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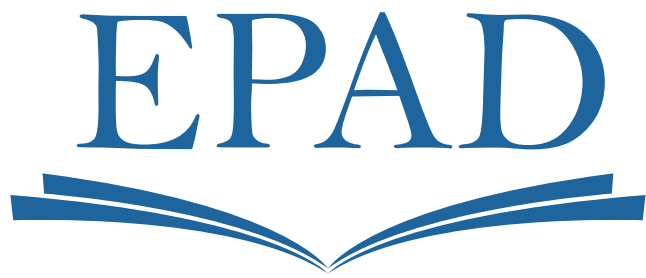
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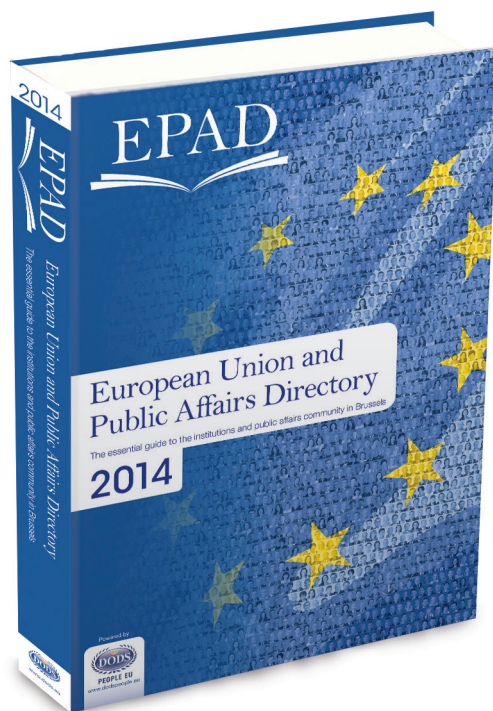


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#climate4growth is a forum for all relevant and interested parties involved in formulating and thinking about climate and energy policy in the European Union. It was launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland in September 2013 and engages stakeholders in a discussion about the best and most effective methods for pursuing the future climate and energy policy, in a way that protects EU and Member States' competitiveness and creates sustainable economic growth. #climate4growth aims to stimulate an open debate about the climate policy options in the EU and to present Poland's position as one of the voices at the table. The campaign also seeks to demonstrate Poland's track record and accomplishments in the field of CO₂ emission reductions.

In support of its objectives, MEP Róża Gräfin von Thun und Hohenstein, MEP Prof Danuta Hübner, Dr. Johannes von Thadden and Prof. Dr. Friedbert Pflüger have been selected as the Faces of the campaign, speaking on behalf of #climate4growth and endorsing its messages through participation in various events in both Brussels and Berlin. At the #climate4growth launch event in Brussels on 17th October 2013, Mrs Thun declared that *"this campaign seeks to promote dialogue, which is very important in this field. Climate and energy policy has the potential to be a true source of growth and development and we should pursue this. I am glad to be part of #climate4growth and I am happy to contribute to it."*



The forthcoming #climate4growth event, a high-level **Stakeholder Roundtable to be held in the European Parliament in Brussels on 18th February**, represents the live final event in the campaign's calendar. The event will be focused around the title: *'How can Europe deliver its contribution to 2015 agreement in the framework of 2030 climate and energy policy? A high-level dialogue on prospects for achieving EU goals'*. It will be hosted by MEP Róża Maria Gräfin von Thun und Hohenstein and will include a Panel Debate that is broadly representative of the interested parties involved in the wider EU climate and energy discussion. Guests will be invited to join an interactive dialogue between Prof Christian Egenhofer, Associate Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies and Co-Author of the report entitled, *'Options for EU climate policy: stimulating growth, jobs and creating competitive advantage on the global market'*; members of the Ministries of Environment of Poland and Germany, and representatives from civil society and industry. Guests will be invited to discuss the EU's role in the wider climate negotiations and its prospects for achieving climate and energy objectives by 2030.

The core objective of #climate4growth is to promote collaborative and constructive dialogue on the future EU climate and energy policy. We invite you to join the discussion at February's Stakeholder Roundtable and make your contribution to the development of future EU climate and energy policy.

For registration please email contact@climate4growth.eu.

More details on the campaign are available on the www.climate4growth.eu website.

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t: + 32 (0) 2 739 47 30



European Network of Fibromyalgia Associations

(ENFA iwz)



Most of us have had flu and suffered aches and pains all over our bodies and just wanted to sleep until it all goes away.

Imagine feeling like that and professionals not believing you. Wanting to work, look after the family or even just look after yourself and not being able to.

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Many people with Fibromyalgia struggle with this for years. It often takes an article in the media to alert them to Fibromyalgia as a possible cause for their many conditions. Many medical professionals do not have the expertise to diagnose or treat people with Fibromyalgia, but it is estimated that 2% (1 in every 50) of the population are likely to develop this condition, mainly women, but far fewer are likely to be properly diagnosed.



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World cancer day marked by launch of ‘bill of rights’

This week in Strasbourg, a coalition of cancer organisations and MEPs will launch the European cancer patient’s bill of rights, one of nearly 200 events being held worldwide to mark world cancer day. Our initiative responds to the vast inequalities which persist in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. As the name suggests, the bill of rights aims to ensure that all patients get fair and equal access to prevention and care, including information and support services, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Both the EU and member states have a role to play. Access to high quality and affordable treatment depends on regular, reliable support for research. Those making decisions under the Horizon 2020 programme must protect this funding. The EU health programme can provide extra support, especially for actions with a cross-border focus. Member states, having responsibility for healthcare, need to minimise the effects of austerity measures and safeguard resources for diagnosis and treatment.

This year’s world cancer day has another focus: dispelling some of the myths about cancer. One of these is that nothing can be done about it. On the contrary, the growing evidence for the link between many cancers and lifestyle shows that a lot can be done. Tobacco control, alcohol use, dietary trends and nutrition, and physical activity are just some of the areas where preventative action can deliver considerable health benefits.

Prevention is where the EU and member states can and should cooperate most in order to produce the best results. Lifestyle trends evolve slowly and attitudes towards health do not change overnight. But with the EU institutions providing leadership and resources, concerted efforts on education underpinned by appropriate health regulations will help to tackle a range of non-communicable diseases like cancer – lightening the burden on national healthcare systems and reducing the devastating human cost of these illnesses. ★

Daciana Octavia Sârbu is a member of parliament’s environment, public health and food safety committee

ON THE COVER | World cancer day

Alojz Peterle, president of MEPs against cancer (MAC), heads up our feature on world cancer day. As events across the world are held to mark the day, the Slovenian deputy highlights the “tireless” work performed by his MAC colleagues, praising them for leading the fight against cancer both in and out of their professional lives. However, although the EPP MEP notes the “recognisable improvements in cancer treatment and care”, he also points out the fact that the disease remains one of the primary causes of death in Europe. Meanwhile, Zsusanna Jakab, World Health Organisation regional director for Europe, warns that the cost of “inaction” is far greater than the cost of “action” when it comes to non-communicable diseases and tobacco, calling on the EU to tackle this “staggering” burden. **See pages 23-28**



Tory MEP's Brexit hopes branded 'hardly credible'

Andrew Duff warns that plans for the UK to negotiate a Swiss-style relationship with the EU are 'only half thought through'

The UK Conservative party is luxuriating in three contrary opinions about Britain's place in Europe. First, there's the Tory status quo faction, which, if it could, would stay in the EU as it is at present. Second, there's the Tory federalist faction, most recently articulated by British chancellor George Osborne, which knows that the EU must deepen its integration in banking and fiscal matters, but which wants it to integrate without the participation of the UK. And, third, there's the Tory Swiss faction, peddled by Conservative MEP Daniel Hannan in his article in the 16 December issue of the *Parliament Magazine*. Hannan wants the UK to 'withdraw from the EU's political structures while retaining trade links – along the lines of what Switzerland

does, though with some modifications'.

The problem for the Conservatives is that all three approaches are only half thought through. The first option is flawed because the status quo in Europe does not really exist. The internal dynamics of European unity coupled with external pressures, both of which have quickened as a result of the financial crisis, mean that the EU is destined either to unify more deeply or fall apart. Later this year a freshly elected leadership of all the institutions will be in place. Constitutional courts will have

"The internal dynamics of European unity coupled with external pressures, both of which have quickened as a result of the financial crisis, mean that the EU is destined either to unify more deeply or fall apart"



judged that the Lisbon treaty has been stretched to breaking point. German chancellor Angela Merkel will be getting impatient. With his demands for a renegotiation of Britain's terms of membership, even UK prime minister David Cameron will prove to be a catalyst for change. A constitutional convention to change the EU treaties will be irresistible, probably starting in 2015.

Such a convention will have to choose between, on the one hand, building the governance of the EU around the European council of heads of government and, on the other, turning the European commission into a proper parliamentary government. Whichever institutional decision is taken, the result will be some kind of fiscal union without the UK. Cameron and Osborne have no strategic answer about what happens to Britain then, and only seem dimly aware that fiscal union must mean federal government.

Dan Hannan likes Switzerland. So it's worth looking in some detail about how the Swiss manage their relationship with the EU. Switzerland is a member of the European economic area free trade association, but, unlike Iceland and Norway, not of the European economic area. The EU is Switzerland's biggest trade partner, but it remains outside the single market. There is no overall Swiss treaty with the EU but around one hundred bilateral agreements in different economic sectors negotiated laboriously over the last 25 years. Switzerland, unlike the UK, is actually a member of the Schengen area. Berne and Brussels are tied together by oodles of red tape – but there is no Swiss representation in any of the EU institutions and precious little democratic accountability.

The question of arbitration is particularly difficult, as the Swiss refuse to accept the supranational judicial authority of the European court of justice. Instead, there are 15 different joint 'settlement committees' which try to thrash out disputes. Oh, and everything on the Swiss side has to be approved by referendum – a tool which Hannan and his Eurosceptic friends feign to worship and adore. There have been seven Swiss referendums so far on EU matters. The latest, which takes place on 9 February, is about establishing quotas for foreign immigrants. The referendum is promoted by the SVP – an Alpine UKIP – and fiercely contested by business, especially the Swiss pharma and tourist industries which rely on non-Swiss nationals for

over 40 per cent of their workforce. If the answer is 'Yes', Switzerland will have jettisoned the EU's cardinal principle of free movement of people and five of the bilateral single market agreements with the EU will immediately fall. More referendums beckon, including the extension of the Swiss arrangements to the EU's new member state of Croatia.

So the future of Swiss relations with the EU is unstable and subject to heavy litigation. Swiss foreign minister Yves Rossier, denying that his country is trying to cherry-pick, argues that it wants to move closer to the EU across the board. Prospects of improvement are remote, however, because the EU council refuses to give the commission a mandate to negotiate an overall agreement. And guess which member state in the council is blocking such a move? In a delicious irony, it is the British government which insists on there being Swiss 'mixed agreements' with 28 EU states rather than one with the union as a whole. The Hannan dream of Gross Schweiz (or is it Klein England) is hardly credible. ★

“Berne and Brussels are tied together by oodles of red tape – but there is no Swiss representation in any of the EU institutions and precious little democratic accountability”

Andrew Duff is a UK Liberal member of parliament's constitutional affairs committee

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EU pushes ‘people-centred’ response to extreme poverty

The vote by the European parliament’s employment and social affairs committee on 17 December in favour of the new ‘Fund for European aid for the most deprived’ (FEAD) was a very welcome step towards the reduction of extreme poverty in the member states. The new FEAD programme is a small but strategically-important ‘people-centred’ response to the deepening problem of extreme poverty across Europe.

One quarter of the total population – over 120 million people, including 25 million children – were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2012, a rise of nine million since 2008. Over 40 million suffer from ‘severe material deprivation’. An estimated 43 million people are unable to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish, or vegetarian equivalent every second day. This is a basic nutritional need as defined by the World Health Organisation. An estimated four million people are homeless.

Thankfully, and quite rightly, in October 2012, the European commission proposed a replacement programme for the most deprived persons programme (MDP) which was due to expire at the end of 2013. The MDP was a food distribution scheme which allowed the use of intervention stocks of surplus agricultural products for the most deprived persons in participating member states. The commission’s proposal envisaged the continuation of EU support for the provision of food aid, but also the provision of basic material assistance as well as social inclusion measures. That was just the first step.

I was appointed as parliament’s rapporteur for this pro-

posed new WU FEAD in December 2012. The timetable was very tight; the programme had to be agreed by the end of 2013 so as to ensure no interruption in European support for NGOs. Furthermore, there was a blocking minority of member states that were opposed in principle to the programme. We pressed on, meeting with NGOs and charities across Europe to gather their views and drafted a report based on our research work and negotiations commenced on the programme. Despite opposing views from within parliament and the European council – some sought to make the programme optional for member states; others sought to narrow the scope to make it a food-only programme; while others sought to scrap it entirely – agreement was reached in late November.

In addition to providing food aid, the FEAD programme will provide other basic living supports to the most deprived citizens, for example; to people making the transition from homelessness to temporary or more permanent accommodation, or clothing and footwear for deprived children.

It was particularly important that we succeeded in achieving our key aim of securing a budget at €3.5bn, instead of the commission and council proposal of €2.5bn. Other significant achievements include the strengthening of the partnership principle at all stages of the programme – charities and social NGOs must now be fully consulted and involved in the design, operation and monitoring of national plans to implement FEAD. →

Europe’s fund for aid to the most deprived can play a vital role in improving the lives of people existing in society’s margins, writes Emer Costello

“One quarter of the total population – over 120 million people, including 25 million children – were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2012, a rise of nine million since 2008”





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Moreover, we worked to ensure that the administrative procedures for accessing FEAD are as simple as possible, and that there are synergies with FEAD and other EU priorities, such as helping to reduce food waste. A shameful 250,000 tonnes of good food is discarded each day across the EU. The fund aims to facilitate donations of surplus food by supermarkets and other food outlets as a means of combating both food waste and food deprivation. There are also measures in the programme that will help in promoting public health and sourcing local products, as well as provisions aimed at exchanging best practice between member states in tackling extreme deprivation.

Following the positive vote in committee in favour of FEAD, it will now go to the European parliament February plenary session for final approval. While the FEAD programme is

not – and should not be seen as – a substitute for the policies and actions needed all across Europe to reduce and eventually eliminate poverty, it is an important emergency response that will also support the crucial follow-on social inclusion measures, such as helping the homeless find a permanent home or move towards employment. Whereas the outgoing European programme was a food-centred programme, FEAD is very much a progressive, people-centred initiative.

Member states must now decide how to implement the programme – whether to concentrate on food aid and accompanying social inclusion measures, food aid plus basic material assistance and accompanying social inclusion measures, or social inclusion measures only. FEAD clearly has the potential to play an important role in improving the lives of people at the extreme margins of society. ★

Emer Costello is parliament's rapporteur on the fund for European aid to the most deprived (2014-2020)



EU reaches out to those ‘excluded’ from European social fund

In 2012, nearly 125 million Europeans were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, and five million were suffering from material deprivation. One of the objectives of the EU 2020 strategy is to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion by at least 20 million, by 2020.

Some people are simply excluded from benefiting from the labour market activation measures of the European social fund (ESF), the main EU instrument to fight against poverty and social exclusion. It is therefore important to address this gap. This is why the European commission proposed to create a new fund for European aid to the most deprived (FEAD), which takes over from the food distribution programme.

I am delighted that parliament and the member states have come to an agreement on this key instrument expressing EU solidarity. The FEAD will address food deprivation. However, the forms

of extreme poverty vary from one EU country to another. Therefore, the material assistance co-funded by the FEAD could also consist of basic consumer goods such as clothing, footwear and hygiene products.

Beyond material assistance, the FEAD will also, through social inclusion measures, help the people who come to collect food or goods embark on a path of recovery from poverty. The food distribution programme had been created to release the public stock of food surplus for food aid use. On the contrary, FEAD is a people-centred instrument, providing assistance in a way that matches as much as possible the actual needs of those who suffer. It will be managed jointly by the European commission and EU countries.

Each member state will have primary responsibility for its national programme and decide if material assistance or only social inclusion interventions are required to address their national situation. As far as material assistance is concerned, it is

“One of the objectives of the EU 2020 strategy is to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion by at least 20 million, by 2020”

The fund for aid to the most deprived provides assistance to those who are not in a position to benefit from the EU’s labour policies, explains **Koos Richelle**



up to them to determine if food deprivation, or other forms of material deprivation, or both, need to be addressed. Similarly, it will be up to them to identify the most deprived persons who will benefit from the FEAD. They can delegate this task to the organisations distributing the food and/or basic goods, which are better placed to assess who are those most in need.

Each country will also organise the way assistance is provided, so as to optimise the efficiency of the delivery mechanism. Products could be purchased centrally, in order to benefit from economies of scale, or by the organisations distributing the assistance if it appears necessary to diversify the types of food and/or goods supplied. In countries where food banks play a keep role in organising the distribution chains, those organisations will be able to participate in the delivery of food.

During the negotiations of the FEAD

regulation, the European parliament upheld the partnership principle. Relevant stakeholders will indeed be consulted during the programming stage and will take part in the monitoring of FEAD interventions.

On the budgetary side, the FEAD has been allocated a maximum of €3.5bn, in 2011 prices. This represents a slight increase in real terms. In addition, the member states will provide 15 per cent of national co-financing, thus increasing the level of overall funding of the FEAD programmes. Even if the fund cannot cover all the needs, it will certainly make a significant contribution to the national schemes.

The possibility of tailoring the type of assistance provided and the organisation of its delivery to the needs of each member state will help improve the efficiency of the fund. In addition, the allocation of each member state for the next seven years will be known in 2014. This allows for predictability of funding and thus for better planning than was the case with annual plans. ★

“The possibility of tailoring the type of assistance provided and the organisation of its delivery to the needs of each member state will help improve the efficiency of the fund”



Koos Richelle is
director general of the
European commission's
DG employment

'Clear need' for EU fund for most deprived

With around 24 per cent of the EU's population at risk of poverty or social exclusion it's clear that action needs to be taken. The EU, in its 2020 strategy has set the target of lifting 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion by 2020. That's why the establishment of a European fund to help the most deprived in our society is vital, particularly during these tough economic times when national governments are making cutbacks in many areas. It is without doubt that the most vulnerable in our society suffer most during times of economic crisis, and with the number of people at risk of poverty in the EU on the rise we need to be taking firm action to reverse this trend.

I am pleased to see that, despite initial threats from the European council to limit the amount available to €2.5bn, an extra €1bn will be made available to those countries who want to top up their allocation from the fund. It's good news that a deal on the funding was reached in time to help those most in need during the winter months, and I welcome the decision to use €3.5bn for this initiative over the next seven years.

There are some key points of importance from a budgetary perspective that will enable countries to use this fund to its full potential. Firstly, the decision to make sure that countries hardest hit by the crisis will be given a higher co-financing rate of 95 per cent is welcome. This means that member states worst hit by the crisis will only have to contribute five per cent from their own budgets to be able to use the fund, with 95 per cent coming from the commission. I also welcome the fact that this scheme will be mandatory. Making sure that a minimum amount of EU funding is spent on promoting social inclusion activities, providing produce for food banks and other essentials (such as, shoes, clothing and toiletries), is crucial if we are to achieve aims to reduce poverty and social exclusion over the next seven years.

Making sure that it is as flexible as possible is also crucial to the fund's success and allowing member states to use the financing to complement their own national programmes is important if the money is to be spent in the most effective way.

An important aspect high-

lighted in my opinion to the European parliament's budget committee is the need to make the fund as accessible as possible to NGOs and charities by reducing the administrative burden – by simplifying the rules, a greater impact will be felt and as a result, will help contribute to the reduction of poverty and social exclusion. We need to make sure that applications for funding are dealt with quickly and effectively and that prospective recipients are not put off due to fears of too much red tape.

Of course, there are member states that have questioned the need for the fund for European aid to the most deprived and some would prefer if it had not been established. These member states are likely to take the minimum amount of money from the fund over the next multiannual financial framework (2014-2020). However, there is a clear need for this fund: over 40 million people in the EU are suffering from severe material deprivation and there are currently around 27 per cent of children at risk of poverty in Europe. It's clear that €3.5bn cannot exclusively solve the problem of social exclusion and poverty in the EU, but used effectively alongside national programmes, this money can help tackle the daily problems facing many Europeans in this current economic climate. ★

"It is without doubt that the most vulnerable in our society suffer most during times of economic crisis, and with the number of people at risk of poverty in the EU on the rise we need to be taking firm action to reverse this trend"

Derek Vaughan hopes €3.5bn fund can help tackle 'daily problems' faced by many Europeans

Derek Vaughan is parliament's budget committee opinion rapporteur on the fund for European aid to the most deprived





Federation of European Accountants
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FEE is committed to the fight against money-laundering and terrorist-financing, which is a shared responsibility for society as a whole. Last year we published various recommendations on the proposal for a fourth AML directive and co-hosted a constructive and thought-provoking breakfast briefing with Transparency International.

We at FEE see four key principles for effective AML regulation:

Create the right environment

Good corporate governance is of the utmost importance, as this helps to ensure sound decision-making and risk-management. As money-laundering and terrorist-financing thrive on a lack of transparency, high-quality financial reporting is also essential. Furthermore, independent audits enhance the reliability of financial information and thus act as a deterrent.

Take a comprehensive risk-based approach

A risk-based approach is crucial: it allows resources to be allocated more efficiently and encourages obliged entities to think more critically instead of simply engaging in tick-box compliance exercises. It should be adopted at all levels: by reporters, supervisors and legislators.

Make things simple

Access to information is required in order to carry out effective customer due diligence and to identify beneficial owners and politically exposed persons. Costs and administrative burdens should be kept to a minimum.

Keep people safe

Those who report instances of money-laundering protect the public interest and therefore deserve protection themselves. Their safety must be absolutely paramount.



Olivier Boutellis-Taft
FEE CEO

For more information on FEE's work, please visit www.fee.be.

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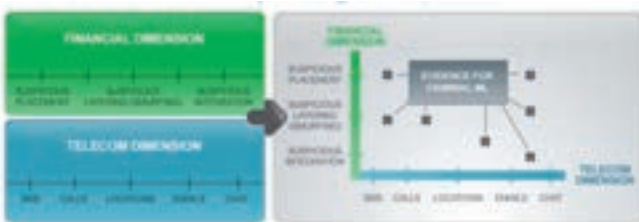
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HEMOLIA

Hybrid Enhanced Money Laundering Investigation, Intelligence, Incrimination and Alerts

HEMOLIA is a new generation of Investigation and Intelligence System for Anti-Money-Laundering (AML) and Counter-Terrorism-Financing (CTF), which in addition to the traditional Financial Plane Sources, makes extensive use of modern society Telecom Plane sources, thereby opening up a new dimension of capabilities to Money Laundering Fighters (FIUs, LEAs). Adding the Telecom Plane to the existing Financial Plane may improve and change dramatically AML doctrines, since another dimension is added to the analysis and investigation processes.



HEMOLIA Scope: Two—Dimensional investigation of AML

Significant Money Laundering (ML) activities are usually done across the globe, therefore ML fighters have to collaborate and share information for better intelligence, investigation and incrimination. Being a WEB based system in its nature, HEMOLIA enables secure networking (IPSEC) and global information sharing between FIUs/LEAs in Europe and around the globe in a way that enables each donor FIU/LEA to be a 'master' that have full control about the data parameters to share with any recipient country. The shared data formation is usually determined based on bilateral agreements between countries.

HEMOLIA info sharing mechanism and network is called '**P3A**', which stands for **Privacy Preserving Push Alerts (and Reports)**, meaning that HEMOLIA enables FIUs/LEAs to protect the suspect privacy because of the above two reasons (using IPSEC and a donor which is master). P3A can be implemented in any FIU who has HEMOLIA system in its premises

HEMOLIA Project is funded by the EC under the FP7
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EU in fight against money laundering and terrorist financing

The fight against money laundering and terrorist financing has become crucial in the current context of a severe economic crisis, and as EU governments require significant efforts from citizens and companies to consolidate the EU financial system.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has historically estimated the quantity of money laundering to fall within a 'consensus' range of between two and five per cent of global GDP. This means that, extrapolated to the EU 27 GDP of €13.122 trillion in 2013, the quantity of money laundering would amount to between €262-€356bn. Meanwhile, as stated by European commission president José Manuel Barroso, putting an end to tax fraud and tax evasion could add extra billions to public finances across Europe.

Massive money laundering contributes to the blossoming of drug trafficking, human smuggling, corruption, or terrorism. But it is not only a matter of security; it is also a major threat to the integrity of our financial system and to the reputation of our internal market. On the other hand, we need to be careful that measures taken against money laundering and terrorist financing do not harm the licit economy, and stifle growth.

The EU favours a holistic approach on the subject. In 2012, the commission contributed to the update of international standards set out by the financial action task force (FATF), a global 'policymaking body' which works to generate the necessary political will to bring legislative and regulatory reforms in this area.

The commission has long been active in the field of prevention, already issuing three directives to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing and encouraging better cooperation at EU level between EU financial intelligence units (FIU), to whom transactions sus-

pected to be related to money laundering and terrorist financing are transmitted at national level.

As a founding member of the FATF, the EU naturally intended to promptly integrate the new recommendations of the organisation into EU law: it published two legislative proposals in February 2013, which are now in negotiations in the European parliament and in the council.

The main proposal consists of an update of the last preventive directive, also called the fourth anti-money laundering directive, which introduces a risk-based component in the anti-money laundering approach. Whereas in the past obliged entities (mainly the financial sector) had the obligation to report transactions suspected of being related →

Given the economic crisis it is crucial that money laundering and terrorist financing are tackled, explains **Stefano Manservigi**





to money laundering or terrorist financing on the basis of objective criteria, in the future obliged entities will have to adapt their diligence to the actual risks, based among other things on national risk assessments as well as transnational risk assessments. The directive also reinforces transparency of the beneficial owner of a company or a trust and vigilance towards politically exposed persons; it also strengthens administrative sanctions and ensures more convergence of the sanctions across the EU. The other proposal is a regulation on information accompanying transfer of funds, providing for better traceability of transfers.

Measures designed to prevent money laundering also contribute to preventing terrorist financing. Nevertheless, recent events have shown that terrorism was not necessarily costly. Most terrorist activities don't require very sophisticated and expensive means, and a lot of them are also financed through 'legal' channels – own funding, micro-financing by peers. Consequently, tools adapted to detect money laundering may not be capable of discovering terrorist financing. Tackling ter-

rorist financing therefore requires specific, more precise tools, such as the terrorist financing tracking programme (TFTP), which enables identification and tracking of terrorists and their support networks through targeted searches run on financial data. The TFTP, which was developed by the US in the aftermath of the 11 September terrorist attacks, has since been delivering very important value for the counter terrorism efforts on both sides of the Atlantic. Under the framework of the EU-US TFTP agreement concluded in 2010, the EU and its member states have access to the TFTP for their own counter-terrorism investigations.

Finally, and in order to complement preventive aspects of the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, the commission services examine the possibility of harmonised criminal law provisions on money laundering. The treaty on the functioning of the EU lists a number of "eurocrimes", and among them, money laundering, for which the EU can propose minimum rules in terms of definition and sanctions. ★

"Massive money laundering contributes to the blossoming of drug trafficking, human smuggling, corruption, or terrorism"

Stefano Manservigi is director general of the European commission's DG home affairs

EU anti-money laundering rules chance to ‘halt tax evasion’

It is estimated that criminal money laundered into the financial system accounts for two to five per cent of the yearly global gross domestic product. This is not only money derived from criminal activities such as corruption, human trafficking and fraud; it also includes large sums of money from big corporations that evade taxation.

In the current economic situation it is ludicrous that multinational companies can evade taxation while the general public has to live with cuts in public spending and other severe austerity measures. Besides the fact that our own national governments are circumvented by tax evading companies, tax evasion also has a severe negative impact on developing countries. Massive amounts of money related to resource exploitation in these countries disappear due to the use of anonymous shell companies by corrupt politicians and multinational companies. It is estimated by Global Financial Integrity – a research and advocacy organisation working to curtail illicit financial flows out of developing countries – that African states in 2010 lost a bigger sum of money through illicit financial flows out of Africa than that which came in in the form of development aid.

The common denominator of money laundering committed by criminal organisations and by tax evading multinational companies is the use of anonymous shell companies to hide the identity of the people ultimately owning the money. With the revision of the third European anti-money laundering directive we have the possibility to change things for the better. As such, I am fighting in the European parliament for the introduction of a public ultimate

beneficial ownership (UBO) register. Such a register will put a halt to the use of all sorts of hidden company structures and thereby can prove a very important tool in curbing tax evasion. To make such a UBO register as effective as possible, the information in it should be publicly available.

Making ultimate beneficial ownership information available to the general public will pressure companies to play by the rules. Public scrutiny is a powerful tool. When the information is accessible to all citizens, they can make deliberate choices not to support or to buy from companies that do not have trustworthy company structures. The ability to access the beneficial ownership information will be especially valuable for investigative journalists and civil society. Their research can reveal information on beneficial ownership that otherwise would stay unnoticed.

Besides that, the public availability of the information will also be beneficial for third countries outside the European Union. The beneficial ownership information in our registers can be of value for the authorities in third countries investigating cases of money laundering.

This transparency on beneficial ownership does not conflict with privacy and data protection. By choosing for transparency on ‘who owns what’ there is no need for banks and other financial institutions to dig into the private lives of their customers. The latter is a tendency supported by the financial action task force that worries me. Banks and other companies are instructed to research the private lives of their clients because this could give them a clue whether the customer at hand is involved in money laundering. By creating a beneficial ownership register, limited information will become publicly available, but details of people’s private life will stay private.

On the basis of the amendments tabled by the other political groups I have good hopes that a majority of the European parliament is in favour of the idea of a public UBO register. On 13 February, the committee vote takes place. By voting in favour of public registers, the parliament can make a difference in the fight against money laundering and tax evasion. ★

Beneficial ownership information registers can boost the fight against money laundering and tax evasion, writes Judith Sargentini

“Making ultimate beneficial ownership information available to the general public will pressure companies to play by the rules. Public scrutiny is a powerful tool”



Judith Sargentini is parliament’s co-rapporteur of the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing

New AML directive will bring much needed revision of money laundering rules, say rapporteurs

Fourth AML directive is 'positive step' towards total financial integrity, says Bill Newton Dunn

Illicit financial flows originating from tax fraud, corruption and organised crime damage economies by depriving them of capital, and their governments of revenue. Each year organised crime, corruption and money laundering cost Europe's businesses an estimated €670bn, and between 2001 and 2010 it cost developing countries an estimated €4.3 trillion in badly needed funds.

This movement of dirty money is facilitated by the loopholes in the financial system, making it easier for criminals to clean their proceeds and therefore delegitimising Europe's financial markets.

The fourth anti-money laundering (AML) directive has made many necessary and positive changes to remedy the current weaknesses. For one, increasing the emphasis on the risk-based approach whereby risks would be judged on the basis of national and business risk assessments would increase the effectiveness of determining the areas that constitute a high or low risk of money laundering. It ensures risks are mitigated by targeting resources where the risk is highest. It has to be remembered that risks do vary across member states and also throughout third countries, so no blanket rules should apply. Therefore, relying on such 'equivalent' regime lists which were present in the third directive is greatly disproportionate.

Removing this concept of equivalence and the listing process whereby businesses and financial institutions could consult a list of supposedly 'equivalent' AML regimes to Europe is, I believe, a further crucial step in ensuring corrupt governments in developing countries cannot have easy access to western banks. We should not be relying on a list to tell us that a government is low risk, risk should be judged by the prospective business relationship, who the beneficial owner is, where the funds originated from, what they are being used for and who they are being sent to.

I believe the central solution to effectively fighting financial crime and corruption throughout Europe and developing countries is transparency. We need to know who owns the companies that are using the European financial

system. At the moment it has been easy for corrupt politicians, tax evaders, criminal gangs and terrorists to use complex company structures involving nominees, secrecy jurisdictions and multiple countries to hide their identity and evade checks.

Therefore, I think it is essential to see the development of public registries of beneficial ownership information of companies, which although was not in the original commission proposal, has been pushed for by myself and others who believe this is a crucial step that needs to be taken. Companies from third countries wishing to conduct business within the EU would be required to provide their beneficial ownership information, and those with EU subsidiaries would also be required to comply with tough EU AML rules. The fourth AML directive is a very positive step towards total financial integrity; which will greatly benefit both the European and third country economies. ★

Bill Newton Dunn is parliament's development committee opinion rapporteur on the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing



The European commission's proposal for a fourth anti-money laundering (AML) directive is currently under consideration in the European parliament.

On a general level, I am happy to see that the idea of a risk-based approach is gaining support. Risk is variable over time and space and, to this end, a holistic approach that guarantees that any regulation we create is strong and flexible enough to take into consideration our ever-changing working environment is needed. Different sectors

and services bear different money laundering risks at different times, and should therefore be treated accordingly

– one size therefore does not fit all in this respect. The risk-based approach is not an unduly permissive option for member states and obliged enti-

ties; rather, it involves the use of evidence-based decision making to better target money laundering and terrorist financing risks facing the EU.

A high level of data protection and greater transparency in the revised anti-money laundering rules are also being called for. The work on the EU's new data protection regulation is currently under way as well, and any changes in this legislation should naturally be reflected also in the union's anti-money laundering rules. A high level of data protection is a key issue for the parliament, as is the issue of transparency. In the call for strict rules of a high level we nevertheless have to be careful not to create conflicting requirements on obliged entities through conflicting rules in different pieces of legislation.

We cannot stop money laundering by drafting and implementing this directive, but we can, and should, try and make it increasingly difficult for those who are laundering money to do so. At the same time, we have to be careful not to make life more difficult for the majority of EU citizens.

This, in my view, should be the core of the fourth AML directive that we are now working on in the parliament: The objectives of the protection of society against criminals and protection of the stability and integrity of the European financial system has to be balanced against the need to create a regulatory environment that allows companies to grow their businesses without incurring disproportionate compliance costs. ★

Nils Torvalds 'happy to see' that risk-based approach on AML gaining support of MEPs

Nils Torvalds is the parliament's ALDE group shadow rapporteur on the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing

Estimates suggest that illegally laundered money accounts for as much as five per cent of the world's GDP. This is a challenge both for the competitiveness of legal business, as well as for government coffers. Measures which inhibit money laundering are good for business as a whole and good for national budgets in particular.

The fourth anti-money laundering (AML) directive currently being debated in parliament is a step in the right direction. Changes proposed to the directive would make it more difficult for criminal organisations and terrorists to legalise their funds in Europe. As co-rapporteur, I have introduced the creation of an EU-wide register of beneficial ownership as a step in reducing the use of offshore companies as a convenient vehicle to anonymously move funds around Europe – a convenience that criminal organisations have widely adopted. The difficulty for police and state authorities

currently is that criminals can set up a chain of anonymous shell companies to hide the path their funds take and whom is actually benefiting from them. The register would make it possible for police and tax authorities to uncover who is actually the true beneficiary of any EU legal entity, making life much more difficult for criminals. A side effect is that it would greatly reduce the possibility to avoid paying required taxes in the member states.

Debates in the parliament, as well as tabled amendments by individual members, clearly demonstrate that there is widespread support for the creation of such a public register. Some MEPs are arguing for unrestricted access to these registers by any and all citizens via a simple internet search. Others are somewhat more concerned about individual data protection and envision a somewhat more regulated approach.

The goal of the changes to the directive are clear - to limit the scope of criminal and terrorist activity in Europe. The main new tool that we are working on is a European register of beneficial ownership that would lift the veil of secrecy from so-called 'offshore' companies widely used both by organised crime and by companies and individuals wishing to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. ★

Widespread support for creation of EU-wide public of beneficial ownership, writes Krišjānis Kariņš

Krišjānis Kariņš is parliament's economic and monetary affairs committee co-rapporteur on the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing

Voters must be ‘more involved in European politics’

By voting to elect the next commission president, Europe’s citizens can directly influence EU politics, says Rangel

The Lisbon treaty has reinforced parliament’s powers of scrutiny, but the question of the commission’s democratic legitimacy is still an important issue and should be thoroughly analysed in a future revision of the treaties.

Although the commission’s role as the ‘engine’ driving forward European activity has not been brought into question by the Lisbon treaty, over the past four years, the commission has, in practice, lost some of its political influence within the EU’s institutional architecture.

Such erosion of the commission’s power is, to a large extent, related to the economic and financial crisis that works to the advantage of the European council’s intervention and authority and favours intergovernmentalism to the detriment of the community method.

The deepening of European integration and the safeguarding of the community method require a stronger commission, playing a key role in the European institutional framework.

I would like to stress the need to link more directly the voters’ choice to the election of the commission’s president. The voters have to be much more involved in European politics and this proposition will allow them to directly influence the political choices.

The scope of my constitutional affairs committee own-initiative report on the implementation of the Lisbon treaty with respect to the European parliament was to make an assessment of the implementation of the treaty of Lisbon, analysing in particular the implications of the main changes it introduced on the interinstitutional relations between the European parliament and the European commission since its entry into force.

Under the current treaties, and with a view to the 2014 elections to the European parliament, I support the proposal for the designation of candidates for the commission presidency by the European political parties.

In this respect and notwithstanding the preference for a parliamentary model or a presidential approach with the direct election of the commission president, I believe that, without prejudice to the reinforcement of the parliament’s scrutiny powers, an excessive parliamentarisation of the system should be avoided and the principle of the separation of powers should be kept in mind.

To that extent, and in order to reinforce the parliament’s scrutiny powers, I propose the reduction of the majority currently required for a motion of

censure against the commission, call on the candidate for president of the commission to present his political programme to the European parliament and draw attention to the importance of the union’s annual and multiannual programming.

On the other hand, and in order to avoid the excessive parliamentarisation of the system, I defend that, under the principle of the separation of powers, more autonomy should be granted to the president of the commission to choose the members of his team and that he should not be forced to request the resignation of the commissioners. Therefore, in my report I make no reference to the vote of no confidence against individual commissioners.

In what concerns the efficiency of the commission – and since the envisaged reduction of the commission’s size will no longer take effect in 2014, due to the decision taken by the European council upon request of the Irish government – I propose the establishment of a system of strictly equal rotation between commissioners with portfolio and commissioners without portfolio, reflecting the demographic and geographical range of all the member states.

This system would improve the commission’s functioning by ensuring a relative stability in the number and in the content of portfolios and facilitating the internal coordination procedures, guaranteeing at the same time that the representation of specificities and interests of all member states would be considered in the decisions taken by the commission.

To that end, all commissioners should remain of equal legal status and the right of the commissioners without portfolio to participate in the decision making process should be fully recognised. ★

“The deepening of European integration and the safeguarding of the community method require a stronger commission”

Paulo Rangel is a member of parliament’s constitutional affairs committee



The 'door to Europe is open', Elmar Brok tells Ukraine

A cross-party delegation, led by foreign affairs committee chair Elmar Brok, last week visited Ukraine as the government repealed its controversial anti-protest law.



During a press conference Brok told journalists that the EU supports a policy which “gives people a say” and in which freedom of expression and peaceful demonstrations are possible. “The violation of human rights – tortures, killings, stealing people – should not be a possibility of governmental policy,” insisted the EPP deputy, adding that an “amnesty should be negotiated, the people must be free”.

He also emphasised that “the decisions about the future of Ukraine should not be taken in Brussels and not in Moscow”, they should be taken in Ukraine.

“The door to Europe is open,” he continued, “but it’s alone up to the Ukrainian people to decide whether they want to use this door.” During the delegations visit the 12 MEPs met with Euromaidan protesters and opposition parties among others, and Brok attended the extraordinary meeting of Ukraine’s parliament, during which a vote was taken to repeal Ukraine’s anti-protest law.

Brok told the conference that there should be a “possibility for all sides to cooperate in a way that bloodshed is avoided, that civil war is avoided and that a state of emergency can be avoided”.

From the Twittersphere

@ER_Korhola Eija-Riitta Korhola MEP



It is important to note that #ITRE and #TRAN committees rejected the commission plans on enlarged #aviationETS. We don't want trade wars.

@Hannes_Swoboda S&D group chair Hannes Swoboda



My clear message to the demonstrators against Spanish abortion law in Brussels: women should decide on their bodies and not governments.

@MarosSefcovic Inter-institutional relations and administration Maroš Šefčovič



2014 marks 100th anniv of WW I start, but also 10th anniv of biggest EU enlarg. We live in the most stable, peaceful and prosperous period !

@BasEickhout Bas Eickhout MEP



Proposal Peter Liese on ETS and aviation approved. And more important: he received direct mandate to negotiate deal with Council.

@AnaGomesMEP Ana Gomes MEP



@EP_ForeignAff in Kiev meeting presidium @euromaidan: great concern with protesters arrested, disappeared. Repression in other cities is worse

@BarrosoEU European commission president José Manuel Barroso



Best wishes for the New Year to the people & the government of #China. Looking forward to keep building stronger #EU-China ties/ JMB

@SharonBowlesMEP Sharon Bowles MEP



The more I listen about the inter-governmental agreement the more they are deconstructing the essence of a banking union.

@EmmaMcClarkin Emma McClarkin MEP



Covering Economic committee today where you could quite mistakenly get excited about the mention of 'Six pack' & 'Tupac'! #Notwhatyouthink

@MartinSchulz European parliament president Martin Schulz



Congratulate #Czech PM #Sobotka on his and cabinet's appointments; look forward to working with him to boost Czech Republic's role in #EU.

@MalmstromEU Home affairs commissioner Cecilia Malmström



Int. day of remembrance and honouring of the victims of Holocaust. In times of growing antisemitism and xenophobia we must never forget

EU 2030 climate and energy framework published

The European commission has published its 2030 framework for climate and energy policies, including the EU's overall greenhouse gas reduction target post 2020, a target for renewable energy, and a proposal to reform the emissions trading scheme (ETS). Within the framework, the EU is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent (compared to 1990 levels) by 2030 through 'domestic measures', and, second, to increase the share of renewable energy use to 27 per cent at EU level – as opposed to at member state level.

Concerning the ETS, the commission opted for a legislative proposal to establish a market stability reserve to operate in phase four, which begins in 2021.



According to the commission, “The reserve would both address the surplus of emission allowances that has built up in recent years, and improve the system's resilience to major shocks, by automatically adjusting the supply of allowances that are to be auctioned.” Together with ‘backloading’ – the postponing in auctions of 900 million allowances – the proposal

has been the preferred option to address the problems facing the ETS.

Green stakeholders, reacted to the news by criticising the low targets and the fact that the renewables target was not even binding because it left flexibility for member states to set national objectives.

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Invite you to the International Childhood Cancer Day 2014

TACKLING INEQUALITIES IN PAEDIATRIC CANCER CARE AND RESEARCH ACROSS EUROPE

European Parliament, Brussels - Room 4Q2

18th February 2014 - 15.00 17.00 Event hosted by G. Willmott MEP

For the fourth year, SIOPE will make use of the ICCDay to challenge European institutions and civil society to act in favour of children and young adults with cancer. This year, the event will focus on “Tackling inequalities in paediatric cancer care and research across Europe”

At the eve of the **European Elections**, we will bring the political challenge forward to the next European Parliament, **presenting a manifesto depicting the needs for paediatric oncology for the future.**

**REGISTER
NOW**

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For more information contact:

SIOPE Europe – European Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE), www.siope.eu; office@siope.eu

Funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under the project ENCCA, grant agreement HEALTH-F2-2011-261474

MEPs fighting ‘tirelessly’ against scourge of cancer

Cancer will affect one in three people in Europe in their lifetime, but its impact is felt most strongly in the more vulnerable sections of society. World cancer day is marked by people across the world this year to debunk the myths that are generated around cancer, fuelled by fear of the disease and in memory of the devastating impact the illness can have.

This year, World cancer day falls at the start of a period of changes in the European institutions during which it is worth reflecting on the changes that have occurred in cancer incidence and mortality. Over these four years, the MEPs against cancer (MAC) group have fought tirelessly against the scourge of cancer. We contributed to the tobacco products directive by encouraging MEPs to vote in favour of standardised packaging. We also corresponded with commission president José Manuel Barroso asking him not to delay the tobacco products directive in the aftermath of what later became known as ‘Dalligate’. We

have held awareness raising meetings on alcohol and cancer, cancer awareness measures, and the challenges that elderly cancer patients face. We have also contributed to the debates around the proposed general data protection regulation and the clinical trials directive. Many of our members have led the fight against cancer outside of the parliament. In particular, MEP Pavel Poc established an annual European colorectal cancer day in the city of Brno in the Czech Republic. Irish MEP Nessa Childers has contributed tirelessly to the struggle for greater recognition of the problems that cancer patients face returning to work and with applying for insurance, and German S&D deputy Dagmar Roth-Behrendt has also been an active member.

Despite recognisable improvements in cancer treatment and care and an enhanced quality of life for many patients, cancer remains the most important cause of death and morbidity in Europe with three million new cases and 1.7 million deaths each year. Certain types of cancers are still on the rise: the Netherlands and Northern Ireland have seen marked increases in skin cancers while lung cancer deaths have overtaken those of breast cancer in Poland, the UK and Ireland.

Looking forward to the coming years, a number of important issues need to be addressed. For-profit interests, lack of political attention, top-down decision making processes, austerity measures and the increasing cost of drugs have

severely threatened policies, cancer services and welfare benefits for patients. The impact of cancer on the lives of individuals or families depends not only on the cancer type and stage, but also on their economic

Despite improvements in treatment and care, cancer remains one of the primary causes of death and morbidity in Europe, warns Alojz Peterle

“On average three per cent of member states’ budgets are allocated to prevention activities. This makes no economic sense given treatment costs and... does not reflect a targeted policy with clear objectives”



and educational capacity to cope financially and emotionally. Indeed, the loss of income during cancer treatment and associated increased costs has been enough to move many families permanently into poverty or exacerbate existing difficulties.

In a keynote speech in 2013, the director-general of the World Health Organisation said that “Prevention is the best option.” On average three per cent of member states’ budgets are allocated to prevention activities. This makes no economic sense given treatment costs and, in my opinion, does not reflect a targeted policy with clear objectives. Tighter controls on tobacco and alcohol products, nutrition information on unhealthy food and stricter sunbed regulation would all contribute to a healthier Europe with decreasing rather than increasing levels of cancer incidence.

The strategic goal of MAC for 2014-2019 will be to reduce cancer incidence by promoting prevention, reduce mortality by ensuring equitable access to high quality treatment and care, and ensure a good quality of life for cancer patients and survivors.

In addition to encouraging economic policies that minimise the financial impact on cancer patients, promoting innova-

tive research and strong prevention policies, MAC will also support the extension and improvement of population based registries and screening for breast, colorectal and cervical cancers. Cancer registries should be promoted in all member states, with a complete derogation from patient consent for the use of their data legislated for by the proposed general data protection regulation.

It is crucial that patient priorities are included in the entire cancer pathway with transparent mechanisms for consultation and inclusion in decision making. MAC also aims to support the creation of European reference centres for cancer treatments within the patient’s rights to cross-border healthcare directive. And last, but by no means least, MAC is committed to ensuring that political attention is given to rare cancers, especially childhood cancer.

As president of MAC, I would like to thank all my colleagues who have joined us in the fight against cancer in the last four years. New and existing candidates who would like to join us in the renewed fight against cancer in the next parliament are encouraged to sign the MAC election manifesto available here: www.europeancancerleagues.org/MAC. ★

Alojz Peterle is president of MEPs against cancer

“Cancer registries should be promoted in all member states, with a complete derogation from patient consent for the use of their data legislated for by the proposed general data protection regulation”



Europe must confront ‘staggering’ burden of tobacco and NCDs

We have a good story to tell our children and grandchildren – a story of dreaming big and creating one’s own future. Once upon a time, not so long ago, doctors and nurses promoted tobacco products and smoking was permitted on airplanes. Evidence pointed to the devastating effects of tobacco on individuals, families and society as a whole, and governments across the world became alarmed at the tobacco epidemic. They dreamt big, adopting in 2003 the very first World Health Organisation (WHO) international treaty, the framework convention on tobacco control (FCTC), legally binding parties to its provisions.

Great progress had been made since then in protecting citizens from the extensive harms of tobacco. However, still far too many people in Europe between the ages of 30-70 (2.4 million out of 14.8 million) prematurely die each year from non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including cancer of the trachea, bronchus and lung, and 85 per cent of these deaths are attributed to tobacco. The high burden of NCDs and tobacco is staggering and no country in Europe is immune. The central and eastern parts of the region have the greater burden of premature mortality due to NCDs, while the western parts of the region have a larger proportion of people with NCDs living longer with their diseases. Longer life is of course desirable, but it puts a large burden on the healthcare system and needs to be addressed appropriately. The cost of action to counteract NCDs and tobacco is far lower than the cost of inaction. Despite this, Europe still has a long way to go to achieve implementation of the WHO FCTC. Although almost all European countries have ratified the WHO FCTC, its success requires more than signatures. Too many still consider confronting the tobacco epidemic as the responsibility of the health sector and NCDs and tobacco is not yet framed properly as a development and economic issue. Preliminary projections into 2025 reveal that stronger and accelerated action is needed to meet the global voluntary NCD target for a 30 per cent

relative reduction of tobacco use by 2025.

This is our current reality, and we now face an exciting time in which we can create our own ending to the story – our ‘visionary future’. During the ministerial conference on non-communicable diseases on 3-4 December 2013 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, ministers and high-level officials from across Europe came together and, again, dreamt big. They pledged to accelerate their efforts to fully implement the WHO FCTC by signing the Ashgabat declaration, in addition to the ambition for a tobacco-free European region.

In the WHO European region, some countries are already paving the way, regionally and globally, to consider this vision in their national strategies. For these and for all others, full implementation of the WHO FCTC is the first step in the direction to a tobacco-free region. Is it realistic to imagine that one day, Europe will be tobacco free, with less than five per cent of adults smoking? It may be hard to imagine, especially for countries that currently have smoking rates →

Non-communicable diseases and tobacco result in the death of millions of European citizens each year, warns **Zsuzsanna Jakab**

“The cost of action to counteract [non-communicable diseases] and tobacco is far lower than the cost of inaction”





“We can expect aggressive resistance from the tobacco industry every step of the way and need to approach tobacco control in a well-orchestrated manner”

reaching 60 per cent. Three decades ago, countries such as Norway, Denmark, Finland and Sweden had high smoking levels similar to those seen in many other countries today. At present, the Nordic states are among the countries with some of the lowest smoking rates. Their experience over the span of just 30 years shows that it is possible. We are even in a more privileged position than these countries were in the 1970s. We now have the advantage of an accumulated evidence base and practical experience, as well as the momentum generated by the regional health policy framework Health 2020 and the global voluntary target, and thus stand a greater chance of being successful early.

We can expect aggressive resistance from the tobacco

industry every step of the way and need to approach tobacco control in a well-orchestrated manner.

Coordination among the different sectors in a country is essential and in our globalised world, coordination between countries is paramount. This is an integral principle behind the regional health policy framework Health 2020, and the WHO FCTC calls for such an approach. The current revision of the European directive is a prime opportunity to demonstrate a single European voice in support of the full implementation of the WHO FCTC. The WHO FCTC is based on evidence, and its impact is an inspiration that allows us to dream big and accomplish what is necessary. ★

Zsuzsanna Jakab
is World Health
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EU needs Europe-wide ‘awareness campaign’ on cancer

Debunking the myths surrounding cancer and promoting prevention are crucial in the fight against this serious disease, writes **Oreste Rossi**

Oreste Rossi is a member of parliament's environment, public health and food safety committee

Last year, I asked the European commission if it could consider a priority to launch an awareness campaign involving the health authorities of each member state in order to dispel the four cancer myths highlighted by the World Health Organisation (WHO). As a matter of fact, now it is possible to cut the incidence of tumours by a third, simply through prevention and healthy lifestyle choices – no smoking, a healthy diet, limited alcohol intake and enough physical exercise.

According to figures released by World cancer day, one in five deaths in Europe are caused by cancer – there are more than three million new cases and 1.7 million cancer deaths every year. After cardiovascular disease, cancer is the main cause of death and illness in Europe. However, the WHO also reminded us that cancer can often be prevented and that an early diagnosis significantly increases the chances of treatment being successful. There are four cancer myths in society today which need to be dispelled – ‘cancer is only a health problem’, ‘it is a disease found in rich, developed and “old” countries’, ‘a tumour is effectively a death sentence’, and ‘whether you get cancer or not is a matter of fate’. Cancer has significant and serious implications for society, the economy and human rights and affects everybody – the young and the old, the healthy and

people with pre-existing conditions. However, it is a sobering fact that more than 70 per cent of global cancer deaths occur in low and middle-income countries, which lack the resources needed for prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Around 85 per cent of the deaths caused by cervical cancer, which has been eradicated to a large extent in western countries through a vaccination programme, occur in developing countries where the vaccine is not currently available. Nowadays, more and more treatments are available which can cure cancer or considerably prolong the lives of patients. Prevention is the key to fighting the disease – a healthy lifestyle and regular, targeted screening programmes, wherever possible provided free of charge, are the two main components.

EU health commissioner Tonio Borg replied to my written question, saying that the commission has specially addressed the issue of raising awareness of healthy lifestyle choices in the European code against cancer. The code comprises 11 evidence-based, user-friendly recommendations to citizens on how to help avoid certain cancers by adopting healthier lifestyles, and how to improve prospects of curing the disease by taking part in public health programmes, such as screening. The code seeks to pass across two clear messages: certain cancers may be avoided by adopting healthier lifestyle; and cancers may be cured, or the

prospects of beating the disease greatly increased, if they are detected early. To assist the member states in implementing the council recommendation on cancer screening, the commission has issued European guidelines for quality assurance for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening. The commission also monitors the implementation of the recommendation by the member states. Moreover, the commission addresses the key risk factors – for example, through tobacco control policy, strategies and platforms on alcohol, nutrition and physical activity bringing together member states and a wide range of stakeholders, including NGOs and industry. Further to these activities, the commission does not currently intend to launch an awareness raising campaign in this area. ★

“Prevention is the key to fighting the disease – a healthy lifestyle and regular, targeted screening programmes, wherever possible provided free of charge, are the two main components”



Gibraltar 'fully committed' to EU membership

I had the honour of contributing an article to the Parliament Magazine a year ago on the occasion of my first official visit to Brussels as chief minister of her majesty's government of Gibraltar. I am doing so again as I come to Brussels in that capacity a second time.

Our visit last year was a great success. We hope to renew the contacts we made then and to update them on the principal EU issues affecting Gibraltar today. There are many such issues. Perhaps the most significant single issue has been the continued abuses by Spain at its land border with Gibraltar. During July last year, citizens from all over the EU were subjected by Spain to inhumane queues of up to eight hours for crossing the Gibraltar-Spain border. These delays continue today. They are politically motivated and disproportionate and have become a source of profound concern.

At its 25 June 2013 meeting, the EU's general affairs council endorsed Gibraltar's income tax act of 2010 as compliant with the EU code of conduct for business taxation. Prior to that, in its meeting of 29 May 2013, the code of conduct group found in favour of Gibraltar's tax regime by a crushing majority vote. Gibraltar's tax regime is therefore not a harmful tax measure under the code of conduct. This has been excellent news for us. We also continue to engage with the European commission in its investigation of our tax regime under state aid rules further to another complaint submitted by Spain. We are hopeful of a favourable settlement of that investigation this year.

Last year, I informed you that, after making huge investments, on 28 February 2013, and for the first time ever, Gibraltar was completely up to date in the transposition of all EU directives. I am glad to inform you that a year on Gibraltar continues to be completely up to date with its obligation to transpose EU directives. I am very proud of that record. It is one to which I am personally committed. It is the clearest signal of Gibraltar's commitment to the EU and to our compliance with its rules.

Last year we transposed directive 2011/16 on exchange of information on tax matters which is recognised by the organisation for economic cooperation and development (OECD) as being equivalent to a tax information exchange agreement, thereby providing OECD-equivalent exchange mechanisms



"At its 25 June 2013 meeting, the EU's general affairs council endorsed Gibraltar's income tax act of 2010 as compliant with the EU code of conduct for business taxation"

with all the 28 EU member states. This is a very effective gateway for the exchange of tax information between Gibraltar and all member states. We have also entered into 27 OECD tax information exchange agreements with member states and third countries. Gibraltar has also committed itself to the fight against tax evasion – we

have signed a foreign account tax compliance act (FATCA) agreement with the UK, are about to sign one with the US and form part of the group of jurisdictions under the 'EU G5' group on multilateral automatic exchange of tax information that have committed to early adoption of the common reporting standard being developed in the OECD. All of this comes on the back of the endorsement that Gibraltar's regu-

Gibraltar is attempting to rise above Spain's official complaints and border discrimination and calls on the EU to uphold the rule of law, writes **Fabian Picardo**





"I am glad to inform you that... Gibraltar continues to be completely up to date with its obligation to transpose EU directives"



latory, supervisory and anti-money laundering standards have received in recent years from the International Monetary Fund, the financial action task force and the financial stability board, all of which have found Gibraltar to be at the forefront of good practices.

Looking ahead, 2014 will also be an important year for Gibraltar on justice and home affairs (JHA), environment and aviation matters. By virtue of the transitional provisions annexed to the treaty of the EU and the treaty on the functioning of the EU, the UK may notify the council that EU acts in the field of police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters which have been adopted before the entry into force of the treaty of Lisbon shall cease to apply to the UK and must make that notification by 31 May 2014. The British home secretary Teresa May announced on 9 July 2013



The Rock of Gibraltar

the UK's intention to exercise its opt-out, which covers some 130 existing JHA measures. She also announced that the UK would seek to re-join 35 of those measures. Consideration of this announcement is continuing in the UK parliament and will be the subject of negotiation in the EU. The outcome of the UK's decisions will apply to Gibraltar in the same way.

Further to complaints filed by Spain, the European commission has opened investigations into various aspects of environmental compliance in Gibraltar. Most of these concern activities and projects carried out in British-Gibraltar territorial waters; that is to say, Gibraltar's territorial sea as recognised by the UN convention on the law of the sea and that Spain does not want to recognise. We are hopeful that the replies that we shall submit to the commission will allow it to find all those

complaints unfounded.

A further challenge for Gibraltar will be in the area of aviation. It is of utmost importance that the rule of European law be respected and that all EU aviation measures continue to apply to Gibraltar as the treaty requires, notwithstanding the attempts by Spain to exclude the Gibraltar airport in a discriminatory and unjustified way.

As I mentioned last year, Gibraltar is fully committed to EU membership. We play by the rules in the EU and expect to be treated in the same way by the EU. One member state has filed complaints against my small territory in relation to tax, state aid, the environment and seeks to discriminate against us on free movement and aviation. The union's citizens of Gibraltar look to the EU institutions to uphold the rule of European law in all of these areas. ★

"We play by the rules in the EU and expect to be treated in the same way by the EU"

Fabian Picardo is chief minister of the government of Gibraltar

A picture paints a thousand words...



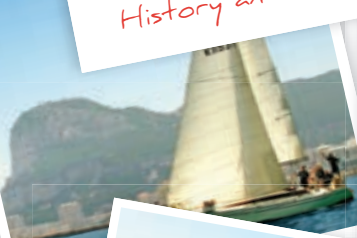
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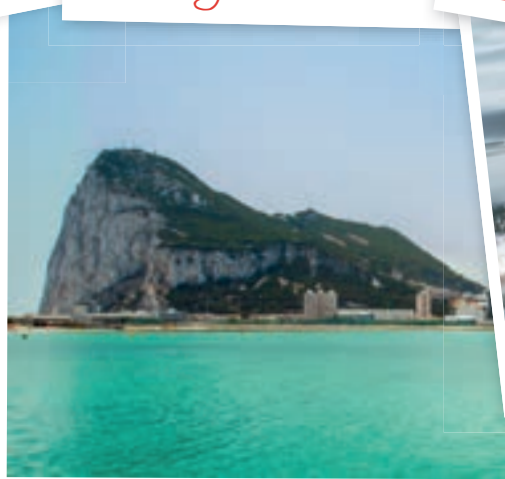
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Spanish border action against Gibraltar ‘beyond belief’

The right of EU nationals and workers to free movement through EU borders is a cornerstone of the European Union. Yet the Spanish government has been allowed to use its border with Gibraltar as a political stick with which to beat EU residents in the area through the creation of lengthy delays. Gibraltar and Spain are both in the European Union. In fact Gibraltar was in Europe 13 years before Spain joined. Gibraltar does not belong to the customs union or to Schengen, which means that Madrid is entitled to conduct checks at the border. However, such checks have to be proportionate and intelligence led. This is not happening.

At the end of July, there were delays to cars of up to eight hours to cross the border from Gibraltar into Spain. This affected over 7000 workers of different EU nationalities, the majority of whom are Spanish, who work in Gibraltar and who live in Spain. It affected tourists and it affected other residents of Gibraltar who wanted to cross the border. The intensity of the Spanish checks and the physical layout of the infrastructure at the border both contributed to the problem. There are six lanes of traffic leaving Gibraltar. These converge into two for Spanish passport control and then to only one green lane for Spanish customs. The Spanish customs authorities often ignore the red and green channels and stop

every single car on that solitary green lane. They do not allow cars to continue while others are being checked. This accentuates the bottleneck effect that already exists because of the physical layout.

These tight controls still continue although they have not reached eight hours. It is still common for motorists to be made to wait two to three hours to cross into Spain. In a new development after the summer, the Spanish authorities started to create delays to exit Spain as well as to enter Spain. There can be no justification for such delays. Moreover, as from December they imposed the same rigorous checks on pedestrians that cars had been subjected to since the summer. These delays to pedestrians have been known to last two hours. In winter, this means standing

in the cold or in the rain no matter your age or your physical condition because the Spanish authorities want to make a political point.

The United

Joseph Garcia argues that one of the four fundamental freedoms on which the EU is built is being flouted on a daily basis by Spain at its border with Gibraltar

“The degree of suffering that the Spanish authorities have inflicted on persons crossing the border is beyond belief”



Kingdom and the Gibraltar government have both publicly expressed the view that these delays are illegal. The European commission sent a visiting mission on 25 September. The mission expressed the view that they saw nothing illegal, which is not surprising given that the delays mysteriously disappeared on the day that they came. However, a number of recommendations were made to both sides. The government of Gibraltar has already started to act on those recommendations.

Hundreds of complaints have reached the government of Gibraltar through its frontier queue website. It is not surprising that a high proportion of these complaints are from EU nationals who work in Gibraltar and live in Spain. These people have to queue up to go to work in the morning and may then face a two-hour delay to enter Spain when they finish work in the evening. In December, the queue to enter Gibraltar passed the

one-hour mark on 18 days. The queue to exit Gibraltar and enter Spain topped the one hour mark on 25 days, and the two-hour mark on 19 of those days. There are still lengthy delays even though the number of cars crossing the border is down by 40 per cent.

This has the potential to hurt the economy of a cross-frontier area. Trade unions and business organisations from both sides of the border have got together to complain at the damage that the actions of the Spanish government is causing to workers and to commerce. They are joined in this by the mayor of the Spanish frontier town of La Linea.

The degree of suffering that the Spanish authorities have inflicted on persons crossing the border is beyond belief. It

is totally unacceptable that the right to freedom of movement should be trampled upon in this way and it is even more incredible that this should be happening in the new, modern Europe of today. ★

Joseph Garcia is deputy chief minister of the government of Gibraltar

“At the end of July, there were delays to cars of up to eight hours to cross the border from Gibraltar into Spain. This affected over 7000 workers of different EU nationalities”



People queuing at the Gibraltar-Spanish border

Gibraltar can bring ‘increased prosperity to the wider region’

Gibraltar, Britain’s overseas territory at the foot of the Iberian Peninsula, is the site of a dispute threatening to challenge free movement of the people, one of the four pillars of the treaty of Rome. Currently EU citizens crossing the border between Gibraltar and Spain can be kept waiting for as long as eight hours with two-three hour queues almost the norm. There is absolutely no excuse for such behaviour.

Discrimination against Gibraltar is not new: they waited 25 years to get the right to vote in European Elections and even this required a decision by the European court of human rights in 1999 to force a UK government worried about Madrid’s reaction to allow the people of Gibraltar to vote for the first time in June 2004.

Throughout all this period Gibraltar had a better track record of transposing relevant EU directives than a number of member states. One hopes the commission will not allow this issue to fester in the same way.

It’s clear that the Spanish actions bear little relation to their ostensive purpose of customs control. The new draconian regime immediately followed a totally unrelated dispute over a new artificial reef built by Gibraltar near the maritime border. After all if it’s about controlling smuggling from Gibraltar it’s difficult to understand why the queues to enter Gibraltar can be as long as those to leave. Rarely do criminals smuggle goods from high to low tax regimes.

Only after hundreds of complaints by aggrieved citizens and the intervention of both the Gibraltar and UK governments did the commission finally react with a belated fact-finding mission. Many of the facts were already clear.

Last Summer in answering a question from MEP colleague Claude Moraes the commission clearly laid down Spain’s entitlement, ‘all people entering and exiting the Schengen area, including those enjoying the union right of free movement, should undergo a minimum check to establish their identities on the basis of the production or presentation of their travel documents’.

The report made a series of recommendations

with six-month grace for implementation. The commission has offered financial assistance to the Spanish authorities removing one excuse not to act. Despite this – four months on – little has changed for the better, with now even pedestrian queues hours long of cross-frontier workers, families with children and even disabled people. Spain claims

inspections are intelligence-driven, yet Spanish companies regularly receive advanced notice of disruptions. If only all smugglers worked to a timetable.

There is an opportunity for a rising tide to float all ships. Gibraltar’s expanding economy in online gaming, financial services and tourism can bring increased prosperity to the wider region with growing demands for cross-border workers and rising incomes spent locally.

The frontier queues threaten Spanish jobs, those who are consistently delayed from getting to work in Gibraltar and those in the Spanish travel industry bringing people to the Rock.

Whatever the endless history in the 21st century people have the right to determine their own futures. Back to the Future was a film not a political programme and the sooner Madrid realises it the better for everyone concerned – including the Spaniards in the region. ★

“There is an opportunity for a rising tide to float all ships”



According to **Peter Skinner** both Gibraltar and Spain are losing out as frontier queues ‘threaten’ jobs and industry

Peter Skinner is a British Labour member of the European parliament



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Life on Rock ‘regularly undermined’ by Spanish authorities

I’ve been proud to represent Gibraltar in the European parliament since I was elected in 2009 and have enjoyed getting to know this unique part of my constituency on the south western tip of Europe.

A self-governing UK overseas territory, Gibraltar plays host to a modern, vibrant and highly diversified economy. Numerous international firms have chosen to base themselves on the Rock, taking advantage of its highly skilled workforce and contributing to a near full employment rate. With a population of just 30,000, there were 21,519 employee jobs registered in 2012. This is an achievement all the more remarkable considering the wider economic malaise in Europe.

Gibraltar’s economy is highly regarded and well regulated. As well as being a major maritime hub, its main activities include financial services, online gambling and tourism. Its success is aided by its excellent infrastructure, communications and IT. For the 2012/2013 period, its GDP stood at approximately €1.45bn. Its economic contribution to the region and the wider EU is therefore highly significant.

One of the reasons why businesses choose to locate in Gibraltar is that it provides an excellent location from which to provide cross-border services throughout the EU. One of the largest employment growth areas has been in the online gambling industry, employing 2848 people at the last count, in addition to all the support services that go with it.

Being a cross-border industry, I would like to see the creation of a single market for online gambling. This would help to protect consumers and provide gambling operators based in Gibraltar with the legal certainty necessary to expand their business across the EU. In this regard, I recently led on a report in parliament calling for greater EU action. Faced with fierce opposition from member states trying to protect their state monopolies, progress is proving slow but there is certainly movement in the right direction.

Despite a strong and growing economy, providing jobs to both Gibraltarians and Spaniards from over the border, life on the Rock is regularly undermined by the actions of the Spanish authorities. At its border crossing with Spain, queues have been engineered, sometimes lasting up to seven hours. The Spanish government has also tried to ban the import of building materials into Gibraltar, damaging much needed business to Spanish exporters. These actions are illegal and disproportionate, undermining the freedom of movement within the EU.

When I last visited the Rock in October, I met with the chamber of commerce to discuss the economic impact of the ongoing troubles. It was clear from our discussions that the border delays have been an inconvenience for businesses, as well as individuals. Indeed, it’s just as much an inconvenience for Spanish businesses to have Gibraltarians prevented from crossing the border to shop in Spain too. Thankfully, Gibraltar’s economy is far more buoyant and diversified than when the Spanish authorities last caused problems at the border, but the delays are still a concern.

Gibraltar sets a fine example to the EU of how to maintain employment and growth during difficult times. The European commission now has a duty to ensure that Gibraltar can continue to enjoy the free movement privileges it is entitled to under the EU treaties. ★

European commission has a ‘duty’ to ensure free movement in Gibraltar, argues Ashley Fox

“Gibraltar plays host to a modern, vibrant and highly diversified economy”

Ashley Fox is a UK Conservative MEP for the South West of England and Gibraltar



Gibraltarians should be allowed to 'decide their own future'

Self-determination, following an informed and open debate, should be the guiding principle in answering the Gibraltar question, argues Ramon Tremosa i Balcells

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells is a member of parliament's economic and monetary affairs committee and is an MEP for Catalunya

The people of Gibraltar, like the people of Catalunya, have the right to decide their own destiny. Last summer a crisis erupted over the right of the people of Gibraltar to move freely in and out of the Rock. Spain and the UK came to a diplomatic conflict over Gibraltar and the main harm was for Gibraltar and Spanish citizens that had to endure long queues to get in and out of the Rock, as well as for the economic relationship between the Rock and Spain.

According to the European commission, which has been expressed several times in answers to MEPs' parliamentary questions, Gibraltar is not part of the area without internal border controls. Checks on persons are therefore carried out at its border with Spain. Under the Schengen borders code, all people entering and exiting the Schengen area, including those enjoying the union right of free movement, should undergo a minimum check to establish their identities on the basis of the production or presentation of their travel documents. Third-country nationals should be subject to thorough checks, involving a detailed examination verifying that they fulfil all entry conditions.

Spain, of course, has every right to conduct checks on persons and goods passing through this border. But we all should keep in mind that such checks must not be so disproportionate as to undermine the fundamental right of EU nationals to freedom of movement through an EU border. However, all this only represents a masquerade for a deeper conflict. Who should rule over Gibraltar? Spain or the UK?

Like most of you must know, Gibraltar is a tiny, strategically-located territory near the entrance to the Mediterranean sea. It was ceded to Britain in 1713 fol-

lowing the war of Spanish succession in the Utrecht treaty, but Spain has disputed its status in recent decades. Recently the Spanish prime minister Mariano Rajoy has raised the status of Gibraltar at the United Nations, calling it an anachronism, and demanding talks on sovereignty.

Moreover, although its strategic importance has diminished over time, the UK is officially committed to retaining control because its population has repeatedly voted to stay in British hands.

In my eyes, Gibraltar has today more a symbolic importance than a real strategic interest. It is not my will to give my personal opinion on who should rule Gibraltar. However, as a Catalan I feel compelled to discuss how the decision must be taken. Should it be through a deal between countries that don't take into account the will of Gibraltar's citizens? I don't think so. Europe's peoples want to decide their collective by themselves. Be it the Scottish, who will do so on 18 September, or Catalans who intend to set a referendum for independence on 9 November.

The decision of Gibraltar should be in the hands of its own citizens after an informed debate and compliance with

European legislation. Borders should not be decided thanks to the consequences of old treaties, weddings between royal families or bloody wars, but through a democratic election that lets the people vote to decide their own future. Both Spain and the UK should respect their decision and ensure that this diplomatic conflict doesn't affect the life and jobs of the people living there.

Both Spain and the UK should also keep in mind that every citizen of the European Union has a fundamental right to the freedom to move and work anywhere within the EU. ★

"Borders should not be decided thanks to the consequences of old treaties, weddings between royal families or bloody wars, but through a democratic election that lets the people vote to decide their own future"

Gibraltar finally on the agenda after 'years of being ignored'

Last week I helped arrange for a group of 50 Gibraltarians, the concerned citizens group, to come to Brussels and protest outside the European parliament, European commission and Spanish embassy to make Gibraltar's voice heard – to 'Rock the boat' in Brussels. The reason was the excessive delays at the land border between Spain and Gibraltar, and we delivered an official petition to parliament demanding it investigate the situation for itself.

Letters, meetings and phone calls are useful but can only do so much to communicate the full extent of the problem. Our protest – real people on the ground who felt so strongly that they were willing to travel 2000km across Europe to stand outside in the cold and make some noise – really turned some heads. I think it made people realise that this isn't just an academic problem, these are real people just like them who are simply trying to get to the next town along the coast.

The border situation is now 'officially' an EU policy issue. In September of last year, the commission sent a team of officials to Gibraltar to investigate the situation on the ground. This is something I have been calling for for years – and indeed that commissioner Algirdas Šemeta, who is in charge of customs policy, promised when deputy chief minister of Gibraltar Joseph Garcia and I went to brief him on the situation in November 2012. The commission concluded that there had been no breach of EU law – which I would dispute – but they did ask Spain to put in place a more 'refined risk analysis' with regards the customs checks. The implication, to me, is that the current checks are too random.

When it announced its conclusions, the commission sent

two letters with a series of recommendations for next steps, one to the UK and one to Spain. Gibraltar published its letter immediately, but Spain refused to do so. I therefore went over Madrid's head and made an official EU 'access to documents' request to make the letter public and the European commission was duly forced to do so at the end of December. And sure enough, the letter stated that the intensity of the border checks was 'unjustifiable'. It is outrageous that Madrid and the commission attempted to keep the letter under wraps.

The government of Gibraltar will be for the second time ever doing an official visit to Brussels next week (week of 10 February). We will be meeting commission officials at the highest levels in DG home affairs, DG internal market and others, following up our meetings with the relevant commissioners last year, to make sure they know that the problem is still live and has not just gone away.

Residents of the Rock, commuters, and visitors alike are all fed up of the long and disproportionate delays at the border crossing. After years of being ignored, we have now succeeded in successfully putting the issue on the agenda at EU level – and we are making sure that the Rock's voice is heard loud and clear at every level.

As European commission president José Manuel Barroso said recently "the free movement of people is a fundamental principle of Europe and of the treaties, and indeed one of the core elements that distinguish our union. The principle of free movement exists and is applicable throughout the union without discrimination, because we do not want a Europe of first-class and second-class citizens". Quite right – and let's start with Gibraltar. ★

Citizens from Gibraltar 'Rock the boat' and make their voices heard in Brussels

Graham Watson is an MEP for the south west of England and Gibraltar

"The border situation is now 'officially' an EU policy issue"



Spain accused of ‘bully-boy’ tactics against Gibraltar

Albert Poggio says that Gibraltar and the UK stand shoulder-to-shoulder against Madrid’s ‘constant harassment’

The current siege of Gibraltar, for that is what it surely is, has now been in place since August when Spain imposed checks of such intensity that drivers were delayed for up to eight hours when trying to cross into Spain. Similar checks have since been imposed on pedestrians and cyclists. While Madrid is clearly entitled to conduct some controls at its international borders, these checks must be proportionate and intelligence-led but, bizarrely, the border is now also experiencing long delays being caused to traffic leaving Spain to enter Gibraltar. The purpose of these Spanish checks serves little purpose except to inconvenience the thousands of people trying to travel into Gibraltar. It is most notable that, on the day of a well-

publicised European commission inspection of the border, there wasn’t a single car, cyclist or pedestrian waiting on either side of the border – something that did not come as a surprise to Gibraltar.

Spain’s bully-boy tactics were imposed immediately after the government of Gibraltar created an artificial reef in an area of Gibraltar’s territorial waters that, for many years, had been over-fished by Spanish boats using illegal ‘raking’ nets. It was in these same waters that, a few weeks earlier, a Gibraltarian jet-skier had been shot at by guardia civil officers using rubber bullets. Madrid’s public outrage at Gibraltar’s artificial reef must be seen in the light of Spain’s claim to be ‘a leading exponent of the deployment and use of artificial reefs in Europe’.

It is also worrying that the right-wing Spanish government has reneged on the Cordoba agreement, which, in 2006, established a tripartite forum between the governments of Spain, the United Kingdom and Gibraltar for cooperation on matters pertaining to Gibraltar. The agreement was the result of nearly two years of talks between the three governments, giving a voice to Gibraltar in talks between Britain and Spain for the first time. The agreement stemmed from an initiative by the Spanish Socialist Workers’ party government in 2004, which proposed a dialogue, in which for the first time Gibraltar would take part as an independent third party.

In the face of Spain’s heavy-handed intimidation, the government of Gibraltar has enjoyed the full support of members of both the UK house of commons and the house of lords. Members across the political divide have frequently reiterated their continued support for Gibraltar and for the right of

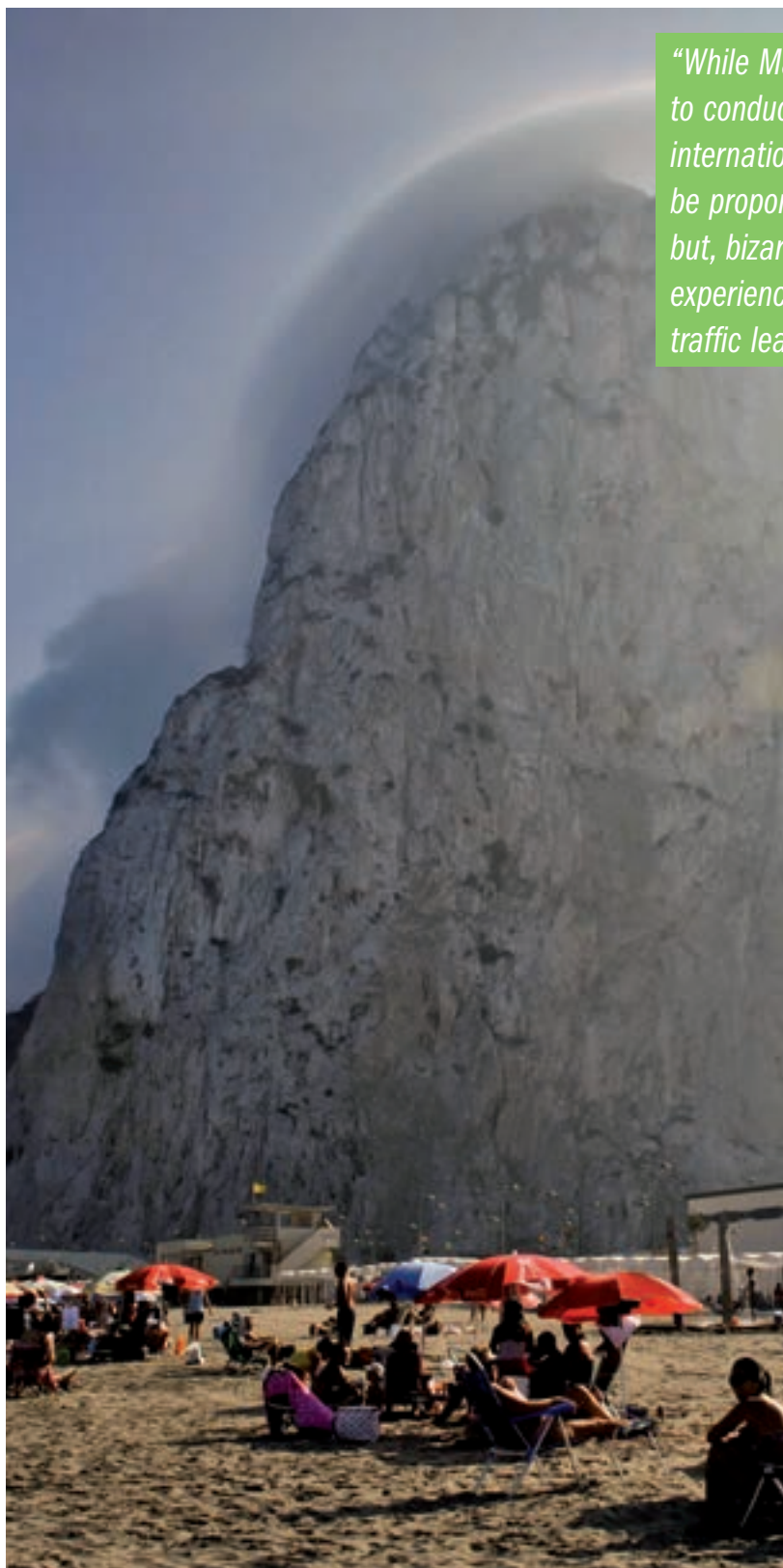
Gibraltarians to self-determination. In the house of commons there has been mounting anger over Spanish tactics which has led to calls for stronger action to be taken to protect Gibraltar from the constant harassment by Spain.

British parliamentarians have visited Gibraltar to show their support while, in the other direction, Gibraltarian MPs attended the house of commons chamber for prime minister David Cameron’s questions, which included

“In the face of Spain’s heavy-handed intimidation, the government of Gibraltar has enjoyed the full support of members of both the UK house of commons and the house of lords”



“While Madrid is clearly entitled to conduct some controls at its international borders, these checks must be proportionate and intelligence-led but, bizarrely, the border is now also experiencing long delays being caused to traffic leaving Spain to enter Gibraltar”



a debate on Gibraltar. At the commons they were able to thank some of the parliamentarians who had supported Gibraltar during the debate, including the well-supported chairman of the All Party group on the overseas territories Jim Dobbin MP.

At the end of August, the chief minister and his deputy met with the prime minister at No10 Downing street – a meeting which demonstrated the strength of the prime minister’s concern for Gibraltar and its people at a time when Spain was taking illegal action at the border and continuing frequent incursions into British Gibraltar waters. During the course of these discussions Cameron repeated that he stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the Rock and its people at this difficult time. In October the chief minister also met with Ed Miliband, leader of the opposition and secured full support from the opposition and the Labour party.

If there was a single defining moment of the last few months it was 10 September, Gibraltar’s national day, when members of the house of commons, the house of lords and the European parliament were welcomed on to the event’s main stage by 10,000 happy Gibraltarians. National day culminated with the prime minister’s personal message being broadcast on large screens around the square, something that had never been seen before and which received a tumultuous reception. ★

Albert Poggio is United Kingdom representative for the HM government of Gibraltar

In January 2014, the Industrial Doctorate Centre in Carbon Capture and Storage and Cleaner Fossil Energy was announced by UK Universities and Science Minister, David Willetts, funded by EPSRC as part of a £390 million investment in research and training across next-generation science and engineering.

The Centre combines the world-class research excellence of more than 50 leading academics specialising in carbon capture, storage and cleaner fossil energy to supervise 70 doctoral researchers across a pioneering programme that has been co-created with Industrial Partners to address the energy concerns of European governments, policy makers and consumers.

The programme will provide the highly trained personnel needed to tackle the specific challenges in implementing technologies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power generation and other industrial uses of fossil fuels.

Strategically, the Centre is positioned at the leading edge of research and training, focused on delivering research leaders and next-generation innovators with broad economic, societal and contextual awareness, having strong technical skills and capable of operating in multi-disciplinary teams across a range of knowledge transfer, deployment and policy roles.

Key research thematic areas include:

- Carbon Dioxide Capture Technologies
- Carbon Dioxide Transport and Storage
- Power Plant Operation, Fuel Flexibility and Simulation
- High-Temperature Power Plant Materials
- Unconventional Hydrocarbons

The Centre has strong support from industrial partners that include Doosan Power Systems, Alstom Power, Air Products, the Energy Technologies Institute, SSE, RWE npower, Johnson Matthey, E.ON, CPL Industries, Clean Coal Ltd, Tata Steel, the National Physical Laboratory, National Oilwell Varco, Effectech, GSA environmental and Innospec, together with the Biomass and Fossil Fuels Research Alliance, a grouping of companies across the power sector. The input of the Industrial Partners is central to providing the best available research environment for doctoral researchers.

In addition, the Centre has extensive international partnerships with academia and industry across Europe (Poland, Spain, Norway), Asia (China, India, Bangladesh,



Industrial Doctorate Centre in Carbon Capture and Storage and Cleaner Fossil Energy

Led by The University of Nottingham in collaboration with Loughborough University, the University of Leeds, the University of Birmingham and the British Geological Survey.

South Korea), North and South America (USA, Canada, Brazil) and South Africa.

Examples of international leading research funded by EPSRC led by the Centre academics include:

- Innovative Adsorbent Materials and Processes for Integrated Carbon Capture and Multi-pollutant Control for Fossil Fuel Power Generation
- The Next Generation of Activated Carbon Adsorbents for the Pre-Combustion Capture of Carbon Dioxide
- Carbon Dioxide Capture for Natural Gas Plant

Professor Colin E. Snape, Centre Director, commented "We are excited to be developing the next generation of engineers and scientists who will help make the transition to a lower-carbon Europe. In collaboration with academia, industry and policy makers, we aim to deliver cohorts of Engineering Doctorates who are able to operate in a competitive marketplace and deliver meaningful, high-impact research."

Prof. Snape is a regular panellist alongside MPs and peers at all-party conference fringe events and symposia. He examines and debates the implications of new technologies and fossil fuels amongst large audiences consisting of politicians, industry leaders and energy stakeholders.

To explore the Centre's work, become involved as a doctorate student or discuss collaborative opportunities, please contact:

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EU must look beyond 'short-term fixes' to reduce CO2 emissions

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is back on the European commission's agenda. The policy framework for climate and energy it has just adopted describes CCS as a 'key complementary policy' for the achievement of the EU's 2030 low carbon goals. Given how few member states have expressed interest in CCS, some credit for this strong commitment must be due to the European parliament. MEPs seized the initiative and have emphasised their wish to see a new impetus given to the technology's development.

The CCS 'implementation report' that parliament approved in January could have been succinct and damning: notwithstanding good intentions there has been virtually no implementation. The European council's 2007 call for up to 12 CCS demonstration plants to be in operation by next year has proven an example of governance without substance. MEPs instead took the opportunity to make a series of practical proposals intended to help kick-start CCS development.

An impartial observer might report that our parliamentary debates indicated little change in attitudes since CO2 storage legislation was considered five years ago. The idea that CCS could enable a continued role for fossil fuels in a low carbon economy is anathema to Greens and some others. Injection of inert CO2 into rocks deep underground for permanent sequestration also gives rise to concern, even among MEPs who seem quite content with underground storage of a potentially explosive gas like methane. Yet the vast majority of MEPs look across a world where the use of fossil fuels continues to increase and recognise that, if the primary objective is to halt CO2 emissions into the atmosphere, the potential for CCS has to be properly explored.

The commission has echoed many of the parliament's principal proposals. Its policy framework emphasises that CCS may be the only option available if heavy industry is to deliver significant CO2 reductions and that its demonstration is essential over the next decade. It calls for the creation of an innovation fund to promote development of new low carbon technologies in the industry and power generation sectors; building on the existing NER300 mechanism that is

funded through the use of auction revenues from the emissions trading system. It suggests that member states should regard CCS as a key technology if they are to continue with the use of fossil fuels, and calls on them to provide financial support for pre-commercialisation projects to develop knowledge and bring down costs.

Yet the commission's communication fails to take up one proposal from the parliament that may come to be regarded as more important than all others. MEPs reiterated their 2012 call for every member state to be required to produce a 2050 low-carbon strategy. If the European Union is to achieve its ambition of reducing CO2 emissions by more than 80 per cent it is essential that governments look beyond short-term fixes.

CCS will not be needed everywhere but it seems possible that many governments have so far failed to acknowledge its potential for enabling them to reach their goals at lowest possible cost. It may only be when they are required to prepare long-term plans, and come to realise how limited their options are, that they will start to make the financial and policy provisions necessary to support CCS development. As thoughts turn to the drafting of legislative provisions the commission should embrace parliament's proposal. ★

According to CCS rapporteur **Chris Davies**, carbon capture is 'back on the commission's agenda'

Chris Davies is parliament's rapporteur on developing and applying carbon capture and storage technology in Europe. Implementation report 2013

"If the European Union is to achieve its ambition of reducing CO2 emissions by more than 80 per cent it is essential that governments look beyond short-term fixes"



CCS can boost 'energy security and diversity'

Without CCS, 'turning off the lights' will be the only way to reduce CO2 emissions, writes **Vicky Ford**

There are many good reasons to support and prioritise the development of carbon capture and storage (CCS). It is the only large-scale and demonstrable technology currently available to take carbon dioxide from combustion of fossil fuels to produce low-carbon electricity. Unless we include it in our long-term energy plans, it will not be possible to reduce emissions without also switching off the lights. In several industrial sectors – such as the chemical, steel, refinery and cement industries – deep emission reductions can only be achieved through CCS and developing CCS. Combining CCS with fossil fuels could enable exploitation of their carbon-based energy supplies in a demand-responsive manner, thus helping energy security and diversity, as well as carbon reduction.

Not very long ago, Europe was considered to be a world leader in CCS research but now we are falling behind others in the development stages. CCS has been operating safely in Norway for many years, and Canada, the US and China are

now moving ahead as well. My report calls for development of demonstration projects and to consider how to bring together industrial clusters in order to share the infrastructure costs. As a member of the negotiating team on Horizon 2020 I successfully defended the need to continue investing in CCS demonstration and research projects.

The decision of whether or not to grant planning approval for any CCS plant rests firmly at member state level. Where members of the public are well informed about the technology they tend to be supportive of CCS and there is much that could be done to help increase awareness.

However, in my discussions with potential CCS investors two issues are often accused of holding back CCS in Europe. The first is the current binding renewables target. It is argued that this drives investments towards renewables at the expense of both CCS and nuclear. This is why I support a technology neutral approach to solving our carbon reduction challenge. I would have liked to see a much clearer articulation of this issue in the parliament's report. The second is the timetables for research bids set by the commission. CCS projects have had to compete against renewables for projects, but they involve much more complex planning decisions and have struggled to meet the deadlines.★

What is carbon capture and storage?

Carbon capture and geological storage (CCS) is a technique for trapping carbon dioxide as it is emitted from large point sources, compressing it, and transporting it to a suitable storage site where it is injected into the ground. The technology of carbon capture and storage has significant potential as a mitigation technique for climate change, both within Europe and internationally, particularly in those countries with large reserves of fossil fuels and a fast-increasing energy demand. In the EU the CO2 emissions avoided through CCS in 2030 could account for some 15 per cent of the reductions required.

Capture of carbon is not a new technology as CO2 is routinely separated and captured as a by-product from industrial processes. Captured CO2 needs to be stored (in compressed form) and transported to the place of sequestration.

CO2 can be sequestered directly in geological formations including oil and gas reservoirs, un-mineable coal seams, and deep saline reservoirs. The security of sequestration depends on the site characteristics and management: the 2005 special report on CCS of the Intergovernmental panel on climate change concluded that the fraction retained in appropriately selected and managed geological reservoirs is very likely to exceed 99 per cent over 100 years and is likely to exceed 99 per cent over 1000 years.

The cost of capture and storage remains an important barrier to the uptake of CCS. Capture in particular is an expensive component. Flue gas from coal- or gas-fired power plants contains relatively low concentrations of CO2 (10-12 per cent for coal, and around 3-6 per cent for gas), and the energy needed to capture at such low concentrations imposes a significant efficiency penalty and thus additional cost.

Source: European commission

Vicky Ford is parliament's industry, research and energy committee rapporteur on developing and applying carbon capture and storage technology in Europe. Implementation report 2013





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POEMA'S ABSTRACT: POEMA is an EU project involving fourteen European institutions: Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain); Georgian technical university (Georgia); Fraunhofer Institut für chemische Technologie (Germany); Université de La Rochelle (France); BAM-Federal Institute (Germany); Technische Universität Chemnitz (Germany); Sheffield Hallam University (England); National Institute for Aerospace (Spain); Turbocoating (Italy); National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Ukraine); Advanced Risk Technologies (Germany); Chuiko Institute for Surface Chemistry (Ukraine); CIUDEN (Spain) and Alma Consulting Group (Spain).

The overall objective is the development of new coatings for supercritical steam power plants for efficient and clean coal utilization. A significant reduction of emissions is expected by increasing efficiencies to $\eta > 50\%$. Currently, efficiencies of 45% have been achieved in the last 30 years from subcritical 180 bar/540°C to ultra-supercritical 300 bar/600-620°C corresponding to a specific reduction of 20% of CO₂ emissions. Efficiencies of 50% and more can be achieved by further raising the temperature, but conventional ferritic steels are not sufficiently oxidation resistant, since the temperature designed for operation was 550°C. From the mechanical properties perspective, ferritic steels can be

used at temperatures up to 650°C and for higher temperatures austenitic steels and Ni base alloys are being considered.

One of the main objectives of this project is therefore to develop advanced coatings for steam environments which can resist the chemical attack of steam and fireside corrosion at temperatures higher than 620°C employing materials with the required high temperature mechanical properties in particular creep strength. Ferritic-martensitic steels will be considered as substrate materials for up to 650°C whereas; austenitic steels will be explored for higher temperatures. In general higher temperatures mean higher

oxidation rates, in particular when the oxidant is water vapour instead of oxygen.

The introduction of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technologies also aiming to reduce emissions in power generation has also increased the interest in developing new material solutions able to reduce the economical and environmental penalty associated to energy production systems when CO₂ is generated. For instance oxy-fuel combustion takes place in a N₂ free atmosphere so oxygen is burned in near stoichiometric conditions with the fuel (pulverized carbon) producing and exhaust gases mainly composed of CO₂ and H₂O.



Aerial view of CIUDEN's es.CO2 Centre

CCS is 'expensive, uncertain and energy intensive'

CCS is not the solution to our fossil fuel addiction, argues **Bas Eickhout**

Bas Eickhout is parliament's Greens/EFA group rapporteur on developing and applying carbon capture and storage technology in Europe. Implementation report 2013

Last month the European parliament voted with a clear majority in favour of a report that promotes the use of scarce public finances on the development of carbon capture and storage (CCS). CCS is an expensive, uncertain and energy-intensive technology that is surrounded by safety concerns and faces fierce local resistance. The Greens have therefore voted against the report.

In the power sector, there are several viable alternatives to fossil fuels. Modernisation of our energy system, that achieves deep emission reductions, is possible through energy savings measures and a high share of renewables. CCS, while masquerading as a solution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, is in reality used in order to justify a business-as-usual scenario. In Europe, dirty coal-fired power plants are still being built with the excuse of being 'CCS-ready'. We are increasingly locking ourselves in a high-carbon energy system, while there are serious doubts about the commercial viability of CCS. However, under no condition should public support be given to CCS in the power sector, as there is no need for CCS to reduce the carbon footprint of our energy system.

The own-initiative report on CCS by Chris Davies has diverted attention away from the no-regrets options for tackling climate change. It is hence time we focus again on the real solutions: energy savings, renewable energy sources

and smart grids, instead on an uncertain technology which ultimately perpetuates a fossil-fuel based economy. The vote by the energy and environment committees of this house in favour of three binding targets for CO₂ reductions, renewables and energy efficiency is, therefore, a welcome step in the right direction. ★

"The own-initiative report on CCS by Chris Davies has diverted attention away from the no-regrets options for tackling climate change"

The wide support for the Davies report proves that Europe can't 'write off CCS as a tool'

Elisabetta Gardini is parliament's EPP group rapporteur on developing and applying carbon capture and storage technology in Europe. Implementation report 2013

CCS at 'crossroads in Europe'

The carbon capture and storage (CCS) report comes at a time where energy prices across European member states are varied, but invariably high. We will also begin to struggle reaching our emission reduction targets that we, the legislators have set forth. And finally, CCS is simply at a crossroads in Europe. CCS may not be the answer to youth unemployment or bringing energy prices down, but it has been proven successful in other parts of the world and we should reconsider its role in the EU and what is holding it back here. I think the Davies report does a fine job in doing that.

Interestingly, this report and the consolidated amendments that covered the difficult parts received wide support from the largest political parties from both the

right and left spectrums. There is broad recognition that we cannot write off CCS as a tool just yet. We called on the European commission to reconsider paths to funding, regulation concerns, and questions surrounding transport and storage.

In conclusion, the European commission will respond, but a key factor that this report did not fully address the lack of public support. Regardless if the technology is ready or not, clean or not, and if there is funding or not, without public support, supporting the advancement of CCS in Europe will be a more difficult, uphill battle. This report aims to ensure that reason and a just regulatory system allows member states to make the right decision in securing our energy future. ★

"Without public support, supporting the advancement of CCS in Europe will be a more difficult, uphill battle"

Parliament sends a 'clear message' to commission on CCS

On January 14, during parliament's plenary, MEPs voted on Chris Davies' own initiative report on carbon capture and storage. The purpose of this report was to send a message to the commission to the effect that it should put forward fresh proposals in support of the development of this technology. Parliament's message is clear.

CCS has a role to play in Europe in the transition towards a low carbon economy: a role both in the generation of fossil fuel-based energy in the countries where this is considered necessary, as well as in such industrial sectors as steel, metallurgy and the cement industry.

We have learned from the errors and limitations of current financing mechanisms and the commission must come

up with new ideas. Member states must be involved without fail in the development of full-scale pilot projects which will give an indication as to the cost and potential of CCS.

Europe has lagged behind in the development of a technology which can play a key role in the reduction of emissions in such countries as China, the US and India.

The commission must take due note of this report and, as announced by climate action commissioner Connie Hedegaard in the plenary debate, come up with new proposals as well as an amended directive.

The will to create a favourable legal and financial framework to attract private investment in the establishment of the CCS does exist. The tools are on the table, it is time for the member states to use them. ★

"Europe has lagged behind in the development of a technology which can play a key role in the reduction of emissions in such countries as China, the USA and India"

The 'tools are on the table' for CCS, explains **Andrés Rodríguez**, and it's 'time for member states to use them'

Andrés Perelló Rodríguez is parliament's S&D group rapporteur on developing and applying carbon capture and storage technology in Europe. Implementation report 2013

Carbon price must reflect 'societal costs'

There are many good things in the recently adopted carbon capture and storage (CCS) report. The central point of the report is that financial support for CCS comes from a higher CO₂ price and that CCS projects should not serve as an incentive to increase the share of fossil fuel power plants.

Chris Davies' report also stresses that it is up to the individual states if they want to use CCS or not. That way countries that can reach the targets without CCS, are not forced to invest in this system.

We also avoid picking any specific technologies. As long as a price on CO₂ pollution reflects the real costs, the market ought to be able to pick the appropriate technologies.

If we are to have more than a reasonable chance of keeping global warming below two degrees above the level of preindustrial times, we know that we can pour roughly 565 more

gigatons of CO₂ into the atmosphere by 2050. 'Reasonable', meaning 80 per cent in this case, or somewhat worse odds than playing Russian roulette with a six-shooter.

Adding to this, we annually add more than 30 gigatons of CO₂ to the atmosphere, which means – if we continue business as usual – that we have less than 20 years before we break

our carbon budget and risk accelerating global warming. In other words, we stand before an extraordinary challenge, which requires extraordinary solutions. I am therefore very pleased that this report does not entail any specific support for CCS projects but instead stresses the underlying cause of the problem; an unreasonable low price for CO₂ pollution.

To ensure a level playing field for all commercial stakeholders and promising technologies, we ought to focus our effort on making sure that the price of carbon pollution reflects the actual societal costs. ★

"Reasonable', meaning 80 per cent in this case, or somewhat worse odds than playing Russian roulette with a six-shooter"

Global warming is an 'extraordinary challenge' which needs 'extraordinary solutions', says **ECR deputy**

Anna Rosbach is parliament's ECR group rapporteur on developing and applying carbon capture and storage technology in Europe. Implementation report 2013



The UK Carbon Capture and Storage Research Centre (UKCCSRC) – reducing costs and increasing capacity

The UK Carbon Capture and Storage Research Centre (UKCCSRC), established in 2012 with EPSRC and DECC funding, links over 200 academic researchers in a virtual centre that covers the whole CCS chain. As part of a £125M research initiative supporting the UK's CCS commercialisation programme, the Centre develops and delivers knowledge for CCS cost reduction and helps train the next generations of CCS experts.

New PACT (Pilot-scale Advanced CO₂-Capture Technology) facilities cover combustion, gasification and carbon capture, using fossil fuel and bioenergy, for power generation and industrial applications. PACT bridges the gap between

bench-scale R&D and industrial pilot-scale facilities and allows researchers to work with CO₂ capture technologies in a 'real world' environment.

The UKCCSRC's Early Career Researcher programme links PhD students and young academics across the UK and provides exchange and secondment opportunities in the UK and overseas.

The UKCCSRC also makes significant contributions to the European Energy Research Alliance CCS Joint Programme.



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The commission's 2030 framework for climate and energy policies may, in the long run, be seen as a 'chance missed'

Following the recent publication of the European commission's 2030 framework for climate and energy policies, I was struck by the political struggle over what, to many people, would seem like a trivial choice of phrase: emissions or renewables. Behind the serene diplomatic curtain of these negotiations the key battleground has been whether to introduce a strong renewable energy objective for member states, or to concentrate on an emission reduction target. The two appear similar in phrase, but are vastly different in practice.

The framework sets out the objective to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent below 1990 levels across the EU as a whole, with a target of 27 per cent of EU energy generated via renewable means by 2030, again, across the EU. These build on the 2020 targets of 20 per cent emissions and 20 per cent renewable energy generation which the EU is currently on course to meet. This framework is being put to the European council and European parliament for ratification before the close of 2014, in preparation for the 2015 Paris summit in which global climate change and energy measures will be discussed at an international level.

The key point of issue for this framework is the lack of binding targets per-nation. Both are binding at the EU level, which brings us back to my argument of renewables versus emissions. In 2010, Austria was the leading producer of renewable energy power as a proportion of its energy demand, upwards of 60 per cent, while the UK had a total proportion of less than 10 per cent. Cycle forward to the present day and the UK is on course to produce 15 per cent of its energy requirements via renewable sources by 2020, missing the EU target by five per cent but with the EU as a whole meeting the 20 per cent threshold, no sanctions or redress needs to be made.

EU targets to combat climate change and lead the charge for an internationally binding deal must be applauded, but with such a divergent spectrum within their own house, reaching these targets in the future is going to become progressively harder. To have binding EU targets, you must have a coherent and long term strategy which is broadly based along similar lines across different member states. What we currently have is a kaleidoscope of various

strategies, led by national interests, in a sector which is reliant on international stability and cooperation. The 2030 framework fails in this regard.

I previously wrote an article on carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology, arguing it was a necessity to meet future emission targets, another fine example of divergent energy strategies as the UK has the only commercially viable testing programme, even with the EU CCS directive of 2009 which aimed for 15 operational plants by 2015. Over the past month, the European parliament has voted in support of CCS as a low carbon technology with the commission formally launching a report into how to develop this technology across the EU. Nationally binding objectives for both renewables and emissions may have been a costly answer, but this would have streamlined the EU energy strategy. Finance would have been pooled, industry forced to react as one and not differently due to dependence on the investment priorities of the individual country, and European energy grids would have been prioritised for the transferring of energy across the EU to cater for peak demand. I won't say the 2030 framework is a failure, each target met is a step in the right direction, but my argument is

that we must all step in the same direction – via energy generation, innovative technology and energy efficiency plans. In my eyes it was a chance missed, and the 2040 targets seem an awfully long way off. ★

"The 2040 targets seem an awfully long way off"

To have binding EU emissions targets, Europe must have a coherent and long-term strategy, argues Ed Gavaghan

Ed Gavaghan is editor of EuropeanPublicAffairs.eu and a regular Parliament Magazine blogger

Level 'low-carbon playing field' needed before CCS serious contribution to 2030 objectives

An ambitious climate package is absolutely crucial to the future viability of CCS, argues Theo Mitchell

Much has been made of the European commission's recent 2030 energy and climate policy communication: is it ambitious enough? Is the commission 'burnt out'? Is Europe no longer the leader on climate change that it once claimed to be? In the melee surrounding the proposals, little has been made of the potential implications for one of Europe's major emissions reduction options, carbon capture and storage (CCS). An ambitious climate package is absolutely crucial to the future viability of CCS. Clear political commitment to a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of at least 40 per cent would therefore be very welcome and would help drive investment in all low carbon technologies, including CCS.

The detrimental impact of the 2020 renewables target on CCS is well documented and, for this reason, further targets for renewables are certainly not welcome. A new renewable energy target for 2030 will drive investment into renewables at the expense of CCS, and could actually divert investment away from efforts to decarbonise other industrial sectors. The key question for CCS will be how the newly-proposed renewables target – 27 per cent (binding at EU level) – is enforced. If it significantly influences policies at member state level then CCS could face another decade without the policy support needed to really kick-start its deployment.

One potential solution to the renewables target conundrum could be to expand it into a broader 'sustainable energy' target under which CCS would be an eligible unit of compliance. Among other benefits, a broader sustainable energy target would provide member states with the flexibility to meet decarbonisation targets at lowest cost

Theo Mitchell is policy manager for the carbon capture and storage association

and in the manner most appropriate to their national circumstances. It could also drive investment in a range of low-carbon technologies, including renewables and CCS and encourage inter-technology competition and accelerate cost reductions as well as accelerating the decarbonisation of sectors other than electricity. For example, advances in CCS could also lead to the decarbonisation of energy intensive industrial sectors.

From a CCS perspective, any commitment from member states on plans to deliver CCS would be welcome. The newly proposed national plans for competitive, sustainable and secure energy would require national governments to outline their plans for meeting domestic objectives – including technology choices such as CCS – and could therefore be a welcome addition to the 2030 framework package. While there remains a renewables target and no equivalent 'milestone' for CCS deployment, however, the proposed governance arrangements will remain a cause for concern.

Although the commission fell short of the requests made by European parliament in Chris Davies' own initiative report on CCS, the proposed framework package clearly outlines the commission's commitment to CCS. Particularly welcome is the recognition that CCS may be the only large-scale emissions reduction option for many industrial sectors, such as steel and cement production. Now we have explicit recognition of the importance of industrial CCS from MEPs and the commission; the next step is the European council.

Progress on CCS in Europe has been undeniably slow since the European council set its vision for 12 large-scale demonstration projects by 2015 back in 2007. The exact cause of this slow progress is hard to pin down. In reality it is probably a variety of factors including the financial crisis, the collapse in the price of emissions trading scheme allowances, and policy decisions in favour of renewables.

Getting the 2030 framework right is the first step in getting CCS back on track. The commission's initial proposals represent a good starting point for the ensuing debates between member states, but more will need to be done to level the metaphorical low-carbon playing field before CCS can make a more serious contribution to Europe's 2030 decarbonisation objectives. ★

"The proposed framework package clearly outlines the commission's commitment to CCS"

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