

STAY INFORMED

HOW DO DECISIONS AND DISCUSSIONS IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AFFECT YOUR ORGANISATION?

ONGOING DEBATE AND POLICY-MAKING IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DIRECTLY IMPACT THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN EUROPE. HOW DOES THIS AFFECT YOU?

Over the past year MEPs have reviewed topics such as:

CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon capture and storage is a way of keeping CO² from entering the atmosphere and preventing global warming. Last January a Europe-wide directive was proposed requiring all new coal burning power stations to capture 90% of their CO² by 2015 and all stations to be fitted out within a decade of that target.

Currently 24% of the European Union's CO² emissions come from burning coal.

'As long as we are building traditional coal-fired power stations we are never going to get to grips with global warming'. The UN's Climate Change panel is optimistic when it estimates that in the next century it could conceivably account for 15-55% of the CO² cuts required to avert the worst causes of global warming.

SPORT

In response to a White Paper on sport drafted by the European Commission, MEPs answered with tougher rules on doping



and fairer distribution of TV rights. Quotas for foreign footballers playing in Europe's domestic leagues were discouraged, and home grown local talent encouraged. The importance of local sports clubs, the economic impact of sport and the employment of an estimated 15 million people in that field were priorities.

CULTURE

Support for a European heritage label for goods, memorials and monuments was proposed in spring 2008 in an initiative report which also identified literature as threatened by globalisation through the proliferation of best sellers, and music threatened through digitisation and piracy. 2010 was also proposed to be made the European year to celebrate the life of Chopin and 2011 the European year of Greek and Latin classics.

With almost 6 million people employed in the cultural field - this figure is likely to grow - the report looks at ways of supporting the industry through investment in the creative economy. It suggests the creation of tax credits and VAT exemptions to encourage cultural industries. MEPs on the culture committee would also like the European Commission to consider setting up something similar to the MEDIA programme to help digital libraries, music, theatre and publishing. Intellectual property rules also need a rethink, but *'criminalising consumers who are not seeking to make a profit is not the right solution to combat digital piracy.'* The report seeks *'a balance between the possibility to access cultural events and content while ensuring cultural diversity and genuine income to the right holders.'*

Find out more on

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