



Europolitics is the publication of choice for EU professionals
and the wider public.

SUBSCRIBE at subscriptions@europolitics.info and get all the latest news
about EU policies at your door.

EUROPOLITICS

is published by EIS
(Europe Information
Service S.A.),
Rue d'Arlon, 53
B-1040 Bruxelles

EDITORIAL TEAM
Editorial Director:
Pierre Lemoine

Editor-in-chief:
Christophe Garach

Deputy Editors-in-chief:
Eric Van Puyvelde
Rory Watson

Editors:
Anne Fekete de vari
Tibor Szendrei

Special Editions Editor:
Rory Watson

Investigations:
Erik Bonse, Richard Werly

Reporters:
Ed Bray, Marie-Martine Buckens,
Anne Eckstein, Anca Gurzu, Anke
Harthoorn, Natalia Kurop, Manon
Malhère, Sophie Mosca, François
Paquay, Anthony Pepe, Sophie
Petitjean, Andreas Rogal, Isabelle
Smets, Ophélie Spanneut, Joanna
Sopinska, Nathalie Steiwer, Jorge
Valero, Nathalie Vandystadt,
Tanguy Verhoosel

Correspondents:
Berlin: Jakob Schlandt
Bern: Edgar Bloch
Istanbul: Markus Bernath
Seoul: Sébastien Falletti
Strasbourg: Olivier Mirguet
Warsaw: Jakub Iwaniuk
Washington: Brian Beary

Translation:
Bérénice Bastin
Aida Boghossian
Julian Hale
Betty Jackson
Michèle Morsa
Clémence Sebag
Jessica Smith

TELEPHONE
Editorial: +32 2 737 77 22

Subscriptions: +32 2 737 77 09
FAX Subscriptions: +32 2 732 67 57

E-MAIL
General:
editorial@europolitics.info

Individual:
firstname.surname@europolitics.info

Subscriptions:
subscriptions@europolitics.info

Agenda, layout and website:
Geneviève Jourdain
Zsolt Kozma
Grégoire Maus

ADVERTISING
Michel Deurinck
advertising@europolitics.info

PRODUCTION
Printing: Identic, Brussels

Europolitics is published in French
under the name *Europolitics*.
ISSN 1811-4121

Contents N° 4845

Sectoral policies

Fisheries: Breakthrough on multiannual management plans.....	4
First Copernicus satellite now in orbit...	4
Reding prides herself on Roma action ...	5
Commission to recover 318 mn euro of misspent CAP funds	5
Nature: Complaint against Germany and Slovenia	6

Social affairs

Eurodemonstration gathers thousands in Brussels	6
---	---

Financial services, banks, insurance

Payment card fee vote draws mixed reactions	6
---	---

Business & competitiveness

Interview with Gerhard Huemer, economic and fiscal policy director, UEAPME: Commission's communication "will change nothing in Europe"	7
Commission to examine Liberty Global-Ziggo merger.....	8

Trade policy

TTIP featuring more on Congress' radar	8
--	---

Economic & monetary affairs, taxation

OECD calls for deeper structural reforms to speed up recovery	9
New VAT regime for electronic services	9

Institutions

Martin Selmayr, voice of Jean-Claude Juncker.....	10
---	----

In brief

Julia Lamb/ERFA.....	11
Industrial principles for online music ..	11
Entry into force of revised GPA.....	11

People

Semeta denies deal on FTT	11
---------------------------------	----

INSIGHT

Software patents: Help or hindrance

Software patents in EU: Coming to terms with the ban.....	12
Software patents are cost-effective for the biggest.....	13
A commercial weapon	13
European Patent Office defends pragmatic approach	14
Copyright and patent: How to protect software	14
Interview with Gérald Sédrati-Dinet, adviser on software patents, Association de promotion et de défense du logiciel Libre	
Software patents: "A system that stifles innovation"	15

EU agenda..... 16

ENERGY PREMIUM

On europolitics.info

- US considers scrapping ban on crude oil exports
- France's new government unlikely to make a U-turn on energy

Fisheries: Breakthrough on multiannual management plans

By Anne Eckstein

The Council and European Parliament have found common ground on their respective competences

The agreement worked out on 3 April by the Council and the EP concerning their respective competences on multiannual management plans comes too late to permit action during this legislature, but it paves the way to progress on an instrument that has been at a standstill since 2009. Fisheries Commissioner Maria Damanaki welcomed the deal and noted that the Commission can at last move forward and start preparing new management plans.

The agreement paves the way to progress on an instrument at a standstill since 2009

The cause of the dispute is the TFEU's introduction of co-decision for all matters under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) except annual fishing quotas, which remain the Council's sole competence. Since multiannual management

plans entail a management dimension (definition of targets, technical measures) under co-decision as well as a quotas dimension (Council competence), both institutions claimed the right to exercise their full competence.

Several new plans (horse mackerel, Bay of Biscay anchovies, Baltic salmon) remain pending. Others are already in force (cod, plaice, sole, eel) and will be adapted to the requirements of the new CFP. The agreement, which still has to be endorsed by the member states and the EP, will therefore help get the whole process moving again.

Under the compromise, it will be for the co-legislators to set maximum sustainable yield targets (MSY, the highest yield possible without endangering renewal of stocks) on the basis of scientific advice and the timeframe for achieving them, a reference point or safeguard threshold and measures required for its implementation, a mechanism for adaptation to scientific advice and a revision clause. It will be the

Council's job to adopt fishing quotas in line with the MSY and timeframe agreed.

These principles are also valid for plans covering two species. However, the co-legislators will also set limits for overlap between species and adopt alternative stock conservation measures under the conditions set out in Regulation EU 1380/2013 (reformed CFP). When adopting annual quotas, the Council will ensure optimal fishing levels for both stocks.

For mixed fisheries, the co-legislators will identify the main species that will guide operators' activities and that will be managed on the basis of the MSY target. If these species are fished by different fleets, technical measures suited to each fleet will be decided at regional level. For by-catches, the co-legislators will have to decide whether these species are sufficiently covered by the management measures put in place under MSY. Additional measures could be taken if needed at regional level based on relevant scientific advice. ■

First Copernicus satellite now in orbit

By Isabelle Smets

Sentinel-1A successfully launched from the Guiana Space Centre in Kourou. Its twin satellite will follow next year

"Brand new eyes will observe our living Earth as never before," enthused Commissioner Antonio Tajani after the successful launch of Sentinel-1A, the first satellite from the EU's Earth observation project Copernicus. Sentinel-1A went into orbit just 25 minutes after it was launched from Kourou, French Guiana, on 3 April at 23:02. The satellite, which has a 12-metre radar antenna and two solar panels, is now orbiting the planet at 693 km above the Earth; a video is available on the Europolitics website. The first communications with the ground showed that the system is functioning optimally.

Sentinel-1A is the first satellite dedicated to the Copernicus programme, and was built by Thales Alenia Space for the European Space Agency (ESA). Until now, the programme has only been able to use data collected by

other satellites. Sentinel-1A will provide numerous operational services, such as assistance for navigating ships, monitoring sea ice and oil spills, forest fires, landslides and floods. It will also provide information for rescue and humanitarian aid missions. Its twin satellite, Sentinel-1B, should be launched in 2015. In all, six families of satellites should be launched by 2021.

Thus far, the European Commission has co-financed the development of infrastructure for the programme up to around 30% of the budget, or €730 million out of €2.4 billion.

During the period 2014-2020, the EU will meet around €4.3 billion of the total cost of the programme, while the ESA will provide up to €1.7 billion. ■



© ESA

Reding prides herself on Roma action

By Nathalie Vandystadt

The commissioner pats herself on the back for progress during a summit in Brussels

“If I had not taken the initiative, nothing would have been done, and I continued despite criticism.” Faced with both thanks and criticism from representatives of Roma communities at a summit in Brussels, on 4 April, Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding, who is taking mandatory leave in order to run for the European Parliament, has fiercely defended the EU framework launched in 2011 to establish coordinated national strategies for integrating Roma in the areas of education, employment, housing and health.

“Every year, we evaluate the progress made, and the situation is far from perfect, but during this summit we wanted to give courage to those responsible at national level, who want to move forward,” said the commissioner, adding that daily life for Roma is “starting to improve”. She even referred to “small

miracles”: in Finland, pre-school attendance among Roma children has increased from 2% to 60%, while a new Hungarian law makes two years of pre-school attendance obligatory for all children. Belgium has 38 housing mediators, and Germany has created a local taskforce in Berlin to encourage acceptance of Roma as neighbours and help integrate them into the community. There has been less progress with regard to employment, although some promising practices include training mentors for Roma looking for work in Austria and a programme for work counsellors in Spain.

DISAPPOINTMENT TANGIBLE

However, the European Roma Rights Centre points to a tougher reality for Europe’s largest ethnic minority group (10 to 12 million Roma live in the EU): discrimination against Roma children in the Czech Republic, who have been sent to schools for handicapped children; the eviction of Roma from Cluj-Napoca in Transylvania (North-West of Romania) to a Roma

ghetto near a condemned toxic waste site; and the destruction of camps and forced evacuations in France and Italy.

Local authorities - particularly mayors - approached by the Commission say Roma people should invest more themselves. “If parents do not want to send their children to school, progress will be very difficult,” said Reding.

However, disappointment was tangible despite the commissioner’s legendary anger over the forced evacuations in France in the summer of 2010. “Is this summit really going to change things for Roma? I don’t think so. France does not respect the law. You were my only hope, now my only hope is George Soros [the philanthropist banker who created the Open Society Foundations, which work for Roma integration - Ed],” said a young Roma from Romania, now living in France.

During the period 2014-2020, the Commission is counting on better spending of EU funding. At least 20% of the European Social Fund (€16 billion) should be used to fund social inclusion, particularly for Roma. ■

Commission to recover 318 mn euro of misspent CAP funds

By Joanna Sopinska

France again tops the list of countries hit the most

The member states must recover some €318 million in Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) funds that were spent in contradiction to EU rules, the European Commission said, on 4 April. The correction has been made under the so-called ‘clearance of

Background

Responsibility for managing the majority of CAP payments is in the hands of member states’ paying agencies. The European Commission undertakes more than 100 audits a year to check that member states’ responses to various cases of misuse of funds are sufficient. In cases where the result of the controls is negative, the Commission has the right to claw back CAP funds.

accounts’ procedure performed by the Commission three times a year. Last year, the total amount of recovered funds was €979 million (€335 million in December, €230 million in May and €414 million in February). Eleven member states were requested to pay back part of the CAP funds they had received in previous years (Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Finland and the UK). France has received the highest fine this time. It will have to pay back in total €248.93 million - nearly twice as much as under the last ‘clearance of accounts’ decision, announced in December 2013 (€238.90 million for weaknesses related to the allocation of entitlements and €10.03 million for deficiencies in the young farmer measure and in the control of subsidised loans). Also hit was Portugal, which will have to return €12.94 million for weaknesses related to cross-compliance (direct payments). Following the EU court’s judgement (Case T-267/07) against a previous Commission decision, Italy will be reimbursed €2.11 million. Every year,

the Commission claws back about €1 billion from the member states because of non-compliance with CAP rules or inadequate control procedures. In its November report, the EU Court of Auditors (ECA) criticised the Commission and the member states over the high rate of errors in agricultural spending under the CAP. According to the ECA’s estimations, in 2013, the level of error in Pillar 1 stood at 3.8% and in Pillar 2 (rural development) at 7.9%. Responding to the ECA’s criticism, the Commission shifted the blame to the national administrations and argued that taxpayers’ interests are safeguarded against such financial errors via the system of ‘clearance of accounts’. In another report, dated 17 March, the court said that the EU’s system of checks of agricultural expenditures is not reliable. It concluded that the member states’ statistical reports are not reliable due to both compilation errors and ineffective administrative and on-the-spot checks. Consequently, the Commission’s adjustments of the error rates resulting from the statistical reports “are not statistically valid,” according to the court. ■

Nature: Complaint against Germany and Slovenia

By Anne Eckstein

BirdLife criticises Berlin and Ljubljana for loss of biodiversity due to land use change

On 3 April, two NGOs - DOPPS (Slovenia) and NABU (Germany), BirdLife Europe partners - submitted complaints to the European Commission, asking for legal action against their respective countries. In both countries, evidence shows widespread loss of farmland birds, even in protected areas, such as Natura 2000 sites. This is part of an EU-wide crisis involving the massive

conversion of biodiversity rich grasslands to maize fields and the ever more intensive use of grasslands for fodder. Heavy subsidies for biogas production drive this crisis and subsequently increase the further intensification of livestock production. Ariel Brunner, head of EU policy at BirdLife Europe, recalled that "member states have an obligation under the EU Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) to maintain bird populations at an adequate level in their territory and preserve their habitats. The European Commission must act to ensure that member states take the necessary measures to halt the ongoing destruction of grasslands and decline of the

birds that depend on them". He went on to say: "Member states can, for example, ban the ploughing up of environmentally sensitive grasslands and design agri-environmental measures to compensate farmers for a delayed mowing dates. Several EU funds, such as the LIFE Fund and the Rural Development Fund, are there to help member states and farmers implement these measures". Though these complaints concern Germany and Slovenia, birds of wet meadows are facing similar threats in other member states. For example, last year the BSPB, a Bulgarian NGO that is a member of BirdLife, filed a similar complaint against Bulgaria. ■

Eurodemonstration gathers thousands in Brussels

By Sophie Petitjean

An estimated 50,000 people march against austerity and unemployment

With less than two months to go to the European elections, thousands of demonstrators marched through the streets of Brussels, on 4 April, to complain about austerity policies and unemployment in Europe. The capital of the EU - which was paralysed by several summits over the last few weeks - was blocked for the most part of the day. The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), which

organised the demonstration, states that "50,000 people from 21 countries across Europe" took part. According to the police, there were only 25,550 demonstrators. ETUC said: "We are very happy that so many people came - some from as far away as Portugal and Cyprus - to demonstrate calmly against austerity, unemployment and to ask for a new voice for Europe". ETUC noted, however, its shock at the violence that took place in front of the European Commission building. According to the police, seven demonstrators and two police officers were injured. ■



Payment card fee vote draws mixed reactions

By Anthony Pepe

S&D welcomes the vote, while industry groups warn of dangers

The European Parliament voted, on 3 April, to impose a cap on multilateral interchange fees (MIFs) charged when using payments cards. The decision, which has elicited decidedly mixed reactions, will limit MIFs to 0.2% on debit cards and 0.3% on credit cards.

Bernadette Vergnaud (S&D, France), vice-chair of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)

, has praised the outcome of the vote, saying that "These 'interchange fees' are imposed by banks that belong to payment card systems, such as Visa and MasterCard, which together control the majority of the market". Marino Baldini (Croatia) was the S&D group's negotiator on this issue and has also welcomed the result, commenting that "The introduction of limits in the EU would mean, in addition to lower prices, savings of up to €3 billion per year for large retail chains or up to €6 billion in operating costs. We have to remove the existing restrictions and harmonise practices. The mere harmonisation of costs between member states

will save customers in the EU €731 million a year". Spain introduced a similar MIF cap in 2005 (repealed in 2010), and ADICAE (Spanish Association of Users of Banks, Savings Banks and Insurance Companies) has consistently argued against the introduction of a Europe-wide cap. ADICAE says that during the period in which the caps were enforced there was a drop "equivalent to 1.22% of sales of Spanish trade with prices rising at rates 25% higher than in the eurozone, while the prices of financial services in Spain rose by 27%, nearly five times more than in the entire eurozone, where since 2005 prices only rose by around 5.8%". ■

INTERVIEW WITH GERHARD HUEMER, ECONOMIC AND FISCAL POLICY DIRECTOR, UEAPME

Commission's communication "will change nothing in Europe"

By Manon Malhère

Gerhard Huemer from the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (UEAPME) shares his views with Europolitics on the European Commission's recent communication on ways to promote the long-term financing of the economy.

Will this communication facilitate SMEs' access to finance?

We are disappointed that the Commission has put forward only a few ideas on how the long-term financing of SMEs could be improved. It may undertake further studies or analyses in the future, but this communication is just too weak. This document will change nothing in Europe. The problems are there, but the solutions are not on the table.

What is missing?

In the short run, we have to devise new guarantee schemes to facilitate bank lending to SMEs and we also have to come up with other measures, such as support for securitisation operations. Furthermore, we need to take measures to improve the creditworthiness of SMEs on the markets. This

is missing from the communication. In the medium term, we should improve the ability of investors and banks to take risks on board. In the communication, the regulatory part - ie the paragraphs that discuss solvency (insurance) and pension funds - is satisfactory. However, these improvements may only make their impact felt five years from now, which is certainly not enough to kick-start recovery.



© UE

Can loan securitisation (financial tool) be a solution to the problems SMEs have to face today?

Securitisation can be a very helpful tool at least in the short term, provided that these operations are subsidised in the sense that they are guaranteed. The market alone will not securitise SME loans. If the Commission green-lights lower capital requirements for high quality securitisation, it will make a good move. However, this alone would not fire up the SME loan securitisation markets.

Can you elaborate?

An SME that takes out a loan pooled in a securitised product will have to pay for liquidity, ie it will have to cover the risks the bank is taking and also the related management fees. If a bank bundles hundreds or thousands of loans together and sells these to an investor, this investor would also want to see return on his investment. All in all, securitised loans are quite expensive for SMEs. If the loans are low-risk, this is a feasible scenario. But in reality, loans are quite risky and too many people want to make money in the chain. So, for SMEs it works only if securitisation is subsidised.

What does "subsidised" mean in this context?

Last June, the Commission proposed a new instrument to support the securitisation of financial instruments in favour of SMEs, which would be financed partly via EU programmes like COSME and Horizon, but would be leveraged by the EU's Structural Funds. This new instrument should provide guarantees to the securitisation of SME loan portfolios, which would have an interesting leverage effect. You could mobilise around €10 in loans by investing a single euro. To date, only Spain, Portugal and Malta have agreed to use Structural Funds for this programme. All the others said that they did not need this and preferred to spend Structural Fund money on infrastructures. But there is no leverage there.

What is the main funding problem for SMEs?

We have to accept that 98% of SMEs have access to loans and credit and leasing only. This is reality. If banks are not able or willing to provide loans to SMEs, then they will have serious problems. If you look at countries like Italy, Spain, Greece or Netherlands, the commercial banks there are not lending to SMEs. They say that it is too risky. Savings banks are far more able to lend money than commercial banks, since the latter have to satisfy their investors and shareholders and have to rebuild their capital base at the same time.

What about other sources of funding, such as equity markets?

The problem is that there is no example anywhere in the world for the private equity market to have an interest in small companies. Private equity always turns towards larger projects or fast-growing companies where it can make profits quickly.

Would regulatory changes help in attracting investors?

This is not our culture in Europe. People do not want to take risks. The problem is that if you invest in a small company and you want to disinvest, there is no market to sell these shares in SMEs. ■

Financing growth

On 27 March, the Commission presented a communication to promote long-term financing of the economy (such as infrastructures and SMEs), in part by developing and mobilising other financing sources than banks. The Commission's actions include mobilising private sources and financial markets (such as high quality securitisation markets).

Securitisation

Securitisation is a process through which a bank groups loans into a financial instrument – a portfolio of assets – that is then sold to investors. It is a separate company that issues the pooled assets on markets.

Commission to examine Liberty Global-Ziggo merger

By Sophie Mosca

Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia confirmed, on 3 April, that his services – and not the Dutch competition authority – will investigate a proposed merger between the American cable specialist Liberty Global and the Dutch company Ziggo. He expressed surprise that the Dutch authority had claimed it was competent to assess the dossier. “It’s obvious this is an EU case, they have notified us and we are working on this,” Almunia said.

This merger would create a key actor on the Dutch market, in which Liberty

Global owns a 90% share. It already owns UPC, the second-largest cable opera-

*Liberty Global owns
90% of the Dutch cable
market*

tor in the Netherlands, and has bid €10 billion for Ziggo. It hopes to create mass synergies by centralising its activities in the Netherlands.

Owned by the billionaire John Malone, the American group operates in 14 coun-

tries, of which 12 are European. Particularly, it deploys fixed telephony and television services in Germany, Poland and the UK – where it has bought Virgin Media, while in Belgium, it has increased its share in Telenet.

Liberty Global wants to develop a TV-landline-internet-mobile offer in the EU as a mobile virtual network operator (MVNO) in several member states where operators are mainly national. Via its pan-European activity, the cable company wants to optimise its operational costs and clear the margin on its MVNO activity. ■

TTIP featuring more on Congress’ radar

By Brian Beary

A TTIP caucus has been created as US lawmakers tell Trade Representative Mike Froman what they want from the deal

United States lawmakers are getting more involved in the nitty-gritty of the EU-US free trade pact negotiations, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). At a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, on 3 April, they weighed in on hot button issues like investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) and geographical indications (GIs). Support seems solid for some kind of deal, although Democrats and Republicans differ in what they want from it. Later that afternoon, two Democrat and two Republican congressmen launched a new TTIP caucus – a sign that the pact has bipartisan support. The EU Ambassador to the US, Joao Vale de Almeida, also participated in the launch.

But two significant impediments to the TTIP’s progress were apparent. US Trade Representative (USTR) Mike Froman made clear that his first priority is to con-

clude the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the free trade pact he is negotiating with eleven Asian and Pacific nations. It is far from clear that the TPP talks will be successfully concluded this year as Froman wants. Indeed, one congressman raised the spectre of the TPP becoming “another

*Froman: “We’re adding
safeguards” to discourage
frivolous ISDS claims*

Doha,” referring to the continuing failure to conclude the World Trade Organisation’s trade liberalisation round launched in 2001.

The other obstacle is that Congress is in no rush to give the US administration so-called fast-track authority, which lets the administration submit a signed trade pact to Congress for a single ‘yes’ or ‘no’ vote. Fears that the TPP will further weaken the US’ position in the global economy are rampant among Democrats, leading to their reluctance to pass the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) bill introduced in January 2014. Froman seemed almost resigned to inertia on the TPA: he argued that he could still conclude good trade agreements without the TPA.

Turning to the TTIP’s hottest topics, top of the list – in Washington as in Brus-

sels it seems – is ISDS. Froman refused to answer a question from Lloyd Doggett (Democrat, Texas) about whether Danish, German or British courts were not good enough for US investors to seek legal recourse in if they feel their investment rights are flouted. Froman reassured the committee: “we’re adding safeguards” to the ISDS chapters in the TTIP and TPP to discourage firms from filing frivolous claims. ISDS “should not be used as a mechanism to undermine government regulation,” Froman said.

California Democrat Mike Thompson urged Froman to oppose EU efforts to strengthen GI protections on products like Parmesan and champagne. “We are resistant to efforts to create GIs,” Froman responded. Nebraska Republican Adrian Smith asked him to push the EU to speed up its process for approving genetically modified US agricultural products. Minnesota Republican Erik Paulsen was keen to maintain the smooth cross-border flow of electronic data. Removing trade barriers in the pharmaceutical sector was highlighted by Todd Young (Republican, Indiana). And Loretta Sanchez (Democrat, California) urged Froman to uphold the 1920 Jones Act, which bars non-US flagged ships from transporting goods between US ports.

The fifth TTIP negotiating round is due to take place in Washington DC in late May. ■

Congressional caucus

This is an informal group formed by members of Congress who have a common interest in a particular country, region or topic.

OECD calls for deeper structural reforms to speed up recovery

By Jorge Valero

The organisation predicts lower growth for the next two years and sees no need for an ECB intervention for now

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) released, on 3 April, its analysis of the overall economic situation in the eurozone and the EU as a whole. It agrees with certain aspects of the EU institutions' positive assessments. At the same time, the OECD calls for deeper structural reforms at national and EU level to improve Europe's growth prospects.

"If structural reforms do not proceed further, growth is expected to remain modest over the longer term," warns the report, presented by the OECD's Secretary-General, Angel Gurría, and Competition Commissioner Joaquín Almunia.

The OECD expects the eurozone's GDP to grow 1% this year, followed by growth of 1.6% in 2015. For the EU, the Paris-based organisation predicts growth of 1.4% for this year and 1.9% for 2015. These figures are lower than those featured in the Commission's winter forecast, where the euro member states are projected to register GDP growth of 1.2% in 2014 and 1.8% in 2015, and the respective figures for the EU28 are 1.5% and 2%.

Economic recovery will be fostered by improved market confidence, a decline in financial market fragmentation and a more

modest pace of fiscal consolidation, the OECD report says. But recovery will remain fragile in the context of an "uncertain political situation, social tensions and still challenging public finances in many countries, which mean that financial market turbulence could flare up again," says the report. The unfolding crisis with Russia presents a downside risk. Furthermore, the high level of unemployment and the tight credit conditions, in particular in the distressed countries, will be drags on the EU's recovery.

These projections come against the backdrop of a risk of deflation or a prolonged period of low inflation in the eurozone, and a reluctance by the European Central

Bank (ECB) to take further steps. Almunia recalled the words of the International Monetary Fund's Managing Director, Christine Lagarde, to underline this "high risk of deflation". "If substantial uncertainties were to re-emerge, or if deflationary risks intensify, additional non-conventional measures should be considered," said the OECD report. However, Gurría told reporters that this scenario is not present yet, and that he agreed with the ECB's decision to refrain, for the time being, from taking unconventional measures. The OECD also warned against possible asset price booms in some countries if low interest rates are kept for a long period of time to fuel the economies. ■

Almunia: Use "common sense"

Referring to the ongoing discussions about the need to give France and Italy more room for manoeuvre in their efforts to reduce their deficits, the OECD's message is twofold. It said in the report that "given the progress already achieved and the still weak economy, a slowdown in the pace of fiscal adjustment is appropriate and consistent with consolidation requirements if fiscal plans are implemented". In the same breath, organisation addressed a clear message to Paris and Rome (and to other capitals in a similar situation), stating that "governments should avoid reducing fiscal adjustment efforts relative to the commit-

ments they have made". Commissioner Almunia recalled that over the last years the pace of fiscal consolidation has had certain «consequences that need to be calibrated". Besides, "it is not only about the size of the adjustment but also the type of it,"- a reference to the balance between increasing taxes and implementing cuts. France has been forced to recalibrate this balance, and it intends to implement a structural reform programme, which President Francois Hollande aims to use to win more leeway from the Commission to cut the country's public deficit. Almunia told *Europolitics* that he was not referring to the case of France, it was just a call to use "common sense".

New VAT regime for electronic services

By Tanguy Verhoosel

Commission publishes explanatory notes on changes to the VAT scheme

For companies active in the telecommunications, radio broadcasting and electronic services (downloading, etc) sectors, a minor revolution is about to take place, which will have a significant budgetary impact on certain countries, including Luxembourg. From 1 January, VAT must be charged where the customer is based – at the rates in force in that country - rather

than where the seller is, in the case of cross-border business-to-consumer transactions.

"This was already the case for B2B," explains an expert. "The main changes concern B2C. Until now, VAT was collected in the country of the service provider, which encouraged many companies such as Skype, Amazon, etc, to establish their headquarters in Luxembourg, where VAT rates are low."

In this context, the Commission published, on 4 April, 'explanatory notes' for professionals in the sector. These provide clarification

on the principle of 'place of supply' in order to ensure the harmonised implementation of the new rules across all member states. A 'one stop shop' will enable companies to meet all their VAT obligations in all member states from their country of registration. In October 2013, the Commission published 'practical guidelines' on registration and accounting practices for VAT, on the formats in which the necessary information should be provided, deadlines for transmission, and practical measures for payments. ■

Martin Selmayr, voice of Jean-Claude Juncker

By Christophe Garach

Campaign manager launches Juncker's Commission presidency bid

On the same day, 4 April, that thousands of trade unionists from across Europe demonstrated in Brussels «for another Europe,» the European People's Party (EPP) presented to the press the campaign team and slogan of its champion, Jean-Claude Juncker ('Experience, solidarity, future') in the race for the European Commission presidency.

At the helm. Martin Selmayr will be the campaign manager for the former prime minister of Luxembourg. Selmayr is no stranger to the European scene. A former spokesman at the European Commission, he served, until 31 March, as head of cabinet to Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding (Luxembourg). He has taken unpaid leave from that position to serve as Juncker's campaign manager and will be paid by the EPP during the campaign. Combining a sense of humour and well-chosen words, Selmayr officially kicked off the «first trans-European campaign» in history on behalf of his new boss. More surprising was that he did not hesitate to criticise openly Martin Schulz – a first for an

EU official on leave. The following is a summing-up of the campaign launch.

Solidarity. Accused by his rivals of being the face of the Troika and of bank secrecy, Juncker was presented «as the candidate of solidarity, who did everything in his power to keep struggling states from going under». «Yes, the cure [for the crisis – Ed] has been painful, but the results speak for themselves.» Selmayr cited the examples of the recovery in Ireland, Greece and Spain. Isn't Juncker starting off with a major handicap? «He is more popular in Greece, while Martin Schulz is not respected in Northern Europe.» The bankers' man? «He contributed to the phase-out of bank secrecy. Regulation of Europe's banking sector is Juncker's contribution.»

An «irreversible» process. For Selmayr, the still controversial process launched by the political parties for designation of the Commission president is now under way. «It is true that there were discussions [in member states - Ed]. It is also true that ambassadors see it as a bad idea because they will no longer have a say, but it's in the treaties. It's irreversible.»

Artificial debate. Selmayr agreed that Juncker and Schulz are on the same

wavelength on European integration, but noted that there were «major differences between the two candidates,» especially on how to resolve the crisis. The details will emerge soon.

No Euro-flush. Juncker's campaign director repeated that his candidate «does not want to annoy people in their daily life». «We do not want to regulate toilet flushes,» he said, referring to the oft-heard criticism of the Commission's tendency to over-regulate. The message is clear, though: Juncker will fight (as will Schulz, moreover) on the issue of better law making, an old favourite meant to calm the most virulent anti-Europeans. ■

President... of the Council?

Although some are saying that Juncker also has his eye on the European Council presidency, Selmayr insisted that his candidate «has said in no uncertain terms that he wants to become president of the European Commission and has chosen staff from the Commission, and that is what we are preparing». Selmayr nevertheless added that he could not say what future awaited Juncker if he were to lose the race.

EUROPOLITICS
THE EUROPEAN AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

NEW
EDITION
SPRING 2014

SUBSCRIBE NOW

€25 A YEAR

magazine@europolitics.info

www.europolitics.info



In brief

Semeta denies deal on FTT

The European Commission denied, on 4 April, that there was an initial agreement on the financial transaction tax (FTT) as announced two days earlier by Spanish Finance Minister Luis de Guindos. Taxation Commissioner Algirdas Semeta said that “there is still quite substantial amount of work to be done in order to reach such an agreement”. Guindos told reporters that there was an agreement to introduce the tax gradually starting in 2015, affecting initially stocks and at a later stage other assets. He also indicated that the eleven countries participating in the FTT agreed to apply the tax on the basis of the ‘issuance principle’ (ie the tax will be levied when the asset is issued within one of the participating states). However, Europolitics understands that there is still no agreement on the FTT’s scope (assets to be included) and the collection mechanism (issuance or residence principle). The participating states would like to present a document during the next Ecofin Council, on

6 May, but it is still unclear whether it will be a compromise paper or just a declaration of intentions.

Industrial principles for online music

Four European and international associations – EBU for public radio and television, ECSA for composers and songwriters, GESAC for collective rights management societies and ICMP for international music publishers – adopted common principles (in the form of a recommendation) on audiovisual and radio broadcasting of music programmes, as the European Commission strives to boost the dissemination of protected content at European level. Public radios and television and the music industry are prepared to facilitate authorisation for online exploitation of rights and the payment of royalties, to increase the transparency of payments to authors and composers and to lighten up administrative formalities.

Entry into force of revised GPA

The revised version of the World Trade Organisation’s Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) enters into force on 6 April. Fifteen parties have signed the agreement (with the EU counting as one party). “I hope that the entry into force of the revised GPA will pave the way for other WTO members to join in the near future,” said Commissioner Michel Barnier. Negotiations are ongoing with around a dozen WTO members, including China. Numerous government entities (ministries and agencies) and new services and other public procurement activities have been added to the GPA’s scope of application. According to WTO estimates, the revision of the GPA will bring extra procurement opportunities worth around €80 billion.

People

Julia Lamb/ERFA

Julia Lamb has been appointed secretary-general of the European Rail Freight Association (ERFA). Lamb will start on 1 July, replacing Pierre Tonon, who has occupied the role since October 2011. Lamb was previously head of the cabinet of Brian Simpson, who is chair of the European Parliament’s Transport Committee (Simpson is not campaigning again in the European elections).

INSIGHT Software patents: Help or hindrance

Software patents in EU: Coming to terms with the ban

By Sophie Mosca

EU has banned patenting of pure software, but not of processes using software, which could harm competition

Unlike the United States and Japan, taking out a patent on software is in theory impossible in the EU. This ban was at the heart of an epic legislative battle between 2002 and 2005. The European Commission and the Council advocated a directive regulating authorisation of this type of patent, but the European Parliament opposed it due to the specific nature of the sector. MEPs were victorious and the directive was shelved.

Despite the exclusion of software from patentability, the number of patents that include software components has surged. These concern mobile phones, tablets, cars, heating and electric toothbrushes, to say nothing of computers. They are a cash machine for market players, with an estimated value of tens of billions of euro if the cost of litigation is included. The machine is all the harder to keep

under control since it is complicated not to patent embedded software that runs a system, provided it is considered an invention.

The European Patent Office (EPO), which has been issuing patents since 1973, has built up a body of case law, but many consider its rulings on software patents unclear or hesitant. While the EPO does not issue patents for a computer programme “as such,” it will do so if the software is associated with a technical innovation. However, if this type of patent aims to reward and stimulate innovation, the monopoly that results may well smother competition. A balance has to be struck between innovation and competition.

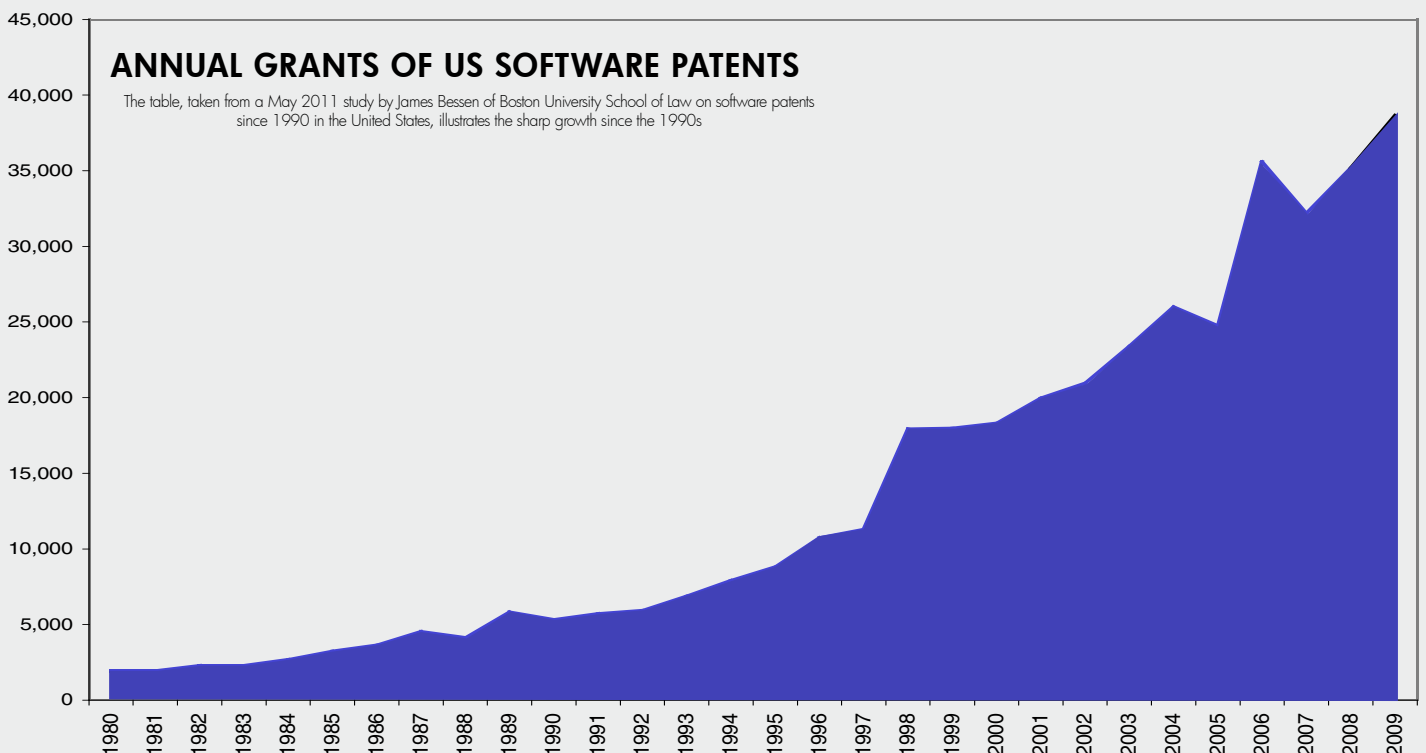
In the United States, there has been an escalation in this type of patent since the 1990s, with a marked acceleration since the 2000s (see table). While there are no figures for the EU alone, the latest report by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), which collects data from all patent bodies, confirms this trend for the years 2007 to 2011. In sectors related to

computers, communication and telecommunication technologies, where many software patents exist, around 200,000 applications are submitted every year.

The subject still sparks much debate in Europe, revived by the prospect of the introduction of the new unitary patent. Some, most notably the proponents of open source software, fear an onslaught in Europe of abusive practices like those in the United States. On the contrary, others, in particular employers' associations, are calling for more far-reaching scope for this type of patent, as a guarantee of the development of innovation vital to Europe's economic growth.

In some sectors, the patent race is already palpable, especially in mobile phones, and is even turning into a brutal war between large manufacturers through lawsuits for patent infringement. Patents in this area have become a weapon to hinder competition and the European Commission is keeping its eye on some of these global belligerents.

This Insight section of *Europolitics* examines these different problems. ■



Software patents are cost-effective for the biggest

By Sophie Mosca

A software patent is currency for the strongest but a disaster for SMEs

Patents are out of reach for most SMEs because the cost is simply too high. This is especially true for software patents, not favoured by small firms considering the risks they entail.

Sabine Erkens, legal adviser at UEAPME, the organisation representing SMEs at European level, explained: “The introduction of software patents would strengthen monopolies in the software sector and constitute

an obstacle to innovation by SMEs. It would give dominant companies in the sector the possibility to secure a large number of patents and would result in exorbitant litigation costs that would force small companies into bankruptcy”.

Given the threat of lawsuits brandished by large companies, like those in the United States costing millions of euro, small firms do not measure up: they often end up obliged to pay fees for the use of their own technology.

The largest groups, on the other hand, have the resources to avoid litigation or to put up a fight. If a group is attacked

and has a large portfolio of patents that the attacker infringes, a patent-sharing agreement can be negotiated, like the one concluded in February by Google and Cisco to cover video conferencing systems.

Google also worked out an agreement with Samsung to swap licences for ten years on all of the two firms’ existing and future patents.

The South Korean manufacturer has negotiated a similar ‘non-aggression pact’ with Ericsson as a solution to their dispute over software patents. War is declared between groups when negotiations like these fail. ■

A commercial weapon

By Sophie Mosca

Software patents used to be a tool to protect innovation but have become weapons of destruction

Every week, highly mediatised lawsuits pit users of functions protected by a software patent against holders of these patents. In many cases, this patent war concerns the new technologies sector, especially mobile phone technology, and aims to harm a competitor by demanding compensation for patent infringement or by having its products banned from sale or import.

In 2010, Microsoft brandished seven software patents against Motorola, which had itself attacked Microsoft on others. The US courts ruled against Motorola, ordering it to pay US\$15 million in damage compensation. There are many more examples involving all mobile phone manufacturers. Google has estimated the losses at more than US\$30 billion a year in the United States alone.

Though initially opposed to the idea of software patents, Google was obliged to revise its position due to attacks by its competitors. To have a bargaining

chip and increase its firepower, it even bought Motorola to get its hands on 17,000 patents and then sold it, minus the patents.

COMMISSION ON THE LOOKOUT

Google’s Android operating system is often targeted by such raids alleging infringements of software patents. The Mountain View-based giant lodged a complaint with the European Commission, on 31 May 2012, against Nokia and Microsoft, allegedly hidden behind a patent troll, the Canadian firm Mosaïd, for undermining Android by an organised system of intellectual property litigation.

A ‘patent troll’ is jargon for firms or natural persons specialised in patent litigation. They acquire patents that they do not exploit, with the sole aim of forcing companies that produce goods and services to take out operating licences, even if this means taking the matter to court.

Google maintains that these functions essential to mobile phones, adopted as standards by international standards organisations, must be licensed at reasonable rates by the patent holders. Nokia and Microsoft allegedly refused

to do so. The Commission has warned these manufacturers, as well as Samsung and Apple, the subject of other investigations, that it will remain vigilant and “closely monitor in the light of EU rules on abuse of dominant position” practices abusing an ‘arsenal’ of patents with a view to restricting competition.

LUCRATIVE ACTIVITY

Google was attacked directly more recently for alleged infringement by its AdWords advertising system of two software patents held since 2012 by Vringo, another patent troll. These patents enable a search engine to assess the cost of an advertisement to be invoiced in terms of the amount the advertiser is willing to pay and the ‘quality’ of the ad based on its success with internet users. A court in the State of Virginia (United States) ordered Google to pay royalties for counterfeiting to the amount of 1.36% of AdWords’ turnover, nearly US\$1 billion, until expiry of the patent in 2016. Vringo also invoked its rights against Microsoft in May 2013, which paid US\$1 million in an out-of-court settlement for Bing’s use of protected technologies. ■

European Patent Office defends pragmatic approach

By Sophie Mosca

According to the EPO, rules for granting software patents and the quality of oversight prevent 'American-style' abuse. Not necessarily...

An information leaflet put out by the European Patent Office (EPO) explains that "patent protection is every bit as well deserved for computer-implemented inventions as for inventions in established and traditional technologies". "In many cases, the innovative part of a new product or process may well lie in the method underlying a computer programme and/or its computational implementation." It is on that postulate that the EPO, the central office that examines the validity of patents and issues them in 32 countries, including EU member states, bases its rulings on authorisation of software patents. Article 52 of the European Patent Convention (EPC) that sets the rules for issuing patents excludes software from patentable inventions, but only inventions related to programmes for computers, mathematical methods and others.

LACK OF CLARITY

"It is hard to fix the boundary between what is patentable and what is not," acknowledges Sabine Kruspig, who heads a team of EPO patent application examiners in the field of telecommunications

and computers. "Every patent application is reviewed by three specialists in the area to guarantee that it meets the requirements," she adds. "The invention has to be new, entail an inventive step and be likely to have an industrial application, in other words, it must be an innovative technical process." If those conditions are not met, the application is rejected. A mathematical method for encrypting/decrypting electronic communications is not patentable, for example, while encryptions themselves are because they are considered a technical process. The EPO notes that the majority of software patent applications are rejected.

Not at all, reply proponents of open source software, the Greens and certain SME associations. The Greens in the European Parliament have put out a study identifying the patents authorised by the EPO and by its American counterpart, the United States Patent and Trademark Office, between 2009 and 2012. It shows that their practices converge and that the tendency is an increase in these 'debatable' patents. The study gives the example of the patent applied for by Amazon for a process making it possible to send a gift to a correspondent with a single click after entering the recipient's address. The patent was validated in 1998 by both bodies. It was annulled by the EPO in 2007 as the result of the opposition of a competitor, Fleurop-In-

terflora, and the Foundation for a Free Information Infrastructure (FFII). After Amazon appealed, the EPO Board of Appeal reinstated the patent in 2009, but it was annulled again in January 2013. "This is a textbook case showing how much is wrong with today's patent system in Europe," observes Stephan Uhlmann, a member of the FFII board.

COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE

Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos admits that "patents are supposed to encourage innovation and we're starting to be in a world where they might start to stifle innovation. I don't think some of these battles are healthy for society".

A May 2011 study by James Bessen of Boston University School of Law looks into software patents in the United States since 1990 and demonstrates that they do indeed penalise innovation. Small firms are not taking out patents on software or are even giving up working in this sector and large companies are making money through exorbitantly expensive litigation, like patent trolls (see separate article).

"The American system is very different from the one in force in Europe," EPO President Benoit Batistelli told Euro-politics. "We have other safety nets that prevent the multiplication of such litigation and of troll activity [...]. These concerns are limited to a few large American groups." ■

Copyright and patent: How to protect software

By Sophie Mosca

Developers of a software programme can easily obtain protection of their code under copyright, generally for a period of 50 years after their death, and even up to 70 years in some countries. A simple dated registration (with a bailiff or specialised body) attests to the ownership of the software and does not require disclosure of sources. This protection covers the literal expression of the programme and gives holders the right to control use of the software (economic rights) and to protect their name and reputation (moral rights). The author's explicit

agreement is needed to make reproductions, copies or a translation of the work. A patent, on the other hand, covers the ideas developed by the software. In Europe and New Zealand, pure software (eg source code) cannot be patented. This requires an invention (not a trivial idea) with a technical application regardless of the code used. The United States and Japan, on the other hand, authorise the patenting of pure software. The patent guarantees protection for a period of 20 years as a rule. It requires the filing of an application in each country where protection is sought and the applicant must comply with formal and substantive

requirements. These include publication, which entails a significant cost that can be beyond the reach of SMEs. For protection in EU member states, this comes to around €36,000 including application costs, fees, translations, annual renewal charges and patent agents' fees, compared with only €1,850 in the United States. But the new unitary patent is expected to bring the cost down to around €5,000 and reductions are planned for SMEs. The risk of such a patent lies in the fact that it can be validated in one country or region (eg in the EU via the European Patent Office, which offers protection in several countries) but not in others. ■

INTERVIEW WITH GÉRALD SÉDRATI-DINET, ADVISER ON SOFTWARE PATENTS, ASSOCIATION DE PROMOTION ET DE DÉFENSE DU LOGICIEL LIBRE

Software patents: “A system that stifles innovation”

By Sophie Mosca

The future unitary patent protection constitutes an additional threat to developers and small software companies, claims Gérald Sédrati-Dinet. Co-founder of Quadrature du Net, an action group that defends fundamental rights, he is very critical of the position taken by the European Patent Office (EPO) on issuing software patents.

Do you find that the EU’s ban in principle on issuing patents for software is being circumvented?

Software is excluded in principle from patentability in Europe due to the European Parliament’s rejection, in September 2005, of the draft software patents directive. However, the EPO, which does not include EU member states alone and is not subject to democratic scrutiny of any kind, regularly authorises various software patents. Article 52 of the European Patent Convention delimiting its framework bans it from doing so if the patent application relates to software “as such”. The EPO interprets this as authorisation if there is a technical effect. What this means for the EPO is data retrieval and reaction to data entered by the user. This enables it to issue tens of thousands of patents in this area and to circumvent the exclusion of software from patentability.

How can protection turn out to be a danger for software?

Contrary to what is alleged to give developers and software firms an incentive to apply for patents for their inventions, such patents are harmful to innovation. Unlike industrial sectors, the software industry evolves incrementally through successive improvements. Imposing a patent system prevents the exchange of know-how and stifles innovation. This

very costly system also reinforces large companies to the detriment of SMEs that cannot pay the costs of a patent or of legal proceedings against holders of competing patents.



Sédrati-Dinet: “Imposing a patent system prevents the exchange of know-how”

What will change with the future unitary patent protection?

The unitary patent gives a central role to the EPO for issuing these new patents, so we can expect to see further development of the case law gradually being built up by the specialised judges in national patent courts.

I regret that the European legislators – particularly Parliament – did not seize the opportunity to take their line of rejecting the 2005 directive further by clearly defining rules for patentability and setting in stone the ban on software patentability.

Do you expect to see a system similar to the one in the United States, where software patents are authorised and are the subject of considerable litigation?

Software has been patentable in the United States for more than 20 years

and we are seeing the Court of Appeal for the Federal Circuit gain increasing control over the patent system.

Economic studies confirm that it is not software companies that file patent applications, but hardware manufacturers, especially large firms, whereas innovation comes from SMEs, especially in Europe. This proves that patents are being used to establish a dominant position, reinforce a monopoly and prevent competitors from entering the market. This is the exact opposite of free and undistorted competition.

Do you hope to see the EU Court of Justice come to the rescue of developers by rejecting the unitary patent package, even though it validated, in April 2013, the enhanced cooperation disputed by Madrid and Rome?

It did indeed dismiss the Italian and Spanish appeals against enhanced cooperation in this area, but the legality of the unitary patent regulations is still subject to its review.

Many legal experts think that the court cannot validate the international agreement on the unified patent court concluded by member states without the EU being a party to it, since such an agreement comes within the EU’s exclusive competence, particularly because it affects common rules or alters their scope, under the terms of Article 3.2 TFEU. Consequently, the member states are not authorised to conclude such an agreement among themselves. The court confirmed this in a November 2012 judgement on the treaty establishing the European Stability Mechanism. It also pointed out in its opinion on the first proposal for a unified patent court that the national courts must not be deprived of their jurisdiction on patents. Yet that isn’t the case with the unified patent court. ■

EU agenda

Week from 7 to 13 April

Monday 7 April

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

15:00 - 18:30 Brussels, JAN 4Q1

- Discussion on the regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Financing Instrument for Development Cooperation - Strategic Dialogue - approval of Conclusions of Working Groups A, B, C, D and E (in camera)
- Addressing child marriage in developing countries in a comprehensive manner - Discussion with Plan International
- EU development strategy in the Pacific - Presentation of the study
- The Potential of the Social Economy for Local Development in Africa: An Exploratory Report - Presentation of the study
- Key achievements of EU humanitarian aid and outlook on future challenges in the humanitarian field - Discussion with Claus H. Sorensen, Director General of DG ECHO

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS

15:00 - 18:30 Brussels, JAN 4Q2

- European Central Bank Annual Report for 2013 - Discussion on the Annual Report by ECB Vice-President, Vitor Constancio
- Votes**
- Reconsultation of the Committee: (Rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure): Key information documents for investment products (rapporteur: Pervenche Berès (S&D, FR)) and Payment accounts (rapporteur: Jürgen Klute (GUE/NGL, DE))
- Possible adoption by Lithuania of the euro - Vote on a draft report by Werner Langen (EPP, DE)
- End of votes
- Discussion with Algirdas Semeta, Commissioner for Taxation and Customs Union, Audit and Anti-Fraud (17.15-18.15)

COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL MARKET AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

15:00 - 18:30 Brussels, ASP 5G-3

- Discussion with Commissioner Algirdas Semeta, Commissioner responsible for Taxation, Customs, Statistics, Audit and Anti-Fraud (15.05-16.00)
- Discussion with Neven Mimica, Commissioner responsible for the Consumer Policy (16.10-17.10)
- Discussion with Michel Barnier, Commissioner responsible for the Internal Market and Services (17.10-18.10)

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

16:30 - 18:30 Brussels, ASP 3G-3

- Votes** (16.30 – 18.30)
- Information provision and promotion measures for agricultural products on the internal market and in third countries - Presentation on the results of the trilogues and adoption of the consolidated text (in EN only) - Rapporteur, Esther Herranz Garcia (EPP, ES)
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy and amending Annex X to that Regulation
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the integrated administration and control system and conditions for refusal or withdrawal of payments and administrative penalties applicable to direct payments, rural development support and cross compliance
- Consideration and adoption of Motion for a resolution
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to paying agencies and other bodies, financial management, clearance of accounts, securities and use of

the euro - Consideration and adoption of Motion for a resolution

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to public intervention expenditure -
- Consideration and adoption of Motion for a resolution
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and introducing transitional provisions - Consideration and adoption of Motion for a resolution
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council by amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 relating to the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors - Consideration and adoption of Motion for a resolution
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council by amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 288/2009 as regards the granting of aid for accompanying measures in the framework of a School Fruit and Vegetables Scheme - Consideration and adoption of Motion for a resolution
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the support programmes for the olive-oil and table-olives sect - Consideration and adoption of Motion for a resolution
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council by amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 826/2008 as regards certain requirements related to the

agricultural products benefiting from private storage aid - Consideration and adoption of Motion for a resolution

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council by amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 555/2008 as regards new measures under the national support programmes in the wine sector - Consideration and adoption of Motion for a resolution

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

15:00 - 18:30 *Brussels, PHS 5B-001*

Vote

- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund - vote on the report by Alain Cadec (EPP, FR)

COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS

15:00 - 18:30 *Brussels, ASP 3G2*

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

15:00 - 18:30 *Brussels, ASP 1G3*

PUBLIC HEARINGS

BUDGETARY CONTROL COMMITTEE

15:30 - 18:30 *Brussels, JAN 6Q-2*

Hearing on "Lisbon Strategy: Budget implementation and results" - Rapporteur, Ingeborg GRÄSSLE (EPP, DE)

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (GFCM)

7 - 9 April, *Athens*

MEETING OF THE INNOVATIVE PUBLIC SERVICES GROUP (IPSG) AND HUMAN RESOURCES WORKING GROUP (HRWG)

7 - 8 April, *Athens*

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

TRAVEL AND VISITS

- José Manuel Barroso attends the EPP Group Leaders Summit
- José Manuel Barroso participates in a

meeting regarding the Transatlantic Initiative

- Viviane Reding attends a working lunch with the Presidents of the EPP Group and National Parliaments

- Neelie Kroes visits the Czech Republic (6-7 April): gives a speech at Local and Regional Information Society Conference (ISSS) (Congress Centre Aldis, Hradec Kralove); meets: Milan Chovanec, Minister of Interior (Hradec Kralove); Pavel Belobradek, Deputy Prime Minister for Science, Research and Innovation; Susan Navratil, Director of the National Security Authority, Prague; Jan Mladek, Minister of Industry and Trade Minister (Prague)

- Janez Potocnik at Hannover Messe 2014 (Hannover, Germany): 9:30 speech at the opening of the 16th Forum on Eco-Innovation; speech at the opening of the Industrial Green Tech (under his patronage); keynote speech at "City-Business Dialogues" (ICLEI); closing speech at the 2nd Stakeholder Forum of the EU Environmental Technology Verification (ETV); participation in and speech at the EMAS Awards Ceremony

- Michel Barnier receives Dominique Lefebvre, President of the National Federation of Credit Agricole and Bertrand Raven, Director General of the National Federation of Credit Agricole

- Michel Barnier receives Steven Maijoor, Chair of ESMA (European Securities and Markets Authority)

- Androulla Vassiliou delivers opening speech at the debate "The Crisis in Europe and the Future of Higher Engineering Education" co-organised by the European Society for Engineering Education and the Greek EU Presidency (Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU)

- Androulla Vassiliou delivers opening speech at the Conference "Preparatory actions on Culture and external relations" final conference; takes part at a joint press conference (Hall Horta, Bozar)

- Máire Geoghegan-Quinn in Rome (Italy): keynote address at the Horizon 2020 Launch in Italy and meeting with Stefania Giannini, Minister for Education, Universities and Research.

- Kristalina Georgieva in Madrid: participates in a Seminar at the "Nueva Economía Forum"; meets Pedro Morenes, Spanish Minister of Defense; meets the Committee on International Cooperation for Development; meets Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo, Spanish Minister of Foreign

Affairs and Cooperation; meets Jesus Gracia, Spanish Secretary of State for International Cooperation and Latin America and Gonzalo Robles, Spanish Secretary General of International Cooperation; participates in a Seminar on Different perspectives on Humanitarian Action; meets Spanish NGOs (humanitarian and development aid)

- Günther H. Oettinger delivers the keynote speech to panel "Metropolitan Solutions 2014" at Hannover Fair and visits the Fair

- Johannes Hahn attends the UN Habitat World Urban Forum in Medellin/Colombia, representing the European Union

- László Andor delivers the keynote speech at the EPC event "FutureLab Europe" (Scotland House, Brussels)

- László Andor receives representatives from Regionalverband Ruhr

- László Andor gives a lecture on "Towards a Genuine European Labour Market" at the College of Europe (Bruges)

- Tonio Borg participates in the Conference for better bee health "Solution for healthy bees, apiculture, agriculture and environment" (Bruxelles)

- Tonio Borg receives representatives of the Federation of European Pharmacologists

- Neven Mimica attends the meeting of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee of the European Parliament

COURT OF JUSTICE

15:00

Fifth Chamber

- Hearing Joined cases C-184/13, C-185/13, C-186/13, C-187/13, C-194/13, C-195/13, C-208/13 Transport API, ANCC-Coop Associazione Nazionale Cooperative di Consumatori and Others, Air Liquide Italia and Others, Confederazione Generale Italiana dei Trasporti e della Logistica - Confetra and Others, Esso Italiana, Confindustria and Others, Autorita Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

09:30-13:00

EU Alliance for a democratic, social and sustainable European Semester, TRE7701

11:00-13:00

Meeting of the bureau of the Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship, JDE60

11:00-17:30

POLIS Environment and Health working Group Meeting, JDE63

12:00-18:30

Impact assessment on EU Renewable Energy Directive - 2nd study visit Poland, Hrs siège

12:30-14:00

Buffet lunch POLIS Environment and Health working Group Meeting, Atrium 6

14:30-18:30

Meeting of the Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship, JDE62

14:30-17:30

NAT/555 - Permanent study group on Food Security, JDE60

14:30-18:30

4th meeting of the Rules of Procedure panel, VM3

COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM TRAINING FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LRA FROM EAP COUNTRIES ON FISCAL DECENTRALISATION AND TERRITORIAL COOPERATION

Brussels

11:00-18:00

23rd meeting of the CIVEX Commission, JDE52

Tuesday 8 April

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

15:30 - 16:30 Brussels

■ 15:30 Meeting with John Crombez, Belgian Secretary of State - President's Office, PHS, 9th floor

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

POLITICAL AND SECURITY COMMITTEE (PSC)

8 - 9 April, Brussels

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (GFCM)

7 - 9 April, Athens

MEETING OF THE INNOVATIVE PUBLIC SERVICES GROUP (IPSG) AND HUMAN RESOURCES WORKING GROUP (HRWG)

7 - 8 April, Athens

Conference

THE ROLE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN CSDP

Athens

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

TRAVEL AND VISITS

- José Manuel Barroso attends the High Level Conference of Youth Guarantee
- Catherine Ashton leads the Iran Nuclear Talks, Vienna
- Viviane Reding delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of the exhibition "Philhellenism in Europe, from the Age of Enlightenment to the 20th century"
- Viviane Reding receives Sandro Gozi, Secretary of State for European Affairs of Italy
- Siim Kallas receives Martin Lundstedt, President and CEO of Scania
- Antonio Tajani participates in the conference "Il Brasile Mondiale. Tra innovazione e tensioni sociali" organised by Aspenia (Italy).
- Maros Sefcovic in Slovakia: gives a lecture at Trnava University
- Michel Barnier comes to Grand Spring Maintenance Contractors Lyon
- Androulla Vassiliou meets a delegation of the Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry (FESI)
- Androulla Vassiliou delivers opening speech and hands out the awards at the "Juvenes Translatores Awards Ceremony"
- Androulla Vassiliou delivers opening speech and hands out the awards at the First

European Heritage Label Awards Ceremony
 ■ Algirdas Semeta attends OLAF interinstitutional exchange of views in Brussels

■ Máire Geoghegan-Quinn receives Martial De-Paul Ikounga, African Union Commissioner for Science and Technology

■ Máire Geoghegan-Quinn receives Tom Donoghue, President and CEO, US Chamber of Commerce (Brussels)

■ Günther H. Oettinger chairs the Gas Coordination Group Meeting (Brussels)

■ Günther H. Oettinger chairs the Roundtable on Security of Supply with Gas Industry (Brussels)

■ Johannes Hahn delivers a speech at Ministerial Roundtable of World Urban Forum in Medellin/Columbia

■ Connie Hedegaard on official visit to New York (USA)

■ László Andor attends the high-level conference 'Youth Guarantee: Making it happen'; chairs session on "Youth Guarantee as urgent action to help NEETs and longer-term structural reform to improve school-to-work transitions" (Management Centre Europe, Brussels)

■ László Andor participates in the Bertelsmann Stiftung panel discussion on "Harnessing European Labour Mobility"

■ Dacian Ciolos speaks at the Concluding Conference on Empowering rural stakeholders (Brussels)

■ Dacian Ciolos receives Edmond Panariti, Albanese Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Resources

■ Tonio Borg gives a speech at the European Food Safety Conference (Paris)

■ Tonio Borg participates at the EP event "Tackling the world's most common cause of death: Policy Recommendations on Coronary Artery Disease" (Bruxelles)

■ Tonio Borg participates at the Award Ceremony 5th EU Health Prize for Journalists (Bruxelles)

COURT OF JUSTICE

09:30

Grand Chamber

■ Judgment C-288/12 Approximation of laws
 Commission v Hungary

09:30

Grand Chamber

■ Judgment Joined cases C-293/12,

C-594/12 Approximation of laws
Digital Rights Ireland, Seitlinger and
Others

09:30
Second Chamber

■ Opinion C-377/13 Taxation
Ascendi

09:30
Grand Chamber

■ Hearing Joined cases C-473/13, C-514/13
Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
Bero, Bouzalma

09:30
Grand Chamber

■ Hearing C-474/13 Area of Freedom,
Security and Justice
Pham

09:30
Second Chamber

■ Hearing T-83/10 Competition
Riva Fire v Commission

GENERAL COURT

09:30
Third Chamber

■ Judgment T-319/11 State aid
ABN Amro Group v Commission

14:30
First Chamber

■ Hearing T-164/12
Competition
Alstom v Commission

CIVIL SERVICE TRIBUNAL

09:30
First Chamber

■ Hearing F-86/13
van de Water v Parliament

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

09:00-13:00
EMED - 2nd meeting - Euromed follow-up
committee, JDE60

09:00-18:30
Impact assessment on EU Renewable
Energy Directive - 2nd study visit Poland,
Hrs siège

09:30-13:00
Europe 2020 Steering Committee - 17th
meeting, VM3

11:00-18:30
Consultative Commission for Industrial
Change, JDE62

14:00-17:30
Preparation seminar AEDH, JDE63

14:30-17:30
Spring Alliance Conference "A new path
for the European Union?", JDE51

14:30-17:30
Réunion du groupe ad-hoc Plan d'action
pour l'Europe, JDE61

14:30-18:00
SOC/508 – Services to the family – 1st
meeting, JDE60

14:30-18:30
SOC/505 – An open and secure Europe –
1st meeting, VM3

COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

11:00-14:00
19th meeting of the NAT Commission,
JDE52

Wednesday 9 April COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

**POLITICAL AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
(PSC)**
8 – 9 April, Brussels

COREPER II
Brussels

COREPER I
Brussels

BOLOGNA FOLLOW UP GROUP MEETING
9 – 10 April, Athens

**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES 2014
CONFERENCE: SMART GROWTH THROUGH
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**
9 – 11 April, Athens

**35TH CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF EU
PAYING AGENCIES**
9 – 11 April, Komotini

Conference
**PRESENT AND FUTURE OF REMOTELY
PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS IN EUROPE"**
Athens

**EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF GENERAL
FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN (GFCM)**
7 – 9 April, Athens

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

WEEKLY MEETING

Brussels

- Green Paper on mobile health
- Company law and corporate governance package
- European Platform to tackle undeclared work
- State aid Guidelines on Energy & Environmental aid

TRAVEL AND VISITS

- Catherine Ashton leads the Iran Nuclear Talks, Vienna
- Viviane Reding receives Viviane Teitelbaum, President of the European Women's Lobby
- Antonio Tajani receives Sandro Gozi, Undersecretary for European Affairs in Italy (Brussels).
- Andris Piebalgs participates in a Conference on Property Rights and Land Tenure in the European Parliament
- Michel Barnier receives Reto Francioni, CEO of Deutsche Börse Group
- Kristalina Georgieva participates in the Syria information and Research initiative "Creating knowledge for reconstruction" (Washington)
- Günther H. Oettinger receives Muharrem Yilmaz, President of Turkish Business and Industry Association (Tüsiad)

■9-11 April: Connie Hedegaard on official visit to Washington (USA)
 ■Dacian Ciolos participates in a debate on Danube Delta with Ivan Patzaichin, Romanian Multiple Olympic and World Champion in canoe sprint and Edward Bratfanof, Governor of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (ARBDD)
 ■Dacian Ciolos receives Petar Ivanovic, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro
 ■Dacian Ciolos opens the exhibition “Give a chance to the blue Danube”
 ■Dacian Ciolos delivers the closing speech at the High Level Conference on Property Rights: “The Missing Key to Eradicating Poverty” (EP)
 ■Neven Mimica receives Philip Clarke, president of the European Retail Round Table and other CEO members.

COURT OF JUSTICE

09:30

Second Chamber

■Judgment C-74/13 Commercial policy GSV

09:30

Second Chamber

■Judgment C-225/13 Ville d’Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve and Others

09:30

Sixth Chamber

■Hearing C-272/13 Taxation Equoland

09:30

Second Chamber

■Judgment C-583/12 Customs union Sintax Trading

09:30

Fifth Chamber

■Judgment C-616/11 Approximation of laws T-Mobile Austria

11:00

Third Chamber

■Opinion Joined cases C-119/13, C-120/13, C-121/13 Area of Freedom, Security and Justice eco cosmetics, Raiffeisenbank St Georgen, Rechtsanwaltskanzlei CMS Hasche Sigle

11:00

Fifth Chamber

■Hearing C-179/13 Social security for migrant workers Evans

14:30

Third Chamber

■Hearing T-345/12 Competition Akzo Nobel and Others v Commission

GENERAL COURT

09:30

Second Chamber

■Judgment T-144/12 Intellectual property Comsa v OHMI - Comsa

09:30

Seventh Chamber

■Judgment T-150/12 Agriculture and fisheries Greece v Commission

09:30

Fourth Chamber

■Hearing T-217/11 Law governing the institutions Staelen v Médiateur

09:30

Third Chamber

■Judgment T-249/13 Intellectual property MHCS v OHMI - Ambra (Dorato)

09:30

Third Chamber

■Judgment T-288/12 Intellectual property EI du Pont de Nemours v OHMI - Zueco Ruiz (Zytel)

09:30

Third Chamber

■Hearing T-341/12 Competition Evonik Degussa v Commission

09:30

Third Chamber

■Judgment T-386/12 Intellectual property Elite Licensing v OHMI - Aguas De Mondariz Fuente del Val

09:30

Fifth Chamber

■Judgment T-501/12 Intellectual property Farmaceutisk Laboratorium Ferring v OHMI - Tillotts Pharma (Octasa)

09:30

Fifth Chamber

■Judgment T-502/12 Intellectual property Ferring v OHMI - Tillotts Pharma (Octasa)

09:30

Second Chamber

■Judgment T-623/11 Intellectual property Pico Food v OHMI - Sobieraj (Milanówek Cream Fudge)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

09:00-12:30

Impact assessment on EU Renewable Energy Directive - 2nd study visit Poland, Hrs siège

09:00-17:30

Filing, Inform Citizens - Passport for the protection of personal data, JDE63

10:00-13:00

ECO Section - 138th meeting, JDE62

12:00-13:00

Buffet lunch Conference AEDH, Atrium 6

14:30-18:00

1st SG meeting of TEN/550 “Cyber attacks in the EU”, JDE61

14:30-17:30

SOC/500 – EURES – 2nd meeting, JDE60

14:30-18:00

ECO/361 - Finance for business: an investigation of alternative supply mechanisms - 1st meeting, JDE62

COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

14:00-19:00

Evaluation mission 2013 of the EER jury: EER Region 2013: Nord Pas de Calais,

14:00-16:00

University of Strasbourg / Institut de Traducteurs, d’Interprètes et de Relation Internationales (ITIRI)JDE53

Thursday 10 April

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

11:00 - 20:15 *Brussels and Prague*

■ 11:00 Meeting of the jury of the "The European Charlemagne Youth Prize" - Paul-Henri Spaak building, PHS, 9th floor, Grand Salon protocolaire

■ 18:30 Meeting with Milos Zeman, President of the Czech Republic, Prague Castle

■ 19:15 Meeting with Petr Kynstetr, Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic Parliament.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

BUDGETS COMMITTEE

09:00 - 12:30 *Brussels, ASP 5G-3*

• Monitoring group on Research and Innovation, including for SMEs

Vote

• Estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2015 - Section I - Parliament - vote on the report by Salvador Garriga Polledo (EPP, ES)

TRANSPORT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

Brussels, JAN 6Q2

Vote

• Introduction of noise-related operating restrictions at Union airports within a Balanced Approach - vote on the report by Jörg Leichtfried (S&D, AT)

CULTURE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

09:00 - 12:30 *Brussels, ASP 5G-2*

Votes

• Return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State (Recast) - Final vote on the text as negotiated during informal trilogues (Rule 70§5) - Rapporteur, Marie-Christine Vergiat (GUE/NGL, FR)

• Union action for the 'European Capitals of Culture' for the years 2020 to 2033 - Adoption of draft recommendation for second reading - Rapporteur, Marco Scurria (EPP, IT)

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

09:00 - 12:30 *Brussels, PHS 3C50*

PUBLIC HEARINGS

"ONE OF US" CITIZENS' INITIATIVE - PUBLIC HEARING

09:00 - 12:30 *Brussels, JAN 4Q2*

• A public hearing on the European Citizens' Initiative "One of Us" will be organised on 10 April jointly by the Committee on Development, the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and the Committee on Legal Affairs, in association with the Petitions Committee. The initiative asks the EU to prohibit the financing of activities which presuppose the destruction of human embryos, especially in the areas of research, development aid and public health.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

COREPER I TRIP

10 - 12 *April, Athens*

WORKING GROUP OF FOREIGN RELATIONS COUNSELLORS (RELEX) VISIT

10 - 11 *April, Athens*

EUROPEAN COMPETITION DAY EVENT

10 - 11 *April, Athens*

Conference

THE USE OF SPACE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF CSDP

Athens

BOLOGNA FOLLOW UP GROUP MEETING

9 - 10 *April, Athens*

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES 2014

CONFERENCE: SMART GROWTH THROUGH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

9 - 11 *April, Athens*

35TH CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF EU PAYING AGENCIES

9 - 11 *April, Komotini*

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

TRAVEL AND VISITS

■ José Manuel Barroso travels to Spain

■ Joaquín Almunia participates in the European Competition Day (Athens)

■ Neelie Kroes gives a speech at XIV Infopoverity World Conference, UN Headquarters New York City

■ Maros Sefcovic in Berlin: meets Sigmar Gabriel, Federal Minister of Economics and Energy and Vice Chancellor of Germany, delivers a keynote speech on "Governance Challenges and Administrative Capacities in Europe" at the Hertie School of Governance, meets Michael Roth, state secretary of the German Foreign Ministry

■ Janez Potocnik delivers a speech at "Wildlife trafficking" conference (Borschette building, Brussels)

■ Janez Potocnik receives Azzedine Downes, President & CEO of IFAW (International Fund For Animal Welfare)

■ Andris Piebalgs delivers a speech at the public hearing on the EP European Citizens Initiative in the European Parliament

■ Androulla Vassiliou in Florence, Italy. delivers opening speech at the Erasmus+ launch event and takes part at the joint press conference; meets Stefania Gianini, the new Italian Minister of Education, (Palazzo Vecchio)

■ Algirdas Semeta in Paris: participates in a hearing at the French Senate.

■ Kristalina Georgieva in Washington: Kristalina Georgieva participates in a seminar "From food aid to food assistance"; Kristalina Georgieva participates in an event on Humanitarian aid in Fragile States

■ Günther H. Oettinger attends the 2014 Energy Forum in Lech (until Friday 11 April)

■ Johannes Hahn travels to Portugal

■ Johannes Hahn meets Portuguese Minister for Regional Development Miguel MADURO in Lisbon

■ László Andor in Spain: holds a speech on the youth guarantee at Gestiona Forum (in Madrid); meets José Monago, President of the government of Extremadura and Cristina Teniente, Vice President of the government of Extremadura (in Mérida)

COURT OF JUSTICE

09:30

Fourth Chamber

■ Judgment Joined cases C-247/11 P, C-253/11 P Competition

Areva v Commission, Alstom and Others v Commission

- 09:30
Fourth Chamber
■ Judgment Joined cases C-231/11 P, C-232/11 P, C-233/11 P Competition Commission v Siemens Österreich and Others, Siemens Transmission & Distribution v Commission, Siemens Transmission & Distribution and Nuova Magrini Galileo v Commission
- 09:30
Sixth Chamber
■ Judgment C-269/13 P Acino v Commission
- 09:30
Fifth Chamber
■ Opinion C-4/13 Social security for migrant workers Fassbender-Firman
- 09:30
Fifth Chamber
■ Opinion C-19/13 Fastweb
- 09:30
Second Chamber
■ Opinion C-21/13 Commercial policy Simon, Evers & Co
- 09:30
Grand Chamber
■ Opinion Joined cases C-58/13, C-59/13 Freedom of movement for persons Torresi
- 09:30
■ Judgment C-85/13 Commission v Italy
- 09:30
Fourth Chamber
■ Opinion C-92/13 Taxation Gemeente 's-Hertogenbosch
- 09:30
Fourth Chamber
■ Opinion C-101/13 Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
- 09:30
Sixth Chamber
■ Judgment C-115/13 Taxation Commission v Hungary
- 09:30
First Chamber
■ Judgment C-190/12 Free movement of capital Emerging Markets Series of DFA Investment Trust Company
- 09:30
Fourth Chamber
■ Judgment C-435/12 Intellectual property ACI Adam and Others
- 09:30
First Chamber
■ Judgment C-485/12 Agriculture and fisheries Maatschap T. van Oosterom en A. van Oosterom-Boelhouwe
- 09:30
Fourth Chamber
■ Judgment C-609/12 Ehrmann
-
- GENERAL COURT**
- 09:30
Fourth Chamber
■ Hearing T-324/13 Intellectual property Endoceutics v OHMI - Merck (Femivia)
- 09:30
First Chamber
■ Judgment T-340/09 Evropaïki Dynamiki v Commission
-
- CIVIL SERVICE TRIBUNAL**
- 14:00
Second Chamber
■ Judgment F-16/13 Camacho-Fernandes v Commission
- 14:00
Second Chamber
■ Hearing F-118/07 Strack v Commission
-
- ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE**
- Public Hearing**
IMPACT OF SERVICES ON INDUSTRY
10 – 11 April, Hannover, Germany
In July 2013, the EESC adopted an Opinion on Industrial policy in which industrial policy was qualified as a Growth initiative with great potentials. The discussion now is about the impact of services, digitalisation, ICT and new variations in the same framework - such as 3D printing and other applications (ICT-plus) - on the industrial processes.
- 09:00-17:30
Macroeconomic adjustment programmes: an assessment (Notre Europe), TRE7701
- 09:00-17:30
Europe - Unconditionally social, VM3
- 09:30-13:00
INT/717 - Réforme structurelle des banques - audition publique, JDE61
- 10:00-13:00
REX section, JDE62
- 14:30-17:30
Meeting between Ms Batut (rapporteur) and Ms Päärendson (co-rapporteur) concerning the drafting of the opinion REX/389, JDE 2249 (BE CESE)
- 14:30-18:00
INT/726 - Consumer protection and over-indebtedness - 2nd study group meeting, JDE62
- 14:30-18:00
Reform of the structure of EU banks - 1st study group meeting, JDE61
- 14:30-18:00
NAT/629 - Exploration of hydrocarbons with fracking - 1st meeting, JDE60
-
- COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**
- 11:00-17:00
EDUC Commission meeting, JDE52
- 08:30-15:00
Evaluation mission 2013 of the EER jury: EER Region 2013: Nord Pas de Calais

Friday 11 April

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

THE PRESIDENT'S DIARY

08:30 - 15:30 Prague

■ 08:30 Meeting with Jan Hamacek, Speaker of the Chamber of the Czech Deputies of the Parliament - Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of the Czech Republic

■ 10:00 Participation in the conference: "Czech Republic and Europe, Through Each Other's Eyes" - Prague Castle

■ 12:30 Meeting with Milan Stech, President of the Senate of the Czech Republic - Senate of the Parliament, the Czech Republic

■ 14:30 Meeting with Bohuslav Sobotka, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic - Prime Minister's Office

■ 15:00 Guided tour of the Tereziín Memorial

■ 16:30 Meeting with Lubomir Zaorálek, Minister of Foreign Affairs - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Loretánské náměstí 5

DELEGATIONS

MEPS TO OBSERVE PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN GUINEA BISSAU

11 – 15 April, Bissau (Guinea Bissau)

• A delegation of 4 MEPs will travel to Guinea Bissau to observe the presidential and parliamentary elections on 13 April. The head of delegation Fiona Hall (ALDE, UK) will be joined by Maria do Céu Patrao Neves (EPP, PT), Anna Gomes (S&D, PT) and Anna Rosbach (ECR, DK).

MEPs will be deployed as part of the EU Election Observation Mission. Preliminary observations will be delivered at a joint press conference with the EU Chief Observer Krzysztof Lisek (EPP, PL) on Tuesday 15 April (time and place tbc).

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

COREPER I TRIP

10 – 12 April, Athens

GENERAL DIRECTORS FOR FISHERIES

Athens

"ARCHIMEDES" CONFERENCE

Athens

EMI MEMBERS COUNCIL MEETING

Athens

WORKING GROUP OF FOREIGN RELATIONS COUNSELLORS (RELEX) VISIT

10 – 11 April, Athens

EUROPEAN COMPETITION DAY EVENT

10 – 11 April, Athens

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES 2014 CONFERENCE: SMART GROWTH THROUGH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

9 – 11 April, Athens

35TH CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF EU PAYING AGENCIES

9 – 11 April, Komotini

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

TRAVEL AND VISITS

■ José Manuel Barroso travels to Portugal

■ Maros Sefcovic in Bratislava: participates in the conference 'More focus - more voters'.

■ Janez Potocnik in Helsinki (Finland): Working lunch with Jan Vapaavuori, Minister of Economic Affairs of Finland; 13.15 Lecture at the University of Helsinki; 15.30 Visit to ECHA

■ Michel Barnier participates in Forum "2030, 40 debates to prepare for tomorrow" organized by Liberation - Rennes

■ Androulla Vassiliou, Maria Damanaki, Dacian Ciolos and Johannes Hahn speak at the Conference "Portugal: Path to Growth and Jobs" (Lisbon)

■ Máire Geoghegan-Quinn in Lisbon (Portugal): meeting with Minister Nuno Crato, Portuguese Minister for Education and Science and visit to the Instituto de Medicina Molecular.

■ Máire Geoghegan-Quinn delivers keynote address at the Irish Science Teachers Association Conference, Dublin (Ireland).

■ Kristalina Georgieva in Washington: participates in the Principals Meeting

on the Syria Crisis hosted by USAID Administrator Dr Rajiv Shah; participates in the high level event "No Lost Generation"; participates in the informal ministerial "Economics of Climate Change" hosted by President of World Bank Jim Young Kim; participates in the event "Political Champions for Disaster Resilience; participates in the event "Central African Republic: Beyond the crisis?"; participates in the 2014 Resilience Dialogue

■ László Andor in Portugal: meets Pedro Mota Soares, Minister of Solidarity, Employment and Social Security; attends the conference "Portugal: Path to growth and jobs" (Lisbon)

■ Johannes Hahn visits EU-funded projects in Coimbra, Portugal Centro Region

■ Johannes Hahn attends the conference on Structural Funds "Portugal: Path to Growth"

GENERAL COURT

09:30

First Chamber

■ Judgment T-209/13 Intellectual property Olive Line International v OHMI (Olive Line)

09:30

Second Chamber, Extended Composition

■ Hearing T-219/10 State aid Autogrill España v Commission

09:30

First Chamber

■ Hearing T-276/12 Chyzh and Others v Council

09:30

Seventh Chamber

■ Judgment T-647/11 Intellectual property Asos v OHMI - Maier (Asos)

14:30

First Chamber

■ Hearing T-275/12 FC Dynamo-Minsk v Council

14:30

Second Chamber, Extended Composition

■ Hearing T-399/11 State aid Banco Santander and Santusa v Commission

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

IMPACT OF SERVICES ON INDUSTRY

10 – 11 April, Hannover, Germany

See Thursday.

09:00-15:30

Observatory Private Sector meeting (OHIM), JDE63

09:00-16:00

Meeting CHEE (ENA), TRE7701

09:30-13:00

TEN Section, JDE62

12:00-13:30

Buffet lunch Observatory Private Sector meeting (OHIM), Atrium 6

COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

09:00-13:00

ALDE extraordinary group meeting - Development of a knowledge-based society to boost growth and reduce poverty, Pot v Toplice 9 (SI 2251 Ptuj)

Saturday 12 April

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

COREPER I TRIP

10 – 12 April, Athens

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

TRAVEL AND VISITS

■ Andris Piebalgs is in Washington for the World Bank/IMF Spring Meeting

■ Andris Piebalgs meets World Bank Vice President for Africa Makhtar Diop

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

9 April, Brussels

With bilateral trade flows reaching almost €145 billion in 2012, the EU is the first trading partner for the 6 countries of the GCC, and reversely, GCC accounts for 4.2% of total EU trade. An EU-GCC trade agreement could offer a better policy framework for such long term commitments, offering stability and transparency. A half day conference is co-organised with the European Parliament to discuss trade and investment opportunities between both regions. In particular the conference will analyse which are the impediments to further promote this relationship, what is the role of the public and the private sector, and which concrete measures can be taken on both sides.

Organiser: EUROCHAMBRES

Venue: 14:30-17:00, European Parliament

Room: ASPIG-3

Information: Irma Orlandi, orlandi@eurochambres.eu ; 0032 (0)2 282 08 62

3RD ANNUAL EUROPEAN CLOUD COMPUTING CONFERENCE

9 April, Brussels

The conference, which will bring together over 250 policy-makers and stakeholders from industry, government, academia and the press, will this year focus on the development of a Single Cloud Computing Market. It will explore what the expected market developments in Cloud Computing are and how Europe can best exploit the opportunities offered by the Cloud. It will also discuss the necessary measures to restore trust in the technology following the PRISM revelations in Summer 2013 and how Europe can become the world cloud trusted region through standards and transparency guidelines.

Contact Anne-Lise Simon anne-lise.simon@forum-europe.com / 0044(0) 2920 783 023.

EU-TURKEY RELATIONS: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

10 April, Brussels

The conference will count with the presence of Mr Mevlüt Cavusoglu, the Turkish Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator,

Chambers' representatives and EU institutions' officials, among other high level participants. Before the panel on challenges and opportunities in EU-Turkey economic relations, two crucial reports will be officially presented and related to the following topics:

- Corporate preparations in Turkey for EU membership
 - EU-Turkey relations: Perspectives from the European business community
- Organisers: EUROCHAMBRES, Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB)

Registration by 4 April: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1u7-fbktOJgTMPiqosgSTIyS_gmjwZl5xxZGqjV1vuBE/viewform
Contact: Juliette Loppé ; loppe@eurochambres.eu ; 0032 (0)2 282 08 87

EESC CONFERENCE CALLS FOR A NEW GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR POVERTY ERADICATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

13 – 14 April, Brussels

together experts from a wide range of civil society groups along with national, EU and UN stakeholders to discuss the challenges and prospects for the preparation of the Post-2015 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Organiser: EESC

SPECIALISE IN NGA REGULATION

23 - 24 April, Brussels

Rapid growth in consumer demand for high-speed broadband, along with a realisation of the potential economic benefits, has created a political imperative to urge rapid rollout and take-up of next generation access (NGA) services. This is reflected in EU targets for the Digital Agenda and continuing EU level policy initiatives. This 2-day training seminar focuses on the policy and regulatory questions relating to NGA networks. It will provide, through analysis and case studies, an in-depth understanding of the key regulatory issues for NGA, including the impact of European Commission initiatives on non-discrimination and wholesale charges, broadband deployment costs, and market reviews.

Organiser: Cullen International www.cullen-international.com > Regulatory Training > Specialist telecoms training seminar in NGA regulation

ENERGY CITIES « LOCAL LEADERS FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY »

23 – 25 April, Riga, Latvia

The true challenge of cities worldwide is to find the right ways to quickly shift and efficiently use decentralised and sustainable energies. Hosted by the City of Riga, European Capital of Culture 2014 and gateway to the East, Energy Cities' next Annual Rendezvous will explore the successful strategies of local leaders. The various interactive sessions will build bridges between the pieces of the energy transition puzzle. The 2 days are an opportunity for professionals of various fields and political levels to network internationally and share insights on building, transport, cultural and financial issues.

Organisers: Energy Cities; City of Riga
<http://riga2014.energy-cities.eu>

Conference, exhibition
E-WORLD ENERGY & WATER TURKEY

24 – 26 April, Istanbul, Turkey
www.e-world-istanbul.com

DATA PORTABILITY AT THE CROSSROADS OF DATA PROTECTION AND COMPETITION POLICY

29 April, Brussels

The European Commission and Parliament agree that a new right to data portability should be introduced in the future EU regulation on data protection. It would allow citizens to obtain a copy of their personal data, while also giving them the right to transfer this data directly from one online service to another. The seminar will examine what this will imply for citizens and for the industry. Some of the questions will be addressed with policy makers, academics and industry players at the forthcoming BITS (Brussels Internet & Telecoms Seminar).
 Organiser: The universities of Namur and Leuven, in cooperation with Cullen International
<http://www.crids.eu/formations/juritic/bits>

GREAT APPRENTICESHIPS IN SMALL BUSINESSES: ENGAGING SMES IN INITIAL VET

29 April, Brussels

What can European and national stakeholders do to support the involvement of smaller businesses in apprenticeship schemes?
 Registration no later than 11 April
 Contact: Bettine Gola (+32 (0)2 282 08 81);
gola@eurochambres.eu
 Organiser: Eurochambres
 Venue: EESC, room JDE 53, 14:30-17:00

POWER MARKETS IN TRANSITION: WHY DO WE NEED A NEW MARKET DESIGN?

6 May, Brussels

This conference will address the main outstanding issues related to the implementation/expansion of capacity remuneration mechanisms across Europe. What are the main design options available to policymakers to remunerate energy and capacity products in a market based way? The conference will provide an opportunity for policymakers, the electricity industry, TSOs and other stakeholders to exchange views on the necessary adaptations to the current market design and how these should be implemented so that they are fully compatible with the goal of achieving an Internal Electricity Market
 Organiser: Eurelectric
www.eurelectric.org

5TH AEBIOM EUROPEAN BIOENERGY CONFERENCE

12 – 14 May, Brussels

Around 300 industry representatives are expected at this event which is one of the leading bioenergy conferences in Europe.
 Organisers: European Biomass Association, European Pellet Council (EPC), the Industrial European Pellet Suppliers (EIPS), International Biomass Torrefaction Council (IBTC).
 Venue: Renaissance Brussels Hotel
www.aebiom.org/conference/

BUILDING TRUST IN THE NEW ENERGY WORLD

2 - 3 June, London

Eurelectric annual convention and conference
 The European energy landscape in 2050 will be quite different from what it is today. The two-day conference will give particular prominence in the programme to the Eurelectric industry and student awards. A small exhibition is also planned and a number of social networking events are foreseen. Christoph Frei, Secretary General of the World Energy Council will outline the impact of today's policy choices on tomorrow's energy landscape. Stephen Woodhouse, Director of Pöyry Management Consulting will focus on who will finance the EU energy transition and whether the market approach can survive the transition. Panellists, including Energy ministry representatives and regulatory and financial authorities will join in the debate, moderated

by Angela Knight, Chief Executive of Energy UK, official hosts of the event.
 Organiser: Eurelectric
 More information and registration: www.eurelectric.org/london2014

GIE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

12 – 13 June, Berlin

GIE - Gas Infrastructure Europe - is representing 68 member companies from 25 countries, encompassing operators of gas infrastructures across Europe : transmission pipelines, storage facilities and LNG terminals.
 Organiser: GIE
www.gie.eu.com/index.php/annual-conference-2014-home

9TH ANNUAL EUROPEAN SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

17 - 18 June, Brussels

For the 9th consecutive year, The European Spectrum Management Conference will take place in Brussels and bring together top level speakers and delegates from throughout the European and global spectrum communities.
 Sessions at the event this year include:

- Where next for Spectrum Policy in Europe?
- To what extent should European strategy include the co-ordination of spectrum licences and awards?
- A long term vision for the UHF band - creating a 'win-win' situation
- The US 'incentive auction' model – to what extent could a similar approach work in Europe?
- Promoting the use of WiFi, Small Cells and other offloading technologies
- Combinatorial Auctions: Success or Failure?
- What is the future shape of the broadcasting industry as a user of spectrum?
- Spectrum for 5G and the future networked society
- What is meant by '5G' and how will it affect how we use spectrum?
- Increasing the efficiency of public sector spectrum
- Spectrum Issues and Priorities Ahead of WRC-15: Delivering balanced EU common proposals that meet the needs of all spectrum users

Contact Tom Chinnock: tom.chinnock@forum-europe.com, 0044 (0) 2920 783 025

New



Discover the new quarterly **EUROPOLITICS** magazine!

Subscribe and receive four issues for **€25**

Contact: ABOMARQUE Europolitics - CS 63656 F-31036 TOULOUSE CEDEX 1 - magazine@europolitics.info



THE TWELVE, an urban restaurant in the European Quarter

With its cosy ambiance and chic styling, The Twelve restaurant is the perfect place to eat with friends or colleagues and the perfect venue for a business lunch in the European Quarter on week days.

Book your table online, use the promotional code 'Europe' in the comments section and enjoy our own special green beer "Thonner'ke" for free - action valid from April 1st to June 15th, 2014:
thonhotels.com/thetwelve



Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 75
B-1040 Brussels
02/204.39.11
thetwelve@thonhotels.be

MTV VOICES

afterparty

BATTLE at **COCO Bar**
PLACE LUXEMBOURG

FOR YOUR VOTE

DJ 2EZ

FUNKY HOP HOP JAM SESSION WITH:

Uncle Suel / Laioung / Mils

10 € AT THE ENTRANCE

Powered by



EU40

facebook



AMCHAM BELGIUM
AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN BELGIUM

EUROPOLITICS

EurActiv

radioX
Xpressing city life in your language

Think Young
We lobby for young people

