



## Daily News 22 / 11 / 2022

Brussels, 22 November 2022

### **Commission disburses further €2.5 billion in exceptional macro-financial assistance to Ukraine**

The Commission has today disbursed the second instalment of €2.5 billion under the €5 billion [exceptional macro-financial assistance \(MFA\)](#) operation for Ukraine. This is part of an MFA package, announced by the Commission in its [18 May Communication](#) and [endorsed](#) by the European Council of 23-24 June 2022.

With today's payment, **total MFA support** disbursed to Ukraine **since the start of Russia's war** has reached **€6.7 billion**. The funds have been made available to Ukraine in the form of **highly concessional loans**, with longer-term maturities than under regular MFAs. In a further expression of solidarity, the EU budget will cover the interest costs on these exceptional MFA loans, at least for the current multiannual financial framework. The third and last instalment of €0.5 billion under this exceptional MFA operation is expected to be disbursed in December of this year.

Today's disbursement comes after a favourable assessment by the Commission of the **progress** made by Ukraine towards the implementation of the seven structural **policy measures** agreed in a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) that was signed on 3 October. These measures aim at strengthening the resilience and economic stability of the country, improving the business climate, reinforcing the rule of law and governance and ensuring the energy security of Ukraine. Ukraine has also complied successfully with the **enhanced reporting requirements** linked to this exceptional MFA.

The Commission disbursed the first €600 million already in March and another €600 million in May this year, followed by €1 billion in August and €2 billion in October.

In order to continue supporting Ukraine, on 9 November 2022, the Commission proposed the [MFA+ support package for Ukraine of up to €18 billion](#), with stable, regular and predictable financial assistance – averaging €1.5 billion per month – which would help cover a significant part of Ukraine's short-term funding needs for 2023.

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### **RÉUNION DU COLLÈGE : Initiative citoyenne européenne – la Commission décide d'enregistrer une nouvelle initiative intitulée «Journée européenne du "Quoi qu'il en coûte"»**

La Commission européenne a décidé aujourd'hui d'enregistrer une initiative citoyenne européenne (ICE) intitulée « Journée européenne du "Quoi qu'il en coûte" ».

L'initiative appelle à l'institutionnalisation de la Journée européenne du « Quoi qu'il en coûte » en tant qu'«**acte symbolique de paneuropéanisme**», en référence à la déclaration faite le 26 juillet 2012 par **Mario Draghi**, alors président de la Banque centrale européenne.

Les organisateurs visent à marquer un **chapitre de grande résilience de l'UE** à une époque où il a fallu gérer des crises multiples.

Cette initiative citoyenne européenne remplissant les conditions formelles, la Commission considère qu'elle est recevable sur le plan juridique. À ce stade, la Commission n'a pas analysé la proposition sur le fond.

Un communiqué de presse avec plus d'informations est disponible [en ligne](#).

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## **Technical Support Instrument: Commission helps Greece to tackle natural and environmental disasters**

A new project financed by the Commission's [Technical Support Instrument](#) (TSI) will improve Greece's **resilience** to tackle natural and environmental disasters. Greece is suffering from an increasing number of incidents due to **extreme weather** causing wildfires and floods, like the unprecedented wildfires that occurred in August 2021.

The project, which is launched today, will assist the Greek Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection for a period of **30 months**. It will help the Ministry in coordinating emergency preparedness, response and climate change adaptation actions.

The project will entail the development of a **strategy to manage risks and emergencies** in the area of civil protection, an **action plan with concrete actions on emergency management** and a **single coordination mechanism** for different stakeholders and civil protection organisations at all administrative levels.

The TSI offers expertise to all Member States for the implementation of growth-enhancing reforms. This support which is offered by the Commission is demand driven and offers tailor-made assistance to the Member States. Since 2017, the Structural Reform Support Programme and the TSI have supported over 1,400 reform projects in all Member States.

Last year, the TSI supported a project of the Greek Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency to help Greece tackle the natural disaster of the wildfires in the northern part of the Greek island of Evia, recovering and halting the potential biodiversity loss.

More details [here](#).

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## **European Research Council awards €636m in grants for emerging science talent across Europe**

408 researchers have won this year's [European Research Council](#) (ERC) Starting Grants. The funding worth in total **€636 million** and part of the Horizon Europe programme will help excellent **young scientists**, with two to seven years' experience after PhD, to launch their own projects, form their teams and pursue their most **promising ideas**.

Mariya **Gabriel**, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, said: *"We are proud to empower younger researchers to follow their curiosity. These new ERC laureates bring a remarkable wealth of scientific ideas, they will further our knowledge and some already have practical applications in sight. I wish them all the best of luck with their explorations."*

The grants will be invested in [scientific projects](#) spanning all disciplines of research from engineering to life sciences to humanities. For example, a cryptography engineer in Paris will be looking for better ways to secure digital resources; a professor in vaccinology in Netherlands will be developing effective vaccines for parasitic diseases like malaria; and a legal scholar in Czechia will study the role of courts in the international refugee law.

The laureates of this grant competition proposed to carry out their projects at universities and research centres in 26 countries across Europe. The grants will create more than **2,000 jobs** for postdoctoral fellows, PhD students, and other staff at the host institutions.

More information is available in this [ERC press release](#).

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## **Initiative 1+ million de génomes : l'Irlande et la France rejoignent l'initiative de l'UE sur le partage des données génétiques pour la recherche**

L'Irlande et la France ont rejoint [l'initiative européenne sur la liaison des bases de données génomiques](#), qui a été lancée en 2018 pour permettre l'accès transfrontalier aux données de santé afin **d'améliorer la compréhension, la prévention et le traitement des maladies**. Les bases de données génomiques contiennent des collections de données ADN, que les scientifiques et les médecins peuvent utiliser pour faire avancer la recherche en médecine de précision, ainsi que la détection et la prévention des maladies.

Margrethe **Vestager**, vice-présidente exécutive pour une Europe adaptée à l'ère numérique, a

déclaré: « *L'élargissement de la base de données d'informations précieuses sur la génétique est essentiel pour améliorer les soins de santé et le bien-être de chacun dans l'UE. Et avec chaque nouveau signataire de l'initiative 1+ Million Genomes, l'UE amplifie notre position dans la recherche en santé.* »

Le commissaire chargé du marché intérieur, Thierry **Breton**, a déclaré: « *Une coopération renforcée et un meilleur accès aux données de santé contribueront à placer l'Europe à l'avant-garde de la médecine personnalisée. Relier les données de santé génomiques à travers l'UE favorisera également la recherche scientifique, conduisant à une médecine personnalisée améliorée et à des traitements plus innovants.* »

L'initiative génomique a jusqu'à présent été signée par 24 États membres de l'UE, ainsi que par la Norvège et le Royaume-Uni. Les prochaines étapes de la mise en œuvre de l'initiative se concentreront sur la **mise en place d'une infrastructure européenne de données génomiques** cofinancée par la Commission européenne à hauteur de 50% dans le cadre du [programme Digital](#). Les signataires poursuivent les travaux concernant des exigences techniques pour l'infrastructure commune de l'UE et sur la garantie d'un partage hautement sécurisé des données pour la recherche dans toute l'Europe. L'initiative est alignée sur les objectifs de [l'espace européen des données de santé](#) pour le partage sûr et sécurisé de ces données à travers les frontières.

Plus d'informations sur l'initiative européenne de santé numérique sont disponibles [ici](#).

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### **Cybersécurité: l'UE lance la première phase du déploiement de l'infrastructure européenne des centres d'opérations de sécurité transfrontaliers**

La Commission et le centre [européen de compétence en cybersécurité](#) (ECCC), ont lancé aujourd'hui un **appel à manifestation d'intérêt** afin de sélectionner des entités dans les États membres pour héberger et exploiter des plateformes transfrontalières de détection des cybermenaces, chacune rassemblant des entités publiques concernées de plusieurs États membres ainsi que des entités privées.

Annoncé dans la [stratégie de 2020 en matière de cybersécurité européenne](#), et plus détaillé récemment dans la communication conjointe sur la [politique européenne en matière de cyberdéfense](#), cela constitue la première phase de la création d'une **infrastructure européenne de centres d'opérations de sécurité (SOC) transfrontaliers**, alimentée par l'intelligence artificielle (IA) et d'autres technologies de pointe.

Margrethe **Vestager**, vice-présidente exécutive pour une Europe adaptée à l'ère numérique a dit « *Un cyberspace sécurisé est le socle de nos vies numériques, de l'économie numérique et de la souveraineté de l'UE. Cette nouvelle infrastructure européenne est indispensable pour le bâtir, et grâce au futur mécanisme de solidarité, elle sera déployée à plus grande échelle encore.* »

Thierry **Breton**, Commissaire chargé du marché intérieur, a déclaré: « *La vitesse de détection est un facteur clé dans la réponse aux cyber-menaces. Avec le déploiement d'une infrastructure européenne de SOC, nous améliorons les temps de réaction et facilitons la coopération afin de parvenir à terme à un véritable cyber-bouclier européen.* »

Les centres d'opérations de sécurité transfrontaliers se procureront des outils et des services de détection des cybermenaces conjointement avec le Centre européen de compétence en cybersécurité, qui contribuera dans un premier temps avec **30 millions d'euros** du programme DIGITAL. Ce programme financera également jusqu'à **72,5 millions d'euros** de subventions pour la détection des cybermenaces, suite à un appel à propositions récemment [ouvert](#).

Les centres ou plateformes peuvent également demander ces subventions, en vue de compléter l'investissement résultant de l'approvisionnement conjoint avec le Centre Européen de compétence en Cybersécurité.

Plus d'informations sur [l'appel à manifestation d'intérêt](#) et sur la [stratégie de cybersécurité](#) de l'UE et la [cyberdéfense](#) de l'UE.

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### **Commission increases support for journalism partnerships**

The Commission published today a **€10 million** call for journalism partnerships – an increase of €3 million compared to 2021 and 2022 – to be financed through [Creative Europe](#).

Half of the grants will follow the logic of previous calls and support cross-border collaboration among news media professionals in Europe, helping the wider European news media sector become more sustainable and resilient. For the first time, the other half will be dedicated to organisations that offer grants for public interest journalism and sectors that are of special relevance to democracy. In doing so, the Commission wishes to **strengthen sectors** such as **local and regional media, community media** and **investigative journalism**, which face particularly adverse economic conditions.

Together with other policy initiatives such as the [European Media Freedom Act](#), this should help boost media pluralism and nurture public debate across Europe. Organisations active in media can apply to this call until 27 April 2023.

Examples of ongoing journalism partnerships projects are accessible [here](#), and information on EU support to media is available [here](#).

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### **Digital Services Act: Commission is setting up new European Centre for Algorithmic Transparency**

Following the entry into force of the [Digital Services Act \(DSA\)](#), the EU's new landmark rules for a safer and more accountable online environment, the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) is setting up a [European Centre for Algorithmic Transparency \(ECAT\)](#). It will support the enforcement of the new rules with **top-level technical and scientific expertise**.

The ECAT will have its main seat at the JRC's Seville site, with staff also located in Brussels and Ispra. It is expected to be fully operational in the **first quarter of 2023** and aims at becoming a centre of gravity for the international research in the field, acting as a knowledge hub for vetted researchers analysing data provided under the DSA.

The DSA calls for **increased oversight of the algorithmic systems** used by very large online platforms and search engines. This includes how they moderate content and propose information to their users. The new Centre will support the Commission in assessing whether the functioning of such algorithms is in line with the risk management obligations under the DSA.

To ensure the Commission is equipped with the best talent in the field, the JRC has launched a [recruitment campaign](#) for experts in data science, algorithmic design, algorithmic auditing and other closely linked fields. Applications are open until 9 January 2023. In addition to the recruitment at the JRC, the Commission is also [currently recruiting](#) for the DSA team in the Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT).

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## **STATEMENTS**

### **Gender Equality: The EU is breaking the glass ceiling with new gender balance targets on company boards**

Today, the European Parliament has formally adopted the new EU law on gender balance on corporate boards. By 2026, companies will need to have **40% of the underrepresented sex among non-executive directors or 33% among all directors**.

On this occasion, President **von der Leyen** together with Vice-President **Jourová** and Commissioner **Dalli** issued the following statement:

*"This is a long-awaited moment, a moment to be celebrated as a breakthrough in gender equality.*

*After ten years since its proposal by the European Commission, we will now have an EU law to break the glass ceiling of listed companies boards.*

*There are plenty of women qualified for top jobs and with our new European law, we will make sure that they have a real chance to get them."*

The full [statement](#) and the [factsheet](#) are available online.

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## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **COLLEGE MEETING: The European Commission appoints a new Deputy Director-General for its Joint Research Centre**

The European Commission has decided today to appoint **Salla Saastamoinen** as Deputy Director-General for the Joint Research Centre (JRC). The Joint Research Centre is the **Commission's science and knowledge service**. The JRC employs scientists to carry out research in order to provide independent scientific advice and support to EU policy. **The date of effect of her appointment is to be determined later.**

Salla Saastamoinen, a Finnish national, will benefit from her extensive policy-design experience to identify how the JRC's scientific and technological work can support best EU policy making. She is also equipped with strong leadership, coordination and communication skills along with a significant amount of experience in legislative and international negotiations.

Salla Saastamoinen has 25 years of outstanding career in the Commission, including 21 years in the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST). She was acting Director General in DG JUST during the challenging pandemic period. In this capacity, she was leading the EU policies on justice, rule of law, fundamental rights, equality, and consumers. In addition, and currently, she is Director for Civil and Commercial Justice in charge of the development of the European area of civil justice, including contract law and company law. Prior to that, she was Director for Equality. Previously, she also served as Head of several units in the same Directorate-General. Before joining the Commission in 1996, she was a partner in a business law firm, a researcher in law and author of several books on environmental law and EU law.

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### **COLLEGE MEETING: The European Commission appoints a new Deputy Director-General for its European Anti-Fraud Office**

The European Commission has decided today to appoint **Andreas Schwarz** as Deputy Director-General for its European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). OLAF **investigates fraud** against the EU budget, **corruption** and **serious misconduct within the European Union institutions**, and develops anti-fraud policy for the European Commission. **The date of effect of his appointment is to be determined later.**

Andreas Schwarz, a German national, has a considerable amount of experience in managing Commission departments and representing the Commission in complex negotiations. Building on his excellent analytical skills, he is particularly knowledgeable of budgetary and financial matters and has a thorough understanding of the investigative process in anti-fraud cases.

Andreas Schwarz is currently Director for Revenue and Multiannual financial framework in the Directorate-General for Budget (DG BUDG), where since 2018 he is in charge of the strategic management and oversight of the EU budget 2021 - 2027 and NextGenerationEU. He is also responsible for the control of the EU budget revenue sources.

Prior to that, he was Deputy Head of Cabinet of EU Budget Vice-President Kristalina Georgieva and Commissioner Janusz Lewandowski. Earlier in his career, he was also Member of Cabinet of Vice-President for enterprise and industry Günter Verheugen. He also gained valuable professional experience at various Commission departments, including the Directorate-General for Trade (DG TRADE), the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) and the Directorate-General for Competition (DG COMP). Before joining the Commission in 2003, he was an economist for the public sector in Germany.

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**COLLEGE MEETING: The European Commission appoints a new Director in its department for informatics**

The European Commission has decided today to appoint **Grzegorz Minczakiewicz** as Director 'IT Security' at the Directorate-General for Informatics (DG DIGIT). DG DIGIT is the Commission department responsible for providing **digital services that support other Commission services and EU institutions in their daily work** and that help public administrations across the EU harmonise their work. **The date of effect of this appointment is to be determined later.**

In his new position, Grzegorz Minczakiewicz will build on his outstanding experience of 12 years at DG DIGIT, his strong leadership skills as well as his proven experience in addressing the challenges ushered in by new ways of working, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. He has also obtained robust and valuable knowledge in the field of securing corporate information systems and networks against cyber-attacks.

Grzegorz Minczakiewicz, a Polish national, has been Deputy to the Director 'IT security' and Head of Unit 'IT Security Policy' in DG DIGIT since 2014. In this capacity, he has been in charge of corporate cybersecurity policy, strategy, governance and IT security operations in the European Commission. Prior to that, he headed the 'Information and Training Services' unit in the same Directorate-General. Before joining the Commission in 2010, he worked as a Technology Manager for the European Defence Agency for five years, and as Product or Sales Manager in different companies in the telecommunication sector in France and Poland for almost a decade.

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[Liste des points prévus](#) à l'ordre du jour des prochaines réunions de la Commission

*Veillez noter que ces informations sont données sous réserve de modifications.*

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MEX/22/7093