

Mr Gerhard Jarosch appointed National Member for Austria

✘ Mr Gerhard Jarosch was appointed National Member for Austria at Eurojust for a four-year term, starting 1 January 2018. In accordance with Article 2(1) of the Eurojust Decision, the appointment was approved by the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union.

From 1999 until 2003, Mr Jarosch was a prosecutor in Eisenstadt, Austria, situated near the EU Schengen border with Hungary. There he dealt with a large variety of criminal cases. He became a prosecutor in Vienna in 2003, specialised in organised crime and terrorism cases and international legal cooperation. In 2008, Mr Jarosch became a Senior Prosecutor. Since 2009, Mr Jarosch was Deputy Chief Prosecutor in Vienna.

Mr Jarosch is the President of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP), former President of the Austrian Association of Prosecutors and former President of the Austrian Prosecutors Personnel Representation.

Following his appointment, Mr Jarosch said: *'As the President of the IAP, I am already acquainted with many colleagues at Eurojust, which should make this appointment a smooth transition.'*

Mr Jarosch replaces Ms Gabriela Hornbeck as National Member for Austria.

Photo: © Eurojust

Press release: Environment Agency launches consultation to give communities more say in how rivers are managed

The Environment Agency is considering proposals to transfer 'flood risk management activities' on a number of stretches of watercourses to internal drainage boards (IDBs), lead local flood authorities (LLFAs) and district councils. This will only happen where the watercourses have a low level of flood risk, are not associated with major rivers or major city centres and where the local community supports the change.

A transfer would mean that IDBs, LLFAs and district councils can take on more responsibility for their local flood risk, where appropriate – by carrying

out activities such as maintenance or giving permission to carry out works.

The Environment Agency has been working with partners to consider proposals to 're-designate' sections of watercourses in a number of locations. The watercourses will be re-designated from what is currently known as a 'main river' to an 'ordinary watercourse' – a change referred to as 'de-maining'.

Rachael Hill, Flood and Coastal Risk Manager for the Environment Agency, said:

The project aims to bring more choice to communities and local organisations in how watercourses are managed and maintained. We want to strengthen local flood risk management and decision-making by ensuring the right people are managing the right watercourses.

We want to hear from anyone who is affected by, or interested in, the proposals. This consultation explains how the proposed sections of watercourse are currently managed and funded and provides details on future management and funding if de-maining goes ahead.

The project is exploring the potential to re-designate several sections of selected main rivers as ordinary watercourses in: various rivers in Suffolk (East Anglia), South Forty Foot Catchment in Lincolnshire and Stour Marshes in Kent. But if there is support for the approach it could pave the way for further de-maining in England.

For the Environment Agency, the project will also ensure resources are prioritised where the greatest impact on reducing flood risk can be achieved.

Innes Thomson Chief Executive of ADA (Association of Drainage Authorities) added:

Despite their low flood risk to people and homes, the good management of these rivers still plays a major part in peoples' lives, and the environmental and economic wellbeing of the communities through which they flow.

It is very important for existing and potential new river managers to know what the views of local people are so we can make the right decisions together for the best future of these rivers.

The public will be able to view and give feedback between midday 15 January 2018 and midday 12 February 2018. There will be an option to view information and give feedback on each of the proposals or the de-maining project as a whole by accessing the [consultation link](#).

[News story: UK fighter jets intercept Russian bombers approaching UK airspace](#)

Today (Mon 15 January), RAF Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) Typhoon aircraft scrambled from RAF Lossiemouth to monitor two Russian planes approaching UK airspace. The Russian Blackjack Tupolev Tu-160 long-range bombers were not talking to air traffic control, making them a hazard to all other aviation.

The RAF worked closely with NATO partners to monitor the jets as they passed through a variety of international airspace, before they were intercepted by the RAF in the North Sea. Subsequently, our fighters escorted the Russian Blackjacks north, out of the UK's area of interest. At no time did the Russian bombers enter UK sovereign airspace.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

The threats this country faces are intensifying and we will not hesitate in defending our skies from acts of aggression.

Our excellent RAF tracked the Russian aircraft every step of the way, and they continue to police UK and international airspace every hour of every day, to help keep the British people safe.

RAF QRA was launched today because the Russian Military aircraft were not talking to air traffic agencies.

The RAF routinely intercept, identify and escort Russian aircraft that transit international airspace within the UK's area of interest and continue to be on call; 24/7, 365.

[British public expects Government to ensure Armed Forces get funding they](#)

deserve – Griffith

Nia Griffith MP, Labour's Shadow Defence Secretary, responding to the Urgent Question on the National Security Capability Review in the House of Commons, said:

"It is completely unacceptable that the Defence Secretary cannot answer the most basic questions about the Government's defence review, which many fear is just a thinly veiled attempt to force more cuts on Britain's Armed Forces.

"Under this Government, we have seen a dramatic fall in the size of the Army and there is a gaping black hole of £20bn in the defence equipment plan.

"The simple fact is that you cannot do security on the cheap and the British public expects the Government to ensure that defence and the Armed Forces get the funding that they deserve."

Daily News 15 / 01 / 2018

Commission blocks Austrian regulator from introducing measures which would unduly favour the national broadcaster

The European Commission decided to block today a proposal by Austrian broadcasting regulator KommAustria, as it is not compatible with the EU telecoms rules and principles of competition law. Following two months of in-depth investigation the Commission required KommAustria to withdraw plans for continued regulation of the wholesale market for analogue terrestrial radio transmission in Austria. Such plans would place the national radio broadcaster (ORF) at an undue competitive advantage over other broadcasters. The Commission is particularly concerned regarding the lack of competitive developments on this market. KommAustria proposed to impose a practically unchanged set of regulatory obligations but excludes from the regulated market the supply of radio transmission services by Austrian Broadcasting Service (ORS) to its parent company ORF. ORF and its competitors depend on ORS' transmission network for the broadcasting of their content. As a result, ORF would receive a different and arguably better service than its direct competitors and, as the majority owner, can influence ORS' decisions concerning infrastructure developments (such as where to build radio transmission masts). According to the plans of KommAustria, ORF is also subject to different price conditions than competing radio broadcasters. Further details on the case are available [here](#). (For more information: Nathalie Vandystadt – Tel.: +32 229 67083; Inga Höglund – Tel.: +32 229 50698)

State aid: Commission approves Polish investment aid to SMEs in the shipbuilding sector; opens investigation into Polish tax incentive for shipyards

The European Commission has approved under EU State aid rules Polish support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the shipbuilding sector. This measure aims to support SMEs in the shipbuilding sector in the Polish Pomorskie and Zachodniopomorskie regions, with an overall budget of around PLN 77 million (around €18 million). The Commission found that the aid was limited to the minimum necessary and will encourage new investment to modernise a sector that has traditionally been very important for the local economy. It therefore concluded that the positive effects of the project on regional development clearly outweigh any distortion of competition brought about by the State aid. Separately, the Commission opened an in-depth investigation into a Polish tax scheme for shipyards. This measure gives shipyards operating in Poland an option to pay a 1% flat-rate tax on sales from the building and conversion of ships, instead of paying the generally applicable corporate or personal income tax. The Commission has concerns that the scheme would give some shipyards a selective advantage over competitors. The Commission does not question Poland's right to decide on its tax system. However, under the EU Treaty the Commission has to verify that the tax system respects EU State aid rules and does not selectively favour certain companies over others. The Commission will now investigate further to determine whether its initial concerns are confirmed. The opening of an in-depth investigation gives interested third parties the opportunity to submit comments. It does not prejudge the outcome of the investigation. The full press release is available online in [EN](#), [DE](#), [FR](#), [PL](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Yizhou Ren – Tel.: +32 229 94889)

Eurostat: Excédent de 26,3 milliards d'euros du commerce international de biens de la zone euro – Excédent de 8,0 mrds d'euros pour l'UE28 en Novembre 2017

D'après les premières estimations pour le mois de novembre 2017, les exportations de biens de la zone euro (ZE19) vers le reste du monde se sont établies à 197,5 milliards d'euros, en hausse de 7,7% par rapport à novembre 2016 (183,5 mrds). Les importations depuis le reste du monde ont quant à elles été de 171,2 mrds d'euros, en hausse de 7,3% par rapport à novembre 2016 (159,6 mrds). En conséquence, la zone euro a enregistré en novembre 2017 un excédent de 26,3 mrds d'euros de son commerce international de biens avec le reste du monde, contre +23,8 mrds en novembre 2016. Le commerce intra-zone euro s'est établi à 165,5 mrds d'euros en novembre 2017, soit +6,9% par rapport à novembre 2016. Le communiqué de presse Eurostat est à votre disposition [en ligne](#). (For more information: Daniel Rosario – Tel.: +32 229 56185; Kinga Malinowska – Tel.: +32 229 51383)

EU steps up support to address the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh

The European Union has adopted a new €5 million programme to support the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, aimed at supporting their identification and registration, facilitating the provision of humanitarian support, and ensuring the better protection of particularly vulnerable individuals. This is the latest in a significant number of EU-led actions in response to the crisis, notably the EU co-hosted [donors' conference](#) in Geneva in October; its initiative to establish the independent, international Fact-Finding Mission at the UN Human Rights Council; and several high-level visits to both Myanmar and Bangladesh of the High Representative/Vice-President, Federica **Mogherini** and the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Christos **Stylianides**. The EU's initiative is a demonstration of its commitment to support the creation of all necessary conditions for the eventual voluntary, safe and dignified return of Rohingya refugees who have fled Myanmar to Bangladesh, back to their place of origin. In this respect, the EU's initiative aims to support the implementation of the [bilateral repatriation agreement](#) between the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh, which was signed on 23 November 2017, and will build on ongoing identification and registration efforts. As High Representative/Vice-President **Mogherini** said during her [visit to the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar](#) on 19 November 2017, *"the European Union will continue to lead the work of the donor community because we believe that human dignity and peoples' lives must always be protected."* A full press release is available [online](#), as is a [factsheet](#) on the EU-Myanmar relations. For more information, visit the websites of the EU Delegations in [Bangladesh](#) and [Myanmar](#). (For more information: Maja Kocijančič – Tel.: +32 229 86570; Adam Kaznowski – Tel.: +32 229 89359)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

La Commissaire Bulc en visite au Luxembourg pour des réunions politiques et un dialogue citoyen

La Commissaire en charge des Transports Mme Violeta **Bulc** est aujourd'hui au Luxembourg pour une série de rencontres à haut-niveau ainsi qu'un dialogue citoyen. Ce matin, elle a rencontré M. François Bausch, Ministre du Développement durable et des Infrastructures du Grand-Duché du Luxembourg, avec qui elle a visité le terminal intermodal de Bettembourg-Dudelange ainsi que la gare de Pfaffenthal-Kirchberg. Cet après-midi, ils participeront ensemble à un [dialogue citoyen sur le futur de l'Europe](#). Celui-ci sera retransmis en direct [à cette adresse](#) à partir de 12.30. Plus tard dans l'après-midi, la Commissaire Bulc participera à une rencontre avec des parlementaires membres des commissions des Affaires étrangères et européennes, de l'Economie ainsi que du Développement durable de la Chambre des Députés. Cette rencontre sera diffusée [sur le site de la Chambre](#). Enfin, elle s'entretiendra avec M. Xavier Bettel, Premier Ministre du Grand-Duché. (Plus d'information: Enrico Brivio – Tel.: +32 229 56172; Alexis Perier – Tel.: +32 229 6 91 43)

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