

The EoRPA Consortium is a group of government ministries and agencies from eleven European countries which fund a research programme on regional policy developments in the EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland.

The Commission has both executive and administrative roles. The Commission is organized into departments, called Directorate Generals, responsible for drafting legislation and overseeing its implementation. In its executive capacity, the Commission acts as the "government" in a Parliamentary system by initiating legislation and submitting proposals to the Council of the European Union. Documents For Commission proposals transmitted to the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament, see COM documents for explanatory memorandum and proposed legislative text; and see C series OJ for proposed legislative text only. Green papers are discussion papers published by the Commission on a specific policy area. White papers are documents containing proposals for Community action in a specific area. SEC documents are internal documents associated with the decision making process and the general operation of Commission departments. The Council of the European Union represents the Member States, acts on Commission proposals, and has the final legislative authority. The Council may request that certain legislation be proposed and may conduct any necessary studies to help achieve the goals of foundational treaties. The Council also has treaty-making power. Documents Issues working papers on legislation, minutes and other documents. The European Parliament is composed of Representatives directly elected by the populations of the Member States. In most cases the Council is required to submit proposed legislation to the European Parliament for comment. The Parliament acts as a forum for debate and questioning of the Council and Commission. The appropriate committee of the Parliament scrutinizes the proposed legislation and a rapporteur is selected to draft a report and opinion for consideration at the plenary meeting. The Parliament adopts legislation "in codecision" with the Commission. Documents For first or second reading of Commission proposals, see Reports, which generally consists of three parts: Debates of the plenary sessions of Parliament are in the Annex of the OJ. The Economic and Social Committee is an advisory body representing industry, labor and consumers, is composed of members appointed by the Member States. During the legislative process, the Council of Ministers may be required to or may decide to seek the opinion of the Committee. The Court is empowered to decide cases involving interpretation and application of the Treaties. EU institutions and Member States may appeal and take each other to court for failure to implement or properly apply the Treaties and derived legislation, i. Legal or natural persons may appeal to the Court against a decision addressed to him or any regulation or decision which is of direct concern. The Court will also issue prejudicial decisions in cases referred to it by national courts when questions of Community law are involved. The Court is assisted by advocate-generals, who present a reasoned and independent opinion of the issue of law in the case. While there is no formal stare decisis, the Court tends to follow its own decisions. The decisions are binding on the national courts of Member States. In , the Court of First Instance began functioning, hearing disputes between community civil servants and their institutions, actions in the field of competition law, actions under anti-dumping law and actions under the ECSC Treaty. There is also a European Court of Auditors that is responsible for checking on the management of the EU budget. There are many other bodies and agencies that handle other functions within the EU, see Institutions of the European Union. Dinan, Encyclopedia of the European Union Updated ed. E53] Craig, EU Law: Encyclopedia of European Union Law London: Beck; The Hague; Boston: Folsom, European Union Law in a Nutshell 3rd. New edition in process. Kapteyn, Introduction to the Law of the European Communities: Lasok, Law and Institutions of the European Union 7th ed. Mengozzi, European Community Law: A companion web site is available. There are different types of Community legal instruments. A second source of primary law consists of the treaties between Member States and treaties between the EU and third parties. The major source of Community legislation is secondary legislation: Regulations are Community laws adopted by the Council of the European Union upon a proposal from the Commission. Regulations have general effect and are directly applicable in all of the Member States. Regulations do not require national implementing legislation.

Directives are Community laws adopted by the Council of the European Union upon a proposal from the Commission. Directives are addressed to the Member States and are binding as to the result - Member States may choose the form and methods of implementation. The process of implementation is called harmonization. Decisions are Community laws, issued by the Council or Commission, which are binding on those addressed, whether governments, companies or individuals. Opinions are written statements by the Council or Commission and have no binding force. Opinions are an important indication of Council or Commission policy. Recommendations adopted by the Commission are like directives in that they are binding only on the Member States cited and only with respect to the end result. Treaties Relevant subject headings include: European union; European economic community; European coal and steelcommunity; or euratom. Official Journal see section VI. Encyclopedia of European Union Law. European Union Law Reporter:

Chapter 2 : European Communities - Wikipedia

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The primary reason at that time for the introduction of a common environmental policy was the concern that diverse environmental standards could result in trade barriers and competitive distortions in the Common Market. However, the Treaty text was interpreted dynamically, enabling environmental policy to be regarded as an essential goal of the Community, even though it was not explicitly mentioned. It was not until the middle of the 1980s and the signing of the Single European Act in that economic and ecological objectives were put on a more equal footing within the Community. Member states shape EU environmental policy by working within the Council of Ministers. The number of Environment Council meetings has increased significantly over time. Heads of state meet in something different – the European Council – which until recently had very little to do with environmental policy. However, more recently the European Council has played an important role in EU climate change policy in particular. Therefore, since its creation in the 1970s the European Commission has been at the heart of the European Union. However, it did not set up a unit dedicated to environmental issues until the 1990s and a full Directorate General for the environment until 2002. However, the Commission still has to depend on member states to implement its policies. Traditionally, the European Parliament gained a reputation as a champion of environmental interests within the EU where it provided an access point for those excluded from decision making and a voice for green political parties. More recently the Parliament has benefited from treaty changes that have made it a co-legislator with the Council of Ministers. However, the empowerment of the Parliament seems to have reduced its green credentials as it now appears less willing to adopt green amendments. As early as 1973, environmental groups from all the member states established a central representation in Brussels, founding the European Environmental Bureau. Other environmental NGOs only set up shop in Brussels from the late 1970s onwards. It has been suggested that the policy making process is too densely populated with veto players in Brussels. Since the 1990s, other new issues have been taken up but in addition an increasing proportion of the environmental agenda has been taken up by debates on the revision of existing legislation. As a result, the proportion of EU environmental legislation that amends previous laws has steadily increased over time. Consequently, for most environmental issues, the key question is no longer: The potential of environmental policy integration is undoubtedly ambitious: The success of EU policies – and with them the whole integration project – are often judged by the impacts they have on the ground. If, however, the *acquis* the body of EU law is not fully implemented, EU policies risk becoming paper exercises with little tangible effect on environmental quality but serious distorting impacts on the Single Market. Indeed, for a long time, a number of factors kept the whole issue of poor implementation down or off the political agenda, but today it is much more politicised, pushed along by the campaigning activities of NGOs and pro-integration actors such as the European Parliament. But in many respects, the causes of poor or at least imperfect implementation reside in the very structure of the EU. Consequently, there are likely to be no panaceas. To develop new environmental policies, it is important first to evaluate those that have already been adopted. However, this intuitively simple idea is difficult to apply in practice, no more so than in the EU where the complex system of multi-level governance adds considerably to the practical difficulty of evaluating policies. In recent years the demand for evaluations of EU policies and programmes has increased as the importance of evaluation has become more widely recognised. Many actors have become involved in commissioning, producing and using evaluations including the European Environment Agency, but the role of evaluation is often still quite weak. Synergic to the environmental policy in Europe is the European environmental research and innovation policy. It aims at defining and implementing a transformative agenda to greening the economy and the society as a whole so to achieve a truly sustainable development. The environmental research and innovation policy [edit] Europe is particularly active in this field and the European environmental research and innovation policy aims at promoting more and better research and innovation for building a resource-efficient and climate-resilient society and economy in sync with the natural environment. Research

and innovation in Europe are financially supported by the programme Horizon , which is also open to participation worldwide. Therefore, if one wants to understand the processes and outcomes of international environmental negotiations, one needs to be familiar with the role that the EU plays there. Also, developments at the international level have an influence on the EU, its policies and the extent to which it can be a global actor. Hence, European and international environmental politics and policies are constantly interacting and thus mutually constitutive. The EU is often observed as a leader in global environmental politics, but its leadership role can nowadays also be questioned, especially in the area of climate change. Environmental protection[edit] When the EEC was established, environmental protection, let alone the broader concept of sustainable development, was not perceived as an important policy issue. The concept of sustainable development contains environmental, social and economic dimensions; finding practical ways to balance the three is widely regarded as a key challenge. This not only addressed the environmental concerns of the industrialised countries in the North, but also, the development concerns of countries in the South. Sustainable development was only mentioned in European Council Conclusions for the first time in In particular, the Strategy has been heavily affected by its ambiguous relationship to the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs, which has received far higher political priority. The renewed strategy contained more detailed arrangements for implementation, monitoring and follow-up. Sustainable development is now repeatedly mentioned in the Treaties: The EU is now legally committed to pursue sustainable development both internally and externally i. This legal commitment led to the setting up of an impact assessment process to be done ex ante, i. In fact, multiple processes of impact assessment emerged: Major areas of environmental policy[edit] The Water Framework Directive is an example of a water policy, aiming for rivers, lakes, ground and coastal waters to be of "good quality" by These protections however only directly cover animals and plants; fungi and micro-organisms have no protection under European Union law. Stiglitz , TTIP could have a "chilling" effect on regulation and thus "undercut urgently needed action on climate that the Paris Agreement requires". This draft could sabotage European efforts to implement mandatory energy savings measures and to favour the switch to renewable electricity generation.

Chapter 3 : European Union Law

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We ask you to do this by linking back to our original story. HTML for this article, including the attribution and page view counter, is below: Over recent decades, it has gradually acquired the sense of deliberate collaboration between European countries linking first their research activities, then their policies in this field. In the s, early EU research funding was limited to a few industrial sectors: In the decades that followed, separate research programmes were launched in energy, environment and molecular biology. Two years later, the First Framework Programme was drafted by Prof. Contzen along with a colleague Louis Villecourt. Its legal basis was strengthened and its objectives were refined and extended. In , the Single European Act included for the first time a specific chapter on research, which put the emphasis on applied research aiming at supporting the competitiveness of European industry. It provides for the funding of research for the coal and steel industries. It provides for research into nuclear energy between countries. It provides independent scientific and technical advice to the European Commission. It includes, for the first time in an EU Treaty, a chapter on research. A wider international dimension was progressively built into EU research policy. Transnational cooperation was progressively extended to more and more countries beyond the EU, across the entire world. That process culminated in the opening of all EU research programmes to the participation of teams from non-EU countries. They have pioneered the creation of large joint undertakings that bring public and private actors together in subject-specific partnerships “ ranging from aeronautics to nanoelectronics and pharmaceutical research. Schemes for collaboration between public national research organisations and programmes have also been set up. Member States have gradually increased the level of research coordination and the growing scale and scope of the Framework Programmes has been instrumental in this. Please copy the above code and embed it onto your website to republish. The First Framework Programme for research funding started in Research has a long history in Europe, but the emergence of what is now the European Union has created a novel concept of European research. From its debut in , the Framework Programme has expanded in scope and scale “ matching the evolution of the EU itself.

Chapter 4 : ERC: European Research Council |

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Europe faces an interesting set of immigration challenges and opportunities: Demographic pressures as many European societies age, a lively and at times tense policy and political debate over questions of identity and immigrant integration, and a unique policy environment that has knit 28 European countries together with regards to the management of outer borders, asylum, and other immigration.

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What conditions are responsible for policy change or continuity in the European Community? This is the general research questions guiding the empirical case study presented in this paper.