



Digital Agenda Assembly 2012

21-22 June, Brussels

Involving stakeholders in assessing problems and identifying solutions is the only way to deliver the Digital Agenda for Europe, the EU's roadmap for bringing the benefits of a digital society and economy to Europe's citizens. The Digital Agenda Assembly 2012, to be held on 21 and 22 June 2012, aims to do just that and mobilise stakeholders in order to assess progress and identify challenges ahead.

This leaflet provides information about key publications (mainly studies) delivered by the policy departments of the European Parliament in relation to the Digital Agenda Assembly. Within the European Parliament, policy departments are research units that support parliamentary bodies - the President, committees, delegations and the Secretary General - in the fulfilment of their legislative and institutional tasks. The role of policy departments is three-fold: 1) provide timely specialised advice to all parliamentary bodies; 2) carry out research addressing their needs; 3) manage the budgets for external expertise according to the decisions taken by committees, under the supervision of the directors and the directors-general.

Scan the QR code or just click on the study title to access it directly.

"MEP 2025": Preparing the Future Work Environment for Members of the European Parliament - BUDG - June 2012



The European Parliament is confronted by a number of challenging questions with regard to the future organisation of its work and the ways in which this can be facilitated by Information and Communication Technology. The exercise entitled "MEP 2025" shows that the change in both technology and democratic developments poses challenges. So, more different forms of foresight analysis and study, conducted more regularly, might ultimately serve the EP more effectively. Regular reviews of the future of "democratic innovation" are therefore proposed by the study.



The Role of Knowledge and Innovation Communities in the EU Research and Innovation Landscape - ITRE - June 2012



Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) are highly integrated excellence driven partnerships consisting of business, academic and public sector partners. The KICs are an independent but operational part of the EIT with the aim to deliver economic growth through innovation. The combination of substantial autonomy and high quality partners provide KICs with good potential to become world class centres of excellence.



Proceedings of Workshop on "Financial Instruments in COSME and Horizon 2020" - ITRE - April 2012

The workshop assessed topics and focussed on some key aspects related to the European Commission (EC) proposals establishing COSME and Horizon 2020; two initiatives which will support competitiveness and innovation in Europe in the years to come also via the introduction of dedicated financial instruments.



Cloud Computing - IMCO - May 2012



Cloud computing has improved possibilities to share information and internet content as well as access to them. It has enhanced e-commerce and e-government, where access is based on individual e-identification. The study examines the benefits and challenges of cloud computing, with focus on delivering internet content through a Digital Single Market and at the same time protecting consumers. It looks at the special role of the European Union in coordinating cloud computing related policies.



Assessing the Scope of European Online Dispute Resolution Platform - IMCO - March 2012

The present note addresses the issue of the scope of the European online dispute resolution (ODR) Platform. In particular it examines whether the ODR Platform complies with the requirement of competence, subsidiarity and proportionality; whether the ODR Platform can be extended to cover domestic consumer disputes and finally, it examines further issues concerning added value of ODR Platform to European consumers.



[Optimal Integration of the European Dispute Resolution Platform](#) - IMCO - March 2012

The objective of this briefing paper is to discuss the possible issues and solutions regarding the optimal integration of the ODR Platform within the current consumer-oriented websites at the EU and national levels, taking into account the possible extent of scope of the Regulation on consumer ODR.



[Proceedings of the Workshop on "The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement \(ACTA\)"](#) - INTA - March 2012



Proceedings of the workshop on "The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA)", held on 1st March 2012 in Brussels. The report is divided into three parts. Part one analyzes the process-related problems during the treaty negotiations. Part two highlights some of the major substantive concerns with ACTA. Part three examines the likely effectiveness of ACTA in its current form.



[Potential of Venture Capital in the European Union](#) - ITRE - February 2012

Venture capital is usually the investment of long-term, unquoted risk equity finance in young firms by professional investors. This study gives an overview of the situation of the Venture Capital industry in the EU, its perspectives for and barriers to further development. In addition, suggestions for policy initiatives that may help to diminish these barriers are provided.



[Does it help or hinder? Promotion of Innovation on the Internet and Citizens' Right to Privacy](#) - ITRE - December 2011

This study investigates the interplay between Internet innovation and privacy. We propose working definitions of innovation and privacy and review the literature about their interaction. We interpret the possible tensions and problems in terms of market and system failures and analyse the relevant legal and policy aspects in relation to examples of privacy invasion and/or protection by innovating companies. Using a four issue framework we analyse relevant case studies such as cloud computing and online behavioural advertising. Following a gap analysis according to our model of failure, we present a series of recommendations aimed at different stakeholders. The study was based on desk research, key informant interviews, case studies and an interactive expert consultation held in Brussels in June 2011.



[Towards a New EU Legal Framework for Data Protection and Privacy](#) - LIBE - September 2011



This study addresses the new challenges stemming from data processing policies and systems falling in the scope of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the EU Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. It identifies a set of common basic principles and standards for the genuine assurance of data protection in all the phases of EU policymaking and for the effective implementation of this fundamental right. The study puts forward a set of recommendations to guide the European Parliament's role and legislative inputs into the upcoming revision of the EU legal framework on data protection, which is expected to be launched by the end of 2011.



[Proceedings of the Workshop on "Cyber Security in Europe"](#) - ITRE - August 2011

The general purpose of the workshop was to summarise existing and emerging threats that pose significant risks to networks and critical information, and to identify the drivers of these threats and to associate these key elements with security controls that can help to mitigate the risks. The workshop also sought to analyse possible European responses to challenges related to cyber security. Furthermore, the event aimed to facilitate an exchange of views and provide a forum for discussion with MEPs and all other participants.



[Consumer Behaviour in a digital environment](#) - IMCO - August 2011

This study analyses consumer behaviour and the interaction between consumers and businesses in the digital environment. At issue is how consumers benefit from the digital environment and whether and how they change their purchasing behaviour. A number of barriers to e-commerce and a more integrated European digital market are identified and specific policy recommendations are provided.



[The "Content Flat-Rate" : A Solution to Illegal File-Sharing?](#) - CULT - July 2011



This study examines the feasibility from both a political and economic perspective of the setting up of a content flat-rate for rights holders to provide consumers with the possibility to do P2P legally. To this end, the study provides an analysis on the evolution of the markets for music and audiovisual entertainment products and services in the last 10 years and information regarding online piracy trends. It presents the key objectives of a content flat-rate approach as well as a content flat-rate and alternative scenarios.



The Role of ENISA in Contributing to a Coherent and Enhanced Structure Network and Information Security in the EU and internationally - ITRE - July 2011

This study provides analysis to support an ongoing discussion over the future course of ENISA. It assesses many aspects of the effectiveness of ENISA, and considers possible ways to improve its efficiency and effectiveness going forward. The level and balance of staffing, and the efficiency of mission-related travel arrangements, prove to be important factors.



Digital Internal Market - IMCO - June 2011

The study examines the progress towards a digital internal market. In a first part, it focuses on the state of play and the possible revision of the Directive on electronic signatures. A second part describes the state of play with respect to eProcurement and discusses possible steps to advance the use of eProcurement in practice.



File Sharing - JURI - May 2011



'File sharing' has become generally accepted on the Internet. Users share files for downloading music, films, games, software etc. The first part of the note explains what file sharing is understood to mean and how file sharing relates to other forms of information distribution through the Internet. Then, the legal and policy-related aspects of file sharing are discussed. And finally, an indication of the economic and cultural impact is provided, particularly of the general welfare aspects and the question as to how file sharing plays a part in the diversity of the assortment offered. In the conclusions and recommendations, the role of regulations and enforcement is dealt with in further detail.



Network Neutrality : Challenges and Responses in the EU and in the U.S. - IMCO - May 2011

This analytical study provides background on the debate over network neutrality, including (1) its technological and economic underpinnings, (2) the implications for business models going forward, and (3) the legal, regulatory, policy and business responses that have been attempted and that are currently in play. It includes a comparison between the US, where these issues have been debated intensely, and the EU.



Cybersecurity and Cyberpower: Concepts, Conditions and Capabilities for Cooperation for Action within the EU - SEDE - April 2011



The study analyses policy options for strengthening cybersecurity within the EU and examining potential points-of-entry, including within the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). The study provides an overview of the principle concepts and definitions of cyber security and cyber war, drawing attention to the complexity and cross-jurisdictional nature of the field. In addition to examining current cyber threats to the EU, the study also analyses the capacity of the EU to address more sophisticated cyber-attacks within a common framework. In this respect the study offers important insights into the political, operational and structural challenges that need to be addressed in order to protect the EU and its citizens as well and to exercise "cyberpower" on the international stage. The study

takes-stock of the existing NATO and EU capabilities related to cyber security and highlights the added value of the EU in applying a diverse range of policies that can help enable it to comprehensively tackle the increasing range of cyber threats.



Innovation and Industrial Policy - ITRE - February 2011

Following the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, great efforts have been undertaken by most Member States to further improve their innovation support. Moreover, the European Commission aims at a more coherent, more coordinated approach towards innovation policy. The present study gives advice on how innovation policy could be better integrated with industrial and research policy based on a comparative analysis at country level and an in-depth examination of a sample of nine different European sectors.



The Application of the Consumer Rights Directive to Digital Content - IMCO - January 2011

This study seeks to answer the following questions: Should the topic of digital content be dealt with by the legislator in the ongoing legislative process on the Consumer Rights Directive or preferably in the context of the Common Frame of Reference? Is it recommended to include the issue of digital content in the Consumer Rights Directive? What are the advantages and disadvantages? If digital content is to be included in the Consumer Rights Directive: a) How should it be defined (e.g. good or service)? b) In which Chapter(s) of the Directive should it be included?



The European Citizens' Initiative online? Some European and national experiences - AFCO - July 2010



The inclusion of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) in the Lisbon Treaty is a recognition of earlier developments in many parts of the democratic world. The implementation of its practical parameters will be a crucial element for the acceptance of the ECI by EU citizens and will send an important message to other regions and countries. The purpose of this study is to provide background information on the present situation in the Member States of the EU, and on the European level, as far as the use of modern technical equipment such as online registration of popular initiatives, referendums or petitions is concerned. Since there is no direct equivalent to the new ECI at Member State level any comparisons are necessarily limited but nevertheless instructive.



[The Link between Job Creation, Innovation, Education and Training: An Assessment of Policies Pursued at EU Level](#) - EMPL - May 2010



The study analyses how EU cooperation strategies in the realms of employment, innovation and education and training interact in shaping labour market dynamics and influence the quantity and quality of new jobs. It attempts to give an assessment of whether the current policies pursued at the EU level are appropriate to reach the objectives of generating higher growth and more and better jobs.



[Developing Biometrics in the EU](#) - LIBE - March 2010

Accepting a broad definition of biometrics to include behaviour and emotion opens the door to, and is the pre-condition, of a surveillance state of commodified citizens. Biometrics per se are not problematic: their naïve use for diverse purposes is and raises serious ethical issues about their impact on society. Naive use of biometrics compromises claimed security objectives, inadvertently imperils citizens' rights, and does not necessarily boost either interoperability at the technical level, nor politico-security goals at member state and EU level. The paper addresses biometrics, body scanner and related issues of identity management function and mission creep. It makes suggestions for the European Parliament and national parliaments to better evaluate legislative options in order to address and safeguard citizens' liberties, privacy and data protection, avert de-sensitisation and overcome weaknesses in current legislative responses and data practices. Well thought out ethical use of ubiquitous ICT is imperative.



[Next Generation Networks \(NGNs\)](#) - ITRE - October 2009

The migration to Next Generation Networks (NGNs) has significant implications for the technical architecture and design of (access and core) network infrastructure, and also for the value chains and business models of electronic communications service provision. The nature and scope of competition is affected in many ways. This study seeks to highlight key NGN-related issues that are relevant to public policy, to assess the challenges that have been raised, and to consider options for public and regulatory policy.



[The Revision of the 'Broadcasting Communication' and its Implications for Public Service Television](#) - CULT - October 2009

This note provides an overview of the issues raised by the revision of the 'Broadcasting Communication' that took place in 2009. It identifies what is new in the Communication and describes the possible implications for the state aid granted to public service broadcasters in the EU.



Policy Departments

Effective parliamentary work relies on specialised, objective, high-quality and up-to-date information. To this end, five units responsible for research, analysis and policy advice, known as policy departments, were created to provide this expert advice. Our activities cover all areas of competence of the European Parliament. We produce high-level independent advice, based on research carried out either in-house or by external researchers.

Policy departments deliver a wide range of expertise, comprising texts as diverse as in-depth studies on complex legislative issues, comparative studies and short background briefings. These documents aim to support the work of the various parliamentary bodies. They serve a variety of purposes: they can feed directly into the legislative work of a specific committee or serve as a briefing for delegations of Members. Apart from a few confidential documents, all texts produced by the policy departments are available on the Parliament's website for the benefit of all Members and the wider public.

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Where to find all studies?

Link to the e-studies database: www.europarl.europa.eu/studies