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### **RÉUNION DU COLLEGE : Meilleure réglementation: unir nos forces pour améliorer la législation de l'UE et se préparer à l'avenir**

La Commission présente aujourd'hui une [communication sur l'amélioration de la réglementation](#), dans laquelle elle propose plusieurs améliorations du processus législatif de l'UE. Pour stimuler la reprise en Europe, il est impératif de légiférer de manière aussi efficace que possible tout en rendant les lois de l'UE mieux adaptées aux besoins du futur. Maroš **Šefčovič**, vice-président chargé des relations interinstitutionnelles et de la prospective, a déclaré à cet égard: « *La Commission possède déjà l'un des meilleurs systèmes d'amélioration de la réglementation au monde mais nous devons encore le perfectionner. Nous redoublons donc nos efforts pour simplifier la législation de l'UE et réduire sa charge tout en optimisant l'utilisation de la prospective stratégique et en soutenant la durabilité et la numérisation. Afin d'y parvenir, il faut toutefois que tous les acteurs œuvrent ensemble à l'élaboration de politiques européennes de grande qualité qui rendront l'Europe plus forte et plus résiliente.* » La communication souligne que la coopération entre les institutions de l'UE, avec les États membres, à tous les niveaux, les partenaires sociaux, les entreprises et la société civile, est essentielle pour supprimer les obstacles et les formalités administratives qui ralentissent les investissements et la construction des infrastructures du 21<sup>è</sup> siècle. La Commission propose des améliorations essentielles, notamment l'approche « un ajout, un retrait » afin de réduire au minimum les charges pour les citoyens et les entreprises en accordant une attention particulière aux implications et aux coûts de l'application de la législation, en particulier pour les petites et moyennes entreprises. Les consultations publiques seront également simplifiées, en introduisant un unique « appel à participations. » Les objectifs de développement durable des Nations unies, afin de veiller à ce que les propositions législatives contribuent au programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030; ainsi que la prospective stratégique seront pleinement intégrés dans l'élaboration des politiques afin de faire en sorte qu'elles soient adaptées à l'avenir, par exemple en tenant compte des grandes tendances émergentes dans les domaines écologique, numérique, géopolitique et socio-économique. Un [communiqué de presse](#) et des [questions et réponses](#) sont disponibles en ligne. Lire le [discours](#) et regarder la [conférence de presse](#) avec le vice-président **Šefčovič**. (Pour plus d'informations: Daniel Ferrie — Tél.: + 32 229 86500; Sinéad Meehan-van Druuten — Tél.: + 32 229 84094)

### **Lutte contre le terrorisme: La Commission se félicite de l'adoption de règles de l'UE sur la suppression des contenus à caractère terroriste en ligne**

La Commission se félicite de l'adoption finale des règles de l'UE relatives à la prévention de la diffusion de contenus à caractère terroriste en ligne, à la suite du feu vert du Parlement européen hier. Les nouvelles règles garantiront que les plateformes en ligne s'occupent de manière proactive de l'utilisation abusive de leurs services à des fins de diffusion de contenus à caractère terroriste en ligne. Les plateformes devront supprimer les contenus à caractère terroriste signalés par les autorités des États membres dans un délai maximal d'une heure. Les règles contribueront également à lutter contre la propagation d'idéologies extrémistes en ligne, un élément essentiel de la prévention des attaques et de la lutte contre la radicalisation. Le règlement prévoit des garanties solides pour assurer le plein respect des droits fondamentaux tels que la liberté d'expression et d'information. Margaritis **Schinás**, vice-président chargé de la promotion de notre mode de vie européen, a déclaré : « *Les contenus à caractère terroriste en ligne peuvent motiver de nouvelles attaques, radicaliser les personnes et contribuer à la diffusion d'informations techniques dangereuses ayant des conséquences mortelles. Avec les règles adoptées aujourd'hui, nous définissons clairement les responsabilités qui incombent aux États membres et aux fournisseurs de services pour mettre fin à la circulation de contenus à caractère terroriste sur internet. Ceci est un accord historique. L'Union de la sécurité devient une réalité.* » La commissaire chargée des affaires intérieures, Ylva **Johansson**, a déclaré : « *La conclusion des négociations sur cette loi a été l'une de mes priorités dès le 1er jour. Le droit européen empêchera désormais les terroristes d'utiliser internet pour diffuser leurs messages*

*avec l'intention d'intimider, de radicaliser, de recruter et de nuire à nos sociétés. Nous disposons de règles claires et transparentes pour faire en sorte que les contenus à caractère terroriste soient retirés le plus tôt et le plus rapidement possible, que les contenus supprimés ne soient pas de nouveau téléchargés ailleurs et que les gens puissent se sentir en sécurité en ligne. » Le règlement va maintenant être publié au Journal officiel de l'UE et commencera à s'appliquer à partir de la mi-2022. Ces règles constituent un élément essentiel du [programme de l'UE consacré à la lutte antiterroriste](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Adalbert Jahnz - Tél.: + 32 229 53156; Ciara Bottomley - Tél.: +32 229 69971; Laura Bérard - Tél.: +32 229 55721)*

## **Facilité pour la reprise et la résilience: la France présente un plan officiel pour la reprise et la résilience**

La Commission a reçu [un plan officiel pour la reprise et la résilience de la part de la France](#). Ce plan expose les réformes et les projets d'investissement public que la France prévoit de mettre en œuvre avec le soutien de la facilité pour la reprise et la résilience (FRR). La FRR est l'instrument clé au cœur de NextGenerationEU, le programme de l'Union européenne pour sortir plus fort de la pandémie de COVID-19. Elle apportera jusqu'à 672,5 milliards d'euros pour soutenir les investissements et les réformes (aux prix de 2018). Ce montant se répartit en subventions pour un montant total de 312,5 milliards d'euros et en prêts pour 360 milliards d'euros. La FRR jouera un rôle crucial pour aider l'Europe à sortir plus forte de la crise et pour assurer les transitions écologique et numérique. La présentation de ce plan fait suite à un dialogue soutenu entre la Commission et les autorités nationales françaises au cours des derniers mois. La Commission évaluera le plan français dans les deux prochains mois sur la base des onze critères énoncés dans le règlement et traduira son contenu en actes juridiquement contraignants. La Commission a maintenant reçu un total de quatre plans pour la reprise et la résilience, de la part de l'Allemagne, de la Grèce, de la France et du Portugal. Elle continuera de dialoguer étroitement avec les autres États membres afin de les aider à élaborer des plans de grande qualité. Un [communiqué de presse](#) et un document [questions-réponses](#) sont disponibles en ligne. (Pour plus d'informations: Marta Wieczorek – Tél.: +32 229 58197; Enda McNamara – Tél.: +32 229 64976)

## **Coronavirus: EU Civil Protection Mechanism continues to channel further assistance to India**

As India faces a major increase in coronavirus cases, the EU is channelling further support via the [EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#). Already [on Tuesday](#), the European Union announced initial offers of support made by Ireland, Belgium, Romania, Luxembourg, Portugal and Sweden. Today the Commission is announcing further support packages from France, Italy, Austria and Finland, as well as additional supplies from Ireland via the Mechanism. France is sending 8 oxygen generators, each of which can make an Indian hospital autonomous in oxygen supply for approximately 10 years; liquid oxygen and 28 ventilators. Italy is offering an oxygen generating plant model as well as 20 ventilators. Ireland has made an additional offer of 550 oxygen concentrators and 60 ventilators. Finland will send 318 oxygen cylinders. Austria is providing 5,521 vials of antiviral medication Remdesivir, 238 oxygen cylinders and 1900 oxygen cannulas. "We are working around the clock to channel EU assistance to India. It is in everyone's interest to support efforts at tackling the latest outbreak in the country. I thank France, Italy, Austria, Finland and Ireland for their latest offers of assistance. EU solidarity is fully in action," said Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Janez **Lenarčič**. The Commission co-finances the transport of these deliveries and coordinates the logistics via the EU Emergency Response Coordination Centre. (Pour plus d'informations: Balazs Ujvari – Tél.: + 32 229 54578; Daniel Puglisi – Tél.: + 32 229 69140)

## **EU Cohesion policy: €300 million to support measures for recovery and transition for France and Germany**

The Commission has approved the modification of two [European Regional Development Fund](#) (ERDF) operational programmes (OPs) under [REACT-EU](#) that make available nearly €300 million for France and Germany. The funds continue and extend the crisis response and repair measures delivered through the [Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative packages](#) (CRII and CRII+). Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa **Ferreira**, said: "REACT-EU is one of the tools that the Commission has put at the disposal of Member States to support them to overcome the coronavirus crisis and move towards a long-term recovery. I urge all EU countries to take advantage of the opportunities available." In France, the amendment of the 'Lower Normandy OP' will support (in Lower but also Higher Normandy) the health sector, in particular the modernisation of health institutions, as well as businesses and the recovery of the local economy, the tourism sector, the green and numerical

economy, the acceleration of investments in energy transition, sustainable mobility and urban regeneration. In Germany, the amendment of the 'North Rhine-Westphalia OP' will finance green, digital and resilient recovery measures. In particular, investments will target distance learning in schools and other training institutions, digitisation of businesses and the switch to low-emissions in the transport sector. As part of [NextGenerationEU](#), REACT-EU provides a top-up of €47.5 billion (€50.5 billion in current prices) to Cohesion policy programmes over the course of 2021 and 2022. Measures under REACT-EU focus on supporting labour market resilience, jobs, SMEs and low-income families, as well as setting future-proof foundations for green and digital transitions and a sustainable socio-economic recovery. (For more information: Vivian Loonela - Tel.: +32 229 66712, Veronica Favalli - Tel.: +32 229 87269)

### **Biotechnologies: Commission seeks open debate on New Genomic Techniques as study shows potential for sustainable agriculture and need for new policy**

Today, the European Commission published, at the request of the Council, a [study on New Genomic Techniques \(NGTs\)](#). The study shows that NGTs, which are techniques to alter the genome of an organism, have the potential to contribute to a more sustainable food system as part of the objectives of the [European Green Deal](#) and the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#). At the same time, the study finds that the current GMO legislation, adopted in 2001, is not fit for purpose for these innovative technologies. The Commission will now start a wide and open consultation process to discuss the design of a new legal framework for these biotechnologies. Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella **Kyriakides**, said: *"The study we publish today concludes that New Genomic Techniques can promote the sustainability of agricultural production, in line with the objectives of our Farm to Fork Strategy. With the safety of consumers and the environment as the guiding principle, now is the moment to have an open dialogue with citizens, Member States and the European Parliament to jointly decide the way forward for the use of these biotechnologies in the EU."* A press release is available [online](#). (For more information: Stefan De Keersmaecker – Tel.: +32 229 84680; Stephan Meder – Tel.: +32 229 13917)

### **Coronavirus vaccine disinformation: new reports from online platforms to inform Code of Practice revamp**

The Commission publishes today the [new reports](#) by Twitter, TikTok, Google, Facebook and Microsoft on measures they took in March 2021 against coronavirus and vaccine disinformation as signatories of the [Code of Practice on Disinformation](#). Věra **Jourová**, Vice-President for Values and Transparency, said: *"As we have been working with stakeholders towards a strengthened Code of Practice and permanent monitoring framework, the reports confirm the importance of increased transparency to ensure effective and accountable action against disinformation online."* Thierry **Breton**, Commissioner for Internal Market, added: *"Fighting disinformation on coronavirus vaccines is a common battle in order to reach our goal to have 70% of Europeans vaccinated by July. Platforms play a role in making authoritative content on the importance of vaccination accessible to Europeans and limit disinformation that may hinder our collective efforts."* Twitter reports it has started to place a warning on tweets that advance unsubstantiated rumours, disputed claims, as well as incomplete or out-of-context information about vaccines. TikTok reports that a tag has been applied to 7687 videos with words or hashtags related to vaccine in the EU. Google continued to expand a feature which surfaces a list of authorised vaccines, statistics, and more in users' locations in response to searches for information on coronavirus vaccines. Facebook expanded their tools to help people getting vaccinated by adding labels displaying World Health Organisation information on related posts. Microsoft's LinkedIn now features official information about vaccines and vaccination on their official page to which users are redirected when searching for coronavirus-related keywords. To fine-tune the monitoring process, the Commission will issue guidance in the next few weeks to strengthen the Code of Practice and build the bridge with the future [Digital Services Act obligations](#), as set out in the [European Democracy Action Plan](#). (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Charles Manoury – Tel.: +32 229 13391)

### **Intellectual Property Action Plan: Commission seeks public opinion on protection of Industrial Designs and EU-wide Geographical indications for products**

The Commission launched today two public consultations delivering on its actions presented in the [Intellectual property Action Plan](#). The first [public consultation](#) refers to industrial designs protection, that is to the rights which protect the appearance of a product resulting from its attributes such as shape, colours or materials. The public consultation seeks to obtain views of all those affected by [design protection](#) in Europe on selected issues, such as whether rules on spare parts protection

should be changed, as well as potential policy options in view of the review of the [Community Design Regulation \(6/2002\)](#) and the [Directive on the legal protection of designs \(98/71/EC\)](#). The review of the rules follows an exhaustive [evaluation](#) of the EU legislation on design protection, which was supported by a comprehensive public [consultation](#) and two major [economic](#) and [legal](#) studies. The evaluation indicated that the rules are working well. There are, however, certain shortcomings that need to be addressed to modernise the legal framework and make it fit for the digital age. The second [public consultation](#) refers to EU-wide protection of [geographical indications for non-agricultural products](#) (i.e. handicrafts and industrial goods). Geographical indications are names like Solingen knives, Herend Porcelain, which identify a product as originating from a specific place from which their peculiar characteristics derive. For such products, the Commission intends to run a thorough assessment of the impact of the potential costs and benefits of creating an efficient and transparent EU geographical indication protection system. The [feedback](#) received to the [inception impact assessment](#) is complemented by two comprehensive [legal](#) and [economic](#) studies. The public consultation aims at capturing more detailed views of all relevant stakeholders on the problems related to, among others, the existing legal protection of authentic geographically-rooted non-agricultural products within the internal market; the benefits and risks of EU action; and the available policy options, including the control and enforcement of a future EU-protection system for such products. Both public consultations will remain open until 22 July 2021 included. (For more information: Sonya Gospodinova – Tel.: +32 229 66953; Federica Miccoli – Tel.: +32 229 58300; Célia Dejond – Tel.: +32 229 88199)

## **Eurobaromètre: Les citoyens de l'UE soutiennent fermement la coopération avec les pays partenaires et les jeunes pour réduire la pauvreté**

Selon le dernier sondage Eurobaromètre sur la coopération au développement publié aujourd'hui, près de neuf citoyens de l'UE sur dix estiment qu'il est important de nouer des partenariats avec les pays en dehors de l'UE afin de réduire la pauvreté. La pandémie mondiale n'a pas ébranlé le soutien des citoyens à l'action de l'UE dans le domaine du développement international et les résultats confirment une tendance fermement dessinée au cours des dernières années, selon laquelle la coopération avec des pays partenaires reste l'une des politiques de l'UE perçues le plus favorablement, tout comme un soutien consistant aux relations avec l'Afrique. En outre, neuf citoyens européens sur dix (90 %) considèrent que le rôle des jeunes dans les pays en développement est crucial pour répondre aux défis économiques, environnementaux et sociaux. La commissaire chargée des partenariats internationaux, Jutta **Urpilainen**, a commenté en ces termes les résultats de la consultation: « *Tout comme une radiographie, la COVID-19 a révélé des faiblesses telles que les inégalités et, dans le même temps, elle a redémontré l'efficacité de la coopération multilatérale pour faire face aux défis mondiaux tels que le changement climatique et la perte de biodiversité. Je me réjouis de ces résultats extrêmement positifs, qui incarnent les plus belles valeurs de l'Europe: un esprit de solidarité à l'échelle mondiale même lorsque les temps sont durs. Je me félicite également que les citoyens comprennent qu'il est important pour l'UE que l'Afrique soit prospère, pacifique et résiliente, et que les jeunes sont les acteurs du changement et des partenaires essentiels pour nous.* » Lisez le communiqué de presse complet [ici](#) et trouvez des fiches d'information dans les langues nationales pour tous les États membres de l'UE, des fiches d'information sur les résultats globaux de l'UE et sur les jeunes en tant que groupe cible [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Ana Pisonero - Tél : +32 229 54320; Gesine Knolle - Tél : +32 229 54323)

## **Nouvelles règles d'étiquetage des pneumatiques de l'UE applicables à partir du 1er mai**

Les [nouvelles règles de l'UE sur l'étiquetage énergétique des pneus routiers](#) entreront en vigueur à partir de ce samedi 1er mai. L'étiquette aidera les consommateurs à être mieux informés lors de l'achat de nouveaux pneus et mettra en évidence principalement leur efficacité en carburant, sécurité et performance de bruit. Les nouvelles règles, qui mettent à jour l'étiquette introduite pour la première fois pour les pneus de voitures et de camionnettes en 2012, exigent que les pneus pour bus et camions soient désormais étiquetés. Ils proposent également un nouveau pictogramme, le cas échéant, pour mettre en évidence les pneus adaptés à une utilisation dans la neige ou dans des conditions glaciales extrêmes. La nouvelle étiquette suit le système de classification par code couleur utilisé pour les appareils ménagers avec 5 classes différentes disponibles pour la résistance au roulement et pour le freinage sur sol mouillé (ajusté à partir de l'échelle précédente de 6 classes). Afin de tenir compte des stocks de pneus produits avant mai 2021, les pneus de voitures et de camionnettes portant l'ancienne étiquette peuvent encore être vendus jusqu'à la fin de 2021. Plus d'informations sont disponibles [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Tim McPhie - Tél.: +32 229 58602; Ana Crespo Parrondo - Tél.: +32 229 81325)

## **Commission launches interactive tool to monitor and anticipate demographic change in the EU**

The Commission is today launching the EU '[Atlas of Demography](#)' – an interactive online tool to visualise, monitor and anticipate demographic change in the European Union, which has been developed by the Commission's Joint Research Centre. The atlas provides quick and easy access to a comprehensive body of demographic data and knowledge, collected at EU, national, regional and local level. It contains official statistics and projections from Eurostat, new data at high spatial resolution, as well as thematic stories, which link demographic trends to specific policy areas. The atlas is a 'living' tool, that can be adapted and expanded to the needs of different policies, and can support policy-making that promotes social cohesion and brings benefits for all EU citizens. Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, Dubravka **Šuica**, said: *"The Atlas of Demography will improve our understanding of how demographic change is occurring. This innovative tool will help us ensure that EU policies are more closely matched to the needs of our citizens to ensure that nobody feels left behind. This Atlas will support all our initiatives with timely, robust and comparable demographic data."* Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya **Gabriel**, said: *"The Atlas of Demography is an excellent tool. A great example of use of high-quality data. I can imagine many applications including in our classrooms for our young people to learn more about their region, about Europe and be part of its construction."* The 'Atlas of Demography' is publicly available and can support activities for a variety of policy areas, including health, employment, education, access to services, as well as territorial and cohesion policies. A [press release](#) is online. (For more information: Daniel Ferrie- Tel.: +32 229 86500; Sinéad Meehan-Van Druten – Tel: + 32 229 84094)

## **Analysis highlights quality of public administration as key success factor towards recovery, green and digital transitions**

Today, the Commission has published a detailed analysis on the role of national public administrations in meeting [EU priorities](#). The report also covers the challenges these administrations face as well as the Commission's experience in helping them boost their performance and capabilities. Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa **Ferreira**, stated: *"The quality of public administration is of utmost importance to enable innovation and economic growth. Public administrations translate EU law and programmes into concrete actions with long-term effects on economic, social and territorial cohesion, providing essential services and managing public spending. A deficient public administration leads to high economic and social costs. The current administrative systems were designed in times of relative stability and the coronavirus crisis demonstrates that public administrations need a deep organisational, technological and cultural transformation to be more flexible and resilient. The Commission can help in achieving this goal to the benefit of the current and the next generations of European citizens."* Public administration implement directly about 35% of the EU budget and its quality is crucial for recovery and sustainable growth. The Commission is actively supporting Member States to improve the quality of public administrations, through the identification of critical issues, the support in the design and deployment of reforms, the provision of capacity-building tools and of (peer-based) guidance, the facilitation of knowledge exchanges, financial support and the promotion of research and innovation. The full analysis is available [here](#). (For more information: Vivian Loonela - Tel.: +32 229 66712; Veronica Favalli - Tel.: +32 229 87269)

## **Ocean conservation: EU leads the international effort to establish new Marine Protected Areas in Antarctica**

Yesterday, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus **Sinkevičius** hosted a ministerial meeting to build support among the Members of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) for the designation of new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Southern Ocean, in particular the EU proposals to establish MPAs in East Antarctica and in the Weddell Sea. The meeting was key in shaping a [joint strategy](#) to work together towards the adoption of new MPAs in CCAMLR and to present the Commission's actions under the [European Green Deal](#) that contribute to protecting the Antarctica. Speaking after the meeting, Commissioner **Sinkevičius** said: *"Biodiversity loss and the climate crises are going faster than we had ever anticipated. It is critical to act now, if we are to turn the tide and conserve the rich and vulnerable marine life of the Southern Ocean. I am glad that we all expressed our commitment today in a joint declaration for the world's largest marine protected area which would cover more than 3 million km<sup>2</sup>. I particularly want to thank the U.S. and New Zealand for joining the other active co-sponsors in protecting that area around Antarctica."* The ministerial meeting was a success in bringing further support for the Marine Protected Areas in East Antarctica and in the Weddell Sea with co-sponsorship

announced by the United States and New Zealand. The designation of new Antarctic marine protected areas remains a high priority for the EU and its Member States and is a key deliverable of both the [EU's Biodiversity Strategy 2030](#), adopted last May, and of the EU's International Ocean Governance agenda. More information is in our [press release](#). (For more information: Vivian Loonela - Tel.: +32 229 66712; Daniela Stoycheva - Tel.: +32 229 53664)

### **State aid: Commission approves €2.5 million compensation to Slovenian Press Agency STA for its public service**

The European Commission has approved, under EU State aid rules, a €2.5 million compensation granted by Slovenia to the Slovenian Press Agency STA to fulfil its public service mission. The public funding will contribute to the independent news provision to the Slovenian public without unduly distorting competition in the Single Market. In January 2021, Slovenia notified the Commission of its plan to compensate the Slovenian Press Agency STA with €2.5million for carrying out its activities of informing the Slovenian public about national and international news in 2021. The Commission assessed the measure under the [EU State aid rules on public service compensation](#), and in particular under the [2011 SGEI Decision](#). On this basis, the Commission concluded that the Slovenian measure is in line with EU State aid rules, as it fosters a service of general public interest and promotes media plurality, without unduly distorting competition. Executive Vice-President Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy, said: *"Today's decision will enable the Slovenian Press Agency STA to continue deliver its important public service. Independent news agencies play an essential role in news media. The preservation of an independent national press agency in a Member State ensures that news media can refer to a news stream which reports on national and international developments, from the perspective of that country. This contributes to the plurality of media and information sources throughout the EU."* The press release is available [here](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta - Tel. +32 229 87024; Giulia Astuti - Tel: +32 229 55344; Maria Tsoni - Tel.: +32 229 90526)

### **State aid: Commission approves prolongation and modification of German scheme to support electricity production from renewable energy sources**

The European Commission has approved, under EU State aid rules, the prolongation and modification of a German scheme to support the production of electricity from renewable energy sources and from mine gas, as well as reductions of charges to fund support for electricity from renewable sources. The reduction of charges will be available to (i) energy-intensive companies and (ii) shore-side electricity supply to ships while at berth in ports. The scheme is part of the German Renewable Energy Act ('Erneuerbare Energien Gesetz' - 'EEG 2021'). The scheme will help Germany reach its renewable energy targets without unduly distorting competition and will contribute to the EU objective of achieving climate neutrality by 2050. Payments under the scheme for 2021 have been estimated to amount to around €33.1 billion. The new measure will be applicable until end 2026. The EEG 2021 scheme aims at a share of 65% of electricity produced from renewable energy sources by 2030 (compared to 40% in 2019). The Commission assessed the scheme under EU State aid rules, in particular the [2014 Guidelines on State aid for environmental protection and energy](#). The Commission has found that the aid is necessary to further develop the renewable and mine gas energy generation to meet Germany's environmental goals. On this basis, the Commission concluded that the German scheme EEG 2021 is in line with EU State aid rules, as it supports projects promoting the use of renewable energy sources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the [European Green Deal](#), without unduly distorting competition. Executive Vice-President Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy, said: *"The German EEG 2021 scheme will provide important support to the environmentally-friendly production of electricity, in line with EU rules. Thanks to this measure, a higher share of electricity in Germany will be produced through renewable energy sources, contributing to further reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the objectives of the Green Deal. The scheme introduces new features to ensure that aid is kept to the minimum and electricity production occurs in line with market signals, while at the same time ensuring the competitiveness of energy-intensive companies and reducing pollution caused by ships in harbour. In this way, the scheme provides the best value for taxpayers' money, while minimising possible distortions of competition."* The press release is available [here](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta - Tel. +32 229 87024; Giulia Astuti - Tel: +32 229 55344; Maria Tsoni - Tel: +32 229 90526)

### **Concentrations: La Commission autorise l'acquisition du contrôle en commun de Uplight par AES, Coatue et Schneider Electric**

La Commission européenne a approuvé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l'acquisition du contrôle commun de Uplight Inc. par AES Corporation (« AES »), Coatue Management LLC (« Coatue »), toutes trois basées aux États-Unis, et Schneider Electric SE basée en France. Uplight est un fournisseur de logiciels permettant aux consommateurs finaux de surveiller et d'adapter leurs habitudes de consommation d'énergie afin de réduire leur consommation et leur coûts. AES est un producteur et un distributeur d'électricité thermique et renouvelable. Coatue est un fond d'investissement spécialisé dans les industries technologiques, les médias et la communication. Schneider Electric est présente dans différentes industries incluant la gestion énergétique ainsi que la fabrication de produits et l'édition de logiciels pour l'automatisation et la gestion de l'énergie. La Commission a conclu que l'acquisition envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème de concurrence en raison des activités limitées de Uplight au sein de l'Espace Économique Européen. La concentration a été examinée dans le cadre de la procédure simplifiée du contrôle des concentrations. De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur le [site de la Commission consacré à la concurrence](#) dans le [registre public](#) des affaires de concurrence sous le numéro [M.10225](#). (Pour plus d'informations : Arianna Podesta – Tél.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tél.: +32 229 90526)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Climate Diplomacy: Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans meets COP26 President in London**

Today, Executive Vice-President Frans **Timmermans** travels to London to meet with Mr Alok Sharma, President of the COP26 climate conference which will take place in Glasgow in November. This meeting in London follows a visit by Mr Sharma to Brussels in February, and a series of videoconference calls. Mr **Timmermans** and Mr Sharma will discuss the preparations for COP26 negotiations, the key objectives of the EU for the conference, and their respective outreach to other international partners. They will take stock of announcements made at the Leaders Climate Summit organised by President Biden on 22-23 April, and discuss how to build on the international momentum in the six months leading up to COP26. The Commission is committed to making this crucial year a tipping point for climate action, the clean energy transition and nature protection. After reaching agreement on the European Climate Law last week, the EU is now working on its 'Fit for 55' legislative package to be presented this summer, adapting EU legislation to the ambitious target of reducing emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. (For more information: Tim McPhie – Tel: +32 229 58602; Lynn Rietdorf – Tel: +32 229 74959)

### **EU and Republic of Korea hold high-level trade meeting**

This afternoon, Executive Vice-President and Trade Commissioner, Valdis **Dombrovskis**, will meet the Republic of Korea Minister for Trade Yoo Myung-hee for a high-level meeting to take stock of progress made since a landmark trade agreement was signed a decade ago. The EU-Republic of Korea Trade Agreement remains a bedrock of our bilateral economic relationship and a strong foundation to help our economies recover and grow from the COVID-19 pandemic. This agreement not only boosts trade but also promotes social and environmental values. At today's 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Trade Committee, the two parties will agree on the next steps regarding Republic of Korea's compliance with the recommendations of the panel of experts on the labour dispute initiated by the EU under the Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter. Moreover, the two sides will confirm the extension of the list of Geographical Indications (GIs), with products such as Irish Cream, Kalamata olive oil, and Pecorino Toscano to be protected under the agreement. Finally, a number of amendments to the automotive annex of the agreement will be adopted. These amendments reflect the technological and regulatory developments in the automotive sector and are another example of the continuous constructive work between the two sides. You can find more information on the agreement [here](#). (For more information: Miriam Garcia Ferrer – Tel.: +32 229 99075; Thérèse Lerebours – Tel.: +32 229 63303)

