

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/sustainable-dev/opinion/commissions-sustainable-development-package-must-be-taken-further/>

- December 12, 2016
- Sustainable Development Goals are not being taken far enough
- There is not a good mechanism for measuring members ability to implement SDGs
 - Could be implemented into EUROSEM – as EUROSEM is opening up to social and environmental challenges
- Instead of creating another mechanism, environmental issues should be added to existing mechanisms, that already hold weight among member states

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/social-europe-jobs/opinion/signs-of-change-towards-social-europe/>

- November 25, 2016
- European Anti-Poverty Network
- Promising signs for social improvement in the 2017 AGS package
- EAPN happy that Commission did not suspend funding to Spain and Portugal, and continues to soften Austerity measures
- Concern that social elements of EU goals (specifically in Stability and Growth Pact) are “window-dressing with the reality of business as usual”
- EAPN also urges EUROSEM to “give priority to civil society engagement, as well as social partners, to generate ideas, knowledge and support for the building of a more Social Europe”
 - Dialogue with civil society is often a formal exercise
- “EAPN will be looking for concrete signs that the new ‘social rights and standards approach’ will be given equal weight to economic concerns in the EU policies, and particularly in the European Semester this year”

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/innovation-industry/interview/moedas-countries-that-increased-spending-in-rd-better-weathered-the-crisis/>

- November 14, 2016
- Commissioner for Research, Science, and Innovation – Moedas
 - Countries who spent more on research and development are more prepared for crisis
- Members must introduce structural reforms in research and development
 - Thus, R&D have gained prominence in the EUROSEM

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/uk-europe/opinion/a-new-strategy-for-europe-can-respond-to-brexit/>

- June 28, 2016

- Europe 2020 ignored in the AGS and in EUROSEM CSRs
- Shows how goals of Europe have lost appeal among member states
 - Fallen prey to nationalist populism
- Europe failing to provide path in tough times
- Failure to reach out to citizens through programs (such as EUROSEM)

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/euro-finance/opinion/a-budget-for-the-eurozone-is-taking-shape/>

- May 9, 2016
- Budgetary capacities are an important tool to protect eurozone
- More attention needs to be given to existing structures that effect budget – such as EUROSEM and its CSRs
- “Budgetary capacity could leverage the transposition of CSRs by providing positive incentives in the form of financial assistance for member states to implement reforms”
- Goal is to stimulate good behaviour, and not support bad policy

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/euro-finance/opinion/europes-underlying-crisis/>

- April 20, 2016
- EU members unable to comply with their own rules
- “Between 2010 and 2014 the Commission opened 3,550 infringement cases due to the late transposition by member states of the 439 directives, with an average of 8 (!) member states infringing every directive approved during that period”
 - Takes away from confidence of citizens, and legitimacy of governance
- This problem jeopardizes entire projects
- “Not even the much-vaunted European Semester has achieved any real impact. Only ten of its 157 main recommendations in 2014 were fully implemented or showed substantial progress (a success rate of 6.5%)”
- Response rate to EUROSEM is same as the response rate to purely voluntary OECD recommendations
- All of this low implementation gives perception that EU is just a big “think-tank”
- How can European citizens believe in a project that cannot even enforce its own rules?

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/opinion/the-frankfurt-protocol-calling-for-a-new-treaty-for-the-eurozone/>

- January 14, 2016
- Andrew Duff – former MEP released pamphlet: Frankfurt Protocol
- Recent crises expose lack of effective governance
- “EU treaties are still more about what the institutions cannot do and too little about establishing a durable capacity to act rationally and effectively”
- National Parliaments will have ability to redress when excessive debt procedure kicks in

- In context of EUROSEM

General Sources (via LexisNexis) 2016:

Targeted News Service. (December 3, 2016 Saturday). Using Local, Regional Governments to Help European Semester Deliver. *Targeted News Service*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M9K-50Y1-DYG2-R3XY-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- December 3, 2016
- European Committee of the Regions release
- EUROSEM challenged by lack of implementation of CSRs – which undermines legitimacy
 - This problem could be solved by increasing participation of local and regional authorities
 - Key problem is lack of ownership over issues in member states
- "At the beginning of 2016, only 4% of the 2015 country-specific recommendations (CSRs) showed 'substantial progress', with 48% showing only 'limited' or 'no progress' at all"
- Involving partners at regional level would give voice to the CSRs

(February 16, 2016 Tuesday). DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY: THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE IN THE EU. *US State News*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J3Y-7SY1-F12F-F3JS-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- February 16, 2016
- EP press release
- 2014 – 10% of CSRs were partially or fully implemented
- By countries not following CSRs – democratic integrity of the EU and EUROSEM is undermined

Targeted News Service. (June 14, 2016 Tuesday). European CSRs Must Go Beyond the Realms of Cost Containment and Fiscal Sustainability. *Targeted News Service*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K14-MB51-JC11-117B-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- June 14, 2016
- Release from European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations
- Narrow focus of EUROSEM CSRs on cost and cost-effectiveness is inappropriate in assessing a countries healthcare system
- Meeting challenges that come with ageing population among other issues, require understanding of what will deliver the best health outcome for individuals
 - Investment in comprehensive healthcare information systems is now paramount

- Offers a criticism into how EUROSEM views health and relative success of healthcare systems

Array. (November 23, 2016 Wednesday). GUE/NGL MEPs critical of European Commission's 2017 economic priorities. *New Europe*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M7G-V5M1-F03R-N1WK-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- November 23, 2016
- Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left
 - MEPs of these groups critical of Commission's EUROSEM
 - Claim commission has failed to learn from mistakes of austerity programs
- "The Commissioner is asking for improvements in education just as public services are being cut!' 'These are the same measures which have led us to Brexit"
- They prefer sustainable models
 - Calls for a real social pillar
- Austerity is killing growth, and it is killing Europe

EurActiv.com	7
General Sources (via LexisNexis)	4