



4PILLARS

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1 August 2016 INTERACT EVENTS European Cooperation Day 2016

The European Cooperation Day celebrates its 5th anniversary this year. The celebrations will take place around 21 September in a variety of events organised by programmes and projects all over Europe and its neighbourhood, promoting the achievements of European ter-

ritorial cooperation. The campaign will kick start together with the official launch of Interact III, during the EU Cohesion Policy Conference organised under the Slovak Presidency of the EU in Bratislava on 15 September 2016. The website www.ecday.eu collects and di-

plays all events organised as part of the campaign, which can also be followed and disseminated in the social media.

www.interact-eu.net



EUROPEAN COOPERATION DAY

EUSAIR Strategy Events

Ispra (IT), 30 August - 2 September 2016 EU SCIENCE HUB - WATER - ENERGY - FOOD NEXUS

European Commission - Joint Research Center - Ispra - Italia

EU-AU-IIASA Evidence and Policy Event

In a complex world, evidence-based policymaking can enhance the effectiveness of public policies. To develop the necessary skills for improving practices in better integrating evidence into policy-making, the European and African Union Commissions together with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) are organising a highly participatory evidence and policy event. Participants developed their working practices, skills, behaviours and methods, in both the scientific and policy-making domains via masterclasses and group work. This year, JRC and IIASA invited applications from policy officers and scientists

developing policy and conducting research in the field of the Water-Energy-Food nexus.

The event aimed to meet the following main goals:

- 1) Enhance participants' skills in integrating evidence into policy-making.
- 2) Create a community of practice that will continue to collaborate afterwards.
- 3) Stimulate the participants to share their new skills and learning with their colleagues.

www.adriatic-ionian.eu

European Parliament's Activities in August 2016 Plenary Sessions



1) Human rights/Immigration/Asylum policy – 05-08-2016

The EU has experienced an unprecedented influx of migrants over the last few years. 74% of Europeans want the EU to do more to manage the situation, according to the latest Eurobarometer poll commissioned by the European Parliament. In addition two thirds of respondents said EU action on migration was insufficient.

2) Immigration/Schengen/Security – 12-08-2016

The migration crisis showed you can't have a Schengen zone of free movement without strong external borders. According to the latest Eurobarometer survey, 71% of Europeans want the EU to do more to protect these borders. Parliament is working on a range of initiatives to beef up those controls.



3) Institutions – 18-08-2016

From Brexit to the migration crisis: 2016 has proved a very eventful year, but Parliament's work is far from finished. Until the end of the year MEPs will be working on a broad range of issues, from tackling the terrorism threat to improving the digital single market. An overview of the challenges MEPs will be dealing with the coming months.

4) Constitution/Justice and home affairs/Environment – 19-08-2016

The environment is something Europeans care deeply about: 67% of them would like to the EU to do more on environmental protection, according to a Eurobarometer survey commissioned by the European Parliament. The EU is already doing and will be doing to protect your health, safeguard biodiversity and fight climate change.

5) Institutions – 23-08-2016

Democratic control: Parliament's powers of investigation. Parliament is not just there to amend and approve new laws, but also to scrutinise the EU institutions. One of the tools at its disposal are committees that investigate specific issues. In recent months committees have been set up to look into revelations on car emissions cheating and wealthy individuals stashing money offshore. The Parliament uses its investigative powers to address people's concerns and puts important issues on the political agenda.

6) Institutions – 29-08-2016

Parliamentary committees deal with anything from relations with Turkey to migration and car emissions. Parliament President Martin Schulz is due to visit Ankara, while MEPs discuss the EU-Canada trade agreement. In addition former commissioner Günter Verheugen answers questions from the Parliament's inquiry committee investigating car emission tests.

7) Transport/Environment – 29-08-2016

The investigation into the Volkswagen emissions testing scandal continues on Tuesday 30 August when the Parliament's inquiry committee questions former commissioner Günter Verheugen, who was responsible for enterprise and industry from 2004 to 2010. Parliament is currently working on new legislation to improve the reliability of car testing.

8) Budget – 30-08-2016

The EU's budget for next year will be decided over the coming months. Starting this week parliamentary committees adopt their opinion on the budget, while the budgets committee discusses the Council's position on Wednesday 31 August. The committee then drafted a recommendation to MEPs, which put to a plenary vote at the end of October.

9) External relations (Turkey) – 30-08-2016

The respect of human rights and the rule of law in Turkey in the aftermath of the failed coup attempt will be a crucial test for the state of the country's democracy, said Foreign Affairs Committee MEPs. They assessed the results of last week's fact-finding mission to Turkey by the committee chair and rapporteur and stressed the need for constant monitoring.

10) Environment – 31-08-2016

Verheugen. Car emission rules.

The inquiry committee on Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector (EMIS) heard Günter Verheugen, Commissioner for enterprise and industry 2004-2010, on how the current legislation on car emissions was drafted during his tenure. MEPs also heard Peter Lakin, vice president of Faurecia, on emission control technologies.

www.europarl.europa.eu



European Commission's News & Events

a) Growth - Public consultations - 10 Aug 2016

Member States' National Action Plans. Consultation on the regulation of professions. The European Commission published a public consultation on the regulation of professions. Over the past 2 years EU countries have been undergoing to screen their regulatory arrangements for professions and ensure that they are 'proportionate' to legitimate public interest objectives, without creating unnecessary burdens. They then had to produce (NAPs) outlining any changes they proposed to make so as to ensure that their regulation is as effective as possible, for both professionals and consumers.

b) European Commission R&D - 11 Aug 2016

European Commission eases market access for 15 innovative projects with €32 million. The European Commission is awarding nearly €32 million to bring innovative ideas to market quicker. The 15 benefitting projects, involving 70 partners in 19 countries, will receive around €2 million each under the fifth round of the Fast Track to Innovation (FTI) scheme run under the EU's research and innovation programme Horizon 2020.

c) European Green Capital Initiative - 12 Aug 2016

About the European Green Capital



Award. LJUBLJANA 2016

Europe is an urban society, with many environmental challenges to face. The European Commission has long recognised the important role that local authorities play in improving the environment, and their high level of commitment to genuine progress. The European Green Capital Award has been conceived as an initiative to promote and reward these efforts. The European Green Capital Award is the result of an initiative taken by 15 European cities (Tallinn, Helsinki, Riga, Vilnius, Berlin, Warsaw, Madrid, Ljubljana, Prague, Vienna, Kiel, Kotka, Dartford, Tartu & Glasgow) and the Association of Estonian cities on 15 May 2006 in Tallinn, Estonia.

d) Directive on Payment Services (PSD) - 23 Aug 2016

The Directive on Payment Services

(PSD) provides the legal foundation for the creation of an EU-wide single market for payments. The PSD aims at establishing a modern and comprehensive set of rules applicable to all payment services in the European Union. The target was to make cross-border payments as easy, efficient and secure as 'national' payments within a Member State. The PSD also sought to improve competition by opening up payment markets to new entrants, thus fostering greater efficiency and cost-reduction. At the same time the Directive provides the necessary legal platform for the Single Euro Payments Area.

e) European Commission - High Level Group presented key recommendations to make access to the European Structural and Investment Funds easier for businesses - Brussels, 27/08/2016

In line with the initiative "EU budget focused on results" and with the efforts for Better Regulation, the Commission is taking stock of the work conducted by the High Level Group on Simplification for the beneficiaries of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds). Red tape can be a deterrent for small businesses and start-ups; they might sometimes give up on the opportunities offered by the ESI Funds because of the administrative procedures. It

means precious potential for improving Europe's competitiveness is left untapped. This is why a year ago the Commission launched a High Level Group to find solutions and facilitate access to the Euro-

pean Structural and Investment Funds for businesses. At the end of 2016, the Group will focus on tackling the issue of 'gold-plating', i.e. the additional administrative requirements imposed on beneficia-

ries by national or local authorities.

www.eu-events.eu



EU Agenda

1) European Commission - Statement

**Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, 2 August 2016:
Statement by First Vice-President Timmermans
and Commissioner Jourová**

Brussels, 2 August 2016

“On the night of 2 to 3 August 1944, around 3,000 Roma men, women and children from the ‘Gypsy family camp’ of Auschwitz-Birkenau were murdered in the gas chambers. They were among hundreds of thousands of victims of the Roma genocide, killed by the Nazis and their allies. The Roma were one of many groups who fell victim to the holocaust. It is in memory of all these innocent victims and the horrific injustice they suffered and died from that the European Commission commemorates the Roma Holocaust Memorial Day on 2 August. Against a backdrop of increasingly divisive rhetoric, hate speech and hate crime, it is important to recall these dark moments in our history and learn the lessons of the past. Many people have little or no knowledge that the Roma were targeted by the Nazi regime. The holocaust of the Roma is an under-taught and under-recognised topic. We must not forget that still today there are too many

Roma facing discrimination, and who are victims of hate speech and hate crime in Europe. The European Commission recalls its support for the European Parliament’s resolution of 15 April 2015 officially recognising Roma Holocaust Memorial Day. We hope that all Member States will recognise it. The European Commission remains committed to improving Roma integration. It will continue to work with all stakeholders to improve the daily lives of Roma.”

2) Webinar: IPR Protection Strategies for EU SMEs from the Sports Industry in South-East Asia - 03 August 2016

The South-East Asia IPR SME Helpdesk invites everyone to join IP Expert Mrs. Kovacevic for a free of charge live sports webinar session. The intellectual assets within Sports industry - sports equipment, techniques, event broadcasting and research activities - require proper registration and protection. The webinar highlights safeguards for timely IP protection measures, complemented by practical examples from South-East Asian countries.

www.euagenda.eu

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