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Coronavirus : La Commission européenne demande d'agir pour protéger les travailleurs saisonniers

Aujourd'hui, la Commission européenne présente des lignes directrices concernant la protection des travailleurs saisonniers dans l'Union dans le contexte de la pandémie de COVID-19. Le document indique aux autorités nationales, aux inspections du travail et aux partenaires sociaux comment garantir les droits, la santé et la sécurité des travailleurs saisonniers et veiller à ce que ces travailleurs soient informés de leurs droits. Les travailleurs saisonniers transfrontières bénéficient d'un large éventail de droits, mais, compte tenu de la nature temporaire de leur activité, ils sont plus susceptibles d'être soumis à des conditions de travail et de vie précaires. La pandémie de COVID-19 a mis en évidence ces conditions et les a parfois aggravées. Dans certains cas, ces situations difficiles peuvent accroître le risque d'apparition de foyers de la COVID-19. Alors que la Commission contrôle l'application correcte des règles de l'Union en ce qui concerne les travailleurs saisonniers, leur application correcte incombe aux autorités nationales. Il est donc nécessaire d'adopter de toute urgence des mesures appropriées. Nicolas **Schmit**, commissaire à l'emploi et aux droits sociaux, a déclaré : « *Chaque année, des centaines de milliers de travailleurs saisonniers contribuent à faire vivre des secteurs essentiels de l'économie de l'Union, comme les secteurs de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. La pandémie de COVID-19 a mis au jour les conditions de vie et de travail difficiles auxquelles ils sont confrontés. Ce problème doit être résolu. Nos lignes directrices exhortent les États membres et les entreprises à s'assurer qu'ils s'acquittent de leur devoir de protection de travailleurs indispensables mais pourtant vulnérables.* » Le [communiqué de presse](#) et les [lignes directrices](#) sont disponibles en ligne. (Pour plus d'informations: Marta Wieczorek – Tél.: +32 229 58197; Siobhán Millbright – Tél.: +32 229 57361)

Réaction mondiale face au coronavirus: pont aérien humanitaire de l'UE vers Haïti et nouveau financement

Dans le cadre de la réaction mondiale face au coronavirus, l'UE organise un vol humanitaire qui partira aujourd'hui de Liège (Belgique) à destination de Port-au-Prince (Haïti), afin de fournir 72 tonnes de matériel vital à des partenaires humanitaires financés par l'Union. Entièrement financé par l'UE, il s'agit du deuxième vol humanitaire vers Haïti. Il fait partie des ponts aériens actuellement organisés entre l'Union et plusieurs zones critiques dans le monde. Il a été organisé grâce aux efforts conjoints de la France, de l'UE et des autorités haïtiennes. Le commissaire chargé de la gestion des crises, Janez **Lenarčič**, a déclaré à cet égard : « *En cette période cruciale, l'UE continue de soutenir les personnes qui en ont besoin en Haïti. La pandémie de coronavirus fait peser une énorme pression logistique sur la communauté humanitaire, alors que les besoins restent élevés dans les zones critiques. Avec ce pont aérien, l'UE apporte une aide vitale, notamment en matière de matériel médical, d'approvisionnement en eau et d'équipements d'assainissement, afin de venir en aide aux Haïtiens. L'UE est prête à apporter une aide humanitaire supplémentaire à Haïti.* » Le commissaire **Lenarčič** a également annoncé qu'en 2020, l'UE consacrera un montant initial de 15 millions d'euros au financement humanitaire en faveur des personnes les plus vulnérables en Haïti. Un communiqué de presse est disponible [en ligne](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Balazs Ujvari - Tél.: +32 229 54578; Daniel Puglisi – Tél.: +32 229 69140)

Coronavirus: Macro-financial assistance agreement provides for €80 million disbursement to North Macedonia

The Commission on behalf of the EU has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with North Macedonia to pave the way for the disbursement of €80 million in macro-financial assistance (MFA). This is the first MoU signed as part of €3 billion MFA package that the Commission proposed for ten enlargement and neighbourhood partners to help them limit the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic. MFA funds will be made available in the form of long-term loans on highly favourable

terms. The funds will contribute to enhance macroeconomic stability and create space to allocate resources towards mitigating the severe negative socio-economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. The MFA programme for North Macedonia is worth up to €160 million. Paolo **Gentiloni**, Commissioner for the Economy, said: *"Today we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with North Macedonia, paving the way for the disbursement of €80 million in financial support. This is the first MoU signed as part of the €3 billion macro-financial assistance package in support of 10 countries in the EU's neighbourhood. The EU is committed to fighting the coronavirus pandemic both within and beyond our borders. We stand in solidarity with North Macedonia: we are stronger together."* The Decision on providing macro-financial assistance to ten enlargement and neighbourhood countries in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic was proposed by the Commission on 22 April and adopted by the co-legislators on 25 May 2020. The press release is available [here](#). (For more information: Marta Wieczorek – Tel.: +32 229 58197; Siobhán Millbright – Tel.: +32 229 57361)

15th EU-India Summit provides significant boost to bilateral and multilateral cooperation

Yesterday, Commission President Ursula **von der Leyen** and Council President Charles Michel, together with High Representative/Vice-President Josep **Borrell**, met via video conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the [15th EU-India Summit](#). The Summit was an opportunity for the leaders to concretely enhance cooperation and dialogue between the EU and India in many crucial areas. Leaders agreed a [joint summit statement](#), which, combined with a new cooperation agenda - the "[Roadmap to 2025](#)", also endorsed at the Summit - gives clear strategic direction to the EU-India partnership over the years to come. The full remarks of President **von der Leyen** at the press conference following the summit are [available online](#). More information on the Summit is available on the [dedicated website](#), while information on EU-India relations is available in a [factsheet](#) and on the [website of the EU Delegation in New Delhi](#). (For more information: Eric Mamer – Tel.: +32 299 4073; Nabila Massrali - Tel.: +32 229 88093; Adam Kaznowski – Tel.: +32 229 89359)

Cohesion policy: Commission approves investment in wastewater treatment to ensure cleaner sea and soil in Greece

The European Commission has approved a wastewater treatment project in Attica, Greece, worth over €176 million from the [Cohesion Fund](#). This investment is about the construction of a modern sewerage infrastructure in order to allow for safer effluent disposal in Attica's Rafina-Pikermi and Spata-Artemida municipalities. Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa **Ferreira**, commented: *"By ensuring that no untreated or insufficiently treated effluent is released into the environment, this project will contribute to a cleaner, healthier sea and soil for a better quality of life of residents and tourists in Attica."* Among other features, the project will lead to the reuse of the wastewater treatment plant's effluents for irrigation so that less water is drawn from the upper surface of the ground water, and in order to reduce salinization. The project is expected to be operational as of end 2023. (For more information: Vivian Loonela – Tel.: +32 229 66712, Sara Soumillion - Tel.: +32 229 67094)

Commissioner Sinkevičius announces more transparency on the Commission's proposals for fishing opportunities

Today, the Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius has announced that the Commission would increase transparency in the negotiating process on the annual fishing opportunities (or total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas). In the future, all elements of the Commission documents complementing the proposals on fishing opportunities, such as "non-papers", will be made public when they are transmitted to the Council. Non-papers on fishing opportunities complement the initial Commission proposals on new scientific advice or the results of international negotiations, which were not yet available when the initial proposal was adopted. This will make the negotiating process more transparent from the Commission's side. Commissioner **Sinkevičius** said: *"When EU Fisheries Ministers decide on the allocation of fishing opportunities, a lot is at stake: for the environmental sustainability of fish stocks and the marine environment, as well as the economic sustainability of our coastal communities. This is why it is important that such decisions are taken in a transparent way. An open dialogue with the civil society and our stakeholders will also help us to reach as many of our citizens as possible. With the publication of all elements of our working papers, this dialogue will become more transparent."* The announcement was made during a meeting, which the Commissioner hosted with a group of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including Pew Charitable Trusts, Fisheries Secretariat, Oceana, Seas at Risk, Coalition Clean Baltic, WWF, Our Fish and ENT. (For more information: Vivian Loonela – Tel.: +32 229 66712, Sara Soumillion - Tel.: +32 229 67094)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Permasteelisa by Atlas

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of Permasteelisa of Italy by Atlas of the U.S. Permasteelisa designs, manufactures and installs architectural envelopes (curtain walls) for large buildings. Atlas, a private investment firm, owns and operates a diversified group of companies active in manufacturing, distribution and construction. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns given the limited actual and potential relations between the relevant companies' activities and their respective market position. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.9872](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of sole control of OPAP by SAZKA Group

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of sole control over the whole of OPAP S.A. of Greece by SAZKA Group a.s. of Czechia, which is controlled by KKCG AG and ultimately by the VALEA Foundation. Before the transaction, OPAP was jointly controlled by SAZKA Group and Georgiella Holdings Co. Ltd. OPAP is active in the lottery, gaming and betting sectors in Cyprus and Greece. SAZKA Group is active in the lottery, gaming, and betting sectors in Austria, Czechia and Italy. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, because of the limited impact of the transaction 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.9803](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

State aid: Commission approves €108 million Maltese scheme to support companies affected by coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved a €108 million Maltese scheme to support companies affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was approved under the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). The public support will take the form of direct grants and will be open to companies of all sizes active in all sectors, except the financial sector. Under the scheme, companies will be granted up to €7,500 per company to cover rental costs, and up to €7,500 per company to cover electricity bills. The measure is expected to benefit 20,000 companies. The aim of the scheme is to address the liquidity needs of companies affected by the current crisis and to help them to continue their activities, start investments and maintain employment during and after the outbreak. The Commission found that the Maltese scheme is in line with the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. In particular, the aid will not exceed €100,000 per company active in the primary production of agricultural products, €120,000 per company active in the fishery and aquaculture sector and €800,000 per company active in all other sectors. The Commission concluded that the measure is necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State, in line with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU and the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. On this basis, the Commission approved the measures under EU State aid rules. More information on the Temporary Framework and other actions taken by the Commission to address the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic can be found [here](#). The non-confidential version of the decision will be made available under the case number SA.58006 in the [State aid register](#) on the Commission's [competition](#) website once any confidentiality issues have been resolved. (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

State aid: Commission approves €1.2 billion Italian scheme to support companies active in agriculture, forestry, fishery, aquaculture and related sectors affected by coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved a €1.2 billion Italian scheme to support companies active in agriculture, forestry, fishery, aquaculture and other related sectors affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was approved under the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). The support will take the form of direct grants, repayable advances, tax and payment advantages, reduction or cancellation of the payment of social security and welfare contributions, debt write-off and other payment facilities. The scheme will be accessible to companies of all sizes active in agriculture,

forestry, fishery, aquaculture and other related sectors such as agro tourism, food production and marketing, catering, and didactic farms. The measure is expected to benefit over 1,000 enterprises. The purpose of the scheme is to address the liquidity needs of these companies and to help them continue their activities during and after the outbreak. The Commission found that the Italian scheme is in line with the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. In particular, the aid will not exceed € 100,000 per company active in the primary agricultural sector, €120,000 per company active in the fishery and aquaculture sector, and €800,000 per company active in all other eligible sectors. With the exception of micro and small companies, undertakings that were already in difficulty on 31 December 2019 are not eligible for aid under the scheme. The Commission concluded that the measure is necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State, in line with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU and the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. On this basis, the Commission approved the measures under EU State aid rules. More information on the Temporary Framework and other actions taken by the Commission to address the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic can be found [here](#). The non-confidential version of the decision will be made available under the case number SA.57947 in the [State aid register](#) on the Commission's [competition](#) website once any confidentiality issues have been resolved. (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

State aid: Commission approves €77 million Dutch scheme to support the development and implementation of e-health applications in the context of the coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved a €77 million Dutch scheme to support providers of general practitioner care, district nursing, mental health care and social support services in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was approved under the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). The measure will support those health care service providers that are focused on providing at home services to patients that are considered the most affected by the necessary social distancing rules imposed by the Dutch government to limit the spread of the coronavirus (e.g. the elderly, people with frail health and mentally ill patients). The support will take the form of direct grants for the purchase, leasing, licensing and implementation of e-health applications, which contribute to the continuity of support and remote care for patients that are now staying at home during the coronavirus outbreak. The Commission found that the Dutch scheme is in line with the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. In particular, the maximum aid amount that can be granted is below €800,000 per company. Furthermore, no subsidies on the basis of this aid scheme will be granted after 31 December 2020. The Commission concluded that the measure is necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State, in line with Article 107(3)(b) TFEU and the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. On this basis, the Commission approved the measure under EU State aid rules. More information on the Temporary Framework and other actions taken by the Commission to address the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic can be found [here](#). The non-confidential version of the decision will be made available under the case numbers SA.57897 in the [State aid register](#) on the Commission's [competition](#) website. (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

[Eurostat](#): communiqués de presse

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