

Brussels blog round-up for 22 – 28 December: Portugal's growing bailout, more cuts ahead in Spain, and will Cameron 'fudge' an EU referendum?

by Blog Admin

Chris Gilson takes a look at the week in Brussels blogging.

The EU centre

The New Federalist [looks](#) at the idea of directly electing the European Commission President, saying that true power stems from election, not nomination, as is currently the case.

This week *Coulisses de Bruxelles* [interviews](#) Guy Verhofstadt, president of the Liberal Democratic Party, who argues for European (rather than national) level sovereignty.

Nada es Gratis looks at the importance of [asymmetric fiscal shocks](#) in the eurozone and how effective fiscal transfers and a eurozone fiscal union might be in reducing their effects.

EU Foreign policy and the European neighbourhood

Lost in EUrope raises [concerns](#) that new trade agreements with Peru and Columbia may help to promote 'money laundering' of drug profits, as they contain no safeguards against illegal transactions.

This week, *European Geostrategy* looked at the development of the [nEUROn](#) remote-controlled stealth aircraft. While its construction represents European cooperation, there are still questions about how such technology fits within the strategic vision of European governments.



The Euro Crisis

This week the *FT's Brussels blog* took an in-depth [look](#) at the possibility of further bank recapitalizations in Cyprus and Ireland, and asked whether or not Portugal's [bailout](#) is actually €4 billion more than most think it is.

Across Europe

Looking ahead to 2013, *Nada es Gratis* [says](#) that it will likely be a year of billions of euro in cuts for Spain's autonomous communities.

Kiels Prat in Europe looks at Germany's arms [exports](#), and praises the opposition to them of the SPD's candidate for the Chancellorship in 2013's elections, Peer Steinbrück.

Looking ahead to David Cameron's [speech](#) on Europe in January, *Jon Worth* wonders if he will commit to an EU in-out referendum, or push for a renegotiation of the UK's relationship with the EU. Later in the week, he writes that Cameron may be proposing a "[complicated multi-step fudge](#)" on the potential EU referendum, which may leave few happy and raise some real questions about what a 'Yes' or 'No' vote may actually mean.

Writing on the resignation of Italian Prime Minister, Mario Monti *Lost in EUrope* says that his [reform](#)

[agenda](#) has been little different to that which currently applies to the rest of Europe.

Europe mon beau souci examines funding for [vocational training in France](#), saying that despite the 'bloated' budget, the current system does not work.

And finally...

Writing for (y)EU has a [graphical Christmas gift](#), and *Bloggingportal.eu* has a great [round-up](#) of 2012 in the Euro-blogsphere.

Note: This article gives the views of the author, and not the position of EUROPP – European Politics and Policy, nor of the London School of Economics.

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2. [Brussels blog round up for 1 – 7 December: Romania heads to the polls, Spain's Catalonia conundrum, and who will replace Juncker? \(19.6\)](#)
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