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RÉUNION DU COLLÈGE : Rapport de prospective stratégique 2021: renforcer la capacité et la liberté d'action à long terme de l'UE

La Commission a adopté aujourd'hui son deuxième [rapport de prospective stratégique sur « La capacité et la liberté d'action de l'UE »](#). Cette communication présente une perspective multidisciplinaire, tournée vers l'avenir de l'autonomie stratégique ouverte de l'UE dans un ordre mondial de plus en plus multipolaire et contesté. La Commission a dégagé quatre tendances mondiales majeures qui affectent sa capacité et sa liberté d'action: le changement climatique et les autres défis environnementaux, l'hyperconnectivité numérique et les mutations technologiques, les pressions sur la démocratie et les valeurs, et enfin les évolutions de l'ordre mondial et la démographie. Elle a aussi défini 10 domaines d'action essentiels dans lesquels l'UE peut exploiter des circonstances lui permettant d'asseoir son leadership mondial. La présidente de la Commission européenne, Ursula **von der Leyen**, a déclaré à ce propos: « *Les Européens se rendent compte presque quotidiennement que des défis planétaires tels que le changement climatique et la transformation numérique ont une incidence directe sur leur vie personnelle. Nous sentons tous que notre démocratie et nos valeurs européennes sont remises en question, de l'extérieur comme de l'intérieur, ou que l'Europe doit adapter sa politique extérieure à un ordre mondial qui change. Le fait de connaître mieux et plus tôt de telles tendances nous aidera à nous attaquer à ces importants enjeux à temps et à orienter notre Union dans une direction positive.* » Maroš **Šefčovič**, vice-président de la Commission chargé des relations interinstitutionnelles et de la prospective, a déclaré: « *S'il est vrai que nous ne pouvons pas savoir ce que l'avenir nous réserve, une meilleure compréhension des principales tendances lourdes, des incertitudes et des possibilités qui se présentent renforcera la capacité et la liberté d'action de l'UE à long terme. Le rapport de prospective stratégique examine par conséquent quatre grandes tendances ayant une incidence majeure sur l'UE et définit dix domaines d'action en vue de dynamiser notre autonomie stratégique ouverte et d'asseoir notre leadership mondial à l'horizon 2050. La pandémie n'a fait que renforcer le bien-fondé des choix stratégiques ambitieux que nous avons posés, et le présent rapport nous aidera à garder une longueur d'avance.* » De plus amples informations sont disponibles dans le [rapport](#), le [communiqué de presse](#) et les [questions et réponses](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Daniel Ferrie — Tél.: +32 229 86500; Sinéad Meehan-van Druten — Tél.: +32 229 84094).

RÉUNION DU COLLÈGE: Initiative citoyenne européenne: la Commission décide d'enregistrer une nouvelle initiative citoyenne sur la politique commerciale commune

La Commission européenne a décidé aujourd'hui d'enregistrer une initiative citoyenne européenne intitulée « Assurer la conformité de la politique commerciale commune avec les traités de l'Union européenne ainsi que le respect du droit international ». Les organisateurs de l'initiative appellent la Commission à « proposer des actes juridiques basés sur la politique commerciale commune visant à empêcher les entités juridiques de l'Union tant d'importer des produits originaires de colonies illégales dans des territoires occupés que d'exporter des produits vers ces territoires, afin de préserver l'intégrité du marché intérieur et de ne pas aider ou contribuer au maintien de telles situations illégales ». La Commission considère cette initiative citoyenne européenne comme recevable sur le plan juridique, car elle remplit les conditions nécessaires à l'enregistrement. Il convient de souligner que cette initiative invite la Commission à présenter une proposition d'acte juridique en vertu de la politique commerciale commune, qui revêt un caractère général et ne cible aucun pays ou territoire spécifique. À ce stade, la Commission n'a pas analysé l'initiative sur le fond. Pour de plus amples informations, veuillez consulter notre communiqué de presse [en ligne](#). (Pour plus d'informations : Christian Wigand — Tel. + 32 229 62253; Katarzyna Kolanko — Tel.: + 32 229 63444; Jördis Ferrolí — Tel.: + 32 229 92729)

L'UE renforce sa position de premier plan dans le commerce agroalimentaire mondial

L'année 2020 a vu l'UE renforcer sa position de premier plan parmi les principaux exportateurs mondiaux de produits agroalimentaires. Du côté des importations, l'UE s'est hissée au rang de troisième importateur après les États-Unis et la Chine, selon un [rapport publié aujourd'hui](#). L'année 2020 a été une année exceptionnellement difficile, mais fructueuse pour le commerce agroalimentaire de l'UE, qui a atteint une valeur totale de 306 milliards d'euros: 184 milliards d'euros pour les exportations et 122 milliards d'euros pour les importations. Ces deux chiffres représentent une légère augmentation, de 1,4 % et 0,5 % respectivement, par rapport à 2019. Le commerce international a joué un rôle crucial dans l'atténuation des effets économiques dévastateurs de la pandémie de COVID-19 et s'est révélé un outil essentiel pour renforcer la résilience. L'UE forme le plus grand bloc commercial du monde et un vaste réseau d'accords de libre-échange sous-tend sa place dans le commerce mondial. Janusz **Wojciechowski**, commissaire à l'agriculture, s'est exprimé en ces termes: « *La promotion d'un commerce ouvert et équitable est une priorité politique pour la Commission européenne, qui bénéficie grandement à nos agriculteurs. Le succès des échanges agricoles est clairement lié à la politique agricole commune, qui soutient la compétitivité et l'innovation, ainsi qu'à l'excellente réputation de nos produits, connus pour être sûrs, produits de manière durable, nutritifs et de haute qualité* ». Plus de [détails](#) et le [rapport](#) sont disponibles en ligne. (Pour plus d'informations: Miriam Garcia Ferrer – Tél.: +32 229 99075; Thérèse Lerebours – Tél.: +32 229 63303)

Agriculture: the Commission approves new geographical indication from Hungary

The Commission has approved today the addition of '[Szegedi tükörponty](#)' from Hungary in the register of Protected Geographical Indications (PGI). 'Szegedi tükörponty' is a fish of the carp species, produced in Szeged region, near Hungary's southern border, where a system of fish ponds was created. The alkaline water of the ponds gives the fish a particular vitality and resilience. The flaky, reddish, flavorsome flesh of the fish farmed in these ponds, and its fresh aroma with no side-tastes, can be directly attributed to the specific saline land. The quality and flavour of the fish are directly influenced by the good oxygen supply at the lake bed in the fish ponds created on saline soil. The flesh of 'Szegedi tükörponty' is high in protein, low in fat and very flavoursome. The new denomination will be added to the list of 1563 products already protected in the [eAmbrosia](#) database. More information online on [quality products](#). (For more information: Miriam Garcia Ferrer – Tel.: +32 229 99075; Thérèse Lerebours – Tel.: +32 229 63303)

Competition: EU, US and the People's Republic of China participated in the Fifth Global Maritime Regulatory Summit

On 7 September 2021, senior government officials from the EU, the US and the People's Republic of China participated in the Fifth Global Maritime Regulatory Summit. Participants included representatives of the competition and maritime authorities responsible for regulating international liner shipping in the world's largest liner trade lanes. The Summit covered sectoral developments since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, including the challenges faced by the international container transport sector and broader issues of maritime supply chains. Participants agreed that the pandemic presented operators in shipping companies, ports and logistics services with exceptional challenges, on routes to and from the EU as well in other parts of the world. They exchanged views on the respective actions undertaken by their jurisdictions, as well as future outlook and perspectives, including possible actions to increase the resilience of the sector. The Summit takes place every two years and is a forum to foster cooperation between the three authorities. The next Summit will be convened in 2023 in China. (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of i.Leco by Proximus, Besix and Stefan Lodeweyckx

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control over i.Leco NV by Proximus NV, N.V. Besix S.A. and Stefan Lodeweyckx, all of Belgium. i.Leco develops and provides software and building energy management solutions for the smart building solutions industry. Proximus is the incumbent telecommunications operator in Belgium, and a provider of a full range of wholesale and retail telecommunications services. Besix is part of the Besix Group, and provides construction services, including building, marine works, infrastructure, environmental works, sports and leisure facilities as well as industrial buildings. Stefan Lodeweyckx is a private individual and the current Chief Executive Officer of i.Leco. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because i.Leco has negligible actual or foreseen activities within 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.10287](#). *(For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Solenis by Platinum Equity Group

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of Solenis UK International Limited of the UK by Platinum Equity Group of the US. Solenis is active in the sale of specialty chemicals mainly for water treatment. Platinum Equity Group is a private equity investment firm specialised in the merger, acquisition and operation of companies in a broad range of businesses. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, given the companies' moderate combined market positions resulting from the proposed transaction. 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.10394](#). *(For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

APPOINTMENTS

College meeting: The European Commission appoints two new Directors in DG ECHO and DG HOME

Today, the European Commission has appointed Bernardette Frederick as Director of the Directorate "General Affairs" in the Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO). This Directorate-General aims to save and preserve lives, prevent and alleviate human suffering and safeguard the integrity and human dignity of populations affected by natural or man-made disasters in Europe and in third countries. Ms Frederick will be in charge of the overall policy coordination and strategy for the Directorate-General, including multilateral cooperation, inter-institutional relations, programming, budgetary, legal and IT support necessary for a good functioning of the entire Directorate-General. Ms Frederick, a Belgian national, has been working for the European Commission for 17 years, where she has developed robust management skills along with strong interpersonal, communication and networking skills necessary to establish and maintain extensive contacts within the Commission, with Member States, external partners and stakeholders at the international level. She has also acquired a sound knowledge of financial management through her former functions. She is currently Head of Unit in DG ECHO, in charge of Strategic orientation, development and resources management of ECHO field network. Previously, she headed different units in the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (HOME) and in the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (MOVE). The European Commission has also appointed Henrik Nielsen as Director "Strategy and General Affairs" in DG HOME, dealing with migration and security. With twelve years of experience as Head of unit in DG HOME and previously ten years in the Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security (JLS), Henrik Nielsen, a Swedish national, is well-equipped to provide leadership in his new Directorate. His previous experiences will allow him to ensure that DG HOME's work and policy objectives are well coordinated and delivered in a coherent strategic framework, including with respect to Member States, Schengen Associated Countries and inter-institutional relations. Given his background, he will also build on his advanced negotiation skills with representatives of Member States, those of the other European institutions and a variety of stakeholders including third countries. He is also well-placed to work on developing long-term strategies at DG HOME, based on his thorough knowledge of the policy areas in the remit of this Directorate-General, in particular as concerns the New Pact on Migration and Asylum presented by the Commission last year. He is currently heading the Unit for Asylum in DG HOME and earlier on worked on the legislative package on Dublin reform and related interinstitutional negotiations (2016) as well as on the asylum aspects of the EU-Turkey statement. Previously, he was in charge of the units for International coordination and for Border management and Schengen. Prior to that, he served in DG JLS as Deputy Head of Unit "Borders and visas" and as Assistant to the Director General. The date of effect will be determined later. *(For more information: Balazs Ujvari - Tel.: +32 229 54578; Claire Joawn - Tel.: +32 229 56859)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-President Schinas and Commissioner Schmit to travel to Greece to discuss lifelong learning, employment and inclusion

From 10-12 September, Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, Margaritis **Schinas**, and from 9-11 September, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas **Schmit**, will be in Greece to discuss lifelong learning, employment policy and inclusion, following the Commission's approval of Greece's recovery and resilience plan in June. On Thursday, in Athens, Commissioner **Schmit** will meet with the Greek Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Kostis Hatzidakis, and the Greek Minister of Development and Investment, Adonis Georgiadis, as well as other government representatives and representatives of social partners and the academic community. On Friday, Commissioner **Schmit** will travel to Thessaloniki, meeting with Apostolos Tzitzikostas, Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia and President of the European Committee of the Regions. Vice-President **Schinas** and Commissioner **Schmit** will then carry out a joint visit to the [European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training \(CEDEFOP\)](#), followed by a visit to the Second Technical Vocational High School of Apprenticeship (EPAS) of the Employment Promotion Centre of the Greek National Employment Agency (OAED) in Thessaloniki, which is co-financed by the EU. Vice-President **Schinas** will also participate in the general assembly of the Federation of Industries of Greece (SBE). On Saturday, Vice-President **Schinas** and Commissioner **Schmit** will open the Commission's stand at the [85th Thessaloniki International Fair](#). Vice-President **Schinas** will also participate in the [Aristotle Medical Forum](#). Finally, on Sunday, Vice-President **Schinas** will participate in a dialogue on the Future of Europe together with the Greek Minister of Digital Governance, Kyriakos Pierrakakis, at the Thessaloniki International Fair. Highlights from the visits can be followed on [EbS](#). (*For more information: Daniel Ferrie – Tel.: +32 229 86500; Flora Matthaes – Tel.: +32 229 83951*)

[Tentative agendas](#) for forthcoming Commission meetings

Note that these items can be subject to changes.

[Eurostat](#) press releases

The Spokesperson's Service has re-opened the Berlaymont press room to a limited number of journalists. For more information, please see [here](#).

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