

Wypowiedź prof. Teresy Czerwińskiej, wice-prezesa EIB, na temat dołączenia Polski do ogólnoeuropejskiego funduszu gwarancyjnego



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*"Today's decision of the Polish government to join the pan-European guarantee fund (EGF) is very good news for the Polish economy," said Prof. **Teresa Czerwińska**, vice-president of the EIB, who oversees operations in Poland. "The guarantee fund, which has just started its operational activity, has been created in a spirit of solidarity by the Member States of the European Union and the European Investment Bank. It is an important element in supporting Polish entities, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The € 25 billion guarantee fund will provide financing to European companies that are viable in the long term, but struggling with the difficulties caused by the current pandemic. At least 65% of the funding is dedicated to SMEs in Europe. As part of mobilizing funds in Poland, the EIB will cooperate with domestic financial institutions, including the national promotional bank Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego. The EGF is yet another initiative in which Member States and EU institutions join forces in creating new instruments of aid and support for the economy and society. It is worth reminding that since the beginning of the pandemic, the EIB has provided [€ 24.9 billion](#) for projects related to the*

fight against COVID around the world. “

Remarks by President Charles Michel after the European Council meeting on 15 and 16 October 2020



Yesterday, we had a very long and intense debate on COVID-19. We considered that the situation is unprecedented and very serious. And that is why we are convinced that it is necessary to make more progress in order to coordinate more, to cooperate more between the Member States, especially on tracing, testing, on quarantine and on vaccines. We agreed that on a regular basis, at the level of the European Council, we will continue to tackle this important topic in order to try to be more committed and to make more progress.

We also had yesterday evening the opportunity to tackle climate change. This was an orientation debate in preparation of our meeting in December. We feel more and more support in order to increase our goal for 2030. This is an important step towards 2050. You remember that we have agreed, about one year ago, to make Europe the first continent with climate neutrality, it is our common goal. Of course, the important question is and will be how we can get the target together. And that is why we need to continue to prepare the debate in December. And it's why with the European Commission and with the Member States, we will work very closely and very hard in order to see how it's possible to take into consideration, for example, the different starting points in the different Member States, but also different national circumstances. This is a question of ambition. It's also a question of solidarity between the Member States. Today we had the opportunity to have a strategic debate on Africa, in preparation of our meeting with the African leaders, with the African Union. On 9th December, we will have a strategic meeting with African leaders in order to deepen, but also to renew the partnership with Africa.

S'agissant de la relation avec l'Afrique, nous avons la conviction que nous devons davantage miser sur le soutien aux investissements, davantage miser sur un partenariat dans l'intérêt mutuel, davantage miser aussi sur le soutien aux infrastructures, ce qui nécessite de développer un partenariat en lien avec les questions de financement. C'est en cela que la question des dettes des pays africains a été débattue, et qu'on va continuer à en débattre avec les partenaires africains dans les enceintes adéquates, mais en cherchant une cohérence européenne sur ce sujet.

C'est d'autant plus important, dans le cadre de la bataille contre le COVID-19. Cette bataille met à l'épreuve les systèmes de santé. Il y a la nécessité de renforcer ces systèmes de santé, les systèmes de soins, mais

aussi de miser sur un développement durable, sur un développement qui permet d'élever les conditions de vie et de soins, et de véritablement faire en sorte qu'il y ait une capacité de progresser ensemble. Grâce à ce partenariat avec ce continent pour lequel nous pensons qu'il doit y avoir une alliance naturelle pour des raisons géographiques, historiques, culturelles également.

Enfin, on a eu l'occasion d'aborder et de faire le point sur quelques thèmes internationaux. Je me réfère aux conclusions écrites pour plusieurs d'entre eux. S'agissant de la situation en Méditerranée orientale, nous déplorons les actions et les provocations unilatérales de la Turquie. Nous avons rappelé les conclusions que nous avons validées il y a deux semaines lors du dernier Conseil européen. Nous avons aussi eu l'occasion de faire le point sur d'autres sujets tels que, par exemple, le Bélarus ou encore la situation au Nagorno-Karabakh

[Visit the meeting page](#)

[Syria: 7 new ministers added to the EU sanctions list](#)



Today the Council decided to impose **targeted restrictive measures** on recently appointed ministers in Syria.

Today's decision brings to **280 the number of persons** targeted by a **travel ban** and an **asset freeze**. **70 entities** are also listed and, as such, are subject to an assets freeze.

The sanctions currently in place against the Syrian regime were **introduced in 2011**, in response to the violent repression of the Syrian civilian population. They also target companies and prominent business people benefitting from their ties with the regime and the war economy. Restrictive measures also include a ban on the import of **oil**, restrictions on certain **investments**, a freeze of the **Syrian central bank's assets that are held in the EU**, export restrictions on **equipment and technology** that could be used for internal repression and on equipment and technology for the monitoring or interception of internet or telephone communications.

The Council keeps developments in the Syrian conflict under constant review. Any decision to prolong the sanctions is for the Council to take on an annual basis.

The EU remains committed to finding a lasting and credible political solution to the conflict in Syria on the basis of UN Security Council resolution 2254 and the 2012 Geneva Communiqué.

The relevant legal acts, including the names of the persons and entities concerned, have been published in the Official Journal.

European Council conclusions, 15-16 October 2020



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Article – Coming up in plenary: digital services, farm policy reform, covid-19, Belarus



Rules for digital service providers and artificial intelligence

Digital services, including online platforms and marketplaces are a fast growing sector. MEPs want clear EU rules in the new Digital Services Act to [protect our privacy and consumer rights](#). They reject a “one-size-fits-all” approach and insist big platforms should be held to account while small ones should be allowed to grow. Plenary will vote on three reports to outline its priorities.

MEPs will also outline how the EU can best regulate [artificial intelligence](#) (AI) in order to boost innovation, ethical standards and trust in technology.

Future farm policy

EU farm policy should be [more sustainable](#), resilient and flexible so that it can continue to deliver safe food to all Europeans. It also needs to be better tailored to the needs of individual member states. MEPs will set out what they want from a major reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Covid-19

Parliament wants to make sure that in case of future lock-downs, every pupil in the EU has access to education. MEPs will call on the Commission to come up with an urgent plan. MEPs will also debate how to protect employment and income and [help young people find work in times of economic crisis](#).

Brexit

[Brexit](#) is on the agenda Wednesday, when European Council President Charles Michel will discuss the 15-16 October **EU summit** with MEPs.

Deforestation

Since 1990, 1.3 million km² of forests have been lost globally- an area larger than South Africa. MEPs want binding rules to stop EU-driven deforestation, with penalties for companies selling products that endanger forests and ecosystems.

[Find out more about forests in the EU.](#)

Sakharov prize

Parliament's President and political group leaders will decide on the 2020 Sakharov prize for freedom of thought on Thursday. The [finalists](#) are the democratic opposition in Belarus, Honduran environmental activists and the Archbishop of Mosul.

Also on the agenda:

MEPs will suggest a comprehensive **review of EU relations with Belarus**, reiterating their [September resolution](#).

The European **Commission will present its 2021 work programme** on Tuesday focusing on the recovery from the pandemic, the green economy and digitalisation.