



Daily News 03 / 12 / 2019

Brussels, 3 December 2019

Réutilisation de l'eau : la Commission se félicite de l'accord provisoire sur les exigences minimales en matière de réutilisation de l'eau dans l'agriculture

La Commission se félicite de l'accord provisoire conclu entre le Parlement européen et le Conseil sur les exigences minimales en matière de réutilisation de l'eau. Les nouvelles règles, proposées par la Commission en mai 2018, établiront des exigences harmonisées minimales en matière de qualité de l'eau pour la réutilisation sans danger des eaux usées urbaines traitées dans l'irrigation agricole.

Virginijus **Sinkevičius**, commissaire chargé de l'environnement, des océans et de la pêche, a déclaré: « Grâce à cet accord provisoire, nous dotons l'UE d'un outil puissant pour relever certains défis posés par le changement climatique. Avec les économies d'eau et les mesures d'efficacité, l'utilisation d'eau récupérée dans le secteur agricole peut jouer un rôle important dans la gestion du stress hydrique et de la sécheresse, tout en garantissant pleinement la sécurité de nos citoyens. » À l'heure actuelle, la pratique de la réutilisation de l'eau n'est établie que dans quelques États membres et est déployée bien au-dessous de son potentiel. Les nouvelles règles adoptées faciliteront et encourageront l'adoption de cette pratique bénéfique, qui peut assurer un approvisionnement en eau propre plus prévisible pour les agriculteurs de l'UE et les aider à s'adapter au changement climatique et à en atténuer les effets. En fixant des exigences minimales, les nouvelles règles garantiront la sécurité des pratiques et augmenteront la confiance des citoyens dans les produits agricoles sur le marché intérieur de l'UE. L'accord provisoire doit maintenant être formellement approuvé par le Parlement européen et le Conseil de l'UE. Un communiqué de presse complet est disponible [en ligne](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Vivian Loonela - Tél.: +32 229 66712; Ana Crespo Parrondo - Tél.: +32 229 81325)

Energy Union: EU supports Celtic interconnector and Baltic synchronisation project

Today, two grants for important electricity interconnection projects will be signed in the presence of Commissioner for Trade Phil **Hogan** and Commissioner for Energy Kadri **Simson**: the Celtic Interconnector between Ireland and France, and the Harmony Link Interconnector between Lithuania and Poland. Both are [projects of common interest](#) which will contribute to a diversification of energy supply and improved energy security for Ireland and the Baltic states. For the Celtic Interconnector, €530 million was awarded for works; and for the studies for the development of the Harmony Link electricity interconnector, €10.29 million was awarded. The signature ceremony takes place in the margins of the [PCI Energy days](#) on 3 December 2019 in Brussels. Commissioner **Simson** said: "Today, once again, we are showing the world how European solidarity works in the energy sector. With the signature of these two grants, we consolidate our Energy Union built to provide security of supply for all citizens. The Harmony Link electricity interconnector is part of the Baltic Synchronisation Project, an endeavour that will result in the full integration of the Baltic States grids with the rest of Europe. Europe's energy infrastructure must advance in line with our clean energy transition and with these two projects, we'll take a step closer to our goals." Commissioner **Hogan** said: "Through the development of the Energy Union, the European Commission has prioritised the issue of energy security. The Celtic Interconnector will ensure a reliable high-capacity link improving the security of electricity supply and supporting the development of renewables in both Ireland and France. The award of €530 million to this project is a further illustration of the real added-value which the European Union can offer to its citizens." The Celtic interconnector will be an electric cable between France and Ireland, to be finalised by 2026, with an approximate length of 600 km and capacity of 700 MW, enough to power 450,000 households. The studies for the Harmony Link electricity interconnector are part of the synchronisation of the Baltic States' electricity network with the European system. More information is available [here](#). (For more information: Tim McPhie – Tel: +32 229-58602; Lynn Rietdorf – Tel: +32 229-74959; Ana Crespo Parrondo – Tel: +32 229-81325)

Europe's single phone number for citizens has now answered 100 000 calls this year

The 100 000th question was asked by Ms Isabel Zunino from Barcelona, who is visiting the [Europe Direct Contact Centre](#) today and meeting the Commission's Director-General for Communication, Ms

Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen. Ms. Zunino works for a food delivery company and was interested in knowing more about the EU rules on single-use plastics. The Europe Direct Contact Centre is an important channel for the Commission to listen to and engage with citizens. Established in 2000 and based in Brussels, the Contact Centre answers citizens' questions about the European Union in any of the 24 official languages by phone or online. The annual number of questions will have grown by more than 10% between 2018 and 2019 and is expected to reach more than 120 000 by the end of December. Most notably, the expected number of Brexit-related questions in 2019 (around 5 000) will be approximately 4 times higher than in 2018. You will find more information [here](#). (For more information: Susanne Conze - Tel.: +32 229 80236; Sinéad Meehan - van Druten - Tel.: +32 229 84094)

Mergers: Commission clears joint venture between Recruit Co and MUFG Bank

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control over a newly created joint venture by Recruit Co, Ltd ("Recruit") and MUFG Bank Ltd ("MUBK"), both of Japan. The joint venture will provide finance services for major enterprises and small to medium businesses in Japan to support their day-to-day management and operations. Recruit provides information technology services for various purposes such as recruiting, education and booking. MUBK is active in retail banking in Japan, with offices in Japan and 40 other countries. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, given that the joint venture will have negligible activities in the European Economic Area. 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.9555](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta - Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni - Tel.: +32 229 90526)

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MEX/19/6656