

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/opinion/an-eu-fund-for-industrial-relations-could-strengthen-social-europe/>

- December 13, 2017
- Opinion piece of various executives of Sweden's social actors
- Decision to incorporate social scoreboard into EUROSEM is an important step
 - Demonstrates that economic and social progress must work cohesively
- Commission should also issue CSRs related to specific parts of scoreboard
- Funding to member states from EU could be linked to how effective their implementation is
- Need to support development structures for social dialogue
 - This needs to be strengthened at EU and national level

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/opinion/deepening-the-emu-but-not-at-the-expense-of-regions/>

- December 10, 2017
- Commission package on deepening EMU
 - part of proposal is to move funds towards "supporting national structural reforms identified in the European Semester process"
 - performance reserve under the reform delivery tool
- "In effect, the new regulation will open to the possibility that this money, instead of funding projects at local level mostly under the management of regional authorities, will be used by central governments for objectives that have very little to do with those of the EU Cohesion policy"
- Instrument as well as Semester itself could be revised in future to take into account the territorial dimension
 - Further local authority involvement

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/opinion/cohesion-policy-must-be-at-the-heart-of-plans-for-a-reformed-eu/>

- December 6, 2017
- Upcoming budget negotiations call into question the existence of the EU Cohesion Policy
- Cohesion policy must exist as part of larger framework
 - Including in EUROSEM
- Policy does support certain aspects of the EUROSEM
- Cohesion policy must not become a tool to carry out reforms

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economic-governance/news/commission-calls-for-reforms-to-address-wage-stagnation/>

- November 22, 2017

- VP of Commission says: “European semester is putting strong emphasis on inclusive growth and the strengthening of the social dimension”
 - Reflected in AGS
- “As part of the European semester’s autumn package, the Commission assessed the draft budgetary plans submitted by all eurozone’s national governments, except Greece”
 - 5/16 countries with deficits below the 3% of GDP threshold showed a risk of non-compliance

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/interview/juncker-is-sincerely-in-favour-of-social-europe-mep-rodriques/>

- November 17, 2017
- Interview with socialist MEP
 - Juncker deserves credit for prioritizing social issues
- EUROSEM can be used to implement the social pillar
- Better social welfare programs in member states is one of first outcomes of social pillar

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/future-eu/opinion/tangible-results-for-citizens-must-be-eus-focus/>

- July 30, 2017
- Stronger focus on social investment should be reflected in EUROSEM
 - Should contain benchmarks covering instruments of employment and social policy
- In future EUROSEM – budgetary concerns must not come at expense of social programs
- Stability and Growth Pact must be altered to clearly distinguish between investment spending, and other government expenditure
- Commission must intensify quest to promote social investment among member states – this can be done through EUROSEM

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/elections/news/hamon-calls-for-international-treaty-to-democractise-eurozone-governance/>

- March 10, 2017
- Socialist presidential candidate shares platform
 - Major point is increasing democratization of EUROSEM
- Wants to revise treaties in order to fix mistakes of EMU
- Wants to increase participation of nationally elected MPs
- Shows that socialist thinking wants to increase transparency and civil and local engagement in EUROSEM – this has been a theme for years

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/justice-home-affairs/opinion/eu-halts-release-of-anti-corruption-report/>

- Commission criticized for not stopping corruption in mostly eastern Europe
- CSRs do recommend anti-corruption policy to 8 members
- Commission delaying release of its corruption report
- Inconceivable that this report be shelved
- Further eroding citizens trust in EU institutions
 - Transparency limited

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/euro-finance/news/member-states-warn-eu-fiscal-supervision-inadequate/>

- January 31, 2017
- Chair of the EU Network of Independent Fiscal Institutions, José Luis Escrivá
- Says the model is too closely based on strict EU rules and close surveillance – this has proven inadequate and insufficient (bogged down in bureaucracy)
- Calls to further simplify the EUROSEM
- Goal of Commission to minimize new crisis – EU added thousands of pages of new legislation
 - New framework too convoluted to follow
- Efforts made by Juncker to simplify, but it is still based on “complex analytical tools”
- Germany and France also criticize Commission fiscal oversight

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/social-europe-jobs/opinion/eu-must-tackle-homelessness-to-achieve-sdgs/>

- January 17, 2017
- Ruth Owen - policy coordinator for FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisation – op-ed
- UN 2030 agenda – goal to eradicate poverty
 - EU must play role in achieving this within its member states
- Within current EU policy – homeless people being left behind
- Strategies must be created, and there must be mechanisms for EU to monitor progress of countries
 - Must be priority in social pillar and in EUROSEM
- Europe is failing its homeless population

General Sources (via LexisNexis) 2017:

Targeted News Service. (March 1, 2017 Wednesday). European Semester: Better Output with Local, Regional Input. *Targeted News Service*. <https://advance-lexis->

com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NOK-6NM1-DYG2-R2XV-00000-00&context=1516831.

- March 1, 2017
- European Committee of the Regions release
- Need to involve local authorities in EUROSEM decision making to increase ownership taken over
 - Commission recognizes this, as evidenced by 2017 CSRs where it called “Members States to explain how regional and local authorities were involved in the elaboration and implementation of reforms, recognising the need of more ownership on the local and regional level”
- EP says in order to make EUROSEM more effective, sub-national authorities should be structurally involved

European Committee of the Regions. (May 12, 2017 Friday). Cities and regions call for a more bottom-up European Semester process. *NEWS Press (English)*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NHW-FK41-JDKF-60C1-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- May 12, 2017
- Committee of Regions calls for territorial dimension to be included into EUROSEM
 - Also, for regular and structural involvement of local government
 - More bottom-up approach
- "Over 40 per cent* of the 2016 Country-specific Recommendations could not be fully implemented without the active role of local and regional authorities, which are also responsible for over 50 per cent of public investment" – shows need to involve local authority for betterment of process

(November 28, 2017 Tuesday). European Semester: First critical moment to implement the Pillar of Social Rights. *Premium Official News*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5R2J-7FS1-J9XT-POTB-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- “Few days after the Social Summit in Gothenburg saw the proclamation of the **European** Pillar of Social Rights”
 - EUROSEM will be used as the main tool to implement the Pillar through member states
- Increases social issues as concern of the EUROSEM – transforming further from purely fiscal tool to more well-rounded policy

(February 22, 2017 Wednesday). European Commission identifies Cyprus with excessive imbalances in the European Semester Winter Package. *Cyprus News Agency*. <https://advance->

[lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N35-JBH1-F00C-60F2-00000-00&context=1516831](https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N35-JBH1-F00C-60F2-00000-00&context=1516831).

- February 22, 2017
- 13 countries identified as having imbalance by EUROSEM
 - Including – Germany, Portugal, Italy, Netherlands
- Some characteristics: (using Cyprus for example)
 - “very high share of non-performing loans burdens the financial sector and high stock of private, public, and external debt hangs on the economy, in the context of high unemployment and weak potential growth”

Adina Panaitescu. (September 21, 2017 Thursday). Minister-delegate Negrescu: Romania needs economic and social measures to improve living standard. *Agerpres, Bucharest, Romania*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PMG-3VB1-JC6P-C316-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- September 21, 2017
- Minister-delegate for **European** Affairs Victor Negrescu – Romania
 - Pointed out improvements Romania sees need to be made to EUROSEM
 - “More structured dialogue, a better explanation and mostly a communication preventing these specific country recommendations from becoming a topic of political interpretation”
- Shows Romania willingness to participate – good for the integrity of EUROSEM
- Recognizes that some countries do not buy in, but says Romania does not want to be like them

Array. (May 22, 2017 Monday). Portugal sets the example for EU recovery. *New Europe*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NKX-7T01-JCMN-Y285-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- May 22, 2017
- Following release of latest part of EUROSEM – Portugal (among others) cleared from excessive deficit procedure
- “We have gone from 24 to 4 member states in the corrective arm of the EUROSEM” – Moscovici
 - Shows relative success of austerity measures and EUROSEM as deficit reversing tool

(April 11, 2017 Tuesday). -Europa-EU Justice Scoreboard 2017: justice systems becoming more effective, but challenges remain. *ENP Newswire*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NKX-7T01-JCMN-Y285-00000-00&context=1516831>.

com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N93-SXJ1-JD3Y-Y33H-00000-00&context=1516831.

- May 22, 2017
- “2017 Scoreboard looks into new aspects of the functioning of justice systems, for example, how easily consumers can access justice, and which channels they use to submit complaints against companies” – 5th edition of EU justice scoreboard
- Key findings of 2017 Scoreboard:
 - Shorter civil and commercial court proceedings
 - Analysis of consumer protection enforcement
 - Analysis of the fight against money laundering
 - Limited access to justice for poorer citizens
 - Use of ICT tools still limited in some countries
 - Improved or stable perception of judicial independence among the general public
 - Mostly corrected against lengthy wait times for court proceedings
- Findings of the 2017 scoreboard being considered for the upcoming EUROSEM cycle and the CSRs going with it

EurActiv.com	10
General Sources (via LexisNexis)	7