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Gestion des frontières: la Commission se félicite de l'accord politique intervenu pour rendre opérationnel le système européen d'information et d'autorisation concernant les voyages

La Commission se félicite de l'accord politique intervenu hier entre le Parlement européen, le Conseil et la Commission pour rendre le futur système européen d'information et d'autorisation concernant les voyages (ETIAS) interopérable avec les autres systèmes d'information de l'UE. Il s'agit d'une étape importante en vue de la mise en service du système d'ici à la fin de 2022. L'accord contribue aux travaux que l'UE mène actuellement pour mettre en place un système de gestion des frontières extérieures de pointe et s'assurer que les systèmes d'information fonctionnent ensemble de manière intelligente et ciblée. Margaritis **Schinias**, vice-président chargé de la promotion de notre mode de vie européen, a déclaré: « *Nos policiers et nos garde-frontières doivent disposer des bons outils pour faire leur travail, qui consiste à assurer la sécurité de nos citoyens et de nos frontières. Il s'agit d'une étape essentielle pour mettre en place une union de la sécurité dotée de frontières extérieures solides, dans laquelle les agents des services répressifs, les garde-frontières et les agents des services de migration sur le terrain disposent des informations nécessaires plus rapidement et de manière plus systématique.* » Ylva **Johansson**, commissaire aux affaires intérieures, a déclaré: « *Nous devons savoir qui franchit nos frontières extérieures. Le système européen d'information et d'autorisation concernant les voyages fournira des informations préalables sur les voyageurs avant qu'ils n'atteignent les frontières de l'UE afin d'identifier les risques en matière de sécurité ou de santé. Les règles dont nous sommes convenues aujourd'hui garantissent le respect du droit à la protection des données à caractère personnel.* » Un communiqué de presse est disponible [en ligne](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Adalbert Jahnz - Tél.: + 32 229 53156; Ciara Bottomley - Tél.: +32 229 69971; Laura Bérard - Tél.: +32 229 55721)

Digital Day 2021: EU countries commit to key digital initiatives for Europe's Digital Decade

Today, at the online [Digital Day 2021](#), Ministers representing EU Member States signed three Declarations to pool efforts and resources to promote international connectivity, incentivise the rollout of clean digital technologies and improve the regulatory environment for start-ups and scale-ups. These tangible commitments will help accelerate Europe's green and digital transformation and will contribute to the vision and goals of [Europe's Digital Decade](#). In particular, 27 European countries signed the Declaration on "[European Data Gateways as a key element of the EU's Digital Decade](#)", in which they committed to reinforce connectivity between Europe and its partners in Africa, Asia, the European Neighbourhood and Latin America. 25 European countries signed the Declaration on "[EU Startup Nations Standard](#)", which aims to ensure that all European start-ups and scale-ups benefit from the best practices adopted by successful start-up ecosystems. Finally, 26 European countries signed the Declaration on "[A Green and Digital Transformation of the EU](#)" to accelerate the use of green digital technologies for the benefit of the environment. At the same time, 26 Chief Executive Officers from the ICT sector joined the "[European Green Digital Coalition](#)", committing on behalf of their companies to significantly reduce their carbon footprint by 2030, and to become climate neutral by 2040. Hosted by the Commission and the [Portuguese Presidency of the Council](#), the fourth edition of the Digital Day is bringing together Members of the European Parliament, Ministers from Member States, industry executives and several other stakeholders. The last edition in 2019 focused on [smart and sustainable agriculture](#), [digitising cultural heritage](#), as well as [encouraging women's participation in the digital](#) and technology sectors. Since then these initiatives have progressed significantly. More information is available in this joint [press release](#) by the Commission and the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU. (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Marietta Grammenou – Tel.: +32 229 83583)

Migrant smuggling: Commission launches public consultation on new EU actions

Today the Commission is launching a [public consultation](#) on new actions to be taken at EU level to

address migrant smuggling. The Commission is calling for contributions from individuals and organisations and in particular from people who have experienced or have been affected by smuggling. The consultation invites feedback on new actions on information exchange, police and judicial cooperation, digital smuggling (involving the use of social networks), prevention and awareness raising, cooperation with non-EU countries and international organisations, as well as the protection of migrants' rights. The consultation is open for 8 weeks and will run until 14 May. Its results will inform the upcoming EU action plan against migrant smuggling for the period 2021-2025. The plan will build on previous EU initiatives to strengthen Europol such as the European Migrant Smuggling Centre and improved information exchange through the European multidisciplinary cooperation platform against criminal threats (known as EMPACT), the European network of immigration liaison officers and the EU Internet Referral Unit. As part of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum presented in September 2020, the Commission issued guidance on the Facilitation Directive urging Member States to distinguish between humanitarian assistance and facilitating irregular entry or transit and also indicated it will assess the effectiveness of the Employers' Sanctions Directive to determine the need for further action. The Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva **Johansson**, has also published a [blog article](#) today encouraging all interested parties to contribute to the consultation. (For more information: Adalbert Jahnz - Tel.: + 32 229 53156; Ciara Bottomley - Tel.: +32 229 69971; Laura Bérard - Tel.: +32 229 55721).

European Commission welcomes the endorsement of the new €79.5 billion NDICI-Global Europe instrument to support EU's external action

The European Commission welcomes the endorsement by the European Parliament and the Council this week of the political agreement on the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – 'Global Europe' for the next MFF period (2021-2027). This instrument will support the EU's external action with an overall budget of €79.5 billion in current prices. With an overall allocation of €79.5 billion in current prices, the new instrument will cover the EU cooperation with all third countries. The total allocation will be divided as follows: €60.38 billion for geographic programmes (at least €19.32 billion for the Neighbourhood, at least €29.18 billion for Sub-Saharan Africa, €8.48 billion for Asia and the Pacific, and for Americas and the Caribbean €3.39 billion); €6.36 billion for thematic programmes (Human Rights and Democracy, Civil Society Organisations, Peace, Stability and Peace Conflict Prevention and Global Challenges); €3.18 billion for rapid response actions. The new instrument will particularly support countries most in need to overcome the long-term developmental challenges and will contribute to achieving the international commitments and objectives that the Union has agreed to, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. It merges several current external financing instruments under the EU budget. For more details see the press release available [online](#). (For more information: Ana Pisonero – Tel.: +32 229 54320; Gesine Knolle – Tel.: +32 229 54323 ; Zoi Muletier – Tel.: +32 229 94306)

Sustainable Finance: Commission welcomes the advice by the Platform on Sustainable Finance on financing the transition

The European Commission has welcomed today the [advice on financing the transition](#) provided by the [Platform on Sustainable Finance](#). The Commission will consider the advice when finalising the draft delegated act on climate mitigation and climate adaptation, in the context of the [Taxonomy Regulation](#), and when preparing its [Renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy](#) and other sustainable-finance related initiatives. This input by the Platform comes at the [request](#) by the Commission, made in January 2021, to provide further input on how the Taxonomy framework, and the existing sustainable finance framework more broadly, can facilitate all companies in their transition towards improving their environmental performance. In particular, the Commission considered that it was important to seek the Platform's advice on a number of questions raised in the [feedback](#) received during a four-week public consultation, which gathered 46591 answers. In its advice provided today, the Platform provides recommendations on how to strengthen the potential of transition financing through the Taxonomy criteria. The Platform also highlights the importance of bank lending for the transition towards a green economy and the need to ensure that the forthcoming reporting and disclosure standards are coherent, pragmatic and enable all market participants, from corporates to SMEs, to access the green finance for the transition. Overall, the Platform underlines the importance of the EU Taxonomy to identify the investments that are much needed to reach the Green Deal goals, and its role as a tool for companies to plan and finance transition investments to reach the Green Deal and climate targets. The EU has set climate and energy targets for 2030, and aims to be climate-neutral by 2050. The Commission remains committed to continue working towards creating a common language that investors can use everywhere when investing in projects and economic

activities that have a substantial positive impact on the climate and the environment. The full text of the advice is available [here](#). (For more information: Daniel Ferrie – Tel.: +32 229 86500; Aikaterini Apostola – Tel.: +32 229 87624)

Coast guard cooperation: 3 EU Agencies strengthen cooperation in support of Member States

Today an important step is taken in further developing the mandate set out in the 2016 [European Border Coast Guard Regulation](#). The Commission welcomes the renewed cooperation between the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) on supporting Member States' coast guards in their activities. The 3 agencies signed yesterday a new [working arrangement](#) allowing them to continue working together to support national authorities on safety and security at sea including search and rescue, border management, fisheries control, customs activities, law enforcement and environmental protection. The working arrangement notably covers cooperation on risk analysis and information exchange on threats in the maritime domain as well as compliance with fundamental rights, data protection requirements and access rights. The first working arrangement between Frontex, the EMSA and the EFCA entered into force in March 2017 for a duration of 4 years. Since 2017, the 3 agencies have been working closely together, exchanging relevant operational information, data from Earth observation instruments and providing state-of-the-art technologies and training for Member States authorities. (For more information: Adalbert Jahnz - Tel.: + 32 229 53156; Ciara Bottomley - Tel.: +32 229 69971; Laura Bérard - Tel.: +32 229 55721)

State aid: Commission refers United Kingdom to European Court for failure to fully recover illegal tax exemption aid of up to around €100 million in Gibraltar

The European Commission has decided to refer the United Kingdom to the Court of Justice of the European Union for failing to fully recover illegal State aid of up to around €100 million, granted as a tax exemption for passive interest and royalties in Gibraltar, as required by a Commission decision. This case relates to facts that took place before the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union. On 19 December 2018, the Commission adopted a [Decision](#) regarding Gibraltar's corporate tax exemption regime for passive interest and royalties. The decision declared those measures unlawful and incompatible with State aid rules, and therefore the aid must be recovered from the beneficiaries. In line with standard procedures, the deadline for the Gibraltar authorities to implement the Commission decision and recover all illegal aid was on 23 April 2019. Until the illegal aid is fully recovered, the beneficiaries continue to benefit from an illegal competitive advantage, which is why recovery must happen as quickly as possible. Pursuant to Articles 95 (1) and 87 (2) of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, the Commission is entitled to bring the United Kingdom to the Court of Justice for failing to implement a Commission decision taken before the end of the transition period (i.e. before 31 December 2020). Article 87 (2) thereof also confirms that the Court of Justice has jurisdiction in these cases. The Commission has been in regular contact with the Gibraltar authorities throughout the recovery process. Such authorities have already recovered part of the illegal aid from the beneficiaries. However, more than two years after the Commission decision, the Gibraltar authorities have not yet recovered all the illegal aid: those authorities identified four aid beneficiaries subject to the recovery order, but recovery has only been completed from two of them and less than 20% of the total illegal aid amount has been repaid. The Commission has therefore decided to refer the United Kingdom to the European Court of Justice for failure to implement the Commission decision, in accordance with Article 108(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Executive Vice-president Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy, said *"The aid granted by Gibraltar in the form of corporate tax exemption for passive interest and royalties gave an unfair advantage to some multinational companies and had to be recovered by the United Kingdom and the Gibraltar authorities. However, more than two years after the Commission adopted this decision, the aid has still not been recovered in full and sufficient progress has not been made in restoring competition. That is why we have decided to refer the United Kingdom to the Court of Justice for failing to implement this decision."* The full press release is available [online](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344)

State aid: Commission approves €45 million Irish scheme to support companies active in the beef sector in the context of the coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved a €45 million Irish scheme to support the beef sector in the

context of the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was approved under the State Aid [Temporary Framework](#). The public support, which will take the form of direct grants, will be open to farmers and companies active in the beef sector in Ireland. The aim of the scheme is to address the liquidity needs of the beneficiaries and to help them continue their activities during and after the outbreak. The Commission found that the Irish scheme is in line with the conditions of the Temporary Framework. In particular, (i) the aid does not exceed €225,000 per beneficiary as provided by the Temporary Framework for undertakings in the primary agricultural sector and (ii) the scheme will run until 31 December 2021. 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.62293 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; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

Aides d'état: La Commission approuve un régime d'aides français de 25 millions d'euros en faveur du secteur de l'horticulture touché par la pandémie de coronavirus

La Commission européenne a approuvé un régime d'aides français de 25 millions d'euros visant à soutenir le secteur de l'horticulture touché par la pandémie de coronavirus. Le régime a été autorisé en vertu de [l'encadrement temporaire](#) en matière d'aides d'État. Le soutien public prendra la forme de subventions directes. Le régime s'adressera aux producteurs horticoles ayant subi une baisse de leur chiffre d'affaires d'au moins 30 % entre le 16 mars et le 10 mai 2020 par rapport à la même période en 2019. Ce soutien permettra de contribuer à compenser une partie de leur perte de chiffre d'affaires. Le montant de l'aide que chaque bénéficiaire pourra recevoir sera plafonné à un million d'euros. Il est estimé qu'environ 3.000 producteurs horticoles pourraient bénéficier de ce régime. La Commission a estimé que le régime français est conforme aux conditions énoncées dans l'encadrement temporaire. En particulier, l'aide i) ne dépassera pas €10 million par entreprises et ii) sera accordée au plus tard le 31 décembre 2021. La Commission a conclu que la mesure était nécessaire, appropriée et proportionnée pour remédier à une perturbation grave de l'économie d'un État membre, conformément à l' [article 107, paragraphe 3, point b](#), du TFUE et aux conditions fixées dans l'encadrement temporaire. Sur cette base, la Commission a autorisé la mesure en vertu des règles de l'UE en matière d'aides d'État. De plus amples informations sur l'encadrement temporaire et les autres mesures prises par la Commission pour faire face à l'impact économique de la pandémie de coronavirus sont disponibles [ici](#). La version non confidentielle de la décision sera publiée sous le numéros SA.62255 dans le [registre des aides d'État](#) figurant sur le site web de la Commission consacré à la [concurrence](#), une fois que les éventuels problèmes de confidentialité auront été résolus. *(Pour plus d'informations: Arianna Podesta – Tél.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tél.: +32 229 90526; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344)*

State aid: Commission approves €3 million Latvian scheme to support small farmers affected by coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved a €3 million Latvian scheme to support small farmers affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was approved under the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). Under the scheme, the public support will take the form of direct grants. The scheme will be open to micro and small-sized enterprises active in the agricultural primary production sector. The purpose of the scheme is to ensure the viability of small farmers and to maintain the stability of farm income during and after the outbreak. The measure is expected to benefit around 14,000 beneficiaries. The Commission found that the scheme is in line with the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. In particular, (i) the aid will not exceed €225,000 per company active in the primary production of agricultural products; and (ii) the scheme will run until 31 December 2021. 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.62195 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; Giulia*

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Eaton Hydraulics by Danfoss, subject to conditions

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the proposed acquisition of Eaton's hydraulics business ("Eaton Hydraulics") by Danfoss. Following its [in-depth investigation](#), the Commission had concerns that the transaction, as initially notified, would have harmed competition, due to the combination of both companies' hydraulic components businesses for mobile machinery, also known as "mobile applications". In particular: (i) the Commission found that the transaction would lead to a reduced choice in suppliers, as well as higher prices, for certain hydraulic components for mobile applications; (ii) the transaction would lead to high combined market shares, in already concentrated markets, where limited credible alternative suppliers to the companies are present; (iii) customers faced strong difficulties in switching suppliers. To address the Commission's competition concerns, Danfoss offered the following commitments: (i) the divestment of parts of Danfoss' HSU, ESV and orbital motors businesses, including Danfoss plants in Wroclaw (Poland), Parchim (Germany) and Hopkinsville (U.S.); (ii) the transfer of Eaton's production lines for medium power orbital motors, Eaton's Series 10 production line for HSUs, and production assets for Eaton's ESV portfolio, to the Hopkinsville plant; (iii) Danfoss also committed to transfer additional Danfoss and Eaton technology for HSUs. The commitments offered by Danfoss fully address the competition concerns raised by the proposed transaction. The Commission therefore concluded that the proposed transaction, as modified by the commitments, would no longer raise competition concerns. The Commission's decision is conditional upon full compliance with the commitments. Executive Vice-President Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy, said: *"Danfoss and Eaton are both leading players in hydraulic components globally. Manufacturers of agricultural and construction machinery depend on these components for manufacturing innovative and price competitive products. Thanks to the commitments offered by the two companies, these customers will continue benefit from competitive prices and have choice of innovative products."* The full press release is available [online](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

Concentrations: la Commission autorise l'acquisition d'un bien immobilier en France par TIAA, AP1, AP2 et GPIF

La Commission européenne a approuvé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l'acquisition du contrôle en commun d'un bien immobilier commercial situé à Paris en France, par Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America («TIAA») basé aux États-Unis, Första AP-fonden («AP1») et Andra AP-fonden («AP2») tous les deux basés en Suède, et Government Pension Investment Fund («GPIF»), basé au Japon. Le bien immobilier est destiné à servir d'espace de bureaux et il est situé à Paris, France. TIAA est un organisme de services financiers qui fournit principalement des produits d'investissement dans les domaines universitaire, médical, culturel et de la recherche aux États-Unis. AP1 et AP2 sont des organismes publics, totalement indépendants l'un de l'autre, qui gèrent des fonds propres dans le système national suédois de retraite. Leurs portefeuilles mondiaux se composent d'actions, de titres à revenu fixe, de biens immobiliers et de fonds de capital-investissement. GPIF est un organisme administratif constitué en société, créé par le gouvernement japonais pour gérer et investir les fonds de réserve publics pour les retraites. Son portefeuille mondial d'investissements comprend des participations dans des actions et obligations, des infrastructures, des actifs immobiliers et des fonds de capital-investissement. La Commission a conclu que l'acquisition envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème de concurrence compte tenu de son impact très limité sur la structure du marché. L'opération a été examinée dans le cadre de la procédure simplifiée du contrôle des concentrations. De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur le site internet [concurrence](#) de la Commission, dans le [registre public](#) des affaires sous le numéro d'affaire [M.10156](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Arianna Podesta – Tél.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tél.: +32 229 90526)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Ingram Micro Inc. by Platinum Equity Group

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of Ingram Micro Inc ('IM') by Platinum Equity Group, both of the U.S. IM is an IT company that specialises in technology distribution and logistics, cloud solutions and e-commerce supply chain services. Platinum Equity Group is active in the merger, acquisition and operation of companies that provide products, services and solutions in a broad range of businesses, including information technology, telecommunications, logistics, metal services, manufacturing and distribution. The Commission

concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns given that the companies' combined market shares in the European Economic Area remain limited. The operation was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information will be available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the [public case register](#) under the case number [M.10121](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of KiK by Tengermann

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of KiK Textilien und Non-Food GmbH ('KiK') by Tengermann International GmbH, controlled by Tengermann Warenhandels-gesellschaft KG ('Tengermann'), all of Germany. KiK is a retailer supplying textiles in particular at over 3,400 outlets in Austria, Croatia, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Tengermann is active worldwide as a retailer, supplying textiles, food products, real estate and e-commerce services, among others. Before the transaction, KiK was jointly controlled by Tengermann and H.H. Holding of Germany, a company ultimately controlled by Jost-Stefan Heinig. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, because Tengermann already had joint control of KiK and the change to sole control would have no significant impact on the existing competition. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information will be available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the [public case register](#) under the case number [M.10179](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of joint control over Korean Hydrogen JV by Linde Korea and Hyosung

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control over the Korean Hydrogen JV by Linde Korea Co., Ltd ('Linde Korea') and Hyosung Heavy Industries Corporation ('Hyosung'), all of South Korea. The Korean Hydrogen JV will develop, construct and operate one or more plants for the production of liquid hydrogen in South Korea, and will sell and distribute such liquid hydrogen to customers for use in the mobility market in South Korea. Linde Korea is a wholly owned subsidiary of Linde plc, which is a gases and engineering company with activities in more than 100 countries worldwide. Hyosung manufactures and sells heavy electrical equipment worldwide. It is also active in construction, including housing, redevelopment and reconstruction, business and commercial facilities, civil engineering and environment. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, because the Korean Hydrogen JV has no current or planned activities within the European Economic Area territory. 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.10192](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

Announcements

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Commission holds Anti-racism Summit

President **von der Leyen**, Vice-President **Jourová** and Commissioner **Dalli** are participating today in the EU's first [Anti-racism Summit](#). Organised by the Commission and co-hosted by the Portuguese Presidency of the Council and ARDI Intergroup of the European Parliament ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March, the Summit is one of the key actions set out in the [EU anti-racism action plan](#) presented in September 2020. The Summit will gather representatives from EU institutions, national governments, civil society, equality bodies and grassroots organisations, who will discuss the implementation of the Action Plan and best ways forward to tackle racism in Europe. Ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination this Sunday, President Ursula von der **Leyen** said: "We need to keep talking about racism. And send a strong message across our Union: there is no place for discrimination in Europe – whether based on race, ethnic origin or religion. The International Day against Racial Discrimination must be an occasion to think critically about our shortcomings, but also to focus on how we cherish diversity, and how people of different backgrounds contribute to our daily life. Now more than ever, unity requires that we reject racism and embrace our differences." Vice-President for Values and

Transparency Věra **Jourová** said: "We need to talk about racism. Last year we presented an ambitious Action Plan to tackle racism in Europe. The Summit gives an opportunity to talk about racism and see how we can turn the tide. It won't be easy, but it must be done. We are going to work harder on this." Commissioner for Equality Helena **Dalli** said: "We are constantly reminded of how urgently we need action to combat racist and xenophobic discrimination in Europe. Structural racism continues to persist. We must start from ourselves first and bring the necessary change." The European Commission has today also published a [report on the application of the Racial Equality and the Employment Equality Directives](#). The report shows that while there are many good practices in the fight against discrimination across Europe, overall progress is slow and challenges remain. Almost one in four people from an ethnic minority in the EU feel discriminated against. More needs to be done to ensure victims of discrimination are aware of their rights, are supported in pursuing those rights and receive adequate compensation for the harm done. The role of equality bodies is key, and the Commission will assess whether to propose new legislation to strengthen their role by 2022. As equality and non-discrimination applies to our work both internally and externally, the European Commission launched its own survey on inclusion and diversity at the workplace. The EU anti-racism action plan sets out many measures to promote an inclusive workplace for all Commission staff, including outreach efforts to attract more diverse candidates to our selection tests. More details about the Summit can be found online [here](#) . High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep **Borrell** issued a declaration on behalf of the EU on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which is available [here](#). (For more information: Christian Wigand — Tel.: + 32 229 62253; Katarzyna Kolanko — Tel.: + 32 229 63444; Jördis Ferroli — Tel.: + 32 229 92729)

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