

# Economic, social, budgetary, and environmental policies

Expert and research publications

**EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENTARY WEEK 2021**



**This Thematic Digest** contains a list of publications from the European Parliament's expertise and research capacities within the Directorates-General for Internal Policies (IPOL), External Policies (EXPO) and Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), relevant to the topics of debate of the Inter-parliamentary Committee Meetings on:

- Resilience and Recovery from the COVID-19 crisis: economic and fiscal priorities for investment and reforms  
[Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs](#) (ECON)
- Strengthening and implementing the Social Dimension: How to integrate the Pillar of Social Rights into the recovery and resilience plans?  
[Committee on Employment and Social Affairs](#) (EMPL)
- The EU budget at the centre of the Recovery Plan. NGEU, MFF and Own Resources: New intersections between the competences of the EP and national parliaments?  
[Committee on Budgets](#) (BUDG)
- The Recovery and Resilience Plan: synergies between the European Green Deal and the path towards building a more resilient European Health Union  
[Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety](#) (ENVI)

These Inter-parliamentary Committee Meetings are being held within the framework of the

[European Parliamentary Week 2021](#)

EU Economic Governance from a Parliamentary perspective

Co-organised by the European Parliament and the Portuguese Parliament

## [When and how to deactivate the Stability and Growth Pact general escape clause?](#)

*Briefing written by J. Angerer and A. Zoppè, February 2021*

This note presents summaries of four papers on the conditions and timing for the future deactivation of the general escape clause of the Stability and Growth Pact, which is in force since March 2020. The papers go over the framework in which the general escape clause could be lifted, assess whether other transitional arrangements could/should be applied, and discuss the terms by which the Commission and Council should recommend Member States to correct excessive deficits or adjust to their updated Medium Term Objectives.

## [European Parliament involvement in scrutinising the Recovery and Resilience Facility](#)

*Briefing written by C. Dias, I. Lara Miranda, February 2021*

This note provides a brief overview of Parliament's involvement in scrutinising the Recovery and Resilience Facility (and the European Union Recovery Instrument), based on the draft regulation as agreed by the co-legislators in December 2020, and the relevant parts of the new Interinstitutional Agreement on budgetary matters.

## [Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area](#)

*In-depth analysis by C. Dias, K. Grigaitė, I. Lara Miranda, February 2021*

This note looks at the 2021 recommendation on the economic policies of the euro area proposed by the Commission and agreed by the Council. It also provides an overview of the follow up of the 2020 recommendations, making use of public information and based on proxies such as on how the Eurogroup has integrated euro area recommendations' concerns in their "thematic discussions" and work programmes. In addition, the note provides a review of the euro area recommendations from an institutional perspective and includes broad comparisons to earlier recommendations, in order to illustrate how policy concerns have evolved over time. This note will be regularly updated in light of relevant developments.

## [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#)

*Briefing by M. Karaboytcheva, February 2021*

This 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefing summarises the main elements of the proposed regulation for a Recovery and Resilience Facility. It highlights Parliament's position at the start of the negotiations, the views of the main stakeholders and the key stages of the legislative process.

## [Own resources of the European Union: reforming the EU's financing system](#)

*Briefing by A. D'Alfonso, February 2021*

In December 2020, the Council adopted the new Own Resources Decision that now needs to be ratified by all Member States. This briefing looks at the changes that the new decision will bring, including the major innovation that enables the Union to finance the Next Generation EU recovery instrument. Thanks to the European Parliament, a roadmap was agreed for the introduction of new own resources that should cover the repayment of the principal and interest of the recovery instrument.

## [EU economic developments and projections](#)

*Briefing by K. Grigaitė, J. Vega Bordell, I. Lara Miranda, M. Marchionni, O. Turcu, February 2021*

This briefing provides a summary of the recent economic developments in the EU Member States and gives an overview of relevant economic projections forecasted by major international and EU institutions, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the European Central Bank (ECB), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the European Commission. This briefing is updated regularly.

## [Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact under pandemic times](#)

*Briefing by J. Angerer and I. Lara Miranda, February 2021*

This document provides an overview of key developments under the preventive and corrective arms of the Stability and Growth Pact, on the basis of the latest Council decisions and recommendations in the framework of the Stability and Growth Pact and the latest European Commission economic forecast. This document is updated regularly.

## [Implementation of the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure](#)

*In-depth-analysis by A. Zoppè, February 2021*

This note, updated regularly, presents the EU Member States' situation with respect to the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP), taking into account the most recent assessments and decisions by the European Commission and the Council. It also gives an overview of relevant positions taken on the MIP by EU institutions.

## [EU/EA measures to mitigate the economic, financial and social effects of coronavirus](#)

*In-depth analyses by C. Dias, K. Hagelstam, J. Angerer, K. Grigaitė, R. Segall, M. Magnus, D. Rakic, February 2021*

This document compiles information, obtained from public sources, on the measures proposed and taken at the EU or Euro Area level to mitigate the economic and social effects of COVID-19. It is to be regularly updated, following new developments.

## [Green and sustainable finance](#)

*Briefing by S. Spinaci, February 2021*

This briefing introduces the different concepts and elements of 'green finance' (including greening finance and green financing) and 'sustainable finance'. Subsequently, it focuses on the EU actions to support financing sustainable growth, for example through the EU Taxonomy Regulation, the initiatives under the European Green Deal, and the initiatives of the European Central Bank and the European Investment Bank. The final chapter looks at possible directions and future scenarios and points to emerging trends.

## [The proposed amendments to the Treaty establishing the European Stability Mechanism](#)

*Briefing written by C. Dias and A. Zoppè, January 2021*

This document presents the proposed amendments to the Treaty establishing the European Stability Mechanism (ESM). It outlines the relevant changes and provides a comparison between the current ESM Treaty and the proposed amended one. This note will be updated in light of relevant developments and it complements two separate EGOV briefings: [The European Stability Mechanism: Main Features, Instruments and Accountability](#) and the [ESM Pandemic Crisis Support](#).

## [Economic and budgetary outlook for the European Union 2021](#)

*Study by A. D'Alfonso, A. Delivorias, N. Milotay and M. Sapala, January 2021*

This annual study provides an overview of the economic and budgetary situation in the EU and beyond, and summarises the main economic indicators in the EU and euro area and their trends. It also explains the annual EU budget, and sets out the wider budgetary framework – the new multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2021-2027 and the Next Generation EU recovery instrument. This year's special 'economic focus' highlights EU social and employment policies in the context of the coronavirus outbreak.

## [Multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027: the future of EU finances](#)

*Briefing by A. D'Alfonso, January 2021*

As of 1 January 2021, the new multiannual financial framework (MFF) that details the structure of EU finances up to 2027 started to apply. This briefing analyses the new MFF Regulation and the road that led to its adoption, from the preparation of the proposal to the new momentum that the intertwined debate on the Next Generation EU recovery instrument gave to the negotiations. Parliament managed to obtain various changes it had strongly advocated, such as additional resources for flagship programmes and increased flexibility.

## [Air pollution and COVID-19](#)

*Study coordinated by M. Ciucci, January 2021*

This study is about the effects of air pollution on health. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc in many areas of the world. Transmission and prognosis, once infected, are potentially influenced by many factors, including air pollution. Studies have suggested that air pollution increases the incidence and the severity of the disease. However, the current data is too limited to be certain. Especially the quantitative contribution of air pollution to the disease is still very uncertain.

## [Ten issues to watch in 2021](#)

*In-Depth Analysis by E. Bassot, January 2021*

This publication aims at identifying and framing some of the key issues and policy areas that are likely to feature prominently on the political agenda of the European Union over the coming year. The topics analysed are: the COVID-19 race for a vaccine; the Recovery Plan; access to food; inequality; challenges for culture and the performing arts; a digital boost for the circular economy; critical raw materials; border controls; Turkey and the eastern Mediterranean; and the new United States administration.

## [The European Semester during the pandemic](#)

*Briefing by K. Hagelstam, C. Dias, December 2020*

Due to the pandemic, the European Semester for economic policy coordination will look rather different (in both form and substance) to what it was in previous cycles. This document provides an overview on how the various policy instruments comprised in the European Semester have been or are being implemented as part of the EU Recovery Plan, notably the interactions with the proposed Recovery and Resilience Facility.

## [Impact of state aid on competition and competitiveness during the COVID-19 pandemic: an early assessment](#)

*Study coordinated by D. Verbeken, December 2020*

This economic assessment of EU state aid principles and practices related to the COVID-19 pandemic confirms the clear focus on maintaining the level playing field in the EU single market. Future monitoring and policy fine-tuning, focusing on SMEs, and keeping all Member States involved are the main challenges. Moreover, current policies fail to incorporate a strong focus on broader, strategic policy goals like the green and digital transformation of the European economy or the enhancing of EU firms' global competitiveness.

## [Sustainable economic recovery: perspectives from the 2020 ESPAS Conference \(Dec 2020\)](#)

### [Foresight for resilience: the European Commission's first annual Foresight Report \(Oct 2020\)](#)

*At a glance notes by E. Noonan, October and December 2020*

The note on Foresight for Resilience (October 2020) summarises the European Commission's first annual Foresight Report, setting out how foresight will be used in the EU's work towards a sustainable recovery and open strategic autonomy. Such horizon scanning can identify emerging risks and opportunities. The note on Sustainable Economic Recovery (December 2020) provides a summary of one of the 2020 European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS) conference panels that discussed how to create a sustainable economic recovery following the coronavirus pandemic.

## [EU financing for 2021-2027: the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework, the Next Generation EU Recovery Instrument and new Own Resources](#)

*Briefing by N. Kresnichka-Nikolchova, M. Pari and M. Sapala, December 2020*

The agreement reached between the European Parliament and the Council is unprecedented in terms of the overall amount to be spent and the innovative solutions enabling financing of the extraordinary needs in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. This briefing provides a graphic presentation of the long-term EU budget adopted on 17 December 2020, enabling the EU to finance the extraordinary needs for a swift recovery, and highlighting the improvements achieved by the European Parliament in the negotiations.

## [Financing the European Union](#)

*Briefing by F. Jones, December 2020*

This briefing describes reforms already secured by the European Parliament and suggests further ideas that could be considered to improve the financing of the European Union, restore the link between EU strategy and financing, and better communicate the benefits of spending at EU level. This 'ideas paper' is part of the broader research project on how to build a more resilient EU. It describes possible options to reform the EU finance system and suggests specific initiatives to overcome budgetary limitations.

## [EU response to the coronavirus pandemic: citizens' views and expectations](#)

*Briefing by A. Dobrova, December 2020*

This briefing analyses the evolution of the public perception regarding national and EU policy actions in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Public opinion surveys confirm that there is a level of mismatch between citizens' expectations and EU competences in the current pandemic, as was also the case in previous crises. In this context, the briefing also points to some factors that could contribute towards closing the gap between citizens' expectations and their evaluation of the EU response to the pandemic and its consequences.

## [Next generation or lost generation? Children, young people and the pandemic](#)

*Briefing by N. Milotay, December 2020*

This briefing looks closely at 'Generation Z', or 'Gen Z', which includes children and young people born after 1995/1996. Also known as the 'iGeneration', Generation Z are the first digital natives. While, in the EU, they are the most diverse generation when it comes to their origins; and best educated, in terms of level of education; they are the most vulnerable, including on the labour market. The negative trends this generation already faced prior to the pandemic have solidified during the outbreak and the lockdown measures.

## [Older people in the European Union's rural areas: issues and challenges](#)

*In-Depth Analysis by M.-L. Augère-Granier and J. McElDowney, December 2020*

Examining the demographic profile of older people in the EU's rural areas, this analysis discusses a range of issues, including the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, and provides examples of initiatives that have been taken to address older people's needs. The concluding 'outlook' section discusses the findings in the context of the legislative process in connection with the new common agricultural policy, the next multiannual financial framework and Next Generation EU.

## [The link between biodiversity loss and the increasing spread of zoonotic diseases](#)

*In-depth analysis coordinated by C. Kurrer, December 2020*

This paper notes that high levels of biodiversity may be a potential source of pathogen transmission, but biodiversity loss can promote transmission by increasing the number of competent hosts for a pathogen. Biodiversity conservation reduces the risk of zoonotic diseases when it provides additional habitats and reduces contact between wildlife, livestock and humans. Other measures include the restriction and sanitary control of wildlife trade, while considering the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities.

## [What role for the European Semester in the recovery plan](#)

*Briefing written by C. Dias and A. Zoppè, November 2020*

This note presents summaries of four papers on the linkages between the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and the European Semester (ES), as well as on the role of the European Parliament in the the RRF. In particular, experts were asked to assess whether and how the ES constitutes a suitable governance framework for the recovery measures, notably on: (i) the identification of the EU priority areas; (ii) the analysis, the adoptions and the monitoring of the national recovery plans; and (iii) the performance of the European Parliament (EP) scrutiny and accountability role.

### [Monetary-Fiscal nexus after the crisis](#)

*Study coordinated by D. Rakic, November 2020*

This document brings together papers on the following topics: (i) Blurred boundaries between monetary and fiscal policy; (ii) Monetary-fiscal interactions in the Euro Area - assessing the risks; (iii) Rethinking monetary and fiscal policy in the post-COVID Euro Area; (iv) The Euro Area after COVID-19; and (v) COVID-19 and economic policy toward the new normal - a monetary-fiscal nexus after the crisis?

### [After parental leave: incentives for parents with young children to return to the labour market](#)

*Study coordinated by S. Schulz, November 2020*

This study examines the employment situation of parents with young children in the EU and specifically, the factors that affect parents' return to the labour market. The paper identifies interventions that could help parents return to work after family-related leave and improve labour-market integration of unemployed or inactive parents. The study outlines possible additional actions at the EU level. It includes a section on the impact of COVID-19 on parents with young children.

### [Social Impact Investment best practices and recommendations for the next generation](#)

*Study coordinated by A. Kennedy, November 2020*

Social Impact Investment (SII) is emerging as a potential strategy for solving key societal challenges. This study sets out the rationale behind and the definition of SII, and analyses the different components of the SII ecosystem. It looks at trends and challenges related to the SII market across the EU and makes recommendations on EU-level measures. It includes a section on the SII market in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the potential of the SII approach in the facilitation of the post COVID-19 recovery.

### [The future of work: implications for Public Employment Services in the EU](#)

*Briefing by R. A. Konle-Seidl, November 2020*

The impact European Public Employment Services Network on the design of relevant European policy initiatives has been most notable regarding the European Pillar of Social Rights, the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market and the reinforced Youth Guarantee. Substantial changes are affecting public employment services. Their future work will be informed by two strategic policy priorities set by the European Commission for 2019-2024: digital transformation, and a climate-neutral Europe - both entailing far-reaching changes.

### [Corporate social responsibility and its implementation into EU Company law](#)

*Study coordinated by U. Bux, November 2020*

Building on both European Union law and selected Member States' legislation, this study aims at understanding to what extent Member States are supporting the development and the implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategies in the business community, with particular focus on due diligence requirements. It also attempts to provide some recommendations aimed at developing a comprehensive and structured approach to CSR for the whole of the EU.

### [Opportunities of post COVID-19 European recovery funds in transitioning towards circular and climate neutral economy](#)

*Briefing coordinated by G. Amanatidis, November 2020*

The key findings of this briefing include the fact that in determining whether the EU is recovering successfully from COVID-19, the evolution of the quality of life and well-being of people should be monitored, as well as GHG emissions and loss of nature. The EU should present a forward-looking, ambitious vision for an economy geared to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Successful examples in the fields of energy, industry, food and health illustrate how transitioning towards circular and climate neutral economies can be fostered.

## [EU Economic Governance Review](#)

*Briefing by D. Boldi, October 2020*

This document summarises a number of papers in the area of EU economic governance, which aim to provide information and suggestions for the on-going debate among policy makers on the review of the EU legal framework for economic governance. The papers deal with: (i) the role of green public investment in the EU fiscal rules; (ii) the review of the Stability and Growth Pact; and (iii) the review of the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure.

## [Skills and jobs for future labour markets: European policies and Skills Agendas 2010 - 2020](#)

*Briefing by S. Kraatz, October 2020*

The briefing presents an overview of skills requirements and challenges, and European and international policy responses. Further, it analyses the three European skills agendas 2010, 2016 and 2020 from a lifelong learning perspective. The note covers aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic and recommendations on recovery.

## [Improving the quality of public spending in Europe: budgetary 'waste rates' in EU Member States](#)

*Study by J. Saulnier, October 2020*

This study analyses whether and under what circumstances budgetary benefits and cost savings can be realised by Member States through funding policies and programmes with EU added value at EU, rather than national, level. It also attempts to measure the scale of such benefits and savings. The study concludes that Member States could save €180 billion per year through improved allocation of budgetary resources.

## [EU agricultural policy and health: some historical and contemporary issues](#)

*In-Depth Analysis by J. McEldowney, October 2020*

The outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the importance of public health. Given its scale and impact, there will be continuing pressure for a reinforced health dimension in EU food and agricultural policies. Examining the main contemporary issues in health, food and agriculture, this paper provides an overview of some of the main studies to have examined the links between agriculture, nutrition and health, and analyses the role played by the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in connection with nutrition-related health issues.

## [Towards a more resilient Europe post-coronavirus:](#)

### [Capabilities and gaps in the EU's capacity to address structural risks \(October 2020\)](#)

### [An initial mapping of structural risks facing the European Union \(July 2020\)](#)

*Studies coordinated by E. Bassot, F. Debié, S. de Finance, M. Nogaj, A. Worum and A. Barberá Del Rosal, July and October 2020*

Offering an initial 'mapping' of some of the potential structural risks which could confront Europe over the coming decade, the July-2020 study considers the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for the EU, with 66 risks analysed briefly in a series of short notes. Taking 33 risks assessed as being more significant or likely, the October-2020 study looks first at the capabilities the EU and its Member States already possess to address the risks, and then looks at gaps in policy and instruments at the Union's disposal, suggesting approaches to overcome them.

## [The platform economy and precarious work](#)

*Study coordinated by S. Kraatz, September 2020*

Platform work has rapidly developed, though concerns have been raised about the employment and working conditions of platform work and the risk of precariousness it entails. Platform work has, therefore, been identified as a policy priority by European policy-makers. This study presents an analytical literature review that focuses on the challenges and risks of precariousness of platform work, and explores possible pathways for EU action. It covers aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the European Pillar of Social Rights.



## [Shaping a European Child Guarantee](#)

*Briefing by S. Kraatz, September 2020*

The briefing presents data on the problem of child poverty in the European Union followed by an overview of policy initiatives by the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament. It concludes with points from the debate on research on how to shape an effective Child Guarantee. The note covers aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## [Social and employment policies in Europe](#)

*Briefing by N. Millotay, September 2020*

Whilst the disruption caused by the coronavirus crisis has affected all segments of society, some groups and geographic areas have been impacted more seriously than others. This briefing argues that the crisis presents an opportunity to rethink how and what could be done differently and more efficiently over the longer term in the social and employment field at European level, including the possibility of putting social and economic considerations and rights on a more equal footing within the Union's governance framework.

## [European Union food system](#)

*Briefing by R. Rossi, September 2020*

The EU food system is a complex and integrated structure of sectors, governance of which is ensured by various EU sectoral policies. Its strengths and weaknesses became evident during the coronavirus crisis. This 'ideas paper' is part of the broader research project and sets out the progress to date towards an EU food system and the issues posed by the current coronavirus crisis. The table at the end of the text explores a range of ongoing or potential initiatives for a sustainable EU food system in the future.

## [Policies to ensure access to affordable housing](#)

*Study coordinated by A. Kennedy, August 2020*

This publication analyses the current situation and key challenges with regard to housing affordability in the EU, as well as policies to ensure access to affordable housing at national and EU levels. Key trends are assessed and recommendations for policy makers and stakeholders on improving the affordability of housing are provided. One of the recommendations is to use the Next Generation EU package to invest in supply-side housing measures, and at the same time alleviate the effects of the pandemic.

## [European economic recovery](#)

*Briefing by J. Saulnier, July 2020*

This briefing analyses some of the issues arising in the economic field in the aftermath of the coronavirus crisis and looks at a range of policy initiatives that could help build a broadly based and sustainable European economic recovery and a more resilient European Union. In particular, this 'ideas paper' analyses potential initiatives, such as improved coordination of fiscal and monetary policies, a stronger single market, common investment and spending in strategic areas or economic policies for EU 'strategic autonomy'.

## [Next Generation EU: Where are assigned revenue? Which impact in 2021?](#)

*Briefing by A. Mathis, July 2020*

In the emergency European Recovery Instrument, Next Generation EU, EUR 500 billion are external assigned revenue. In 2021, contributions from Next Generation EU are planned to provide an additional EUR 211.3 billion of assigned revenue. Assigned revenue in 2021, will surge to EUR 220 000 million in commitments and EUR 46 100 million in payments. On assigned revenue, the European Parliament is excluded from the decision-making process. Given the size of the amount in question, the budgetary treatment of external assigned revenue should be reassessed.

## [EU public health policy](#)

*Briefing by G. Quaglio, July 2020*

This briefing explains the origins and current role of public health policy at EU level, details how the Union has responded to the 2020 coronavirus pandemic to date, and analyses the European Commission's recent proposal for a flagship policy initiative in this field, the EU4Health programme, which could represent a paradigm shift in how the EU deals with health. This 'ideas paper' then goes on to explore a range of possible further initiatives that could be taken to over the medium to long-term to strengthen healthcare systems across Europe.

## [Ten opportunities for Europe post-coronavirus: exploring potential for progress in EU policy-making](#)

*In-Depth Analysis by E. Bassot, July 2020*

Whilst much commentary has understandably been focused on the immediate impact of the coronavirus crisis, relatively little attention has been paid to areas of potential opportunity which the crisis may offer. This analysis looks at ten areas which may offer potential for progress, including working more closely together on health policy, using climate action to promote a sustainable recovery, rethinking the world of work, future-proofing education, harnessing e-commerce and championing European values and multilateralism.

## [Assigned revenue in the Recovery Plan: the frog that wishes to be as big as the ox?](#)

*Briefing by A. Mathis, June 2020*

Exception to the budgetary principle of universality, assigned revenues flattened at 10.5% in the last years. The emergency European Recovery Instrument amounts to EUR 750 billion. Out of this EUR 750 billion, EUR 500 billion are external assigned revenue. Therefore, more than a third of the EU budget will be considered as assigned revenue in the EU budget. On assigned revenue, the European Parliament is excluded from the decision-making process. Given the size of the amount in question, the budgetary treatment of external assigned revenue should be reassessed.

## [Possible avenues for further political integration in Europe: a political compact for a more democratic and effective Union?](#)

*Study coordinated by E. Pavy, June 2020*

This study analyses possible avenues for further political integration in the EU after Brexit. It maps the multiple crises that the EU has weathered in the past decade and explains how these crises, including the recent COVID-19 pandemic, reveal several substantive and institutional weaknesses in the current EU system of governance. The study considers the potentials of the nascent Conference on the Future of Europe to renew the EU, and examines the obstacles and opportunities for EU treaty reforms, considering the option of channelling the Conference's outcome into a new Political Compact, subject to new, less-than-unanimous ratification rules.

## [Coronavirus and the cost of non-Europe: an analysis of the economic benefits of common European action](#)

*In-depth analysis by T. Evas, A. Heflich, N. Lomba, K. Müller, C. Navarra, L. Panella, J. Saulnier, A. Stjernquist, W. Van Ballegooij, May 2020*

This analysis focuses on the economic benefits of common action at European level and the risk involved if the current coronavirus crisis and its aftermath were to stall or reverse the process of European integration. It attempts to quantify the losses from: (i) any gradual dismantling of the EU project; and (ii) a parallel failure to take advantage of the unexploited potential of collective public goods that have yet to be achieved (this would be future GDP growth foregone).

### [Documenting climate mainstreaming in the EU budget: making the system more transparent, stringent and comprehensive](#)

*Study coordinated by K. Barslev, May 2020*

This study examines the current methodologies used for tracking climate related and biodiversity-related expenditure in the EU budget. It identifies strengths and weaknesses of the current methodologies, and examines proposed changes to the methodologies for the 2021-2027 financial perspective. On this basis, it identifies potential objectives for strengthening the tracking mechanisms, and puts forward suggested approaches to meeting those objectives.

### [Added value of a common EU response to the economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic](#)

*Briefing by J. Saulnier, April 2020*

The response to the economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic emphasised the need for a resolute move towards greater common policy action and a deepening of the single market, more strategic autonomy, increased common investment, and a reasonable deepening of risk-sharing within the Economic and Monetary Union. This study presents four simulations, which used growth models based on long-term scenarios to 2035, to indicate that the cost of complacency could be substantial.

### [Impact of the coronavirus crisis on climate action and the European Green Deal](#)

*Briefing by G. Erbach, April 2020*

While some European governments initially considered that ambitious programmes such as the European Green Deal would hinder economic recovery after the coronavirus crisis, others maintained it is the growth strategy that can help Europe's economic recovery, while simultaneously addressing the global climate emergency. This briefing discusses the challenges of setting up crisis recovery programmes that remain compatible with raised climate ambitions and avoid investments in carbon-intensive industries and processes.

### [The European Semester for economic policy coordination: a reflection paper](#)

*Study written by K. Hagelstam, C. Dias, J. Angerer, A. Zoppè, October 2019*

This paper provides an overview of the current EU economic governance framework, in particular of the so-called EU 'rule based' surveillance framework of national budgetary, economic and social policies. It raises some broad questions on the lessons learned and proposes some reflections for the future.

## Policy departments

The Policy Departments of DG Internal Policies (IPOL) and DG External Policies (EXPO) are responsible for providing expertise and policy advice to support the activities of the parliamentary committees and other parliamentary bodies. Based on analyses carried out either in-house or externally, policy departments provide independent, specialised, objective, high-quality and up-to-date information in all areas of Parliament's activities.

A wide variety of formats is used by the Policy Departments in order to deliver their policy analysis, most frequently in response to a request from a parliamentary committee or delegation. Their written output serves a variety of purposes by feeding directly into the legislative work of a specific committee or serving as a briefing for delegations of Members, or as background notes and speaking points for Parliament's political authorities.

The Policy departments also organise events, including workshops and expert panels, to enhance Parliament's analytical capacity and develop common approaches to current issues.

## Economic Governance and Support Unit

The Economic Governance Support Unit (EGOV) provides information and dedicated analyses to members on the implementation of the EU economic governance instruments and banking supervision in the Union, in particular in the Euro Area.

## European Parliamentary Research Service

The European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) provides Members of the European Parliament, and where appropriate parliamentary committees, with independent, objective and authoritative analysis of, and research on, policy issues relating to the European Union, in order to assist them in their parliamentary work.

As the European Parliament's in-house research service and think tank, EPRS provides a comprehensive range of products and services, backed by specialist internal expertise and knowledge sources in all policy fields, so empowering Members and committees through knowledge and contributing to the Parliament's effectiveness and influence as an institution.

EPRS also supports and promotes parliamentary outreach to the wider public.

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