

# Daily News 24 / 07 / 2018

## **President Juncker visits Washington, DC, to meet President Trump, discuss transatlantic relations**

President **Juncker** is heading to Washington, DC, where he will be received tomorrow at 13:30 EST (19:30 CET) in the White House by President Donald Trump. Both Presidents will have an open dialogue on issues of interest for EU-US relations, notably trade. Commissioner **Malmström** will accompany President **Juncker**. Later in the day, President **Juncker** will deliver a speech at the [Centre for Strategic and International Studies](#) (CSIS) entitled "*Transatlantic relations at a crossroads*". The speech is scheduled for 16:00 EST (22:00 CET). It will be broadcast live on [EbS](#). (For more information: *Margaritis Schinas – Tel.: +32 229 60524*)

## **Managing migration: Commission expands on disembarkation and controlled centre concepts**

Following the call by EU leaders at the June European Council, the Commission is today expanding on the concept of controlled centres as well as short-term measures that could be taken to improve the processing of migrants being disembarked in the EU, and giving a first outline of the possible way forward for the establishment of regional disembarkation arrangements with third countries. Regional disembarkation arrangements should be seen as working in concert with the development of controlled centres in the EU: together, both concepts should help ensure a truly shared regional responsibility in responding to complex migration challenges. Commissioner **Avramopoulos** said: "*Now more than ever we need common, European solutions on migration. We are ready to support Member States and third countries in better cooperating on disembarkation of those rescued at sea. But for this to work immediately on the ground, we need to be united – not just now, but also in the long run. We need to work towards sustainable solutions.*" The non-papers on [controlled centres in the EU](#) and [regional disembarkation arrangements](#) are available online as well as the full [press release](#) and [factsheets](#). (For more information: *Natasha Bertaud – Tel.: +32 229 67456; Katarzyna Kolanko – Tel.: +32 229 63444*)

## **EU mobilises support following devastating fires in Greece, Sweden and Latvia**

The [Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre](#) is working 24/7 and is in constant contact with the authorities of Greece, Sweden and Latvia which have all requested EU support following the unprecedented forest fires which are raging across Europe. Following the devastating fires in Greece, President **Juncker** spoke to President of the Hellenic Republic, Prokypis Pavlopoulos and Prime Minister Tsipras to express his sincere condolences to the families and friends of the victims. In a [letter](#) to the Prime Minister,

President Juncker reiterated that everything will be done to support Greece during these difficult times. Yesterday evening Greece requested EU support through the [EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#). In an immediate response, Cyprus, Spain and Bulgaria made swift offers of concrete assistance including planes, firefighters, medics and vehicles. Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos **Stylianides** is travelling to Athens today and has published a [statement](#) with the details of his visit, during which he will meet the Greek civil protection authorities and coordinate the EU's assistance already on its way. For Sweden, EU support continues with planes, firefighters and vehicles, already operating in the affected areas. For Latvia, the [EU's Copernicus Satellite system](#) has been activated to assist the national authorities with emergency mapping of the risk areas. The Commission will remain in contact with the states participating in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism to provide all possible further assistance. The Commission has proposed to strengthen EU civil protection response through [rescEU](#) – so that when multiple disasters hit Member States they are better prepared to confront them. The rescEU proposal is a central part of President Juncker's agenda for a Europe that protects. [Photos](#) and [video](#) stockshots of the Emergency Centre are available, as well as a [MEMO 'Fighting forest fires in Europe – how it works'](#). (For more information: Carlos Martin Ruiz de Gordejuela – Tel.: +32 229 65322; Daniel Puglisi – Tel.: +32 229 69140)

### **Juncker Plan: €15 million for biotech company Jennewein to build new research centre**

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has signed a €15 million financing agreement with German biotechnology company Jennewein to build a new research and innovation centre. The deal is guaranteed by the Juncker Plan's European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). Jennewein is a highly innovative company that has developed breakthrough technology for the production of rare functional sugars for a wide range of applications, including nutritional, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products. Commissioner Vytenis **Andriukaitis**, said: "As the EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety and a former doctor, I know the positive impact that research and innovation, including in biotechnology, can have on our nutrition and good health, particularly in infants and young children. I am happy to see that the Investment Plan for Europe is really working and boosts research and innovation for the health of EU citizens." (The full press release can be found [here](#). For more information: Christian Spahr – Tel.: +32 229 50055; Siobhán Millbright – Tel.: +32 229 57361)

### **Trade: Commission reports on latest negotiation rounds and proposals with Indonesia and China**

As part of its commitment to transparent trade negotiations, the Commission has today published reports from the latest talks towards a trade agreement with [Indonesia](#) and an investment agreement with [China](#). The fifth round of negotiations for a trade agreement between the EU and Indonesia took place in Brussels from 9 to 13 July 2018. Discussions were held in a very friendly atmosphere and good progress was made on most chapters. Tariff offers were exchanged before the round and this provided a basis for good discussions. Good progress was made on services and investment, clearing the way towards

an exchange of offers in those areas at the next round. Talks also covered details of future arrangements on sustainable development. The Commission has also published today two new text proposals, including on the rules of procedure for [state-to-state dispute settlement](#) and on the concept of originating [products eligible for future tariff reductions](#). The sixth round will be held during the week of 15 October in Indonesia. The 18th round of the EU-China investment agreement negotiations took place in Brussels on 12 and 13 July. The discussions covered essentially subjects such as expropriation, national treatment, fair and equitable treatment and sustainable development. The 19th round is tentatively scheduled for 29-30 October in Beijing. The exact agenda and timing are yet to be confirmed. (For more information: Enrico Brivio – Tel.: +32 229 56172; Kinga Malinowska – Tel.: +32 229 51383)

### **Mergers: Commission opens in-depth investigation into KME's proposed acquisition of competing copper products supplier MKM**

The European Commission has opened an in-depth investigation to assess the proposed acquisition of MKM by KME, under the EU Merger Regulation. The Commission is concerned that the merger may reduce competition in the supply of rolled copper products and sanitary copper tubes. KME and MKM are both active in the manufacturing and marketing of copper and copper alloy products, including rolled copper products and copper alloys, and copper tubes (including sanitary copper tubes). Rolled copper products are used as an input in the manufacturing of many products, including electrical transformers, semiconductors, heat exchangers, and roofing materials. Sanitary copper tubes are used in the construction industry for drinking water installations, radiator connections, surface heating and cooling and sanitary gas installations. The Commission now has 90 working days, until 29 November 2018, to carry out an in-depth investigation into the effects of this transaction and determine whether its initial competition concerns are confirmed. Commissioner Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy, said: "Copper is a key input in many industries including electrical equipment and pipes for heating equipment in our homes. Our investigation aims to ensure that these customers, and ultimately final consumers, will not pay higher prices for this important input, following the proposed acquisition of MKM by KME." A full press release is available in [EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#). (For more information Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Giulia Astuti – Tel +32 2 2955344)

### **Concentrations: la Commission ouvre une enquête approfondie sur le projet d'acquisition de Gemalto par Thales**

La Commission européenne a ouvert une enquête approfondie afin d'apprécier le projet d'acquisition de Gemalto par Thales au regard du règlement de l'UE sur les concentrations. L'opération envisagée aurait pour effet de réunir les deux principaux fournisseurs de modules matériels de sécurité utilisés pour les solutions de gestion des clés des entreprises dans l'Espace économique européen et au niveau mondial. Les modules matériels de sécurité (hardware security modules – HSM) sont des dispositifs matériels dédiés utilisant un

logiciel de cryptage pour générer, protéger et gérer des clés de chiffrement visant à protéger des données dans un module inviolable sécurisé. L'entité combinée deviendrait de loin l'acteur le plus important sur le marché des HSM en Europe et dans le monde. La Commission craint que la concentration conduise à une hausse des prix et à une réduction du choix et de l'innovation pour les consommateurs de modules matériels de sécurité. L'opération a été notifiée à la Commission le 18 juin 2018. Celle-ci dispose à présent de 90 jours ouvrables, soit jusqu'au 29 novembre 2018, pour prendre une décision. L'ouverture d'une enquête approfondie ne préjuge pas de l'issue de la procédure. Margrethe **Vestager**, commissaire chargée de la politique de concurrence, a fait la déclaration suivante: *«Notre société est de plus en plus dépendante des solutions de sécurité des données pour sécuriser toute une série d'informations sociales, commerciales ou personnelles. Nous ouvrons la présente enquête approfondie afin de veiller à ce que l'opération envisagée entre Thales et Gemalto ne conduise pas à une hausse des prix ni à une réduction du choix de modules matériels de sécurité pour les consommateurs qui cherchent à crypter leurs données de manière sécurisée.»* Un communiqué de presse complet est disponible en ligne en [FR](#), [EN](#), [NL](#) et [DE](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Giulia Astuti – +32 229 55344)

## **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of joint control over HES by Macquarie and Goldman Sachs**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control over HES International B.V. of the Netherlands by MEIF 5, a wholesale investment fund managed by a subsidiary of Macquarie Group Limited of Australia and funds advised by affiliates of the Goldman Sachs Group of the US. HES operates and develops dry, liquid and break bulk terminals, providing transshipment, storage, blending and processing services for dry and liquid bulk. Macquarie is global provider of banking, financial, advisory, investment and fund management services. Goldman Sachs is a global investment banking, securities and investment management firm. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because of the limited impact it would have on the market. The transaction was examined under the normal merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.8896](#). (For more information Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Giulia Astuti – Tel +32 2 2955344)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Le commissaire King en Espagne pour discuter du contre-terrorisme et de la lutte contre la radicalisation**

Julian **King**, commissaire en charge de l'union de la sécurité, est aujourd'hui à Madrid, en Espagne, où il rencontre Dolores Delgado Garcia, la ministre de la Justice et Fernando Grande-Marlaska, le ministre de l'Intérieur, pour

discuter des questions relatives à la prévention de la radicalisation, de cybersécurité et du soutien aux victimes du terrorisme. Le commissaire **King** se rendra également au Centre de renseignement contre le terrorisme et le crime organisé (CITCO) pour discuter du partage d'informations, de la lutte contre le terrorisme et de la lutte contre le crime organisé. (*Pour plus d'informations: Natasha Bertaud – Tél.: +32 229 67456, Katarzyna Kolanko – Tél.: +32 229 63444*)

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