



## Daily News 23 / 04 / 2021

Brussels, 23 April 2021

### **President von der Leyen at the Leaders Climate Summit hosted by U.S. President Biden and the New European Bauhaus Conference**

Yesterday, President **von der Leyen** participated in the Leaders Climate Summit hosted by U.S. President Joe Biden, for Earth Day. Welcoming the U.S. back to the fight against climate change, the President said: *"We have to strengthen that global unity around ambitious new goals. Because this will be the 'make or break' decade for our climate. The Paris Agreement is humanity's life insurance. At the COP26 in Glasgow, we must show that we all have understood this and that we are ready for more climate action. Science tells us it is not too late yet, but we must hurry up."* Europe aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, and wants to be the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. President **von der Leyen** underlined: *"To save the climate, we need the world. We need all major economies to take their responsibility and to turn the transition into an opportunity for all. Let us set together a new global benchmark for climate neutrality. Let us work together on a shared commitment and joint action for reducing emissions by 2030. This puts us on a pathway to net-zero emissions by 2050. That is what our planet needs."* The speech is available online in [English](#), [French](#) and [German](#), and the video [here](#). President **von der Leyen** also addressed the New European Bauhaus conference yesterday. In her message, she highlighted that the pandemic has not stopped the planet's most serious challenge: climate change: *"With the New European Bauhaus we want to make the [European Green Deal](#) tangible and 'palpable'. We want to add a cultural dimension to the economic and technological transformation."* The President described how the New European Bauhaus can draw inspiration from the historical Bauhaus movement developed in Germany while integrating sustainability, less carbon-intensive materials and interdisciplinarity, and emphasised her ambition that it will not be limited to the EU. Read the full speech [here](#) and watch it [here](#). (For more information: Eric Mamer – Tel.: +32 229 94073; Dana Spinant – Tel.: +32 229 90150; Tim McPhie - Tel.: +32 229 58602; Vivian Loonela - Tel.: +32 229 66712)

### **Oscars 2021: Seven EU-supported films are nominated for 14 prestigious awards**

Seven films supported by the [Creative Europe MEDIA](#) programme have gathered a total of [14 nominations](#) in this year's edition of the Oscars. 'The Father' by Florian Zeller tops the ranking as it competes in six different categories, including Best Picture, Best Actor and Best Screenplay. 'Druk - Another Round' by Thomas Vinterberg, which received EU support both for its development and distribution, is nominated for Best Director and Best International Feature Film. Furthermore, 'Quo Vadis, Aida?' by Jasmila Žbanić, 'Wolfwalkers' by Tomm Moore and Ross Stewart, 'A Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon' by Will Becher and Richard Phelan, 'The Mole Agent' by Maite Alberdi and 'Pinocchio' by Matteo Garrone compete in diverse categories such as Best Documentary and Best Animated Feature Film. The winners will be announced on 25 April during the [93rd Academy Awards ceremony](#). Overall, the EU has invested over €1.9 million through the MEDIA strand of the [Creative Europe](#) programme for the development and international distribution of the above films. These productions will also be featured in the framework of the [30 years of MEDIA](#) campaign, which celebrates the EU's continued support to the audiovisual industry. In addition to promoting content, talent and platforms funded throughout the last three decades, the [campaign](#) aims to showcase the work of the industry behind the scenes and the impact of EU funding. (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Marietta Grammenou – Tel.: +32 229 83583).

### **Eurobarometer: Trust in the European Union has increased since last summer**

Today, the Commission is publishing the results of the latest Standard Eurobarometer survey conducted in February-March 2021. It shows that while the coronavirus pandemic has affected Europeans' daily lives for more than a year, attitudes towards the EU remain positive. The image of the EU and the trust in it have increased and are now at their highest levels in more than a decade.

Almost one in two citizens trusts the European Union (49%), a 6-point increase since the Standard Eurobarometer of Summer 2020, while 46% of citizens have a positive image of the EU. In the current circumstances, Europeans identify health and the economic situation as the two top concerns at EU and national levels. Almost four EU citizens in ten (38%) consider health as the most important issue currently faced by the Union, and up to 69% consider that the current state of their country's economy is 'bad'. In that sense, 55% believe that the Commission's NextGenerationEU will be an effective instrument for responding to the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic. The full [press release](#) and the full [Eurobarometer survey](#) are available online. (For more information: Dana Spinant – Tel.: +32 229 90150)

## **EU allocates €149 million in humanitarian aid to the Greater Horn of Africa region**

As humanitarian needs increase in the Horn of Africa, the Commission has announced today new funding of €149 million in aid for the wider region in 2021. Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez **Lenarčič**, said: "During the past year, the Greater Horn of Africa countries, in addition to being affected by conflict and displacement, have also been facing the so-called triple threat of desert locust infestation, the impact of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. With millions in need of urgent assistance in the region, the EU is ensuring that emergency lifesaving support, such as food, nutrition, health and protection, reaches those in need." The funding announced today will support humanitarian projects in Djibouti (€500,000), Kenya (€14 million), Somalia (€42.5 million), Sudan (€52 million) and Uganda (€32 million). In addition, €8 million is allocated to the efforts against the Desert Locust infestation. The EU has already announced new humanitarian funding of €53.7 million for Ethiopia and €43.5 million for South Sudan during the recent visit of Commissioner **Lenarčič** to these countries. Of the total funds allocated across the region, around €30 million will be going to projects providing education to children caught up in humanitarian crises. *The full press release is available [here](#) (For more information: Balazs Ujvari – Tel.: +32 229 54578; Daniel Puglisi- Tel.: +32 229 69140)*

## **EU and Greenland sign a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement**

Yesterday, the EU and Greenland signed a new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) and a Protocol that will strengthen their cooperation in the fisheries field for the next four years with the possibility of a two-year extension. The agreement marks a new step in the long-standing relation between the EU and Greenland in fisheries. It reiterates and emphasises the two parties' joint commitment to sustainable use of marine resources. This agreement will allow the EU fleet to continue fishing in Greenland's waters for a duration of four to six years while continuing to contribute to the development of the fisheries' sector in Greenland. The agreement defines the fishing opportunities for the same species as in the previous protocol (cod, redfish, Greenland halibut, Northern prawn, capelin and grenadier). Mackerel has also been included in the agreement at a zero Total Allowable Catch (TAC) level. In exchange for access to their waters, the total financial contribution to Greenland for the whole duration of the protocol, including EU financial contribution and EU ship-owners fees, is estimated at €130 million. A significant part of this contribution is earmarked to promote the development of the fisheries sector in Greenland. The new Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement signed yesterday will substantially reinforce cooperation on monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities. The agreement is based on the principles of the Common Fisheries Policy and complies with Greenland's legislation, the management and scientific measures taken in the context of international organisations. More information is in the [news item](#). (For more information: Vivian Loonela - Tel.: +32 229 66712; Daniela Stoycheva – Tel.: +32 229 53664)

## **Protection des consommateurs : suite à l'action de l'UE, Parship améliore les informations sur les sites de rencontres**

Suite au dialogue avec la Commission européenne et les autorités de l'UE chargées de la protection des consommateurs, le portail de rencontres « Parship » a amélioré les informations précontractuelles sur l'ensemble de ses sites web de l'UE et de l'EEE, les conformant ainsi aux exigences du droit de la consommation de l'UE. Les consommateurs devraient désormais être clairement informés de ce qu'ils doivent payer lorsqu'ils commencent à utiliser le site de rencontres et tout renouvellement automatique du contrat sera clarifié. Cette amélioration est le résultat d'un dialogue avec la Commission et les autorités nationales chargées de la protection des consommateurs, coordonné par l'autorité belge dans le cadre du [réseau de coopération en matière de protection des consommateurs](#) (CPC). Didier **Reynders**, commissaire à la justice, a déclaré : « De plus en plus de citoyens européens se rencontrent en ligne - cette tendance s'est même accentuée

*pendant la pandémie. La protection des consommateurs est importante dans toutes les sphères du monde numérique. Je me réjouis donc que Parship aligne ses pratiques sur le droit européen de la consommation. Tous les services de sites de rencontres en ligne devraient suivre cet exemple afin que les consommateurs européens aient confiance dans les offres accessibles en ligne. »* Les autorités nationales chargées de la protection des consommateurs vont maintenant prendre d'autres mesures pour obliger l'ensemble de l'industrie à respecter les mêmes normes et garantir des conditions de concurrence équitables dans le secteur. Le réseau a lancé cette action en janvier 2020, à la suite d'un contrôle coordonné des sites web en 2019, au cours duquel 50 sites web dans 13 pays de l'UE ont été vérifiés et un certain nombre de problèmes ont été identifiés concernant des informations peu claires sur le droit de rétractation et le renouvellement du contrat. De plus amples informations sur les modifications apportées par « Parship » sont disponibles [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations : Christian Wigand - Tél : +32 229 62253 ; Katarzyna Kolanko - Tél : +32 229 63444 ; Jördis Ferrolli - Tél : +32 229 92729)

## **Aides d'État: la Commission autorise des mesures françaises de soutien au secteur de la pêche dans le contexte du Brexit**

La Commission européenne a autorisé, en vertu des règles de l'UE en matière d'aides d'État, trois régimes français d'un montant total de 100 millions d'euros qui visent à soutenir le secteur de la pêche touché par le retrait du Royaume-Uni de l'UE et les réductions consécutives de parts de quotas prévues dans les dispositions de l'accord de commerce et de coopération (ACC) entre l'UE et le Royaume-Uni. Ces mesures de soutien sont les premières à être autorisées par la Commission dans le contexte des discussions interinstitutionnelles portant sur la réserve d'ajustement au Brexit proposée. Bien que les décisions de ce jour ne préjugent pas de la question de savoir si les mesures de soutien seront en fin de compte admissibles au bénéfice d'un financement de la réserve (une évaluation sera faite dès l'entrée en vigueur du règlement sur la réserve d'ajustement au Brexit), elles offrent déjà à la France la sécurité juridique quant au fait que la Commission juge ces mesures conformes aux règles de l'UE en matière d'aides d'État, indépendamment de la source ultime de financement. Le premier régime, doté d'un budget total de 80 millions d'euros, vise à compenser partiellement les coûts fixes des navires contraints de rester à quai en raison des réductions de quotas prévues dans l'ACC ou de l'impossibilité d'accéder aux eaux britanniques ou à d'autres eaux de pays tiers du fait du Brexit, ainsi que la rémunération des membres d'équipage. Le deuxième régime, doté d'un budget total de 12 millions d'euros, vise à compenser une partie des pertes de revenus subies par la flotte de pêche française du 1<sup>er</sup> janvier au 31 mars 2021, afin d'accroître la résilience du secteur. Le troisième régime, doté d'un budget de 8 millions d'euros, vise à compenser une partie des pertes de revenus subies pour les mêmes raisons par les entreprises françaises de mareyage du 1<sup>er</sup> janvier au 31 mars 2021, afin d'accroître la résilience du secteur. La Commission a évalué les mesures au regard de l'article 107, paragraphe 3, point c), du traité sur le fonctionnement de l'Union européenne (TFUE), qui autorise les États membres à soutenir le développement de certaines activités ou de certaines régions économiques, sous certaines conditions. La Commission a constaté que les trois régimes renforcent la durabilité du secteur de la pêche et sa capacité à s'adapter aux nouvelles possibilités de pêche et aux nouveaux débouchés résultant de la nouvelle relation avec le Royaume-Uni. Sur cette base, la Commission a autorisé les trois régimes 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: « *Le secteur de la pêche est l'un des plus touchés par le Brexit, ce qui impose aux pêcheurs et aux opérateurs du marché en aval dans les États membres affectés de se réorganiser et de s'adapter à la nouvelle situation. Dotés d'un budget total de 100 millions d'euros, les trois régimes français autorisés aujourd'hui sont les premières mesures de soutien au secteur dans le cadre de la réserve d'ajustement au Brexit proposée. Nous continuerons à travailler en étroite collaboration avec tous les États membres concernés afin de mettre en œuvre des solutions rapides et efficaces pour atténuer les conséquences du Brexit, dans le respect des règles en matière d'aides d'État.* » Le communiqué de presse est disponible [en ligne](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Arianna Podesta – Tél.: +32 229 87024; Giulia Astuti – Tél.: +32 229 55344; Maria Tsoni – Tél.: +32 229 90526)

## **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of joint control of FiBrasil by CDPQ and Telefónica**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control over the newly created joint venture FiBrasil Infraestrutura e Fibra Ótica ('FiBrasil') of Brasil by Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec ('CDPQ') of Canada and Telefónica S.A. of Spain. FiBrasil is dedicated to the construction, development and operation of a neutral and independent optical fibre wholesale network in Brazil. CDPQ is a long-term institutional investor managing funds primarily for public and parapublic pension and insurance plans, and invests globally in major

financial markets, private equity, infrastructure and real estate. Telefónica is the parent of a group of companies that is active in the telecommunications sector, offering communication, information and entertainment solutions in Germany, Spain, the UK, and several Latin American countries. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, because FiBrasil has no actual or foreseen activities within the European Economic Area. 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.10222](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

### **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Birkenstock by L Catterton**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of Birkenstock of Germany by L Catterton of the U.S. Birkenstock is mainly active in the supply of Birkenstocks, a German brand of sandals, and other shoes. L Catterton is a consumer-focused private equity company whose portfolio companies operate in the retail and restaurant business, the food and beverage business, consumer service and consumer product businesses including the production and sale of bedding, clothing and accessories, cosmetics and fragrance products. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, given the companies' moderate combined market positions resulting from the proposed transaction. The transaction was examined under simplified merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the [public case register](#) under the case number [M.10211](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

### **Mergers: Commission clears the acquisition of Bioclinica by ERT**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the proposed acquisition of Bioclinica Holding I LP ('Bioclinica') by eResearchTechnology, Inc ('ERT'), both of the U.S. Bioclinica is a provider of software-enabled clinical research solutions ('e-Clinical trial solutions'). ERT is jointly controlled by Astorg VII SLP, a fund managed by Astorg Asset Management S.à.r.l ('Astorg') of Luxembourg, affiliates of Nordic Capital IX Limited ('Nordic Capital') of Jersey, and an affiliate of Novo Holdings A/S ('Novo') of Denmark. Astorg is a European private equity firm with activities focusing on Western Europe and North America. Nordic Capital is a European private equity firm with activities in various business sectors, including healthcare. Novo is responsible for managing the assets of the Novo Nordisk Foundation through strategic investments in the life sciences and related areas. The proposed transaction gives rise to horizontal overlaps in the supply of e-Clinical trial solutions, in particular in cardiac safety services and medical imaging solutions. The Commission concluded that the proposed transaction would raise no competition concerns because of the companies' limited market share in the overall market for e-Clinical trial solutions, and limited overlap in cardiac safety services and medical imaging solutions. The transaction was examined under the normal merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the [public case register](#) under the case number [M.10133](#). For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel. +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Commissioner Breton in Portugal to discuss defence, vaccine production and digital priorities**

Commissioner Thierry **Breton**, in charge of the Internal Market and responsible for the Task Force on Industrial Scale-up of COVID-19 vaccine production, is in Portugal today. In the morning, he participates in a Political Workshop of the EU Ministers of Defence, on the Strategic Compass. In the afternoon, as part of his engagement and discussion with Member States, he will have an exchange of views with the Portuguese Parliament on vaccine production and digital priorities under the Portuguese Council Presidency. (For more information: Sonya Gospodinova – Tel.: +32 229 66953; Célia Dejond – Tel.: +32 229 88199)

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