

Déclaration de la Commissaire Vestager sur les modifications de la législation nationale chypriote relative au traitement fiscal des sociétés de financement

Roaming charges ended in the European Union on 15 June 2017. Europeans travelling within EU countries will 'Roam Like at Home' and pay domestic prices for roaming calls, SMS and data. ...

On 23 June 2016 citizens of the United Kingdom (UK) voted to leave the European Union (EU). On 29 March 2017 the UK formally notified the European Council of its intention to leave the EU by...

Over the past 20 years, the European Union has put in place some of the highest common asylum standards in the world. And in the past two years, European migration policy has advanced in leaps and...

'Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.' Robert Schuman 9 May 1950 On 25 March 2017, ...

In response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and deliberate destabilisation of a neighbouring sovereign country, the EU has imposed restrictive measures against the Russian Federation. Overview...

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker delivered his annual State of the Union speech at the European Parliament on 14 September 2016, just two days ahead of the informal meeting of 27...

Enlargement is the process whereby countries join the EU. Since it was founded in 1957, the EU has grown from 6 member countries to 28. Any European country that respects the principles of liberty, ...

Terna: EIB lends EUR 130 million for “Italy-France” interconnector



Italy-France Interconnector

Terna: EIB lends EUR 130 million for “Italy-France” interconnector

21/07/2017

EIB

[Rome, Italy]

An agreement was signed today between Terna and the European Investment Bank (EIB) for a EUR 130 million loan in support of investments for the public component of the “Piedmont-Savoy” project, the new 320 kV direct current electricity interconnector that will link Italy and France. The loan has a term of 22 years and a fixed interest rate of 1.64%.

“We are very proud of the contribution that the European Investment Bank has chosen to provide to this strategically important project, which will make Europe’s entire power grid more efficient and safer and help to implement the single electricity market”, remarked Luigi Ferraris, Terna’s CEO. “The interconnector with France is an innovative project that is unique globally thanks to the engineering solutions adopted, combining sustainability and development, as provided for in Terna’s investment plan for the country.”

“This operation confirms the EU bank’s engagement in the vital sector of energy networks and further consolidates its fruitful partnership with Terna: in recent years we supported with EUR 1 billion financings in total the Italian network operator’s key investment plans to upgrade and develop the electricity transmission network”, said EIB Vice-President Dario Scannapieco.

The high-voltage power interconnector between Piossasco (Italy) and Grande-Île (France) known as “Piedmont-Savoy” provides for an overall cross-border exchange capacity (combining public and private components) of 1 200 MW. The project will use technological solutions that are unprecedented globally and has been identified by the European Commission as a project of common interest (PCI) at Community level. With a length of 190 km, equally distributed between Italy and France, this will be the world’s longest direct current cable power line, fully integrated within the transmission infrastructure system and therefore ‘invisible’.

The project confirms Terna’s culture in terms of sustainability and respect for the land and is consistent with the strategy of growth designed to combine investment with the objectives of greater safety, minimal environmental impact and lower grid costs. The operation also comes under the EIB’s financing priorities in the fields of energy and environment.

When the work has been completed – the power line is expected to be operational by the end of 2019 – “Piedmont-Savoy” will be the fourth interconnector between Italy and France, serving to increase the exchange capacity between the two countries by some 40% and bolstering the integration and competitiveness of the electricity market, in line with EU strategy.

Euro banknote counterfeiting remains low in first half of 2017

PRESS RELEASE

21 July 2017

- 331,000 counterfeit euro banknotes were withdrawn from circulation in the first half of 2017
- Around 85% of the counterfeits were €20 and €50 banknotes
- All euro banknotes can be verified using the “feel, look and tilt” method
- Euro banknotes continue to be a trusted and safe means of payment

Some 331,000 counterfeit euro banknotes were withdrawn from circulation in the first half of 2017, a decrease compared with the second half of 2016. The likelihood of receiving a counterfeit is thus very slight. The number of counterfeits remains very low compared with the number of genuine banknotes in circulation, which has risen steadily, at rates above GDP growth, since they were introduced. In 2016, for instance, the number and value of [euro banknotes in circulation](#) grew by around 7.0% and 3.9% respectively. There are now over 20 billion euro banknotes in circulation, with a total value of more than €1.1 trillion.

The half-yearly trend is shown below:

Period	2014/1	2014/2	2015/1	2015/2	2016/1	2016/2	2017/1
Number of counterfeits	331,000	507,000	454,000	445,000	331,000	353,000	331,000

Breakdown by denomination:

Denomination	€5	€10	€20	€50	€100	€200	€500
Percentage breakdown	1.0%	2.4%	36.9%	47.6%	9.0%	1.6%	1.5%

During the first half of 2017:

- the €20 and €50 notes continued to be the most counterfeited banknotes. Together, they accounted for 85% of the counterfeits;
- most of the counterfeits (96.7%) were found in euro area countries. Around 2.3% were found in EU Member States outside the euro area and

1.0% were found in other parts of the world.

Check your banknotes!

Ever since the first series of euro banknotes was issued, the Eurosystem – i.e. the ECB and the 19 national central banks of the euro area – has encouraged people to be vigilant when receiving banknotes. You can check your notes by using the simple “feel, look and tilt” method described in “The Euro” section of the ECB’s website and on the websites of the national central banks. If you receive a suspect banknote, compare it directly with one you know is genuine. If your suspicions are confirmed, please contact the police or – depending on national practice – your national central bank or your own bank. The Eurosystem supports the law enforcement agencies in their fight against currency counterfeiting.

The Eurosystem communicates in various ways to help people distinguish between genuine and counterfeit notes, as well as to help professional cash handlers ensure that banknote-handling and processing machines can reliably identify and withdraw counterfeits from circulation.

The Eurosystem has a duty to safeguard the integrity of the euro banknotes and continue improving banknote technology. The second series of banknotes – the Europa series – is even more secure and is helping to maintain public confidence in the currency.

[The new €50 banknote](#), with its innovative security features, was launched on 4 April 2017. Banknote equipment manufacturers and other suppliers will continue to receive support from the Eurosystem in adapting their machines and authentication devices to the new banknote. If their equipment is still unable to accept this banknote, operators/owners should contact their suppliers or manufacturers without delay.

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[Media contacts](#)

[Results of the Q3 2017 ECB Survey of Professional Forecasters](#)

PRESS RELEASE

21 July 2017

- HICP inflation expectations have been revised downwards for 2017, 2018 and 2019. Longer-term HICP inflation expectations remain unchanged at

1.8%.

- Expectations for HICP excluding food and energy have been revised upwards for 2017, but remained unchanged for forecast horizons further out.
- Real GDP growth expectations have been revised upwards for 2017, 2018 and 2019.
- Unemployment rate expectations have been revised downwards.

Respondents to the ECB Survey of Professional Forecasters (SPF) for the third quarter of 2017 reported average point forecasts for inflation of 1.5%, 1.4% and 1.6% in 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively. That represents downward revisions of 0.1 percentage points at each of those three horizons. Average longer-term inflation expectations (which referred to 2022) remained unchanged at 1.8%.

Expectations for the annual inflation rate of HICP excluding food and energy were revised upwards for 2017, to 1.1%, but remained unchanged for all other forecast horizons (1.3% in 2018, 1.5% in 2019 and 1.7% in 2022).

SPF respondents revised their expectations for growth in euro area economic activity upwards for 2017 and 2018 by 0.2 percentage points to 1.9%, and 1.8%, respectively. Expectations for economic growth in 2019 were revised up by 0.1 percentage points to 1.6%. There were no changes to longer-term economic growth expectations (1.6%).

Unemployment rate expectations continued to show a declining trajectory. The average point forecasts were 9.2%, 8.8% and 8.4% for 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively. Relative to the SPF for the second quarter of 2017, this represents downward revisions of 0.2, 0.3 and 0.3 percentage points for 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively. The average point forecast for the longer-term unemployment rate (which referred to 2022) was revised downwards by 0.3 percentage points, to 8.1%.

Table: Results of the ECB Survey of Professional Forecasters for Q3 2017

(annual percentage changes, unless otherwise indicated)

Survey horizon	2017	2018	2019	Longer term (1)
HICP inflation				
SPF Q3 2017	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.8
<i>Previous SPF (Q2 2017)</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>1.8</i>
HICP inflation excluding food and energy				
SPF Q3 2017	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.7
<i>Previous SPF (Q2 2017)</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>1.7</i>
Real GDP growth				
SPF Q3 2017	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.6
<i>Previous SPF (Q2 2017)</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>1.6</i>
Unemployment rate (2)				
SPF Q3 2017	9.2	8.8	8.4	8.1
<i>Previous SPF (Q2 2017)</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>8.7</i>	<i>8.4</i>

1) Longer-term expectations refer to 2022 in the Q3 2017 SPF and to 2021 in the Q2 2017 SPF.

2) As a percentage of the labour force.

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- *The ECB Survey of Professional Forecasters (SPF) is conducted on a quarterly basis and gathers expectations for the rates of inflation, real GDP growth and unemployment in the euro area for several horizons, together with a quantitative assessment of the uncertainty surrounding them. The participants in the survey are experts affiliated with financial or non-financial institutions based within the European Union. The survey results do not represent the views of the ECB's decision-making bodies or of its staff. The next Eurosystem staff macroeconomic projections will be published on 7 September 2017.*
- *Since 2015 the results of the SPF have been released on the ECB's website. For surveys prior to the first quarter of 2015, see the ECB's Monthly Bulletin (2002-14: Q1 – February, Q2 – May, Q3 – August, Q4 – November).*
- *The SPF survey for the third quarter of 2017 was conducted between 3 and 7 July. The total number of responses was 56, broadly comparable with the average number of responses to surveys in the third quarter of a year (54).*
- *The SPF report and data are available via the [SPF webpage](#) and via the ECB's [Statistical Data Warehouse](#).*

[Media contacts](#)

[EIB to finance upgrade of Alliander electricity grid in the Netherlands](#)

Dutch network company Alliander has signed a EUR 300 million loan agreement with the European Investment Bank

The loan will be used to finance parts of the renewal and expansion of the distribution network used by Liander, a subsidiary of Alliander, to distribute electricity to customers. This investment will contribute to make the network future-proof. The investment programme is expected to be completed in late 2018.

“Network operators play an important role in the transition to a sustainable energy supply in the future, this will require substantial investments. The EIB is very pleased to be able to contribute to this through this loan,” says EIB Vice-President **Pim van Ballekom**. “Alliander is a new client for the bank.

Every day Alliander reaches more than three million customers in the Netherlands, meaning it plays an important role in society; that is an important factor for the Bank when considering whether to award a loan.”

Mark van Lieshout, Alliander’s CFO adds: “With this loan the EIB contributes to the diversification of our funding sources, and will be financing part of our investments over the coming years. These investments are necessary to enable the transition to a sustainable energy supply and ensure that the energy supply in the future will remain affordable, reliable and accessible.”

Improvements will be made to the grid in the areas where Liander operates: the Provinces of Gelderland and North Holland, large parts of the Provinces of Friesland and Flevoland and part of the Province of South Holland.