

# Biuletyn OIDE

Review of the Sejm's European activities

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*Newsletter of the EUROPEAN INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE (Biuletyn OIDE), published also on the Centre's website, contains a monthly review of the Sejm's activities relating to Poland's membership of the EU. Slightly more extensive on-line bulletin includes also links to full texts and databases, marked in the paper version by underlining.*

## EUROPEAN DEBATES IN THE SEJM

**6 February 2015** - the Sejm accepted the information on the Republic of Poland's participation in the activities of the European Union in July-December 2014 (Italian Presidency of the EU Council) - [resolution](#). The information was earlier debated in plenary on 5 February 2015, with participation of the Secretary of State in Foreign Affairs Ministry, Rafał Trzaskowski ([verbatim record/PL](#), point 14).

**6 February 2015** - the Sejm adopted the statute granting consent for ratification by the President of the Republic of Poland of the Association Agreement between the EU, EAEC and their Member States, and Georgia ([Legislative process /PL](#)).

**4 February 2015** - the Sejm held a debate on the report of EU Affairs Committee and Foreign Affairs Committee on the Government bill on ratification of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part, drawn up at Brussels on 27 June 2014 (papers no. 3059 and 3120, [verbatim record /PL](#) point 10).

## EU DOCUMENTS IN THE SEJM

In **February 2015** the EU Affairs Committee (SUE) held 7 meetings: no. 314-320. During these meetings the Committee:

- scrutinised 25 EU documents:
  - pursuant to Art. 7(4) of the Cooperation Act – 6 EU draft legislative acts concerning i.a.: draft amending budget to the general budget 2015, Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), macro-financial assistance to Ukraine or multiannual financial framework 2014-2020,
  - pursuant to Art. 151(1) of the Sejm Standing Orders and Art. 3(2) of the Cooperation Act – 6 European Commission documents (2 reports, 4 communications) concerning i.a. progress by Turkey in fulfilling the requirements of its visa liberalisation roadmap, enlargement strategy and main challenges 2014-15 or Commission work programme for 2015,
  - pursuant to Art. 11(1) of the Cooperation Act – EU documents, which were to be discussed by Economic and Financial Affairs Council, General Affairs Council and Competitiveness Council,
  - pursuant to Art. 8(2) of the Cooperation Act – 9 EU draft legal acts concerning i.a. the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, authorisation for the United Kingdom to apply differentiated levels of taxation to motor fuels in certain geographical areas or restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Ukraine,
- heard information on the introduction on 01.01.2015 by the German Ministry of Labour of the minimum wage regulations that oblige all carriers to raise the minimum wage for drivers who pass through Germany to 8,5 euro/h, presented by Maria Wasiak, Minister of Infrastructure and Development (mtg no. 314),
- together with Foreign Affairs Committee held the first reading of Government bill on the ratification of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part, drawn up at Brussels on 27 June 2014 (paper no. 3059, mtg no. 315),

- together with Economic Committee heard information on the trade agreement between the European Union and the United States, presented by Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Economy, Andrzej Dych (mtg no. 317),
- heard information on European Digital Agenda, presented by Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Administration and Digitalisation, Bogdan Dombrowski (mtg. no 320).

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In **February 2015** information on and documents of SUE meetings no. 314, 316, 318-320, provided by the EU Affairs Committee secretariat, were published in the [EDL-S](#) (European Legislative Documents in the Sejm) and [IPEX](#) databases.

## MEETINGS OF THE EU AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- **02.02.2015** – the representatives of SUE met with Maroš Šefčovič, EC Vice-President for Energy Union,
- **20.02.2015** – Chairs of SUE and Infrastructure Committee met with Violeta Bulc, Commissioner for Transport. The meeting concerned issues of rail transport and the development of this sector of transport in Poland,
- **26.02.2015** – the representatives of SUE, Local Self-Government and Regional Policy Committee and Public Finance Committee met with Corina Crețu, Commissioner for Regional Policy. The meeting concerned the implementation of cohesion policy funds for 2014-2020.

## WORK IN COMMITTEES

### Innovation and New Technologies Committee

- **04.02.2015**, considered the information of the Minister of Economy on National Smart Specialization – basic document for support in the areas of research, development and innovation in the operational programs for 2014-2020 (mtg no. 148);

### Agriculture and Rural Development Committee

- **04.02.2015**, considered the amendments proposed during the second reading of the bill on payments under the direct support schemes, papers no. 3080 and 3100 (mtg no. 235);
- **17.02.2015**, held the first reading and considered the Government's bill on supporting rural development from European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development under the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020, paper no. 3130 (mtg no. 237);
- **18.02.2015**, considered the information of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on the participation in the activities of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in January 2015 (mtg no. 238).

## IMPLEMENTATION OF EU LAW – UST DATABASE

### In February 2015

- the following **bills** implementing EU law have been **referred to the first reading** [paper no.]:
  - Government bill on scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading [\[3151\]](#),
  - Government bill amending the act on the functioning of cooperative banks, their affiliations and affiliated banks and some other acts [\[3150\]](#),
  - Government bill amending the act on chemical substances and mixtures thereof [\[3149\]](#),
  - Government bill amending the act on forests and some other acts [\[3147\]](#),
  - Government bill on local development with the participation of local community [\[3138\]](#),
  - Government bill on support for rural development with the participation of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development in the framework of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 [\[3130\]](#),
  - Government bill amending the act - Road traffic law [\[3110\]](#),
  - Government bill on substances that deplete the ozone layer and on certain fluorinated greenhouse gases [\[3106\]](#).
- the following **acts** implementing EU law have been **adopted** [paper no.]:
  - Act of 20 February 2015 on local development with the participation of local community [\[3138\]](#),
  - Act of 20 February 2015 on support for rural development with the participation of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development in the framework of the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 [\[3130\]](#),
  - Act of 20 February 2015 amending the act on road transport and some other acts [\[2959\]](#),

- Act of 20 February 2015 on renewable energy sources [2604],
- Act of 5 February 2015 on payments under the direct support schemes [3080].
- the following **acts** implementing EU law have been **published** [paper no.]:
  - Act of 15 January 2015 on genetically modified organisms and some other acts [2394],
  - Act of 15 January 2015 on the protection of animals used for scientific and educational purposes [2709],
  - Act of 19 December 2014 on sea fisheries [2919].

## SUBSIDIARITY CHECK IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

In February 2015 5 draft legislative acts were subject to subsidiarity scrutiny. As of 9 March 2015, the national parliaments submitted no reasoned opinions on the non-compliance of these draft acts with the subsidiarity principle.

More information on reasoned opinions and proposals – [Biuletyn OIDE on-line](#)

## INTERPARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

26 February 2015, Brussels, [Workshop "Cross-border activities in the EU - Making life easier for citizens"](#)

24-25 February 2015, Bratislava, [Meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committees from parliaments of the Visegrad Group countries](#)

24-25 February 2015, Bratislava, [Meeting of the Committees on Economic Affairs from parliaments of the Visegrad Group countries](#)

23-24 February 2015, Brussels, [Interparliamentary Committee Meeting "Smart Borders Package: European challenges, national experiences, the way ahead"](#)

3-4 February 2015, Brussels, European Parliamentary Week 2015: [European Semester](#) and [Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Economic and Financial Governance of the EU](#)

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### ON THE OIDE WEBSITE

#### In the section Bibliographies

[National parliaments in the EU - new publications](#)

#### Following sections have been updated:

OIDE Notes - [Digital Agenda for Europe](#), [TTIP - Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership](#) oraz [European Year of Citizens 2013](#)

### LATEST DEBATES – COMMENTS

*Articles on the current political and economic issues in the EU from the specialist periodicals available on-line (accessed 05.03.2015)*

- Andoura S., Vinois J: [De la Communauté Européenne de l'énergie à l'union de l'énergie](#), "Tribune", Institut Jacques Delors, 25.02.2015.
- Bąkowski P., Puccio L.: ['Foreign fighters': Member States' responses and EU action in an international context. "Briefing"](#), European Parliament, European Parliamentary Research Service, February 2015.
- Bertoincini Y., Vitorino A.: ["Schengen", terrorism and security](#), "Tribune", Jacques Delors Institute, 12.02.2015.
- Blockmans S., Saverio Montesano F.: [Mogherini's first 100 days: Not the quiet diplomat](#), "Commentary", Centre for European Policy Studies, 12.02.2015.
- Boonstra J.: [Reviewing the EU's approach to Central Asia](#), "Policy Brief" no. 34, EUCAM, Fride, 25.02.2015.
- Collovà C.: [How does ex-ante Impact Assessment work in the EU?](#), "Briefing", European Parliament, European Parliamentary Research Service, February 2015.

- D'Alfonso A.: ['Monti' Group's first assessment of EU own resources](#), "Briefing", European Parliament, European Parliamentary Research Service, February 2015.
- Dullien S. i inn.: [A Fresh Start for TTIP](#), "Policy Brief", European Council on Foreign Relations, 02.02.2015.
- Gros D.: [The Greek Austerity Myth](#), "Commentary", Centre for European Policy Studies, 10.02.2015.
- Gros D.: [A Greek way out?](#), "Commentary", Centre for European Policy Studies, 05.02.2015.
- Gros D.: [The end of fiscal waterboarding?](#), "Commentary", Centre for European Policy Studies, 23.02.2015.
- Haas J.: [Grexit? Beware of slippery slopes](#), "Policy paper" no. 126, Jacques Delors Institut, 16.02.2015.
- Hagelstam K., Forgacs A.: [The economic governance framework of EMU: Stocktaking of building blocks](#), "Briefing", European Parliament, 19.02.2015.
- Harari D.: [Greek debt crisis: developments in 2015](#), "Commons Library Standard Note", House of Commons, 27.02.2015.
- Hradský M. i inn.: [Economic Dialogue with the President of the Eurogroup](#), 23 February 2015.
- Kaca E.: [Przed szczytem Partnerstwa Wschodniego w Rydze: postęp w polityce wizowej](#), „Biuletyn PISM” nr 22 (1259), Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych, 25.02.2015.
- Kałan D.: [Trójkąt sławkowski: konkurencja dla Wyszehradu?](#), „Biuletyn PISM” nr 18 (1255), Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych, 16.02.2015.
- Lannoo K.: [Which Union for Europe's Capital Markets?](#), "ECMI Policy Brief" no. 22, European Capital Markets Institute, Centre for European Policy Studies, 13.02.2015.
- Paul A.: [The Eastern Partnership, the Russia-Ukraine War, and the Impact on the South Caucasus](#), "IAI Working Paper" no. 15/06, Istituto Affari Internazionali, February 2015.
- Rękawek K.: [Polityka antyterrorystyczna w relacjach Wielkiej Brytanii z UE](#), „Biuletyn PISM” nr 12 (1249), Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych, 02.02.2015.
- Siddi M.: [Rome and Athens allied against austerity? Prospects for cooperation between Italy and Greece in the EU](#), "FIIA Comment" no. 7 (2015), The Finnish Institute of International Affairs, 19.02.2015.
- Sobják A.: [Schengen za walke z korupcją? Zamiast podwójnych standardów czas na szczerą dyskusję o Rumunii](#), „Biuletyn PISM” nr 19 (1256), Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych, 18.02.2015.
- Tindale S.: [State aid for energy: Climate action is more important than the single market](#), "Policy brief", Centre for European Reform, 23.02.2015.
- Vanden Broucke J. i inn.: [Outcome of the informal European Council meeting of 12 February 2015](#), "Briefing", European Parliament, European Parliamentary Research Service.
- Wolff G., Sapir A.: [Euro-area governance: what to reform and how to do it](#), "Policy Brief" iss. 2015/01, Bruegel, February 2015

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