

## Science, food, society: EFSA conference 2018 – day 2

After putting risk assessment in a societal context during yesterday's opening plenary, the EFSA Conference today focuses on advancing risk assessment science. In four break-out sessions, leading experts from across the globe explore the future of risk assessment related to the environment, human health, nutrition and biological hazards.

Topics include: the role of ecosystem services in environmental risk assessment, advances and challenges in human health risk assessment (to be continued tomorrow), the switch from nutrient deficiencies to diseases of excess as predominant public health concern in developed countries, and the tracing of risks along a globalised food chain.

Follow these and other cutting-edge discussions via the official hashtag [#EFSA2018](#), or join the live stream on our dedicated [conference website](#)!

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## July 2018 compared with June 2018 – Production in construction up by 0.3% in euro area – Up by 0.4% in EU28

In July 2018 compared with June 2018, seasonally adjusted production in the construction sector increased by 0.3% in the **euro area** (EA19) and by 0.4% in the **EU28**, according to first estimates from **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. In June 2018, production in construction grew by 0.7% in the **euro area** and by 1.0% in the **EU28**.

[Full text available on EUROSTAT website](#)

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## Objective journalism on migration more important than ever

*The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) has emphasised society's need for dedicated journalists in raising the public's awareness of the harsh realities which drive refugees to flee their homes.*

Speaking on behalf of Mr. Jamil Addou, EASO's Executive Director, the Agency's representative was addressing the second annual [Migration Media Award](#) Ceremony for journalistic excellence on migration in the Euro-Mediterranean region, which took place in Tunis on 18 September 2018. The event is implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and Open Media Hub in partnership with EASO and the Maltese Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion.

EASO stressed the danger and hatred posed by deliberate misinformation which stigmatises individuals who have no choice but to escape untold horrors in fear of their lives, adding that such strategies are increasingly evident as means of taking advantage of the concerns of citizens.

During his speech, EASO's representative stated: *"More than ever, as the lines between reality and fiction are so easily blurred, we need to re-double our efforts in breaking misconceptions. We need to expose the human tragedy, which is so often overshadowed by the label 'migrant'. A term too often used interchangeably with the term 'asylum seeker'"*.

Congratulating the winners and participants of the 2018 Migration Media Award, EASO's representative stressed the critical value of dedicated and objective reporting in humanising refugees and exposing the trauma which so many have experienced. He also highlighted the contribution that such quality reporting on migration brings to policy makers and public officials in informing their work.

In concluding, EASO praised the Migration Media Award as an important tool in encouraging and recognising the efforts of journalists in striving for quality reporting on asylum and migration. The Agency's representative stated that EASO will continue to support the annual event and augured that it would continue to act as a catalyst for increased objective journalism on the phenomenon in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

**Any further information may be obtained from the European Asylum Support Office on the following email address: [press@easo.europa.eu](mailto:press@easo.europa.eu)**

Photo: Open Media Hub

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## **[Press statement by Michel Barnier following the General Affairs Council \(Article 50\)](#)**

Many thanks, Gernot, and good evening to all of you.

Merci à Gernot et à la Présidence autrichienne de sa confiance et d'avoir ainsi exprimé la confiance des 27 gouvernements qui étaient représentés

aujourd'hui autour de la table.

Les Ministres ont confirmé l'unité à laquelle nous travaillons quotidiennement, par de la transparence, par de la disponibilité, par de l'attention aussi aux préoccupations qui ne sont pas toujours les mêmes dans chacun des Etats membres. Nous prenons en compte avec mon équipe l'ensemble de ces sensibilités, comme nous le faisons avec le Parlement européen.

Nous sommes dans la dernière ligne droite de cette négociation.

Depuis la dernière réunion du Conseil affaires générales le 20 juillet, nous avons progressé sur certains sujets de la séparation, du retrait ordonné, comme Euratom, les procédures de coopération judiciaire en cours ou encore la protection des données personnelles échangées avant la fin de la transition.

Mais nous devons encore trouver un accord sur deux chapitres importants :

- La gouvernance de l'accord de retrait, qui doit être crédible pour que l'accord lui-même soit solide.
- Les 3000 indications géographiques actuellement protégées dans les 28 pays de l'Union, du Scotch whisky à la vodka polonaise ou à la feta grecque. Le Brexit ne peut pas, ne doit pas conduire à une perte des droits de propriété intellectuelle qui s'attachent à ces indications géographiques.

Nous devons aussi avancer maintenant de manière décisive sur la question irlandaise.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our proposal for the backstop on Ireland and Northern Ireland has been on the table since February.

It is an insurance policy to avoid a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland, whatever the future relationship will bring.

It reflects our agreement with the UK in December 2017, confirmed by Prime Minister Theresa May in her letter to President Tusk in March.

We are ready to improve this proposal.

Work on the EU side is ongoing:

- We are clarifying which goods arriving into Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK would need to be checked and where, when and by whom these checks could be performed.
- We can also clarify that most checks can take place away from the border, at the company premises or in the market.
- We need to de-dramatise the checks that are needed and that are caused by the UK's decision to leave the EU, its Single Market and customs union.

What we need in the Withdrawal Agreement is a legally operational *backstop*,

which fully respects the territorial integrity of the UK.

This backstop will only apply unless and until a better solution is found, in the context of our future relationship.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Comme l'a dit Gernot, le Conseil européen se réunit à Salzburg demain et après-demain, et j'aurai, à l'invitation du Président Tusk et aux côtés du Président Juncker, l'état des lieux des négociations aux chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement des 27.

Dans cette perspective, je voudrais remercier les ministres qui se sont exprimés aujourd'hui, en affirmant une nouvelle fois leur solidarité sans faille vis-à-vis de l'Irlande, en particulier. Cette solidarité est aussi partagée par toutes les institutions européennes, et notamment le Parlement européen.

Comme je l'ai toujours dit, le Conseil européen d'octobre sera le moment de vérité. C'est le moment où nous verrons si un accord est à notre portée, comme je l'espère et comme nous y travaillons.

Merci pour votre attention.

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## **"Supporting the future of Syria and the region": financial tracking report 2018**

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