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Daily News 01 / 08 / 2017

European Commission starts assessment of Member States' applications to host the European Medicines Agency and the European Banking Authority

The application procedure to host the two UK-based EU agencies, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the European Banking Authority (EBA), came to a close at midnight last night, 31 July 2017. The European Commission will now assess all offers in an objective manner and on the basis of the criteria set out by President Jean-Claude **Juncker** and President Donald Tusk, and endorsed by the Heads of State or Government of the EU27 at the [European Council \(Article 50 format\) on 22 June 2017](#). The Commission will present its assessment on 30 September 2017. All offers will be made available on the [website](#) of the Council. A full press release is available [here](#). (For more information: *Mina Andreeva – Tel.: +32 229-91382, Daniel Ferrie – Tel.: +32 229 86500*)

Le Fonds européen d'aide aux plus démunis a soutenu 14 millions de personnes en 2015

Un rapport de la Commission révèle des résultats encourageants du [Fonds européen d'aide aux plus démunis](#) dans son soutien direct et concret aux plus démunis afin de sortir de la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale. Plus spécifiquement, ayant financé la distribution de 400.000 tonnes de nourriture en 2015, ce fonds a fourni de l'aide alimentaire à plus de 14 millions de personnes en Europe cette même année. Parmi ceux-ci se trouvent surtout des enfants, des personnes âgées, des personnes sans abri, des personnes handicapées et des migrants. Près de la moitié des personnes ayant reçu du soutien du fonds étaient des femmes. La Commissaire en charge de l'Emploi, des Affaires sociales, des Compétences et de la Mobilité des Travailleurs, Marianne **Thyssen**, a dit: "Les résultats publiés aujourd'hui démontrent que le

Fonds européen d'aide aux plus démunis est capable de faire une réelle différence sur le terrain. Le Fonds représente l'une des façons très concrète et tangible dont l'Union européenne améliore la vie quotidienne des personnes en Europe et lutte contre la pauvreté. En fournissant de la nourriture et d'autres biens essentiels à plus de 14 millions de personnes, dont plus de 4 millions d'enfants, nous essayons de garantir que toutes les personnes en Europe vivent dans la dignité et obtiennent le soutien dont elles ont besoin pour participer pleinement à la société." Le Fonds européen d'aide aux plus démunis bénéficie d'un budget de €3.8 milliards pour la période 2014-2020. Plus d'informations sur le rapport se trouvent dans [l'article sur le site de la DG Emploi](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Christian Wigand – Tél.: +32 229 62253; Sara Soumillion – Tél.: + 32 229 67094)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of joint control over PSA DGD by TIL and PSA

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control over PSA DGD of Belgium, by Terminal Investment Limited Sàrl (TIL) of Switzerland and PSA International Pte Ltd (PSA) of Singapore. PSA DGD is an operator of a container terminal in the Deurganck dock in the Port of Antwerp. TIL is a terminal operating company, which invests in, develops and manages container terminals around the world, often in joint ventures with other terminal operators. TIL is jointly controlled by MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company Holding SA and investment vehicles managed by Global Infrastructure Management, LLC. PSA is an operator of shipping terminals and is mainly active in the provision of stevedoring services at ports with a particular focus on providing terminal services for container liner ships. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because of the limited changes to the market. The transaction was examined under the normal merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.8459](#). (For more information: Daniel Rosario – Tel.: + 32 229 56185; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

Eurostat: Le PIB en hausse de 0,6% dans la zone euro et dans l'UE28

Au cours du deuxième trimestre 2017, le PIB corrigé des variations saisonnières a augmenté de 0,6% tant dans la zone euro (ZE19) que dans l'UE28 par rapport au trimestre précédent, selon l'estimation rapide préliminaire publiée par Eurostat, l'office statistique de l'Union européenne. Au cours du premier trimestre 2017, le PIB avait progressé de 0,5% dans les deux zones. En comparaison avec le même trimestre de l'année précédente, le PIB corrigé des variations saisonnières a enregistré une hausse de 2,1% dans la zone euro et de 2,2% dans l'UE28 au deuxième trimestre 2017, après +1,9% et +2,1% au premier trimestre 2017. Un communiqué de presse est disponible [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Annika Breidhardt – Tél.: + 32 229 56153; Juliana Dahl – Tél.: +32 229 59914)

STATEMENTS

Déclaration de Jean-Claude Juncker, président de la Commission européenne, à l'occasion du décès de Jeanne Moreau

“C’est avec une vive émotion et avec une grande tristesse que j’ai appris le décès de Jeanne Moreau, immense dame du cinéma français et européen dont le talent et la beauté ont touché tant de cœurs. Européenne de par ses origines, ses choix artistiques l’ont amenée à collaborer avec les plus grands artistes européens de sa génération. Son travail a toujours reflété les valeurs de notre Union, comme l’amour de la liberté. En tant qu’actrice, elle a donné au cinéma français et européen un rôle et une place uniques dans le monde entier, et a marqué des générations de cinéphiles en interprétant des personnages inoubliables et intemporels, comme celui de Catherine dans Jules et Jim de François Truffaut. Son charisme allait bien au-delà du continent européen. Elle a inspiré les acteurs et les créateurs du monde entier. Jeanne Moreau a marqué avec son talent la culture européenne et son art continuera à charmer et à enchanter tous les publics bien après sa disparition. Toutes mes pensées vont à sa famille, ses proches et au monde des arts.” La déclaration est disponible en ligne [ici](#). (Pour plus d’informations: Mina Andreeva – Tél.: +32 229 913 82; Natasha Bertaud – Tél.: +32 229 674 56)

Statement by First Vice-President Timmermans and Commissioner Jourová on Roma Holocaust Memorial Day

“The European Commission honours on 2 August the Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, in memory of the thousands of Roma victims who lost their lives during the Second World War. We must not forget these unspeakable crimes against the Roma. Younger generations, for whom these episodes seem distant, should know of and understand this tragedy. Persecution and discrimination have no place in the European Union. Remembering the wrongs of the past helps us to build tomorrow’s Europe based on our common European values. The European Commission calls on all Member States to recognise the Roma Genocide and reiterates its support for the European Parliament’s resolution of 15 April 2015 with reference to the recognition of 2 August as Roma Holocaust Memorial Day. This is a necessary step to restore dignity and justice for Roma communities and to make sure that we never forget these events. The European Commission will continue to support Member States in the better integration of Roma.” The full statement is available [here](#). (For more information: Christian Wigand – Tel.: +32 229 62253; Tim McPhie – Tel.: +32 229 58602)

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

[Preliminary flash estimate for the second quarter of 2017 – GDP up by](#)

0.6% in both the euro area and the EU28 – +2.1% and +2.2% respectively compared with the second quarter of 2016

Seasonally adjusted GDP rose by 0.6% in both the **euro area** (EA19) and in the **EU28** during the second quarter of 2017, compared with the previous quarter, according to a preliminary flash estimate published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. In the first quarter of 2017, GDP had grown by 0.5% in both zones.

[Full text available on EUROSTAT website](#)

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The European Commission calls on all Member States to recognise the Roma Genocide and reiterates its support for the European Parliament's resolution of 15 April 2015 with reference to the recognition of 2 August as Roma Holocaust Memorial Day. This is a necessary step to restore dignity and justice for Roma communities and to make sure that we never forget these events.

The European Commission will continue to support Member States in the better integration of Roma.

Background

On 2 August 1944, over 3000 Roma men, women, and children were murdered in

the in the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

On 2 August, European Commission officials will join a group of holocaust survivors and young Roma people in the former concentration camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland. This commemoration is organised by the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma. It complements the Council of Europe “Dikh He Na Bister – Look and Don’t Forget” Roma Genocide Remembrance [Initiative](#) which brings together 250 young Roma and non-Roma from 20 European countries to raise awareness on the Roma Holocaust.

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The Commission’s assessment will be published online on 30 September 2017. The Council will then have a political discussion based on this assessment at the General Affairs Council (Article 50 format) in October 2017. In order to allow for a smooth and timely relocation of the two agencies, a final decision will be taken at the General Affairs Council (Article 50 format) in November 2017.

Interested Member States had until midnight on 31 July to submit their offers to the European Commission and the Council. All offers will be made available on the [website](#) of the Council.

Background

The decision to relocate the EMA and the EBA – both of which are currently situated in London – is for the governments of the 27 Member States to take. Their relocation is a direct consequence of the United Kingdom’s decision to leave the European Union, as notified to the European Council on 29 March 2017. It does not form part of the Brexit negotiations, but is to be discussed exclusively between the other 27 EU Member States. The Commission

has repeatedly called for a quick decision on the transfer, as the EMA and the EBA are two key EU regulatory bodies which must continue to function smoothly and without disruption beyond March 2019.

For More Information

[Applications to host the EMA and EBA](#)

[Decision on the procedure for relocation of EU agencies currently located in the UK](#)