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DiscoverEU : 20 000 jeunes de plus exploreront l'Europe en 2020

Près de 20 000 jeunes de 18 ans ont été sélectionnés dans le cadre de la quatrième et dernière session de [DiscoverEU](#) et pourront voyager en 2020. Le vice-président Margaritis **Schinas**, responsable de la promotion de notre mode de vie européen, a déclaré : « À partir du mois d'avril, 20 000 jeunes feront l'expérience d'un voyage européen inoubliable, à la découverte de l'UE. Le fait qu'ils la partageront avec leurs pairs et des personnes d'autres pays rendra cette expérience à la fois agréable et inoubliable. Ils feront également partie d'un réseau informel et inclusif plus large, qui explore les moyens de découvrir notre continent, sa richesse, sa diversité et sa solidarité. » Mariya **Gabriel**, commissaire chargée de l'innovation, de la recherche, de la culture, de l'éducation et de la jeunesse a ajouté : « Voyager en Europe et rencontrer des jeunes en provenance d'autres pays renforce la compréhension interculturelle, améliore les compétences linguistiques et améliore la confiance en soi. Avec les activités de solidarité et de volontariat, financées dans le cadre du Corps européen de solidarité, DiscoverEU est une initiative inestimable pour l'apprentissage informel. » Les jeunes sont invités à faire part de leur expérience et à participer à des rencontres DiscoverEU qui se tiendront en divers endroits en Europe tout au long de l'été. Un [communiqué de presse](#), un [Q&A](#), et une [fiche d'information](#) sont disponibles en ligne. (Pour plus d'informations: Susanne Conze — Tél.: + 32 229-80236; Sinéad Meehan-van Druten — Tél.: + 32 229-84094)

Commission adopts Opinion on Portugal's updated Draft Budgetary Plan

The Commission has today adopted its [Opinion](#) on Portugal's [updated Draft Budgetary Plan \(DBP\) for 2020](#), finding that it is at risk of non-compliance with the Stability and Growth Pact. The Commission invites the Portuguese authorities to take the necessary measures within its national budgetary process to ensure that the 2020 budget will be compliant with the Stability and Growth Pact. That requires Portugal to make further progress on the [fiscal recommendations addressed to it by the Council in July 2019](#) and, in particular, achieving in 2020 the medium-term budgetary objective of a balanced budgetary position in structural terms. The Commission's Opinion on the updated DBP will be discussed by the Eurogroup in due course. The DBP submitted by the Portuguese authorities in December 2019 updated the no-policy change DBP submitted in October 2019. (For more information: Marta Wieczorek – Tel.: +32 229 58197; Enda McNamara – Tel.: +32 229 64976)

L'UE lance deux projets de cybersécurité pour stimuler la collaboration et l'échange d'informations

La Commission européenne a lancé aujourd'hui deux projets visant à renforcer la capacité européenne en matière de cybersécurité et à améliorer la collaboration entre les pays de l'UE en matière de lutte contre les menaces et les incidents informatiques. Une subvention de 2 millions d'euros provenant du [Mécanisme pour l'interconnexion en Europe](#) (MIE) sera attribuée à un [projet](#) visant à soutenir l'avancement de MeliCERTes, un réseau de coopération de 'computer security incident response teams' (CSIRTs) dans les États membres de l'UE, qui réagissent aux incidents de sécurité sur les réseaux et les systèmes d'informations. Dans ce contexte, un consortium comprenant des centres d'alerte et de réponse aux incidents informatiques de la [Pologne](#), de l'[Autriche](#), de l'[Estonie](#) et du [Luxembourg](#) travaillera en étroite collaboration avec l'[Agence de l'UE pour la cybersécurité](#), afin de développer et de maintenir la plateforme ouverte qui fournit des outils de collaboration pour soutenir ces équipes dans l'ensemble de l'UE. Le [deuxième projet](#), doté d'une enveloppe de 1,5 millions d'euros dans le cadre du programme de financement du MIE, se concentrera sur les mécanismes de coopération pour les [centres d'échange et d'analyse d'informations](#) (ISACs). Il créera et développera au niveau européen des ISACs couvrant toute une série de services essentiels définis dans la [Directive relative à la sécurité des réseaux et de l'information](#), dans des domaines tels que la santé, l'eau, les infrastructures numériques et les transports. L'UE investit plus de 60 millions d'euros dans le cadre du programme de financement du MIE afin de renforcer la capacité de l'UE en matière de cybersécurité, de renforcer la coopération transfrontalière et de traiter plus efficacement les menaces et incidents informatiques. Plus

d'informations sont disponibles [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Johannes Bahrke – Tél.: +32 229 58615; Marietta Grammenou – Tél.: +32 229 83583; Charles Manoury - Tél.: +32 229 13391)

State aid: Commission finds that sale of Piraeus Bank's Bulgarian subsidiary to Eurobank did not breach EU State aid rules

Following a complaint, the European Commission has confirmed the compliance of the sale of Piraeus Bank's Bulgarian subsidiary to Eurobank with EU State aid rules. In November 2015, the Commission approved State aid granted by Greece for the restructuring of [Eurobank](#) and [Piraeus Bank](#) under EU State aid rules, on the basis of a series of commitments. With respect to Piraeus Bank, one of the commitments was that the bank would sell its foreign subsidiaries before the end of 2018. As regards Eurobank, one of the commitments was that the bank would be subject to an acquisition ban until the end of 2018. Following a sales process, in November 2018, Piraeus Bank announced the sale of its Bulgarian subsidiary to Eurobank, which was concluded in June 2019. The Commission received a complaint in January 2019 from one of the other unsuccessful bidders, alleging that (i) the sale of Piraeus Bank's Bulgarian subsidiary to Eurobank was in breach of the State aid commitments given by Piraeus and Eurobank in the context of the 2015 Commission State aid decisions, and (ii) the sale of the Bulgarian subsidiary to Eurobank, based on an alleged influence of the Greek State in the sales process, constituted illegal State aid. The Commission found that, while Piraeus Bank did indeed sell its Bulgarian subsidiary after the deadline foreseen by the commitments, this short delay did not affect the compatibility of the aid granted by Greece for the restructuring of Piraeus Bank in 2015. The Commission also concluded that the transaction between Piraeus Bank and Eurobank was carried out in compliance with all other State aid commitments under the 2015 State aid decisions and that no additional aid was granted to Eurobank in the context of the sales process. On this basis, the Commission concluded that the sale of Piraeus Bank's Bulgarian subsidiary to Eurobank is in line with the State aid commitments and that there was no breach of EU State aid rules. More information will be available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the [public case register](#), under the case number SA.53105. (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

High Representative/Vice-President Borrell in New Delhi for bilateral visit to India and to address the Raisina Dialogue

On Thursday, 16 and Friday, 17 January, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Josep **Borrell**, will be in New Delhi, to pay a bilateral visit to India, and to address the [Raisina Dialogue](#), an annual multilateral conference gathering global leaders in policy, business, media and civil society in New Delhi to discuss cooperation on a wide range of international policy matters. On Thursday, at 14:45 CET, High Representative/Vice-President **Borrell** will deliver the closing speech on the European Union's contribution to global peace and security. The speech will be available on [Europe by Satellite \(EbS\)](#). In the margins of the Dialogue, the High Representative/Vice-President will have a number of bilateral meetings with other participants. Josep **Borrell** will also have meetings with a number of Indian officials, including the Minister of External Affairs of India, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh, and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. He will also meet with representatives from civil society organisations and think tanks. Audiovisual coverage of the entire visit will be provided by [EbS](#). For more information on EU-India relations, visit the [website of the EU Delegation](#) or consult the factsheet on the [EU's India strategy](#). (For more information: Virginie Battu-Henriksson – Tel.: +32 229 54438; Adam Kaznowski – Tel.: +32 229 89359)

Commissioners Kyriakides and Wojciechowski at the International Green Week in Berlin

Stella **Kyriakides**, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, and Janusz **Wojciechowski**, Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, will be attending the International Green Week in Berlin on 16-17 January. On Thursday, Commissioner **Kyriakides** will meet with Mr Jens Spahn, Federal Minister for Health of Germany. Commissioner **Kyriakides** will also participate in the 1 million-genome signature event with Minister Jens Spahn and Ms Anja Karliczek, Minister of Education and Research. Meanwhile, Commissioner **Wojciechowski** will meet Members of the Bundestag. Later on that day, at 16:00 CET,

the Commissioners will hold a joint press conference, which can be followed on [EbS](#). Commissioner **Wojciechowski** will then deliver the keynote speech at the Green Week opening ceremony. On Friday, both Commissioners will visit the EU Farm to Fork stand at the fair. Commissioner **Wojciechowski** will participate in the EU High-Level Panel "The Development Potential of Agri-Food Trade: A win-win Opportunity for Africa, EU and the World". Hosted by Commissioner **Kyriakides**, Commissioner **Wojciechowski** will also attend the conference "The Future of Global Pork Production under the Threat of African Swine Fever". Commissioner **Wojciechowski** will then deliver a speech at the reception of organic farming. *(For more information: Vivian Loonela – Tel: +32 229 66712; Daniel Rosario – Tel +32 229 56185; Darragh Cassidy – Tel.: +32 229 83978; Clémence Robin – Tel.: +32 229 52509)*

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