

Press release – Future EU financing: Parliament and German Council Presidency kick off talks



On Thursday, the delegations from Council and Parliament sat together for the first time for trilateral talks on a political level, including the Commission, in view of reaching an agreement on EU financing for 2021-2027.

“There needs to be adequate funding for EU flagship programmes such as the ones for research or the young, that are important for Parliament. There needs to be progress on the Own Resources – the EU’s revenue – and on the Rule of Law, on the role of the budgetary authority and on certain horizontal issues like, for example, climate. So all these elements are on the table. We had a good discussion so far already today. And I’m pretty sure that in the coming weeks we can continue that positive and constructive way of dialogue”, said Budget Committee Chair Johan Van Overtveldt (ECR, BE).

“We want to reach an agreement, but we want to reach a good agreement. Not so much for Parliament as such, but for the European citizens”, he added.

[View the full interview with Mr Van Overtveldt and footage of the meeting](#)

Background

In July, Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) on the [conclusions](#) of the extraordinary European Council meeting of 17-21 July 2020, setting out its negotiating mandate and priorities in view of reaching an agreement. Before the Council can formally adopt the MFF (Multiannual Financial Framework) regulation, Parliament must give its consent under [Article 312\(2\) TFEU](#).

The negotiating team has welcomed the Recovery Instrument but considers that several improvements are needed, especially by reinforcing specific

programmes, introducing a basket of new Own Resources (EU revenue), completing the legislators' work on the rule of law, and ensuring parliamentary involvement in the Recovery Instrument.

On 1 September Members of the [Committee on Budgets](#) will debate the state of play of the negotiations on the Union's next multiannual budget for 2021-2027 (MFF), the reform of the Own resources (OR) system and the Recovery Plan. Parliament's negotiating team on the MFF/OR will report back on Thursday's trilateral talks.

The EP's negotiating team for the next long-term EU budget and Own Resources reform

[Johan Van Overtveldt](#) (ECR, BE), Chair of the Committee on Budgets

[Jan Olbrycht](#) (EPP, PL), MFF co-rapporteur

[Margarida Marques](#) (S&D, PT), MFF co-rapporteur

[José Manuel Fernandes](#) (EPP, PT), Own Resources co-rapporteur

[Valérie Hayer](#) (RENEW, FR), Own Resources co-rapporteur

[Rasmus Andresen](#) (Greens/EFA, DE)

Follow them on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/i/lists/1205126942384676866>

[Criminal network dismantled in Lithuania, the UK and Ireland](#)



 The Hague, 27 August 2020

Judicial authorities and police in Lithuania, United Kingdom and Ireland, with support from Eurojust and Europol, have dismantled a criminal network responsible for drug trafficking, money laundering and trafficking in human beings. At least 65 people were exploited as street dealers.

Yesterday in Lithuania, Ireland and the UK, 18 suspects were arrested, including the leader of the organised crime group (OCG), while 65 searches took place and various assets were seized, with an estimated overall value of €700 000.

The OCG dismantled today was responsible for trafficking large quantities of heroin in Ireland and Northern Ireland (UK). The leader of the OCG, a Lithuanian, was responsible for recruiting and trafficking people from

Lithuania for drug trafficking and money laundering. Together with two other individuals, he set up a complex drug transport and distribution network in Ireland and the UK, in which at least 20 individuals have been involved since 2015.

The investigation revealed street dealers operating in the UK and Ireland, who were nearly all Lithuanians. At least 65 people were identified, mostly from vulnerable social backgrounds or drug addicts themselves. Many of these people had been trafficked by the leaders of the OCG with the specific intent to commit crime, i.e. illegally sell drugs on the streets.

Proceeds from the criminal activity were laundered by purchasing various real estate properties and other related financial transactions. A financial investigation is currently ongoing.

Today's action day, enabled through the coordination centre set up by Eurojust and benefitting from operational support of Europol, was the result of successful cooperation between the judicial and law enforcement authorities in the three countries involved.

The case was referred to Eurojust by the Lithuanian national authorities at the end of 2017 given the cross-border dimension of the criminal activity.

In 2018, a joint investigation team (JIT) was set up between the Lithuanian authorities and their counterparts in Northern Ireland (UK), with financial and analytical support from Eurojust. Authorities in Ireland also joined the JIT during the investigation.

Six coordination meetings were held in a secure environment facilitated by Eurojust, ensuring close cooperation with the national authorities in all countries involved and planning of the joint actions, including setting up a common strategy taking into account the different jurisdictions.

'Today's result wouldn't have been possible without close cooperation between the Lithuanian, Irish and UK authorities, as well Eurojust's support in facilitating the judicial cooperation between all the parties involved. This shows that by working closely together we can ensure that drugs are kept off the streets and people are kept safe', said Margarita Sniutyte-Daugeliene, National Member for Lithuania at Eurojust.

Eurojust also helped out by issuing the Mutual Legal Assistance requests, facilitating the real-time exchange of information between the judicial authorities involved, and providing support in order to plan the operational activity conducted today.

Europol provided a secure platform for the exchange of tactical information in real time and ensured remote crosschecks all throughout the joint action day.



ESMA selects Chair and Independent Members for its CCP Supervisory Committee

Following an open selection process, the Board of Supervisors has submitted to the European Parliament its selected candidates, which it, after having heard them, shall approve or reject.

The selected candidates are:

1. Chair of the CCP Supervisory Committee:

Mr Klaus Löber, currently Head of the Oversight Division at the European Central Bank (ECB);

2. Two positions of Independent Member of the CCP Supervisory Committee:

Ms Nicoletta Giusto, currently Senior Director and Head of International Relations at Commissione Nazionale per le Società e la Borsa (CONSOB); and Ms Froukelien Wendt, currently Senior Financial Sector Expert at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The European Parliament is expected to make a decision within the one-month period set out in EMIR 2.2. The appointment by the Board of Supervisors of the selected candidates, as Chair and Independent Members, will finalise the set-up of the CCP Supervisory Committee, which comprises the competent authorities of Member States where a CCP is established and, where applicable, the central banks of issue of EU currencies.

The finalisation of this process in conjunction with the finalisation of the delegated acts by the Commission will conclude the preparatory steps for the full implementation of the EMIR 2.2 regime.

EUR 30 million EIB backing to accelerate tuberculosis vaccine development in Africa



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- Tuberculosis is the world's leading infectious disease killer
- Successful development of a new tuberculosis vaccine will help reduce the disease burden on African countries and in particular in infants in high-risk HIV+ population
- European Investment Bank (EIB) provides €30 million loan to Vakzine Projekt Management, German subsidiary of Serum Institute of India (SIPL) to develop improved tuberculosis vaccine.
- Financing will be used by Vakzine Projekt Management to perform phase-III clinical trials of the vaccine with the ultimate goal to provide an affordable and available substitute of BCG

The European Investment Bank (EIB) today agreed a €30 million loan with Vakzine Projekt Management GmbH, the German subsidiary of Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd., the world's largest vaccine manufacturer.

The agreement, initiated by KENUP Foundation, will support research and development of a new vaccine to prevent tuberculosis in infants in particular in high-risk HIV+ populations. The EIB loan is supported by the dedicated Impact Financing Envelope. The financing structure consists of a contingent loan where the repayment is due only if market authorization is achieved. If the trials do not reach the primary endpoint, the loan is written off.

"We are very pleased to get European Investment Bank funding for such an important trial for tuberculosis and upcoming HIV trials. With this support, I am confident that we will be able to help eliminate these dreadful diseases. Going forward such support from Institutions like the EIB will play a key role in tackling major diseases which have killed millions of people in developed and developing world." said Dr. Cyrus Poonawalla, Chairman & Managing Director, Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd.

The World Health Organization declared tuberculosis a global emergency even surpassing HIV as the leading cause of infection-related death. "The BCG vaccine is the only tuberculosis vaccine currently available and is the standard of care for primary tuberculosis prevention for infants. Our goal is to replace BCG with VPM1002, which is safer, better tolerated and hopefully more effective, as prime vaccine in newborn infants. An achievement like this could be the long-desired turning point in global TB containment for almost 100 years." Dr. Leander Grode, CEO of Vakzine Projekt Management GmbH.

"Tuberculosis is one of the top ten causes of death worldwide, causing millions of victims in recent years." said Ambroise Fayolle, European Investment Bank Vice President. "Although the world is currently mostly preoccupied with Covid-19, TB and HIV have not gone away, yet they are treatable or even preventable. I'm proud that the European Investment Bank can support late-stage research into an improved TB vaccine that can save lives, especially children, as well as develop novel treatment for HIV. This research could have an enormous impact on health worldwide, and especially across Africa."

Accelerating development of more effective tuberculosis vaccine and treatment

Vaccine research and development for the project will be carried out by

Vaccine Projekt Management in Germany and clinical trials scaled up in several high-burden sub-Saharan countries. The vaccine will be also tested in high-risk, HIV-exposed groups to enable more effective treatment in Africa.

The €30 million EIB loan signed today will finance the late stage (phase III) clinical trial of a new and improved vaccine protecting against Tuberculosis in infants, which is also partly financed by the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP).

Addressing the impact of tuberculosis across Africa

With 26% of new cases on the African continent, and two countries in the top six of most impacted countries, these developments could have a major health impact on the local population. Next to this, the parties expect to sign a further €15m loan in the near future in support of R&D investment into a portfolio of new drugs for the prevention and treatment of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Tuberculosis is the most common illness among people living with HIV, including among those taking antiretroviral treatment, and it is the major cause of HIV-related deaths. Sub-Saharan Africa bears the brunt of the dual epidemic, accounting for 84% of all deaths from HIV-associated tuberculosis in 2018.

In particular, research backed by the EIB help to ensure a higher level of protection, improve safety and accelerate large scale production of a novel TB vaccine for immunisation of infants than BCG. Affordability and availability of the vaccine is the primary goal of the initiative. Additionally, VPM1002 may potentially have positive effects on COVID-19 infections. A study is currently testing whether it can protect from COVID-19, following research on mice, which showed it can protect against other viral lung infections.

Every year, nearly 1,5 million people die from tuberculosis, a disease which according to the WHO is 'treatable and preventable', and which is the leading cause of death from a single infectious agent worldwide.

Strengthening EIB support for high-impact public health investment in Africa

The EIB is financing projects across Africa to ensuring that public health efforts can reduce the spread of COVID-19 and better face existing and future health challenges is a global priority.

The EIB is working closely with the World Health Organisation and the global vaccine alliance GAVI to strengthen primary health care cross Africa, including scaling up financing to better protect medical supply chains, improve basic hygiene and safeguard front-line medical workers.

The European Investment Bank's technical and financial teams in nine African cities help to ensure that technical, environmental, social and financial expertise is shared with project promoters, financial partners and the private sector.

Last year, the European Investment Bank (EIB) provided €3 billion of new financing that supported €10.7 billion of transformational investments across Africa. This included more than EUR 1.8 billion for private sector investment across the continent.

Background information

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the long-term lending institution of the European Union owned by its Member States. It makes long-term finance available for sound investment in order to contribute towards EU policy goals.

The European Investment Bank has provided €45 billion for public and private investment across Africa over the last 57 years.

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Informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers (Gymnich): Remarks by t



Check against delivery!

Good morning to all of you.

[Today], we are going to talk about very important issues. We are going to

talk about Belarus and the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean. Everybody is focussing on what kind of decisions we will propose regarding sanctions. We are going to discuss that.

As you know, this is an informal meeting; it cannot take decisions, only political proposals that will be developed later.

I think that the discussions will be important, because the level of the sanctions and who to sanction is something that needs to be fully considered.

We are also [tomorrow] going to talk about the relationship with Russia, which is also a difficult issue, especially after [the alleged poisoning of the opposition leader \[Alexei Navalny\]](#).

So, it is going to be an important meeting, which requires us all to be [physically] together, because these things are very difficult to discuss via video conference.

Thank you.

Link to the video: <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/video/I-194217>