

### FOCUS

#### Protecting human rights



Dear Reader,

A recent survey has shown that, for European citizens, protecting human rights is the European Parliament's top priority. Parliament's democratic mandate and its leading role in the promotion of human rights give it unique authority and expertise.

The Subcommittee on Human Rights debates and raises awareness of abuses of human rights outside the EU while scrutinising the work of other EU institutions and actively engaging with civil society to find solutions.

The Policy Department of DG EXPO supports the Subcommittee's work by providing tailor-made briefings and studies for reports and debates in the subcommittee, such as the report on migration. A recent workshop on human rights in North Korea involved a live exchange with academic experts.

*Elena Valenciano, MEP  
Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights*

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### Mission to Greece: How to improve land expropriation decisions

CONT

Workshop

14 June 2016 - 15.00 to 18.00 - PHS 1A2

#### Russian military presence in the Eastern Partnership countries

SEDE

Workshop

15 June 2016 - PHS 5B1

#### Cross-border surrogacy arrangements - a need for EU action?

JURI

Policy Hub

16 June 2016 - 15.00 to 16.30 - ASP 1E1

#### Discard ban and its impact on the maximum sustainable yield

PECH

Workshop

16 June 2016 - 09.30 to 11.30 - ASP 3E2

#### Franchising

Workshop

12 July 2016

IMCO

### FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Committee	Title	Publication date
AFET	An EU strategy for relations with Iran after the nuclear deal	June 2016
ECON	Competition in the food retail sector	June 2016
REGI	Maximisation of synergies between ESI funds and other EU instruments.	June/July 2016
CONT	How EU and MS manage data transparency and accessibility on EU funds	July 2016
LIBE	A comparative analysis on media freedom and pluralism in the EU	Aug 2016

### SUPPORTING ANALYSES

Access all Studies, In-depth analyses, Briefings and At a glance notes produced by the Policy Departments.

All publications: [www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses)



### CONTACTS

Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies  
ECON - EMPL - ENVI - ITRE - IMCO  
[poldep-economy-science@ep.europa.eu](mailto:poldep-economy-science@ep.europa.eu)

Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies  
TRAN - REGI - AGRI - PECH - CULT  
[poldep-cohesion@ep.europa.eu](mailto:poldep-cohesion@ep.europa.eu)

Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs  
JURI - LIBE - AFCO - FEMM - PETI  
[poldep-citizens@ep.europa.eu](mailto:poldep-citizens@ep.europa.eu)

Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs  
BUDG - CONT  
[poldep-budg@ep.europa.eu](mailto:poldep-budg@ep.europa.eu)

Policy Department for External Relations  
AFET - DROI - SEDE - DEVE - INTA  
[poldep-expo@ep.europa.eu](mailto:poldep-expo@ep.europa.eu)

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Frozen conflicts of the European Eastern neighbourhood

Policy Department for External Relations

April 2016



Protecting human rights in territories affected by frozen conflicts remains problematic. The access to justice is limited as the regimes favour security interests. The DROI study reviews the human rights situation in the 'frozen conflict' areas of the EU's Eastern neighbourhood – Crimea, Transnistria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh. The focus is on the access to the justice system and on the ability of the de jure or de facto authorities to administer justice.



## Implementation of the ambient air quality directive

Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies

April 2016



The ambient air quality directive sets thresholds for pollutants in ambient air to protect human health and the environment. Thresholds are however exceeded in several MS. This ENVI study analyses air pollution hotspots in Europe and infringement procedures launched by the European Commission against Member States in non-compliance. In addition, four hotspots are studied in more detail with respect to pollutant levels and approaches to air quality improvement.



## The role of the CAP in creating rural jobs

Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies

April 2016



When discussing the findings this AGRI study concludes that the CAP supports the survival of small scale farms and contributes to sustain and develop rural economies. Statistical figures show that as a general trend the agricultural labour decreased all over Europe as well as the number of farm holdings. However, the employment rate in rural areas did not necessarily diminish, which hints to the fact that diversification of the rural economy helped maintain jobs in the region.



## Adoption without consent - update 2016

Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs

May 2016



In order to protect children from abuse, neglect and to guarantee their rights, laws and courts dispense with parental consent for adoption in specific circumstances. The 2016 study for PETI updates and reviews a previous study on the law and practice in England in relation to adoption without parental consent and child protection proceedings, in comparison to other jurisdictions within the EU. It concludes that few jurisdictions seem to use this power as much as English authorities do.



## Promotional Banks and management of SME financial instruments

Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs

April 2016



This BUDG paper examines the role played by National Promotional Banks and Regional Promotional Banks in implementing EU SME financial instruments across EU-28. The focus is on instruments implemented under shared management, as well as on those implemented under direct management by the European Commission and indirect management by the EIB and the EIF on behalf of the EC.



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