



## Daily News 10 / 12 / 2019

Brussels, 10 December 2019

### EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey: €6 billion to support refugees and local communities in need fully mobilised

The European Union has fully mobilised the €6 billion operational budget of the [Facility for Refugees in Turkey](#), in line with its commitment to the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement. Out of the total Facility budget of €6 billion, €4.3 billion has now been contracted and €2.7 billion disbursed. Oliver **Várhelyi**, Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement, commented: *"The full mobilisation of the €6 billion of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey confirms the European Union's commitment to deliver on its promises. We will continue our support to refugees and host communities in Turkey in various areas that are of key importance to their quality of life, the future of their children and their integration at large"*. Janez **Lenarčič**, Commissioner for Crisis Management, added: *"Supporting refugees in Turkey is a priority for the EU. Thanks to EU's support, more than 1.7 million vulnerable refugees cover their basic needs, such as rent and medicine, and more than half a million refugee children go to school. EU continues to deliver on its promise to refugees and Turkey."* The announcement comes following the thirteen Steering Committee meeting of the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey, which took place in Brussels on 9 December. Chaired by the Commission, the Committee brought together representatives of EU Member States, European Parliament and Turkey. The Committee confirmed the full mobilisation of the €6 billion operational budget and gave a state of play of current implementation. The [full press release](#) is available online. A dedicated [factsheet](#) and an [interactive map](#) with the Facility projects is also available. (For more information: Ana Pisonero Hernandez - Tel.: +32 229-54320; Balazs Ujvari - Tel.: +32 460 76 02 96; Alceo Smerilli - Tel.: +32 460 76 95 36; Daniel Puglisi - Tel.: +32 460 76 73 74)

### Accord sur le couplage des systèmes d'échange de droits d'émission de l'UE et de la Suisse

Alors que les ministres se réunissent à la COP25 à Madrid pour discuter des règles des marchés internationaux du carbone, l'UE et la Suisse ont finalisé le processus qui permet le couplage de leurs systèmes d'échange de droits d'émission d'entrer en vigueur. À partir de 2020, les quotas des deux systèmes vont pouvoir être utilisés pour compenser les émissions produites dans l'un ou l'autre des systèmes. L'accord de couplage entre l'UE et la Suisse est le premier du genre et prouve que les systèmes d'échange de droits d'émission peuvent ouvrir la voie à des marchés internationaux de carbone plus larges. Le vice-président exécutif Frans **Timmermans** a déclaré: *« L'accord de couplage entre l'UE et la Suisse, qui couvre également le secteur aérien, souligne le fait que nous pouvons créer des marchés de carbone plus larges et plus complets, bénéfiques pour notre climat et notre environnement. »* Le couplage des marchés du carbone peut produire des avantages significatifs. En élargissant le marché et en augmentant les opportunités de réduction des émissions, la rentabilité des systèmes interconnectés peut être augmentée et leur liquidité améliorée, ce qui se traduit par un meilleur partage de la charge, davantage de réductions d'émissions et une diminution des coûts de conformité. Le pacte vert européen soutiendra fortement ces principes, soulignant qu'avec des marchés de carbone connectés, nous pouvons rapprocher les prix du carbone dans différents pays, ce qui permet ainsi de réduire les risques de fuite de carbone. L'établissement de synergies renforce également la coopération entre les parties ayant des objectifs contraignants et encourage les autres à agir, ainsi qu'à soutenir la coopération mondiale sur l'action contre le changement climatique et le développement d'un marché mondial de carbone. Le communiqué de presse est [disponible en ligne](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Vivian Loonela - Tél.: +32 229 66712; Tim McPhie - Tél.: +32 229-58602; Lynn Rietdorf - Tel: +32 229-74959)

### EU awards €600 million to Europe's top researchers

Today, the European Commission announced 301 top scientists and scholars across Europe that won the latest Consolidator Grant competition of the [European Research Council](#) (ERC). The winners will receive a total of €600 million, as part of the [Horizon 2020](#) research and innovation programme, to build their teams and work on impactful research projects. Mariya **Gabriel**, Commissioner for

Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, said: "Knowledge developed in these new projects will allow us to understand the challenges we face at a more fundamental level, and may provide us with breakthroughs and innovations that we haven't even imagined. The EU's investment in frontier research is an investment in our future, which is why it is so important that we reach an agreement on an ambitious Horizon Europe budget for the next multiannual budget. More available research funding would also allow us to create more opportunities everywhere in the EU - excellence should not be a question of geography." Some of the areas that researchers from around Europe will explore and work upon, thanks to this newly awarded EU funding, are the consequences of climate change, the long-term health effects of food additives, and the impact of online tools on political advocacy and democracy. More information is available in this ERC [press](#) release. (For more information: Lucía Caudet – Tel. +32 229 56182; Marietta Grammenou – Tel. + 32 229 83583)

## **COP 25: European Investment Bank signs agreement under Investment Plan to finance new solar energy farms in Spain**

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has signed a financing agreement at COP25 in Madrid worth €26 million with IM2 Energía Solar to support the construction of 15 new solar energy farms in Spain. The EIB financing is guaranteed by the Investment Plan's European Fund for Strategic Investments. The project, entitled "Solar Storm 200", has the potential to produce 218 megawatts of clean energy, and it will create 400 new jobs in the construction phase as well as hiring an additional 20 permanent staff. The solar parks will be built in Andalusia, the Valencian Community, Murcia and Extremadura. European Commission Executive Vice-President Valdis **Dombrovskis**, responsible for An Economy that Works for People, said: "Investing in renewable energies is a crucial element to achieving the Paris Climate Agreement goals and reaching climate neutrality by 2050. I am pleased to be in Madrid for COP25 where the European Investment Bank has signed an agreement under the Investment Plan for Europe which will see 15 new solar energy farms constructed in Spain. Not only will this deal provide new sources of clean energy, but it will also create jobs in the process." The press release is available [here](#). As of November 2019, the Investment Plan had already mobilised €450.6 billion of investment across the EU, including €49.5 billion in Spain, and supported more than one million start-ups and small and medium businesses. EFSI-backed investments have increased EU gross domestic product by 0.9% and [added 1.1 million jobs](#) compared to the baseline scenario. By 2022, the Investment Plan will have increased EU GDP by 1.8% and added 1.7 million jobs. (For more information: Marta Wieczorek – Tel.: +32 229 56153; Siobhan Millbright – Tel.: +32 229 57361)

## **EU steps up economic partnership with Kenya to boost job creation**

During her visit to Nairobi yesterday, Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta **Urpilainen**, signed two new programmes totalling €31 million to boost investment and create jobs in Kenya. She said: "We have a close and valued partnership with Kenya, driven by common objectives and aligned with the Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs and Kenya's Big Four Agenda. I am delighted to announce these new programmes today, which will deepen our economic partnership, boost Kenya's economic potential, improve the investment climate, and create jobs. They are further evidence of our mutually beneficial cooperation to promote sustainable development to eradicate poverty." €26 million will be directed at reforming Kenya's public finances to promote economic stability, improve service delivery and tackle poverty. Another €5 million will target economic cooperation and national policy reforms. It will also provide technical support for implementing Kenya's Vision 2030 and 'Big 4' agenda. Find more information in the [full press release](#). (For more information: Ana Pisonero Hernandez- Tel.: +32 229-54320; Lauranne Deville – Tel.: +32 229-80833)

## **Sécurité routière: la Commission reconnue pour son important travail sur les nouvelles règles de l'UE visant à sauver des vies**

Aujourd'hui, la Commission européenne et le Laboratoire de recherche sur les transports du Royaume-Uni ont conjointement reçu [le prix du Prince Michael International Road Safety Awards](#) au Royaume-Uni pour leurs travaux significatifs et leurs recherches innovatrices produisant la base des éléments scientifiques sur laquelle la directive révisée relative à la sécurité générale a été établie. [En mai 2018](#), la Commission a proposé de rendre obligatoires certaines mesures de sécurité des véhicules, notamment des systèmes qui réduisent les angles morts dangereux des camions et des bus, une technologie qui avertit le conducteur en cas de somnolence ou de distraction, et de meilleures mesures de protection des piétons. Des fonctionnalités de sécurité avancées telles que l'assistance de vitesse intelligente et le freinage d'urgence avancé réduiront le nombre d'accidents, ouvriront la voie à une mobilité de plus en plus connectée et automatisée et stimuleront l'innovation mondiale et l'avantage de la concurrence de l'industrie automobile européenne. Les nouvelles règles entreront en vigueur à partir

de janvier 2020 avec un certain nombre de nouvelles technologies de sécurité qui deviendront obligatoires dans les véhicules européens dès le mois de juillet 2022. Depuis 1987, les Prince Michael International Road Safety Awards récompensent chaque année d'exceptionnelles réalisations et innovations qui amélioreront la sécurité routière au Royaume-Uni et dans le monde entier. *(Pour plus d'informations: Sonya Gospodinova: Tel.: +32 229 66953; Federica Miccoli - Tel.: +32 229 58300)*

### **State aid: Commission approves €400 million of public support for very high-speed broadband networks in Spain**

The European Commission has approved, under EU State aid rules, €400 million of public support to deploy very high-speed broadband networks in Spain. The measure will support the rollout of networks capable of providing upload and download speeds of 300 megabits per second (Mbps), upgradeable to 1 gigabit per second (Gbps), to the targeted areas. The new networks will cover areas where no high-speed network offering download speeds of at least 30 Mbps download is already present or planned in the near future. To a lesser extent, it will also cover areas where one such high-speed network is already present or planned in the near future, but where there is no network in place or planned capable of providing more than 100 Mbps download. The Commission assessed the measure under EU State aid rules, in particular its [2013 Broadband Guidelines](#). The Commission concluded that the scheme's positive effects on competition in the Spanish broadband market outweigh potential negative effects brought about by the public intervention. On this basis, the Commission approved the measure under EU State aid rules. The scheme will contribute to the EU strategic objectives set out in the [Digital Agenda for Europe](#) and in the Communication "[Towards a European Gigabit Society](#)". Executive Vice-President Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy said: "*Spanish consumers and businesses should benefit from the full potential of digital growth, regardless of where they are located. This measure will address the digital divide between urban and rural areas in Spain. With this decision, we again endorse the use of public funds for high-speed internet services to households and businesses in areas where private investment is insufficient*". The full press release is available online in [EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#), [ES](#). *(For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344)*

### **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Vermaat by Bridgepoint**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of Vermaat Groep B.V. ("Vermaat") of the Netherlands by Bridgepoint Group Limited ("Bridgepoint") of the UK. Vermaat provides outsourced catering services to a variety of markets including corporates, leisure, hospitals and travel hubs. It offers services in over 350 food and beverage outlets, including restaurants, cafés, cafeterias, canteens and convenience stores in the Netherlands and to a lesser extent in Germany and Belgium. Bridgepoint is an independently owned private equity group focussed on investing in established European middle market businesses in a broad range of sectors, including consumer/retail, business services, industrials, financial services, healthcare, media and technology. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns due to its very limited impact on the market. 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.9620](#). *(For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

### **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of newly created joint venture between E.ON and Berliner Stadtwerke**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control over a newly created joint venture called Tegel Energie by E.ON SE and Berliner Stadtwerke GmbH ("BSW"), all of Germany. Tegel Energie will construct and operate a new district heating and cooling network as well as related generation facilities for two new residential/commercial areas on the site of today's Berlin Tegel Airport. E.ON is active in: (i) energy distribution networks and (ii) customer solutions, including electricity and gas retail supply. BSW, a 100%-subsidiary of Berliner Wasserbetriebe Anstalt des öffentlichen Rechts, focuses on the construction and operation of renewable energy plants and electricity retail supply. The Commission concluded that the proposed concentration would raise no competition concerns because of the limited economic activity of the joint venture in the European Economic Area. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.9632](#). *(For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

## **Concentrations: La Commission autorise l'acquisition de Nuova Castelli par Lactalis**

La Commission européenne a approuvé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l'acquisition de Nuova Castelli, entreprise basée en Italie, par Lactalis, entreprise basée en France. Nuova Castelli est principalement active dans la production et commercialisation de fromages de type italien vendus sous marques de fabricants et sous marques de distributeurs, tels que mozzarella, ricotta, mascarpone ainsi que plusieurs fromages d'appellation d'origine protégée (AOP). Lactalis est un groupe industriel actif dans la production et la commercialisation de produits laitiers, notamment de fromages de type italien, beurres et desserts lactés de marques largement reconnues telles que Président, Parmalat et Galbani. La Commission a conclu que la concentration envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème de concurrence, compte tenu du fait que Nuova Castelli a une présence limitée sur le segment des produits de marques fabricants où un certain nombre d'alternatives existent. De plus, sur le segment des produits de marques distributeurs où se situe le principal chevauchement entre les activités des entreprises, il existe d'autres fournisseurs importants qui peuvent concurrencer l'entité issue de la concentration. Enfin, la Commission a constaté l'arrivée de nouveaux concurrents mais également le développement des activités des concurrents existants sur les marchés nationaux de l'Espace économique européen. De plus amples informations seront disponibles sur le [site internet concurrence](#) de la Commission, dans le [registre public](#) des affaires sous le numéro d'affaire [M.9413](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

## **STATEMENTS**

### **Statement by Commissioner for Trade Phil Hogan on the suspension of the functioning of the WTO's Appellate Body**

*"On 11 December, the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Appellate Body will essentially stop functioning, as it is no longer able to take on any new appeals. This is a regrettable and very serious blow to the international rules-based trade system, which, for the past 24 years, has relied on the WTO's Appellate Body – and dispute settlement generally. This is a critical moment for multilateralism and for the global trading system. With the Appellate Body removed from the equation, we have lost an enforceable dispute settlement system that has been an independent guarantor – for large and small economies alike – that the WTO's rules are applied impartially. The European Union remains a staunch supporter of the multilateral trading system and firmly believes that a WTO with an effective dispute settlement system is indispensable for ensuring open and fair trade. [...] In anticipation of the suspension of the functioning of the Appellate Body, the EU proposed interim appeal arrangements to those partners who are willing to continue to resolve disputes in a binding way in respect of the WTO rules. The European Commission will soon unveil further proposals to make sure that the EU can continue to enforce its rights in international trade matters should others block the system."* The full statement is available [here](#). (For more information: Daniel Rosario - Tel.: + 32 229 56185; Kinga Malinowska - Tel.: +32 229 51383)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Commissioner Kyriakides speaks at conference on "Better access to cancer care in Europe" at the European Parliament**

Today, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety **Stella Kyriakides** delivers a keynote speech at the conference "Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: Better access to cancer care in Europe?" at the European Parliament, co-hosted by MEP Tomislav Sokol (EPP) and MEP Nicolae Stefanuta (RE). During the event, experts and stakeholders will exchange views on concrete actions that can be taken, how we can ensure uptake and measure success, and how the cancer community can work together at this critical crossroad to ensure an effective future cancer policy that delivers impact for patients across Europe. Ahead of the conference, Commissioner **Kyriakides** said: *"Cancer is a huge burden on our citizens, on our societies and our economies. Europe's Beating Cancer Plan will be the opportunity to show what Europe can tangibly do for its citizens. I will develop this plan in close cooperation with the Member States, the European Parliament and all relevant stakeholders – in particular the citizens. There is only*

*one way to be truly effective in fighting cancer: making it a common, European endeavour." The speech of the Commissioner will be available [here](#). (For more information: Vivian Loonela – Tel.: +32 229 66712; Darragh Cassidy – Tel.: +32 229 83978)*

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