

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/time-for-europe-to-tackle-housing-crisis-advocates-say/>

- November 29, 2021
- COVID has exacerbated existing housing issues
- Orders to stay home resulted in overcrowding in small flats
  - While others did not have a home to stay at in the first place
- With pandemic, homelessness became a health issue
- Dutch MEP says EU has been absent on housing issues – policies have affected price of housing
  - Under EUROSEM, EU has a powerful tool that could be used to integrate policy in housing across Union
- In EP report, housing should be covered under EUROSEM
  - Policy on affordable and social housing
  - Allow for more public investments

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/digital/opinion/education-can-empower-the-future-of-europe/>

- May 13, 2021
- Access to quality education is important for EU goals towards greener future, and for dealing with future crisis like COVID
- Lockdown showed EU was not prepared for full digitalization of education
- Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027 by Commission, and Shaping Digital Education Policy by EP
  - Both offer perspective on how education can be transformed and improved on EU level
  - Both documents also note need to bring together EU institutions, member states, and various education stakeholders
- The EU Digital Compass, unveiled on March 9, suggests integrating digital education into EUROSEM – to offer better oversight

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/news/eu-recovery-fund-struggles-to-find-its-true-nature/>

- May 9, 2021
- Recovery and Resilience Facility offers 3 unique opportunities
- In short term, it could provide resource for Europe's leadership in Green transition, and help the continent catch up in the digital transformation
- In medium term, could be a tool to implement long delayed reforms
  - Experts say that in past years, EUROSEM has not provided enough incentives because "it lacked teeth"

- Thus, RRF could be used as a supplement to rectify mistakes and shortcoming of EUROSEM
- Disbursement of RRF funds are tied to the completion of goals set by National Recovery and Resilience Plans – which are put forward by members, and must be in line with CSRs laid out in EUROSEM process

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/opinion/from-göthenburg-to-porto-the-socialist-road-to-a-fairer-europe/>

- May 3, 2021
- Opinion piece by President of S&D
- “In committing to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights PM Antonia Costa (of Portugal) is making the right choice”
  - Sends message of hope in times of hardship
- Want to move from suggestions to specific and binding measures under EUROSEM
- Translating social pillar project into concrete measures, EU will regain trust of citizens
- More social Europe would also need for the Commission and Parliament to make decision under the EUROSEM putting people first – must be recognized that solid social protections result in a better economy

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/opinion/it-is-time-to-reconnect-the-eu-with-citizens-wellbeing/>

- April 15, 2021
- Opinion by PES (Socialists)
- Austerity Policy after the Financial Crisis ignored youth unemployment, inequality, environmental damage and more
  - Cannot make same mistakes in COVID recovery
- COVID has revealed cracks in Europe – how tedious employment is, etc.
- Delivering on social Pillar is vital to the response – this push strengthened by realigning EUROSEM towards well-being (environmental goals coupled with employment goals, etc.)

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/opinion/why-the-eu-has-a-big-role-to-play-in-tackling-the-housing-crisis/>

- January 22, 2021
- Dutch MEP (Green) discussing housing issues
- Housing crisis is a result of “austerity driven investment gap in affordable and social housing
- Commission needs to propose new strategy on affordable and social housing
  - When they do this, they should follow up on EP’s call to allow more public investment

- As well, affordable housing should be integrated into EUROSEM as a key policy initiative
- Investment in affordable housing is important to economic recovery

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/news/eus-michel-wants-to-involve-regions-more-closely-in-recovery-plans/>

- March 18, 2021
- European Council president Charles Michel – wants to see more regional involvement in European Processes and decision making
- Barely any involvement for regional authorities in Recovery and Resilience Facility
- “Top-down model is ineffective” – used EUROSEM as an example
- Michel believes local politicians have clear view of what needs to be done
- In order to connect with people – communication with local politicians is necessary
- Warns against holding another “bureaucratic conference” that would produce “incomprehensible jargon”

General Sources (via LexisNexis) 2021:

(October 20, 2021 Wednesday). Bulgaria, EU discuss 'challenges' of green transition. *BBC Monitoring Europe - Political Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:63WM-4CT1-DYRV-34C6-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- October 20, 2021
- Meeting between Bulgarian caretaker PM and Commission VP for Green Deal to discuss challenges facing Bulgaria in move to Green Transition
- Commission will now assess Bulgaria’s plan to see if it meets targets set by CSRs under the EUROSEM framework
  - Specifically, Commission will look at whether plan dedicates at least 37% of expenditure to reforms that support climate objectives

Martin Sandbu. (May 18, 2021 Tuesday). Lifting EU social policy is as much about how as what is done. *FT.com*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:62PJ-3YD1-JCM7-G1HJ-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- This month Portugal held summit to further integrate Social Pillar into EU policy making, a policy point which was agreed upon in Gothenburg 4 years ago
  - Declaring this a fundamental part of recovery
- Question remaining is whether this thought will transcend through all areas of EU policy making – best intentions could become powerless against concerns for long term fiscal sustainability
- Italy PM Draghi says more must be done than mere political commitments

- “We have to enshrine the pillars, targets and milestones in the European Semester”
- National leaders welcomed new quantitative targets for EU social pillar – can be used keep social dimension important in EUROSEM

(January 14, 2021 Thursday). Paper says Italy's debt, lack of reforms put EU in jeopardy. *BBC Monitoring Europe - Political Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61S5-30W1-JC8S-C1P1-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- January 14, 2021
- Through Next Generation EU, Italy will have 209 billion euro available (almost 1/3 of NGEU budget)
- EU is lending, but not without incentives for themselves
  - Demands tangible and verifiable results
- “In a nutshell, it forces the countries to carry out reforms and spending on the basis of well-defined projects and calendars”
  - Reforms carried out following the CSRs made through the framework of the EUROSEM
- “Europe is willing to fund Italy's rescue and revitalization precisely because it knows that it cannot coexist forever with its third largest economy on the brink of the abyss of national debt and with no economic growth”

Valentina Pop. (July 2, 2021 Friday). Europe’s centre-right draws up plan for tighter fiscal rules. *FT.com*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6324-T8Y1-F039-651P-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- July 2, 2021
- A draft position paper from EPP MEPs lays out basic framework for where they see EU heading
- A proposal laid out by paper:
  - “The European Semester process, under which the commission conducts regular assessments of member states’ economies, should be narrowed down mainly to fiscal policy and structural reforms. Capitals’ access to parts of the EU budget could be tied to compliance with the economic governance framework”
- Shows a shift back to fiscal conservatism
- Calls for more compliance, and less EU intervention in social areas

European Commission. (September 17, 2021 Friday). Surveillance of member states after financial assistance appropriate, but needs streamlining. *Newstex Blogs EU Reporter*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6324-T8Y1-F039-651P-00000-00&context=1516831>.

[com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:63MJ-S2R1-JCMN-Y4CF-00000-00&context=1516831](https://com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:63MJ-S2R1-JCMN-Y4CF-00000-00&context=1516831).

- September 17, 2021
- Surveillance, though a useful tool, was hampered by “unclear objectives and insufficient streamlining and focus on implementation” – to improve this, it is recommended that surveillance be integrated into EUROSEM
- “Under enhanced surveillance, member states must adopt measures to address vulnerabilities, taking into account country-specific recommendations (CSRs) issued under the European Semester”
- Commission must consider adding Post-Programme Surveillance and Enhanced Surveillance into the EUROSEM

(April 28, 2021 Wednesday). Spain proposes European unemployment insurance. *CE Noticias Financieras English*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:62JG-FYK1-JBJN-M1B6-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- April 28, 2021
- Aim is to create unemployment insurance through THEES (a temporary measure put in place during COVID crisis)
- Spain also proposes to expand the social dimension of the EUROSEM
  - Proposes joint meetings of the Ministers of Economy, Labour, Health and Trade – for the purpose of more integration of social issues and perspective
- Also, under Stability and Growth Pact, Spain wants inclusive growth objectives
  - Calls for investment in education, training, and social protections

(October 29, 2021 Friday). Von der Leyen insists on blackmailing Poland: 'If there is no judicial reform, there will be no funds'.. *CE Noticias Financieras English*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:63YR-3C11-JBJN-M4N1-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- October 29, 2021
- Rules for accessing EU recovery funds are very simple – says von der Leyen
  - Reforms and investment must line up with CSRs issued under framework of EUROSEM
- Poland unable to access recovery funds, because Brussels does not see them as implementing goals that line up with CSRs
- \*Shows an example of a country actually not being able to access funds, after many articles discuss this possibility – must follow CSRs through framework of EUROSEM\*

(October 15, 2021 Friday). Díaz says that the EU cannot be built on economic governance alone. *CE Noticias Financieras English*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:63YR-3C11-JBJN-M4N1-00000-00&context=1516831>.

[com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:63VR-GMP1-DY1R-B285-00000-00&context=1516831](https://com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:63VR-GMP1-DY1R-B285-00000-00&context=1516831).

- October 15, 2021
- The Second Vice-President and Minister of Employment, Yolanda Díaz
- EU policy coordination cannot be based on fiscal governance alone
- Opportunity for greater presence of EPSCO
- EU employment ministers are trying to emerge from crisis with strong presence in social sphere and to be on equal footing with ministers of finance and economics
- Beyond economic governance, aim is to integrate social indicators that will serve as recommendations under EUROSEM – thus member states will comply with recommendations

(March 2, 2021 Tuesday). THE SDGS OUTLINE THE PATH FOR A FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY AT THE LOCAL, REGIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEVEL. *US Fed News*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6244-M2Y1-JDKC-R34C-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- March 2, 2021
- **European** Union's Committee of the Regions
- Online stakeholder consultation in preparation for Plenary Session
  - Insights from meeting will be made into COR recommendations on how to accelerate implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, and how to re-integrate SDGs into the EUROSEM
- Under long term plans for sustainable recovery such as RRF – integration of SDGs into EUROSEM remains of high importance

(October 7, 2021 Thursday). European Parliament calls for binding mechanism against illegal tax practices in the EU. *CE Noticias Financieras English*. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:63T1-RJ21-DY1R-B3H1-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- October 7, 2021
- EP calls for binding mechanism to fight against harmful tax practices by companies within the EU
- To support this, EP also calls for CSRs under EUROSEM to support “reduction of aggressive tax planning in the EU”

EurActiv.com	7
General Sources (via LexisNexis)	10

2022:

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/opinion/tracking-progress-to-a-well-being-economy/>

- January 18, 2022
- Johan Barth – Managing Director at ZOE Institute for Future-fit Economics
- Challenge for EU is to create common narrative and set indicators for their measures on social, economic, and environmental objectives
  - Redefining progress and delivering on these objectives will take political willingness, as well as implementation from member states
  - This calls for a tool that can identify tensions that require balancing
  - To combat this challenge, ZOE has come up with EU Compass Towards 2030
  - Measures where some objectives may be falling short or not fulfilling goals (such as education) and where there may be an overshoot (such as in GHG emissions)
- The indicators selected for the doughnut esc metric is based on areas the Commission already collects data on, such as through the EUROSEM

General Sources (via LexisNexis) 2022:

Put people at the heart of economic policies, S&Ds demand from Commission as they call for reform of outdated fiscal rules. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:64YV-J6K1-JDG9-YONK-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- March 10, 2022
- S&Ds call for reorientation of EUROSEM away from austerity – toward putting the well-being of people first
- S&Ds want EUROSEM to be a driver in the change to more sustainable recovery
- Setting environmental and social goals is a crucial step for transforming Stability and Growth pact into a Sustainability Pact
- If social goals are anchored in EUROSEM – people’s lives will improve
  - Public investment in social welfare
  - Sharing burden as well as profits of green and digital transformation
- As S&Ds see it:
  - Putting people into stable jobs
  - Equal pay and equal pensions for women
  - Minimum income
  - Valuing and paying for care work

Joint Procurement Rising Up EU Agenda As Future Access Mechanism. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6515-FRY1-JD3R-74F0-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- March 17, 2022
- Croatian EPP MEP
  - EUROSEM could be a tool for shaping and converging Health Technology Assessments systems
- COVID has changed healthcare from a strictly national concern to allowing EU to have some say in decision making, and in funding
- EUROSEM could be used to streamline national policies in pharmaceutical funding and ensuring better access to medicines considering political opposition to amending transparency directives

MEPS DEMAND MORE EU ACTION TO PROTECT COMMON VALUES IN HUNGARY AND POLAND. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:65CN-3C01-DYTH-G529-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- May 5, 2022
- EP release
- It is time to protect EU common values
- Commission must do better – started formal procedure against Hungary under Conditionality Regulation in April, but failed to do so against Poland
- Both EP and Commission must refrain from approving Hungary and Poland’s plans under Recovery and Resilience Facility
  - Money must only be granted when both countries comply with EUROSEM recommendations in area of rule of law

Double challenge for Macron. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:64FK-BFD1-DY1R-B50B-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- January 2, 2022
- Macron must hold rotating EU presidency, as well as run for re-election in France
- EUROSEM will offer Macron increased visibility
  - He will hold multiple summits
- Debate on Immigration control will be topic within presidency (against Le Pen mostly) and in EUROSEM as well
- Macron wants to reform Schengen area and strengthen borders
- Due to Merkel’s departure, Macron’s leadership role is both natural inevitable in Europe

Brussels asks to make Covid funds conditional on energy front because of Ukraine war. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:65CC-NS11-JCG7-81J5-00000-00&context=1516831>.



- May 3, 2022
- Commission to give detailed guidelines by end of May so that countries who want to revise plan “request credits from the fund or that see their allocation of subsidies increase can propose measures in line with the priorities of the new energy Strategy for Brussels”
- Done through country reports of EUROSEM and CSRs

European Commission Endorses Bulgaria Recovery & Resilience Plan. <https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6563-1PH1-DYG2-R1JY-00000-00&context=1516831>.

- April 9, 2022
- Commission approves Bulgaria’s national plan for Recovery and Resilience
  - Commission says Bulgaria’s plan was based on criteria set out in RRF regulations
- Plans contribute effectively to dealing with areas identified within the EUROSEM
  - As well, plan is said to support digital and green transition
- \*Shows ex. of plan being accepted\*

EurActiv.com	1
General Sources (via LexisNexis)	6