

# Commissioner Moscovici's remarks on proposals for a Reform Support Programme and an Investment Stabilisation Function

Bonjour à tous.

Les deux textes que nous vous proposons aujourd'hui – l'outil de soutien aux réformes et la fonction de stabilisation pour la zone euro – forment un ensemble équilibré, économiquement et politiquement.

L'idée c'est d'approfondir les bases de notre monnaie unique:

D'abord en renforçant la cohésion de la zone euro par de nouveaux mécanismes. Il faut en effet éviter qu'elle ne devienne progressivement, face aux chocs et face aux crises passées et à venir, une zone euro à deux vitesses. Une zone euro dans laquelle certains citoyens, voire pire certains Etats-membres, ne se reconnaîtraient plus.

Mais nous devons aussi préparer l'élargissement de la zone euro pour qu'elle soit dans les faits la monnaie de l'Union européenne tout entière, ce qu'elle est déjà en droit, ne l'oublions pas quand on débat d'élargissement.

Nos propositions établissent un équilibre que je crois juste et précis entre trois nécessités:

D'abord, la nécessité de garantir la responsabilité de tous. Ces deux textes sont le reflet de notre philosophie et de notre pratique en la matière depuis l'arrivée de cette Commission en 2014: l'encouragement chaque fois que possible; la sanction uniquement lorsque nécessaire.

Ensuite, deuxième nécessité, celle de renforcer en parallèle la solidarité :

- Solidarité du budget européen avec les Etats qui mettent en oeuvre des réformes qui profiteront à toute l'Union, avec un accent supplémentaire mis sur les pays qui s'engageront politiquement dans l'adhésion à l'euro via "l'outil de convergence";
- Solidarité face aux chocs macroéconomiques asymétriques auxquels les Etats de la zone euro font face et dans cette hypothèse-là, il est aussi logique d'avoir le soutien de tous.

Et enfin, troisième nécessité, celle de maintenir un équilibre entre les Etats-membres pour qui l'euro est un horizon, et ceux pour qui l'euro est une réalité, avec des contraintes réelles – car si l'euro est protecteur, l'euro est aussi exigeant. Il faut être conscient de cela. La zone euro ne sera réellement attractive dans la durée que si elle est solide et prospère en son cœur. C'est l'une des leçons de la crise dont nous sommes enfin sortis!

C'est la raison pour laquelle, en complément de ce que Valdis a dit sur l'outil de réformes, je crois que l'outil de stabilisation que nous proposons aujourd'hui est une étape importante pour la stabilité précisément de la zone euro.

Il s'agit, je le redis, du premier outil de solidarité pour la zone euro dans le budget européen. C'est une avancée politique majeure.

Il nous permettra en fait de protéger l'investissement dans les infrastructures et le capital humain lorsqu'il est menacé par un fort choc asymétrique.

Qu'est-ce qu'on entend par asymétrique ? C'est-à-dire lorsqu'il concerne plus particulièrement un seul ou plusieurs Etats-membres de la zone euro, mais pas tout l'ensemble de la zone euro.. C'est une situation dans laquelle la Banque Centrale Européenne a forcément moins de moyens d'action, là où une banque centrale nationale, si on était encore dans cette configuration, pourrait adapter ses taux à la situation du pays s'il n'y avait pas l'euro.

Dans ce cas, si le choc est important, nous savons que les stabilisateurs de la politique budgétaire nationale peuvent ne pas suffire. Là encore, c'est une des leçons de la crise.

The Investment Stabilisation Function we are proposing today will help Member States in the euro area or in the Exchange Rate Mechanism – currently, Denmark – to absorb such shocks, through the provision of loans of up to 30 billion euros which would be guaranteed by the EU budget.

To receive this support, Member States will have to comply with strict eligibility criteria based on sound financial and macroeconomic policies. The loans will be available to countries having recently registered a significant increase in unemployment rates, to be used to maintain public investments, which were so badly hit and took so long to recover from the last crisis.

Of course, these loans would need to be reimbursed – what we are proposing today should not be seen, and this is important to us, as some sort of embryonic transfer union. This Commission is not proposing a transfer union. But the instrument does need to be financially meaningful for the country concerned, which is why we are also proposing to include a grant component. This Stabilisation Support Fund would cover the full cost of the interest on these loans, and would be financed through contributions from Member States equivalent to a share of their monetary income.

In conclusion, I believe these proposals demonstrate to our Member States – which we all know hold a variety of views on these complex subjects – that this Commission is able to put forward proposals that are ambitious while remaining realistic, both politically and economically. And I'm sure that this is the right way to build a compromise and we need that, in the present situation, economically and politically.

Lastly, a word on another subject, Pericles, our programme for protecting the euro against counterfeiting, which has been operational since 2014. We are

today proposing to continue with the programme for the forthcoming budgetary period, with a slightly increased budget of 7.3 million euros. This is not a lot, this is modest but useful.

The previous programme had a tangible impact in strengthening this protection. Nonetheless, the threats are still substantial. There is increasing availability of high quality counterfeit euros and security features on the dark web and a number of counterfeiting hotspots exist.

That's why it is vital that Pericles can continue providing training and technical assistance for national authorities, in the euro area and also beyond. We need to support them to further improve the protection of euro banknotes and coins and in so doing, protect the interests of our citizens.

Thank you for your attention.

---

## [Commission proposes to modernise and digitalise EU civil judicial cooperation](#)

The proposals will make it obligatory for courts to exchange documents electronically, and will promote the use of videoconferencing to hear witnesses based in another country.

Věra **Jourová**, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality said: *Every year, there are approximately 3.4 million cross-border civil and commercial court proceedings in the EU. More and more people are living, studying and working in other EU countries, and businesses are expanding across borders. This proposal will give them access to faster and more affordable cross-border justice.*

The proposals will update the Regulations on [Service of documents](#) and on [Taking of evidence](#).

The updated rules will:

- **Make it obligatory for courts to exchange documents electronically cross-border** – Currently, in a cross border case, both Member States' justice systems involved submit the documents by post, which is slow and incurs some costs. Shifting communications from paper-based channels to electronic could save up approximately EUR 30 to 78 million per year across the entire EU.
- **Introduce a uniform return slip for documents sent to people and companies by post** – Currently there are many problems with receiving

documents cross-border as return slips vary and often are not correctly filled out. It is estimated that with this improvement more than EUR 2.2 million could be saved every year.

- **Promote the use of video-conferencing** – It will make it easier for persons to be heard without requiring them to travel to another country. Videoconferencing will facilitate this and allow savings. The cost of a cross-border hearing of a party or of a witness carried out via videoconferencing typically costs EUR 100, against EUR 400 and EUR 800 for a physical hearing.
- **Strengthen procedural rights of the parties and access to justice** – The rules will strengthen the rights of the defence, for instance it will clarify when and how people can exercise the right of refusal. Digitalising justice and using technologies cross-border will make justice more efficient and cheaper for people.

The rules provided for by the Regulation on service of documents may also be relied upon in various out-of-court proceedings, for example in succession cases before a notary, or in family law cases before a public authority.

## **Background**

Today's proposals to modernise these judicial cooperation mechanisms is another step in the European Commission's contribution to building a strong EU justice system for the benefit of citizens and businesses as a key part of reaping the full benefits of the Single Market, creating a [Digital Single Market](#) and promoting [e-Justice](#).

Since 2008, the [Regulation on Service of Documents](#) has put in place a fast, secure and standardised transmission procedure for documents in civil or commercial matters between courts and other parties located in different EU countries. In many civil or commercial proceedings, courts need to obtain evidence from another Member State for instance hearing a witness in divorce proceedings, or in cases of unpaid bills between two companies. Since 2004, the [Regulation on the taking of evidence](#) facilitates access to that evidence.

The 2018 EU Justice Scoreboard, published this Monday, found that the use of ICT tools still limited in some countries (see [press release](#)). In more than half of Member States electronic submission of claims is limited or does not exist. An updated survey of the use of ICT between courts and lawyers shows that ICT tools are widely used in 12 out of 22 Member States covered and that last year these tools became compulsory in more Member States.

## **More information**

[Revised Regulation on Service of Documents](#)

[Revised Regulation on Taking of Evidence](#)

[Civil justice](#)

[e-Justice Portal](#)

---

## [Rohingya crisis: €40 million in humanitarian aid for Bangladesh and Myanmar](#)

*“The Rohingya crisis has reached unprecedented proportions in recent months with hundreds of thousands of people in need of humanitarian assistance. The EU is committed to help those most in need, both in Bangladesh and Myanmar. Our emergency aid will deliver essential supplies such as food, clean water and healthcare as well as support for the monsoon season,”* said Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos **Stylianides**, who visited EU aid projects in [Bangladesh](#) and [Myanmar](#) last year.

Out of the funding announced today, €29 million will go to the Cox’s Bazar district in Bangladesh to deliver food, nutritional support, clean water and sanitation facilities, access to health care services, as well as increased protection for the most vulnerable groups among refugees and host communities. Another €7 million will be used to scale up preparedness measures for the rainy season, which could trigger floods and landslides in what is currently the most densely populated refugee camp in the world. €4 million will go for Rohingya and host communities in Myanmar’s Rakhine State and provide protection, shelter, health, water, sanitation, food and psychosocial support.

### **Background**

The European Union has been funding humanitarian programmes in Cox’s Bazar since 1994 through international NGOs and the UN. Today’s emergency aid brings the total funding for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh to more than €86 million since 2007.

Additionally, since 2010, the European Union has provided close to €81 million in humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people in Myanmar’s Rakhine State, including in the more isolated northern areas. The [EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#) was also activated in October 2017 to provide assistance in Cox’s Bazar.

Following major outbreaks of violence in Myanmar in August 2017, over 400,000 Rohingya and host communities are currently in need of humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State, while about 700,000 Rohingya refugees have

crossed the border into neighbouring Bangladesh. It is estimated that nearly one million Rohingya are now living in camps and settlements across Cox's Bazar, bringing the total number of people in need of assistance to 1.3 million between the refugees and host communities living in the district. In addition, the refugee camps are extremely vulnerable to the flash flooding and mud landslides triggered by the ongoing monsoon season, which typically lasts until October and could put 200,000 lives at risk.

#### **For More Information**

[Factsheet – Bangladesh](#)

[Factsheet – Myanmar](#)

[Factsheet – Rohingya crisis](#)

---

## **Daily News 31 / 05 / 2018**

### **EU Budget: A Reform Support Programme and an Investment Stabilisation Function to strengthen Europe's Economic and Monetary Union**

Vice-President **Dombrovskis** and Commissioner **Moscovici** have presented the Commission's proposals to create a [Reform Support Programme](#) and a [European Investment Stabilisation Function](#). Both proposals are part of the broader agenda to deepen Europe's Economic and Monetary Union and make use of the EU budget to strengthen the performance and resilience of our interdependent economies. The Reform Support Programme will support priority reforms in all EU Member States, with an overall budget of €25 billion. It comprises three elements: a Reform Delivery Tool, to provide financial support for reforms; a Technical Support Instrument, to offer and share technical expertise; and a Convergence Facility, to help Member States on their way to joining the euro. The European Investment Stabilisation Function will help stabilise public investment levels and facilitate rapid economic recovery in cases of significant economic shocks in Member States of the euro area and those participating in the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM II). This Function will complement the role of existing national automatic stabilisers. Subject to strict criteria of sound macroeconomic and fiscal policies, loans of up to €30 billion can be rapidly mobilised, together with an interest rate subsidy to cover their cost. Commenting on the proposals, President Jean-Claude **Juncker** said: *"The Economic and Monetary Union is first and foremost about improving the lives of all Europeans. As we look to our future and celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our single currency, we must equip the EU and our euro area with the necessary tools to deliver even more prosperity and stability. Today's proposals are about making the Economic and Monetary Union the protecting and uniting force that it was conceived to be. The Commission is putting the EU budget at work to boost the performance, resilience and response capacity of all Member States, whether already in the euro or*

*preparing to join. The euro is the currency of our Union – a strong and stable euro area is key to its members as well as to the EU as a whole.” A [press release](#) and [memo](#) are available online. Factsheets and the legislative proposals are available [here](#). (For more information: Christian Spahr – Tel.: +32 229 50055; Annikky Lamp – Tel.: +32 229 56151; Enda McNamara – Tel.: +32 229 64976)*

### **Ericsson finances research into 5G telecom technology with backing from the Juncker Plan**

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has signed a €250 million loan agreement with Swedish telecom company Ericsson to support research, development and innovation (RDI) in the next standard in mobile telephony: 5G. The loan is guaranteed by the Investment Plan’s European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). Most of the RDI activities will take place in Sweden, with minor parts also being carried out in Ireland, Spain, Poland and other EU countries. Jyrki Katainen, Commission Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, said: *“When it comes to developing 5G technology, we need to up our game in Europe. I am proud that Ericsson – a European company – is investing heavily in preparing for 5G with the EU’s financial backing. Being a leader in telecoms is crucial to maintain our competitiveness on a global stage so sufficient investment in 5G is strategically important for Europe.”* A press release is available [here](#). (For more information: Christian Spahr – Tel.: +32 229 50055; Siobhán Millbright – Tel.: +32 229 57361)

### **La solidarité européenne à l’œuvre: la Commission offre une aide financière à la Grèce, la Pologne, la Lituanie et la Bulgarie à la suite de catastrophes naturelles**

Aujourd’hui, la Commission propose 34 millions d’euros du [Fonds de solidarité de l’UE](#) pour quatre États membres touchés par des catastrophes naturelles en 2017 – la Grèce, la Pologne, la Lituanie et la Bulgarie. Corina Crețu, commissaire à la politique régionale, a déclaré: *“Nous passons des mots de réconfort à des actions concrètes avec nos nouvelles propositions d’aide financière pour la Grèce, la Pologne, la Lituanie et la Bulgarie. La solidarité est l’un des principes fondateurs de notre Union, et le Fonds de solidarité de l’UE en est l’une de ses expressions les plus manifestes.”* Le Fonds de solidarité de l’UE peut soutenir les efforts de reconstruction et couvrir une partie des coûts des services d’urgence, de l’hébergement temporaire, des opérations de nettoyage et de protection du patrimoine culturel, afin d’alléger le fardeau financier pour les autorités nationales au lendemain d’une catastrophe naturelle. Un communiqué de presse est disponible [ici](#). (Pour plus d’informations: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Sophie Dupin de Saint-Cyr – Tel.: +32 229 56169)

### **Hungary: new EU-funded motorway to link Budapest to Romania**

€265 million from the [Cohesion Fund](#) is invested in the construction of a new section of the M4 motorway. It will allow making the trip from Budapest to the Romanian border in less than 2 hours 40 minutes. By linking the two neighbor countries, this new Cohesion Policy project will boost regional and

local economies and promote tourism. Commissioner for Regional policy Corina Crețu said: *“The Hungarians and Romanians will be the first beneficiaries of this project, with a faster, safer connection from Budapest to Bucharest. But ultimately all Europeans and the European economy as a whole will benefit from better connectivity in the region and its positive spillovers for trade, tourism and growth.”* The project concerns the construction of the motorway between the towns of Berettyóújfalu and Nagykereki, the last missing section for a seamless connection to the Romanian border. Its starting point is at the junction with the M35 motorway Debrecen-Berettyóújfalu, currently under construction. The project should be completed in March 2020. (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Sophie Dupin de Saint-Cyr – Tel.: +32 229 56169)

### **Commission proposes to modernise and digitalise EU civil judicial cooperation**

Today, the Commission is proposing to modernise and digitalise judicial cooperation for cross-border civil and commercial cases throughout the EU. It aims to make access to civil justice cheaper, more efficient and more accessible to citizens and businesses. The proposals will make it obligatory for courts to exchange documents electronically, and will promote the use of videoconferencing to hear witnesses based in another country. Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality said: *“Every year, there are approximately 3.4 million cross-border civil and commercial court proceedings in the EU. More and more people are living, studying and working in other EU countries, and businesses are expanding across borders. This proposal will give them access to faster and more affordable cross-border justice.”* The proposals will update the Regulations on [Service of documents](#) and on [Taking of evidence](#). The [Revised Regulation on Service of Documents](#) and the [Revised Regulation on Taking of Evidence](#) are available online, as well as a [press release](#). (For more information: Christian Wigand – Tel.: +32 229 62253; Mélanie Voin – Tel.: + 32 229 58659)

### **Commission proposes to make access to emergency travel documents faster and more secure for EU citizens**

The European Commission is proposing today to update the rules on EU emergency travel documents and improve their security features. Since 1996, EU rules exist that allow EU citizens, whose passport or travel documents were stolen or lost while travelling abroad to obtain temporary travel documents. Lost or stolen passports make up more than 60% of the cases of consular assistance. However, the current emergency travel documents do not meet modern security standards and offer little protection against fraud and counterfeit. As a result, some third countries are reluctant to accept them and some Member States have stopped using them for their own citizens. Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality said: *“Losing your passport or getting it stolen is a distressing experience, especially if you are travelling outside of the EU. When this happens, EU citizens are entitled to getting temporary emergency documents. However, their current format does not live up to our current security standards. The new security features we proposed for emergency travel documents will prevent criminals from counterfeiting them or using them to carry out criminal activities. Thanks to these new rules, all EU citizens will feel safe and*



*able to return home as fast as possible.” With the new rules in place, the new EU emergency travel documents will be more secure, as they will have machine-readable features. Their user-friendly format will include a space for any necessary transit visa and they should be issued within 3 to 4 days. In addition, the new Directive will improve the consular assistance available to all EU citizens, even where their country doesn’t have an embassy or a consulate. It will now be mandatory for embassies or consulates to issue EU emergency travel documents to unrepresented EU citizens. The full proposal is available [online](#). (For more information: Christian Wigand– Tel.: +32 229 62253; Mélanie Voin – Tel.: + 32 229 58659)*

### **Commission welcomes provisional political agreement reached by European Parliament and Council on new rules to make national competition authorities even more effective enforcers**

The European Commission welcomes the provisional political agreement reached yesterday by the European Parliament and the Council on the [Commission proposal](#) of March 2017 for a Directive to make Member States’ competition authorities even more effective enforcers of EU antitrust rules. The Directive intends to further empower the national competition authorities by providing them with appropriate enforcement tools, to bring about a genuine common competition enforcement area. Commissioner in charge of competition policy, Margrethe **Vestager**, said: *“EU antitrust rules make markets work better for European consumers and businesses, giving them more choice and better prices. Member States’ competition authorities and the Commission work together hand in hand to enforce these rules across the EU. This Directive will give national competition authorities effective tools and make sure they have the resources necessary to detect and sanction companies that break EU competition rules. It will also ensure that they can take their decisions in full independence, based on the facts and the law. I would like to thank the European Parliament – especially the Rapporteur Andreas Schwab and the shadow rapporteurs – and the Bulgarian, Estonian and Maltese Presidencies for their commendable work on this file.”* The legal text still needs to be formally approved by the European Parliament and Council, which is expected by the end of 2018. The full statement is available [online](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Yizhou Ren – Tel.: +32 229 94889)

### **The European Union mobilises additional €15 million for peace building support in Colombia**

The EU is mobilising additional funds to support peace building in Colombia and the efforts to reintegrate former combatants of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) into the Colombian society. The additional funding will help to scale up concrete actions, such as new programmes that will foster economic activity and contribute to restoring social fabric in conflict-affected areas, and was announced by High Representative/Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** today at a [high-level event on conflict resolution with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos](#), in Brussels. At the event, key figures that were involved in the Colombian peace negotiations debated on how the EU can continue to support a sustainable peace process in Colombia.

HR/VP **Mogherini** stated: *“The European Union has been at the side of Colombia since the very beginning of the peace process. Building peace takes courage and patience – to sit down and find a common ground. But we have believed in the capacity of the Colombians to find a way out of the conflict and we will continue to be at their side in all fields, to invest in sustainable peace. We have a lot to learn from the courage of the Colombians.”* Commissioner **Neven Mimica** added: *“The EU’s additional assistance of €15 million will support the Colombian people in ensuring that the remarkable progress made towards lasting peace is continued. It will support the reintegration process of ex-FARC members at social, political and economic level, and allow them to transition into civilian life.”* The full press release is available [online](#). (for more information: Maja Kocijancic – Tel.: +32 229 86570; Carlos Martin Ruiz De Gordejuela – Tel.: +32 229 65322; Christina Wunder – Tel.: +32 229 92256)

### **Rohingya crisis: €40 million in humanitarian aid for Bangladesh and Myanmar**

The European Commission has released €40 million in humanitarian aid to provide life-saving support to vulnerable Rohingya civilians and host communities in Bangladesh and across Myanmar’s Rakhine State. *“The Rohingya crisis has reached unprecedented proportions in recent months with hundreds of thousands of people in need of humanitarian assistance. The EU is committed to help those most in need, both in Bangladesh and Myanmar. Our emergency aid will deliver essential supplies such as food, clean water and healthcare as well as support for the monsoon season,”* said Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management **Christos Stylianides**, who visited EU aid projects in [Bangladesh](#) and [Myanmar](#) last year. A full press release is available [here](#). (for more information: Carlos Martin Ruiz De Gordejuela – Tel.: +32 229 65322; Daniel Puglisi – Tel.: +32 229 69140)

### **Mergers: Commission confirms approval of acquisition of Dutch cable TV operator Ziggo by Liberty Global, subject to conditions**

The European Commission has reapproved with conditions, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of Ziggo by Liberty Global. The merger was first approved in 2014. Following the annulment of this approval by the General Court in 2017 for procedural reasons, the Commission has reassessed the merger. In 2014 the Commission had concerns that the merger, as initially notified, would have hindered competition by removing two close competitors and important competitive forces in the Dutch market for the wholesale of premium Pay TV film channels. In its new assessment, the Commission confirmed its concerns that the merger, as initially notified, would have increased Liberty Global’s negotiating power *vis-à-vis* TV channel broadcasters, hindering innovation in the delivery of audio visual content over the internet. The renewed approval is therefore again conditional upon the implementation of a commitments package. A full press release is available in [EN](#), [DE](#), [FR](#) and [NL](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

### **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of sole control over Walki by One Equity Partners**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of sole control over Walki Holding Oy of Finland by One Equity Partners VII, LP of the Cayman Islands, through its subsidiary OEP FiberPack Cayman Co Ltd. Walki Holding is the parent company of the Walki group of companies active in the production of technical laminates and protective packaging materials. One Equity Partners is a private equity firm. The Commission concluded that the proposed transaction would raise no competition concerns given the absence of any horizontal or vertical overlaps between the activities of the companies. 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.8914](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

### **Eurostat: Le taux de chômage à 8,5% dans la zone euro et à 7,1% dans l'UE28 en Avril 2018**

Dans la zone euro (ZE19), le taux de chômage corrigé des variations saisonnières s'est établi à 8,5% en avril 2018, en baisse par rapport au taux de 8,6% en mars 2018 et de 9,2% en avril 2017. Il s'agit du taux le plus faible enregistré dans la zone euro depuis décembre 2008. Dans l'UE28, le taux de chômage s'est établi à 7,1% en avril 2018, stable par rapport à mars 2018 et en baisse par rapport au taux de 7,8% d'avril 2017. Cela demeure le taux le plus faible enregistré dans l'UE28 depuis septembre 2008. Ces chiffres sont publiés par Eurostat, l'office statistique de l'Union européenne. Eurostat estime qu'en avril 2018, 17,462 millions d'hommes et de femmes étaient au chômage dans l'UE28, dont 13,880 millions dans la zone euro. Par rapport à mars 2018, le nombre de chômeurs a diminué de 53 000 dans l'UE28 et de 56 000 dans la zone euro. Comparé à avril 2017, le chômage a baissé de 1,633 million de personnes dans l'UE28 et de 1,088 million dans la zone euro. Un communiqué de presse Eurostat est à votre disposition [en ligne](#). (For more information: Christian Wigand– Tel.: +32 229 62253; Sara Soumillion – Tel.: +32 229 67094)

### **STATEMENTS**

#### **Vice-President Jyrki Katainen in Stockholm to discuss investment, defence and the circular economy**

Vice-President Jyrki **Katainen**, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, travels to Stockholm on 1 June, to discuss the Investment Plan, deepening the European and Monetary Union (EMU), the European Defence Fund and future megatrends such as the circular economy and artificial intelligence. Vice-President **Katainen** will meet Mr Mikael Damberg, Minister for Enterprise and Innovation, to discuss technological developments and future opportunities, such as artificial intelligence and robotics, innovation, defence, the circular economy and the Multiannual Financial Framework. He will also meet Mr Ulf Kristersson, Leader of the Moderate Party, to exchange on topical issues. In addition, the Vice-President will participate in a Citizens' Dialogue as part of a seminar on circular economy. Finally, he will meet representatives of the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise to discuss competitiveness of European industries and companies.

(For more information: Christian Spahr – Tel.: +32 229 50055; Siobhán Millbright – Tel.: +32 229 57361)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **La Commissaire Thyssen participe à la rencontre des jeunes européens au Parlement européen à Strasbourg**

Demain, le 1 juin, la Commissaire responsable de l'emploi, des affaires sociales, des compétences et de la mobilité des travailleurs, Marianne **Thyssen**, participera à la [troisième édition de la Rencontre des Jeunes Européens \(European Youth Event\)](#) à Strasbourg, organisée par le Parlement européen. La Commissaire y donnera deux discours, le premier intitulé "Travailler, travailler, travailler: Quelle est la nouvelle façon de gagner sa vie?" et le deuxième "Chômage des jeunes: la course à zéro". L'événement sera une occasion pour la Commissaire Thyssen de discuter de ses sujet avec les 8000 jeunes venant de partout dans l'Union européenne. La Commissaire inaugurerait aussi l'exposition photo "MesDroitsSociaux" et remettra les prix aux lauréats du concours photo sur la question "Comment percevez-vous les droits sociaux en Europe?". Le programme complet de l'événement est disponible [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Christian Wigand– Tel.: +32 229 62253; Sara Soumillion – Tel.: + 32 229 67094)

### **Le commissaire Navracsics à Paris pour participer à une réunion des ministres du Sport**

Aujourd'hui, le Commissaire à l'éducation, à la culture, à la jeunesse et aux sports, Tibor Navracsics, est à Paris pour participer à une réunion des ministres du sport des États membres de l'UE. Lors de la réunion de ce matin, le Commissaire a participé à une discussion sur la manière dont les Jeux [Olympiques de Paris 2024](#) peuvent contribuer à développer une identité européenne. Ils ont également discuté des mesures visant à assurer l'héritage économique, social et environnemental des grands événements sportifs. Le commissaire a aussi prononcé [le discours d'ouverture](#) de la rencontre, en compagnie de la ministre française des sports, Laura Flessel, et des représentants de la présidence bulgare du Conseil de l'UE. Une déclaration proposant des possibilités de coopérer à la préparation et au suivi des Jeux Olympiques de 2024 sera proposée à la signature aux ministres intéressés. Le document mettra l'accent sur les moyens de mieux mobiliser les volontaires européens et les bonnes pratiques sur la façon d'organiser de grands événements sportifs de manière durable et respectueuse de l'environnement. La réunion se tient au Stade de France. (Pour plus d'informations: Nathalie Vandystadt – Tél .: +32 229 67083, Joseph Waldstein – Tél .: +32 229 56184)

### **Commissioner Vella participates in the European Maritime Day in Bulgaria, 31 May – 1 June**

Commissioner Karmenu **Vella** is in Burgas, Bulgaria welcoming more than 1000 participants from the maritime sector for the 2018 edition of the European Maritime Day. For the first time since its conception, the European Maritime Day takes place in the Black Sea region. The European Commission together with the Bulgarian EU Presidency have dedicated the conference to showcasing cross-border cooperation around the Black Sea. Ministers and representatives from Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine reaffirmed their commitment to work more closely with the endorsement of a Declaration towards a Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea. Commissioner **Vella** said: *“This year’s European Maritime Day is a defining moment for the Black Sea region. For more than a decade, the Commission has been working with the region’s countries to promote the sustainable use of the Black Sea’s marine and maritime resources. Together, we have achieved significant breakthroughs in fisheries management, in research and blue growth. The declaration endorsed by ministers today paves the way for more structured and pragmatic cooperation on all things maritime. My own hope would be for a common maritime agenda to take shape by 2019, with coastal states launching joint action the following year.”* In addition, researchers of the Black Sea region set out their vision for a future common research and innovation agenda, inspired by EU funded projects. More information [here](#). (For more information: Enrico Brivio – Tel.: + 32 229 56172; Iris Petsa – Tel.: +32 229 93321)

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

---

## [The European Union mobilises additional €15 million for peace building support in Colombia](#)

The additional funding of €15 million will help to scale up concrete actions, such as new programmes that will foster economic activity and contribute to restoring social fabric in conflict-affected areas.

The new funding was announced by High Representative/Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** today at a [high-level event on conflict resolution with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos](#), in Brussels. At the event, key figures that were involved in the Colombian peace negotiations debated on how the EU can continue to support a sustainable peace process in Colombia.

High Representative/Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** stated: *“The European Union has been at the side of Colombia since the very beginning of the peace process. Building peace takes courage and patience – to sit down and find a common ground. But we have believed in the capacity of the Colombians to find a way out of the conflict and we will continue to be at their side in all*

*fields, to invest in sustainable peace. We have a lot to learn from the courage of the Colombians.”*

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven **Mimica** added: *“The EU’s additional assistance of €15 million will support the Colombian people in ensuring that the remarkable progress made towards lasting peace is continued. It will support the reintegration process of ex-FARC members at social, political and economic level, and allow them to transition into civilian life.”*

Today’s new assistance will be made available in the framework of the mid-term review of the European Union’s bilateral aid to Colombia for the period 2018-2020. It comes on top of the on-going assistance, which the EU has been providing towards peace building over the last 15 years. In 2016, the EU launched a [special EU Trust Fund](#) worth €96.4 million, to support of the peace agreement, and its measures are currently being implemented in rural and remote areas affected by the conflict.

## **Background**

Peacebuilding is at the heart of the EU’s cooperation with Colombia since 2002. During the last 15 years, the EU has supported the peacebuilding in Colombia with over €550 million.

A total of 614 projects in the areas of economic development, human rights and democratic governance, have benefitted 300.000 persons in 220 municipalities in 19 departments of Colombia.

Since 2012, the EU has geared its cooperation through budget support operations to foster reforms in Colombia’s rural development policy (€70 million), local sustainable development in marginalised areas (€20 million) and support for regional competitiveness (€30 million).

The EU Trust Fund (EUTF) was formally established in December 2016 in the presence of President Santos and with the participation of 19 contributing Member States (Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom). The total amount is €96.4 million, with €71,4 million from the EU’s Development Cooperation Instrument, €2 million from the EU’s department for humanitarian assistance (DG ECHO) and €23 million from 19 EU Member States.

## **For More Information**

[Today’s event in BOZAR](#)

[Ongoing EUTF projects in Colombia](#)

[Factsheet – Colombia](#)

[EU Trust Fund for Colombia](#)