OVERVIEWS
BOOKLET

AFCO – COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (P. 4)

"The days of European integration by the implicit consent of citizens are over. Europe is not technocratic, bureaucratic or even diplomatic. Europe has to be more than ever democratic" (Viviane Reding, Vice President of the European Commission)

Eurosceptic feelings and decline in voter turnout threaten the forthcoming European elections, whose results are believed to be crucial for the future of the Union. What reforms can the EU undertake in order to make the whole of its institutions more democratically representative?

European Parliament, Euroscepticism, voter turnout, more vs. less integration, populism, democratic gap, European political parties, euro crisis, common policies, protest vote, austerity, European Commission President election.

AFET – COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS (P. 7)

"Without Ukraine there won't be a strong united Europe, and without a united Europe Ukraine won't have a successful future" (Eugenia Tymoshenko referring the words of her mother, Yulia, former Ukrainian Prime Minister)

Following the Russian ultimatum over the negotiations of an Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, the opposition parties and their political supporters took to the streets to protest against the government. Taking into consideration the political split Ukraine is currently facing, and the particularly strong Russian influence on such matters, which measures could the European Union adopt in order to resume an active dialogue with Ukraine?

European Neighbourhood Policy, Orange Revolution, Russia, Eastern Partnership, INOGATE, Yulia Tymoshenko, rallies, Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, Association Agreement. AFET – Commission de l'environnement et de la santé publique

DROI – COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS (P. 10)

"The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons" (F. Dostoevsky, "The House of the Dead")

With Italy having 147 inmates per 100 places, and Greece having 152 inmates per 100 places, Member States now have to face the problem of prison overcrowding. Taking into consideration that the European Union (EU) and its Member States have shared competences in criminal procedures, how should the EU intervene in order to give dignity to prisoners' conditions?

European Court of Human Rights, amnesty, pardon, alternative forms of sentencing, early parole, drug related crimes, length of trials, prison violence, abuse by prison staff, recidivism, spread of diseases within prisons, pre-trial detentions, harmonization of criminal law.

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ENVI – COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY (P. 14)

"Men are more easily governed through their vices than through their virtues" (Napoleon Bonaparte)

The number of people addicted to alcohol, drugs, pornography and gambling is growing dramatically, generating even more debate over the position that Member States should take in relation to the regulation of vice. How can they balance the protection of personal freedoms with the prevention of diseases associated with abuse and addiction?

Addictions, national drug strategies, gambling laws, legal status of pornography, decriminalisation, legalisation, freedom of choice, social security, enforcement, abuse, public health

JURI – COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS (P. 18)

"My vision of copyright is of a modern and effective tool that supports creation and innovation, enables access to quality content, including across borders, encourages investment and strengthens cultural diversity. Our EU copyright policy must keep up with the times" (Michel Barnier, Internal Market and Services commissioner)

The digital sphere offers great potential for a new era in which creative and expressive activities will be at the heart of our societies, but it also calls for a new definition of intellectual property and new means to regulate it. In light of the European Parliament's rejection of the ACTA Treaty in 2012, how should the EU act in shaping a Copyright Reform that balances the cultural rights of the public, the protection of authors and the interests of publishing and production houses of all sizes?

Copyright infringement, cultural and educational rights, AFCA treaty, Digital Rights Management, non-commercial sharing vs for-profit piracy, right to affordable art, freedom of speech, authors' rights, internet censorship

LIBE I – COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS I (P. 21)

"We are building a cemetery within our Mediterranean Sea" (Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta)

On October 3rd 2013, a boat carrying more than 500 migrants from Libya to Italy sank off the Italian island of Lampedusa. 155 survivors were rescued, while at least 366 migrants – that is the number of dead bodies found- lost their lives in this shocking event. Given the increase in migration flows towards the European coasts, how should the European Union act in order to prevent tragedies such as the one in Lampedusa?

Common immigration policy, FRONTEX, EUROSUR, asylum seekers, territorial waters, immigration flow, legal and illegal migration, Partnership Agreement, reception centers, assistance to illegal immigrants, human trafficking, humanitarian aid.

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LIBE II – COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS II (P. 24)

"I want a clear commitment from social networking sites to protect minors from unwanted contacts and to protect their online reputation. If we want to have the certainty that our kids are using the web safely, we need to make sure they can do this in the best conditions" (Neelie Kroes, European Commissioner for Digital Agenda)

In the Member States nearly half of the children starts using social networks at the age of 9, and the protection measures are not proportionate to the greater risks they might succumb to. How should the European Union take action in order to guarantee the safety of younger users and protect their privacy?

Online predators, privacy rights, CEO coalition, illegal content, freedom of expression, UK porn filters, open-Web, governmental and non-governmental surveillance through internet data

REGI – COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

"Europe 2020 is the EU's growth strategy for the coming decade. In a changing world, we want the EU to become a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy" (José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission)

The significant effects of the phenomenon of global warming have in recent months rekindled the debate over the theme of sustainable development. Starting from the climate and energy objectives of Europe 2020, how can the EU promote a more responsible energy policy, in order to ensure that Member States fulfil their commitments?

Europe 2020, global warming, sustainable development, energy policy, energy consumption, energy efficiency, carbon neutrality, green economy, Emissions Trading System, carbon capture and storage, energy security

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Eurosceptic feelings and decline in voter turnout threaten the forthcoming European elections, whose results are believed to be crucial for the future of the Union. What reforms can the EU undertake in order to make the whole of its institutions more democratically representative?

By Francesca Gigli (IT) and Sonia Trabelsi (IT)

1. Introduction and Explanation of the Topic Question

As a sum of both recent financial difficulties and a general scepticism about "being ruled from Brussels", citizens and Member States alike appear to grow more and more disenchanted with the concept of a strong European Union. The European Parliament was founded in 1979 as a response to criticisms about the Union suffering from a democratic deficit, but this in turn has led to further criticism. The Parliament's role has been gradually strengthened since its foundation, but despite top-down pushes for a strengthened role, its legitimacy is now threatened by voters, or rather by the ones that do not vote.

Voter turnout in the elections for the European Parliament has steadily decreased to 43% in the 2009 elections, with significant differences between Member States, varying from 90% in Belgium to less than 20% in Slovakia. The result of this is that Belgian representatives and Slovakian representatives receive vastly different proportions of votes from the electorate, but still have a nearly equal say on matters decided on by the parliament. This gap of voter turnout between countries coincides with that of enthusiasm about the European Union. For example, the United Kingdom, a large and influential Member State whose voter turnout was a mere 35%, is planning a referendum on continued membership in the Union, while many Germans mutter about being the economic motor of the Union. Despite the strengthening of the Parliament, it has nowhere near as much power as national assemblies, since the European Commission formally has exclusive power to propose legislation. While the seat of Commission President, arguably the most powerful position of the Union, is electable through the European Parliament, it again lacks true legitimacy due to apathy among the voters. For the 2014 election, all the major European political parties have decided to suggest a candidate for the seat, making this decision much more of a political matter and less of purely institutional one.

The 2014 Parliament elections are seen as crucial for the Union for a multitude of reasons. Primarily, many Europeans hold the view that the EU is a sinking ship and that an election with a continuously descending turnout rate will be fuel for these doubts. Other concerns about the EU, perhaps equally significant are the exact opposite of the "doom and gloom" expectations, namely that the EU is increasing its influence over matters that Member States are increasingly becoming more hesitant about such as environmental issues, free movement of persons and perhaps most importantly in this day and age, economic issues. The 2014 elections are therefore vital for the Union, in order to show that it is capable of eliciting enthusiasm among its citizens and at the same time show that it is a legitimate organisation, not just a bureaucracy that doesn't listen to what its citizens have to say. The success or failure of the 2014 election could also have major impact beyond the simply reflecting the opinion of the population; the aforementioned British referendum on EU membership is likely to be strongly influenced by the way the EU deals with its criticism about legitimacy. Needless to say, if a country were to leave the Union at all, it would be a new phenomenon entirely, and when that country is among the largest, most populous countries of the Union, the impact will be profound. To tackle the problem of legitimacy, the EU needs to look not only to the Parliament, but also to its other institutions to make sure they're all established in an appropriate democratic fashion. This might require a structural reform or new structures entirely, depending on what approach the European Union seeks to pursue.

Links to official sources:
Statistical data about voter turnout in Member States and the Union as a whole:

- http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/dataset?p_product_code=TSDGO310

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The European Parliament's website contains information on its structure, fields of competence and connection to other institutions:

- http://www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/en/00b3f21266/At-your-service.html

The European Parliament's specific websites about the 2014 Elections contains interesting information about the elections. Also click around to see how the Parliament wants information spread and think about to what ends this is:

- http://www.elections2014.eu/

The European Commission's website also contains information about how it works and the structure of most of the institutions of the Union:

- http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/index_en.htm

2. Key actors

The European Parliament, European political parties, the European Council; The President of the European Commission

Links to key actors:
The European Parliament (EP)

- http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en

European political parties

- http://www.elections2014.eu/en/european-political-parties

The European Council

- http://www.european-council.europa.eu/home-page?lang=en

The President of the European Commission

- http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/index_en.htm

3. Key conflicts

EU citizens' apathy about all things European decreases along with the decrease of voter turnout, making a vicious circle that spirals downwards. While proponents of European elections and their importance advocate voting and other political participation, opponents either abstain from voting or protest vote (voting for Eurosceptic parties).

- http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-11725043

The absence of direct elections of Commission positions combined with the exclusive power of initiating policy means an unelected body decides a lot in the Union, another cause of criticism.

- http://euobserver.com/political/119181

Big European states are having domestic debates about whether or not to push for more European integration. As this is already discussed by political parties within countries, this will most likely also be brought to the European Parliament after the upcoming elections.

- http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/jun/19/germans-european-integration-greek-elections

Member states vary in the extent to which they implement common policies, which in critics' eyes takes even more legitimacy away from the Union, as some Member States that follow faithfully end up with stricter rules

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than non-compliant states. Other critics claim, as a result of the disproportionate representation in parliament (Belgium's MEPs need a larger percentage of the electorate to get elected than Slovakian due to voter turnout), policies are not truly democratic when applied to all Member States.

- http://aei.pitt.edu/6371/1/Scop06_1_2.pdf

4. Measures Already in Place

European Election 2014 Website, party nominations for Commission Presidency; Citizen's Initiative.
Links:

The European Parliament has launched a specific website including voting information for citizens of all countries, apps for download and easily accessible information about important issues:

- http://www.elections2014.eu/en

Major European political parties will nominate candidates for the seat of President of the European Commission to make the Commission more democratic as opposed to the previous system of nominations by the Council where the candidate was merely approved by the Parliament:

- http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-22904941

The European Citizen's Initiative was set up to deal with criticism of citizens' ability to participate in the formation of EU policy by allowing that a cause that has gathered the signatures of a million European citizens to call upon the Commission to make a proposal:

- http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/welcome

EU's websites' glossary entry on democratic deficit contains an explanation of the criticism and links for more measures to ensure democratic legitimacy:

- http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/glossary/democratic_deficit_en.htm

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"Without Ukraine there won't be a strong united Europe, and without a united Europe Ukraine won't have a successful future" (Eugenia Tymoshenko referring to the words of her mother, Yulia, former Ukrainian Prime Minister)

Following the Russian ultimatum over the negotiations of an Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, the opposition parties and their political supporters took to the streets to protest against the government. Taking into consideration the political split Ukraine is currently facing, and the particularly strong Russian influence on such matters, which measures could the European Union adopt in order to resume an active dialogue with Ukraine?

European Neighbourhood Policy, Orange Revolution, Russia, Eastern Partnership, INOGATE, Yulia Tymoshenko, rallies, Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, Association Agreement. AFET – Commission de l'environnement et de la santé publique

By Pierandrea Rizzo (IT) and Nathan Hunter (FR)

1. Introduction and Explanation of the Topic Question

Ukraine has always been a country split between the influences of the European west and the Russian east, which has resulted in a widely differentiated nation. Ukraine had been a satellite-state dependent upon Soviet Russia until 1990, the year during which they became independent after a nation-wide referendum. Despite signing an agreement with EU in 1998, the "Partnership and Cooperation agreement", which aimed at deepening Ukraine's economic and political relations with the EU through aid and support, Ukraine remained under the strong political and economic influence of Russia. This led to some uncertainty whether the future of the country could ever be in the Union. This uncertainty was further enhanced by the decision taken by the former president of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych to abandon an association agreement with EU, which would have moved forward the collaboration between the two parts. His decision instead, was to promote Ukrainian ties with Russia through a custom union. Since the breakdown of the deal the situation has been volatile and rapidly changing. The opposition claimed for shame, protesting in order to achieve a better dialogue with EU, while the pro-government parties welcomed with joy the offer of $15 billion loan pledged by Russia. After a series of turmoil and the largest protest after the Orange Revolution in 2004, Yanukovych was forced to step down and flee, the former prime minister, Julija Tymošenko, who was arrested mostly for political reasons, was freed, and a new government has been put in place while a fragile peace was briefly re-established. The situation, though, remains unclear and ever-changing, and the question remains what the EU should do. Albeit the pact signed by the former president included the formation of a unity government with the aim of realising constitutional and electoral reforms, nothing is stated about the ties with EU. The country has still some eastern areas strongly related to Russia, which would not gladly accept a western government. Which measures could EU take in order to help Ukraine through this enormous crisis? How can the differences inside the country be sorted out, without any kind of oppression? How can the EU ensure peace in Crimea, when Russia is on the brink of invading? Should the EU decide to play a crucial role in the events, or should they wait and observe the situation until the upcoming elections?

Links to official sources:
The Orange Revolution burst in 2004:
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orange_Revolution

Pact signed on February 21st by Yanukovych and the opposition leaders :
- http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/i/MSNBC/Components/Photo/_new/140221-UKR_Erklaerung.pdf

Ukraine's turmoil timeline since November 2013, by BBC:
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-26248275

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2. Key actors

The situation involves the participation of many actors, yet mostly states and other political actors. Above all the two key foreign actors are, as aforementioned, EU and Russia. They both want to convince Ukraine to join their custom union but, if the EU has been quite passive in its behaviour, waiting for Ukraine to accept the conditions of the agreement, Russia, on the other hand, has been strongly active to achieve its aim, posing an ultimatum to Ukraine of not accepting EU's deal and proposing economic support and gas prices reduction. In addition to these superpowers, inside Ukraine the key actors there are mostly political parties opposing each other.

The Euromaidan (literally Eurosquare) supporters are the protesters who began the riots after the abandoning of the deal with EU. They are in favour of a European Ukraine, open to the west and to EU's market, they want to transform the county in a "modern" one, calling for the abolition of government corruption, abuse of power, and violation of human rights in Ukraine. This group is mostly led by the far-right national party called Svoboda,which means freedom; Julija Tymošenko's Europeanist party Fatherland and he former world heavyweight boxing champion Vitali Klitschko, one of the figurehead of the protests.

On the other side the anti-Maidan, also called pro-government or pro-Russian, are mostly eastern inhabitants, among which Russian tradition has strong roots, like as in the Crimea region. Since the beginning of the riots, they have been carrying a parallel protest to defend the government's decisions and have also attempted to prevent their opponents from destroying Lenin's statue in Kyiv, a symbol of Russian domination. This group is mainly led by the Communist party and has organised many rallies against the signing of the agreement with EU and in favour of the Unity with Russia and Belarus.

Links to key actors:
Euromaidan movement
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euromaidan

Anti-maidan opinions in Donetsk
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-25198943

The risk of separatism
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-26333587

3. Key conflicts

As clear as it appears the Ukrainian situation represents a major conflict between the two great powers, the EU and Russia. The former has tried since 1990 to involve Ukraine in the Union, as it happened for Poland and the Baltic countries (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia). In spite of this constant dialogue the issues highlighted by the Union to be sorted out by the country seem to have never been concretely tackled. In the report of 2012 the Council of European Union underlined several issues to be sorted out by Ukraine, such as the abolition of political convictions (EU asked many times for Julija Tymošenko's release), the refrainment of protectionist measures like car recycling fees, which went against WTO's commitments, and also a better enhancement of human rights, especially for the detainees. Russia, on the other hand, has seen in Ukraine the possibility to re-establish its dominance, by involving the country in its Custom Union joining Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. This union is based on free travel across the borders of the states in question and facilitates trade. Yanukovych has displayed ambiguous behaviour, pursuing collaboration with both Russia and EU, even though he stated that Ukraine cannot join a supranational body, limiting their sovereignty, due to the 2011 Constitution. Finally, the next elections results are everything but foreseeable, due to the differences in Ukraine's people. Yanukovych is still appreciated in the eastern part of the country, while Tymoshenko does not seem to convince all the Euromaidan protesters. While a new interim government is about to emerge, Russia moved its army, balancing dangerously close to Crimea, a strategic region, formally part of Ukraine.

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Links:
Uncertainty on the future
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-26321790

Council Conclusion on Ukraine in 2012
- http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/134136.pdf

Russian Custom Union
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Customs_Union_of_Belarus,_Kazakhstan,_and_Russia

4. Measures Already in Place

The issue has deep root in the past. As already mentioned EU agreed with Ukraine on several aspects that needed to be sorted out. In the 1998 the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement set the basis for future collaboration between the country and the Union. Albeit this pact, the EU has recently shown some disappointment in the Ukrainian efforts in fulfilling those goals. In addition to these contrasts, the EU has always been clear on the neighbourhood policy, granting financial support and access to the European single market to those countries, like Ukraine, that accept the collaboration. The Europe Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) considers Ukraine as one of its priorities and has tried with the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) to convince Ukraine to join their net, in case the country decided to take some determinant decisions towards the EU's benchmarks. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, Catherine Ashton, has commented with disappointment Ukraine's situation, calling for a closer contact with the country and for exploring further options and solutions. The EU has not the power to intervene in Ukraine's home affairs but may surely support their initiatives towards a "westernisation" of their laws.
Links:

DCFTA
- http://eeas.europa.eu/ukraine/index_en.htm

EU NEP
- http://eeas.europa.eu/enp/index_en.htm

Partnership and Cooperation Agreement
- http://ec.europa.eu/world/agreements/downloadFile.do?fullText=yes&treatyTransId=659

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Committee on Human Rights (DROI)

"The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons" (F. Dostoevsky, "The House of the Dead")

With Italy having 147 inmates per 100 places, and Greece having 152 inmates per 100 places, Member States now have to face the problem of prison overcrowding. Taking into consideration that the European Union (EU) and its Member States have shared competences in criminal procedures, how should the EU intervene in order to give dignity to prisoners' conditions?

By Davide Monticelli (IT) and Eleni Giannouli (GR)

1. Introduction and Explanation of the Topic Question

The Mediterranean countries currently have more than 130 inmates per 100 places, and the problem of overcrowded prisons is increasing at an extremely alarming rate. During the last decade many institutions as well as organisations have fought for a prison system where human rights are respected, promoting also alternative penalties as solutions to reduce the prison population.

Admirable as all this effort is, it soon clashed with the practicalities imposed by the 2009 financial crisis. With continuous budget cuts and a criminality rate not hinting at slowing down, overcrowded prisons is a serious concern in 13 Member States as well as a number of non-EU Member States. The highest overcrowding rates are reported in Serbia, Italy, Cyprus, Spain and Greece. Juan Méndez, special rapporteur of the UN, states that the excessive reliance on imprisonment is one of the main causes of prison overcrowding, which leads to conditions like abuse or even torture. The problem of overcrowding is multidimensional as it not only implies a number of problems related to physical constrains such as spread of diseases, increasing cases of neurosis or even suicide, but it also fosters abusive inclinations by reducing human dignity.

Links:

1. The European Convention on Human Rights:
   http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=basictexts&c=#n1359128122487_pointer

2. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (focus on Articles 7 and 10):
   http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx

3. The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT):
   http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/OPCAT/Pages/OPCATIntro.aspx

4. Council of Europe/ Directorate of Communication about Prison Overcrowding:
   https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=DC-PR061(2013)&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE

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5. Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners:
   http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/BasicPrinciplesTreatmentOfPrisoners.aspx

2. Key actors

Measures aimed at protecting prisoners' rights and confronting prison overcrowding are already in place:

The CPT organises inspections in places of detention with the goal of assessing the treatment of those deprived of their liberty at the end of which a report is drafted and sent to each Member State. In addition, the implementation of the Convention against Torture or Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment is inspected by the Committee against Torture (CAT). Also the action of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims is focused on the policies of the European Union in the area of torture prevention and the rehabilitation of torture victims.

Other measures include the research project "European Prison Observatory Detention Conditions in the EU" which is already in the 13th month of its implementation. The project, also, seeks to promote the ratification and implementation of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention for the Prevention of Torture (OPCAT). Last but not least, the SPACE I and SPACE II project are respectively producing presentations of data on the population of penal institutions and collecting information on persons serving alternative imprisonment (for example non-custodial sanctions).

Links

1. The Committee against Torture (CAT) and the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT):

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CAT/Pages/CATIntro.aspx

2. The European Prison Observatory:

http://www.prisonobservatory.org/

3. The SPACE I Project:

http://www3.unil.ch/wpmu/space/space-i/

4. The SPACE II Project:

http://www3.unil.ch/wpmu/space/space-ii/

5. The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims:

http://www.irct.org/our-work/irct-in-brussels.aspx

6. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT):

http://www.cpt.coe.int/en/about.htm

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3. Key conflicts

The very concept of incarceration can be said to incorporate conflicting purposes: that of keeping a community safe from the actions of certain individuals and that of re-educating said individuals to be fit for community life. Since its establishment in 1959 the European Court of Human Rights has fought to guarantee prisoner's basic rights but with the pressing financial crisis many European countries were forced to overcrowd their prisons and cut on primary services such as basic sanitary.

Courts all throughout Europe are struggling with slow judiciary systems which favour imprisonment before final conviction. To address the issue of overcrowding most countries ended up employing temporary release on bail and home confinement thus keeping richer accused from being imprisoned.

The statistics reveal that immigrants are disproportionally represented in the crime statistics, and as a consequence in Europe's prisons. People are growing impatient giving rise to populist movements advocating for foreign criminals to be sent back to their home countries.

Links:

Crime Statistics from Eurostat

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Crime_statistics

Newspaper article about immigration and crime

http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/378232/Immigrant-crime-soars-with-foreign-prisoners-rising

Report on criminality in Italy by ministry of home affairs

http://www.interno.gov.it/mininterno/export/sites/default/it/assets/files/14/0900_rapporto_criminalita.pdf

European court of justice, it's roles and relation to other institutions

http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/court-justice/index_en.htm

4. Measures Already in Place

Associations like the European Federation for Public Service Unions have been actively trying to resolve this issue since 2008, when the first European Action Day against Prison Overcrowding registered great resonance and delegates coming from all over Europe were received by by Mr. Lovro Sturm, the President of the EU Justice and Home Affairs Council. He committed to raise the issue of prison overcrowding with his fellow ministers.

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The topic has also been thoroughly analysed by scholars all over Europe, producing a number of papers containing critical analysis of the present situation and proposals for its resolution.

In spite of the many studies conducted on prison overcrowding around Europe and the constant requests from the European Court of Human Rights only a few Member states have actually started to take measures. Amongst those Italy started out by approving (August 2013) measures that make pre-trial detention only applicable in exceptional cases for crimes punishable by less than five years in jail. It also opens up a community service alternative to jail time to repeat offenders, though not in the case of crimes such as mafia association, stalking and child abuse.

Links:

Report on Italian measures against prison overcrowding

http://jurist.org/paperchase/2013/08/italy-parliament-approves-measure-to-ease-prison-overcrowding.php

European Foundation for Public Service Unions

report on 2008 European Action Day against Prison Overcrowding

http://www.epsu.org/a/3626

Paper on Foreign and international criminal law (Max Planck Institute, by J.H Albrecht)

http://www.defensesociale.org/xvicongreso/usb%20congreso/1ª%20Jornada/02.%20Panel%201/P1_albrecht%20-%20prisonvercrowding_2012.pdf

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Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

"*Men are more easily governed through their vices than through their virtues*" (Napoleon Bonaparte)

The number of people addicted to alcohol, drugs, pornography and gambling is growing dramatically, generating even more debate over the position that Member States should take in relation to the regulation of vice. How can they balance the protection of personal freedoms with the prevention of diseases associated with abuse and addiction?

By Filippo Marchese (IT) and Hana Ivana Breitenfeld (HR)

1. Introduction and Explanation of the Topic Question

The growth and diffusion of abuse and addiction to drugs, alcohol and gambling, especially among young people, has now become one of the most **iconic and crucial problems of our era**.

With more than 3 million European citizens consuming soft drugs daily, with an average consumption of alcohol being 12 litre per person per annum[1] and with other dramatic statistical data provided by the EU institutions, Europe has now the duty to face a more than ever **delicate yet urgent issue**.

Bearing in mind the principle of proportionality laid down by the Lisbon treaty[2], how can a non-federal union provide its citizens with an **effective and functional policy** capable of maintaining the **protection of personal freedoms**? What should be the next steps in order to defeat such intimidating **social diseases**?

Links to official sources:

Statistical Bulletin of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/stats13#display:/stats13/gpstab1b

- Alcohol consume indicator from the Committe on Natonal Alcohol Policy and Action (CNAPA).

  http://ec.europa.eu/health/alcohol/indicators/index_en.htm

The European Commission on gambling.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/gambling/index_en.htm

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[1] http://ec.europa.eu/health/alcohol/indicators/index_en.htm

[2] The principle of proportionality means that any measure by a public authority that affects a basic human right must be:
- appropriate in order to achieve the objective, which is intended;
- necessary in order to achieve the objective, which is intended, i.e. there are no less severe means of achieving the objective;
- reasonable, i.e. the person concerned can reasonably be expected to accept the measure in question.

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2. Key actors

1. National governments in Member states

2. The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addicton (EMCDDA). The EMCDDA exists to provide the EU and its Member States with a factual overview of European drug problems and a solid evidence base to support the drugs debate.

3. The European Alcohol and Health Forum (EAHF). The EAHF is a platform where bodies active at European level can debate, compare approaches and act to tackle alcohol related harm.

4. The European Union Information System on Alcohol and Health (EUSAH)[3]

5. The Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC). The EAHC was created by the European Commission in 2006 to manage the technical and financial implementation of the Public Health Programme.

6. Law enforcement agencies, such as Europol and FRONTEX.

Links to key actors:

- EMCDDA (agency) http://www.emcdda.europa.eu
- CNAPA (committee of the European Commission) http://ec.europa.eu/health/alc
- Europol (agency) https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/page/about-us

3. Key conflicts

The key conflicts playing a relevant role in this controversial situation can be found in several fields but the three main ones are related to **society**, **ethics** and **economics**.

First of all, we can not deny the relevance of the problem from a social point of view. The critical point at the basis of the whole issue is represented by the fact that the majority of solutions have inherent implications that **overstep the borders of citizens' freedom**. It is evident how most of the aspects are committed to people's private life. It is though vital to find an effective solution, balanced between what concerns the European Union and what is beyond its limits.

Secondly, we need to contextualise the question in **our modern ethical panorama**. The world's, and obviously Europe's, dynamics have substantially changed over the past decades, bringing new concepts and beliefs. As a physiological process, many prejudices of what was thought to be true were criticized, challenged and finally outclassed. This, together with an infinity of other factors, changed the so-called **moral code** and, as a matter of fact, brought new tendencies. Social diseases such as alcohol abuse, gambling and prostitution has now become a sad and frightening reality for all sectors of the population, minors included.

Especially over the past few years, pathways to **legalisation of soft drugs and prostitution** has been traced, showing new opportunities to **saveguard and protect** the people concerned. Yet, these solutions often lack practical next steps and introduces even bigger complications, such as the **increase and spread of addiction**.

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[3]   http://apps.who.int/gho/data/?showonly=GISAH&theme=main-eu

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This, again, arises the fundamental question: is it possible that lawful measures defeat moral and ethical plagues?

In the last instance, we shall not forget taking into consideration the involvement of economics. The European single market is indeed **highly affected** by the **illegal activities** closely related to organised crime, which is dominating the trade and smuggling of drug, pornography and prostitution. Legalisation could bring us closer to two important goals: it could both allow a big step towards the **defeat of organised crime** and **fight the economic downturn**, through increased taxation.

As a study of Professor Marco Rossi from Università La Sapienza di Roma shows that Italy for instance, would benefit an annual income of 5,5 millions from the taxation of cannabis.

On the other hand, legalisation and taxation might not have the same consequences for all the Member States, not mentioning that it could again represent a means of diffusion, that is spread, instead of regulation, of vice throughout Europe.

It is neccessary take into consideration all the various aspects of this complex issue, them mainly being psychological, sociological, demographical, ethical and financial.

At the most recent meeting of European Alcohol and Health Forum experts predicted over **1 million premature deaths** in the next decade caused only by alcohol consumption[4]. With the increased number of addicts hailing from the youth, it is estimated that this number is significantly higher when taking into account other addictions besides alcohol. What position should the Member States take in order to heal the current situation? What should be their steps towards a balanced and funcional solution?

Links:

Flash report from EAHC.
- http://ec.europa.eu/health/alcohol/docs/ev_20131121_mi_en.pdf

Estimating public expenditure on drug-law offenders in prison in Europe.
- http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/emcdda-papers/public-expenditure-drug-law-offenders-in-prison

Professor Marco Rossi talks about his study of Italy.
- http://www.cannabis.info/IT/enciclopedia/8729-cannabis-e-bilancio-pubblico

4. Measures Already in Place.

The problem of addictions has escalated quicky in the world. The EU has been trying to address the issue over the past few years achieving nothing more than barely satisfying results. Since health is one of those areas which fall under the national jurisdiction of each Member State, no legally binding documents regarding addictions have been signed. However, various politically binding documents and strategies were adopted in order to improve the situation.

Find more information on links below:

Links:

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[4]   http://ec.europa.eu/health/.../ev_20131121_mi_en.pdf

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EU Alcohol strategy

http://ec.europa.eu/health/alcohol/policy/index_en.htm

EU Drugs strategy

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2012:402:0001:0010:en:PDF

Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committe of the regions - An EU strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol related harm (*describes goals and measures from 2006 to 2012*)

1. *http://ec.europa.eu/.../alcohol/.../alcohol_com_625_en.pdf.*

EU Drugs addiction plan

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:351:0001:0023:en:PDF

EMDCCA - Council recommendation on the prevention and reduction of health-related harm associated with drug dependence (2003/488/EC) – its implementation was checked in 2007 and 2013

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:165:0031:0033:en:PDF

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Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI)

"My vision of copyright is of a modern and effective tool that supports creation and innovation, enables access to quality content, including across borders, encourages investment and strengthens cultural diversity. Our EU copyright policy must keep up with the times" (Michel Barnier, Internal Market and Services commissioner)

The digital sphere offers great potential for a new era in which creative and expressive activities will be at the heart of our societies, but it also calls for a new definition of intellectual property and new means to regulate it. In light of the European Parliament's rejection of the ACTA Treaty in 2012, how should the EU act in shaping a Copyright Reform that balances the cultural rights of the public, the protection of authors and the interests of publishing and production houses of all sizes?

By Isabel Cantalapiedra (ES) and Matteo Bagatella (IT)

1.   Introduction and Explanation of the Topic Question

In the past few years, technological development and the increased importance of online activities have made it easier for ordinary people to enjoy and share culture, as the digital world allows every person to reach products from hundreds of artists with just a click. We have seen a decade of massive file sharing pass by, and the trend is still growing exponentially, despite the efforts of governments and businesses to bring down the number of copyright infringement cases. The ever-evolving communication technologies can be a threat to the survival of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), as they spend money struggling to enforce for copyright instead of spending them towards growing economically. Considering that copyright laws have not successfully evolved parallel to the shift of art into the digital era, there is a need to find a new definition of intellectual property that can balance both sides of the spectrum: the consideration that copyright is a weapon against free information sharing, and as a way of protecting artists. How can Member States implement a flexible system in which the artist gets money from the product, and users get information and access to culture?

Links to official sources:

European Union competence in the field of copyright:

- http://www.ivir.nl/publications/Ramalho/EU_Competence_copyright.pdf

Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on the harmonisation of copyright and related rights:

- http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:167:0010:0019:EN:PDF

Neelie Kroes' speech on the recognition of artists:

- http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-11-777_en.htm

2. Key actors

The EU's intervention so far has been in the field of finding a common ground between Member States' different national laws, seeking to harmonise legislation within the EU. The **European Commission** has proposed several directives to tackle the challenges that the digital era has brought about, but reforms are still needed. The commission is also responsible for negotiations on industrial and intellectual property with **World Intellectual Property Organisation** (WIPO) through the participation in General Assemblies. The EU has asked for collaboration from **consumers** and **stakeholders** through **public consultation**, which essentially ask for wider access to products, easier obtainment of licences and further development of portability and cross-border services. In case of infringement, the **European Court of Justice** sets rules that can be applied differently in Member States and mediates between EU institutions and citizens if these claim their rights have been violated.

Links to key actors:

"Licences for Europe", structured stakeholders dialogue

- http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/licensing-europe/index_en.htm

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Proposals by the European Commmission
- http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/management/index_en.htm

World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)
- http://www.wipo.int/portal/en/index.html

European Court of Justice (ECJ)

- http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/court-justice/index_en.htm

3. Key conflicts

The first and maybe the biggest key conflict is if it should be a right to privatize the knowledge with measures that protect the authors but on the other hand could be used for commercial purposes (companies used to buy patterns only to limit the competition) or even juridical purposes (e.g. sample trolls and pattern trolls).

Copyright laws protecting the author's product while encouraging arts and fostering innovation, but reserving the innovations only for those who can pay for them might be controversial and could block the development of new technology that might be helpful for humanity. Even if the ECJ has laid down a common policy approved by each Member State, still every country is interpreting and applying said legislation differently, especially with regards to the implementation of the proportionality principle in the context of online copyright infringement
Links:
Official definition of copyright
- http://www.copyright.com/Services/copyrightoncampus/basics/law.html

Official press release of the EU that analyses copyright
- http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-11-630_en.htm

4. Measures Already in Place

The European union has already taken some measures such as the "Berne Convention". Furthemore the EU introduced the IPRED and the IPRED2, two European Union directives intended to enforce compliance in the field of intellectual property law. As well as directives from 2001 until 2010. The general aim of those dirctives is to use the material that is under copyright only for aims concerning teaching or science. However, those directieves are not fully implemented, due to the fact that each Member State punishes copyright infringements applying his own legislation - even though all the Member States have agreed upon them. The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), a multinational treaty intended to establish international standards, was rejected by the European Parliament in 2012 due to two important facts: first of all this treaty would have been really effective only if all the countries of the world accepted it, and secondly for the reason that a strong digital control might violate too much of the privacy guaranteed for law-abiding internet users.
Links:
History and description of the Berne convention
- http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.britannica.com%2FEBchecked%2Ftopic%2F62482%2FBerne-Convention&h=JAQEkBxrk

Official site in which you can find all the measures and the past juridical cases
- http://www.eucopyright.com/

Summary of the 2001/29/EC Directive of the European Parliament

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- http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/information_society/data_protection/l26053_en.htm

Press release of the European Parliament that explains why the ACTA Treaty was rejected
- http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20120703IPR48247/html/European-Parliament-rejects-ACTA

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"We are building a cemetery within our Mediterranean Sea" (Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta)
On October 3rd 2013, a boat carrying more than 500 migrants from Libya to Italy sank off the Italian island of Lampedusa. 155 survivors were rescued, while at least 366 migrants – that is the number of dead bodies found - lost their lives in this shocking event. Given the increase in migration flows towards the European coasts, how should the European Union act in order to prevent tragedies such as the one in Lampedusa?

By Anastasia Lvova (EE), Ilir Kola (AL)

Introduction and Explanation of the Topic

In recent years the number of illegal immigrants in the EU has reached alarming numbers and the EUs steps to achieve a unified policy towards illegal immigration have been seen as largely ineffective. "Europe needs to share the enormous burden of illegal immigrants that Malta is facing" says Bernard Kouchner, a French politician and the cofounder of Médecins Sans Fronitères. Malta, Italy, Spain and Greece in particular with 80% of immigration coming through its borders have been influenced the most by this problem with the immigration flow coming from the South Mediterranean by sea. Here it is important to distinguish between legal and illegal immigration while dealing with this issue: legal immigrants are people staying in the EU on a student visa, work permit or other legal grounds; whereas an illegal immigrant is a person that lives and works in a country without having a legal right to stay there. Some of illegal immigrants arriving as asylum seekers eventually have their status recognized and legalized, while others continue residing in the EU illegally. The right to asylum is enshrined in several human right treaties. Also the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of the Refugee makes it a global obligation. In addition to these, the principle of non-refoulement states that countries are obliged not to return asylum-seekers to a territory where their fundamental rights may be violated. The question then remains - how should EU as a whole take on the issue of growing numbers of illegal immigrants on its territory? The EU faces many problems while trying to adequately receive those immigrants - from ensuring their survival at sea, providing them with basic supply of food and water to approving an application for asylum and integrating them into the society. What should the EUs measures be in order to guarantee that every step is carried out successfully?

Links to official sources:

Mediterranean takes record as most deadly stretch of water for refugees and migrants in 2011:
    http://www.unhcr.org/4f27e01f9.html

Common European Asylum System:
    http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/index_en.htm

Free movement of persons, asylum and immigration:
    http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/free_movement_of_persons_asylum_im
    migration/index_en.htm

Infographics on immigration:
    http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/docs/infographics/immigration/migration-in-eu-
    infographic_en.pdf

Europe's shifting immigration dynamic:
    http://www.meforum.org/2107/europe-shifting-immigration-dynamic

Key actors

FRONTEX – An EU Agency responsible for co-ordinating the activities of the national border guards in ensuring the security of the EU's borders with non-member states.

The European Commission Directorate-General on Home Affairs – It manages policies that aim at ensuring that all activities necessary and beneficial to the economic, cultural and social growth of the EU may develop in a

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stable, lawful and secure environment. It is also in charge of creating a common EU Migration and asylum policy.

Member States of the EU – They are responsible for the security of their own borders. They are also in charge of their immigration policies.

Amnesty International – A non-governmental organisation (NGO) which aims to conduct research and generate action to prevent and end grave abuses of human rights, and to demand justice for those whose rights have been violated.

UNHCR – A UN agency mandated to protect and support refugees at the request of a government or the UN itself and assist their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.

Links to key actors:
FRONTEX - European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union
        http://frontex.europa.eu/)
European Commission Directorate-General on Home Affairs
        http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/
EU Foreign Affairs Council
        http://www.consilium.europa.eu/policies/council-configurations/foreign-affairs.aspx?lang=en
Amnesty International
        http://www.amnesty.org/
UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
        http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home

Key conflicts

Troubled situations on the ground in illegal immigrants' countries of origin have made many people seek refuge in European states, where human rights are respected. However, Europe has also become an attractive destination for economic migrants posing as refugees, coming to try and improve their quality of life with the aid of European welfare systems. To get to Europe migrants are forced to pay smugglers, are likely to face abuse and a very dangerous journey across the Mediterranean sometimes in nothing more than fishing boats. In view of this, EU institutions have to find a way of effectively accommodating asylum seekers and at the same time not to open the door to mass migration or illegal activities such as human trafficking. It is rather challenging to balance those and we are faced with a variety of opinions in regard to what the European policy should be. The rising popularity of right-wing anti-immigration movements seems to show growing skepticism towards common regulations and their implementation process in Europe. To avoid discontent and in order to achieve results the EU has to efficiently communicate in order to create a unified strategy of action between all of its Member States. For instance, when talking about inefficiency one can bring up that all of asylum and visa applications are still processed by the country of entry into EU; this creates an enormous workload and considerably slows down the procedure. Taking into account individual states' requirements and the number of human lives at stake, European bodies have to put in place a carefully balanced structure to control EU borders and manage the immigration flow.
Links:
Doubt over EUROSUR, which is supposed to prevent illegal immigration off Europe's southern coasts and save refugees in maritime distress.
        http://www.dw.de/goals-of-eurosur-border-scheme-questioned/a-17150945
EU still torn on immigration
        http://www.dw.de/eu-still-torn-on-immigration/a-17157240
Is there solidarity in Europe over illegal immigration?
        http://www.debatingeurope.eu/2013/11/19/is-there-solidarity-in-europe-immigration/#.Uw0TMYVQweN
Illegal Immigrants in Greece: At the Mercy of the People Smugglers

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http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/thousands-of-illegal-immigrants-enter-europe-through-greece-a-834415.html

Measures Already in Place

The two most important policies adopted by the EU regarding immigration are the Immigration Policy and the Asylum Policy. Both these policies aim to regulate the policies of different Member States and make them equally fair. One of the latest measures taken by the EU in order to insure its borders is the EUROSUR. It is an information exchange system designed to improve management of the EU external borders. EUROSUR enables near real-time sharing of border-related data between members of the system which are the Schengen countries and Frontex. Its main objectives are to reduce the number of irregular immigrants entering the EU undetected; to reduce the number of deaths at the maritime borders by saving more lives at sea, and to increase the internal security of the EU as a whole by preventing cross-border crimes.

Apart from border surveillance, another aspect in which several measures have been taken is the asylum seeking system. Asylum is a fundamental right, and it is granted to people fleeing persecution or serious harm in their home country, therefore in need of international protection. The Common European Asylum System (CEAS) is a system which is applied in the entire EU and ensures a joint approach of Member States in order to guarantee high standards of protection for refugees.

In addition to these systems, a lot of financial resources have been allocated to projects related to immigration and border surveillance. The External Borders Fund aims to establish financial solidarity between Schengen countries by supporting the countries where the implementation of common standards represents a heavy burden. The Refugee Fund supports EU Member States' efforts in receiving refugees and providing them with the needed help. The Integration Fund supports national and EU initiatives that facilitate the integration of non-EU immigrants into European societies.

Overall the amount of money allocated by these funds in the past six years is approximately EUR 3275 million. GAMM is the EU's framework for dialogue and cooperation with non-EU countries of origin, transit and destination. It enables migration and asylum issues to be addressed in a comprehensive way.

Links:
EUROSUR
     http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/docs/infographics/eurosur/eurosur_en.pdf
     http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/free_movement_of_persons_asylum_immigration/l14579_en.htm
CEAS
     http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/docs/infographics/ceas/ceas_infographics_a4_en.pdf
GAMM
     http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/international-affairs/global-approach-to-migration/index_en.htm

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Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs II (LIBE II)

"I want a clear commitment from social networking sites to protect minors from unwanted contacts and to protect their online reputation. If we want to have the certainty that our kids are using the web safely, we need to make sure they can do this in the best conditions" (Neelie Kroes, European Commissioner for Digital Agenda)
In the Member States nearly half of the children starts using social networks at the age of 9, and the protection measures are not proportionate to the greater risks they might succumb to. How should the European Union take action in order to guarantee the safety of younger users and protect their privacy?

By Anamaria Olaru (RO) and Joshua Giovanni Honeycutt (IT)

1. Introduction and Explanation of the Topic Question

Tired of the daily races, the run, the rush, you might find the Internet the perfect place to escape. But is this the ideal getaway? As disappointing as it may sound, the fall from cloud nine can be a quick one, especially due to the loopholes in current security measures. The era of technology in which we are currently living has brought both advantages and disadvantages.

On this account, the necessity of stronger regulations is clear, especially for the rapidly increasing number of youngsters who have begun to use social networks from an early age. Some of the most popular sites, such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, require users to be over the age of 13 to have a profile. On average, children in Europe now start going online when they are seven. 38% of 9 to 12 year olds who are online say they have a social networking profile, in spite of age restrictions. More than 30% of children who go online do so from a mobile device and 26% via game consoles. There is reliable evidence from a variety of sources that large numbers of children under the age of 13 are active users of these sites. Providers of social networking sites have a corporate and social responsibility to create as safe an environment as possible for their users.

However, the legal and regulatory frameworks governing social networking sites are complex. The most popular social networking sites are American companies, and therefore are governed by the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act 1998 (COPPA), which is a Federal Law in the USA. COPPA governs the data collection and advertising practices for every big commercial American company that operates over the Internet. As human beings, children have the right to privacy. Art. 16 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child provides that no child shall be subject to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation. This must be respected by everybody, even by the legal representatives of the child. While some believe that privacy is of high importance, others feel that it is an unnecessary asset. The same goes for the "way-too-harsh" methods of surveillance, as some would categorise them and their implications. Balancing all the arguments for and against, the EU should re-consider its legislative measures in order to assure the safety and protection of youngsters in this field.
Links to official sources:
A simple explanation of what internet security is:
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_security

A simple explanation of what internet privacy is:
- http://www.techopedia.com/definition/24954/internet-privacy

Information on the UK porn filter and the problems it raises:
- http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jan/03/david-cameron-internet-porn-filter-censorship-creep

2. Key actors

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The Council of the European Union

The EU's laws are made by the Council, together with the European Parliament. It is expression of national governments, who each have one representative in the Council. In most cases, the Council can only legislate on the basis of proposals submitted to it by the European Commission. It can ask the Commission to submit any proposals it may deem appropriate. Since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, a million citizens may also sign a petition inviting the Commission to submit a proposal. This is the citizens' right of initiative.

European Parliament

The European Parliament is the only directly-elected EU body and one of the largest democratic assemblies in the world. Its 766 Members are there to represent the EU's 500 million citizens. They are elected once every five years by voters from across the 28 Member States.

European Commission

The Commission is the politically independent institution formed by 28 commissioners, one per each Member State, that represents and upholds the interests of the EU as a whole. It is the driving force within the EU's institutional system: it propose legislation, policies and programmes of action and is responsible for implementing the decisions of the European Parliament and the Council.

National governments

Internet providers, social networks, web search engines

Organisation For Economic Co-Operation And Development (OECD)

The mission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems.

The CEO Coalition

The CEO coalition, launched in December 2011, is a cooperative voluntary intervention designed to respond to emerging challenges arising from the diverse ways in which young Europeans go online. Companies signatories to the Coalition committed to take positive action to make the internet a safer place for kids.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The European Commission plans to unify data protection within the European Union (EU) with a single law, the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**. The current EU Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC does not consider important aspects like globalization and technological developments like social networks and cloud computing sufficiently and determined that new guidelines for data protection and privacy were required.

Links to key actors:
Council of the European Union
- http://www.consilium.europa.eu/homepage.aspx?lang=en

European Parliament
- http://www.europarl.europa.eu/

European commission
- http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

Organisation For Economic Co-Operation And Development (OECD)
- http://www.oecd.org/

CEO Coalition
- https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/better-internet-kids-ceo-coalition-1-year
  http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-11-1485_en.htm?locale=fr

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/document/review2012/com_2012_11_en.pdf

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3. Key conflicts

There are several inherent conflicts regarding this topic: one conflict is the balance between privacy and freedom on the Internet: in this sense, for example, one must consider the UK porn filter, which surely does protect minors, but at the same time introduces censorship and therefore lingers with freedom rights. A major role, for as long as this type of content controls goes, is undoubtibly played by families, who play a particular role in opposition to the general role that can be played by public bodies.

Another major problem refers to the need for reform in this field of internet protection. The safety of children from all over Europe depends on the direction in which EU wants to tackle the situation. While in the UK, as already mentioned, the implementation of porn filters is highly controversial, other nations still struggle to find the best solutions. Obtaining verifiable parental consent is not easy to achieve over the internet, therefore the most popular social networking sites state that users should be over the age of 13 so that parental consent is not required, but this age limit can easily be bypassed.

The Commission report on how existing child safety recommendations are being implemented in the Member States shows that, broadly, they are making increasing efforts to respond to digital challenges, but the measures taken are insufficient. This shows how large, comprehensive solutions seem to be inefficient and indicates that perhaps more aimed solutions should be looked for, and that perhaps private sector (families and companies) may be able to play a larger role than the public.

Links:
Case of a teenager who were bullied on social networks
- http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/10303300/Schoolgirl-threatened-suicide-following-bullying-on-Ask.fm.html

Recommendation of the OECD Council on child internet protection
- http://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/childrenonline_with_cover.pdf

Site where you filled with information regarding current privacy and security issues regarding in particular COPPA
- http://epic.org/privacy/kids/

4. Measures Already in Place

For as far as private sector actions are concerned, in Brussels, on the 1st of December 2011, 28 leading companies have come together to form a new Coalition to make a better and safer internet for children. The founding Coalition members have agreed to take action in five areas: 1. simple and robust tools to report possibly harmful elements present on a website ; 2. age-appropriate privacy settings; 3. wider use of content classification; 4. wider availability and use of parental control; 5. effective takedown of child abuse material.

Concerning public bodies, on the other hand, different policies, are implemented across Member States – for example for parental controls, for content rating and for reporting harmful and illegal content. Individual nation states, can change the age requirement higher than 13 for social networking sites (13 is social network's policy age limit, as stated above). For example, the minimum age requirement to have a Google account in Spain is 14, and 16 in the Netherlands.
Links:

Digital Agenda: Commission outlines action plan to boost Europe's prosperity and well-being
- http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-10-581_en.htm?locale=en

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Take control of your personal data
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ByVaZ0rg8U

EU-US internet privacy talks
- http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-10-1661_en.htm

Site where you filled with information regarding current privacy and security measures in relation in particular to COPPA
- http://epic.org/privacy/kids/

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Committee on Regional Development (REGI)

"Europe 2020 is the EU growth strategy for the coming decade. In a changing world,we want the EU to become a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy". (José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission)
The significant effects of the phenomenon of global warming have in recent months rekindled the debate over the theme of sustainable development. Starting from the climate and energy objectives of Europe 2020, how can the EU promote a more responsible energy policy, in order to ensure that Member States fulfil their commitments?

<div align="right">By Jacopo Mazza (IT) and Michael Rozhkov (UA)</div>

1. Introduction and Explanation of the Topic Question

A certain energy development model can deeply influence the shape of the society, therefore discussing it means leaving one's own footprint on the future. Indeed, the efficient energy model has been debated not only between economists and policy makers, but as well among scientists and the civil society. For a long time, evidence has been put forward showing that the growth rate of western countries does not correspond with the limited amount of natural resources. On the other hand, economic growth is the main means to improve people's well-being, particularly within underdeveloped and developing countries. Besides, since extreme natural incidents increase in number and frequency, global warming and climate change are now easier to see than ever. This acknowledged threat is boosting and speeding up policy making, especially within the European Union, although the scenario is discomforting. Europe still needs a regulation affecting the present, yet looking to the future. The task of the Committee on Regional Development will be to think about an approach that will be based upon the needs of each independent Member State as well as the climate objectives of Europe 2020, on which the Member States, as a whole, have already agreed.
Links to official sources:
EU law on climate change:

- http://ec.europa.eu/clima/about-us/climate-law/index_en.htm

Europe 2020 climate change package:

- http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/package/index_en.htm

What's causing climate change?

- http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/brief/causes/index_en.htm

What are the consequences of climate change?

- http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/brief/consequences/index_en.htm

2. Key actors

The European Commission consists of the Directorate Generals (DG), and especially relevant here are the following DGs: DG Climate, DG Development and Cooperation, DG Environment and DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO).[5] These DGs are able to provide a **supporting competence**, meaning that although Member States decide on energy policy and actions to implement, the EU have a role in coordinating the policy.

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[5] Directorate-General is an operative branch of the European Commission: its action is limited to a specific policy area; the Directorate-General provides the competent Commissioner with proposals that may then go through the ordinary legislative.

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National Ministries of the Environment or Emergency Management Agencies are responsible for energy policy. However, due to inadequate funding and political backing the issue is often passed down to local level where institutions do not have the capability to tackle the problem and tailor the policy.

International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) is a global network of independent NGOs working for sustainable energy solutions to reduce poverty and protect the environment. The organisation is currently working on INFORSE Vision 2050 which aims to achieve the usage of 100% renewable energy supply by 2050.

The International Climate Change Partnership (ICCP) is an organization of companies and trade associations from around the world working to influence international climate change legislation.

The European Climate Foundation is an international organisation whose aims are to promote climate and energy policies which greatly reduce Europe's greenhouse gas emissions.
Links to key actors:
Directorate-General Climate Action.
- http://ec.europa.eu/clima/index_en.htm

International Network for Sustainable Energy
- http://www.inforse.dk/europe/

3. Key conflicts

With average temperatures rising, ice melting and water cycle modification, climate change is a cause of deep concern for the European Union and the whole world. Indeed, **extreme weather conditions** are becoming more and more frequent, thus revealing a certain vulnerability of the Union's territory but at the same time pushing aside a non-sustainable development pattern. On the other hand, the EU is striving for economic stability, in particular in this period of crisis. Despite being a relatively rich continent in terms of natural resources, **the EU is dependent on many raw materials import**. Energy is clearly not an exception: more than a half of the whole supply comes from the international market, hence exposing the Union to the risk of tough blackouts, for instance the 2009 gas dispute. Renewable sources, which may be exploited locally, could evidently be an option, even though the arguments for and against are highly debated, for instance food crops reconversion to biofuels. However, research and development of new technologies has often proved to tone down criticism.
Links:
European Environment Agency, Climate change
- http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate

Eurostat, the statistical office of the EU, with specific sections on "Climate Change and Energy" and "Sustainable Development"
- http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home

4. Measures Already in Place

In the spirit of Europe 2020 strategy, the European Union set up specific initiatives, namely the European Climate Change Program and the Sustainable Development Strategy, back in 2000 and 2006 respectively. Then, in 2010, a new Directorate-General for Climate Action was created. Several measures have been adopted by both the EU and Member States in order to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions: the Emission Trading System (ETS), for instance, fixes a "cap" and establishes emission allowances to be traded between power plants, industries and airline companies; the transport sector has been studied closely as well, for example through the EU Transport GHG: Routes to 2050 project. The EU tackled the resources' supply issue with the aim of boosting efficiency, see

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the flagship initiative for a resource-efficient Europe, and recycling within the Union, and fostering sustainability in trading with the rest of the world. Use and production of energy from renewable sources has also been promoted through various provisions, including a directive and European Regional Development Fund financing. In order to safeguard the EU from sudden shortages, several bilateral agreements have been signed; in particular, a specific roadmap has been agreed upon between the representatives of the EU-Russia Energy Dialogue, founding an Early Warning Mechanism.

Links:

What is the EU doing about climate change?
- http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/brief/eu/index_en.htm

Sustainable Development Strategy
- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/

Emissions Trading System: GHG reduction through allowances market. Official website
- http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/ets/index_en.htm

Emissions Trading System: GHG reduction through allowances market. Factsheet
- http://ec.europa.eu/clima/publications/docs/factsheet_ets_en.pdf

A resource-efficient Europe – Flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 strategy
- http://ec.europa.eu/resource-efficient-europe/index_en.htm

Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources
- http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/energy/renewable_energy/en0009_en.htm

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