

Better access to drinking water in Croatia thanks to Cohesion Policy investments

Almost €96 million from the [Cohesion Fund](#) is being invested to upgrade water supply and waste water networks in Croatia's Slavonia and Istria regions and on the island of Krk. Commissioner for Regional Policy Corina Crețu said: *"Each euro the EU invests in these projects contributes to better access to clean drinking water and a preserved environment in Croatia."* This investment package includes: (1) €19.3 million for the construction of a waste water treatment plant and of filtration systems in the urban area of Osijek and the towns of Bilje and Darda, in the North-Eastern Croatian region of Slavonia, to protect the groundwater from infiltration. 125,000 people will benefit from better access to drinking water as a result of this project, which should be completed by end 2018. (2) Almost €28 million for the upgrade of 4 waste water treatment plants in the urban areas of Lanterna, Poreč Sjever, Poreč Jug and Vrsar, in the Western region of Istria. (3) €48.5 million for better access to clean drinking water on Krk, an island home to almost 14,500 people and which hosts 5 million tourist overnights per year. Works involve the rehabilitation of nearly 40 km of water supply network, the construction of 6 wastewater treatment plants and the construction of 80 km of sewers. Once the project is completed in 2020, the vast majority of the island will be connected to modern drinking water and sewage networks. More information on EU funds in Croatia is available on [the Cohesion Open Data Platform](#). (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Sophie Dupin de Saint-Cyr – Tel.: +32 229 56169)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Regeneris EMEA by CTDI EU

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of the Europe, Middle East and Africa business of Regeneris (Depot) Services Ltd. ("Regeneris EMEA") of the UK, by CTDI GmbH ("CTDI EU") of Germany, jointly controlled by Communication Test Design, Inc. of the US and Deutsche Telekom AG of Germany. Regeneris EMEA provides repair and maintenance services for electronic products, including mobile phones, smartphones, set-top-boxes, laptops, electronic payment systems, industrial applications and medical devices. CTDI EU provides repair and maintenance for telecommunications network infrastructure equipment as well as other electronic products. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, given the very limited overlaps between the companies' activities. 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.8570](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

Endocrine disruptors: adoption of scientific criteria for biocides

Following the endorsement by Member States, on 4 July, of the scientific

criteria to identify [endocrine disruptors](#) in the field of pesticides or plant protection products (see [press release](#) and [fact sheet](#)), the European Commission adopted today the scientific criteria for [biocides](#). This will allow to fully align the criteria in both legislations, as the objective is to have the same criteria applicable in both sectors. The adopted text will be sent to the Parliament and the Council for a scrutiny period of two-months. As for the criteria for pesticides, the criteria adopted today also specify that the identification of an endocrine disruptor should be carried out by taking into account all relevant scientific evidence including animal, in-vitro or in-silico studies, and by using a 'weight of evidence'-based approach. It is important to note that the criteria in the area of pesticides and biocides will apply also to substances for which assessment or re-evaluations are already ongoing. For more information see [here](#). (For more information: Anca Paduraru – Tel.: +32 229 91269; Aikaterini Apostola – Tel.: +32 229 87624)

Eurostat: Juillet 2017 comparé à juin 2017-Les prix à la production industrielle stable dans la zone euro-En hausse de 0,1% dans l'UE28

En juillet 2017 par rapport à juin 2017, les prix à la production industrielle sont restés stables dans la zone euro (ZE19) et ont augmenté de 0,1% dans l'UE28, selon les estimations d'Eurostat, l'office statistique de l'Union européenne. En juin 2017, les prix avaient reculé de 0,2% dans la zone euro et de 0,3% dans l'UE28. Un [communiqué de presse Eurostat](#) est à votre disposition en ligne. (For more information: Lucia Caudet – Tel.: +32 229 56182; Mirna Talko – Tel.: +32 229 87278)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Vice-President Timmermans, High Representative/Vice-President Mogherini and Commissioner Bulc visit Slovenia

Commission First Vice-President Frans **Timmermans**, High Representative/Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** and Commissioner for Transport Violeta **Bulc** are in Slovenia today to participate in the [Bled Strategic Forum](#). First Vice-President **Timmermans** will participate in the Leaders' Panel at the Bled Strategic Forum this afternoon, High Representative/Vice President **Mogherini** will address the Forum later in the day. First Vice-President Timmermans holds a working lunch with Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar today and will hold a Citizens' Dialogue meeting with Slovenian citizens this evening, which will be broadcast live on TV Slovenia and Radio Slovenia, as well as on [EBS](#) and [Facebook Live](#). The High Representative/Vice-President will hold meetings with Mr Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, Mr Amano, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mr Çavusoglu Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Mr Pahor, President of Slovenia and Mr Erjavec, Foreign minister of Slovenia. Tomorrow, 5 September, the First Vice-President meets with the Chairmen and Members of

the Slovenian Parliamentary Committees for EU Affairs and Foreign Affairs, followed by a bilateral meeting with Speaker of the Slovenian National Assembly Milan Brglez. First Vice-President Timmermans will later have a working lunch with Slovenian President Borut Pahor and will meet bilaterally with Slovenian Minister of the Interior Vesna Gyorkos Zdinar and with Slovenian Minister of Foreign Affairs Karl Erjavec. The First Vice-President will also take the opportunity of this visit to meet bilaterally with Croatian Minister of Foreign Affairs Marija Pejčinović Burić. High Representative/Vice-President Mogherini will attend the Informal meeting of the Southeast European Cooperation Process, will meet Miro Cerar, Slovenian Prime Minister, and Mr Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs of India, and will address the Slovenian National Assembly. Commissioner Violeta **Bulc** will participate in the panel discussion "[The European Union in a changed World](#)" and meet with Ms Nathalie Loiseau, French Minister for European Affairs. (*For more information: Natasha Bertaud – Tel.: +32 229 67456; Maja Kocijancic – Tel.: +32 229 86570, Anna-Kaisa Itkonen – Tel.: 32 229 56186*)

Le Commissaire Hahn en Tunisie aujourd'hui et demain pour réitérer le soutien de l'UE à la transition démocratique du pays

Johannes **Hahn**, Commissaire pour la Politique Européenne de Voisinage et les négociations de l'élargissement, est aujourd'hui et demain en [Tunisie](#) pour réitérer l'engagement de l'UE à soutenir le peuple tunisien dans sa trajectoire vers une démocratie moderne fondée sur les libertés fondamentales et le développement socio-économique. Le Commissaire **Hahn** rencontrera les principaux représentants politiques du pays, y compris le Président Beji Caid Essebsi, le chef du gouvernement Youssef Chahed, le Ministre des Affaires étrangères Khemaies Jhinaoui et le Président de l'Assemblée Mohamed Ennaceur. Le Commissaire participera à la signature d'accords de financement concernant des réformes de l'administration publique et des programmes de santé, et confirmera l'adoption du cadre de coopération financière et technique avec la Tunisie pour la période 2017-2020. Cette coopération se concentrera sur le renforcement de la règle de droit et la promotion de la bonne gouvernance; le soutien accru à la mise en œuvre des réformes économiques nécessaires au rétablissement de la stabilité macroéconomique, attirer les investisseurs et relancer l'économie tunisienne; et la promotion approfondie de la cohésion sociale et régionale en assurant un accès équitable à des services sociaux de qualité à travers le pays. La fiche technique des relations UE-Tunisie est disponible [ici](#). Des vidéos et photos de la visite seront disponibles sur [EbS](#). (*Pour plus d'informations: Maja Kocijancic – Tel.: +32 229 86570; Alceo Smerilli – Tel.: +32 229 64887*)

La Commissaire Thyssen en visite à Paris

Demain, la Commissaire chargée de l'Emploi, des Affaires sociales, des Compétences et de la Mobilité des travailleurs, Marianne **Thyssen**, se rend à Paris, France. Elle participera à la réunion du [Réseau mondial pour](#)

[L'Apprentissage](#) (Global Apprenticeship Network), à l'occasion du lancement de leur branche en France. Lors de cette réunion, qui comptera des participants provenant du secteur commercial et des organisations internationales, la Commissaire **Thyssen** donnera un discours, soulignant l'importance des apprentissages pour le développement des compétences et, de ce fait, comme tremplin vers l'emploi. Son discours sera publié [ici](#). De plus, la [Commission a également décidé de financer plusieurs projets pilotes afin de promouvoir davantage l'apprentissage de longue durée à l'étranger](#). Dans ce contexte, la Commissaire **Thyssen** a dit: *"Il est prouvé que les expériences de mobilité de longue durée contribuent à l'amélioration des compétences sociales, professionnelles et linguistiques, et ce, bien plus que les séjours de courte durée à l'étranger. Or, contrairement aux étudiants universitaires qui participent à des programmes d'une année tels qu'Erasmus, la grande majorité des apprenants de l'enseignement et de la formation professionnels (EFP) effectuent généralement des séjours plutôt courts à l'étranger; moins de 1% d'entre eux passent plus de six mois dans un autre pays. C'est pourquoi nous sommes en train de créer davantage de perspectives de longue durée, qui renforceront à terme les chances de ces apprenants sur le marché de l'emploi. Grâce à ces projets pilotes et à notre nouvelle initiative ErasmusPro, nous devrions mettre à la disposition des apprenants de l'EFP jusqu'à 50 000 offres de mobilité de longue durée d'ici à 2020."* Enfin, dans le cadre de sa visite à Paris, la Commissaire **Thyssen** aura aussi des réunions bilatérales avec le Premier Ministre de la France, Edouard Philippe, et la Ministre du Travail en France, Muriel Pénicaud. Ces réunions seront l'occasion de discuter du dossier des travailleurs détachés, et, plus globalement, de l'emploi et des affaires sociales européens. (Pour plus d'informations: Christian Wigand– Tel.: +32 229 62253; Sara Soumillion – Tel.: + 32 229 67094)

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

[**EU-OSHA: Work-related accidents and injuries cost EU €476 billion a year according to new global estimates**](#)

At the XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, held in Singapore on 3-6 September, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) together with the International Labour Organization present new estimates of the cost of poor occupational safety and health (OSH). The new findings reveal that worldwide work-related injury and illness result in the loss of 3.9 % of GDP, at an annual cost of roughly €2 680 billion[1].

The estimates are findings from a major project on the costs and benefits of OSH. The project was carried out by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH), the WSH Institute in Singapore, the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and EU-OSHA.

More information: [EU-OSHA website](#)

[1] For the conversion from USD to EUR the ECB reference exchange rate for 2016 was used.

EU-OSHA: Work-related accidents and injuries cost EU €476 billion a year according to new global estimates

At the XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, held in Singapore on 3-6 September, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) together with the International Labour Organization present new estimates of the cost of poor occupational safety and health (OSH). The new findings reveal that worldwide work-related injury and illness result in the loss of 3.9 % of GDP, at an annual cost of roughly €2 680 billion[1].

The estimates are findings from a major project on the costs and benefits of OSH. The project was carried out by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH), the WSH Institute in Singapore, the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and EU-OSHA.

More information: [EU-OSHA website](#)

[1] For the conversion from USD to EUR the ECB reference exchange rate for 2016 was used.

July 2017 compared with June 2017- Industrial producer prices stable in euro area-Up by 0.1% in EU28

In July 2017, compared with June 2017, industrial producer prices remained

stable in the euro area (EA19), while they rose by 0.1% in the EU28, according to estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In June 2017 prices decreased by 0.2% in the euro area and by 0.3% in the EU28.

[Full text available on EUROSTAT website](#)

Work-related accidents and injuries cost EU €476 billion a year according to new global estimates

At the XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, held in Singapore on 3-6 September, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) together with the International Labour Organization present new estimates of the cost of poor occupational safety and health (OSH). The new findings reveal that worldwide work-related injury and illness result in the loss of 3.9 % of GDP, at an annual cost of roughly €2 680 billion [1].

Work-related ill-health and injury is costing the European Union 3.3 % of its GDP. That's €476 billion every year which could be saved with the right occupational safety and health strategies, policies and practices.

The estimates are findings from a major project on the costs and benefits of OSH. The project was carried out by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH), the WSH Institute in Singapore, the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and EU-OSHA.

Speaking ahead of the World Congress, the Director of EU-OSHA, Dr Christa Sedlatschek, said: *'Safe and healthy work is a fundamental human right but these new estimates of the costs of poor or non-existent OSH measures show that the economic case for OSH has never been stronger. Work-related ill-health and injury is costing the European Union 3.3 % of its GDP. That's €476 billion every year which could be saved with the right occupational safety and health strategies, policies and practices.'*

Good practice in OSH can help make businesses productive, competitive and sustainable, as well as reducing healthcare costs and other societal burdens. But the costs of poor OSH are high – for individuals, business and society. Through the costs and benefits project, EU-OSHA has taken steps to identify and evaluate the data that is available in the EU and worldwide to develop accurate and up-to-date estimates of the costs of work-related diseases and injuries.

Further findings to be presented at the World Congress include:

- Work-related illnesses account for 86 % of all deaths related to work worldwide, and 98 % of those in the EU.
- 123.3 million DALY (disability-adjusted life years) are lost globally (7.1 million in the EU) as a result of work-related injury and illness. Of these, 67.8 million (3.4 million in the EU) are accounted for by fatalities and 55.5 million (3.7 million in the EU) by disability.
- In most European countries, work-related cancer accounts for the majority of costs (€119.5 billion or 0.81% of the EU's GDP), with musculoskeletal disorders being the second largest contributor.

A new [data visualisation tool](#), developed by EU-OSHA as part of the project, is also unveiled at the World Congress. It shows the global costs of work-related illnesses and accidents in an accessible way. Key results are presented as infographics, allowing researchers and policy-makers to explore the findings quickly and easily. With transparency and ease of use in mind, the visualisation tool also provides a glossary of frequently used terms, and a guide to the methods used.

The World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, the world's largest gathering of OSH experts and practitioners, presents a great opportunity to disseminate these new findings. EU-OSHA is one of the Congress's supporting organisations and will be participating in a range of events throughout the four days, providing speakers, participating in workshops and hosting an exhibition stand. In particular, EU-OSHA is co-organising two symposia. One will relate to the costs and benefits project; the other will examine evidence-based good OSH practice in micro and small enterprises, with reference to EU-OSHA's work in this area and its OiRA (Online interactive Risk Assessment) project.

Links:

[1] For the conversion from USD to EUR the ECB euro reference exchange rate for 2016 was used.