

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/opinion/hold-cohesion-policy-and-european-semester-could-they-have-more-in-common-than-we-think/>

- November 8, 2018
- Exeter University study into why Cornwall voted leave – even though they were recipients of on average 68 million euros of Structural Funds Investment
- Participants cited reasons such as jobs, pensions, healthcare and housing
 - All domestic policies – but all have direct consequences in EUROSEM coordination
- Interviewees able to disregard investments made by EU because they were unable to see effects of investment on their personal lives
- “Yet, the concerns cited by citizens reflected national reform priorities as consistently identified by the European Commission in its economic coordination cycle, the European Semester process”
 - Author claims that this suggests that well designed structural reform support agenda could present opportunity for Cohesion policy
 - Both in strengthening macroeconomic coordination, and in engagement in policy
- Commission is correct in its belief that it must strengthen link between economic coordination (EUROSEM) and Cohesion Policy – must be recognize that this cannot be done without help of local authorities
- Advocates of Cohesion policy should EUROSEM as opportunity for greater coherence between different levels of governance
 - Advocates must remain vocal in demonstrating need for local authorities to be part of EUROSEM and other economic cohesion processes

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/news/commission-defends-cohesion-european-semester-link-with-suspended-payments-option/>

- May 31, 2018
- “Commission wants to strengthen the link between the European Social Fund and the recommendations and country analysis provided under the European Semester”
 - In order to make goals of European Pillar of Social Rights a reality
- Commission wants to tighten link between European Social Fund and EUROSEM to fund structural reform in member states
- CSRs as starting point for ESF programs
 - Member states must allocate sufficient ESF funds in order to implement CSRs
- Parliament concerned that merging of funds may result in the loss of regional aspect
- In order to make Social Pillar a reality, Commission wants closer link between European Social Fund and the CSRs outlined by the EUROSEM
 - Proposed reform will not focus on fiscal aspect

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/opinion/wed-the-european-social-pillar-is-creating-a-new-political-dynamic-but-is-this-enough/>

- November 27, 2018
- Gives progress update on the Pillar of Social Rights
- EUROSEM also plays a role in the success of this
 - In that possibility improvement of social standards depend on redirecting of social and economic policies
 - Social Scoreboard first move in this direction
- Progress in this area is not currently sufficient
 - Shows criticism of EUROSEM as well as movement by Commission on Social Pillar

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economic-governance/news/commission-to-judge-in-may-frances-deficit-deviation/>

- December 12, 2018
- France at risk of breaching rules once again
- Commission to decide in May “whether France’s deficit slippage caused by new spending measures represents a limited and temporary deviation allowed by the rules”
 - Will do so following the EUROSEM cycle
- “3% budget deficit threshold can be exceeded in a limited, temporary, exceptional way”
 - Overrun of 3% must not last more than 2 years, and must not exceed 3.5% in any given year
- Commission and France accounting for economic impact of riots over the last 12 months
 - Yellow Vest protests have pushed it to around 3.4%

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/opinion/green-transition-ecb-and-budgetary-authorities-should-face-their-responsibilities/>

- December 10, 2018
- 2018-19 EUROSEM provides “opportunity to question contribution of monetary and budgetary policies to ecological transition”
- Member of Central Bank explains how central bank can make important contributions through green and sustainable investments
 - He puts responsibility on politicians who have tools at their disposal (like EUROSEM) to make true change in greener investment
 - Also explains how coordination of national budgets are crucial
- In this cycle, climate has taken more prominent role in AGS than ever before
 - Hope to see that reflected in CSRs

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economic-governance/news/italy-sleepwalks-to-instability-commission-resorts-to-excessive-deficit-procedure/>

- November 21, 2018
- Greece is back in EUROSEM framework
 - Draft budget got green light from commission
- Germany, Netherlands (among others) found to be compliant with Stability and Growth Pact
- Portugal (among others) poses risk of non-compliance with Stability and Growth Pact
- Commission opened excessive debt procedure against Italy on November 21
 - “With what the Italian government has put on the table, we see a risk of the country sleepwalking into instability,” – VP Dombrovskis

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/all/opinion/tackling-child-poverty-not-only-with-words/>

- October 16, 2018
- Jana Hainsworth - Secretary General of Eurochild
- Goal of lifting 20 million people out of poverty by 2020 is goal where least progress has been made on Europe 2020
- Still, only Spain received a CSR relating to tackling child poverty
- Juncker recognizes more needs to be done – but is not doing it through tools such as EUROSEM
 - 2017 – no country received CSRs on childhood poverty – despite the need
 - 2018 – only Spain through family benefits
- “Even if child poverty is recognised as a problem, the EU is failing to remind Member States about their commitment to the Recommendation on Investing in Children and the gaps in its delivery”
- Investing in children not only moral duty, also makes economic sense
- European Pillar of Social Rights and the Social Scoreboard with it do not have political weight or legal value to get member states to take note
- Should make better use of tools available to end child poverty – EUROSEM

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/news/german-politics-risks-affecting-the-eurozone-reform/>

- June 18, 2018
- Germany and France hold differing opinions on European economy
- Vision of EUROSEM is too political for the liking of Berlin
 - Juncker and Moscovici have adopted a softer stance than predecessors
- Germany prepared to up the pace to finish the reform of the multiannual financial framework by the end of the year – this does not line up with France

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/all/interview/merkel-blowing-smoke-on-reform-proposals-says-former-german-mep/>

- June 14, 2018

- Interview with former Green MEP
- Requirements of EUROSEM should be more binding
- 'It does not work to finger point at others while you do nothing'

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/news/regions-confused-by-proposed-cohesion-reforms/>

- May 30, 2018
- CPMR – Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions
 - Concerned about the proposal to further link the Cohesion Policy and the EUROSEM
 - As it would divert Cohesion policy from its initial Treaty objectives
 - Lead funds meant for Cohesion to be used for structural reforms with no regional relevance

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/interview/mep-van-nistelrooij-cohesion-is-still-a-cornerstone-despite-cuts/>

- May 13, 2018
- Interview with European People's Party MEP
- EUROSEM should be a precondition to receiving money from Cohesion Policy

General Sources (via LexisNexis) 2018:

(November 22, 2018 Thursday). -Europa-European Semester Autumn Package: Bolstering inclusive and sustainable growth. *ENP Newswire*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5TSY-RHT1-F0K1-N4W9-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- November 22, 2018
- Italy faces non-compliance with stability and growth pact
- Greece enters EUROSEM
- More must be done within framework of EUROSEM to fully include sustainable development
- "At national level, there is a pressing need to use the current growth momentum to build up fiscal buffers and reduce debt"
- Next steps of EUROSEM include more debate and engagement of stakeholders and social partners at all levels of EUROSEM

(May 31, 2018 Thursday). Brussels presents two new instruments to support the stability of the Eurozone. *CE Noticias Financieras English*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5SFN-6FM1-DY1K-83H0-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- May 31, 2018
- “For the Reform Support Program, the **European** Commission is proposing a total allocation of € 25 billion to provide technical and financial support to all Member States in the pursuit of priority reforms, in particular in the context of the **European Semester**”
 - Includes three mechanism:
 - Operational Reform Tool – budget support in context of EUROSEM
 - Depends on ratification from Council and EP

(June 24, 2018). Malta's overall implementation of EC's country recommendations has worsened — Bruegel think-tank. *The Malta Independent*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5SMS-2RC1-F11P-X1G5-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- June 24, 2018
- According to European think-tank Bruegel, implementation of CSRs has worsened
 - “Result of the fundamental dilemma facing the EU. National policies have major cross-border implications, making coordination important, but countries take sovereign decisions mostly based on national considerations”
- In last few years in ranking of implementation
 - 1. Finland
 - 2. UK
 - 3. Slovenia
- Casts doubt on the effectiveness of the EUROSEM – perhaps suggests it should be reconsidered by policy makers

States News Service. (March 23, 2018 Friday). CITIES AND REGIONS CRITICAL ABOUT TOP-DOWN REFORM DELIVERY STRATEGY PROPOSED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION. *States News Service*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5RYB-W9W1-DYTH-G0MW-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- March 23, 2018
- Member of Walloon parliament warns that disregarding local authority would be a mistake of EUROSEM
 - Naming lack of ownership over CSRs as reason
- Territorial dimension should be added to the EUROSEM – to account for regional diversity of Europe and member states
- Any further link between Cohesion Policy and EUROSEM makes it even more important that EUROSEM become more democratic

(March 7, 2018 Wednesday). Costa: &"If we want to continue this trajectory we have to bet on innovation&". *CE Noticias Financieras English*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5RYB-W9W1-DYTH-G0MW-00000-00&context=1516831>.

[com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5RTH-TP91-JBJH-J2G3-00000-00&context=1516831](https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5RTH-TP91-JBJH-J2G3-00000-00&context=1516831).

- March 7, 2018
- Portuguese PM noted Portugal being moved from excessive imbalances to imbalances in decision by Commission
- Commission acknowledging progress made by Portugal in reducing Macroeconomic imbalances in context of EUROSEM
 - A step to regain Portuguese credibility

(May 22, 2018 Tuesday). Brussels on Wednesday published economic recommendations for Portugal. *CE Noticias Financieras English*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5SCW-9R81-DY1K-839M-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- May 22, 2018
- First CSRs to Portugal since the closure of the Excessive Debt Procedure – debt fell below the 3% threshold
 - Thus, the recommendations have particular relevance this year

(May 28, 2018 Monday). Brussels calls for more investment in digital skills. *CE Noticias Financieras English*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5SF1-8PK1-DY1K-80B1-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- May 28, 2018
- Commission says Portugal needs to raise skills of adult population
 - Digital Literacy also important for the future of the country
- Employability of Portuguese graduates is declining
- Commission notes robust growth of Portugal

(October 16, 2018 Tuesday). Brussels admits requesting revision of Italy's budget plan. *CE Noticias Financieras English*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5TH3-9731-DY1K-84S8-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- October 16, 2018
- Dombrovskis says Commission has 2 weeks to request revision of Italy's budget proposal – as he says it does not follow Commission's rules (a "significant departure from EU rules")
- If Commission move ahead with revision request, it would be the first time a budget has been taken over under the EUROSEM process

Targeted News Service. (October 18, 2018 Thursday). EESC Gives European Parliament, Commission and Council Fresh Input for Improving Economic Governance in the EU. *Targeted News Service*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5THP-OWN1-JC11-13DR-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- October 18, 2018
- European Economic and Social Committee
 - Writing opinion on Reform Support Programme
- As part of the opinion:
 - “With regard to the issue of wage growth... wages must be determined by the social partners”
 - “**European Semester** must strengthen collective bargaining”
 - Creating favourable environments for business must be a priority for economic policy
 - Along with reducing poverty, inequality, and job insecurity

Econstar (2018) – Is the European Semester effective and useful?
<https://www.econstar.eu/handle/10419/208014>

- 2018
- “Overall implementation of recommendations by EU countries has worsened in the last few years, in particular when it comes to recommendations addressed to countries with excessive macroeconomic imbalances”
 - “Overall average implementation ranged between ‘limited progress’ and ‘some progress’”
- “The EU makes significant political choices about which imbalances are judged to be excessive and which are judged not excessive”
 - “For example, Germany’s imbalances were not considered excessive while France’s imbalances were in 2017”
- “The European Semester exercise is very difficult to digest, and communication of key analyses and recommendations could be significantly improved to make them more accessible to national policymakers”
- “We found that member states do not fully implement CSRs”
- “We consider the low effectiveness to be a result of the fundamental dilemma facing the euro area in particular”
- “The current form of CSRs makes for barely-digestible documents. More streamlined and understandable communication would be useful”
- “Implementation scores are on average high for the financial sector”
- “However, recommendations related to taxation... are overall poorly implemented”

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