



## Daily News 03 / 07 / 2020

Brussels, 3 July 2020

### **Boosting the EU's green recovery: Commission invests €1 billion in innovative clean technology projects**

The Commission is launching today the first call for proposals under the [Innovation Fund](#), one of the world's largest programmes for the demonstration of innovative low-carbon technologies, financed by revenues from the auction of emission allowances from the EU's Emissions Trading System. The Innovation Fund will finance breakthrough technologies for renewable energy, energy-intensive industries, energy storage, and carbon capture, use and storage. It will provide a boost to the green recovery by creating local future-proof jobs, paving the way to climate neutrality and reinforcing European technological leadership on a global scale. Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, Frans **Timmermans**, said: *"This call for proposals comes at just the right time. The EU will invest €1 billion in promising, market-ready projects such as clean hydrogen or other low-carbon solutions for energy-intensive industries like steel, cement and chemicals. We will also support energy storage, grid solutions, and carbon capture and storage. These large-scale investments will help restart the EU economy and create a green recovery that leads us to climate neutrality in 2050."* A [press release](#) is available online. (For more information: Tim McPhie – Tel: +32 229 58602; Lynn Rietdorf - Tel: +32 229 58602)

### **Investment Plan supports small businesses in Poland and farmers in Romania**

The European Investment Bank (EIB) Group has signed two new financing agreements in Poland and Romania that benefit from the guarantee of the European Fund for Strategic Investments. In Poland the EIB Group is providing financial backing worth [€450 million to Santander Bank Polska Group](#) allowing it to lend up to €625 million of funding to companies impacted by the coronavirus crisis. Executive Vice-President Valdis **Dombrovskis** said: *"The EU continues to provide financial support to small and medium sized companies, in light of the enormous pressure the coronavirus pandemic is placing on SMEs. I welcome this financing agreement between the EIB and Santander Bank Polska Group, which will help to lighten the burden for hundreds of businesses in Poland."* In Romania, the EIB and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development are providing [new financing of €7.5 million](#) and €5 million respectively to Agricover Credit IFN, expanding Romanian farmers' access to finance. Commissioner for the Economy, Paolo **Gentiloni**, said: *"To recover from the economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, we must continue to promote European solidarity. Working together with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Investment Bank, the Commission is proud to support this financing deal with Agricover Credit, aimed at protecting farmers in Romania."* As of June 2020, the European Fund for Strategic Investments has [mobilised €514 billion of investment](#) across the EU, including €22.3 billion in Poland and €4 billion in Romania, and supported 1.4 million start-ups and small and medium-sized businesses. (For more information: Marta Wiczorek – Tel.: +32 229 58197; Siobhán Millbright – Tel.: +32 229 57361)

### **Tableau de bord du marché unique 2020: les États membres doivent faire davantage pour garantir le bon fonctionnement du marché unique de l'UE**

Aujourd'hui, la Commission publie le tableau de bord du marché unique 2020, qui montre qu'en dépit d'améliorations dans certains domaines, les États membres doivent faire davantage pour garantir le bon fonctionnement du marché unique. Comme cela a été le cas pendant la crise du coronavirus, un bon fonctionnement du marché unique est essentiel pour assurer la libre circulation des approvisionnements à travers l'UE et vital pour la reprise rapide de l'économie de l'UE. Les résultats du tableau de bord de cette année, qui est disponible en tant qu'[outil en ligne](#), soulignent l'importance de l'attention renouvelée accordée à la mise en œuvre et à l'application, décrite dans le [plan d'action pour l'application](#) des lois adopté par la Commission en mars 2020. Avant toute chose, un marché unique pleinement opérationnel nécessite un partenariat entre Commission et les États

membres. Le groupe de travail sur la mise en application du marché unique nouvellement créé sera l'un des outils clés pour favoriser une telle approche collaborative entre la Commission et les États membres. Pour en savoir plus sur le tableau de bord et ses principales conclusions, un communiqué de presse est disponible [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Sonya Gospodinova – Tél.: +32 229-66953; Federica Miccoli – Tél.: +32 229-58300)

## **European Commission authorises first treatment against COVID-19**

Today, the European Commission granted a conditional marketing authorisation for the medicine Remdesivir, making it the first medicine authorised at EU level for treatment against COVID-19. This authorisation, under an accelerated procedure, comes after a recommendation by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), followed by an endorsement by the Member States. The protection of public health is a key priority of the Commission, and as such, the data on Remdesivir were assessed in an exceptionally short timeframe through a [rolling review](#) procedure, an approach used by EMA during public health emergencies to assess data as they become available. This has enabled the authorisation to be granted quickly in the context of the coronavirus crisis, within one week after EMA's recommendation, compared to the usual 67 days. Stella **Kyriakides**, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, said: "Today's authorisation of a first medicine to treat COVID-19 is an important step forward in the fight against this virus. We are granting this authorisation less than a month after the application was submitted, showing clearly the EU's determination to respond quickly whenever new treatments become available. We will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to secure efficient treatments or vaccine against the coronavirus." Remdesivir is now authorised for a conditional marketing authorisation, one of the EU regulatory mechanisms created to facilitate early access to medicines that fulfil an unmet medical need, including those for emergency situations in response to public health threats such as the current pandemic. More information: [EU's legislation on medicinal products](#); [EMA and COVID-19 treatments](#) (For more information: Stefan De Keersmaecker – Tel.: +32 229 84680; Darragh Cassidy – Tel.: 229-83978)

## **Commission revamps its 'Have Your Say' portal**

The Commission has today launched a revamped version of 'Have Your Say' - the web portal which brought together, for the first time in 2017, all opportunities to contribute online to EU law and policymaking. The new version should further improve Commission consultation and communication with the public and increase transparency. As part of its 'Better Regulation' agenda, the aim of the portal is to enhance the quality of EU policymaking, thanks to the input of all relevant stakeholders. The portal is now more user-friendly, giving the public direct access to share their views on the newest consultations – for example, on Sustainable and Smart Mobility strategy, on the Digital Services Act, or on a new Consumer Agenda. More information is available [here](#). (For more information: Susanne Conze -Tel.: +32 229 80236; Veronica Favalli - Tel.: +32 229 87269)

## **Publication des derniers chiffres du commerce agroalimentaire: l'agroalimentaire européen solide et stable au cours des premiers mois de 2020**

Le [dernier rapport mensuel sur le commerce agroalimentaire](#) publié aujourd'hui montre que la valeur mensuelle des exportations agroalimentaires de l'UE entre janvier et mars 2020 a continué de croître. À 46,8 milliards d'euros, la valeur de 2020 était de 6,2 % supérieure au niveau de 2019 pour la même période. En termes d'importations, la valeur a atteint 31,8 milliards d'euros, en hausse de 2,6 % par rapport à janvier-mars 2019. En conséquence, l'excédent commercial agroalimentaire mensuel a atteint 14,9 milliards d'euros, soit une croissance de 15 % par rapport à l'année précédente. Les plus fortes augmentations des valeurs d'exportation ont été enregistrées pour la Chine en raison de la demande supplémentaire de porc, de viande d'abats, d'aliments pour nourrissons et de blé. Les exportations élevées d'orge et de blé ont également entraîné une augmentation à la fois pour l'Arabie saoudite et le Maroc, tandis que de fortes hausses ont également été enregistrées pour les exportations vers la Russie et les États-Unis. Plusieurs produits agroalimentaires de l'UE ont connu une croissance de leurs valeurs d'exportation au cours de cette période, notamment dans le cas du blé, de la viande de porc et des céréales secondaires. Le [rapport mensuel](#) présente également un aperçu du commerce agroalimentaire au cours des 12 derniers mois, couvrant la balance commerciale, son évolution par catégorie de produits et les principaux partenaires commerciaux de l'UE. (Pour plus d'informations: Daniel Rosario - Tél.: +32 2 29 56185; Thérèse Lerebours - Tél.: +32 229 13963)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Vice-President Jourová, Commissioners Reynders and Johansson to participate in the informal videoconference of the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs on 6-7 July**

Vice-President for Values and Transparency, Věra **Jourová**, Commissioner for Justice, Didier **Reynders**, and Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva **Johansson**, will take part in informal videoconferences with Justice Ministers and with Home Affairs Ministers taking place on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 July respectively. On Monday 6 July, Commissioner **Reynders** will join Justice Ministers for a working session on how European democracies governed by the rule of law have [dealt with restrictions of certain rights during the COVID-19](#) crisis. The Commissioner will then present the newly adopted [EU Strategy on Victims' Rights](#) and participate in a presentation by the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator. In the afternoon, Vice-President **Jourová** and Commissioner **Reynders** will participate in a working session on strengthening democracy in times of COVID-19, which will focus on responses to hate speech and disinformation. Vice-President **Jourová** and Commissioner **Reynders** will participate in the press conference on Monday afternoon after the meeting at +/- 16:30 CET, which will be streamed live on [EbS+](#). On Tuesday 7 July, Commissioner **Johansson** and Home Affairs Ministers will start by exchanging views on a European Police Partnership to tackle joint challenges in the European area of freedom, security and justice. In the afternoon, discussions will focus on search and rescue at sea, and in particular on finding European solutions to the situation in the Mediterranean. A press conference with the participation of Commissioner **Johansson** will take place on Tuesday afternoon after the meeting at +/- 15:00 CET, which you can follow live on [EbS+](#). (For more information: Adalbert Jahnz – Tel.: +32 229 53156; Christian Wigand – Tel.: +32 229 62253)

[CALENDAR](#)– Commissioner's weekly activities

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