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La Commission propose près de 4,7 millions d'euros du Fonds d'ajustement à la mondialisation afin d'aider des travailleurs licenciés dans le secteur de la confection au Portugal

La Commission européenne a proposé aujourd'hui de fournir au Portugal près de 4,7 millions d'euros du [Fonds européen d'ajustement à la mondialisation \(FEM\)](#) pour aider les anciens travailleurs du secteur de l'habillement et plusieurs centaines de jeunes sans emploi, éducation ou formation (NEET) à trouver un nouvel emploi. Marianne Thyssen, commissaire européenne chargée de l'emploi, des affaires sociales, des compétences et de la mobilité du travail, a déclaré: *"Les travailleurs portugais ont été durement touchés par la concurrence mondiale. Les 4,7 millions d'euros du Fonds européen d'ajustement à la mondialisation aideront 730 travailleurs ayant perdu leurs emplois, ainsi qu'un nombre équivalent de jeunes sans emploi, éducation ou formation, afin d'adapter leurs compétences et de faciliter leur transition vers de nouvelles opportunités."* Le Portugal a demandé le soutien du FEM suite au licenciement de 1 161 travailleurs de deux entreprises fabricant des vêtements dans les régions de Norte, Centro et Lisboa. Les mesures cofinancées par le FEM pourraient fournir aux 730 travailleurs, confrontés aux plus grandes difficultés, ainsi qu'à 730 jeunes sans emploi, éducation ou formation (NEET) de moins de 30 ans, différentes possibilités visant à améliorer leurs compétences, y compris la formation professionnelle, ainsi qu'une aide à ceux qui veulent créer une entreprise. Ces mesures seraient complétées par des indemnités, telles que la contribution aux frais de déplacement et de formation. Le coût total estimé de l'ensemble des mesures s'élève à environ 7,7 millions d'euros, dont 4,7 millions d'euros proviendraient du Fonds d'ajustement à la mondialisation. La proposition est maintenant soumise au Parlement européen et au Conseil des ministres de l'Union européenne pour approbation. *(Pour plus d'informations: Christian Wigand- Tél.: +32 229 62253; Sara Soumillion - Tél.: + 32 229 67094)*

EU grants further €7.5 million to help 50 scientists bring their research findings to market

The EU keeps acting to turn Europe's world-class research into success. Today, the European Research Council (ERC) is awarding 50 ERC grant holders with additional funding of up to €150,000 each to test the commercial or societal potential of their original projects. Commissioner Carlos **Moedas** said: *"The grants awarded today show how we can transform top science into practical innovations that will benefit everyone. Investing in research and innovation means we're investing in EU's future. That's why we've proposed to switch our ambition to even higher gear in creating [Horizon Europe, EU's next research and innovation programme](#), boosting its funding up to an unprecedented EUR 100 billion and completing the European Innovation Council."* The ERC 'Proof of Concept' grants awarded today help researchers explore new business opportunities, prepare patent applications or verify the practical viability of scientific concepts. The grants cover research on a variety of topics. Rewarded projects include for instance, one uncovering how

social media algorithms actually work, developing organoid tests for late stage cancer, and creating low-cost greener batteries. The grants, awarded three times a year, are part of the EU's research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020. A full press release and project examples are available on the [ERC website](#). (For more information: Lucía Caudet – Tel.: +32 229 56182; Mirna Talko – Tel.: + 32 229 87278)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of joint control over AKOFS by Akastor, Mitsui and MOL

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the proposed acquisition of joint control over AKOFS Offshore 1 AS (“AKOFS”) of Norway by Akastor AS (“Akastor”), also of Norway, Mitsui & Co. Ltd. (“Mitsui”) and Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd. (“MOL”), both of Japan. AKOFS provides vessel-based installation and construction and well intervention services for subsea oil and gas developments. Akastor is a public limited investment company whose portfolio includes companies mainly active in the oilfield services sector. Mitsui is trading company group engaged in a range of global business activities including in the offshore oil and gas industry. MOL is a multi-modal transport group specialising in a number of categories of global ocean shipping and related markets. The Commission concluded that the proposed transaction would raise no competition concerns as the companies’ activities do not overlap 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.9065](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of the W&B Rail Franchise by Keolis and Amey

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of the Wales and Borders Rail Franchise (“W&B Rail Franchise”) by Keolis (UK) Limited (“Keolis”) and Amey Rail Limited (“Amey”), all of the UK. The W&B Rail Franchise provides passenger rail services across Wales, as well as services to destinations in England. Keolis provides public transportation services in 16 countries across the world. Amey provides infrastructure asset management services to private and public sectors, mainly in the UK. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because none of the companies are engaged in business activities in the same product and geographic market. 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.9042](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

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