

Daily News 03 /11/ 2017

President Juncker to attend presentation by Luc Van den Brande of his report on outreach to citizens

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** will attend the presentation of the [report](#) prepared by his Special Adviser, Luc Van den Brande, on outreach towards citizens on 6 November from 16:00 to 16:45 at the European Commission Visitors' Centre (Charlemagne – 170, Rue de la Loi). The report takes stock of the Commission's communication outreach and includes concrete communication guidelines and recommendations. It looks at synergies with other European and national actors around promoting dialogue with the public and sets out a framework for a more citizen-focused Europe. The report also looks at the role of communication technologies and highlights the importance of engaging with Europe's youth. It will contribute to the ongoing European debate triggered by the publication of the White Paper on the future of Europe as well as the recent State of the Union address by President Juncker. The [report](#) will be online as of 16:00 on 6 November. *(For more information: Alexander Winterstein – Tel.: +32 229 93265)*

EU supports rural electrification in Tanzania

During an official visit to Tanzania, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven **Mimica** signed a €50 million programme to support rural electrification in the country. The new financing agreement will support the access of Tanzanian citizens to affordable and sustainable energy through extending energy grids as well as expanding distribution networks. Commissioner **Mimica** said: *"Our important programme worth €50 million will help accelerate the Tanzanian people's access to modern energy. It will provide electricity to over 3600 villages in rural regions of Tanzania, essentially benefitting 1 million people. And this access to energy is vital: it will increase the quality of life in rural areas, improve health and educational services and bring clear benefits, particularly to women and children."* During visit to Tanzania, Commissioner **Mimica** met government representatives, international and national development partners, civil society and non-governmental organisations. Read the full press release [here](#). *(For more information: Carlos Martin Ruiz De Gordejuela – Tel.: +32 229 65322; Christina Wunder – Tel.: +32 229 92256)*

Concentrations: la Commission autorise l'acquisition du contrôle conjoint de Groupe Pisto par CNP Assurances, Prédica et Macquarie

La Commission européenne a approuvé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l'acquisition du contrôle conjoint du Groupe Pisto, basé en France, par les sociétés françaises CNP Assurances et Prédica, et par la société australienne Macquarie. Groupe Pisto était précédemment contrôlé

conjointement par Prédica et Macquarie. Groupe Pisto est actif dans la gestion d'installations de réception, de stockage et de transfert de produits pétroliers. CNP Assurances est active dans le secteur de l'assurance de personnes en France, notamment dans l'épargne-retraite et le risque prévoyance. Prédica fait partie du Groupe Crédit Agricole, qui fournit un large éventail de services bancaires et d'investissement. Macquarie fournit des services bancaires et financiers, ainsi que des services de conseil, d'investissement et de gestion de fonds. La Commission a conclu que la concentration envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème de concurrence dans la mesure où les entreprises ne sont pas actives sur les mêmes marchés. L'opération a été examinée dans le cadre de la procédure simplifiée du contrôle des concentrations. De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur le [site internet concurrence](#) de la Commission, dans le [registre public](#) des affaires sous le numéro d'affaire [M.8663](#). *(For more information: Lucía Caudet – Tel.: +32 229 56182; Yizhou Ren – Tel.: +32 229 94889)*

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Banque Internationale à Luxembourg by Legend Holdings Corporation

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of Banque Internationale à Luxembourg (BIL) by Legend Holdings Corporation of China. BIL is a private banking group operating in retail, private and corporate banking, mainly active in Luxembourg. Legend Holdings is a diversified investment holding group listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange with a portfolio of strategic and financial investments. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because there are no horizontal overlaps or vertical relationships between the activities of the two 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.8643](#). *(For more information: Lucía Caudet – Tel.: +32 229 56182; Yizhou Ren – Tel.: +32 229 94889)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini travels to Washington, D.C. [* update on 03/11/17, 14:18]

On Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 November, the High Representative/Vice-President, Federica **Mogherini** will visit Washington D.C. to discuss EU-US bilateral relations as well as the latest developments on a number of foreign policy issues of common interest, including the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action ("Iran nuclear deal"), and the situation on the Korean Peninsula. She will meet with the Vice-President of the United States, Mike Pence, as well as with a number of leading members of the US Senate and the US House of Representative, including Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives. The High Representative/Vice-President will also address the House of Representatives' Republican Conference. The visit will also be an

opportunity to meet with Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Yukiya Amano. Coverage will be available on [EBS](#). For more information on EU-US relations, visit the [website](#) of the EU Delegation. (*For more information: Catherine Ray – Tel.: + 32 229 69921; Adam Kaznowski – Tel: +32 229 89359*)

European Commission present at the UN climate conference in Bonn

From 6 – 17 November, the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ([COP23](#)) takes place in Bonn, Germany under the presidency of Fiji. It will bring together ministers and government officials, as well as a wide range of representatives from civil society and business. The European Union will be represented by Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel **Arias Cañete** and the Estonian Environment Minister Mr Siim Kiisler, as Estonia currently holds the presidency of the Council of the EU. Furthermore, Vice-President for Energy Union Maroš **Šefčovic** will attend the Climate Summit of local and regional leaders on 12 November, re-iterating the EU's commitment within global initiatives of cities and local governments leading in the fight against climate change (for the launch of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, of which he is the Co-Chair, see [IP/16/2247](#)). On 10 November, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Karmenu **Vella** will speak at the EU Ocean Day on the need for a combined agenda of oceans and climate change (for the EU's Ocean and global actions strategy see [IP/17/3603](#) and [IP/16/3619](#)) and on 11 November opens the Ocean Action Day under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (GCA). During the conference, the EU will host more than 100 [side events](#) at the EU Pavilion in Bonn. These events, organised by a variety of countries and organisations from Europe and the rest of the world, will address a broad range of climate-related issues from the energy transition to the role of forests and oceans, climate finance, research and innovation and assessing climate risks. Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol meet once a year at high level to discuss how to take international climate action forward and adopt decisions to implement commitments made. This year, Parties will discuss important elements of the historic Paris Agreement and putting its plans into action by 2020. For more information consult the website of the [UNFCCC](#). (*For more information: Anna-Kaisa Itkonen – Tel.: +32 229 56186; Nicole Bockstaller – Tel.: +32 229 52589*)

High-level conference to boost investment in clean energy transition

Significant investment is needed in the energy sector to help the EU achieve its ambitious climate change targets, which were agreed as part of the Paris Agreement. The EU has committed to cut CO₂ emissions by at least 40% by 2030 while modernising its economy and creating jobs and economic growth for all European citizens. The European Commission wants to keep the European Union competitive as the clean energy transition is changing the global energy markets. The [Clean Energy for All Europeans](#) package presented by the Commission in November 2016 aims at setting the legal framework to make this transformation possible. To boost investment in clean energy, the European Parliament and European Commission will host a high-level conference in Brussels on 7 November. Together with the European Parliament President

Tajani, ITRE Chair MEP Buzek, EIB President Hoyer and the Governor of California Jerry Brown, Commission Vice-President **Katainen** and Commissioner **Arias Cañete** will open the conference. Vice-President **Šefčovic** and Commissioners **Oettinger** and **Bulc** will also participate in high-level roundtables. Main focus: best ways to finance the transition from carbon to more sustainable energy sources. Estimates show that to reach the EU 2030 energy and climate targets, about €379 billion investments are needed annually over the 2021–2030 period, mostly in energy efficiency, renewable energy generation and infrastructure. Bringing together political leaders, policy makers, the investor community, energy market participants and other stakeholders, the conference will discuss how multiple stakeholders can act together, and how best to foster investment in the energy transition. See a [detailed agenda of the event](#) or [follow live](#). At 10:45 a joint press conference with EP President Tajani, Californian Governor Jerry Brown and Climate Action and Energy Commissioner **Arias Cañete** is foreseen. Journalists that already hold a permanent media accreditation with the European Parliament will be able to access the event. For those not holding a permanent media accreditation, requests to media.accreditation@europarl.europa.eu. Follow on Twitter: **#CleanEnergyEU**. (For more information: Anna-Kaisa Itkonen – Tel.: +32 229 56186; Nicole Bockstaller – Tel.: +32 229 52589)

European visionary research in focus: Vice-President Ansip participates in the Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) Flagships event in Brussels

Vice-President for the Digital Single Market Andrus **Ansip** will participate on Monday in an [event](#) on the progress and future of [FET Flagships](#). The FET Flagships are large-scale research initiatives running over ten years with a total budget for each flagship of around €1 billion, bringing together partners from the scientific community and industry. Two flagships have been launched in 2013: one on [Graphene](#), which aims at taking this carbon-based and ultra-thin 2D material with extraordinary properties from the laboratories to the market, with new products and applications; and the [Human Brain Project](#), which aims at understanding the brain and creating synergies between neuroscience and computing. A third flagship on [Quantum](#) technologies was announced in 2016 and is about to start, building on the [final report](#) of the expert group on quantum that will be officially presented on Monday. Ahead of the event, Vice-President **Ansip** said: *“Europe needs such ambitious projects to be at the forefront of science and technology, to bring new medical treatments, safer transport, cybersecurity and many more benefits to people. Stepping up investments in research and innovation is essential for the future of Europe.”* Vice-President **Ansip** will speak at 11:00 CET, his speech will be published [here](#). See also his recent [blog post](#) on quantum. One of the other highlights of the event is the keynote speech by Nobel Prize laureate, physicist Sir Konstantin Novoselov at 10:45 CET. Journalists can register for the event via [email](#) or follow the debates live [here](#). (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Inga Höglund – Tel.: +32 229 50698)

Vice-President Dombrovskis in Riga, Latvia

Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, also in

charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, is in Riga for a European Semester visit and a Citizens' Dialogue on 3 November. Vice-President **Dombrovskis**' visit also includes several bilateral meetings, including with representatives of the Latvian Academy of Sciences and representatives of the Association of Latvia's Seven Largest Cities. On Friday, the Vice-President will give an opening speech on "Deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union – its impact on Latvia's Competitiveness" at the BA School of Business and Finance and participate in a Citizens' Dialogue on "[Strengthening Economic and Monetary Union, competitiveness and the future of Europe](#)", in the framework of the European Semester in Riga. (For more information: Annika Breidthardt – Tel.: +32 229 56153; Juliana Dahl – Tel.: +32 229 64976)

Commission takes its innovation policy to Web Summit in Lisbon next week

Since the beginning of the mandate, the Juncker Commission has been working hard to give Europe's many innovative entrepreneurs every opportunity to become world leading companies. Against this backdrop, Commissioners **Navracsics**, **Vestager**, **Moedas** and **King** will participate in various activities at the [Web Summit](#), one of the world's largest technology conferences taking place in Lisbon on 6-9 November. On Monday evening at 19.40, Commissioner **Vestager** gives an on-stage interview on "fair play and tech". On Tuesday morning, Commissioners **Vestager** and **Moedas** will join the European Commission #InvestEU stand at the summit and promote the EU [Women Innovators Prize](#) which is awarded to four outstanding women every year on 8 March. They will also participate in a [Facebook Live chat](#) on women investors at 9.00. Then at 10.20, Commissioner **Moedas** will award the €1 million [iCapital](#) – 2017 European Capital of Innovation Prize for which ten cities are shortlisted. At 11.30, Commissioner **King** will speak in a panel on creating a collaborative (cyber) security. In parallel Commissioner **Vestager** gives a speech on how the EU protects competition. At 13.30 Commissioner **Navracsics** will participate in the panel discussion "No one left behind: The skills your children need to know". On Wednesday morning at 10.45, Commissioner **Moedas** will give a keynote speech on costs and benefits of publicly funded research. During the Web Summit, Commissioners will have the opportunity to present and discuss the Commission's initiatives to support innovators, including the [Juncker Plan](#), the "[Start-up and Scale-up Initiative](#)" and [funding](#) for market-oriented research and breakthrough innovation. Time schedule above is in local time. (For more information: Lucía Caudet – Tel.: +32 229 56182; Victoria von Hammerstein – Tel.: +32 229 55040; Joseph Waldstein – Tel.: +32 229 56184)

[Calendar](#)

The Commissioners' weekly activities

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

Commission Statement on the funeral of Daphne Caruana Galizia

Today, the world takes leave of Daphne Caruana Galizia.

We were all horrified by the fact that this well-known and respected Maltese journalist lost her life on 16 October in a criminal act of unspeakable brutality.

Daphne Caruana Galizia's career spanned over 30 years, she was a pioneer of investigative journalism in Malta. Her ability to trigger debate is a testament to the success of her reporting and her dedication to the pursuit of truth.

President Juncker and the European Commission condemned this brutal attack in the strongest terms possible. The right of a journalist to investigate, ask uncomfortable questions and report effectively, is at the heart of our values and needs to be guaranteed at all times.

Today, Malta will hold a national day of mourning to mark the funeral of Daphne Caruana Galizia. Our thoughts and hearts are with the people of Malta, and above all with Daphne Caruana Galizia's family, her colleagues and friends.

At the request of President Juncker, the flags at the Commission Headquarters in Brussels will fly half-mast in honour of Daphne Caruana Galizia and all those who have given their lives for the freedom of speech.

EU supports rural electrification in Tanzania

The new financing agreement will support the access of Tanzanian citizens to affordable and sustainable energy through extending energy grids as well as expanding distribution networks.

During the signing ceremony, Commissioner **Mimica** said: *"Our important programme worth €50 million will help accelerate the Tanzanian people's access to modern energy. It will provide electricity to over 3600 villages in rural regions of Tanzania, essentially benefitting 1 million people. And this access to energy is vital: it will increase the quality of life in rural areas, improve health and educational services and bring clear benefits,*

particularly to women and children.”

During his visit to Tanzania, Commissioner **Mimica** met government representatives, international and national development partners, civil society and non-governmental organisations.

In his exchanges with the Tanzanian authorities and other local stakeholders, he will also discuss progress and challenges regarding the country's [National Development Plan](#), as well as the cooperation between the EU and Tanzania in the fields of job creation, socio-economic development, sustainable agriculture and energy, rural roads, governance and human rights.

During his visit and his various meetings, Commissioner **Mimica** furthermore paid special attention to the important role of youth. Notably, he discussed this important topic when meeting civil society actors working to support children and youth, as well as young people. This comes ahead of the upcoming [African Union – European Union Summit](#) on 29 and 30 November which will be held under the overarching theme of “Investment in youth for accelerated inclusive growth and sustainable development”.

Background

EU support to the Republic of Tanzania focuses mainly on three sectors: good governance and development, energy and sustainable agriculture. Today's programme will be financed through the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), under which €626 million are allocated to Tanzania for the period 2014-2020.

For More Information

[International cooperation and development overview in Tanzania](#)

Indicative programme – Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 6 November 2017

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More than one in four working-age adults in the EU remain economically inactive

Unemployment in the EU continues to fall, however more than one in four of the EU's working-age population are economically inactive; meaning they are not working and are either not seeking work or are not available for work. Furthermore, the vast majority of economically inactive people would like to work in some form. Eurofound's new publication [Reactivate: Employment opportunities for economically inactive people](#) looks in detail at what could be Europe's most important economic resource.

The number of economically inactive people has been steadily declining in the EU in recent years: in 2015 it stood at 27.5%, down significantly from 31.4% in 2002, and less than the pre-crisis figure of 29.7% in 2007. However, this substantial section of the population remains outside the labour market, and is not included in official employment statistics. While employment policy tends to focus primarily on the unemployed, there is scope for policies to focus more explicitly on the labour market integration of inactive people, and to harness their economic and social potential.

The new report examines groups within the inactive population that find it difficult to enter or re-enter the labour market and explores the reasons why. It also maps the characteristics and living conditions of these groups, discusses their interest in taking up employment and examines the barriers that prevent them from doing so. It finds that around four out of five inactive people would like to work at least some hours per week, depending on their financial needs, and approximately half would like to work 32 hours or more. The desire to work is particularly strong among students and homemakers.

The report also looks at strategies currently being implemented by Member States to promote the inclusion of those outside the labour market. It highlights that inactive people often face more than one barrier to employment, such as a low level of education coupled with care responsibilities, and stresses the importance of focusing on the specific needs of the inactive population.

Finally, the report underlines that Member States should fully implement the

2008 European Commission Recommendation on the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the design and implementation of labour market integration strategies. In this regard, the European Pillar of Social Rights, which refers to inactivity as an issue in relation to inclusive education and lifelong learning, provides a unique and timely political impetus.

Download the report: [Reactivate: Employment opportunities for economically inactive people](#)