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President Juncker at the EU-India Summit in New Delhi

On Friday 6 October, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude **Juncker**, and the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, will represent the European Union at the [14th EU-India Summit](#) in New Delhi. The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica **Mogherini** will also attend the Summit, which will be hosted by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. In a year when the European Union and India are celebrating 55 years of diplomatic relations, the Summit will provide an opportunity for leaders to review progress in many areas of the bilateral relationship and to discuss international and regional challenges. The [2016 Summit](#), held in Brussels, gave a new momentum to our Strategic Partnership through the adoption of a number of joint initiatives and declarations, including the [EU-India Agenda for Action 2020](#). Leaders are expected to take stock of the implementation of this far-reaching agenda. The European Union is India's largest trading partner and India the EU's 9th, with the total value [of EU-India trade](#) in goods standing at €77 billion in 2016 and trade in services worth €28.4 billion. Leaders will discuss trade and economic relations, and will review the state of play and next steps towards relaunching negotiations for a free trade agreement. As regards global challenges of mutual interest, leaders will discuss the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, effectively addressing migration and refugee challenges, as well as pressing issues such as the situation in the Korean Peninsula, Myanmar, eastern Ukraine, Afghanistan, and cooperation between the EU and India in the Indian Ocean and in Africa. A number of deliverables, including on investment facilitation, counter-terrorism, and research and innovation, are expected to be announced by the leaders at the Summit, who will hold a press point (available live on [EbS](#)) at 14:30 local time, 11:00 CET. After the Summit, also on 6 October, President **Juncker** will deliver the keynote address at an EU-India Business Forum, which will also be available live on [EbS](#).

With the European Union directly investing in and supporting the sustainable development of many Indian cities, including through loans of the European Investment Bank, President **Juncker** is expected to focus on the need for the European Union and India to take further steps to achieve their full economic potential. For more information on EU-India relations see the dedicated [factsheet](#) and the website of the [EU Delegation](#). (For more information: Margaritis Schinas – Tel.: +32 229 60524; Mina Andreeva – Tel.: +32 229 91382; Maja Kocijancic – Tel.: +32 229 86570; Adam Kaznowski – Tel.: +32 229 89359)

La Commission adopte une initiative visant à stimuler l'apprentissage en Europe

La Commission européenne adopte aujourd'hui une proposition de cadre européen pour un apprentissage efficace et de qualité. La recommandation recense 14 critères clés, que les États membres et les autres acteurs du domaine devraient utiliser pour améliorer la qualité et l'efficacité de

l'apprentissage. Cette initiative contribuera à accroître l'employabilité et le développement personnel des apprentis, pour que la main-d'œuvre soit hautement qualifiée et compétente, pour répondre aux besoins du marché du travail. M. Valdis **Dombrovskis**, vice-président pour l'euro et le dialogue social, a déclaré à ce propos: « *L'apprentissage est souvent le tremplin dont un jeune a besoin pour démarrer sa carrière. Aujourd'hui, nous présentons des propositions pour améliorer cette précieuse expérience, à l'avantage tant des employeurs que des apprentis.* » M. Jyrki **Katainen**, vice-président de la Commission européenne chargé de l'emploi, de la croissance, de l'investissement et de la compétitivité, a commenté l'initiative en ces termes: «*En nouant des liens directs entre la théorie et la pratique, entre l'école et le marché du travail, un apprentissage efficace et de qualité est un outil concret pour aider les jeunes à entrer dans la vie active solidement armés, tout en renforçant le capital humain en Europe.*» Mme Marianne **Thyssen**, commissaire pour l'emploi, les affaires sociales, les compétences et la mobilité des travailleurs s'est, elle, exprimée en ces termes: «*Nous voulons faire en sorte que les jeunes acquièrent les compétences dont ils ont besoin pour travailler. Deux apprentis sur trois trouvent directement un emploi après la fin de leurs études. Grâce à ce nouveau cadre, nous décrivons ce qui rend l'apprentissage hautement efficace. Une fois adopté, ce cadre permettra d'assurer que tous, apprentis comme employeurs, tirent parti d'un apprentissage de qualité.*» Cette initiative, qui prend la forme d'une recommandation du Conseil, s'inscrit dans le cadre de la [nouvelle stratégie en matière de compétences pour l'Europe](#) lancée en juin 2016. Elle est également étroitement liée au [socle européen des droits sociaux](#), qui prévoit un droit à une éducation, une formation et un apprentissage tout au long de la vie inclusifs et de qualité. Un [communiqué de presse](#) et une [foire aux questions](#) sont disponibles en ligne. (Pour plus d'information: Christian Wigand- Tel.: Mélanie Voin – Tel.: +32 229 58659)

La politique de Cohésion investit dans un réseau de transport moderne dans le Sud de l'Italie

Plus de 314 millions d'euros du Fonds européen de développement régional ([FEDER](#)) sont investis dans quatre projets de transport dans les régions italiennes de la Calabre, de la Campanie et de la Sicile, pour mieux relier le Sud de l'Italie au Nord et à ses voisins européens. «*Ces projets financés par l'UE réduiront les temps de trajets mais accéléreront la croissance du Mezzogiorno; j'ai donc été ravie de leur donner le feu vert,*» a déclaré la Commissaire à la politique régionale Corina **Crețu**. Dans la Calabre, 106,5 millions d'euros vont financer la construction d'une nouvelle ligne de chemin de fer entre la ville de Catanzaro et Germaneto, qui abrite un campus universitaire et un nouvel hôpital. La ligne entre la gare principale de Catanzaro (Cantazaro Sala) et la station balnéaire de Catanzaro Lido va également être rénovée. Les travaux devraient être terminés en mars 2020. Ailleurs en Calabre, 106 millions d'euros contribueront à construire une ligne de tramway dans l'agglomération de Cosenza. La ligne, qui fera 21 km, reliera le centre de Cosenza au campus de l'Université de Calabre, en passant par la ville de Rende. Les travaux devraient s'achever en mai 2020. En

Sicile, 56,5 millions d'euros vont rénover la connexion ferroviaire entre la gare de Catania-Bicocca et Augusta, sur la ligne Syracuse-Messine qui longe la côte Est de l'île et la relie au continent. Le projet, qui devrait être achevé en juin 2021, comprend des travaux dans les stations, la reconstruction d'un tunnel et de nouveaux rails. Enfin, en Campanie, 45,4 millions d'euros vont financer une nouvelle route qui reliera le port de Salerne à l'autoroute A3, qui fait partie de l'axe de transport stratégique qui court de Palerme à Berlin. Le projet, qui devrait être achevé en juin 2019, contribuera à alléger le trafic dans la ville, à faciliter le transport de marchandises depuis et vers le port et donc à dynamiser l'économie de toute la région. *(Pour plus d'informations: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Sophie Dupin de Saint-Cyr – Tel.: +32 229 56169)*

Commission reports on employment and social situation in the EU: record high employment rates and signs of improvement for the youth

The EU remains on a firm path towards more employment and growth according to the latest [Quarterly Review](#) on Employment and Social Developments in Europe. Employment in the EU continues to grow at a consistent pace and in almost all Member States. Employment increased by 1.5 % in the EU and 1.6% in the euro area in the second quarter of 2017 compared to the same period in 2016. There are 3.5 million and 2.4 million more people employed in the EU and euro area compared to last year. This means that 235.4 million people are now employed in the EU. This is the highest level ever recorded. The EU employment increase over the past four years has particularly benefited the younger generation. While youth unemployment is still too high in the EU, the rate decreased steadily and faster than overall unemployment: it now stands at 16.9 %, reaching a level lower than in 2008. Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne **Thyssen**, commented: *"Today's results are encouraging. More people than ever before in Europe have a job and unemployment has reached a nine-year low. And we see 2.2 million more employees with permanent contracts compared to last year. We need to continue on this path and improve the economic and social conditions for all. With the European Pillar of Social Rights, we have our roadmap towards well-functioning and fair labour markets that are fit for purpose in the 21st century. We would like to see it proclaimed together by Parliament, Council and Commission at the Social Summit in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017."* The Quarterly Review also shows that the EU's economy continues its expansion in all Member States with a growth of 2.4 % in the EU and 2.3 % in the euro area over the last year. This also translated in an improvement of EU households' financial situation with greater income from work, while the increase in social benefits came to a halt. A full press release is available [here](#). *(For more information: Christian Wigand – Tel.: +32 229 62253; Mélanie Voin – Tel.: +32 229 58659)*

La Commission européenne publie ses dernières prévisions pour les marchés agricoles

La production céréalière de l'Union européenne devrait augmenter dans l'année à venir, bien que les niveaux risquent de rester sous la moyenne. Il s'agit

là d'une des conclusions du dernier rapport sur les perspectives à court terme des marchés agricoles réalisé par la Commission européenne et publié aujourd'hui, jeudi 5 octobre. L'étude couvre aussi d'autres cultures, telles que le sucre où une hausse de la production mondiale est attendue durant l'année. La [fin des quotas sucriers](#), devenue effective le 30 septembre 2017, expose plus les prix européens à la volatilité des prix sur les marchés mondiaux, mais devrait entraîner une hausse significative de la production de betteraves à sucre. En ce qui concerne les secteurs de la viande et du lait, la demande européenne et mondiale pour les produits laitiers devrait rester forte, avec un prix stable pour le lait. En parallèle, le secteur de la viande dans l'UE devrait bénéficier d'exportations importantes de bœuf et de mouton. Enfin, nous attendons une amélioration dans la production de volailles et leur commerce durant l'année. Le rapport complet avec des analyses détaillées sur les différents marchés est disponible [en ligne](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Daniel Rosario – Tel.: + 32 229 56185; Clémence Robin – Tel.: +32 229 52509)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of PharMerica by KKR and Walgreens Boots Alliance

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of PharMerica Corporation by KKR & Co. L.P. and Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. ("WBA"), all three of the US. PharMerica provides long term care pharmacy, infusion therapy, and specialty pharmacy services in the US. KKR is a global investment firm. WBA operates retail pharmacies across the US and Europe, as well as across a global pharmaceutical wholesale and distribution network. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, because PharMerica has no actual or planned activities in the European Economic Area. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.8620](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Ursa by Xella

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of Ursa of Spain by Xella of Luxembourg. Ursa produces insulation materials. Xella is a diversified building materials company and is owned by the private equity company Lone Star. The Commission concluded that the acquisition would raise no competition concerns because of the limited overlaps between the activities of the companies. The operation was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information will be available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the [public case register](#) under the case number [M.8604](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

European guidelines for telecom market regulation: results of public

consultation

The Commission published today the [results](#) of the public consultation to revise the European guidelines helping national telecoms regulators decide when to intervene in telecoms markets. This is an important step to update the guidelines as soon as possible, since the previous guidelines were adopted in 2002 and do not reflect anymore the recent European case laws. The consultation collected responses from the National Regulatory Authorities, service providers and other stakeholders on the review of the Significant Market Power Guidelines: 54 stakeholders from 22 Member States provided input, in particular on market definition as well as single and joint significant market power. The Commission will present the draft guidelines to the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) this year. Once BEREC will give its [comments](#) on the draft, the Commission will finalise and adopt the guidelines in the first half of 2018. The updated guidelines anticipate also the implementation of the new European Electronic Communications Code, as the proposed provisions for the market analysis take into account the current situation on the national markets. The [European Electronic Communications Code](#) together with the guidance are key elements for building strong digital infrastructure for the Digital Single Market. Results of the public consultation are available [here](#). More details on the Digital Single Market state of play are available in an [overview factsheet](#) and a [timeline of the Commission's digital proposals](#). (For more information: Nathalie Vandystadt – Tel.: +32 460 76 70 83; Inga Höglund – Tel.: +32 229 50698)

STATEMENTS

Joint statement by Commissioners Oettinger and Jourová on the European Parliament's consent to establishing the European Public Prosecutor's Office

Commissioner Günther H. **Oettinger** in charge of Budget and Human Resources and Commissioner Vera **Jourová** in charge of Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, welcome European Parliament's consent to establishing the European Public Prosecutor's Office. They declared: *"We welcome today's vote of the European Parliament, giving its green light to the creation of a European Public Prosecutor's Office. A vast majority of Members of the European Parliament decided to endorse this historic step. An EU public prosecutor will help to better protect EU tax payer's money. Existing EU bodies such as the EU Anti-Fraud office, OLAF, cannot prosecute in the Member States but have to hand over their files to national bodies. This can make it more difficult to pursue cross border cases and to bring cases to a timely conclusion. The new EU public prosecutor will do exactly that – make sure that criminals are brought to justice and that misspent money is recovered much more quickly. (...) As President Juncker said in his State of the Union speech, the new European Public Prosecutor can be a powerful tool to protect citizens even beyond its current competence for crimes against the EU budget. The European Public Prosecutor's Office could also be tasked also with prosecuting cross-border terrorist crimes. Next year, the Commission will lay out the next steps on a future extension of the tasks of the new European Public Prosecutor's Office. For now our immediate priority is to establish an independent, strong and effective European Public Prosecutor to fight crimes*

against the EU budget, and to get it up and running as soon as possible. Today's consent paves the way for the Council to adopt the Regulation next week."The full statement is available [online](#). (For more information: Christian Wigand – Tel.: +32 229 62253; Alexander Winterstein – Tel.: +32 229 93265; Mélanie Voin – Tel.: +32 229 58659; Andreana Stankova – Tel.: +32 229 57857)

Joint statement by Commissioners Navracsics and Moedas on the EU's approach to maximise the impact of science

A study by the Commission's [Joint Research Centre](#) (JRC) published in [Nature](#) today confirms that EU researchers perform considerably well thanks to the scientific openness of European countries. The article shows a significant correlation between the degree to which a state cooperates with other countries in the field of research and the quality and success of its research. On the occasion of the publication Tibor **Navracsics**, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, responsible for the Joint Research Centre, and Carlos **Moedas**, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: "In research and innovation, cooperation across disciplines and countries is a must. That is one of the many areas where the EU has a clear added value as Member States perform exceptionally well thanks to the enhanced collaboration within the Union and with third countries. It unquestionably helps our researchers produce world changing science and our public and private sectors to improve people's lives. In fact the EU-28 has maintained its share of the world's top 10% most highly cited scientific publications, in the face of strong competition from China and elsewhere. Across five different locations in the EU 2000 researchers from the Commission's Joint Research Centre support European policy makers with the best available science. We are particularly proud of the role played by the Commission's research and innovation programmes [Horizon 2020](#), and the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#), which has enabled more than 100,000 research fellows to work abroad since its launch 20 years ago. As two very recent examples, EU funded scientists have participated in the ground-breaking research that led to this year's Nobel Prizes in Physics for the discovery of gravitational waves and in Chemistry for the development of cryo-electron microscopy. We warmly congratulate the researchers on their achievement." More information on the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions is available in this [factsheet](#). (For more information: Nathalie Vandystadt – Tel.: +32 229 67083; Lucía Caudet – Tel.: +32 229 56182; Maud Noyon – Tel.: +32 229 80379; Julia-Henriette Bräuer – Tel.: +32 229 80707)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EU leads the way with ambitious action for cleaner and safer seas

The international [Our Ocean Conference](#), co-hosted by High Representative/Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** and Karmenu **Vella**, Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, is currently taking place in Malta, on 5 and 6 October. This morning, High Representative **Mogherini** on behalf of the European Union, announced an ambitious package of 36 EU-initiatives to foster healthier, cleaner, safer and more secure seas. In her [opening speech](#), High Representative **Mogherini** said: "The sea is a global

common. It is Our Ocean because it belongs to humanity, to each and every human being. We all have a responsibility to preserve what's common – to preserve it as a treasure and avoid that it turns into a threat.” She added: “The European Union believes that a globalised world needs a more cooperative global governance. We believe in the power of diplomacy, we invest in it, we believe and invest in the power of common rules and international institutions. And it is difficult, actually impossible, to imagine a global governance without a cooperative oceans’ governance.” Amounting to over €550 million and launching complementary activities worldwide, the announcement underscores the EU’s determination to improve the situation of the seas. At the same time, as hosts, the EU seeks from the outset of the conference to set an example and send a strong message of encouragement to the rest of the world to step up and take action in the face of growing ocean challenges such as plastic pollution, protection of marine life, impact of climate change and criminal activities at sea. Over the coming days, the international community – governments and private sector alike – will come together to deliver on this objective. Detailed information on the 36 EU commitments can be found [here](#). A live stream of the Our Ocean Conference and the press conference (at 12:00 CET) are available [here](#). High Representative **Mogherini’s speech** and Commissioner **Vella’s speech** are available online. *(For more information: Enrico Brivio – Tel.: + 32 229 56172; Iris Petsa – Tel.: +32 229 93321)*

Commissioner Thyssen visits Luxembourg and participates in a Citizens’ Dialogue

Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility Marianne **Thyssen** will travel to Luxembourg tomorrow and deliver a keynote speech on the Commission’s priorities in the employment and social field to the Luxembourgish Members of Parliament, followed by an exchange of views. The Commissioner will participate also in a Citizens’ Dialogue in Luxembourg. The exchange of views with citizens will focus on the Commission’s social agenda, including on [posting of workers](#), [social security coordination](#) and the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#). The Commissioner will also discuss these key topics with representatives of the social partners. *(For more information: Christian Wigand – Tel.: +32 229 62253; Mélanie Voin – Tel.: +32 229 58659)*

[Upcoming events](#) of the European Commission (ex-Top News)