2010 at 16.3 bn euros. Investment flows show a vast untapped potential, however. European companies invested 4.9 bn euros in China while Chinese investment flows into Europe were estimated at 0.9 bn euros, representing respectively less than 3 per cent and 1 per cent of both sides' total investment.

#### Europe's "laundry list"

Despite dynamic trade flows, the EU describes China as "the single most important challenge for EU trade policy". Europe has a long "laundry list" of demands, especially as regards access to the Chinese market, which is aired at every meeting with Chinese officials. Both the tone and the

substance of the EU stance on trade are getting tougher, with EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht drawing attention to the following key European concerns:

- An open business climate: De Gucht and the EU Chamber of Commerce in China argue that the business climate in the country is getting worse, reflecting a severe imbalance in market access and significant behind-the-border issues.
- Investments: The EU says key sectors in China remain closed or subject to ownership restrictions, preventing the two sides from engaging in explorative talks on a possible investment agreement. According to De Gucht, this “also plays into the hands of those in Europe who see Chinese investments as a threat”.
- Protection of Intellectual Property: Europeans say significant infringements of IPR by China undermine not only European investments and technology transfer to China, but also hurt China's ambitions to become an innovative economy.
- Procurement: “We keep hearing complaints from European businesses that the Chinese procurement market is closed and lacks transparency and regularity. This has also spurred a debate in Europe to strengthen 'reciprocity' in our external economic relations,” according to De Gucht.
- Raw Materials: The EU has asked the WTO to rule on its demands for undistorted access to raw materials in China, arguing that as a major importer of raw materials itself, China has an interest in maintaining open and non-discriminatory global access to raw materials, including iron ore and cotton.
- Subsidies and State Owned Enterprises. The EU has warned China that there are increasing calls in Europe to address issues of state subsidies in order to achieve a more level playing field for European economic operators.

Europe's Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) is another issue overshadowing relations, with China's aviation watchdog urging the EU to drop a plan that would require global airlines to buy carbon emission permits, saying failure to do so could trigger a “trade war”.

#### China's grab for resources

Beyond trade, Europeans fret over China's growing presence in Africa, especially because Beijing's focus on African natural resources is not accompanied by a similar interest in promoting good governance. As China grows, competition for global energy resources is expected to become more intense, increasing pressure on the environment. China's refusal to sign up to legally-binding carbon dioxide emission standards and its tough stance in the Doha Round as regards market access are further sources of concern. In addition to calls for a revaluation of the yuan, the EU believes that in order to ensure sustained growth, China should switch the focus from export-led growth to domestic consumption.

While less vocal on the subject than the US, Europeans are also keeping a watchful eye on China's increased defence spending and drive for military modernisation, Beijing's relations with its neighbours and regional tensions caused by conflicting territorial claims over prized energy resources in the East China and South China Seas. Finally, like the rest of the world, European policymakers are watching and waiting to see if the expected leadership changes at the 18th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in November 2012 will alter China's foreign policy commitments and relations with Europe.

#### The way ahead

For all the lofty talk of working as strategic partners, both sides would be better advised to focus instead on more down-to-earth, but important areas of mutual concern and interest where there is potential for joint action. Despite the attention paid to China's spectacular rise, President Hu Jintao and other leaders insist that China remains the “largest developing country” which is faced with an array of complex development challenges. The EU, with its expertise and experience can help meet some of these challenges. Van Rompuy has suggested that China and Europe join forces to stimulate innovation and ensure sustainable urbanisation in China.

Europe's 2020 growth agenda and China's 12th Five Year Plan, with its focus on green growth, open up fresh opportunities for cooperation in areas such as the green economy, environmental protection, and the development of renewable energy as well as technology-intensive countries. Both China and the EU have to deal with the common challenge of meeting the health, pension and other needs of ageing populations, reducing regional economic disparities, especially the urban-rural divide, and building an inclusive society.

Bridging the communication deficit in EU-China relations requires a stronger focus on developing people-to-people exchanges, including stronger contacts among Chinese and European young people. As such, following the EU-China Year of Youth in 2011, plans for a new high-level people to people dialogue to complement the EU's strategic and economic discussions, should be implemented as quickly as possible. On the global level, the EU and China can try to coordinate their development agendas in Asia and Africa, cooperate in conducting anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia and consult each other in the context of United Nations peace-keeping operations. Chinese funds and investments will be of help to North African and Middle Eastern countries seeking new development opportunities.

Following such a pragmatic path does not necessarily mean that the EU and China should set aside their more ambitious plans to become fully-fledged strategic partners or that the EU should stop trying to forge a internal unity on how best to deal with China. But Europeans are unlikely to put aside their differences and competing interests as regards China in the short term. And it will take time and effort for Europe and China to agree on just what a strategic partnership entails and how best to achieve it. Pending such breakthroughs, the EU and China can give their relations a much-needed fillip by thrashing out an agenda for practical cooperation in the many areas where their interests converge rather than collide.

### ***PRIOLOGA 5: Who Speaks for Europe? The Battle between Diplomats and Policy Experts***

Clingendael Institute/ The Hague

As globalisation develops, so does the complex web of foreign policymaking. Louise van Schaik outlines where the confusion lies and explains why a political solution is the only way forward

The EU has thus far been unable to settle to what extent the Foreign Affairs Council is allowed to intervene in the decisions of other Council configurations, such as the Environment or Agricultural Council, when they discuss matters with international implications. This battle between diplomats and policy experts is an often overlooked cause of the EU's inability to present a coherent image to the outside world. The new provisions in the Lisbon Treaty do not settle this issue, even though the co-ordination of all external policies is mentioned as a task of the High Representative.

Contemporary international relations is not only about war and peace questions. Neither is it about these issues combined with discussions on trade tariffs and development aid. In our globalized world, international relations cover almost all issues national governments deal with, such as environment, health, transport, crime, labour, finance, food, and so on. Indeed, probably most of what is discussed in international bodies and bi-lateral talks concerns issues falling outside the prime responsibilities of traditional foreign policy specialists or diplomats. There is a rationale for these diplomats to seek a co-ordinating role on these issues though, as international policy discussions are usually intertwined; the problems they address are often related and policy solutions have side effects for other fields. The performance of the EU, or any other political entity, in one set of international negotiations influences its general image in the world.

Globalisation of policies has major repercussions for the division of labour between policy experts of line ministries and diplomats of ministries of foreign affairs, or – in EU speak – between Commission Directorate-Generals and the European External Action Service. In the ongoing reform of the EU's external relations this issue is insufficiently addressed. Most attention is devoted to the question of how far the EU level is allowed to take over foreign policymaking decisions made at the national level. This has drawn attention away from the question of how far the EEAS and its delegations are allowed to develop, co-ordinate and represent EU foreign policy to the detriment of policy experts from DGs and line Ministries. In comparison to the battle between the EU and national level, the battle between diplomats and policy experts is receiving much less attention, but it too has major repercussions for how the EU operates internationally.

The Lisbon Treaty distinguishes in essence between three categories of EU foreign policy or external relations. The first category is the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the traditional war and peace questions to which the Common Security and Defence Policy also belongs. Decision-making in this area has remained largely intergovernmental with member states keeping their national

veto over most important decisions. Only recently has the High Representative taken over chairmanship of the Foreign Affairs Council and its subordinate bodies, giving her an agenda setting role and entitling her to be the EU's spokesperson to the outside world on common positions agreed by the Council. If EU Member States disregard such positions, however, there isn't much that can be done, as the CFSP has remained outside the scope of the European Court of Justice. In case no position is agreed, there is even more space for EU member states to put forward their own position.

The second category of external policies are those issues where a full EU competence exists according to the Treaty on the Functioning of the Union. The most important one is trade, an issue also formally falling within the remit of the Foreign Affairs Council. Yet when trade is on the agenda of this Council it is not chaired by the High Representative, but by a representative of the rotating presidency. His or her role is merely that of a technical chair, as mandates for trade negotiations are proposed by the European Commission which is also the EU's main spokesperson, or lead negotiator, towards third countries and within the WTO. Qualified majority voting is used to decide upon these mandates in the Council and when trade agreements are concluded the European Parliament's assent is also now needed for them to enter into force.

The third category of external policies are those issues where only a shared or complementary EU competence exists. This is the most problematic category where policy experts often oppose EU level involvement and the involvement of EU diplomats in particular. These issues are usually discussed in other Council configurations than the Foreign Affairs Council, which makes it unclear to what extent they could be labelled foreign or external policies. Moreover, other Council configurations are still chaired by the rotating presidency, which also represents the Council externally. On fully harmonised EU policies authority over external representation has to be transferred to the Commission, but international agendas often do not neatly follow what is covered by specific EU treaty articles or pieces of EU law. This leaves space for representation by the rotating presidency, an option often preferred by the EU member states.

The problem is that it is not clear to what extent the part of the external policy not falling within the realm of the EU's competence – the member states' share – is subject to CFSP provisions, which would justify involvement by the High Representative and her EEAS and EU delegations. Neither is it clear whether member states still have a choice in deciding whether they want to operate with a single voice on these issues, which would allow them to ignore any co-ordinating role for EU actors, be it the Commission or the EEAS and EU delegations.

A solution has to be found when an international agenda covers both issues where the thrust of the competence is with the EU and issues where the thrust of the competence is with the national level. Either all issues are covered by one EU lead negotiator, or non-EU states have to accept that on different agenda items different EU lead negotiators are in charge, as happens in the Food and Agricultural Organisation. In this case the rotating presidency represents the EU on issues where the thrust of the competence is with the member states and the European Commission represents the EU on issues subject to exclusive EU competence. This also assumes, by the way, that the European Commission is allowed to speak as if it were a state, which is not automatically the case in all international institutions. The actor that speaks also usually prepares the position, and if the Commission is the spokesperson, the mandate tends to be adopted by qualified majority voting, which tends not to be the case when the presidency is in charge and often allows consensus as decision-making norm.

Not surprisingly, since the enforcement of the Lisbon Treaty turf wars have emerged in just about all the settings where the EU represents itself externally, be it in New York, Geneva, Vienna or Rome, or in capitals such as Beijing, Washington and Moscow. Member states, the UK in particular, seem highly reluctant to allow the EU level to take the lead in developing, co-ordinating and representing the EU externally. They begrudgingly accept it for reasons clearly rooted in the EU's exclusive competence in areas like the WTO negotiations, where they oversee the Commission's activities as 27 mother-in-laws. On many other issues they contest a take-over by a supranational EU spokesperson on the basis of sovereignty arguments, either arguing that the thrust of the competence is with the Member States or that own rights for external representation in international institutions continue to exist, as acknowledged by various policy specific provisions in the treaty.

Those involved frequently look to Brussels for a general solution – a solution that's hard to envisage when taking into account the different rules for external representation applying to the three categories, with international agendas often covering issues that belong to at least two of them (e.g. trade and CFSP items). Issues falling within the realm of member states' competence cause particular headaches since in legal terms it remains unclear what procedure to follow. A legal dispute is unlikely to settle the issue, as both external policies of EU member states and the CFSP fall outside the scope of the European Court of Justice. Foreign policy specialists would argue it is more coherent for the EU to speak jointly on all international issues and this would also prevent others from using divide and rule strategies. But policy experts look at the specific issue in hand and may prefer national representation, even if that's detrimental to the EU's overall image. This battle between diplomats and policy experts has intensified after the new EU foreign policy actors entered office. It will inevitably need to be sorted out on a case by case basis, acknowledging that both diplomatic and expert knowledge are often needed to be internationally effective.

Currently national governments allow, and sometimes even encourage, their policy specialists to oppose a larger degree of co-ordination and involvement of the EU's foreign policy specialists of the EEAS and EU delegations. Their involvement would dilute policy specific or national interests. Policy experts from line Ministries and Commission DGs that sit together at international meetings at times have even joined forces in opposing their counterparts from the EEAS. This is a somewhat neglected but essential issue that cannot be settled by lawyers. A political solution is the only option, and only then will speaking with a single voice on all issues become a reality.

## **PRILOGA 6: Ukraine-EU: the Final Count-down**

EU Observer/ Brussels

Ukraine has been a significant factor behind the EU's progressively increased engagement in its eastern neighbourhood, with Kiev repeatedly pushing the EU to bring more to the table. While a clear EU membership perspective has been off the menu, Association Agreements, Deep and Comprehensive and Free Trade Areas (DCFTA) and visa liberalisation have been proffered. Indeed, all the other countries in the region have gained from Ukraine's endeavours. Unfortunately, it would now seem there is a real possibility that while all the others (except Belarus) continue to have progressive relationships with the EU, even though a number of these states are far from democratic, Kiev's European integration process risks derailment.

With just over three weeks until the EU-Ukraine Summit, where the recently finalized Association Agreement is supposed to be initiated, the future of EU-Ukraine relations hangs in the balance. The trial and imprisonment of former Prime Minister, Yulia Tymoshenko, for abuse of power while in office, has turned Ukraine's EU soup toxic. Not only has it damaged Ukraine's image, it has given those that have always opposed Ukraine's further integration with the EU, ammunition to block Kiev. The EU has always been adamant the case is politically motivated and therefore linked signature of the Association Agreement to the case, signalling it expected Ukraine's President, Viktor Yanukovich, to find a way to release Tymoshenko and allow her to re-enter political life.

Not surprisingly Yanukovich has claimed that if he pressures the judge he would directly violate independence of judiciary, although few believe in the independence of Ukrainian courts any way. Moreover by doing this, the EU has contradicted itself by demanding independence of the judiciary while at the same time suggesting Yanukovich should intervene.

The Tymoshenko case is currently in the Court of Appeals. While the court is due to give a verdict in December, it is unclear whether or not this will be before the 19 December summit. Furthermore, it seems unlikely that Tymoshenko will be released, not least because of new charges brought against her for her involvement in the Scherban murder case. Rather it is far more like that former interior minister, Yurii Lutsenko will be released.

However, in light of what is at stake in terms of the EU's relationship with a key strategic partner, and more broadly for its entire Eastern Partnership policy, it seems that most member states are prepared to initial the agreement - signature will almost certainly not happen until after Ukraine's crucial Parliamentary elections in October 2012. However, while France is still wavering, Germany, which has

recently been pushing for closer relations with Russia, is continuing to insist that Tymoshenko's release must be a pre-condition.

Moreover, the EU should take a look at the approach of its own institutions which often display an unprincipled approach, in particular in the European Parliament. The European Peoples Party (EPP) seems to be demonstrating a policy of supporting its members. The most recent example of this was the recent passing of two different resolutions. One on Ukraine, condemning Ukraine's leadership for its "selective justice" while a second on Georgia was totally devoid of reference to the decision of Georgia's leadership to revoke the Georgian nationality of presidential hopeful Bidzina Ivanishvili, which many observers have labelled as politically motivated. Both the Yulia Tymoshenko Blok and the UNM Party of Georgian President Saakashvili are associate members of the EPP. The EPP, the biggest group in the EPP, has considerable influence, including in the drafting of such texts.

The EU will gain nothing from disengaging with Kiev other than helping to contribute to an increasingly unpredictable and unstable Ukraine, which will only serve to undermine its policy to increase democracy and freedoms in this region. The EU should not delay the Association Agreement which ideally should also include a reference to Article 49. The inclusion of such a reference will create a far stronger instrument in facilitating the reform process, including in Ukraine's Jurassic-like judicial and legal system, which is in urgent need of attention.

Indeed, the EU should create a specific monitoring instrument to ensure Kyiv's commitment in this area which could also be presented at the December summit. When real incentives are put on the table, progress usually happens. This has already been proved with Ukraine's efforts in implementing its Action Plan for visa liberalization which is proving to be a success story for Ukraine's leadership. The Association Agreement could be used in the same way.