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Politique de cohésion de l'UE: Premières mesures de soutien REACT-EU en faveur de la reprise et de la transition approuvées pour les Pays-Bas et l'Autriche

La Commission a approuvé les premières décisions dans le cadre de REACT-EU (Soutien à la reprise en faveur de la cohésion et des territoires de l'Europe) impliquant une modification de quatre programmes opérationnels du [Fonds européen de développement régional](#) (FEDER) aux Pays-Bas et en Autriche, qui augmenteront de près de 262 millions d'euros le financement disponible pour les investissements. Les Pays-Bas et l'Autriche deviennent ainsi les premiers pays de l'UE à utiliser REACT-EU. Elisa **Ferreira**, commissaire chargée de la cohésion et des réformes, a déclaré: « *Les ressources au titre de REACT-EU revêtent une importance cruciale pour la relance de l'économie. J'invite les États membres à mener à bien leurs procédures internes d'approbation de la décision relative aux ressources propres afin que nous puissions commencer à emprunter. En attendant, nous travaillons rapidement pour approuver les décisions de programmation relatives à ce financement. J'encourage tous les États membres à avancer le plus rapidement possible avec leurs contributions afin que des financements supplémentaires puissent commencer à alimenter une reprise verte, numérique et cohérente.* » Aux Pays-Bas, les trois amendements augmentent le taux de cofinancement de l'UE et facilitent les investissements dans la transition écologique et numérique contribuant à la résilience de l'économie régionale dans le nord, l'est et le sud des Pays-Bas. En Autriche, la modification du programme opérationnel du FEDER pour la croissance et l'emploi soutient les capacités de recherche et d'innovation, fournit un soutien à l'investissement aux entreprises (dans lesquelles les projets innovants, verts et numériques auront une forte part) et l'amélioration de l'efficacité énergétique et de l'utilisation des sources d'énergie renouvelables. Ces ressources — qui font partie de [NextGenerationEU](#) — poursuivent et élargissent les mesures de réaction à la crise et de réparation mises en œuvre dans le cadre des paquets de mesures d'investissement en réaction au coronavirus, qui servent de passerelle au plan de relance à long terme. La Commission prévoit d'adopter davantage de modifications des programmes opérationnels REACT-EU dans les semaines à venir. Pour en savoir plus, voir notre [communiqué de presse](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Vivian Loonela - Tél.: +32 229 66712; Veronica Favalli - Tél.: +32 229 87269)

Autorité de préparation et de réaction en cas d'urgence sanitaire (HERA): la Commission européenne lance une consultation publique

Le 31 mars, la Commission a lancé une consultation publique [en ligne](#) sur l'Autorité de préparation et de réaction en cas d'urgence sanitaire (HERA). Dans le cadre de la réponse de l'Europe à la pandémie de COVID-19 et de la mise en place d'une Union de la santé forte, l'HERA aura pour objectif d'améliorer l'état de préparation de l'Europe et sa capacité à réagir face aux menaces transfrontières pour la santé et aux urgences sanitaires. Stella **Kyriakides**, commissaire à la santé et à la sécurité alimentaire, a déclaré: « *La COVID-19 a révélé des lacunes dans nos capacités de préparation et de réaction collectives. L'Autorité de préparation et de réaction en cas d'urgence sanitaire, l'HERA de l'Union, est un élément fondamental de la solution dont nous avons besoin pour mieux nous préparer et réagir plus vite collectivement face à la prochaine crise sanitaire. L'HERA permettra de renforcer nos capacités de prévoyance, de préparation, d'anticipation et de réaction. Pour garantir qu'elle répondra aux défis actuels et futurs aussi rapidement que possible, nous prêterons une écoute très attentive aux positions des parties prenantes. Et nous élaborerons une proposition ambitieuse qui fera de l'HERA un solide pilier de l'Union européenne de la santé.* » Un [communiqué de presse](#) est disponible en ligne. (Pour plus d'informations: Stefan De Keersmaecker - Tél.: +32 229 84680; Stephan Meder - Tél.: +32 229 13917)

Space: Galileo provides a new exclusive function – the Return Link Service

Today is the [International Search and Rescue Beacon day](#) or "406 Day", a day intended to remind Search and Rescue 406MHz beacon owners to test their beacons, check the batteries and update

their registration. On this day, the Commission together with its partners (the [European GNSS Agency \(GSA\)](#), the [European Space Agency \(ESA\)](#), amongst others) is proud to celebrate the European contribution to this international effort by installing distress-alert receivers onboard the Galileo satellites. This allows delivering unprecedented speed of detection of distress signals and accuracy in locating the position of the person in distress. Commissioner Thierry **Breton**, in charge of the Internal Market, said: *"Through its satellites for distress-alert detection and location, Galileo contributes to search and rescue operations around the globe. It is a great European achievement that shows that Europe is not only an important space power, but also an actor continuously working for people's well-being."* Galileo is now providing a new [Return Link Service function](#). This unique feature provides the user in distress with an acknowledgement indication on the beacon that the distress signal from the beacon was received and its position located. In just over a year since its first introduction, the Galileo Return Link feature has been endorsed by the [Cospas-Sarsat Council](#) in March 2021 as having achieved the transition to Full Operational Capacity, and is available worldwide. On this occasion, the Commission sent invitations to more than 250 operational Search And Rescue units to collect their views and their expectations, so that the Next Developments of Galileo/SAR will match their operational needs as closely as possible, to save even more lives in the future. For more information, please read this [news item](#). (For more information: Sonya Gospodinova – Tel.: +32 229 66953; Célia Dejond – Tel.: +32 229 88199)

Youth4Regions competition: aspiring journalists invited to apply for EU training programme

Today, the Commission launches the 5th edition of the Youth4Regions competition for journalism students and young journalists. Applications from EU Member States, neighbouring and accession countries are accepted. 33 applicants will be selected to join the Youth4Regions programme. The winners will meet in Brussels during the European Week of Regions and Cities to follow trainings, receive mentorship from experienced journalists and visit the EU institutions and media organisations. Selected aspiring and young journalist will also join the competition for the [Megalizzi – Niedzielski prize for aspiring journalists](#) that will be awarded on 12 October. The application form and the conditions for participation are available on the [programme's webpage](#) until 12 July. [#Youth4Regions](#) is a Commission programme that helps journalism students and young journalists to discover what the EU is doing to strengthen economic and social cohesion by reducing disparities in the level of development between regions in the EU. The Youth4Regions programme supported nearly 100 people from across Europe since its foundation in 2017. (For more information: Vivian Loonela - Tel.: +32 229 66712; Veronica Favalli – Tel.: +32 229 87269)

Employment and social innovation: improved access to financing for small businesses in Estonia and Lithuania

More support will become available for micro-enterprises in Estonia and Lithuania that are facing the economic fallout of the COVID-19 crisis. A new transaction between the European Investment Fund (EIF) and financial intermediary Finora Capital is expected to support at least 100 micro borrowers in these two countries. The working capital loans offered by Finora will be essential in providing liquidity to companies during the post-COVID-19 economic recovery. The operation is backed by the EaSI Funded Instrument under the [EU programme for Employment and Social Innovation](#). The EIF loan will allow Finora Capital, a fully digital, alternative finance providing company, to offer loans and leasing to bigger number of micro-enterprises at more favourable terms than so far. Nicolas **Schmit**, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, said: *"As small businesses in Europe struggle to cope with the fallout of the pandemic, the EU is doing what it can to support them and preserve jobs. With financial backing from the EU's Employment and Social Innovation programme, micro-enterprises in Estonia and Lithuania will have improved access to loans, getting a welcome boost for their businesses to thrive again."* The press release is available [here](#). (For more information: Arianna Podestà – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Flora Matthaes – Tel.: +32 229 83951)

Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 million to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) yesterday received the EU's contribution of SDR 141 million (equivalent to €170 million) to the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT), which provides grants for debt service relief to countries hit by catastrophic events, including public health disasters such as COVID-19. This disbursement is part of the EU's overall contribution of €183 million to the CCRT and is fully in line with Commission President **von der Leyen's** proposal for a Global Recovery Initiative that links investments and debt relief to the Sustainable Development

Goals. The EU, as a global player, can help integrate debt relief into a broader policy dialogue, financing strategies and actions, in order to 'build back better', and stands ready to disburse its remaining grant contribution in support of additional debt service relief in the context of potential future CCRT tranches. With this contribution, the EU, together with the EU institutions and its Member states, has committed more than half of the current CCRT pledges. Together with the third tranche, the IMF has provided about SDR 519 million (about €626 million) in grants for debt relief to all 29 CCRT-eligible members since the pandemic began in early 2020. The press release is available [here](#). (For more information: Ana Pisonero Hernandez - Tel.: +32 229 54320; Daniel Puglisi - Tel.: +32 229 69140)

Aides d'État: la Commission autorise une mesure française allant jusqu'à 4 milliards d'euros afin de recapitaliser Air France

La Commission européenne a approuvé le projet de la France d'accorder jusqu'à 4 milliards d'euros pour la recapitalisation d'Air France, à travers sa holding. La mesure a été autorisée en vertu de l'[encadrement temporaire](#) des aides d'État. En raison des restrictions en matière de déplacements introduites par la France et par de nombreux pays de destination en vue de limiter la propagation du coronavirus, Air France et sa holding ont subi une baisse significative de leur activité, entraînant d'importantes pertes d'exploitation. Dans ce contexte, la France a notifié à la Commission, au titre de l'encadrement temporaire, une recapitalisation d'un montant maximal de 4 milliards d'euros d'Air France et de sa holding. La recapitalisation par la France, qui fait partie de la première étape du plan de recapitalisation du groupe, prévoit: i) la conversion du prêt d'État de 3 milliards d'euros déjà accordé par la France ([approuvé par la Commission en mai 2020](#) sous le numéro [SA.57082](#)) en un instrument de capital hybride; ii) une injection de capital par l'État, par la souscription de nouvelles actions dans le cadre d'une augmentation du capital social ouverte aux actionnaires existants et au marché, dans la limite d'un milliard d'euros en fonction de l'ampleur de cette opération. La Commission a conclu que la mesure notifiée par la France était conforme à l'[article 107, paragraphe 3, point b](#)), du TFUE et aux conditions énoncées dans l'encadrement temporaire. La Commission est parvenue à la conclusion que la mesure de recapitalisation aidera à gérer l'incidence économique de la pandémie de COVID-19 en France: la mesure vise à rétablir la position dans le bilan et les liquidités d'Air France et de sa holding face aux circonstances exceptionnelles causées par la pandémie de COVID-19, tout en maintenant les garde-fous nécessaires pour limiter les distorsions de concurrence. Elle est 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 énoncées 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. Margrethe **Vestager**, vice-présidente exécutive chargée de la politique de concurrence, a déclaré: « *La France contribuera à hauteur de 4 milliards d'euros au renforcement des fonds propres d'Air France et aidera la compagnie aérienne à faire face aux difficultés financières résultant de la pandémie de COVID-19. Dans le même temps, le soutien public sera assorti de conditions, visant notamment à assurer une rémunération suffisante à l'État français, ainsi que de nouvelles mesures destinées à limiter les distorsions de la concurrence. En particulier, Air France s'est engagée à mettre à disposition des créneaux horaires à l'aéroport saturé de Paris Orly, où Air France détient une puissance significative sur le marché. Ces dispositions donnent aux transporteurs concurrents la possibilité d'étendre leurs activités dans cet aéroport, en garantissant des prix équitables et un choix plus large pour les consommateurs européens.* » Le communiqué de presse est disponible [en ligne](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Arianna Podesta – Tél.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tél.: +32 229 90526)

State aid: Commission approves €35 million Portuguese scheme to support companies in Azores region in the context of the coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved a €35 million Portuguese scheme to support companies in the region of the Azores 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 companies of all sizes active in the Azores, at the condition that they have maintained jobs in the region and that they have paid back the loans they previously received under the schemes that the Commission approved in April 2020 ([SA.56873](#)) and December 2020 ([SA.59795](#)). More specifically, the aid will only be granted if the applicant can prove that it has maintained, each month until 30 June 2021, a certain proportion of the level of employment compared to the one recorded in September 2020. The maximum amount of the aid shall not exceed the lower of the following two limits: (i) €750,000 per individual company or €1 million per group of companies belonging to the same group; and (ii) the amount of the loans received from the existing credit lines. The Commission found that the Portuguese scheme is in line with the conditions set out

in the Temporary Framework. In particular: (i) the support will not exceed the limits per beneficiary set in the Temporary Framework; and (ii) the aid will be granted before 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 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 number SA.62091 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 €60 million Irish scheme to support SMEs affected by coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved a €60 million Irish scheme to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was approved under the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). The scheme, which goes under the name of the “Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC)”, will be open to companies in all sectors, except financial institutions and companies operating in the primary production of agricultural products, fisheries or aquaculture sectors. In order to be eligible, companies will have to meet certain criteria, including being an SME with a turnover between €50,000 and €25 million and employ 250 people or less and not being eligible for support under the “Government's COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS)”, the “Fáilte Ireland Business Continuity grant” ([SA.61236](#)) or other direct sectoral grant schemes. Under the scheme, support will take the form of direct grants of up to €4,000 for the period from 1 January to 31 March 2021. Ireland anticipates that a further payment of €4,000 will be made to those companies that will still be eligible for the second quarter of 2021. The Commission found that the Irish scheme is in line with the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. In particular, the aid (i) will not exceed €1.8 million per company and (ii) can be granted until 31 December 2021. The Commission therefore 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 number SA.62301 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 modification of Swedish rent rebate scheme to support sectors affected by coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has found the modification of an existing Swedish scheme to support tenants operating in several sectors that have been affected by the coronavirus outbreak to be in line with the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). The existing scheme was approved by the Commission on [15 April 2020](#) ([SA.56972](#)) and prolonged in February 2021 ([SA.61672](#)). Sweden notified the following modifications to the scheme: (i) an increase in the budget, from approximately €453 million (SEK 5 billion) to approximately €795 million (SEK 8 billion); and (ii) the extension of the measure to cover up to 50% of rent reductions costs negotiated between landlords and tenants until 31 May 2021, for the rental period between 1 January and 31 March 2021. The Commission found that the amended scheme is in line with the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. In particular, (i) the support will not exceed €1.8 million per beneficiary; and (ii) the aid will be granted no later than 31 December 2021. The Commission concluded that the scheme, as modified, remains 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 of 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 number SA.62272 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 €24 million Italian scheme to support mooring companies affected by coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved a €24 million Italian scheme to support mooring companies 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 and repayable advances, will be open to mooring companies operating in Italian ports that have experienced a significant loss of revenue due to the sharp decline in passenger traffic. The purpose of the scheme is to help the beneficiaries address their liquidity needs and continue their activities during and after the outbreak. Under the scheme, €22 million will be available to support eligible beneficiaries for: i) reduced mooring services; and ii) uncollected fees. Additional €2 million will serve for compensating eligible beneficiaries for loss of revenues due to tariff reductions and will be granted under the *de minimis* Regulation. The Commission found that the Italian scheme is in line with the conditions of the Temporary Framework. In particular, (i) the support will not exceed €1.8 million per company; and (ii) aid will be granted no later than 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) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and the conditions set out in the Temporary Framework. On this basis, the Commission approved the scheme 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.62108 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)*

Mergers: Commission clears the acquisition of Maxim Integrated Products by Analog Devices

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of the global activities of Maxim Integrated Products, Inc. ('Maxim') by Analog Devices, Inc. ('ADI'), both of the U.S. Maxim is a public global technology company which designs, develops, manufactures and markets a broad range of analogue, mixed-signal and digital ICs. ADI is a public global technology company which designs, manufactures and markets a broad portfolio of solutions, including ICs, algorithms, software and subsystems that use analogue, mixed-signal and digital signal processing technologies. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns given that, under all plausible product market delineations, the transaction does not raise anticompetitive concerns at worldwide level and that conglomerate effects are unlikely. The operation was examined under the normal merger review procedure. More information will be available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the [public case register](#) under the case number [M.9926](#). *(For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)*

[Eurostat](#): communiqués de presse

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