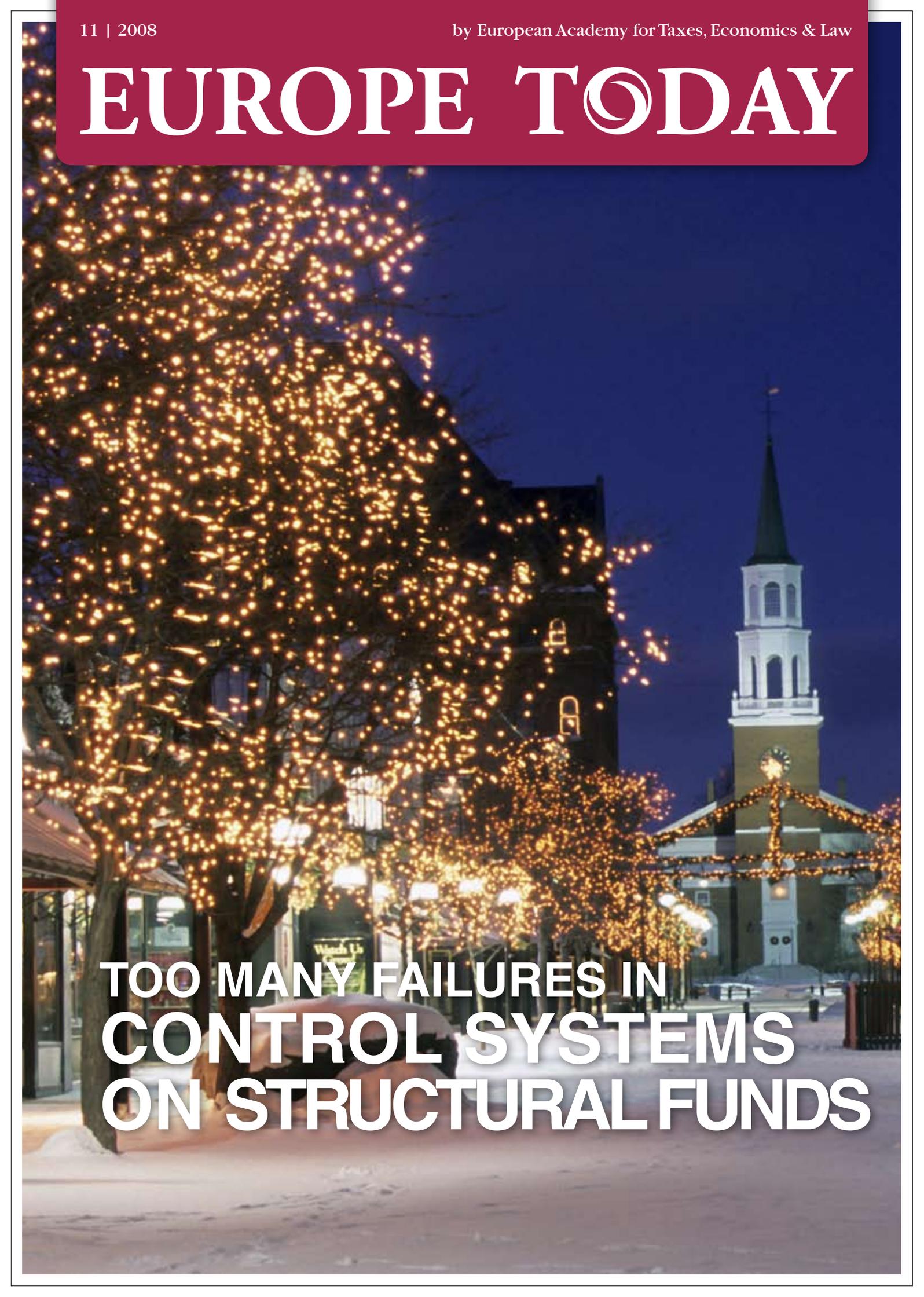


# EUROPE TODAY



**TOO MANY FAILURES IN  
CONTROL SYSTEMS  
ON STRUCTURAL FUNDS**

# Editorial

## Dear Reader,

The European Academy for Taxes Economics & Law will close for the Christmas holidays from December 19th until in 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009. Thus this is the last issue of Europe Today in 2008.

2008 has been the Year of the Intercultural Dialogue: Cultural diversity, through dialogue, enriches our societies and offers each and everyone the opportunity to contribute to our individual fulfilment. Me and my colleagues, we had the chance to get known to people from all cross Europe and contribute to the dialogue in our own means, too. We once again like to thank all experts for their continued support and for their contribution to Europe Today.

Above all, 2008 has been a year of real 'big' topics. Food and energy prices are on the rise, while Europe's energy dependency and needs remain to be resolved. Unemployment and inflation is high in most Member States causing tensions and social problems. Terrorism is still a driving topic and will remain so in the years to come. The Lisbon Treaty has failed as European citizens have voted against it. Both

EU presidencies of 2008 have placed emphasis in taking Europe one step closer to the people and to strengthen the political and economic weight of Europe.

Two positive developments should be pointed out: The European Union managed to show a common strategy in the conflict between Russia and Georgia. Additionally, the EU has played a remarkable role in regulating the financial markets. One could easily say that Europe is gaining more and more influence in world politics, if acting as one. On the other hand Europe remains a Union of different nations with different needs and historic interests.

At the close of the year, there remains a lot to be done to attain the Lisbon Goals. And we are awaiting what there is to come in 2009 - the European Year of Creativity and Innovation. We wish you a relaxing and peaceful holiday.

Enjoy reading.  
Yours.



Christine Döbler  
*Editor in chief*

## Imprint

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# Book Recommendations

## Global Financial Regulation – The Essential Guide

by: Howard Davies and David Green

As international financial markets have become more complex, so has the regulatory system which oversees them. The Basel Committee is just one of a plethora of international bodies and groupings which now set standards for financial activity around the world, in the interests of protecting savers and investors and maintaining financial stability. These groupings, and their decisions, have a major impact on markets in developed and developing countries, and on competition between financial firms. Yet their workings are shrouded in mystery, and their legitimacy is uncertain. Here, the two authors who have worked within the system describe its origins and development in clear and accessible terms.

This guide to the international system will be invaluable for regulators, financial market practitioners and for students of the global financial system, wherever they are located. The book identifies weaknesses in a system faced with new types of institutions such as hedge funds and private equity, as well as the growth in importance of major developing countries, who have been excluded so far from the key decision-making fora. It will be essential reading for all those interested in the development of financial markets and the way they are regulated.

While largely written before the current market disruption, subsequent events have tended to reinforce rather than invalidate most of its prescriptions. This book is wholly authoritative and its judgements carefully reasoned.

Howard Davies is Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science. David Green is Adviser on International Affairs at the Financial Reporting Council.

**Polity, First Edition, May 2008, Paperback, 200 pages, ISBN: 9780745643496, ISBN-10: 0745643507, ISBN-13: 978-0745643502**

## European Union Discrimination Law: Comparative Perspectives on Multidimensional Equality Law

by Dagmar Schiek: (Author)

EU equality law is multidimensional in being based on different rationales and concepts. Consequently, the concept of discrimination has become fragmented, with different instruments envisaging different scopes of protection. This raises questions as to the ability of EU law to address the situation of persons excluded on a number of grounds. This edited collection addresses the increasing complexity of European Equality Law from jurisprudential, sociological and political science perspectives. Internationally renowned researchers from Scandinavian, Continental and Central European countries and Britain analyse consequences of multiplying discrimination grounds within EU equality law, considering its multidimensionality and intersectionality. The authors theorise the move from formal to substantive equality law and its interrelation to new forms of governance, demonstrating the specific combination of non-discrimination law with welfare state models which reveal the global implications of the European Union. The book will be of interest to academics and policy makers, in particular to those researching and studying law, political sciences and sociology with an interest in human rights, non-discrimination law, contract and employment law or European studies.

**Routledge Cavendish, 1 edition, October 2008, Hardcover, 448 pages, ISBN-10: 041545722X, ISBN-13: 978-0415457224**

## The Euro at Ten: Europeanization, Power, and Convergence

by Kenneth Dyson (Editor)

With Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) the European Union is embarked on a major historic political project of formidable technical complexity. In January 2009 the Euro Area will be ten years old.

What does the evidence from the first decade tell us about the significance of the Euro for the EU and its member states? This book brings together a range of recognized academic specialists to examine the main political aspects of this question. How, and in what ways, has the Euro Europeanized states (members and non-members), their institutions, policies and politics? What have been its effects on the location and use of power? Has the Euro generated convergence or divergence? What political patterns can be identified?

The book offers the first, in-depth and systematic political analysis of the first decade of the Euro. The book contributes to Europeanization studies, comparative political economy, and studies of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). It will be of major interest to students of the European Union and European integration, comparative European politics, and area and 'country' studies.

Kenneth Dyson is Research Professor in European Politics in the School of European Studies, Cardiff University, Wales. He is a Fellow of the British Academy; an Academician of the Learned Societies of the Social Sciences; and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He was awarded the German Federal Service Cross (first class) and is co-editor of the journal *German Politics*. He chaired the European Studies Panel in the UK Research Assessment Exercises (RAE) in 1996 and 2001 and was a former chair of the Standing Conference of Heads of European Studies (SCHES) and of the Association for the Study of German Politics.

**Oxford University Press, USA, October 2008, Hardcover, 470 pages, ISBN-10: 0199208867, ISBN-13: 978-0199208869**

## European News

### State Aid: Court defined Clear Criteria for the Implementation of a Recovery Decision

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) judged that France has failed to fulfil its obligations under EC Treaty state aid rules. It failed a Commission's decision from 2003 to abolish an aid scheme granting tax exemptions for the takeover of firms in difficulties and to recover the illegal aid already granted from the beneficiaries. The Court rejected all pleas brought by France.

In April 2007, the Commission brought an action before the European Court of Justice against France for failure to execute the recovery Decision within the prescribed time-limit. More than four years after the adoption of the recovery Decision, France had not taken any practical action to recover illegal aid from the recipients. France claimed that it was impossible to recover the aid from the beneficiaries.

The Court specified in particular, that where a beneficiary of illegal aid has ended its activity by the time when the aid has to be recovered, the liability must be registered in the schedule of liabilities; in case the period for registration has expired, any available procedure must be applied to lift a time-bar so as to allow the presentation of claims out of time. As regards recipients which have transferred their assets, the authorities must check whether the financial conditions of the transfer complied with market conditions.

As regards the argument invoked by France of absolute impossibility to recover, the Court confirms that the condition of absolute impossibility is not fulfilled where the Member State just informs the Commission of the legal, political or practical difficulties involved in implementing the decision, without taking any real steps to recover the aid and without proposing to the Commission any alternative arrangements which could enable those difficulties to be overcome.

### Far from Equality – Gender Gap in Employment in the EU

In 2007 in the EU27, the employment rate was 72.5% for men and 58.3% for women, compared with 70.7% and 53.6% respectively in 2000. This means that employment rates for both men and women have increased, and that the difference in rates between men and women has narrowed. Nevertheless, in all Member States, the employment rate for men was higher than for women.

The evolution of the gender gap decreased in nineteen Member States and increased in the remaining eight. The gaps in employment rates between men and women increased most in Slovakia and Lithuania. The Member States with the smallest employment gender gaps were Finland, Sweden and Lithuania, and those with the largest were Malta, Greece, Italy and Spain.

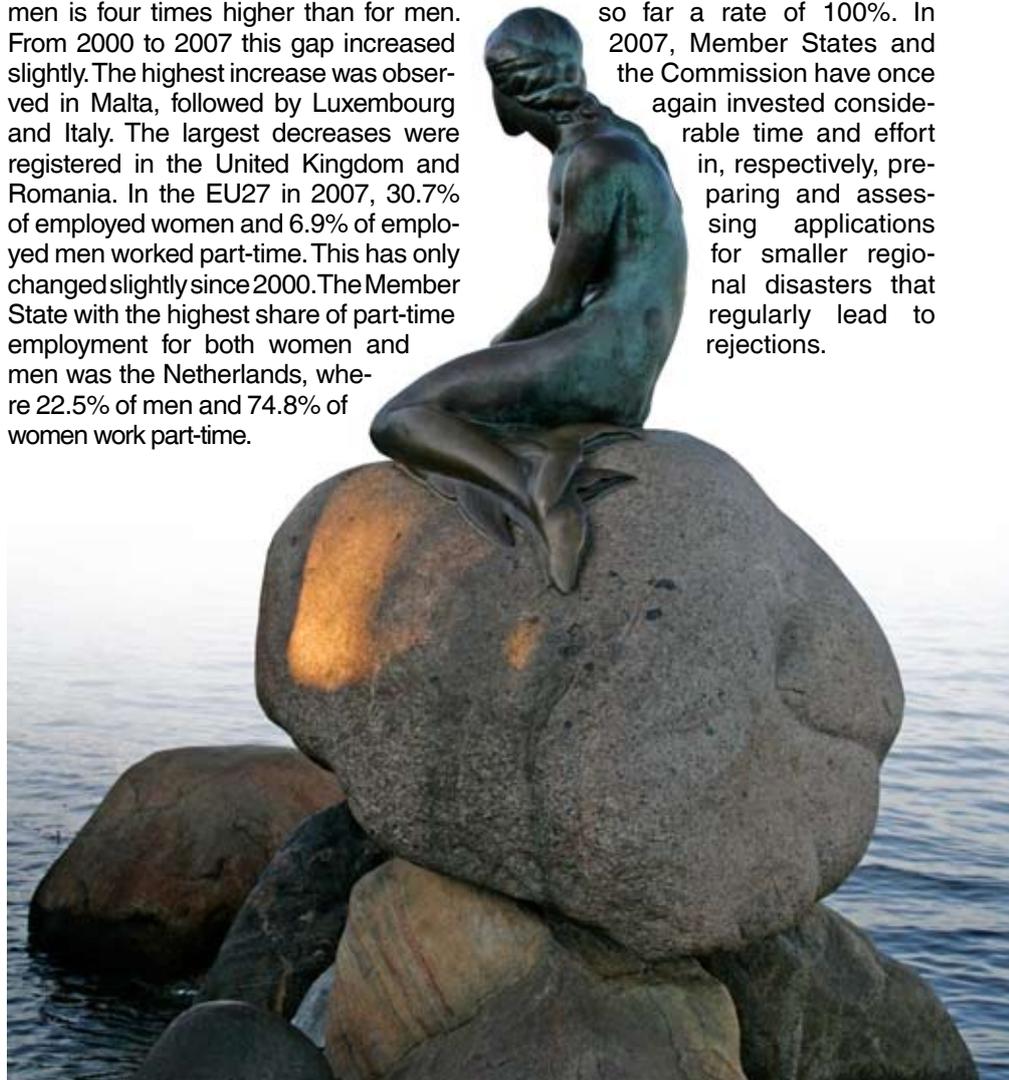
Share of part-time employment for women is four times higher than for men. From 2000 to 2007 this gap increased slightly. The highest increase was observed in Malta, followed by Luxembourg and Italy. The largest decreases were registered in the United Kingdom and Romania. In the EU27 in 2007, 30.7% of employed women and 6.9% of employed men worked part-time. This has only changed slightly since 2000. The Member State with the highest share of part-time employment for both women and men was the Netherlands, where 22.5% of men and 74.8% of women work part-time.

### EU Solidarity Fund – Most Applications Rejected

The Commission received 19 new applications in 2007, the highest number of applications in one year since the Fund was set up. Only four of these applications related to a major natural disaster which is the main scope of the fund. The other 15 applications were presented under the exceptional criteria for regional disasters. Nine of these applications had to be rejected as they were presented outside the 10 week application period laid down in the Regulation.

These criteria for the exceptional criteria for regional disasters continues to be difficult to meet. The rate of unsuccessful applications for the regional criteria, at almost two-thirds. For major disaster applications for which only a single quantitative criterion applies,

the positive assessments have so far a rate of 100%. In 2007, Member States and the Commission have once again invested considerable time and effort in, respectively, preparing and assessing applications for smaller regional disasters that regularly lead to rejections.



*The Little Mermaid sits on a rock in Copenhagen, Denmark. This small and unimposing statue is a European icon and a major tourist attraction.*

# European News

## Reform of the CFP Control System

The control framework has proved to be ineffective as some 88% of stocks are overfished which treats both fish stocks and the livelihoods of fishermen. This is the reason why the Commission proposed a new Council Regulation to create a completely modernized system for inspection, monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement of the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy throughout the market chain, from net to plate.

The proposed Regulation introduces harmonised deterrent sanctions across the EU, one of them is a penalty point system for infringements committed. EU financial assistance can be suspended or reduced, the fisheries closed, the quotas deducted, and the of quota of transfers and/or exchanges be refused, if Member States do not adhere to the CFP rules and where this has caused harm to fish stocks.

The capacity of the Commission to intervene to ensure that the rules of the CFP are being effectively implemented and enforced by the Member States will also be strengthened. The proposed regulation widens the scope of inspections between Member States national fishery inspectors, as it allows for inspections of fishing vessels to take place outside the waters or territory of the inspecting Member State. Also, independent inspections by Commission fishery inspectors will be possible without prior notice to the Member State concerned. Under the CFP, control and enforcement are the exclusive competence of the Member States.



The new regulation will replace the existing legal framework laid down in Council Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93.

[Read the text of the proposal](#)



Discuss the challenges of the fisheries sector between biodiversity, sustainability, regional development and support of the fisheries communities at the European conference:

**„European Fisheries Fund: Priority Axis 4“ Practical Approaches and First Experiences**

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008, Berlin, Germany

## Too Many Failures in Control Systems on Structural Funds

The annual report of the European Court of Auditors, points out weaknesses in Member States in management and control systems for the Structural Funds. The Court recognises that improvements have taken place. But it also indicated that the level of errors in Structural Funds' payment claims by Member States, which can result in incorrect transfers from the EU budget and subsequent clawbacks by the Commission, remains too high. The Court identifies the need for improvements in supervisory and control systems and recommends the simplification of regulations. The Court has no objections concerning the legality and regularity in the Union's administration.

However, for most spending areas, although most of the payments are made in compliance with the rules, the Court still finds that payments made to final beneficiaries, such as farmers and project promoters running EU-funded projects, have a too high level of errors. As in previous years cohesion policies (42 billion) are the area most affected by errors. Following the Court's sample estimate at least 11% of the value of reim-

bursed cost claims should not have been paid out.

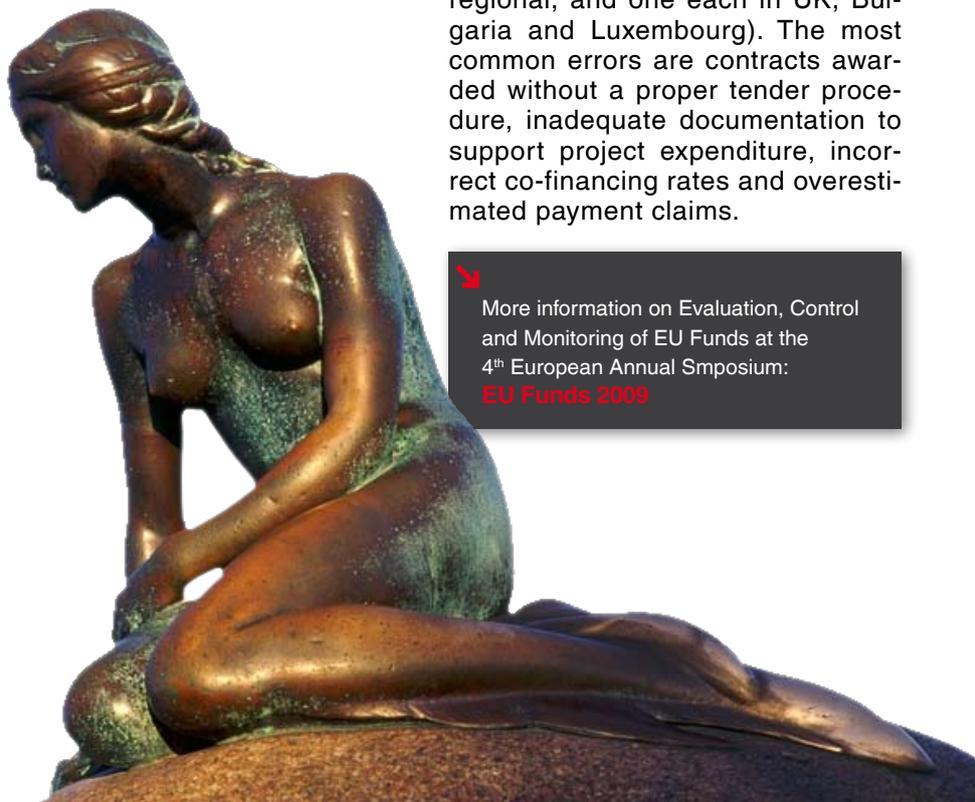
In agriculture and natural resources (51 billion Euro) the estimated overall error rate is still material. Rural development, with its often complex rules, accounts for a disproportionately large part of this error rate. For European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) expenditure the Court estimates the value of the error rate to be slightly below materiality.

The Commission therefore will strengthen its supervisory role under shared management of structural actions. The main idea is to help Member States do a better job of checking the eligibility of project expenditure before they submit payment claims to the Commission. The Commission is taking tougher measures to suspend payments and make financial clawbacks where Member States fall below standards. Since the beginning of 2008, the Commission has clawed back €843 million – three times more than in the whole of 2007 – and a further €1.5 billion of financial corrections are in the pipeline between now and March 2009.

The Commission has also formally suspended payments for seven programmes this year (2 in Italy, 2 inter-regional, and one each in UK, Bulgaria and Luxembourg). The most common errors are contracts awarded without a proper tender procedure, inadequate documentation to support project expenditure, incorrect co-financing rates and overestimated payment claims.



More information on Evaluation, Control and Monitoring of EU Funds at the 4<sup>th</sup> European Annual Symposium: [EU Funds 2009](#)



## European News



### Commission adopts Proposal to Regulate Credit Rating Agencies

The European Commission has put forward a proposal for a Regulation on credit rating agencies to deal with the financial crisis. This proposal adds to Commission's proposals on Solvency II, Capital Requirements Directive, Deposit Guarantee Schemes and accounting.

The proposal lays down conditions for the issuance of credit ratings which are needed to restore market confidence and increase investor protection. It is meant to enable European supervisors to control the activities of rating agencies whose ratings are used by credit institutions, investment firms, insurance, assurance and reinsurance undertakings, collective investment schemes and pension funds within the Community.

Credit rating agencies will have to comply with rigorous rules:

- They may not provide advisory services.
  - They will not be allowed to rate financial instruments if they do not have sufficient quality information to base their ratings on
  - They must disclose the models, methodologies and key assumptions on which they base their ratings
  - They will be obliged to publish an annual transparency report
  - They will have to create an internal function to review the quality of their ratings
  - They should have at least three independent directors on their boards whose remuneration cannot depend on the business performance of the rating agency.
- They will be appointed for a single term of office which can be no longer than five years.
  - They can only be dismissed in case of professional misconduct.
  - At least one of them should be an expert in securitization and structured finance.

Some of the proposed rules are based on the standards set in the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) code. The proposal gives those rules a legally binding character. Also, in those cases where the IOSCO standards are not sufficient to restore market confidence and ensure investor protection the Commission has proposed stricter rules.



[Link to the proposal](#)

# Upcoming Events

K-68

European conference:  
**European Fisheries Fund:  
Priority Axis 4**

1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008, Berlin

With the introduction of Priority Axis 4 „Sustainable Development of Fisheries Areas“ in the EFF, the European Commission intends to follow up on the successful development of the former LEADER initiative by placing fisheries firmly within a local development context. Axis 4 aims to tackle socio-economic problems in the fisheries areas and to reach an agreement between economic and environmental goals.

K-69

European conference:  
**Challenges of Rural  
Development Policy**

1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008, Berlin

The role of the rural development policy in the Member States is increasing. On the one hand the European Commission has proposed a long term reform of the Common Agriculture Policy to Member States. The CAP health check affects not only direct subsidies but also its second pillar – the EAFRD. The so called „modulation“ gives the Member States an opportunity to shift funding for the development to rural areas.

S-122

Practical seminar:  
**Certifying Authority's New Roles and Requirements**

05<sup>th</sup> December 2008, Berlin

As the role of the certifying authority has been strengthened remarkably, employees and officials working in certifying authorities face new challenges. The certifying authority is now the Commission's guarantee of assurance. It has to guarantee that the statements of expenditure are accurate, result from reliable accounting systems and are based on verifiable supporting documents.

S-111

Advanced workshop:  
**Communication Plans for EU Funds**

8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> December 2008, Berlin

European Funds spend taxpayer's money and are meant to change the lives of people in the European Union. The problem is that while Member States and the Commission work hard to pursue this goal, the people they work for do not know about it. This is why communication plans and strategies have to be important to everyone working with Operational Programmes of European Funds.

S-113

Workshop:  
**Financial Control 2007-2013**

2<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>th</sup> February 2009, Berlin

For the present programming period 2007-2013, the European Commission has set out detailed arrangements on the management and control systems to be operated by Member States. With these regulations, the Commission has responded to the generally ineffective or moderately effective control systems which have led to incorrect reimbursements.

S-133

European seminar:  
**Management of EU Funded Projects**

9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> February 2009, Berlin

Management of EU funded projects has become an essential tool in implementing innovative ideas on the national and regional level. The new architecture of Structural Funds and direct grants offers more funding opportunities. However, the variety of programmes requires new strategies from the project managers.

K-71

4<sup>th</sup> European Annual Symposium:  
**EU Funds 2009  
Management, Monitoring and  
Financial Control: ERDF, ESF,  
CF, EAFRD, EFF**

16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009, Berlin

The "4<sup>th</sup> European Annual Symposium: EU Funds 2009" addresses the key issues of the sound management of EU Funds. Besides strategic discussions, there will be enough room for lectures addressing the working level in the Member States concerning evaluation, monitoring and financial control.



**More events in English language**



**More events in German language**

## EU entered into Recession

The European Union has entered into recession for the first time in 15 years, led by severe downturns in Germany and Italy. Not surprisingly the main driving force of the development is the financial crises affecting economies world wide. All countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) are now officially in recession. Although the European Economy has been experiencing a downturn, technically it has not been declared as recession, because an economy can be said to be in recession only if its GDP contracts for two consecutive quarters.

In both the Euro area and the EU27 GDP declined by 0.2% during the third quarter of 2008, compared with the previous quarter. In the second quarter of 2008, growth rates were -0.2% in the Euro area and 0.0% in the EU27. Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, seasonally adjusted GDP grew by 0.7% in the Euro area and by 0.8% in the EU27 in the third quarter of 2008, after +1.4% and +1.7% respectively in the previous quarter. United Kingdom had entered a period of recession when its GDP for July-September contracted by 0.5% after stagnating in the previous quarter. Germany is now facing its worst recession in at least 12 years, as by 0.4% quarter-on-quarter in April-June on and then by 0.5% in July-September. Italy too experienced similar downward development (-0.4% and -0.5%). Spain's GDP declined by 0.2% from a quarter ago and is now going through its worst drop in 15 years. The economies of the Netherlands and Portugal stagnated.

The OECD warned that in the OECD area GDP may decline by one-third of a per cent in 2009. In the US, GDP is expected to fall by 0.9% next year, in the Euro area by 0.5% and in Japan by 0.1 percent, according to OECD's latest projections.

In September 2008, compared with August 2008, the volume of retail trade fell by 0.2% in the Euro area and by 0.1% in the EU27. In September 2008, compared with August 2008, "food, drinks and tobacco" remained unchanged in both zones. The non food sector decreased by 0.3% in the Euro area and by 0.2% in the EU27. Among the Member States for which data are available, total retail trade rose in nine, fell in nine and remained unchanged in Denmark. The highest increases were observed in Luxembourg (+2.6%), Belgium (+1.4%) and France (+0.9%), and the largest decreases in Latvia (-4.1%), Estonia (-2.6%) and Germany (-2.3%).

In September 2008 compared with August 2008, industrial production fell by 1.6% in the Euro area and by 1.1% in the EU27. In August production grew by 0.8% and 0.3% respectively. In September 2008 compared with September 2007, industrial production decreased by 2.4% in the euro area and by 2.1% in the EU27. In September 2008 production of non-durable consumer goods fell by 0.4% in the Euro area and by 0.5% in the EU27. Production of energy dropped by 0.8% and 0.2% respectively. Capital goods declined by 1.8% in the Euro area and by 1.7% in the EU27. Durable consumer goods fell by 2.5% and 1.4% respectively. Intermediate goods decreased by 2.6% in the euro area and by 2.0% in the EU27.

The highest increases were registered in Slovakia (+5.7%), Lithuania (+3.1%) and Poland (+3.0%). The most significant falls were registered in Germany (-3.7%), Greece (-2.9%) and Portugal (-2.8%).

The first estimate for the euro area trade balance with the rest of the world in September 2008 gave a 5.6 bn euro deficit, compared with +2.9 bn in September 2007. Concerning the total trade of Member States, the largest surplus was observed in Germany (+127.4 bn euro in January-August 2008), followed by the Netherlands (+27.9 bn) and Ireland (+17.2 bn). The United Kingdom (-82.2 bn) registered the largest deficit, followed by Spain (-65.1 bn), France (-44.2 bn) and

Greece (-24.0 bn).

The only positive fact is that inflation will ease as recessions put downward pressure on prices. In the Euro area annual inflation was 3.2% in October 2008, down from 3.6% in September. EU annual inflation was 3.7% in October 2008, down from 4.2% in September. Monthly inflation was 0.0% in October 2008. In October 2008, the lowest annual inflation rates were observed in Germany, the Netherlands and Portugal (2.5% each), and the highest in Latvia (13.7%), Bulgaria (11.2%) and Lithuania (10.7%). Compared with September 2008, annual inflation fell in twenty-four Member States and rose in two.

The main components with the highest annual rates in October 2008 were housing (5.9%), food (4.7%) and transport (3.7%), while the lowest annual rates were observed for communications (-2.2%), recreation & culture (0.2%) and clothing (1.0%).

The OECD forecasts that the financial crisis since September would be short-lived but will be followed by an extended period of financial blowbacks through 2009, with gradual normalisation thereafter.

# Supporting fisheries through tourism

by Dr Adrian Bull

Like agriculture, fisheries in Europe are a continuing issue and a key area for EU policy intervention. The issues relate to the structure of the sector and to resource constraints, particularly fish stocks themselves. The contraction of the fishing industry in Europe has been linked to the need to operate quotas and to control the capacity and fishing activities of EU fleets, in order to bring catching effort into better balance with fishing opportunities. However, fisheries economics have favored larger, technically more efficient vessels and their concentration on fewer, large and efficient home ports. This has led to a disproportionate decline in fishing activity by small boats, working from small ports or harbours, and often a severe impact on the local economies and communities that have traditionally relied on fishing activity.

Previous European policy initiatives in the area have been based around activities such as the PESCA program, which was designed to generate projects to help the fishing sector of the EU to adapt, and coastal areas to diversify, their economic activities. Diversification out of fisheries-dependent activity, and redeployment of the workforce, was a major focus of many PESCA projects, with varying degrees of economic success. However, this has often left a major void in the traditional social and cultural fabric of coastal communities. For example, redeploying the workforce into other economically sustainable sectors changes the local socioeconomic structure and sense of identity (see, for example, Pennewiss 2004).

A newer and better way of reaching policy objectives for fisheries is by encouraging inter-sectoral support. Fishing and the other sector may have a symbiotic relationship, where they may engage in the joint supply of complementary products for particular markets, or one sector may act as a low-cost input to the other, for example where a working fishing harbour can act as a tourist attraction. Expected complementarities

between fisheries and other sectors are a key part of European policy on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, but need mechanisms to make them work. In this regard, the European Fisheries Fund 2007-2013 (EFF) provides a range of measures that can enable local stakeholders to help themselves.

Our research specifically demonstrates the value of linkages between fisheries and tourism. Tourism is particularly valuable in small ports and communities with smaller vessels, as they are attractive to visitors (unlike large 'commercial' fishing ports that may be closed off to the public). Tourism can then be used to enhance the economic value of catches, where otherwise fishers might be unable to sustain an economic livelihood from their activity. The net value of benefits can be estimated by extending bioeconomic modelling of fisheries into the tourism arena (Bull 2007), which can provide a justification for developing an EFF project.

Some successful examples of support that tourism activities can provide for fishing communities are:

- The development of a local retail fish market at a harbour, to provide sales at retail prices to tourists rather than at long-distance wholesale prices
- Licensing fishing vessels to take small tourist groups on fee-paying recreational charter fishing trips where value is obtained from the trip rather than from the catch
- The development of harbourside seafood restaurants, cafés, fish cookery schools, fishing festivals and so on, again to enhance the value chain from local catches
- Introducing small-scale marina development for recreational boats that can help ensure the sustained viability of local vessel maintenance, chandlery and other services upon which the fishing fleet may depend (whilst ensuring that there is minimal conflict between fishing boats

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Learn more at the European Conference  
**European Fisheries Fund: Priority Axis 4**  
1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008, Berlin, Germany

and recreational boats, in harbours, waterways and at sea)

- Setting up small fisheries education, interpretation or demonstration centres for tourist visits as a form of industrial tourism.

In addition, fishing communities can earn extra direct revenue from such opportunities as car parking, explanatory guides and fishing-related souvenirs (for example, from by-products such as seashells). The key is to ensure that vessels continue to put to sea, that fishing families can continue to earn a living without having to re-train into other activities, and that communities retain their existence, spirit and culture. EU support for agriculture has largely stressed similar objectives for rural areas; coastal communities deserve no less.

## Personnel

### PAUL BEVAN

has been named as new Secretary General of Eurocities succeeding Catherine Parmentier, who was Chief Executive of Eurocities since 2000. He took up his post on 4 November 2008. He has more than 25 years experience in all levels of city, county and regional government in the UK and has worked at the European level within projects and networks since 1990. Most recently, he was Chief Executive Officer of the Regional Assembly for South East England (SEERA) for the past nine years, during which he successfully led governance, partnerships and strategic planning for the UK's largest region of over eight million people. As the Assembly's first employee, he created and developed the organisation's regional planning, advocacy and scrutiny capacity to support Assembly members' role in setting and aligning regional priorities.

### AMBASSADOR MANUEL LOBO ANTUNES

has been appointed Portuguese government as Permanent Representative of Portugal to the European Union. Ambassador Lobo Antunes took up his duties on 4 November 2008. He was born 1958 in Lisbon and holds a Degree in Law and a post-graduation in European Studies, from the Portuguese Catholic University. Ambassador Lobo Antunes joined the Diplomatic Service March 1984 as Member of the President of the Republic staff, as Secretary at the Portuguese Embassy in The Hague as well as Secretary and then Counsellor at the Portuguese Embassy in Harare. His career e gained experiences as Director of the Department for Sub-Saharan Africa, Senior Diplomatic Advisor to the Prime Minister, Deputy Director-General for European Affairs, M.F.A. (April 2002); Alternate representative of the Portuguese Government to the "Convention on the Future of Europe" (2002 - 2004); Director-General for European Affairs, M.F.A. (July 2004). He was Secretary of State for National Defence and Maritime Affairs since March 2005 and Secretary of State for European Affairs since July 2006.

### COMMODORE ANTONIOS PAPAIOANNOU

from Greece has been designated as the EU Force Commander for the EU military operation to contribute to the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast,

which is being planned. EU AVFOR Somalia is the first EU naval operation in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy. Commodore Papaioannou brings considerable expertise and the experience of his national navy to his role as Force commander for this operation in a new area for the EU. Commodore Antonios Papaioannou was born in Greece in 1957, and graduated from Naval Academy in 1979.

He is also a graduate of Hellenic Navy War College (Athens) and NATO Defence College (Rome). He also holds an antisubmarine warfare qualification (USA).

His sea duty assignments include positions as Executive Officer of the destroyers ex-KANARIS and ex-THEMISTOCLES, Commanding Officer of the corvette ex-AGON, Commanding Officer of the frigate SPETSE (2001-2003) as well as Commandant of the Second Hellenic Frigates Squadron Command (2006-2008).

During his service, he has been deployed in the Red Sea (operation Dessert Shield) and in the Persian Gulf (operation Enduring Freedom) as commanding officer of frigate SPETSE. His shore and staff assignments include:

- Staff Officer in the Department of National Defence Policy (Navy General Staff);
- Western European Union (Brussels)
- Chief Director of weapon branch (Fleet Command)
- Defence Attaché, Greek Embassy, London, UK.
- He was promoted to Commodore in March 2008. Since April 2008, he is Chief Director of the National Operations centre (National Defence General Staff).

### BRIGADIER-GENERAL STEFAN FELLER

has been appointed as the new Head of the EU Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mr Feller, who was until recently the Head of the „Conduct of Operations“ Unit in the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) at the Council, succeeds Brigadier-General Vincenzo COPPOLA at EUPM on 1st November 2008. Through EUPM, the EU is making a key contribution to the establishment of a sustainable, professional and multi-ethnic police service in Bosnia and Herzegovina and therefore to bringing Bosnia and Herzegovina closer to the European Union.

Brigadier-General Stefan Feller, born in 1958 in Germany has a Senior Degree in Public Administration and joined the public services in 1979. Before taking up this his duties he has been Head of the „Conduct of Operations“ Unit in the Civilian Planning And Conduct Capability (CPCC), 2007 - 2008 and Head of the Police Unit in the Council of the European Union from 2004 - 2007. From 2002 - 2004 he was Police Commissioner in the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and 2000 - 2001 and Deputy Police Commissioner for Operations in the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

### EIT GOVERNING BOARD ELECTED ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) in Budapest elected the four members of the Executive Committee to oversee the implementation of the Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA) as well as the selection procedure for the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). The four members are:

**COLOMBO GIOVANNI** Adjunct Professor, Politecnico di Torino Former CTO, Telecom Italia LAB and Head of long-term research, Telecom Italia.

**FLODSTRÖM ANDERS**, Dr. University Chancellor, Swedish National Agency for Higher Education

**GOŁĘBIOWSKA-TATAJ DARIA**, Dr. Founder and Managing Partner, EMF (Enterprise Management & Finance) Consultancy Professor/Researcher, Warsaw University of Technology Business School.

**NEUVO YRJÖ**, Dr. Professor, Research director, Helsinki University of Technology Former Chairman, ARTEMIS Joint Technology Platform Former CTO, Nokia.