

7th National Selection Conference  
Tbilisi, Georgia

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# Academic Preparation Kit

7th National Selection Conference  
EYP Georgia

**2013**

European Youth Parliament Georgia

Dear Delegates,

Please find inside this booklet detailed information regarding all topics at the session and links for further research. I encourage you to read your own topics' overview thoroughly, but also to take the time to browse other overviews as you will all have the chance, in both the Resolution Village and General Assembly, to have your views heard.

Every topic is relevant, important and often controversial, so it is important to remember that when discussing these topics at the session you will often find disagreements and moments of conflict. However, knowing the factual basis for a topic is what will allow you to form your own opinion.

The overviews have been written by the chairs assigned to each committee, and are based on previous information from preparation kits across EYP International. I hope they prove useful and interesting, as well as a solid foundation for the 7th National Selection Conference of EYP Georgia.

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet, and to all those who helped put the overviews, templates and topics together.

Monika Ghosh (UK)

Session President

Thanks for this overview format go to Kerstin Matthias, from the forum in Kosovo and the National Session in Brussels, and also to Monica Bota Moisin with her format in Volterra, with extra preparatory materials from EYP Germany, and finally the Prep Kit from EYP DE, Lucy Bradfield and her chairs team at the Hamburg Regional Session 2013.

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## ENVI

### Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

*“Some water for all and forever”*: Bearing in mind the EU Water Framework Directive,

What steps should be taken in order to ensure access to clean water for everybody and everywhere across the EU?

## Keywords

EU Water Framework Directive, River Basin Management, Privatisation of Water, Water Pricing, Good Status, CAP Reform, European Environmental Bureau.

## Links

- [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/info/intro\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/info/intro_en.htm)
- <http://www.eeb.org/index.cfm/about-eeb/>
- <http://www.eeb.org/EEB/?LinkServID=719950AA-5056-B741-DBB758C5DC4D5258&showMeta=0>

## Relevance and Explanation

Water is the source of all life. Because of its great importance to mankind, there are efforts to recognize and effectively guarantee it as a human right. On a European level, the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) was established in 2000 with the ultimate objective is to achieve “good ecological and chemical status” for all Community waters by 2015.

The WFD follows a coordinated approach to controlling all types of water assets - Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), balancing ecological, social and economic needs also through the involvement of stakeholder in the development and implementation processes.

After monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the WFD, the European Commission (EC) came to the conclusion that the current steps are not sufficient to achieve good status by 2015 for 40% of all waters.

## Links

- [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/index_en.htm)
- <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/>
- [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/pdf/COM-2012-670\\_EN.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/pdf/COM-2012-670_EN.pdf)

## Key Questions

- Are the recommended steps of the EC Blueprint the right ones?
- How should they be implemented in order to achieve the goal of the WFD by 2015 and beyond?
- Are additional measures outside the scope of the existing EU water policy needed?
- How should conflicting environmental, social and economic needs be balanced?

### Links

- <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52012DC0673:EN:NOT>
- <http://www.eeb.org/?LinkServID=B1E256EB-DBC1-AA1C-DBA46F91C9118E7D&showMeta=0>

## Main Actors

The water framework directive was an idea proposed by European Parliament's environment committee and the Council of environment ministers. In 1995 the European Commission accepted their request and implemented a fundamental, new water policy, now known as the Water Framework Directive.

Whilst EU actions of the past such as the Drinking Water Directive and the Urban Waste Water Directive can duly be considered milestones, European Water Policy has to address the increasing awareness of citizens and other involved parties for their water. At the same time water policy and water management are to address problems in a coherent way. This is why the new European Water Policy was developed in an open consultation process involving all interested parties.

While the decision makers are the European Commission and the EU Parliament, great contribution has been made from all interested parties, such as local and regional authorities, water users and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Member States play vital roles in the implementation of the WFD. One of the major problems of the above mentioned policy is exactly the unequal participation of member states, leading to the fact that most of them have not implemented it till this day.

However, it must be remembered that the one of the most important stakeholders are citizens. The initiative right2water is a remarkable effort from citizens to try and establish water as a human right and not a market good.

### Links

- [http://ec.europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm)
- <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>

## Existing Solutions

The first of the tools of the WFD are River Basin Management Plans (RBMP). Because of the complexity of ecosystems, it is more efficient to examine all water bodies (groundwater, surface water, other wetlands) at the same time. The WFD thus divides Europe into river basins, which comprise all water bodies in a certain region.

Member States have to work together to create a RBMP for each river basin, monitoring the chemical composition, biological elements and physical shape. Unfortunately, not all Member States have fulfilled this duty, yet.

Another instrument of the WFD is the implementation of pricing policies to the water supply system. Member States have to ensure that the costs related to water treatment, distribution and infrastructure maintenance correspond to the final price. That means that large subsidies for water which are still provided by a lot of governments and municipalities are now prohibited by the WFD.

Some experts even suggest to increase water prices for over-extensive use as an incentive for consumers to use water more efficiently, which might result in higher costs for citizens, industry and agriculture. Since water tariffs differ vastly from region to region and depend highly on the infrastructure, it is difficult to create an EU-wide pricing policy.

### Links

- <http://www.icpdr.org/main/activities-projects/river-basin-management>
- [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/pdf/waterislife\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/pdf/waterislife_en.pdf)

## Water Framework Directive

Water Framework Directive was established for water protection and management. WFD has the following key aims:

- expanding the scope of water protection to all waters, surface waters and groundwater
- achieving "good status" for all waters by a set deadline
- water management based on river basins
- a "combined approach" of emission limit values and quality standards
- getting the prices right
- getting the citizen involved more closely
- streamlining legislation

The Directive aims for 'good status' for all ground and surface waters (rivers, lakes, transitional waters, and coastal waters) in the EU, as mentioned above. The ecological and chemical status of surface waters are assessed according to the following criteria:

- 1) Biological quality (fish, benthic invertebrates, aquatic flora)
- 2) Hydromorphological quality such as river bank structure, river continuity or substrate of the river bed
- 3) Physical-chemical quality such as temperature, oxygenation and nutrient conditions
- 4) Chemical quality that refers to environmental quality standards for river basin specific pollutants. These standards specify maximum concentrations for specific water pollutants. If even one such concentration is exceeded, the water body will not be classed as having a “good ecological status”.

All of these aims have to be met by 2015, however, has a chance of failing to meet the deadline.

#### **Links**

- <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32000L0060:EN:HTML>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O21e0-rTQ1Y>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HllkVVgjUEk>

#### **Key Conflicts**

One of the largest contributors to eutrophication, pollution and over-abstraction of water is agriculture, which is why water-protecting measures were proposed by NGOs for the upcoming reform of the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU (CAP). Farmers could lose part of their subsidies, if they do not comply with environmental-friendly and sustainable farming practices (cross compliance standards). At the same time, such agriculture production will be more costly for the farmers decreasing the incentives in a generally low income sector, i.e. agriculture.

Another reform proposal created concerns about privatisation and a consequent detriment of the water supply. Privatisation, critics argue, may lead to a decrease of quality, accessibility and affordability of water in Europe when the private interest and profit seeking fall before the public interest of accessible and affordable water.

Is it possible for a local government able to manage water facilities at the same time as a private actor with private interests? Meanwhile, a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) calls upon EU institutions to effectively guarantee the human right to water and to refrain from liberalising the water.

#### **Links**

- <http://www.right2water.eu/>
- <http://www.euractiv.com/sustainability/eu-faces-criticism-pressing-wate-news-515320>

**By Ia Tserodze (GE) & Ioseb Jorjolian (GE)**

## **CULT**

### **Committee on Culture and Education**

*Following the growing concern regarding the failure of European educational institutions to turn out graduates with the right skills to meet the needs of the European labour markets:*

How can the EU respond to these difficulties in order to improve the employability and future prospects of younger generations?

### **Keywords**

Vocational Education and Training, labour market, skills mismatch, youth unemployment, higher education and employment, educational reforms, NEET's

### **Links**

- <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-vocational-education.htm>
- <https://almanac.ukces.org.uk/Skills/What%20are%20skills%20mismatches/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

### **Relevance and Explanation**

Higher Education plays a drastic role in life of the youngsters. It is meant to open up new possibilities and applicability to different jobs Every year the number of students enrolled in higher educational institutions in EU increases as more European youngsters start to find higher education increasingly appealing.

The increase of the number of enrolled students at a higher education institute is putting a strain on these institutions as their insufficient funds and faulting curricula cannot meet the demands of the increasing volume of attendees. Therefore, the curricula do not meet the needs of individuals and the labour market leaving the students underprepared for the potential jobs.

The most prominent implication of the educational process, which is then reflected to the professional context, is the mismatch of skills to job requirements. A common sign of skill imbalances are skill shortages or the presence of hard-to-fill vacancies as a result of a discrepancy between the skills sought by enterprises and those available in the workforce.

Unless the situation is altered to the better, the students seeking the jobs can never be qualified enough to fill the available vacancies which require the skills that the higher educational institutions simply do not offer.

### **Links**

- <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/news/20961.aspx>
- [http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Files/5521\\_en.pdf](http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Files/5521_en.pdf)
- [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_SPEECH-13-370\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-13-370_en.htm)

## Key Questions

- What can the EU do to improve the quality of higher education in Europe?
- How can EU improve the transition between education/training and the labour market?
- Will mixing vocational education with theoretical education be better or should they be separate?
- How should higher educational institutions respond to the needs of the community?

## Links

- [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-11-615\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-11-615_en.htm?locale=en)
- [http://www.eenee.de/portal/page/portal/EENEEContent/\\_IMPORT\\_TELECENTRUM/DOCS/EENEE\\_AR13.pdf](http://www.eenee.de/portal/page/portal/EENEEContent/_IMPORT_TELECENTRUM/DOCS/EENEE_AR13.pdf)

## Main Actors

The European Parliament suggested that The European commission and The Council to establish "European Youth Guarantee" to give every young person in the EU the right to a job, an apprenticeship, further training or a job combined with training, if they have been out of work for four months.

The process of further facilitating higher education to fit the demands of labour market are enhanced by the ministries of education of all EU member states. In addition to that, The Commission has mobilised a series of action teams in the eight Member States worst affected by youth unemployment in order to develop youth employment plans.

The commission has also decided to spend substantially greater amounts of money on tackling the problems concerning the skills mismatch and endorsing the solutions like "European Youth Guarantee".

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) is actively researching current state of the issue therewith assisting the EU on finding solutions as well as organizing vocational trainings for the students.

The higher educational institutions, their deans and the lecturers also have to cooperate as much as they can in order to conform their methods of studies to the current demands.

## Links

- <http://www.nepes.eu/?q=node/309>
- [http://ec.europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm)
- <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>
- <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Index.aspx>
- <http://www.european-council.europa.eu/home-page.aspx>

## Existing Solutions

EU provides funds to encourage institutions both in the EU and across the world to co-operate and to create more opportunities for students and staff to study, train or teach abroad. The EU agenda for the modernisation of higher education responds to the Europe 2020 strategy and is a key priority of the Commission's Youth on the Move initiative.

The 27 EU Member States, plus candidate countries and associated countries, co-operate to share policy experience in order to learn from each other and work towards agreed targets. The Commission monitors progress and supports Member State reform efforts, including through country-specific recommendations and with EU funding programmes. Many of the key issues are common to both processes, such as widening the participation of underrepresented groups, and increasing the employability of graduates.

As part of Europe's strategy for jobs and growth, the European Commission today presented a reform strategy to boost graduate numbers, improve teaching quality and maximise what higher education can do to help the EU economy emerge stronger from the crisis. In order to reach the progress they claim that the number of graduates should be increased and the process of dropping out students should be reduced. The quality and relevance of higher education should be improved, so curricula meet the needs of individuals, the labour market and the careers of the future, as well as stimulating and rewarding excellence in teaching and research.

There must be more opportunities for students to gain additional skills through study or training abroad, and to encourage cross-border co-operation to boost higher education performance. What is more, more researchers need to be trained to prepare the ground for the industries of tomorrow and strengthen the links between education, research and

business to promote excellence and innovation. Apart from these, in order ensure that funding is efficient it is important to look at freeing up higher education governance and investing in quality education is necessary to match labour market to needs.

### Links

- [http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/20110920\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/20110920_en.htm)
- <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/de/pressroom/content/20120423IPR43721/>

## Strategic Framework for Education and Training

Politicians at the European level have recognised that education and training are essential to the development of today's knowledge society and economy. The EU's strategy emphasises countries working together and learning from each other.

EU education and training policies have gained impetus since the adoption of the Lisbon Strategy in 2000, the EU's overarching program focusing on growth and jobs. The strategy recognised that knowledge, and the innovation it sparks, are the EU's most valuable assets, particularly in light of increasing global competition.

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EU Member States and the European Commission strengthened co-operation in 2009 with strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training ("ET 2010") a follow-up to the earlier Education and Training 2010 work programme launched in 2001.

"ET 2020" policy framework includes the following: Investing in education and training – a response to 'Rethinking Education: investing in skills for better socio-economic outcomes' and the 2013 Annual Growth Survey; Education and Training in Europe 2010 – the contribution of education and training to economic recovery, growth and jobs; Rethinking Education: Investing in skills for better socio-economic outcomes and etc.

European countries are increasingly emphasising the need to recognise the full range of an individual's knowledge, skills and competences – those acquired not only at school, university or other education and training institutions, but also outside the formal system. This requires new approaches to validate such learning experiences (i.e. identify, document, assess and/or certify), making them usable for further studies or advancement in work.

Systematic validation mechanisms could make clear which skills are available in the European workforce: facilitating a better match between skills and labour demand, addressing skills shortages in growing sectors; promoting better transferability of skills between companies and sectors; helping citizens move around the EU to study and work.

#### **Links**

- [http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/framework\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/framework_en.htm)
- [http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/policy-framework\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/policy-framework_en.htm)
- [http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/eqf\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/eqf_en.htm)
- [http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/informal\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/informal_en.htm)

## Key Conflicts

Although many different solutions have been called for, the problem still remains intact, which brings us to the fact that these solutions have not proved to be as efficient as expected. The fact is that despite the seeming unison of the countries there still are several factors hindering the process.

Member States are first and foremost responsible for their own education and training systems, and higher education institutions are autonomous organisations in most countries. Therefore, they are not properly monitored so the results begot are not effective enough.

The current financial environment also hinders private investment on human capital because of the overall economic turbulence and the high levels of uncertainty that define the European market, therefore there is lack of funds for the ongoing projects

Conflicts also exist in terms of different ideological views, Capitalists vs Socialists concerning the inequality between the different social groups while getting education and being distributed at the labor market.

Empirical studies of access to and participation in higher education illustrate that higher education systems in most countries are still far from having reached the stated goal of European policy declarations. Clancy (2010) emphasises the continuing differences in access, participation and completion in most European countries. Brennan, Naidoo and Patel (2009, pp. 148-149) also conclude that "overall very large inequalities remain, in spite of the considerable expansions in enrolments".

### Links

- [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/thematic\\_reports/131EN.pdf](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/thematic_reports/131EN.pdf)

**By Salome Kandelaki (GE) & Tamar Matiashvili (GE)**

## ITRE

### Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

*Cutting out the middlemen: With the Nord Stream pipeline directly connecting Russia and Western Europe via the Baltic Sea, concerns of the EU's growing energy dependence on Russia are growing, and the tensions between former Eastern European transit countries have intensified.*

What responsibility does the EU have to mediate in such conflicts and what are possible consequences for the EU's energy policy?

### Keywords

European Federation of Energy Traders (EFET), Eurogas, European Energy Regulators Group (EREG), Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE), Memorandum of Understanding on Energy (MoU), Naftogaz, Gazprom, January 2006 Gas Crisis, January 2009 Gas Crisis, EU Gas Transmission System, Nord Stream.

### Relevance and Explanation

European energy market is significantly dependent on imported resources. One quarter of all energy consumed in the EU is gas. 58% of this gas is imported. Of this, more than a quarter comes from Russia, and around 80% of EU imports of gas from Russia pass via Ukraine.

In winter of 2009 many European states, especially Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, and above all Bulgaria and Romania were affected by gas crisis resulted from an unresolved commercial dispute between Naftogaz (Ukraine) and Gazprom (Russia). This 14 day gas disruption demonstrated how the lack of interconnections and diversification options (route and fuel source) can exacerbate a supply crisis inside the Union.

Building Nord Stream Pipeline did contribute to the diversification of transportation routes, however many European Union member states remain dependence on imported Russian gas. Among the 8 new eastern European Member States, dependence on Russian imports still averages 77% and leave them in uncertainty.

### Links

- [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/strategies/2009/doc/sec\\_2009\\_0977.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/strategies/2009/doc/sec_2009_0977.pdf)
- [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/international/russia/doc/20120329\\_pl\\_presentation\\_ep\\_eu\\_russia-clean.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/international/russia/doc/20120329_pl_presentation_ep_eu_russia-clean.pdf)
- <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2006/10/the-north-european-gas-pipeline-threatens-europes-energy-security>
- <http://www.euractiv.com/energy/pipeline-politics-russia-eus-bat-links-dossier-188483>

### Key Questions

- How unified is the European Union when it comes to energy policy?

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- How can the EU ensure the Nord Stream Pipeline will not give Gazprom- Russia's state gas monopoly- even more control over EU Member states' gas supply?
  - Can the ensure that crises such as those in 2006 and 2009 do not occur again in the future?
  - What, if any, alternatives are available to the EU to decrease the current dependence on Russia?
  - What are the consequences of the ongoing liberalisation process?

### Links

- <http://www.oxfordenergy.org/2009/02/the-russo-ukrainian-gas-dispute-of-january-2009-a-comprehensive-assessment/>
- <http://www.gazprom.com/about/production/projects/pipelines/nord-stream/>
- <http://www.naturalgaseurope.com/category/pipelines/bakutbilisiceyhan-pipeline>
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7812368.stm>

### Main Actors

A localised disruption in Eastern Europe in 2009 grew into EU-wide shortage of gas supplies affecting citizen of many European states, including for example France, as well as Netherlands and UK. Thereby the common EU energy policy plays an important role for all Member States.

Internal market framework tries to secure gas security. European Commission tries to redefine respective rules and measures to guarantee fair competition and appropriate consumer protection. The Gas Security of Supply Directive and the established Gas Coordination Group are effective instruments in the EU-Russia energy dialogue. Thematic groups of the energy Dialogue are aiming at notifying in advance possible supply disruptions of Russian gas.

The EU is number one trading partner of Russia, with Russian supplies of oil and gas making up a large percentage of its exports to Europe. Thereby economic stability and even domestic politics of Russia Federal Republic depends on energy trade with the Union. That is why since 2006 and 2009 energy crisis Russia actively promoted alternative supply routes such as Nord and South Stream to justify a status of reliable energy supplier.

Observing a need of EU for more gas imports (200 billion cubic meters- more than 50% of current imports) Union is as well interested in crisis avoidance. However, European Commission suggested third energy package- aiming at creating competitive and integrated energy market- is not yet ratified by Russia.

By signing to the South Stream pipeline project Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, Slovenia, and Austria have even more linked their energy markets to Russia. However, European Commission has launched a large-scale anti-pipeline campaign. EC has not yet granted the project TREN-E (Trans European Energy Project) priority status and inhibits non-consortium members an indiscriminate access to the pipeline's capacity.

### Links

- [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/international/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/international/index_en.htm)
- [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/gas\\_electricity/legislation/third\\_legislative\\_package\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/gas_electricity/legislation/third_legislative_package_en.htm)
- [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/energy/external\\_dimension\\_enlargement/en0026\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/energy/external_dimension_enlargement/en0026_en.htm)
- [http://www.ekemeuroenergy.org/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=201:south-stream-receives-lukewarm-welcome-from-european-commission-&catid=49:eu-policies-&Itemid=66](http://www.ekemeuroenergy.org/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=201:south-stream-receives-lukewarm-welcome-from-european-commission-&catid=49:eu-policies-&Itemid=66)

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## Existing Solutions

For more than a decade European states together with US tried to build **alternative pipeline** routes bypassing Russia. Their attempt to link European gas market to the Caspian Sea and even to the Central Asian resources was rather successful.

The only successful project so far is Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline- transporting oil from Mediterranean coast of Turkey to Europe. Without common energy vision of Members States alternative pipeline proposals, such as Nabucco- (linking energy sources of Caspian region to southern Europe via Turkey) or White Stream (transporting gas from Azerbaijan via Georgia directly to the west bank of Black Sea) are not yet implemented.

Another way to diversify energy supply market is the **liquefied natural gas** (LNG), which in general abolishes a geopolitical issues and technical constrains. Nowadays the LNG is cost efficient way of transporting gas over long distances where pipelines do not exist. 19% of net gas imports to EU27 from non-EU country in 2009 are in the form of LNG.

Russia ratifying Energy Charter, which governs energy relations between 53 countries and organizations, would ensure security of energy supply for the EU. But Russia refuses to open access to transmission and downstream sector of gas pipeline.

In long term perspective EU dependence on Russian gas can be reduced by financial and political support for intensified research and developing alternative market-based energy sources.

### Links

- [http://www.rreefinfrastructure.com/content/\\_media/Liquified\\_Natural\\_Gas\\_Market\\_in\\_Europe\\_2011.pdf](http://www.rreefinfrastructure.com/content/_media/Liquified_Natural_Gas_Market_in_Europe_2011.pdf)
- <http://eurodialogue.org/Russia-says-no-to-Energy-Charter>
- <http://eurodialogue.org/energy-security/Europe-southern-gas-corridor-The-great-pipeline-race>

## Political Framework

Deteriorated political relations between Kiev and Moscow since 2004 Orange Revolution paved the way to the 2006 and 2009 gas crisis.<sup>1</sup> As the new government of Ukraine changed its geo-political vector Russia was no longer interested in subsidizing gas to Ukrainians. In 2006 Russia tried to use energy leverages to influence the negotiation processed over Sevastopol Black Sea Fleet as well.

It is important to mention some examples of Russia's political driven energy politics. It was in 2006 when Russia used pipeline explosions as a political response to the arrest of Russian officers on charges of espionage by Georgian authorities. The most obviously politically-induced cut-offs have occurred in the Baltic states. When Russian investors were unable to acquire the Latvian port operator Ventspils Nafta (2003) or the Lithuanian oil refinery Mažeikių Nafta(2006), oil supplies to those facilities were cut off permanently. Estonia also suffered temporary interruptions to the rail deliveries of oil too during the political standoff over a Soviet war memorial in May 2007.

Overall, tenuous relationships between Russia and the transit countries have created fear of political complications between supplier and transit countries and thereby generating both \

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<sup>1</sup> Lars Christian U, Talseth, EU-Russian Energy Dialogue, ([http://www.swp-berlin.org/fileadmin/contents/products/arbeitspapiere/talseth\\_20120402\\_KS.pdf](http://www.swp-berlin.org/fileadmin/contents/products/arbeitspapiere/talseth_20120402_KS.pdf))

consumer and supplier support for a new pipeline that will bypass Central and Eastern Europe and link Western Europe directly to Russia (Nord Stream). But what resolution can be offered to the Eastern European states who have linked themselves to the Russian South Stream pipeline.

### Links

- <http://www.spiegel.de/international/spiegel/putin-s-cold-war-using-russian-energy-as-a-political-weapon-a-394345.html>
- <http://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/agnia-grigas/can-eu-face-russia-down-over-energy-policy>

### Key Conflicts

EU countries can be classified according to their level of loyalty towards Russia

- On one extreme are the "**Eastern divorced**" countries of the former Soviet bloc, which nowadays are for the most part hostile to Moscow (Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Latvia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia).
- On the other are the "**loyal wives**", which maintain good relations with Russia (Italy, Austria and Greece).
- In between are the "**vigilant critics**" (Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Bulgaria, Hungary and the United Kingdom)
- and the larger group, the "**acquiescent partners**" (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain). 2

According to the study by Stefano Braghiroli and Caterina Carta:

*“old MS consider the strength of economic ties with Russia as a relative asset, new MS still consider it as an absolute form of dependence, which threatens their overall stability... This is probably linked not only to the burden of the heritage of the past, but also to the direct exposure to the effects of a “systematic policy of coercive bilateralism” on behalf of Russia.”*

The Commission has repeatedly warns of the risks to security of supply arising from the lack of adequate interconnections, the inadequate possibilities for reverse flows and the limits to fuel switching, which exist in certain parts of the EU market. But the recognition of the economic, social, political and environmental benefits of energy efficiency drive ambitious legislation and funding programmes in some Member States, whereas others just do the bare minimum required by the European Directives.

### Links

- <http://www.euractiv.com/energy/pipeline-politics-russia-eus-bat-linksdossier-188483>
- <http://www.euractiv.com/energy/industry-chief-eu-gas-sector-dis-news-519741>

By Mariam Chubabria (GE)

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<sup>2</sup> Stefano Braghiroli and Caterina Carta, “The EU's attitude towards Russia: condemned to be divided? An analysis of the Member States and Members of the European Parliament's preferences” ([www.jhubc.it/ecpr-riga/virtualpaperroom/042.pdf](http://www.jhubc.it/ecpr-riga/virtualpaperroom/042.pdf))

## **AFET**

### **Committee on Foreign Affairs**

*Italian combat helicopters and German communication technology in Libya and French weapons in Georgia - global military conflicts evoke booming international trade of arms in which the EU has become the world's biggest supplier.*

Which priorities should the EU and its Member States set in order to discourage arms trade whilst still maintaining trade relations with the Middle East and other regions of conflict?

## **Keywords**

Arab Spring, EU Code of Conduct, SALW, EU Common Position on Arms Exports, Trade Treaty (ATT), Arms Trade, Middle East, North Africa.

## **Links**

- [http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/salw/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/salw/index_en.htm)
- [http://www.eeas.europa.eu/non-proliferation-and-disarmament/arms-export-control/index\\_en.htm](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/non-proliferation-and-disarmament/arms-export-control/index_en.htm)

## **Relevance and Explanation**

Every year, many people around the globe are killed, injured, abused, expatriated, or otherwise exposed to suffering from the direct and indirect effects of the poorly regulated arms trade and trafficking of arms. Consequently, in recent years there have been ongoing efforts from the side of the European Union (EU) to strengthen and harmonize member states' arms export policies.

Many EU countries had been exporting arms to dictatorships and authoritarian regimes, neglecting the detrimental possibilities of their utilization. The top European countries include: The United Kingdom, France and Germany, with France selling different arms equipment worth €78,107,900 to Egypt during the 2011 revolution and together with other EU member states exporting arms to the Middle East and North Africa in the years preceding the Arab Spring. However, by beginning to foster this issue the EU started a new lease of life by implementing these important elements of the aforementioned efforts.

The 1998 EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports (EU Code) and its successor, the Council joint actions on small arms and light weapons (SALW) of December 1998 and July 2002 and the 2008 EU Common Position defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment (EU Common Position). Such endeavours also include the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) adopted by the UN.

## **Links**

- <http://www.nonproliferation.eu/documents/nonproliferationpapers/markbromley4f7971fb1fd21.pdf>
- [http://www.sipri.org/research/armaments/transfers/controlling/research/armaments/transfers/publications/other\\_publications/conference-report-eu-defence-market-flemish-peace-institute](http://www.sipri.org/research/armaments/transfers/controlling/research/armaments/transfers/publications/other_publications/conference-report-eu-defence-market-flemish-peace-institute)
- [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/06/world/europe/06iht-letter06.html?\\_r=2&](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/06/world/europe/06iht-letter06.html?_r=2&)

## Key Questions

- What should the underlying principles of an international Arms Trade Treaty be?
- What should be done to improve controls on exports of surveillance technologies?
- How can the EU tackle the problem concerning the weapons currently in circulation?
- How can the EU control its states' arms exports?

## Links

- [www.hivos.nl/content/download/72343/618288/file/Exporting%20Censorship%20And%20Surveillance%20Technology%20by%20Ben%20Wagner.pdf&h=GAQEO-VOH](http://www.hivos.nl/content/download/72343/618288/file/Exporting%20Censorship%20And%20Surveillance%20Technology%20by%20Ben%20Wagner.pdf&h=GAQEO-VOH)
- <http://www.dw.de/experts-question-how-un-can-control-arms-sales/a-16717374>
- <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/misc/small-arms-paper-250506.htm>

## Main Actors

There are several “protagonists”, so to say, in the issues of arms exports. One of them is The Campaign Against Arm Trade (CAAT) in the UK, working to eradicate the international arms trade. It aims to put a cessation to all financial and political support for arms exports, whilst, at the same time promote demilitarization within arms-producing countries.

Another organization promoting disarmament is The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), which provides both substantive and organizational support in the area of disarmament through general assemblies and its First Committee, the Disarmament Commission, the Conference on Disarmament and other bodies. It also supports the development and implementation of practical disarmament measures after a conflict, such as disarming and demobilizing former combatants and helping them to reintegrate in civil society.

Apart from the two aforementioned bodies, there is also the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This is an independent and neutral organization that, along with providing humanitarian help for people affected by armed violence, promotes the laws that prevent any victimization of war.

The EU Commission also plays a crucial role in this matter by moving forward with the implementation of the frameworks and directives on arms exports. It works towards the strengthening of the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regime and for revitalizing relevant international instruments.

## Links

- <http://www.un.org/disarmament/>
- <http://controlarms.org/en/>
- <http://www.osce.org/fsc/56341>
- <http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/news-release/2013/03-28-weapons-arms-trade-treaty.htm>

## Existing Solutions

EU Member states have committed themselves to a Common Foreign Security Policy for the European Union. The European Security and Defence Policy aims to strengthen the EU's external ability to act through the development of civilian and military capabilities in Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management. CFSP legal instruments imposing an arms embargo generally comprise:

- A prohibition on the sale, supply, transfer or export of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment and spare parts;
- A prohibition on the provision of financing and financial assistance and technical assistance, brokering services and other services related to military activities and to the provision, manufacture, maintenance and use of arms and related materiel of all types.

Also, the European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports has set forth 8 criterions, in accordance to which weapon trading should be conducted. This document states that arms exports shouldn't be approved in cases, where:

- The sale would violate the exporting state's commitments under the UN Charter or specific arms control agreements
- There is a "clear risk" that the weapons will be used for internal repression
- The arms could provoke or prolong armed conflict
- There is a "clear risk" that the arms would be used aggressively against another country.

Moreover, the EU member states have agreed to consider the risks, effectiveness, economic situation, arms control agreements and record on terrorism in the state, where arms are imported into.

It is also important to take into account the Common Military List of The European Union. This document enlists all ilk of weapons allowed for export-import and generally, trade.

### Links

- <http://globalsolutions.org/files/public/documents/AC-ATT-Factsheet-September-2010.pdf>
- <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2011:382:0001:0470:EN:PDF>
- <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/08675r2en8.pdf>

## Legal Framework

The European Code of Conduct on Arms Exports was adopted on 8 June 1998, setting high minimum standards for the management of, and restraint in, conventional arms transfers by all Member States of the European Union. The Code sets up eight criteria for the export of conventional arms and a denial notification procedure obliging Member States to consult on possible undercuts.

This framework accentuates the necessity to respect human rights in the country of final destination the attitudes of which will be coherently assessed and only then will the Member States whether or not to issue an export licence. In this line of thought, the Member States should also

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exercise special caution and vigilance in issuing these licences by taking account the nature of the equipment.

Another criterion restricts Member States to export weapons, which would provoke or prolong armed conflicts, aggravating existing harsh conditions in the country of final destination.

Moreover, the Member states are not allowed to export arms if there exist the risk of the importing-countries using the proposed export aggressively against another country or asserting by force a territorial claim.

Furthermore, according to the European Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, Member States should and will take into account inter alia the record of the buyer country, specifically: its attitude towards terrorism and international organized crime; its commitment to non-proliferation and other areas of arms control and disarmament.

Besides the aforementioned, the existence of a risk that the equipment will be diverted within the buyer country or re-exported to other countries should also be viewed cautiously.

### Links

- [http://www.armscontrol.org/act/1998\\_05/wb2my98](http://www.armscontrol.org/act/1998_05/wb2my98)
- <http://www.globalissues.org/article/80/a-code-of-conduct-for-arms-sales#ManyProblemswiththeEUCodeofConductstillinto2004>
- <http://www.defense-aerospace.com/article-view/feature/94993/eu-should-rethink-its-arms-export-code.html>

### Key Conflicts

Is it really that wise to pump arms in a turbulent region, such as Saudi Arabia? German law says: It is not allowed to transport weapons in conflict regions; And Saudi Arabia is, definitely, a conflict region. Then why has the increased demand in weapons been satisfied by this European country? German arms exports to Gulf States has doubled – while in 2011 it was only 570 million, in over a year this number reached 1,42 billion euros. Well then, how are German authorities justifying sending these weapons in the conflict zone? They believe that the support of this kind of regime will help secure the supply of the resources needed from the abovementioned regions.

“If we don’t sell them others will”, - this is how Mr. Tony Blair responded to a question asked at a press conference in 2002. He said: “What would actually happen if we did that is not that the parts wouldn’t be supplied, but would find every other defence industry in the world rushing in to take the place that we have vacated.” In BAE’s internal magazine in 1997, he wrote: “Winning exports is vital to the long-term success of Britain’s defence industry. A labour government will work with the industry to win export orders.”

In August 1998 Zimbabwe military forces intervened in the conflict of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Whilst the Government announced that it would not licence equipment to Zimbabwe which could be used for “aggressive ends”, in 2000 it still granted BAE Systems licences to export arms. When asked as to why the licences had been granted, the government relied that BAE systems reputation as a reliable supplier of spare part would have been damaged.

All in all, these actions are clearly contradicting the criterions of the European Code of Conduct on Arms Exports with number three stating that “The Government will not issue licenses for exports which would provoke or prolong armed conflicts or aggravate existing tensions or conflicts in the country of final destination” and criterion four saying that “The Government will not issue an export licence if there is a clear risk that the intended recipient would use the proposed export aggressively against another country, or to assert by force a territorial claim”.

**Links**

- <http://youtu.be/30Z0EMrTnQw>
- <http://youtu.be/3J-uEPC9RC8>
- [http://www.caat.org.uk/campaigns/fanning-the-flames/FtF\\_6page\\_briefing.pdf](http://www.caat.org.uk/campaigns/fanning-the-flames/FtF_6page_briefing.pdf)

**By Vladimer Utmelidze (GE) & Nini Gigani (GE)**

## **DROI**

### **Committee on Human Rights**

*Growing tensions between conservative and liberal groups is placing huge pressure on national governments to create legislation for LGBTQ groups, particularly in relation to marriage and adoption.*

What should the EU and governments of non-Member states put in place for the LGBTQ community?

### **Keywords**

Human rights, discrimination, sexual orientation, LGBTQ, same-sex marriage, The Amsterdam Treaty, The Charter of Fundamental Rights

### **Links**

- [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/institutional\\_affairs/treaties/amsterdam\\_treaty/a10000\\_en.htm#](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/institutional_affairs/treaties/amsterdam_treaty/a10000_en.htm#)
- [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/human\\_rights/fundamental\\_rights\\_within\\_european\\_union/l33501\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/human_rights/fundamental_rights_within_european_union/l33501_en.htm)

### **Relevance and Explanation**

During the last two decades, the EU has increasingly emphasized the need to respect human rights. Since the EU founding treaties had no concrete provisions on basic rights, The Amsterdam Treaty (1997) added provisions on fundamental rights and freedoms. According to the treaty, the EU can take action to prevent/fight discrimination based on gender, race/ethnic origin, religion/belief, age, sexual orientation or disability. The Charter of Fundamental Rights (2000) also extended the fundamental rights to include sexual orientation. Even though each of these legislations may guarantee individual rights to the LGBTQ people, the issue of same-sex marriages remains unsolved.

Since the question of legal recognition of same-sex marriages is still open in many member and non-member states, the legislations also differ from country to country.

These differences in legislations may cause numerous problems for same-sex couples. For instant, a couple may not be able to use the right to free movement in the EU without losing the acquired rights. If, for instance, a Belgian national marries French national and later moves to Germany to work, the couple will not be regarded as married by the German state, since Germany does not recognize same-sex marriage.<sup>3</sup>

### **Links**

- [http://www.equalrightstrust.org/ertdocumentbank/ERR10\\_sp1.pdf](http://www.equalrightstrust.org/ertdocumentbank/ERR10_sp1.pdf)
- [http://www.equalrightstrust.org/ertdocumentbank/ERR10\\_sp1.pdf](http://www.equalrightstrust.org/ertdocumentbank/ERR10_sp1.pdf)
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-22706351>
- <http://www.irishtimes.com/blogs/poplife/2013/04/11/gay-bashing-gay-marriage-and-how-the-media-needs-to-get-a-grip/>
- <http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2013/04/daily-chart-14>

### **Key Questions**

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<sup>3</sup> [http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/family/couple/marriage/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/family/couple/marriage/index_en.htm)

- Should the same-sex couples be legally recognized as married?
- Should the gender or sexual orientation of couples be taken into account when giving the right to adopt children?
- How should the views/opinions/attitudes towards the LGBTQ groups be dealt with?
- How can the EU balance the freedom of expression and the freedom of choice/principle of non-discrimination?

### Links

- <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/9264748/Why-should-an-insult-be-against-the-law.html>
- [http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/damian-collins/gay-marriage-freedom-cuts-both-ways\\_b\\_3305031.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/damian-collins/gay-marriage-freedom-cuts-both-ways_b_3305031.html)
- <http://news.yahoo.com/french-senate-takes-gay-marriage-adoption-debate-160700727.html>

### Main Actors

Even though the issue is actively discussed on the EU level as well, the key decision-makers are the member states. The national governments of the European states can modify legislations in their respective jurisdictions.

Important stakeholders also include the LGBTQ activist groups that operate both nation-wide and internationally. Organisations such as the ILGA (International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans- and Intersexual Association) promote equal rights for all people, especially focusing on the need to respect the rights of the LGBTQ community. Such non-governmental organisations often work closely with national governments in order to lobby their position and influence the legislative decision-making process.

Among the opponents of same-sex marriage are conservative and religious groups. For instance, both extremely traditionalist political parties and Churches categorically oppose same-sex marriages and child adoption by gay couples.

### Links

- <http://ilga.org/ilga/en/index.html>
- <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&mode=XML&reference=A6>
- [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_20030](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20030)

### Existing Solutions

In 1989, Denmark was the first EU country to introduce the *Registreret Partnerskab* (registered union). Since then, several European countries have legally recognized same-sex couples. Currently, same-sex marriage is legally recognized in nine European countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. Fourteen other states register a form of civil unions. Some jurisdictions recognize same-sex unions registered elsewhere, even though they do not perform same-sex marriages. In some states, however, such as Belarus, Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia and Ukraine, marriage is legally defined as a union of a man and a woman.

In order to introduce same-sex marriages, the state needs to change either marriage laws or court rulings based on constitutional guarantees of equality. The state might also need to modify both legislations and court rulings. However, many states still hesitate to make legislative changes.

**2013**

Meanwhile, some European states have gone as far as to give same-sex couples the right to adopt children. Adoption transfers the rights and responsibilities of parenting from biological to adopting parent(s). Full joint adoption by gay couples is legal in Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and UK. Some countries, like Austria, Finland and Germany permit *stepchild-adoption*, in which the partner in a registered partnership can adopt the child (natural or adopted) of his or her partner.

### Links

- <http://ilga.org/ilga/en/Articles?select=tag:marriage%2Fsubstitutes%20for%20marriage;select=organisation:ILGA%20EUROPE>
- <http://www.economist.com/blogs/charlemagne/2013/04/gay-marriage-france>
- <http://www.euronews.com/2013/04/01/reflecting-on-12-years-of-gay-marriage-in-the-netherlands/>

## Legal and Social Framework

As mentioned above, legislations about same-sex marriage and same-sex adoption vary from country to country. Consequently, same-sex couples might experience legal discrimination, as their rights might not be respected in different European states. The issue, then, is to discuss how the EU can contribute to the harmonization of legislations concerning the LGBTQ community. The EU needs to take into account different views of liberal and traditionalist political parties and their supporters.

Additionally, the EU needs to address the social environment. LGBTQ activists argue that they might face discrimination not only before the law, but also in their everyday lives. LGBTQ individuals might be stranded from the society or regarded by many as immoral, since their lifestyle may be different from that of the traditionalist majority. On the other hand, some groups argue that LGBTQ equal rights activists might aim to oppress the freedom of speech of different traditionalist or religious groups who consider homosexuality morally unacceptable.

### Links

- <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/ha/papers/ha0310cb2-public-homosexuals-e.pdf>
- <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/catholic-church-gay-marriage>

## Key Conflicts

On the EU level, the main source of debate is the need to ensure the harmonization of legislations of different European countries.

On the state level, conflicts arise about the issue of marriage, the definition of same-sex unions and adoption.

Same-sex marriages would give LGBTQ couples certain rights of contractors, such as mutual assistance, inheritance and maintenance. In some countries, this creates a number of political, social, moral and religious issues.

Conflicts also arise as to whether same-sex unions can be referred to as “marriages,” instead of being labeled as “civil unions” (civil/registered/domestic partnerships, reciprocal/beneficiary relationships, civil solidarity pacts, etc.).

**2013**

Another source of disagreement is whether same-sex couples should be allowed to adopt children. While marriage focuses on the rights of both partners, adoption mainly focuses on the rights of the adopted child. Some groups argue that if same-sex couples are allowed to adopt children, the rights of the child would be violated.

As a result, more liberal states move forward to giving LGBTQ couples not only the right to marry, but also the right to adopt children. In contrast, more traditionalist and conservative states are still hesitant to introduce legislative reforms.

### **Links**

- <http://www.pewforum.org/Gay-Marriage-and-Homosexuality/Religious-Groups-Official->
- [http://www.equalrightstrust.org/ertdocumentbank/ERR10\\_sp1.pdf](http://www.equalrightstrust.org/ertdocumentbank/ERR10_sp1.pdf)
- <http://www.theweek.co.uk/welfare/35575/pros-and-cons-gay-adoption>

**By Shota Adamia (GE) & Tamta Gelashvili (GE)**

## **AGRI**

### **Committee on Agricultural and Rural**

*Feeding the world in a changing climate: Until 2050, a massive world population growth is projected to be met by a climate-related decline in agricultural yields especially for dietary staples:*

How can the EU's agricultural and external trade policy respond to the threat of global food shortages whilst bearing in mind the interests of Europe's agricultural producers?

### **Keywords**

Common Agricultural Policy, fair competition, rural development budget, food security, threat of food shortage, trade policy, protectionism climate, population growth, International Intervention Price.

### **Links**

- [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/glossary/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/glossary/index_en.htm)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_change](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change)
- <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.GROW>
- <http://www.civitas.org.uk/eufacts/FSEX/EC6.htm>

### **Relevance and Explanation**

The "Green Revolution", occurring between the 1940s and the late 1970s, saved over a billion people from starvation. Led by Norman Borlaug, the research and development regarding to agriculture, nearly doubled the wheat yield in Mexico, Pakistan and India. Food shortage was caused by the massive growth of population. On March 12, 2012, the total number of world's residents exceeded 7 billion. Now, Europe faces the similar problem. In this case, not only the huge number of population is the problem, but also the climate change. It declines the products' quality, so harms the economy, as well as the prices of high quality food increase. As a result of global warming, land is becoming unfruitful to agricultural yields.

One of the instruments for promoting the EU's agricultural policy is CAP. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the agricultural policy of the European Union. Its main objectives are to ensure a fair standard of living for farmers, provide a stable and safe food supply at affordable prices for consumers and a balanced development of rural areas throughout the EU. The CAP started in 1962, and is the oldest common policy of the EU. It has been often reformed in the last years and continues to change. On 12 October 2011 the Commission presented a set of legal proposals designed to make the CAP a more effective policy for a more competitive and sustainable agriculture and vibrant rural areas.

There is a clear link between agriculture, the environment, biodiversity, climate change and the sustainable management of our natural resources such as water and land. Agriculture is also important for the positive economic and social development of the EU's rural areas. Europe's farmers deliver public goods which benefit society as a whole.

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The Europe 2020 strategy offers a new perspective. CAP regulates not only the agricultural policy, but external trade as well. The CAP recognises the need to take account of the social structure of agriculture and of the structural and natural disparities between the various agricultural regions and to effect the appropriate adjustments by degrees.

### Links

- <http://cdn.wfp.org/hungermap/>
- <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common\\_Agricultural\\_Policy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_Agricultural_Policy)
- [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-overview/2012\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-overview/2012_en.pdf)

### Key Questions

- How should EU prevent the climate change?
- What efforts should EU make to secure the food market?
- Why a reform regarding to CAP is vital?
- Why EU spends so much money on financing the CAP?
- What are the purposes of CAP simplification?

### Links

- <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/>
- [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/simplification/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/simplification/index_en.htm)
- <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-funding/>
- <http://www.momagri.org/UK/focus-on-issues/Agriculture-in-high-growth-markets-Securing-global-food-supplies-1097.html>

### Main Actors

CAP is one of the oldest common policies of EU, funded from the European Commission (EC) budget and accounts for roughly 40% of total EU budgetary expenditure. The EC's Communication on "The CAP towards 2020" outlined several options for the future CAP and launched the formal debate with the other European institutions, with Member States, with farmers and with other members of the public.

The CAP reform will be happening at the same time as negotiations on the multiannual financial framework for 2014-2020 and at a time when World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations are addressing agricultural protection. Not all aspects of CAP are acceptable for farmers, but minister for Agriculture of Ireland, Simon Coveney, has said progress has been made towards agreeing a new EU Common Agricultural Policy, following two days of informal talks at Dublin Castle. NGOs are also involved in the process of CAP reform.

In December 2009 five farming and environmental NGOs came together with a proposal for a transformation of the CAP to help farmers to rise to the challenge of sustainable farming, and to reward those who deliver tangible benefits to society.

The NGOs behind this are: BirdLife International; European Environmental Bureau; European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism; International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements; EU Group; WWF.

### Links

- <http://cap2020.ieep.eu/2010/6/10/environmental-ngo-proposal-for-a-new-eu-common-agricultural-policy-consultation-responses>
- <http://www.odi.org.uk/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/7245.pdf>

## Existing Solutions

Reforms of the current system are considered by some parties as a huge step forward in the field. The CAP reforms planned for 2014 aim to maintain the sustainable management of natural resources through better methods, as well as the reinforcement of upkeep of countryside.

The CAP reforms also aim keeping the rural economy alive. A greener agriculture with fairer competition among the farmers is put forward as the main goal of the reform process. Although the EU's long term agricultural policies are thought to be absolutely necessary, it's possible to contend with these policies.

The main reason behind questioning the EU's policies could be stated as that the countries with higher standards of living benefit more from current implementations. Furthermore, the EU's stance on agricultural development and related trade agreements predominantly addresses the large agri-businesses. These supposedly receive more than Europe's small farmers, which creates unfair advantages to larger companies among the agri-businesses firms in various countries.

### Links

- <http://foodshortagesolutions.tumblr.com/>
- <http://www.odi.org.uk/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/7245.pdf>
- <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/AirQuality/HowAirPollutionIsControlled/ScrubbersOrWetCollectors.aspx>
- <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/AirQuality/HowAirPollutionIsControlled.aspx>

## Ecological Framework

A common view is that the CAP has traditionally promoted a large expansion in agricultural production. At the same time it has allowed farmers to employ unecological ways of increasing production, such as the indiscriminate use of fertilisers and pesticides, with serious environmental consequences. Another problem is air pollution. Acid deposition directly reduces the yield of radishes, beets, carrots and broccoli.

Scientists believe that acid rain damages the protective waxy coating of leaves and allows acids to diffuse into them, which interrupts the evaporation of water and gas exchange so that the plant can no longer breathe. This stops the plant's conversion of nutrients and water into a form useful for plant growth and affects crop yields. In addition, crops such as corn, potatoes, soy beans and lettuce are damaged by ozone that is created when nitrogen emissions combine with hydrocarbons in the air. Nowadays, we are facing the threat of bringing down the civilization due to a food shortage.

The point is that we have to think before making a step. Unecological ways of increasing production, this is problem and the solution at the same time, it solves the problem of food shortage, but causes lots of genetical diseases as well. It's a scientific problem of a humanity, not a problem only for governments and scientists.

**2013**

### Links

- <http://www.air-quality.org.uk/14.php>
- <http://ictsd.org/i/publications/97803/>

### Key Conflicts

If we try control the pollution by using the corn and other edibles the ozone layer is saved but the humanity is harmed due to shortage of food. If enough water is attained from the underground water resources the already falling water table goes more into abyss.

Fears of European food insecurity have also led agricultural trade unions to the conclusion that Europe should aim for food sovereignty and European agriculture should produce for the European population only (EFFAT, 2011). In this view, producers and consumers lose from globalisation, which endangers the future of European farmers.

In response to the CAP legislative proposals, Copa-Cogeca, the European farmers and agri-cooperatives association argues that putting more emphasis on profitability and productivity of EU agriculture is essential 'if there is going to be enough food to feed the world's growing population at a price which people can afford' ((Copa-Cogeca, 2011e). FoodDrinkEurope (2011) has also called for the CAP to more explicitly stimulate productivity and growth in both pillars, while protecting EU productive potential and safeguarding natural resources.

Several primary stakeholders (EFFAT, 2011; EFMA, 2010) recognise that the European taxpayer may not be willing to continue supporting European farmers if farming is not environmentally sustainable. The food and drink industry also recognises the urgency: 'the application of environmentally sustainable and resourceefficient agricultural practices should be a core element of any future agricultural policy', while creation of environmentally sustainable farming system isn't finished yet.

How can Europe, a major world agricultural producer, reform its agricultural satisfactorily to maintain its aims to prevent the future climate- related struggles? How can the EU work with its agricultural producers in overcoming these challenges, and what other stakeholders should be considered in the process?

### Links

- [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/debate/report/executive-summary\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/debate/report/executive-summary_en.pdf)

**By David Lomidze & Milana Ibrahimova**

## **LIBE**

### **Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs**

*Personal Information vs. Marketable Data: With the exponential growth of online Enterprises and social media:*

How can European countries guarantee the privacy and ownership of personal data online, while fostering the rapid increase of online communication and business?

### **Keywords**

Data Protection Directive, Digital Agenda for Europe, online privacy, digital economy, ICT industry, consumer protection, economic growth, personal data.

### **Links**

- [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/information\\_society/data\\_protection/l14012\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/information_society/data_protection/l14012_en.htm)
- <http://www.dataprotection.ie/docs/What-is-Personal-Data-/210.htm>

### **Relevance and Explanation**

Whenever you open a bank account, join a social networking website or book a flight online, you hand over vital personal information such as your name, address, and credit card number. Could this data fall into the wrong hands? And, if you had put an embarrassing photo online a few years ago, would you expect to be able to expunge all trace of it now? What rights do you have regarding your personal information?

Currently, the information regarded as Personal Data, is protected by The EU Data Protection Directive, which was set in place in 1995, to ensure a functional internal market and protection of the individuals' right to data protection. This directive marked an important milestone for the rights of citizens regarding data protection; however, the explosive growth of the internet was entirely unprecedented. The rules set down by the Data Protection Directive are now out-dated and in need of modernization. One year ago, ahead of the European Data Protection Day 2012, the European Commission proposed a root and branch reform of the EU's data protection rules to make them fit for the 21st century. One year after the reform proposals, it's easy to see why clear and modernized rules are needed - just over a quarter of social network users (26%) and even fewer online shoppers (18%) feel in complete control of their personal data.

However, proposed reforms have been met with controversy and debate from affected businesses. Social networking enterprises – Facebook, Google, Zynga, Whatsapp etc, will be strongly affected, as they benefit from sharing personal data of users, will have to take drastic measures. These measures can lead EU to job loss and less attractive to make online business in. What actions should the EU undertake, in order to ensure improved protection of consumers' personal data, whilst avoiding economical decline?

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## Links

- [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/document/review2012/factsheets/1\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/document/review2012/factsheets/1_en.pdf)
- [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/index_en.htm)
- <http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/the-european-union-closes-in-on-data-privacy-legislation-a-877973.html>

## Key Questions

- Should the EU put the interests of its citizens first and be stricter towards social networking enterprises?
- Or is it better to find an alternative solution which will benefit both sides in a balanced way?
- Do we, the consumers, feel that our personal data is secure right now?
- Are the changes proposed by EC effective and balanced enough?
- “A right to be forgotten” – can this innovation revolutionize current data protection system?

## Links

- [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/document/review2012/factsheets/7\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/document/review2012/factsheets/7_en.pdf)
- <http://www.eu2013.ie/news/news-items/20130129shatteredingoped/>
- [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/data-protection/news/120125\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/data-protection/news/120125_en.htm)
- <http://techcrunch.com/2013/01/08/european-parliament-draft-reports-back-ecs-data-protection-reform-reinforcing-the-right-to-be-forgotten/>

## Main Actors

As The European Commission (EC) is the executive body of the European Union, responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the Union's treaties and day-to-day running of the EU, it is one of the main actors of this issue. The Commission operates as a cabinet government, with 27 members of the commission (informally known as "commissioners").

There is one member per member state, though members are bound to represent the interests of the EU as a whole rather than their home state. The EC, as you have already read in this overview, had proposed changes to the current Data Protection Directive, which will be in place by the end of 2013. The EC is the body which legislates the future of data protection; therefore, it is one of the most vital actors of the debate.

The main parties in the debate are companies, civil rights proponents and data protection officials in the EU member states. The latter want to prevent a situation in which they lose influence to Brussels and a regulation is passed that might make it easier for companies to interpret the data protection regulation to their own advantage. Meanwhile, companies and civil rights activists are arguing over the definition of private data and how it should be dealt with. Companies would like as much flexibility as possible and little by way of strict regulations. They argue that a surfeit of regulations would act as a corset that strangles innovation and growth. But privacy advocates argue that reliable data protection is the necessary foundation for gaining the trust of users and ensuring growth.

## Links

- [http://ec.europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm)
- <http://www.eitb.com/en/news/technology/detail/1269818/google-vs-spain--judges-hear-arguments-google-test-privacy-case/>

## Existing Solutions

The proposed changes to the Data Protection Directive would enable EU citizens with a “right to be forgotten”, easier access to their data and the right of data portability. Most significantly, a single set of rules regarding data protection would be implemented across the EU. These rules would have to be adhered to even if the company was not established in the EU but simply does business within it. Strengthening the data protection framework may result in economic growth, innovation and job creation, as well as solving the issue of trust for consumers.

Technology can be a way to restart the economy by delivering sustainable economic and social benefits from a Digital Single Market, as recognized in the Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE).<sup>3</sup>

However for this to happen, it is vital that individuals trust businesses. Only 26% of social network users, and 18% of online shoppers report that they feel in control of their online information. Next to mistrust of consumers, the current fragmentation of rules between Member States makes it difficult to develop especially for small and medium-sized businesses, with administrative costs up to €130 million per year.

## Links

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYsE6s2FFqI>

## Legal Framework

The Data Protection Directive (officially Directive 95/46/EC on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data) is a European Union Directive which regulates the processing of personal data within the European Union. It is an important component of EU privacy and human rights law. This Directive applies to data processed by automated means (e.g. a computer database of customers) and data contained in or intended to be part of non automated filing systems (traditional paper files). It is comprehensive, broadly-drafted and sets out a basic framework of protection.

- It sets standards which are widely seen as “high” and has a strong Human Rights resonance.
- It gives people important and usable rights.
- Its principles have stood the test of time well and are flexible in their application.
- It is largely neutral in terms of technology.
- It has helped to harmonize DP rules across the European Union and provides an international reference model for good practice.

However, the main weaknesses of the Directive as:

- It is outdated, in terms of technology and regulatory approach.
- It has unclear objectives and insufficient focus on detriment, risk and practical enforcement.
- It is seen as bureaucratic, burdensome and too prescriptive. It focuses on “how” organizations should do things, rather than on “what” they should be achieving.

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- It is not clear how much choice and control individuals should have, with regulators sometimes applying the law in a paternalistic way.
- Prescriptive criteria for processing personal data have become a rigid control mechanism. Much effort is devoted to the artificial justification of otherwise unobjectionable processing.
- Its scope is becoming increasingly unclear, for example in on-line and surveillance contexts.
- Its international transfer rules are unrealistic against a backdrop of high-volume, globalised data flows.

### Links

- [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/document/review2012/com\\_2012\\_11\\_en.pdf?parentTax=&parentClu=&parentDefaultTax=2240118378&parentTax=&parentClu=&parentDefaultTax=2240118378&parentTax=&parentClu=&parentDefaultTax=2240118378&parentTax=&parentClu=&parentDefaultTax=2240118378](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/document/review2012/com_2012_11_en.pdf?parentTax=&parentClu=&parentDefaultTax=2240118378&parentTax=&parentClu=&parentDefaultTax=2240118378&parentTax=&parentClu=&parentDefaultTax=2240118378&parentTax=&parentClu=&parentDefaultTax=2240118378)
- <http://www.dataprotection.ie/docs/EU-Directive-95-46-EC--Chapter-1/92.htm>

### Key Conflicts

The reform of the 1995 Data Protection Directive is one of biggest shake-ups of data protection laws in the European Union in nearly 20 years, affecting Google, Facebook and Microsoft as well as thousands of midsized companies. At the end of January, the European Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights, and Citizenship, Viviane Reding, announced the European Commission's proposal to create a sweeping new privacy right-the "right to be forgotten."

The right, which has been hotly debated in Europe for the past few years, has finally been codified as part of a broad new proposed data protection regulation. The right to be forgotten could make Facebook and Google, for example, liable for up to two percent of their global income if they fail to remove photos that people post about themselves and later regret, even if the photos have been widely distributed already. The social networking giants are not in favor of this change. Facebook and Google claim it would actually harm privacy. Facebook says the proposal would require social media sites to perform extra tracking to remove data which has been copied to other sites.

Additionally, these draft proposals include a redefinition of personal data, limitations on customer profiling and consent to direct marketing, which the DMA (The Direct Marketing Association) believes will harm businesses' rights to use data to market their goods and services to consumers. The DMA has launched an online data protection toolkit to help build awareness among marketers of how the changes could impact their businesses.

### Links

- [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/leslie-harris/right-to-be-forgotten-internet\\_b\\_3321469.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/leslie-harris/right-to-be-forgotten-internet_b_3321469.html)
- <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media-network/media-network-blog/2013/apr/22/data-protection-right-to-forgotten>
- <http://www.viennareview.net/news/special-report/eu-vs-facebook-fighting-for-the-right-to-be-forgotten>
- <http://www.thedrum.com/news/2013/02/08/dma-calls-brands-and-agencies-protest-eu-data-reform-proposals>

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**2013**



# Academic Preparation Kit

7th National Selection Conference  
EYP Georgia

This preparation kit was put together by the chairs team of the 7th National Session of EYP Georgia, with help from members of EYP International.

Thank you to all involved

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European Youth Parliament Georgia