Dear Reader,

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

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

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

Elena Valenciano, MEP
Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Mission to Greece: How to improve land expropriation decisions
Workshop
14 June 2016 - 15.00 to 18.00 - PHS 1A2

Cross-border surrogacy arrangements - a need for EU action?
Policy Hub
16 June 2016 - 15.00 to 16.30 - ASP 1E1

Discard ban and its impact on the maximum sustainable yield
Workshop
16 June 2016 - 09.30 to 11.30 - ASP 1E2

Franchising
Workshop
12 July 2016

SUPPORTING ANALYSES

Access all Studies, In-depth analyses, Briefings and At a glance notes produced by the Policy Departments.
All publications: www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses

DG IPOL & DG EXPO Policy Departments
European Parliament
Published in cooperation with the Unit for Coordination of Editorial and Communication Activities
PE 576.016
June 2016
Frozen conflicts of the European Eastern neighbourhood
Policy Department for External Relations
April 2016
Protecting human rights in territories affected by frozen conflicts remains problematic. The access to justice is limited as the regimes favour security interests. The DROI study reviews the human rights situation in the 'frozen conflict' areas of the EU's Eastern neighbourhood – Crimea, Transnistria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh. The focus is on the access to the justice system and on the ability of the de jure or de facto authorities to administer justice.

Implementation of the ambient air quality directive
Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies
April 2016
The ambient air quality directive sets thresholds for pollutants in ambient air to protect human health and the environment. Thresholds are however exceeded in several MS. This ENVI study analyses air pollution hotspots in Europe and infringement procedures launched by the European Commission against Member States in non-compliance. In addition, four hotspots are studied in more detail with respect to pollutant levels and approaches to air quality improvement.

The role of the CAP in creating rural jobs
Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies
April 2016
When discussing the findings this AGRI study concludes that the CAP supports the survival of small scale farms and contributes to sustain and develop rural economies. Statistical figures show that as a general trend the agricultural labour decreased all over Europe as well as the number of farm holdings. However, the employment rate in rural areas did not necessarily diminish, which hints to the fact that diversification of the rural economy helped maintain jobs in the region.

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

Promotional Banks and management of SME financial instruments
Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs
April 2016
This BUDG paper examines the role played by National Promotional Banks and Regional Promotional Banks in implementing EU SME financial instruments across EU-28. The focus is on instruments implemented under shared management, as well as on those implemented under direct management by the European Commission and indirect management by the EIB and the EIF on behalf of the EC.

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