

Topics Codebook

For the study on agenda-setting in the European Union

Major topics 3 (Health) and 7 (Environment) plus subtopic 403 (food safety)

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3. Health

Beware of potential overlap with:

4 Agriculture (in particular 405 Animal and crop disease and pest control)

5 Labour, employment and immigration (in particular 501 Worker safety and protection)

10 Transportation (several subtopics dealing with traffic safety)

13 Social welfare (subtopics for assistance to elderly and disabled)

15 Banking, finance, and domestic commerce (in particular 1525 Consumer safety)

19 International affairs and foreign aid (several subtopics covering international agreements and policies relating to health)

300: General (includes combinations of multiple subtopics)

Health spending by the European Commission; Recognition of alternative medicine

301: Comprehensive Health Care Reform

Initiatives in women's health; Health promotion programme 1997-2002; Initiatives in rural health

302: Insurance Reform, Availability, and Cost

Health insurance in the Czech Republic; Difficulties finding a health insurance when working in another member state; Higher insurance premiums for people working abroad

321: Regulation of Drug Industry, Medical Devices, and Clinical Labs

EMA procedures for authorising medicines; Classification of certain products as 'medicines'; Patents for medicines; The coverage of opticians under the directive on medical devices; Re-use of disposable medical equipment; Labelling requirements for medicinal products; Dependency resulting from the long-term use of antidepressants; Regulation of the herbal medicines industry; Rules and initiatives on heart transplants; Orphan medicinal products

See also: 1520 for competition (anti-trust) issues in the drug industry

322: Facilities Construction, Regulation, and Payments

Uniform standards to govern high-quality care in hospitals; Shortage of intensive-care units in Greece; Construction of cross-border hospitals; Construction of isolation units in hospitals to prevent the spread of SARS

323: Provider and Insurer Payment and Regulation

Right to seek medical treatment abroad; Position of dentistry under the EU health card; Insurance coverage and reimbursement of Italian nationals living in Belgium; Disparities

between fees in the private and public sectors; Claiming pension-related statutory care benefits in other member states

N.B. So far, we have used this category mainly for issues concerning treatment of patients in member states other than their own, since these issues revolve around the payment of providers by insurers in other EU member states. At a later point in time, we may have to consider recoding these into a separate category.

324: Medical Liability, Fraud and Abuse

The misuse in France of blood products resulting in the spread of AIDS

325: Health Manpower & Training

Future of gynaecology as a medical specialisation; Recognition of medical professionals from other EU member states; Professional training of future specialists; Training standards and mutual recognition of health professionals; Regulation of the profession of optometrist; Numerus clausus for dentistry degree courses in Italy; Closure of a medical unit in Greece due to redundancies among medical staff

N.B. So far, we have used this category mainly for issues of mutual recognition of health professionals among EU member states, since these issues relate to training and professional qualifications. At a later point in time, we may have to consider recoding these into a separate category.

331: Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Specific Diseases

European strategy for the treatment of rheumatic diseases; Sex education for children about sexually transmitted diseases; Regulation of food ingredients in order to fight obesity and heart diseases; Formation of a network for epidemiological surveillance of communicable diseases; Cervical cancer screening; SARS and airline air recycling; Funding of prevention programmes for specific diseases; Preventive measures to combat SARS; Health passport for non-EU citizens in order to prevent the spread of contagious diseases; Parkinson's disease as a public health priority; EU involvement in world immunisation initiatives; The spread of premature baldness; Cancer risks of hair dye products

See also: 398 (for research on specific diseases)

332: Infants and Children

Charter for children in hospitals; Proposal for a regulation on paediatric medicines; The effects of medicinal products on children; Prevalence of birth defects near crematoriums; Child asthma and allergic diseases; Children in Europe suffering from environment-related diseases

333: Mental Illness and Mental Retardation

Commission response to Council conclusions on mental health matters; European regulations in the field of psychology and psychotherapy

334: Long-Term Care, Home Health, Terminally Ill, and Rehabilitation Services

Implications of EU directives for care homes in the UK

335: Prescription Drug Coverage and Costs

Removal of the coverage of natural medicines under health insurance schemes as part of the German health reforms; Prices of reimbursable medicines

336: Other or Multiple Benefits and Procedures

N.B. Avoid this category if possible

341: Tobacco Abuse, Treatment, and Education

Smoking ban in Italian establishments; Harmonisation of tobacco taxes; Health warnings on cigarette packs; Measures to reduce tobacco consumption; Directive on tobacco advertisement and sponsorship

342: Alcohol Abuse and Treatment

Minimum excise duties on alcoholic drinks; Community campaign against alcohol abuse among young people; Warning labels on alcoholic drinks; Requirement to fit all vehicles with 'alcolocks'; The ban on advertisements for alcohol in Sweden; Averting alcohol-related harm in Finland

343: Illegal Drug Abuse, Treatment and Education

The EU's drugs policy; EU drugs strategy; Measures to combat the use of drugs in sports
See also: 1203 Drug trafficking and control; 321 Drug safety

344: Drug and Alcohol or Substance Abuse Treatment

*N.B. This subtopic code has not been used so far, since all EP Questions in this field related either to drugs or to alcohol (and thus came under 343 and 342, respectively).
See also: 341, 342 and 343*

398: Research and Development

Regulation of research into xenotransplants; Cancer research under EU Framework Programmes; Clinical trials directive; Research on human embryos and embryo stem cells; Research programme on multiple sclerosis

399: Other

Health effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields from terrestrial trunked radio masts
N.B. It turns out that quite a number of EP Questions have been asked about the health and environmental effects of electromagnetic fields (see also 799). At a later point in time, we may have to consider recoding these into a separate category.

4. Agriculture

403: Food Inspection and Safety (including seafood)

Approval procedures in the European Food Safety Agency; Food safety in the accession countries; Shortcomings in Greek slaughterhouses; Evaluation of the toxicity of pesticide residues; The status of foodstuffs under the EU's chemicals legislation; Dioxins in farm-raised salmon; Food safety risks of marked-down foodstuffs; Implementation of the fresh meat and poultry directives; Food safety and the use of GM corn; Costs of meat hygiene

legislation in Rhineland-Palatinate; Proposals for a framework directive on food safety; Fat content in sausage meat; Carcinogenic substances in baby food; Implementation of the zoonose directive in the member states; The status of foodstuffs under the EU's proposed chemicals policy; Medicine residues in foodstuffs

N.B. We will use this subtopic from major topic 4 ('Agriculture') in addition to the subtopics that fall under major topic 3 ('Health') because it is closely related to health issues and of special interest in my research.

See also: 401 (inspection of food imports)

7. Environment

Beware of potential overlap with:

4 Agriculture (in particular 405 Animal and crop disease and pest control)

5 Labour, employment and protection (in particular 501 Worker safety and protection)

8 Energy (several subtopics covering different energy sources; 807 Energy conservation)

10 Transportation (subtopics dealing with several transportation modes)

14 Community development and housing issues

16 Defense (in particular 1614 Military environmental compliance)

17 Space, science, technology and communications

19 International affairs and foreign aid (several subtopics covering international agreements and policies relating to the environment)

21 Public lands and water management (2104 Water resources development)

700: General (includes combinations of multiple subtopics)

Subsidy for European Living Environment Cup; Funding for the Municipality of Prato under the LIFE III programme; Implementation of environmental legislation (in general); Emissions into air, soil and water of the incineration of railway sleepers; Basing the limit values in various EU environmental directives on children instead of adults; The EU's eco-label scheme; Effects of climate change on cod stocks; Measures to combat environmental crime

701: Drinking Water Safety

Fluoridation of water; Contamination of drinking water; Protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates; Environmental objectives relating to the Rhine as a source of drinking water; Minimum pressure levels for water for private consumption

See also: 703 (for wastewater treatment and sewage problems)

703: Waste Disposal

Problems with waste management and recycling in Portugal; Ireland's compliance with the Waste Framework Directive in relation to the treatment of urban waste water; Delay in operation at a sewage treatment plant at the village of Tolon, Greece; The 'proximity principle' in relation to landfill waste disposal; The definition of 'waste' in EU legislation; The effectiveness of the packaging waste directive; Imposition of waste water levies; Incineration of Irish clinical waste in the UK; Introduction of a waste deposit scheme in Germany; End-of-life vehicles directive; Operating conditions for incineration plants; Siting of landfills and incineration plants; Environmental effects of the construction of landfills and incineration plants

N.B. Many questions show overlap between this subtopic and subtopic 707 (recycling). When a question relates to the regulation of the recycling industry or the promotion of recycling, it goes into 707; if the question relates to recycling as an element in waste disposal alongside other methods (e.g. landfill, incineration), it goes into 703.

704: Hazardous Waste and Toxic Chemical Regulation, Treatment and Disposal
Nuclear transports; Radioactive waste; Approval and regulation of pesticides; Presence of dangerous dioxine in the town of Acerra; Transportation of radioactive material by air; The carcinogenicity of chrysotile asbestos; Implementation of the nitrate directive; Construction of a special/toxic waste incinerator; The EU 'REACH' legislation; The biocidal products directive; Evaluation of the risks inherent in zinc; Storage of hazardous sludge in Ingensche Waarden; Hazardous waste as cargo on a ship
See also: 403 (pesticide residues in food)

705: Air Pollution, Global Warming, and Noise Pollution
European policies to implement the Kyoto protocol; Trade in greenhouse gas emission allowances; Emissions of small particulate matter; Emission standards for heavy goods vehicles; Soot filters for buses; Air pollution because of the conversion of a power plant; Noise pollution by air traffic; Noise emissions by outdoor equipment; Regulation of substances that deplete the ozone layer; Cement dust pollution; Limit values for sulphur dioxide

707: Recycling

The reuse of spare parts for electrical and electronic equipment; The procedures for depositing, collecting and recycling disposable drink packages in Germany; The reuse and recovery of end-of-life vehicles; Implementation of recycling objectives in the member states

N.B. Many questions show overlap between this subtopic and subtopic 707 (recycling). When a question relates to the regulation of the recycling industry or the promotion of recycling, it goes into 707; if the question relates to recycling as an element in waste disposal alongside other methods (e.g. landfill, incineration), it goes into 703.

708: Indoor Environmental Hazards

Presence of asbestos in schools; Danish ban on importing lead crystal; Leakage of chlphen in buildings in Greece; Air and noise pollution levels in schools; Uranium in building cement

709: Species and Forest Protection

Fall in fish species in the Albufera Lake in Valencia; Protection of fish in the Acheloos river; Nuisance caused by colonies of protected rooks; Protection of the Oostzanerveld bird sanctuary; Compliance with the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive in the Somerset Levels and Moors; Illegal bird-trapping in Cyprus; Cutting down of 120 eucalyptus trees in the town of Amfilokhia; Critical loads for nitrogen-sensitive habitats; Funding for and management of the Natura 2000 network; Threatened extinction of wolves in Asturias; Designation of Special Areas of Conservation by the member states;

Prevention against the risk of forest fires; Impact of genetically modified crops on biodiversity

N.B. This subtopic comprises a number of issues that can more usefully be coded separately in an EU-context. Three new codes have been created to deal with those: 721 (effects of construction projects on the environment), 722 (animal welfare), and 723 (ecological and environmental aspects of fisheries). What is left for 709 proper are issues related to the conservation of wild animals, management of habitats and the like. See also: 1902 International agreements on resource/wildlife conservation

710: Coastal Water Pollution and Conservation

Oils slicks on the coast near Galicia; Funding for pollution control by the European Maritime Safety Agency; Checks on ships carrying hazardous substances; Drilling for gas in the Waddenzee; Leakages into the Irish Sea from the Sellafield Nuclear Reprocessing Plant; Disposal of sludge into the sea; Sea pollution due to transports of toxic pesticides; Impact of the construction and the enlargement of ports in the Alicante region on *Posidonia oceanica*; Environmental impact of breakwater construction in Ibiza; Quality of water in the Aitoliko Lagoon

See also 2104 Water resources development

711: Land and Water Conservation

Coastal erosion in the Valencia region; Deteriorating hydrological situation of Lake Pamvotis; Drying-out of the Kalmthoutse Heide; Water supply problems on the Aegean Islands; Environmental protection for the conservation of the Peschiera springs; Measures to combat desertification in the EU

See also 2104 Water resources development

721: Effects of construction projects on the environment

Ecological damage to the Serra Mariola because of windmill parks; Urban development and its negative impact on protected species in the Parque de la Albufera; Impact of building the Sabor dam on natural habitats in Portugal; Impact of touristic development on the Torbiere del Sebino Nature Reserve; The impact of the construction of the A28 motorway on the environment; The impact of the Open-cast coal mine in northern Leon on the environment; Environmental impact of the enlargement of Eivissa airport; Environmental impact of a radar installation on Pico do Areeiro; Environmental impact of the Via Baltica; Windfarms in EU special areas of conservation; The impact of the intensified activities of quarries on the environment

N.B. In the Baumgartner & Jones scheme, this would go under 709

See also: 703 (for the environmental effects of the construction of landfills and waste incinerators) and 710 (for construction projects that affect the sea)

722: Animal welfare

Animal welfare standards in the accession countries; Animal welfare of rabbits reared for meat; Animal welfare aspects of biomedical research; Animal welfare aspects of the transport of poultry; Maximum transport times for living animals; Ritual slaughter of animals in religious festivals; Protection of laying hens; Subsidies to animal welfare organisations; Animal welfare at abattoirs; Experiments on dogs with the drug Viagra;

Health and safety inspections at kennels; Transport of animals for zoological gardens;
Validation studies for non-animal tests

N.B. In the Baumgartner & Jones scheme, this would go under 709

See also: 709 (for the conservation of wild animals); 1807 Import regulation (for imports of animals)

723: Ecological and environmental aspects of fisheries

Illegal fishing in waters around the Azores; Implementation of guidelines on fishing quotas in France; Fleet reductions under the Common Fisheries Policy; Transferable fishing quotas; Ban on using driftnets for swordfish fishing; Funding for fisheries inspection vessels; Cetacean by-catch; Cod recovery plan; Extinction of eels and elvers due to overfishing

N.B. In the Baumgartner & Jones scheme, this would go under 709

N.B. 2: This subtopic is for the protection of fish in the seas; protection of fish in rivers and lakes goes into 709

See also: 709 (for the protection of fish in lakes and rivers); 1902 International agreements on resource/wildlife conservation (for treaties relating to fisheries)

798: Research and Development

Research in aquaculture; Investigation of the movement of equidae;

799: Other

Exposure to electromagnetic fields due to the building of an electricity line;
Requirements for environmental impact assessments; The environmental information directive; Exclusion of NGOs from environmental education