

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.

EU DOCUMENTS IN THE SEJM

7 May 2014 - the Sejm heard current information and held a debate on the Draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 ([verbatim record](#) /PL).

8 May 2014 - the Sejm has accepted the information of the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the principles of the Polish foreign policy in 2014 ([verbatim record](#)/PL point 17).

EU DOCUMENTS IN THE SEJM

In **may 2014** the **EU Affairs Committee (SUE)** held 8 meetings: no. 249-256. During these meetings the Committee scrutinised 84 EU documents:

- pursuant to Art. 7(4) of the Cooperation Act – 8 EU draft legislative acts concerning ia. activities of institutions for occupational retirement provision, touring visas and amending the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement or the Union Code on Visas. SUE didn't raise any objections about subsidiarity principle with regards to those 8 draft acts,
- pursuant to Art. 151(1) of the Sejm Standing Orders and Art. 3(2) of the Cooperation Act – 38 European Commission documents (15 communicates, 21 reports, 1 recommendation and 1 draft Council decision) concerning ia. exploration of hydrocarbons (such as shale gas) in EU, European terrorist finance tracking system or policy towards Internet, and 1 draft Council regulation concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Ukraine,
- pursuant to Art. 11(1) of the Cooperation Act – EU documents, which were to be discussed by General Affairs Council, Competitiveness Council, Justice and Home Affairs Council, Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council and Environment Council,
- pursuant to Art. 8(2) of the Cooperation Act – 2 packages of documents on the conclusion of the Association Agreement with Moldova and Georgia, and draft Council decision concerning amendments to the Code of the Maritime Labour Convention

In **May 2014** information and documents on SUE meetings no. 249-256, provided by the EU Affairs Committee secretariat, were published in the [EDL-S](#) (European Legislative Documents in the Sejm) and [IPEX](#) databases.

WORK IN COMMITTEES

Innovation and New Technologies Committee

- **07.05.2014**, heard the information of the Minister of Economy on National Smart Specialization as a condition for support in the areas of research, development and innovation in the operational programs for 2014-2020 (mtg no. 118);

- **29.05.2014**, took note of the information on the development of Polish electronic economy on the example of the effects of measures 8.1 and 8.2 Operational Programme Innovative Economy (mtg no. 121);

Agriculture and Rural Development Committee

- **07.05.2014**, considered the answer of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) to the desideratum no. 22 addressed to the Prime Minister regarding maximum levels for contaminants in foodstuffs in connection with the Commission regulation (EU) no. 835/2011 (mtg no. 187);
- **08.05.2014**, heard the information of the ARD Minister on the participation in the activities of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in April 2014 (mtg no. 188);
- **29.05.2014**, heard the information of the Ministers of: Agriculture and Rural Development, Economy, Foreign Affairs and Health on the preparation for the lodging of the complaint with the Court of Justice of the EU concerning the Directive 2014/40/EU of 03.04.2014, the so-called tobacco directive; heard the information of the ARD Minister on the state of the implementation of the Regulation of the EP and of the Council (EU) no. 1307/2013 of 17.12.2013 establishing rules for direct payments to farmers (mtg no. 191).

IMPLEMENTATION OF EU LAW – UST DATABASE

In May 2014

- the following **bill** implementing EU law has been **referred to the first reading** [paper no.]:
 - Government bill amending the act on genetically modified organisms and some other acts [\[2394\]](#).
- the following **acts** implementing EU law have been **adopted** [paper no.]:
 - Act of 30 May 2014 amending the act on stocks of crude oil, petroleum products and natural gas and on the procedures applicable in circumstances of a threat to the fuel security of the state and disruptions on the petroleum market and amending some acts [\[2149\]](#),
 - Act of 30 May 2014 amending the act - Water law and some other acts [\[2106\]](#),
 - Act of 30 May 2014 on consumer rights [\[2076\]](#),
 - Act of 9 May 2014 amending the act the act on granting protection to aliens within the territory of the Republic of Poland and some other acts [\[2243\]](#),
 - Act of 9 May 2014 on some agreements concluded in connection with the performance of contracts of primary importance for security of the state [\[2167\]](#).
- the following **acts** implementing EU law have been **published** [paper no.]:
 - Act of 24 April 2014 amending the act on supplementary supervision of credit institutions, insurance undertakings, reinsurance undertakings and investment firms in a financial conglomerate and some other acts [\[2050\]](#),
 - Act of 4 April 2014 amending the act on exercise of the legislative initiative by citizens [\[1990\]](#),
 - Act of 4 April 2014 amending the act - Atomic Law and some other acts [\[1993\]](#).

SUBSIDIARITY CHECK IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

Subsidiarity scrutiny in October – reasoned opinions (Information from IPEX database as of 06.05.2014)			
Draft legislative act	Deadline for subsidiarity scrutiny	Adoption / transmission of reasoned opinion	Chamber / parliament (country)
COM(2014) 180	20.05.2014	14.05.2014 / 15.05.2014	National Council (Austria)
		- / 20.05.2014	Chamber of Deputies (Luxembourg)
COM(2014) 167	29.05.2014	- / 15.05.2014	Chamber of Representatives (The Netherlands)

COM(2014) 212	10.06.2014	28.05.2014 / 30.05.2014	National Council (Austria)
		27.05.2014 / 28.05.2014	Federal Council (Austria)

In **May 2014**, **14 draft legislative acts** were subject to subsidiarity scrutiny. As of 3 June 2014, the national parliaments submitted **5 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](#)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

NEW ON THE OIDE WEBSITE

OIDE publications

- *EP elections 2014. New regulations, debates, information campaign* ([available in PL only](#))
Informacja OIDE No. 2, May 2014

The publication presents new treaty provisions, as well as implementing legal acts related to the EP 2014 elections. It describes also initiatives and recommendations of the Parliament and the European Commission aimed at enhancing current arrangements for preparing and organizing elections, as well as procedure for electing the European Commission President. The publication includes also short summary of debates on European elections in the national parliaments and of the information campaign of the EP.

In the section *Legal and Systemic Issues*

- [Energy policy of the European Union](#)
Information about the present EU energy policy including the third energy package and the plans for the period 2020-2030.
- [The free trade area of the EU-US](#)
Information about the progress of negotiations of the trade agreement between the European Union and the United States.
- [Cooperation among the Baltic States – selected initiatives within the EU and other examples of cooperation at the parliamentary level](#)
- [European Parliament elections 2014](#) ➤ [Eastern Partnership](#) ➤ [The first review of the Transparency Register](#) ➤ [European semester](#) – new documents were added

In the section *Important parliamentary debates*

- [Debate on the arrangements for the interparliamentary scrutiny of the area of freedom, security and justice](#) was updated.

LATEST DEBATES – COMMENTS

Articles on the current political and economic issues in the EU from the specialist periodicals available on-line (accessed 05.06.2014)

- Avery G.: [Could an independent Scotland join the European Union?](#), "Policy Brief", European Policy Centre, 28.05.2014.
- Blockmans S., Gros D.: [The Case for EU Police Mission Ukraine](#), "Commentary", Centre for European Policy Studies, 14.05.2014.
- Coelmont J., Biscop S.: [Building European defence: an architect and a bank](#), "Security Policy Briefs", EGMONT – The Royal Institute for International Relations, 12.05.2014.
- Emerson M.: [Towards a fresh deal for Ukraine, the EU and Russia and their neighbourhood policies: 15 steps](#), "Commentary", Centre for European Policy Studies, 29.05.2014.
- Fernandes S.: [Who calls the shots in the euro area? "Brussels" or the member states?](#), "Policy paper", Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute, 14.05.2014.

- Helwig N.: [The High Representative 3.0: Taking EU foreign policy to the next level](#), "Briefing Paper" 155 (2014), Finnish Institute of International Affairs, 20.05.2014.
- Leino P., Salminen J.: [Beyond the Euro Crisis: European constitutional dilemmas and Treaty amendments](#), "Briefing Paper" 154 (2014), Finnish Institute of International Affairs, 14.5.2014.
- Sieg H., Kulminski V.: [Moldova at a Crossroads. Why an Association Agreement with the EU Matters More than Ever](#), "DGAPkompakt" Nr. 8, 19.05.2014.
- Toporowski P.: [Koniec programu pomocowego Portugalii – dobry znak dla strefy euro?](#), „Biuletyn PISM” nr 67 (1179), Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych, 23.05.2014.
- Zuleeg F.: [Britain outside Europe? Fewer EU concessions to UK post-Brexit](#), European Policy Centre, 12.05.2014.

European Parliament elections 2014

- Emmanouilidis J., Stratulat C.: [Post-European Parliament Elections](#), European Policy Centre, 27.05.2014.
- Gostyńska A.: [Kampania wyborcza do Parlamentu Europejskiego: ku „europeizacji” wyborów?](#), „Biuletyn PISM nr 61 (1173)", Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych, 15.05.2014.
- Gros D., Piedrafita S.: [Common Misconceptions about the European Parliamentary Elections](#), "Commentary", Centre for European Policy Studies, 23.05.2014.
- Miller V.: [European Parliament elections 2014](#), "Commons Library Standard Note", House of Commons, 21.05.2014.
- Piedrafita S., Lauenroth A.: [Between Apathy and Anger: Challenges to the Union from the 2014 Elections to the European Parliament](#), "EPIN Papers", European Policy Institutes Network , 20.05.2014.

10th anniversary of the EU enlargement

- Blockmans S.: [Impact of the 'Big bang' enlargement on EU foreign policy – 10 years on](#), "Commentary", Centre for European Policy Studies, 05.05.2014.
- Dostál V.: [From Integration to Differentiation. The Czech Republic in the European Union Ten Years On](#), "DGAPanalyse" no. 9,10.05.2014.
- Hegedüs D.: [From Front-runner's 'EUphoria' to Backmarker's 'Pragmatic Adhocism'? Hungary's Ten Years within the European Union in a Visegrad Comparison](#), "DGAPanalyse" no. 7, 10.05.2014.
- Mizsei K., Kullmann Á.: [Struggling with an Opportunity: The first 10 years with the EU for Central Europe and the Baltics](#), "Essay", Centre for European Policy Studies, 02.05.2014.
- Nič M., Slobodník M., Šimečka M.: [Slovakia in the EU. An Unexpected Success Story?](#), "DGAPanalyse" no. 6, 10.05.2014.

More publications' review:
[Biuletyn OIDE on-line](#)



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