

Statement by Commissioner Crețu on the French authorities' request for aid from the European Solidarity Fund

Within the first few hours of the devastating Irma and Maria hurricanes hitting the Caribbean, the European Union expressed its solidarity by mobilising its emergency response instruments and offering aid for reconstruction in the longer term with the support of European funds.

We have now received a request from the French authorities for aid from the EU Solidarity Fund to help with reconstruction on Guadeloupe and Saint Martin in particular; French Overseas Minister Annick Girardin will today meet my colleague, Pierre **Moscovici**, to hand him the request in person.

I welcome this request, since once analysed it will allow us to assist the people of Saint Martin by providing financial aid to help restore infrastructure and public services and to cover emergency and clean-up costs.

Europe's support will soon be put to work on the island. This is the promise I made to Daniel Gibbs, President of the Collectivity of Saint Martin, at the Conference on the Outermost Regions in October, where we presented our new strategy for a stronger partnership with these regions. This promise will be kept, since although these overseas regions may be geographically distant from the European continent, never have they been so close, so integrated, or so European.

However, we also realise that these regions are part of a special neighbourhood and that Saint Martin itself is one of a pair, since it shares its island, and therefore its destiny, with the Dutch territory of Sint Maarten.

Saint Martin and Sint Maarten will recover together. My colleague Commissioner **Mimica**, responsible for development, last week announced an investment package to support the reconstruction and economic revival of the Caribbean countries affected by the disaster, including Sint Maarten.

Furthermore, in December we will announce how our inter-regional cooperation programmes, known by the name of Interreg, can also make a contribution, in particular the specific programme linking Saint Martin and Sint Maarten.

The European Union stands side-by-side with those who lost everything, including their dreams, in the disaster. They can count on the sincere and unfailing support of the EU for the reconstruction work and for the rebuilding of their lives.

For further information:

[EU Solidarity Fund](#)

[Press release – EU supports recovery and resilience in the Caribbean region with €300 million](#)

[Interreg Saint-Martin / Sint-Maarten Programme](#)

[Interreg Caribbean Programme](#)

[Press release: The outermost regions and the EU: a privileged, renewed and strengthened partnership](#)

[Europe's social dimension: President Juncker and Prime Minister Löfven present way forward after the Social Summit](#)

The [concluding report](#) published today will serve to frame the follow-up of the Summit, which starts with the December European Council. The discussions between Heads of State or Government at the Summit showed a lot of common ground on the need for Europe to be equipped with a strong and tangible social dimension. Going forward, tackling the challenges of labour markets, as well as focusing on both economic and social development will be essential. The Summit was a first milestone in the debate on the future of Europe as laid out in President Juncker's [Roadmap for a more United, Stronger and more Democratic Union](#), as well as the first stop [on the road to the meeting of EU Leaders in Sibiu on 9 May 2019](#).

President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude **Juncker**, said: *"The Social Summit was a landmark moment in the debate on the future of Europe. It sent a clear message that a stronger, more democratic and fairer Union must be built on fair jobs, inclusive growth and equal opportunities. With the proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, all EU institutions and leaders have made it our joint responsibility to stand up for the rights of our citizens in a fast-changing world. Now it is time to deliver. This starts with the December European Council. And you can be sure that the European Commission will continue to play a strong role in this endeavour, notably through the country specific recommendations in the European Semester process."*

Prime Minister of Sweden, Stefan **Löfven**, added: *"It's time for a social Europe. We need to improve people's working and living conditions and at the same time increase our competitiveness in a global economy."*

At the Summit, participants reaffirmed their joint responsibility to tackle the challenges our labour markets face at all levels. The [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) was proclaimed at the Summit by the European Parliament, the

Council and the European Commission as an embodiment of this joint commitment. In the spirit of the Pillar, the participants at the Summit agreed that the need to promote convergence of our economies and societies should be met by efforts at all levels, including by the social partners. Further steps should be taken to improve access to labour markets to increase the number of men and women in employment, ensure fair employment and working conditions and support transitions between jobs by investing in people, while taking account of the diversity of social traditions across Europe.

More specifically, the Summit recalled the need to put people first through joint efforts at all levels, and to further develop the social dimension of the Union based on a shared commitment and established competences. As a first next step, the following should be taken forward:

In December, the European Council will follow up the Gothenburg Summit, addressing the social dimension in the discussion on the future of Europe. As co-host of the Social Summit, the European Commission will continue to play its part in these discussions. The European Semester of Policy Coordination should be the main framework for taking the discussions on the social dimension forward.

Background

European Heads of State or Government met in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017 with EU institutions, social partners, civil society, students and leading experts at the Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth, organised by the Swedish Government and the European Commission.

Eight months on from the 60th anniversary celebrations of the Treaties of Rome, the Summit constituted an extraordinary opportunity for leaders and stakeholders to discuss topics that touch on the everyday lives of citizens. As such, it contributed to the debate on the future of the EU, which was initiated at the [Bratislava Summit](#) and shaped by the European Commission's [White Paper](#) and the five subsequent reflection papers, notably the one on Europe's social dimension, presented earlier this year.

The Summit focused on how to boost inclusive growth, create fair jobs and foster equal opportunities for all men and women, while acknowledging common challenges and the wealth of experiences around Europe. Discussions took place in a unique, open and interactive format which resulted in different perspectives being heard and different solutions debated, all taking account of common challenges and the specificities of national context and priorities. Live streams allowed citizens all over Europe to follow the discussions in real time. The Summit also witnessed the joint proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights by the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission. This sent a strong message of unity and political commitment.

For More Information

[Concluding report on the Social Summit](#)

[Website on the Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth](#)

[Programme and input notes for the three Summit working sessions on how to promote fair jobs and growth in the future](#)

[Commission factsheets on the Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth](#)

[Website on the European Pillar of Social Rights](#)

EASO Management Board meets to prepare activities for 2018

On 27 and 28 November 2017, the 26th meeting of the Management Board of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) took place in Valletta, Malta and approved the Agency's Work Programme for the upcoming year.

The Management Board meeting, which was Chaired by Mr. Wolfgang Taucher, devoted significant attention to preparations for the Agency's activities and operations in 2018.

✘ Within this context, the Management Board approved EASO's Single Programming Document for the 2018-2020 period, as well as the Work Programme and Budget for 2018. The Work Programme foresees a scaling-up in the levels of support that the Agency could provide to Member States, also bearing in mind that negotiations on the Regulation which will transform EASO into the European Union Agency for Asylum are at an advanced stage amongst co-legislators. The meeting also approved the 2018 External Communications and Stakeholder Plan, which has also been prepared to take into account the possibility of the transition in the coming year.

The Management Board also ratified a Hosting Arrangement with Italy following the signing of the arrangement on 22 November 2017 by the Director General for the EU at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Giuseppe Buccino Grimaldi, and the Executive Director of EASO, José Carreira. The Arrangement, which now needs to be ratified by the Italian Parliament, sets out the legal status of EASO's premises, staff and assets in Italy, therefore specifying the modalities under which the Agency can carry out its operations and facilitating its effectiveness. Talks are also ongoing on a similar arrangement with the Greek Government on EASO's operations in that country.

✘ Additionally, EASO provided the Management Board with the latest updates on asylum trends in the European Union, as well as the latest developments in its operations in Cyprus, Greece and Italy. Finally, delegates also discussed plans for cooperation with the European Union Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) with regard to returns of migrants whose applications for

international protection in EU Member States are rejected. Having a more effective return system is an important element of the EU's comprehensive approach to managing migration, and EASO stands ready to provide FRONTEX with any assistance it can.

Stay updated. Connect with EASO on social media

[ECB consults on a new euro unsecured overnight interest rate](#)

PRESS RELEASE

28 November 2017

- ECB calls for input on high level features of a new unsecured overnight interest rate
- Consultation runs until 17:00 CET on 12 January 2018

The European Central Bank (ECB) is today calling on market participants and all other interested parties to provide comments on the high level features of a new unsecured overnight interest rate. Through the consultation, the ECB aims to collect the views of stakeholders regarding the main features of the rate and its publication timing. The consultation document provides an overview of the factors supporting the ECB's decision to publish an unsecured overnight rate as well as the consultation questions that address design features of the rate.

The consultation follows the ECB's decision, announced on 21 September 2017, to develop a euro unsecured overnight interest rate based on data already available to the Eurosystem. The interest rate would complement existing benchmark rates produced by the private sector and serve as a backstop reference rate. This consultation is a first step. A second consultation related to the methodology will follow later in the process.

You are invited to submit responses to this consultation by 17:00 CET on 12 January 2018. Responses should be sent by email to ECB-overnight-rate@ecb.europa.eu. A high level summary of replies will be published.

For media queries, please contact William Lelieveldt, tel.: +49 69 1344 7316.

[Media contacts](#)

[EDPS Newsletter 55](#)

EDPS Newsletter 55

28/11/2017

The latest edition of the [EDPS Newsletter](#) is online now!

EDPS Survey 2017

28/11/2017

There has been continuous and steady progress in the way in which EU institutions comply with data protection rules. Read the [EDPS Survey](#) and [press release](#).

EDPS calls for swift agreement on new Regulation

21/11/2017

Eleven months have passed since the Commission issued its proposal for the new Regulation governing data protection in the EU institutions and bodies. The EDPS calls for a swift agreement on the new Regulation, so that EU institutions can lead by example in the rules that they apply to themselves as controllers and processors. Read the [Statement](#).

Interoperability of information systems

20/11/2017

The EU aims to improve the efficiency of its IT databases by making them more interoperable. Read the [EDPS Opinion](#) and [press release](#).

EDPS Newsletter 54

08/11/2017

The latest edition of the [EDPS Newsletter](#) is online now!

EDPS-DPO meeting in London

13/10/2017

DPOs preparing for the implementation of accountability in daily work of EU institutions and bodies. EDPS-DPO meeting in London. Read the [blogpost](#) by Wojciech Wiewiórowski.

eu-LISA regulation

10/10/2017

[EDPS Opinion](#) on the proposal for a Regulation on eu-LISA.

1st Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol

09/10/2017

On 9 October, the EDPS Giovanni Buttarelli has been invited to [appear](#) before the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on Europol (JPSG). This first meeting follows the EDPS/Europol Management Board meeting that took place on 3 October 2017. When discussing with MEPs and national DPAs, Giovanni Buttarelli underlined the importance of the supervisory role of the EDPS and the JPSG. Since May 2017 a new chapter has been opened. The EDPS intends to carry on its supervisory activity through three main strategic elements: accountability, cooperation and innovation.

Watch [video](#)

Recommendations on the proposed ePrivacy Regulation

06/10/2017

EDPS recommendations on specific aspects of the proposed ePrivacy Regulation.

Read [here](#).

2018 International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners

03/10/2017

40th edition of the international conference will focus on digital ethics and data driven technologies.

Read the [press release](#) and watch the conference [video](#).

EDPS Newsletter 53

28/09/2017

The September 2017 edition of the [EDPS Newsletter](#) is online now!

A crucial moment for communications privacy

27/09/2017

Data protection by design will become a legal obligation under GDPR, read [blogpost](#) by Giovanni Buttarelli.

The State of the Data Protection Union

20/09/2017

The EU data protection framework is about to change , read [blogpost](#) by Giovanni Buttarelli.

Hate speech, Fake News and Security

14/09/2017

The EDPS participated in the Hate Speech and Security Summit in Rome. The Summit was organised by the Italian Presidency of the G7 and was also attended by seven Bar Associations.

The initiative was aimed at developing a common strategy and reinforcing the importance of protecting human dignity and the right to privacy in the era of hate speech and fake news.

In his intervention, Giovanni Buttarelli stressed the importance of political will, a common framework and the wise use of new technologies.

[See video](#)

A digital Europe needs data protection

01/08/2017

The Commission's proposal for a Regulation establishing a single digital gateway and the *once-only* principle is a necessary development in the modernisation of administrative services throughout the EU. However, some key issues related to data protection must be taken into account for the future development of the *once-only* principle. Read the [EDPS Opinion](#) and the [press release](#).

Teenagers on privacy

14/07/2017

How do millennials relate to digital life and privacy? [Read blogpost](#) by Giovanni Buttarelli

EU-Japan cooperation on data protection

11/07/2017

Giovanni Buttarelli and Jiro Akama, Japanese State Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, have met on convergence and cooperation between EU and Japan on data protection.

Debating Ethics: Dignity and Respect in Data Driven Life

10/07/2017

In March this year, my respected colleague Ventislav Karadjov, Chairman of the Commission for Personal Data Protection of the Republic of Bulgaria (CPDP) and I announced that we will jointly be hosting the 40th annual International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners in October 2018.

[Read blogpost](#) by Giovanni Buttarelli

EDPS meets Japanese PPC

07/07/2017

The EDPS and the Personal Information Protection Commission (PPC) in Japan have met to discuss the implementation of forthcoming GDPR. The new regulation reinforces international cooperation outside the EU including the DPAs of third countries.

30th Anniversary, Privacy Law and Business Annual Conference

04/07/2017

On 4 July 2017, Giovanni Buttarelli to speak on the transition from the EU Art. 29 Working Party to the European Data Protection Board at the Privacy Law & Business 30th Anniversary Annual Conference. Other topics will include the need for a Digital ClearingHouse for regulators from different sectors and countries to have an exchange of views, as well as the digital ethics in the privacy debate.

A New Chapter for EU Data Protection

27/06/2017

On 28 June 2017, the Assistant Supervisor Wojciech Wiewiórowski will participate in the conference 'A New Chapter for EU Data Protection: Managing accountability and compliance in the Reform era' hosted by the European Parliament's Data Protection Service.

The event will inform about the potential changes the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), coming into force on 25 May 2018, might bring for EP officials, and how to tackle these new challenges.

Web streaming of the event is available [here](#).

New EDPS Newsletter

23/06/2017

In the June 2017 edition of the EDPS Newsletter we introduce you to our new-look Newsletter and cover the EDPS Opinion on ePrivacy.

Other interesting topics, such as our continuing work on data ethics through #DataDrivenLife workshop, the launch of our 2016 Annual Report, the supervision of Europol and the first meeting of the Digital Clearinghouse are also covered.

[Read the newsletter](#)

Annual Privacy Forum 2017

21/06/2017

The Annual Privacy Forum took place on 7 June 2017. Wojciech Wiewiórowski focused his speech on cybersecurity and Wannacry attack.

[Read blogpost](#) by Wojciech Wiewiórowski

41st EDPS-DPO meeting, Tallinn

02/06/2017

The EDPS and the DPOs from the EU institutions and bodies met yesterday at eu-LISA to discuss, among others, about individuals' rights under the revised Regulation on data protection.

Read [blogpost](#) by Wojciech Wiewiórowski.

First meeting of the Digital Clearinghouse

29/05/2017

Read [blogpost](#) by Giovanni Buttarelli and the [statement](#) from the participants at the meeting.

IPEN Workshop, Vienna

15/05/2017

On 9 June 2017, the EDPS is hosting an IPEN workshop in Vienna.

The GDPR will become fully applicable less than a year after the workshop, and it will make data protection by design and by default a legal obligation for data controllers. Several presentations will address **conceptual issues of privacy engineering**.

The IPEN initiative was founded in 2014. It supports the creation of engineer groups working on (re)-usable building blocks, design patterns and other tools for selected internet use cases where privacy is at stake.

[Read more about the workshop.](#)

Web streaming of the event is available [here](#).

Interoperability in the field of migration, asylum and security

15/05/2017

EDPS welcomes the report of the High-level expert group on information systems and interoperability. Please read the [EDPS statement](#) on the concept of interoperability in the field of migration, asylum and security.

Data Protection within International Organizations

12/05/2017

Read the [opening speech](#) by Giovanni Buttarelli given at Workshop organised by the International Organization for Migration and the EDPS.

#DataDrivenLife – EDPS workshop on Digital Ethics

27/04/2017

On 18 May 2017, the EDPS is hosting a workshop on Data Driven Life in Brussels (see the [agenda](#)). This is the second workshop in the series organised by the EDPS advancing the global debate on the ethical dimension of the digital revolution.

[Read more](#) – blogpost by Giovanni Buttarelli.

Watch the [web streaming](#).

ePrivacy Regulation

24/04/2017

EDPS calls for strong and smart new rules to protect confidentiality of communications. Read the [EDPS opinion](#) and the [press release](#).

New era in the data protection supervision of Europol

19/04/2017

Under the new Europol Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/794), the EDPS will take over responsibility from the JSB for the data protection supervision of Europol as from the beginning of May.

The JSB, after long and honourable service to data protection in the EU, will pass its role to the EDPS, an EU institution and the supervisory authority for the EU institutions and bodies.

The EDPS will provide advice on data protection issues to Europol and carry out inspections as well as investigating complaints from individuals.

Read [blogpost](#) by Giovanni Buttarelli.

Necessity toolkit

12/04/2017

As part of our commitment to facilitating responsible and informed policymaking, the EDPS has published a necessity toolkit. Read the [necessity toolkit](#) and the [press release](#).

Increasing cooperation between EDPS and FRA

30/03/2017

The European Data Protection Supervisor and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights sign a Memorandum of Understanding to increase cooperation in the field of data protection. [Read blogpost](#).

Presenting Our New Website

28/03/2017

Our website has undergone quite a makeover! With new features and drop down

menus, we present you our new look website to share information about who we are and what we do. Watch [the video](#) to learn more about it.

Read how the EDPS is organised under the About EDPS section; for detailed information on our data protection work, Ethics, IPEN, Big Data and more, go to our Data Protection section. Look in our Press & Publications section for our newsletter, blog, press releases, press kit and speeches. Happy browsing!

We would appreciate your feedback

27/03/2017

We'd love to know what you think of our new website. Take a few minutes to share your impressions with us by filling in our feedback form. Form available in [EN](#) – [FR](#) – [DE](#)

60th anniversary of the Rome Treaties

25/03/2017

60th anniversary of the Rome Treaties. Giovanni Buttarelli to participate in the meeting of the 27 EU heads of state and heads of European Union institutions in Rome, Italy.

Digital Content

15/03/2017

EDPS sees opportunity for stronger consumer and data protection. Read the [EDPS Opinion](#) and the [press release](#).

Data Protection and EU institutions

15/03/2017

Data Protection and the EU institutions. Read the [latest blogpost](#) by Giovanni Buttarelli and the [EDPS Opinion](#).

ICDPPC 2018

13/03/2017

2018 International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners to be hosted in Brussels. Read the [press statement](#).

ETIAS

07/03/2017

EDPS calls for consistent improvements in the approach to EU border policy. Read the [EDPS Opinion](#) and the [press release](#).

What to expect when we inspect?

09/01/2017

EDPS factsheet on inspections. We carry out inspections in accordance with our Annual Inspection Plan. To establish this plan, we conduct a risk analysis and take into account the resources available for carrying out inspections. Security audits of large scale IT systems and applications take place according to the laws governing their supervision. The EDPS tries to combine inspections with information sessions on data protection, organised in cooperation with your institution's DPO. If you receive an invitation to attend a data protection training we encourage you to join us!