

Daily News 09 / 10 / 2017

Avenir des finances de l'UE: le nouveau rapport Cohésion alimente la discussion sur les fonds européens après 2020

Aujourd'hui, la Commission publie le [7e rapport Cohésion](#), qui prend le pouls des régions européennes et donne le ton pour la future politique de Cohésion. En regardant notre Union à la loupe, l'on constate que, si l'économie européenne va mieux, des disparités persistent entre et dans nos États membres. Nos régions doivent surmonter de sérieuses difficultés: un taux de chômage qui reste élevé, notamment chez les jeunes, l'exode rural dans nos campagnes, une pression accrue dans nos villes et un niveau d'investissement public qui reste bas, trop bas pour relever les défis identifiés dans le [document de réflexion](#) sur l'avenir des finances de l'UE; la révolution numérique, la mondialisation, les changements démographiques et la cohésion sociale, la convergence économique et le changement climatique. Le rapport n'anticipe pas la proposition finale de la Commission, mais il contribue à la discussion, en suggérant une politique à l'échelle de l'UE servant trois objectifs principaux: maîtriser la mondialisation, ne laisser personne sur la touche et soutenir les réformes structurelles. La Commissaire à la politique régionale Corina **Crețu** et le Président du Comité des Régions Karl-Heinz Lambertz ont présenté le rapport Cohésion ce matin; retrouvez leurs interventions sur [EbS](#). Plus d'informations sont disponibles dans [ce communiqué de presse](#), ce [mémo](#), cette [fiche](#) sur le rapport Cohésion et cette [fiche](#) sur les investissements de la politique de Cohésion. *(Pour plus d'informations: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Sophie Dupin de Saint-Cyr – Tel.: +32 229 56169)*

Preparation of the Eurogroup and ECOFIN meetings, 9-10 October 2017

Vice-President **Dombrovskis** and Commissioner **Moscovici** will represent the European Commission at today's Eurogroup and tomorrow's ECOFIN meetings. The Eurogroup agenda includes an exchange of views on the role of the [European Stability Mechanism](#) (ESM) in the context of the ongoing broader debate on the [future of the Economic and Monetary Union](#). The Commission, the European Central Bank and the European Stability Mechanism will inform ministers of the main findings of the sixth post-programme surveillance mission to Portugal. Ministers will take stock of recent exchange rate developments ahead of the annual meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund. There will also be a discussion on how best to finance labour tax cuts to boost jobs and growth. Commissioner **Moscovici** will participate in the press conference following the meeting. At tomorrow's ECOFIN, ministers will discuss the issue of taxation of the digital economy following the [Commission's Communication](#) on the subject in September. The Commission will present its latest proposals for [far-reaching reform of the EU VAT system](#). The Council is also expected to formally adopt the [Commission's proposal to improve dispute resolution](#) on taxation issues for businesses and citizens in the EU. Vice-President **Dombrovskis** will participate in the press conference following the ECOFIN. *(For more information: Annika Breidhardt – Tel.: +32 229 56153; Vanessa Mock – Tel.: +32 229 56194; Patrick McCullough*

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EU announces additional emergency aid to help refugees in Serbia

The European Commission has announced an additional €4 million in humanitarian aid for Serbia to assist the thousands of refugees and asylum-seekers in the country. Some €80 million has now been provided to the country in EU migration related funding since 2015. The new contracts come as Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos **Stylianides** is currently on his fourth visit to the country where he is assessing the humanitarian situation on the ground and discussing the EU's humanitarian support for refugees with government officials, including Serbian President Mr Aleksandar Vučić and Prime Minister Ms Ana Brnabić. *"Serbia has been a reliable partner to the European Union, and our partnership has allowed an effective response to the refugee crisis. The EU has been a leading provider of humanitarian aid to the hosting of refugees in Serbia since 2015. We have helped improve conditions in many reception centres, contributed to food provision in camps, provided education in emergencies to children and helped providing health services. The additional projects announced today will address the needs of the most vulnerable population especially during the upcoming winter season"*, said Commissioner **Stylianides**. The new projects finance food distribution in reception centres, the protection of the most vulnerable affected populations in particular during the upcoming winter and education-related activities. Since 2015, the EU has been the largest contributor of emergency aid to Serbia. The Commission's humanitarian aid now stands at €25 million, and has enabled the provision of emergency assistance (food, water, hygiene, essential items, health and protection) at transit and reception points, including borders and waiting areas. Read the full press release [here](#). (For more information: Carlos Martin Ruiz de Gordejuela – Tel.: +32 229 65322; Daniel Puglisi – Tel.: +32 229 69140)

Plan d'investissement pour l'Europe: feu vert pour 4 projets en France, un financement de 100 millions d'euros

Le plan d'investissement pour l'Europe – le «Plan Juncker» – s'est fait remarquer la semaine dernière en France avec [quatre projets](#) ayant reçu le feu vert pour un financement global de 100 millions d'euros. Les projets concernent des secteurs très divers, des sources d'énergie renouvelables à la cybersécurité. Chaque projet a bénéficié d'un financement de la Banque européenne d'investissement (BEI) et est couvert par la garantie du Fonds européen pour les investissements stratégiques (FEIS), qui constitue le pilier du Plan Juncker. Pierre **Moscovici**, commissaire pour les affaires économiques et financières, la fiscalité et les douanes a dit ceci: *«La semaine dernière, le Plan Juncker a financé quatre projets hautement innovants en France pour un total de 100 millions d'euros. Des voitures à faibles émissions aux nouveaux systèmes de cybersécurité, de plus en plus de citoyens et d'entreprises en France ressentent de façon tangible l'impact positif du Plan Juncker. Chacun de ces projets est à haut risque, c'est pourquoi un soutien du Fonds européen pour les investissements stratégiques et de la Banque européenne d'investissement est si important pour les aider à démarrer.»* (Pour plus d'information sur les projets et les résultats du Plan Juncker, voir le site web ou contacter Vanessa Mock – Tél.: +32 229 56194;

Siobhán Millbright – Tél.: +32 229 57361)

Commission received submission of 4th successful European Citizens' Initiative [originally published on Friday 6/10]

The European Commission officially received on Friday 6 October the submission of the 4th successful European Citizens' Initiative. By supporting the ['Stop Glyphosate'](#) European Citizens' Initiative, over 1 million citizens from at least 7 Member States have called on the European Commission "to propose to Member States a ban on glyphosate, to reform the pesticide approval procedure, and to set EU-wide mandatory reduction targets for pesticide use". A total of 1,070,865 statements of support have been received from 22 Member States so far, and have been checked and validated by national authorities. The European Commission will now invite the organisers within the next 3 months to present their ideas in more depth. A public hearing will be arranged in the European Parliament to allow all stakeholders to present their views, and then the Commission will decide whether to act by proposing legislation, act in some other way to achieve the goals of the Initiative, or not act at all; all three options are possible under Article 11(4) of the Treaty of the European Union. After having listened to stakeholders, the Commission will present a Communication explaining its reasoning. The [European Citizens' Initiative](#) is a valuable tool in the hands of citizens and allows them to contribute to shaping EU law and policy. The Commission recently presented a [proposal](#) to modify the Citizens' Initiative Regulation, to make the tool even more accessible to citizens and to encourage its wider use. (For more information: Natasha Bertaud – Tel.: +32 229 67456; Tim McPhie – +32 229 58602)

EU approves €200 million disbursement in Macro-Financial Assistance to Tunisia

The European Commission, on behalf of the EU, has today approved the disbursement of a €200 million loan to Tunisia. This disbursement marks the launch of the second [Macro-Financial Assistance](#) (MFA-II) programme to [Tunisia](#). A total of €500 million will be disbursed in three instalments in 2017 and 2018. The second Macro-Financial Assistance programme was proposed following the terrorist attacks of 2015, which contributed to halting Tunisia's economic recovery. This had a significant impact on the country's balance of payments position and financing needs. The programme was agreed by the Council and the European Parliament on 6 July 2016. **Pierre Moscovici, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs**, said: "Today's disbursement to Tunisia is proof of our strong commitment to support the successful economic recovery of one of our closest neighbours. With a renewed sense of urgency, Tunisia has reaffirmed its dedication to an effective partnership. The EU stands firmly with Tunisia in achieving prosperity for all of its people." A full press release is available [here](#). (For more information: Annika Breidthardt – Tel.: +32 229 56153; Enda McNamara – Tel.: +32 229 64976)

Making young voices heard ahead of the African Union-European Union Summit

In the run up to the AU-EU Summit in November in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 120

young representatives from Africa and Europe will participate in the 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit on 9-11 October. These young representatives have been selected out of more than 7500 applicants, to discuss a variety of relevant issues, including: education, peace & security, climate & environment, business & job creation, political inclusion and culture. They will also develop a declaration with concrete recommendations to the Heads of State and Government, who will then gather in November for the AU-EU Summit under the overarching theme "Investing in Youth". This preceding Youth Summit aims to ensure a meaningful and strengthened inclusion of young people in the run up to and at the Summit. A follow-up group of 36 youth selected for the [AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative](#) will continue the work until the AU-EU Summit in November. High Representative/Vice President Federica **Mogherini** said: *"We have a responsibility to listen to young people, but also to create new pathways for them to get involved. Because we cannot find the right answers to young people's needs without involving them. Working for them is not enough. We must work with them."* Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven **Mimica** added: *"Africa is the youngest continent of the world, with 60% of its population aged under 25. With "Youth" being the main focus of this year's AU-EU summit we want to inject a youth perspective in the intercontinental dialogue. Their contributions are central, when discussing about a future that belongs to them"*. More information on the 4th Africa –Europe Youth Summit [online](#). Join the conversation through: #AUEUyouth & #UAUEjeunesse (For more information: Catherine Ray – Tel.: +32 229 69921; Carlos Martin Ruiz de Gordejuela – Tel.: +32 229 65322; Daniel Puglisi – Tel.: +32 229 69140; Christina Wunder – Tel.: +32 229 92256)

Antitrust: Commission confirms unannounced inspections concerning access to bank account information by competing services

The European Commission can confirm that on 3 October 2017 its officials carried out unannounced inspections in a few Member States concerning online access to bank account information by competing service providers. The Commission has concerns that the companies involved and/or the associations representing them may have engaged in anti-competitive practices in breach of EU antitrust rules that prohibit cartels and restrictive business practices and/or abuse of dominant market positions (Articles 101 and 102 respectively of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union). Unannounced inspections are a preliminary step into suspected anti-competitive practices. The fact that the Commission carries out such inspections does not mean that the companies or their associations are guilty of anti-competitive behaviour nor does it prejudice the outcome of the investigation. A statement is available [online](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Avramopoulos in Ljubljana

EU Migration Commissioner Dimitris **Avramopoulos** will be in Ljubljana, Slovenia, tomorrow where he will meet with Prime Minister Miro Cerar and Minister of Interior Vesna Györkös Žnidar. Discussions will focus on

cooperation on migration, border management and security. A joint press conference with Minister Györkös Žnidar will take place around 11:25 CET and will be available on [EbS](#). (*For more information: Natasha Bertaud – Tel.: +32 229 67456 ; Tove Ernst – Tel.: +32 2 298 67 64; Markus Lammert – Tel.: +32 229 58602*)

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