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Tourisme: nouveau label de sécurité pour faciliter la réouverture de la saison touristique européenne

La Commission salue le nouveau protocole sur la santé et la sécurité composé d'exigences et de recommandations pour les entreprises touristiques et les sites dans divers sous-secteurs, de l'hébergement aux sites patrimoniaux, en vue de l'assouplissement progressif des restrictions relatives à la COVID-19. Il facilitera la réouverture en toute sécurité du tourisme à temps pour la saison estivale et mettra en avant la réputation de qualité de l'UE en tant que destination touristique. Les États membres pourront attribuer ce nouveau label de sécurité aux établissements touristiques, qui mettent en œuvre et respectent le protocole sur la santé et la sécurité de l'Organisation internationale de normalisation (ISO). Le protocole et le label sont tous deux volontaires. Le commissaire Thierry **Breton**, en charge du marché intérieur, a déclaré: « *La pandémie de COVID-19 a perturbé l'écosystème du tourisme, entraînant une perte de revenus et menaçant des millions d'emplois. Dans le même temps, la santé et la sécurité restent des préoccupations majeures pour les citoyens qui aspirent à des vacances après de longs et difficiles confinements. Le label de sécurité COVID-19 européen du tourisme aidera les entreprises touristiques à assurer des procédures de sécurité avant la saison estivale, augmentant ainsi la confiance des voyageurs, des résidents et des travailleurs du secteur touristique.* » La Commission et le Comité européen de normalisation (CEN) encouragent les établissements touristiques souhaitant bénéficier du label à utiliser les [différentes possibilités de financement de l'UE disponibles pour le tourisme](#) afin de faire face aux coûts potentiels associés à la mise en œuvre du protocole et du label. Dans la [communication « Une voie commune vers une réouverture sûre et durable »](#) publiée en mars 2021, la Commission a invité le CEN à préparer avant l'été cette initiative de normalisation comme base des protocoles de santé et de sécurité pour le secteur touristique . Le protocole a été développé au niveau international par l'ISO dans le cadre des « Mesures visant à réduire la propagation du Covid-19 dans l'industrie du tourisme » ([ISO PAS 5643](#)), et est maintenant approuvé et complété par le CEN ([CWA 5643](#)). (Pour plus d'informations: Johannes Bahrke – Tél.: +32 229 58615; Federica Miccoli – Tél.: +32 229 58300; Célia Dejond – Tél.: +32 229 88199)

The European Commission successfully issues nearly €90 billion in 7 months under SURE

The European Commission has on Tuesday issued a €14.137 billion dual tranche social bond split over two distinct tenors: €8.137 billion due in July 2029 and €6 billion due in January 2047. With this seventh bond issuance under the programme since its start at the end of October 2020, the Commission has issued a total of €90 billion, for EU countries to support short-term employment schemes and keep people in jobs. All issuances attracted strong investors' interest and were placed on the market under favourable pricing terms which are being passed on directly to Member States. Commissioner Johannes **Hahn**, in charge of Budget and Administration, said: "This is the seventh time the Commission has gone to the market for SURE, and the seventh time we have attracted strong investors' interest. These seven successful deals for a combined value of nearly €90 billion have established the EU, in the course of just seven months, as a highly liquid, highly rated issuer of euro-denominated bonds, paving the way for the NextGenerationEU programme due to start soon." The seventh EU SURE bond was over 6 times oversubscribed and information about the pricing terms is available online [here](#). The funds raised will be transferred to the benefitting Member States five working days after the issuance. So far, the EU has transmitted €75.5 billion to 17 EU countries thanks to the first six EU SURE issuances. 19 EU Member States are due to receive a total of €94.3 billion in financial support under SURE. Countries can still submit requests to receive financial support under SURE which has an overall firepower of up to €100 billion. (For more information: Miriam Garcia Ferrer – Tel.: +32 229 99075; Claire Joawn - Tel.: +32 229 56859)

La Commission lance une consultation publique sur la reconnaissance de la parentalité

entre les États Membres

Aujourd'hui, la Commission européenne a lancé une [consultation publique](#) sur son [initiative sur la reconnaissance de la parentalité](#) entre les États membres. Avec cette initiative, la Commission vise à garantir que la parentalité, telle qu'établie dans un État membre, soit reconnue dans toute l'UE. Il s'agit de garantir que les enfants maintiennent leurs droits dans les situations transfrontalières. Lors de son discours sur l'état de l'Union [l'année dernière](#), la présidente de la Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, a abordé la reconnaissance mutuelle de la parentalité dans l'UE en déclarant : "Si vous êtes parent dans un pays, vous êtes parent dans tous les pays". Cette initiative est également une recommandation concrète de la [stratégie globale de l'UE sur les droits de l'enfant](#). La consultation publique recueillera des données sur les problèmes actuels de reconnaissance transfrontalière de la parentalité dans l'UE ainsi que les points de vue des parties prenantes sur l'initiative relative à la parentalité. Les résultats de la consultation publique, à laquelle toute personne intéressée par la question pourra participer jusqu'au 19 août 2021, alimenteront une initiative sur la reconnaissance de la parentalité entre États membres attendue en 2022. (Pour plus d'informations: Christian Wigand - Tél.: +32 229 62253; Katarzyna Kolanko - Tél.: +32 229 63444; Jördis Ferroli - Tél.: +32 229 92729)

Trade and biodiversity: new methodology to better assess trade impacts on nature

Today, the Commission published a new methodology for assessing the impacts of trade liberalisation on biodiversity and ecosystems. The new methodology will contribute to further improve the sustainability impact assessments and ex-post evaluations of trade agreements, while also supporting the objectives of the [European Green Deal](#). The methodology provides a stepwise process with a special focus on quantifying the impacts of trade liberalisation on biodiversity, such as forests and wetlands. It acknowledges the role of trade in supporting a fundamental transformation of the EU economy in line with its green objectives, and is conceived to be flexible and adaptable to the context of various types of trade agreements and partner countries. Executive Vice President for Trade, Valdis **Dombrovskis**, said: "*The acceleration of biodiversity loss, paired with climate change and environmental degradation, have led to the recognition of the green transition as the defining challenge of our time. Supporting this ecological transition is one of the core objectives of EU trade policy, reinforced under our new Trade Policy Strategy. We have committed to prioritising the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in trade and investment agreements. I welcome this new methodology which will contribute to better assessing the impact of our agreements.*" Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus **Sinkevičius**, said: "*Over half of global GDP depends on nature and the services it provides. And yet due to our unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, it is disappearing in front of our eyes, putting our health, food security and economy at risk. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the need for sustainable supply chains and consumption patterns that do not exceed planetary boundaries. EU trade policy must actively support and be part of the ecological transition. I am glad this new methodology will help us achieve this key commitment of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.*" The new methodology focuses on the identification and application of a set of indicators that capture changes in biodiversity status and trends that may happen as a result of trade liberalisation. It looks at the drivers for the change, pressure on biodiversity, such as land or resource use, impact on biodiversity and responses to address the change – safeguards, or measures to amplify positive impacts. The methodology recommends these impacts to be assessed in a comprehensive manner, using data, research, existing case studies, expert knowledge and stakeholder interviews. It also supports the Commission's ambition to secure a global agreement addressing the biodiversity crisis at the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CoP 15) later this year. More information is in the [news item](#) and the [methodology](#). (For more information: Vivian Loonela - Tel.: +32 229 66712; Miriam García Ferrer - Tel.: +32 229 99075; Daniela Stoycheva - Tel.: +32 229 53664; Álvaro Rangel Hernández - Tel.: +32 460 760854)

Taxation: 2021 Annual Report highlights the contribution of taxation towards a more innovative, business friendly and healthier EU

The European Commission has published the [2021 Annual Report](#) on taxation, a yearly review of Member States' tax policies and their contribution to the [priorities of the EU](#), such as the twin digital and green transitions, social fairness and prosperity, or combatting tax fraud. Annual tax revenue in the EU was stable in 2019 across Member States, with slight reductions in the average tax burden on labour and average corporate income tax from 21.9% in 2019 to 21.5% in 2020. Member States have continued to introduce new tax measures to support innovation and productivity, address the corporate debt bias and reduce the time it takes to comply with taxes. The report found that while

environmental taxation can be a useful policy tool to help achieve climate and environmental policy goals and contribute to the economic recovery, the report shows that it is still underused in many Member States. Several EU Member States have raised taxes on tobacco, alcohol, and soft drinks to improve public health. The report also highlights that most Member States have introduced some measures to tackle aggressive tax planning but much remains to be done, notably in view of the current crisis. The report also pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic forced Member States and the EU to react with an unprecedented range of measures, including tax measures and direct support for households, businesses and the health sector. These helped cushion the impact of the crisis, providing liquidity to the hardest hit businesses and households and mitigating the adverse economic impact of the public health confinement measures introduced by Member States. Against this backdrop, taxation policies can be an integral part of policy measures to support the recovery after the COVID-19 crisis. The analysis described in this report is used in the context of the [European Semester](#). The full report is available [here](#). (For more information: Daniel Ferrie – Tel.: +32 229 86500; Nerea Artamendi Erro – Tel.: +32 229 90964)

State aid: Commission publishes results of evaluation of EU State aid rules for agriculture, forestry and rural areas

The European Commission has published a Commission [Staff Working Document](#) summarising the results of an evaluation of the State aid rules for the agriculture and forestry sectors and for rural areas. The evaluation was carried out as part of the ongoing review of the State aid rules for agriculture, forestry and rural areas, namely the [Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation](#), and the [2014 EU Guidelines for State aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas](#). The evaluation concludes that, overall, the rules under scrutiny work well and are broadly fit for purpose. In this respect, they largely meet the needs of the sectors concerned, while also contributing to the achievement of broader EU policy objectives, such as environmental protection as well as animal and, more generally, public health. At the same time, the evaluation revealed that the existing rules need certain targeted revisions, including clarifications of some concepts, further streamlining and simplification, as well as adjustments to reflect the EU current priorities, in particular the [future Common Agricultural Policy](#) (CAP) and the [European Green Deal](#). The Commission will take the results of the evaluation into account when reviewing the existing rules. The Commission will proceed with the impact assessment phase of the review, to look into the issues identified during the evaluation, with a view to having revised rules in place by 31 December 2022 when the current rules will expire. A full press release is available [online](#). (For more information: Daniel Ferrie – Tel.: +32 229 86500; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344; Maria Tsioni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

State aid: Commission approves €820,000 Slovenian scheme to support sheep and goat breeders affected by coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved a €820,000 Slovenian scheme to support sheep and goat breeders 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 of up to €225,000 per beneficiary, to compensate them for their loss of income caused by the coronavirus outbreak. The aim of the scheme is to help the beneficiaries address their liquidity needs and continue their activities during and after the outbreak. The Commission found that the Slovenian scheme is in line with the conditions of the Temporary Framework. In particular, the aid (i) will not exceed €225,000 per beneficiary active in the primary agricultural sector; and (ii) will be granted until 30 June 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 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.62926 in the [State aid register](#) on the Commission's [competition](#) website once any confidentiality issues have been resolved. (For more information: Daniel Ferrie – Tel.: +32 229 86500; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344; Maria Tsioni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

State aid: Commission approves €392,000 Belgian support to compensate Waterloo 1815 Memorial concession holder for damage caused by coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved a €392,000 Belgian aid measure to compensate the Waterloo 1815 Memorial concession holder for the losses suffered due to the coronavirus outbreak. The support will enable the Belgian authorities to partially compensate the concession holder for the

damage incurred from 13 March to 14 June 2020 and from 19 October to 31 December 2020, as a result of the closing of the Memorial and of the travel restrictions that the Belgian government had to introduce to limit the spread of the virus. The aid will take the following forms: (i) a deferral of the variable concession fee of 2019 (due in 2020) over a three year-period, at a 0% interest rate, (ii) a cancellation of the base concession fee of 2020, and (iii) a cancellation of the proportional concession fee for the activity generated by the restaurant for the year 2020. The Commission assessed the measure under Article 107(2)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which enables the Commission to approve State aid measures granted by Member States to compensate specific companies or specific sectors (in the form of schemes) for the damage directly caused by restrictive measures taken in exceptional occurrences, such as the coronavirus outbreak. The Commission found that the measure will compensate damages that are directly linked to the coronavirus outbreak. It also found that the measure is proportionate, as the envisaged compensation does not exceed what is necessary to make good the damage. On this basis, the Commission concluded that the measure is in line with EU State aid rules. More information on 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.59765 in the [State aid register](#) on the Commission's [competition](#) website once any confidentiality issues have been resolved. (For more information: Daniel Ferrie – Tel.: +32 229 86500; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

La commissaire Johansson en Italie et Tunisie pour discuter du partenariat en matière de migration

Aujourd'hui, la commissaire aux affaires intérieures, Ylva **Johansson**, se rend en Italie pour rencontrer la ministre italienne de l'intérieur, Luciana Lamorgese. Jeudi, la commissaire et la ministre se rendront à Tunis où elles rencontreront le président de la Tunisie, Kais Saied, ainsi que le premier ministre, Hichem Mechichi. Ils examineront ensemble le partenariat UE-Tunisie en matière de migration, et aborderont en particulier les questions de migration irrégulière, le renforcement de la lutte contre le trafic de migrants, le retour et la réadmission efficace, et la lutte contre les causes profondes de la migration irrégulière en offrant des opportunités économiques, aux jeunes en particulier, et des possibilités de migration légale. (Pour plus d'informations: Christian Wigand - Tél.: +32 229 62253; Ciara Bottomley - Tél.: +32 229 69971; Laura Bérard - Tél.: +32 229 55721)

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