

Daily News 08 / 02 / 2019

Juncker Plan now set to trigger around €380 billion in investments across Europe

The Juncker Plan is now expected to trigger around €380 billion in investments across Europe. Following this week's meeting of the European Investment Bank's (EIB) Board of Directors, operations approved under the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), the heart of the Juncker Plan, represent a total financing volume of €71.4 billion. The EIB has now approved €53.6 billion in financing for projects under the EFSI's Infrastructure and Innovation Window. €17.8 billion in EFSI financing has been approved by the European Investment Fund (EIF) to support around 842,000 small and medium-sized businesses across Europe gain access to finance they need to innovate, expand and create new jobs. Today, the Juncker Plan is providing its backing to a €30 million investment by the European Investment Fund (EIF) in the INVL Baltic Sea Growth Fund. The investment will help to boost equity investments in small and medium-sized businesses with high growth potential operating in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Commenting on the transaction, Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, also in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union said: *"The INVL Baltic Sea Growth Fund will help Baltic businesses expand beyond their regional market, create value and ultimately, jobs. I congratulate the three Baltic States on being in the top ten of countries benefiting the most from the Juncker Plan, with almost €4 billion of EFSI-induced additional investments in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania."* The updated Juncker Plan figures are available [here](#). More information on the today's transaction is available [here](#). (For more information: Annika Breidthardt – Tel.: +32 229 56153; Enda McNamara – Tel.: +32 229 64976)

€12 million loan goes from the EU to Estonian fuel cell company

Today in Tallinn, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed a €12 million loan with the Estonian company [Elcogen](#). This is the first loan in the Baltic countries under the [InnovFin programme](#). InnovFin is an EU-finance scheme for innovative companies, backed by the EU's research and innovation programme Horizon 2020. The financing will enable Elcogen to bring its highly efficient fuel cell technology to the market. Carlos **Moedas**, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: *"This deal with Elcogen is a good example that the future of innovation is science-based. We are now making headway in the transition to a resource-efficient and climate-resilient future and we need to bring more ideas like these to market with the help of EU funding."* Fuel cells are a new generation of clean energy technology, which produce clean electricity more efficiently and safely. Fuel cells can produce "green" hydrogen, which will play an important role in the future of energy storage. Fuel cell technology is therefore at the heart of a European and global energy strategy aimed to reduce the use of fossil fuels and limit CO2 emissions by 40% in 2030. A fully integrated Energy Union with

a forward-looking climate change policy, guaranteeing security of supply of affordable and sustainable energy for all Europeans is one of the top priorities of the Juncker Commission. [Negotiations on the Clean energy for All Europeans package concluded last year](#), they are an essential element of completing the Energy Union. The loan agreed today will enable the company to invest in the research and development of fuel cells, to increase production volumes and to start its mass-manufacturing processes. This provides Elcogen with the opportunity to bring competitive fuel cell-based electricity and hydrogen solutions to the mass market and meet the growing demand from customers, including leading industrial companies in both Europe and Asia. At completion, the Elcogen plans to manufacture approximately 2 million cells per year, accounting for an electrical capacity of 50MW. More information is available [online](#). (For more information: Lucia Caudet – Tel.: + 32 229 56182; Victoria von Hammerstein – Tel.: +32 229 55040)

Médicaments falsifiés: une nouvelle réglementation pour une meilleure sécurité des patients

La falsification des médicaments constitue une menace sérieuse pour la santé publique dans l'Union européenne depuis trop longtemps. À partir de demain, une nouvelle réglementation s'appliquera aux dispositifs de sécurité pour les médicaments soumis à prescription vendus dans l'UE. Désormais, le fabricant devra apposer un code-barres en deux dimensions et un dispositif anti-effraction sur l'emballage des médicaments soumis à prescription. Les pharmacies, y compris les pharmacies en ligne, et les hôpitaux devront vérifier l'authenticité des médicaments avant de dispenser ceux-ci aux patients. La mise en œuvre de la [directive sur les médicaments falsifiés](#), adoptée en 2011, qui a pour objet de garantir la sécurité et la qualité des médicaments vendus dans l'UE, est ainsi parachevée. *«Le 9 février 2019, un nouveau jalon sera franchi en faveur de la sécurité des patients dans l'ensemble de l'UE. Près de sept ans après son adoption, la directive sur les médicaments falsifiés sera complètement mise en œuvre grâce à l'instauration de la vérification de bout en bout et de l'apposition de dispositifs de sécurité sur les médicaments soumis à prescription. En d'autres termes, chaque pharmacie ou hôpital de l'UE devra disposer d'un système qui rendra la détection des médicaments falsifiés plus facile et plus efficace. Si certains travaux supplémentaires devront encore être réalisés après le lancement de ce nouveau système pour garantir son bon fonctionnement dans l'ensemble de l'UE, j'ose affirmer que nous apportons un nouveau filet de sécurité aux citoyens afin de les protéger contre les dangers de médicaments non autorisés, inefficaces ou dangereux»*, a déclaré M. **Andriukaitis**, le commissaire en charge de la santé et la sécurité alimentaire. Le [communiqué de presse](#) et [MEMO](#) sont à votre disposition en ligne. (Pour plus d'informations: Anca Paduraru – Tél.: +32 229 91269; Aikaterini Apostola – Tél.: +32 229 87624)

Single Market: Commission welcomes agreement on its proposal to strengthen controls of products

The Commission welcomes the provisional agreement on the [Regulation on Market Surveillance and Compliance](#) reached yesterday by the European Parliament and

Council. This Regulation will strengthen controls by national authorities and customs officers to improve checks on products on the EU market and remove unsafe and illegal products. Commissioner Elżbieta **Bieńkowska**, responsible for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs said: *“Whether it is toys, electronics, cars or breast implants – faulty products have no place in the EU. The Single Market is built on trust. With these new EU rules we are protecting consumers and honest businesses against rogue traders that try to sell unsafe products in Europe.”* Actions against unsafe or illegal products can only be effective when authorities work together and share information. The new Regulation will therefore intensify sharing of information about illegal products and ongoing investigations so that authorities can take effective and rapid action against illegal products. It will also help national authorities to improve checks on products entering the EU market and strengthen controls at the external borders. The Regulation is part of a package of measures on safe products in the Single Market proposed by the Commission in [December 2017](#), and follows the November 2018 Communication [“The Single Market: Europe’s best asset in a changing world”](#) which called on Member States to renew their political commitment to the Single Market. Once formally approved by the European Parliament and Council, the Regulation will start to apply in 2021. (For more information: Lucia Caudet – Tel.: + 32 229 56182; Mirna Talko – Tel.: +32 229 87278; Victoria von Hammerstein – Tel.: +32 229 55040)

Brexit preparedness: provisional agreement on realigning the North Sea–Mediterranean Corridor and investing in the adaptation of transport infrastructure for security and border checks

The European Parliament and the Council yesterday reached a provisional agreement on the European Commission’s proposal to adjust alignment of the [North Sea – Mediterranean Corridor](#) – one of the nine core corridors of the [Trans-European Transport \(TEN-T\) Network](#). On the one hand, the Regulation adds to the core network new maritime links between the Irish core ports of Dublin, Cork and Shannon Foynes and core network ports in France (Le Havre, Calais, Dunkirk), Belgium (Zeebrugge, Antwerp, Gent) and the Netherlands (Terneuzen, Rotterdam, Amsterdam), taking into account the withdrawal of the United Kingdom. On the other hand, the Regulation adds a new funding priority to the [Connecting Europe Facility \(CEF\)](#): adapting transport infrastructure for security and external border check purposes. This priority will be taken into account by the Commission when proposing the next CEF work programme. The Commission will carry out an assessment of the consequences of Brexit on transport connections and traffic flows. These measures will only apply in case the United Kingdom withdraws from the EU without an agreement. (For more information: Enrico Brivio – Tel.: +32 229 56172; Stephan Meder – Tel.: +32 229 13917)

Maritime transport: Commission welcomes provisional agreement on the European Maritime Single Window environment

The Commission welcomes yesterday’s provisional agreement by the co-legislators on its [proposal to establish a European Maritime Single Window](#)

[environment](#), which replaces and improves the current Reporting Formalities Directive. The new, fully harmonised reporting environment for ships will significantly reduce the administrative burden on the maritime sector, improving its competitiveness. The Regulation will improve interoperability between economic operators and authorities, facilitating the exchange of data and avoiding duplications and requesting the same information twice. The provisional agreement will have to be formally approved by the European Parliament and the Council, before it can enter into force. *(For more information: Enrico Brivio – Tel.: +32 229 56172; Stephan Meder – Tel.: +32 229 13917)*

Roads to peace: EU supports reconnecting Eritrea and Ethiopia

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven **Mimica** is visiting Eritrea today, where he launches an initial €20 million project to rebuild the road connection between the Ethiopian border and Eritrean ports. During his visit, Commissioner **Mimica** meets with the President of Eritrea Isaias Afwerki to discuss the situation in the region and explore ways for the EU and Eritrea to step up political relations and dialogue on matters of concern to both sides. On this occasion, Commissioner **Mimica** said: *“The European Union is committed to support Eritrea and Ethiopia in delivering their historic peace agreement, which ended twenty years of conflict. To back this, we are launching a €20 million programme to rebuild the roads connecting both countries. This will boost trade, consolidate stability, and have clear benefits for the citizens of both countries through the creation of sustainable growth and jobs.”* The new project will be financed through the [EU Trust Fund for Africa](#) and through the United Nations’ Office for Project Services (UNOPS). It will rehabilitate road connections between the Ethiopian border and Eritrean ports to boost trade and create jobs. This is the first phase of a broader support to Eritrea, which is planned to scale up later this year. Read the full press release [here](#). *(For more information: Carlos Martin Ruiz De Gordejuela – Tel.: +32 229 65322; Christina Wunder – Tel.: +32 229 92256)*

Commissioner Gabriel in Berlin to participate in the Berlinale International Film Festival supported by €1.7 million in EU funds

This year’s [Berlinale film festival](#) and its parallel competitions, Panorama, Generation and Berlinale Special, will feature 24 films co-financed by MEDIA, the EU’s support programme for the European audiovisual industry, with more than €1.7 million. The five MEDIA-supported films competing this year to win the Golden Bear are [Gospod postoi, imeto i’ e Petrunija \(God exists, her name is Petrunija\)](#) by Teona Strugar Mitevska (Macedonia/Belgium/Slovenia/Croatia/France); [Elisa y Marcela](#) by Isabel Coixet (Spain); [Gareth Jones \(Mr. Jones\)](#) by Agnieszka Holland (Poland/United Kingdom/Ukraine); [Ut og stjåle hester \(Out Stealing Horses\)](#) by Hans Petter Moland (Norway/ Sweden/Denmark) and [The kindness of strangers](#) by Lone Scherfig (Denmark / Canada/Sweden/France/Germany). A new edition of

the [European Film Forum](#) will take place at the same time, focusing on subtitling and dubbing as essential components for the circulation of European works. Ahead of her opening speech [on Monday 11 February](#), Mariya **Gabriel**, the Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society, said: *“I am very proud that Media-supported movies are again very well represented in the Berlinale International Film Festival. The programme MEDIA has consistently supported cultural and linguistic diversity and has helped develop a ‘European film’ genre that never existed before. It has also contributed to accomplish our policy objectives towards a Digital Single Market. MEDIA is a jewel and we will continue to ensure the programme is fit for the challenges we face ahead”*. The Commissioner will also organise a roundtable on gender in the future MEDIA programme, where she will discuss with key stakeholders the necessary actions to improve gender balance in the European films production sector. In the margins of the festival, and on the initiative of the German Safer Internet Centre, the Commissioner will visit a German school with the award-winning filmmaker Wim Wenders, to discuss online safety issues with the pupils. More information is available online [here](#). (For more information: Nathalie Vandystadt – Tel.: +32 229 67083; Joseph Waldstein – Tel.: +32 229 56184)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini to visit Horn of Africa

High Representative/Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** is travelling tomorrow on a landmark visit to countries in the Horn of Africa region from 9 to 13 February. Federica **Mogherini** will begin her visit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where the African Union Summit is taking place and she will meet several Heads of State or Government in the margins. In Ethiopia she is due to meet President Shale Work Zwede and Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed, among other members of the Government, to discuss further strengthening the EU-Ethiopia partnership. The High Representative/Vice-President will also visit EU funded projects supporting the International Organisation for Migration together with Director General Antonio Vitorino. Continuing her visit in the Horn of Africa, Federica **Mogherini** will visit Kenya, where she is due to meet President Kenyatta and members of the Kenyan Government. In Kenya, she will also launch the cross border programme, meet with representatives from the UN Habitat and UNEP, youth and civil society groups as well as inaugurating the new EU Delegation offices in Nairobi. She will conclude her visit by travelling to Djibouti to meet President Ismail Omar Guelleh and other members of the Government, as well as visiting Member States’ military bases operating the [EU’s ATALANTA maritime security mission](#). Press points during the mission will be made available on [EbS](#). The EU is working actively to strengthen its partnership with the region which shares many common interests with the European Union, from tackling climate change to boosting investment, to better managing migration and creating opportunities for youth. The EU is a key partner for the region in many areas, in particular security with the three Common Security and Defence Policy missions: [EUNAVFOR Atalanta](#), [EUTM Somalia](#) and [EUCAP Somalia](#). The EU is also a key supporter of Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the regional body in the Horn of Africa. (For more information: Maja Kocijancic – Tel.: +32 229 86570; Daniel

Puglisi – Tel.: +32 229 69140)

Commissioner Crețu visits Cohesion projects in Italy and opens tram line in Florence

Today and Monday, Commissioner for Regional Policy Corina **Crețu** will be in Florence and surroundings to visit Cohesion projects in Italy. This Friday the Commissioner meets Enrico Rossi, President of Tuscany region, for an exchange on the benefits of EU-funded programmes. She will visit projects in Lucca and surroundings, amongst them the enterprise Futura, which received EU support to upgrade its paper manufacturing technologies. Next Monday, Commissioner **Crețu** and the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella, will inaugurate Florence's second tram line "T2 Vespucci" which is going to connect the central station and the airport, supported by the European Regional Development Fund with €26 million. This considerably improves the public transport network for the benefits of citizens and visitors. *(For more information: Christian Spahr – Tel.: +32 2 295 00 55; Sophie Dupin de Saint-Cyr – Tel.: +32 229 56169)*

[CALENDAR](#) – Commissioner's weekly activities

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