



Daily News 14 / 07 / 2021

Brussels, 14 July 2021

COLLEGE MEETING: European Green Deal: Commission proposes transformation of EU economy and society to meet climate ambitions

Today, the European Commission adopted a broad set of proposals to make the EU's climate, energy, transport and taxation policies fit for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. Achieving these emission reductions in the next decade is crucial to Europe becoming the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050 and making the European Green Deal a reality. With today's proposals, the Commission is presenting the legislative tools to deliver on the targets agreed in the European Climate Law and fundamentally transform our economy and society for a fair, green and prosperous future. A [press release](#) and six Q&As on [Emission Trading/ETS](#), [Effort sharing and the inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions from land use, land use change and forestry](#), [Making our energy systems fit for our climate targets](#), [Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism](#), [Energy taxation](#) and [Transport](#) are available online. Ten factsheets, and the texts of all of today's proposals are available [on the dedicated website](#). Follow the press conference with President **von der Leyen**, Executive Vice-President **Timmermans**, and Commissioners **Simson**, **Gentiloni**, **Vălean**, **Sinkevičius** and **Wojciechowski** live on [EbS](#). (For more information: Vivian Loonela – Tel: +32 229-66712; Tim McPhie – Tel: +32 229-58602; Stefan de Keersmaecker – Tel: +32 229-84680; Daniel Ferrie – Tel: +32 229-86500)

Commission welcomes Council's approval of recovery and resilience plans

The European Commission welcomes the [Council's approval of its assessments of the recovery and resilience plans of the first 12 Member States](#): Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Austria and Slovakia. These plans set out the measures that will be supported by the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). The RRF is at the heart of NextGenerationEU, which will provide €800 billion (in current prices) to support investments and reforms across the EU. The Council's approval paves the way for the payment of up to 13% of the total allocated amount for each of these Member States in pre-financing. The Commission aims to disburse the first pre-financing as quickly as possible, following the signing of the bilateral financing agreements and, where relevant, loan agreements. The Commission will then authorise further disbursements based on the satisfactory fulfilment of the milestones and targets outlined in each of the Council Implementing Decisions, reflecting progress on the implementation of the investments and reforms covered in the plans. (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Enda McNamara – Tel.: +32 229 64976)

Digital euro: Commission welcomes the launch of the digital euro project by the ECB

The Commission welcomes the decision taken by the Governing Council of the European Central Bank (ECB) to launch the digital euro project and start its investigation phase. This phase will look at various design options, user requirements and at how financial intermediaries could provide services building on a digital euro. The digital euro, a digital form of central bank money, would offer greater choice to consumers and businesses in situations where physical cash cannot be used. It would support a well-integrated payments sector to respond to new payment needs in Europe. Taking into account digitalisation, rapid changes in the payments landscape and the emergence of crypto-assets, the digital euro would be a complement to cash, which should remain widely available and useable. It would support a number of policy objectives set out in the Commission's wider [digital finance](#) and retail payments strategies including the digitalisation of the European economy, increase the international role of the euro and support the EU's open strategic autonomy. Based on the technical cooperation with the ECB initiated in January, the Commission will continue to work closely with the ECB and the EU institutions throughout the investigation phase in analysing and testing the various design options in view of policy objectives. (For more information: Daniel Ferrie – Tel.: +32 229 86500; Aikaterini Apostola – Tel.: +32 229 87624)

European Research Council to make more than €2.4 billion available in 2022 for frontier research

Today, the European Commission has adopted the work programme of the [European Research Council](#) for the year 2022. This is the second work programme of the European Research Council (ERC) under Horizon Europe, following the [first calls](#) announced in February. It includes over €2.4 billion of funding that will be granted to an estimated 1,100 scientists and scholars in the EU and associated countries, in a series of grant competitions. The funding will support projects that push the frontiers of human knowledge in all scientific domains, encourage interdisciplinary research and help ERC grantees explore the social or commercial potential of their discoveries. Thanks to these grants, some 8,000 jobs for post-doctoral fellows, PhD students and other research staff are expected to be created in the ERC grantees' teams. Mariya **Gabriel**, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, said: *"This work programme is backed by the biggest ever annual budget for ERC grants – a powerful sign of Europe's continuing support for frontier research. I am also delighted to see that most of the financial support is earmarked for grants for early and mid-career researchers. It is vital that we support this new generation of European talent."* Researchers of any nationality or scientific domain are eligible, as long as they work in Europe or are willing to do so. The programme includes among others the second edition of the [ERC Public Engagement with Research Awards](#), whose purpose is to recognise grantees engaging with audiences outside their domain and communicating their EU-funded research. More information is available in the [ERC press release](#). (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Charles Manoury – Tel.: +32 229 13391)

NextGenerationEU: la Commission européenne lève 10 milliards d'euros supplémentaires grâce à une troisième émission obligataire réussie pour soutenir la relance européenne

La Commission européenne a émis 10 milliards d'euros supplémentaires pour soutenir la relance de l'Europe après la crise du coronavirus et ses conséquences, grâce à la troisième émission obligataire [NextGenerationEU](#) réalisée depuis le début du programme à la mi-juin. La Commission européenne a émis une obligation à 20 ans arrivant à échéance le 4 juillet 2041, qui a été bien accueillie sur le marché, avec un carnet d'ordres d'un montant de plus de 100 milliards d'euros. Grâce à une souscription de 10 fois supérieure à l'offre, qui témoigne le vif intérêt que continuent de démontrer les investisseurs, la Commission a obtenu des conditions tarifaires très favorables et tout à fait conformes aux excellents résultats obtenus jusqu'à présent dans le cadre du programme NextGenerationEU. Il s'agissait d'une opération en deux tranches, et la Commission a également levé 5,25 milliards d'euros sous forme de prêt adossé à 10 ans pour ses programmes relatifs au Mécanisme Européen de Stabilisation Financière (MESF) et à l'[Assistance Macrofinancière](#) (AMF). Johannes **Hahn**, commissaire européen chargé du budget et de l'administration, a déclaré: « Grâce à la troisième obligation NextGenerationEU, le montant total levé au titre de NextGenerationEU a atteint 45 milliards d'euros en 4 semaines. Il s'agit là d'un début très encourageant pour le programme de financement NextGenerationEU. Cela signifie que la Commission est bien placée pour soutenir tous les paiements aux États membres prévus dans le cadre de NextGenerationEU au cours de l'été, et pour appuyer ainsi la relance économique et sociale. » Il s'agit de la troisième opération dans le cadre du programme NextGenerationEU, après l'obligation de 20 milliards d'euros à 10 ans émise par la Commission le 15 juin 2021 et l'opération en deux tranches de 15 milliards d'euros, qui consistait en une obligation de 9 milliards d'euros à 5 ans et en une obligation de 6 milliards d'euros à 30 ans, lancée le 29 juin. Grâce à cette opération, la Commission a levé jusqu'à présent 45 milliards d'euros au titre de NextGenerationEU. Les fonds seront désormais utilisés pour les premiers paiements dans le cadre de NextGenerationEU, dans le cadre de la facilité pour la relance et la résilience et de divers programmes budgétaires de l'UE. Le [premier décaissement dans le cadre de NextGenerationEU](#) a déjà eu lieu fin juin et a été effectué dans le cadre du programme [REACT-EU](#). NextGenerationEU est un instrument temporaire de relance d'environ 800 milliards d'euros en prix courants, destiné à aider l'Europe à se relever de la pandémie de coronavirus et à contribuer à construire une Europe plus verte, plus numérique et plus résiliente. Plus de détails figurent dans le [communiqué de presse](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Balazs Ujvari - Tél.: + 32 229 54578; Veronica Favalli - Tél.: +32 229 87269)

State aid: Commission approves €2.5 billion Italian scheme to support self-employed and healthcare professionals in context of coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved a €2.5 billion Italian scheme to support self-employed individuals and certain healthcare professionals in the context of the coronavirus outbreak, by

partially exempting them from social security contributions. Italy notified to the Commission under the [Temporary Framework](#) an aid scheme exempting self-employed individuals and certain healthcare professionals from social security contributions for the year 2021, up to a maximum annual amount of €3,000 per person. The scheme aims at reducing the expenses for social security contributions at a time when the normal functioning of markets is severely disturbed by the coronavirus outbreak. 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. In particular, the aid (i) will not exceed the amount of €225,000 per company active in the fishery and aquaculture sector, €270,000 per company active in the primary production of agricultural products, or €1.8 million per company active in all other sectors; and (ii) will be granted no later than 31 December 2021. On this basis, the Commission approved the aid measure under EU State aid rules. Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager, in charge of competition policy, said: *"This €2.5 billion scheme will enable Italy to further support the self-employed individuals who have been hard hit by the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme will also support retired healthcare professionals that needed to resume their activity to contribute to the response to the outbreak. We continue working in close cooperation with Member States to find workable solutions to mitigate the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak, in line with EU rules"*. A full press release is available [online](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

State aid: Commission approves €878 million Italian scheme to incentivize integration of unemployed workers in labour market in context of the coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved a €878 million Italian scheme to incentivize employers to integrate unemployed workers in the labour market in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was approved under the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). The scheme aims at reducing the labour costs borne by private employers in relation to newly recruited workers, which were previously unemployed. The aid will consist in an exemption from the payment of employers' social security contribution, for a maximum period of 6 months, for new open-ended employment contracts signed between 1 July 2021 and 31 October 2021. Beneficiaries can receive aid up to €3,000 per hired worker. To be eligible, employers must not have dismissed employees in the 6 months preceding the recruitment. The Commission found that the 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) will be granted no later than 31 October 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.63721 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 €1.78 million Czech scheme to support terrestrial television network operators in the context of coronavirus outbreak

The European Commission has approved an approximately €1.78 million (CZK 46 million) Czech scheme to support terrestrial television network operators affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was approved under the State aid [Temporary Framework](#). Under the scheme, the support will take the form of direct grants. The aid will support the additional costs resulting from the postponement of the deadline for the digital terrestrial television switching-off phase from 30 June to 31 October 2020. The postponement of the final switch-off phase, resulting from the coronavirus outbreak, was abrupt and forced the beneficiaries to swiftly rearrange their plans. This caused additional costs and had a negative impact on the beneficiaries' liquidity. The Commission found that the 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 beneficiary; and (ii) 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 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.60062 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 acquisition of Charter Next Generation by KKR and Leonard Green & Partners

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of Charter Next Generation Inc. ('CNG') by KKR & Co. Inc. ('KKR') and Leonard Green & Partners, L.P. ('LGP'), all of the US CNG produces high-performance, specialty films used in flexible packaging in a variety of food, consumer, industrial and healthcare applications. KKR is a global investment firm that manages multiple alternative asset classes including private equity, energy, infrastructure, real estate and credit. LGP is a private equity investment firm focused on companies providing consumer, business, and healthcare services, as well as retail, distribution and industrials, at global level. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, because the transaction does not lead to any horizontal overlaps or vertical relationships between the activities of the companies, and it has limited impact in 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.10323](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

Concentrations: la Commission autorise l'acquisition du contrôle conjoint d'un portefeuille hôtelier par Accor et Keys

La Commission européenne a approuvé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l'acquisition du contrôle conjoint d'un portefeuille de 23 hôtels par Accor Group («Accor») et Keys REIM («Keys»), toutes les deux basées en France. Le portefeuille hôtelier, contrôlé par Accor avant l'opération, se compose de 17 hôtels commerciaux et de 6 projets hôteliers, situés en Allemagne (Berlin, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Francfort, Hambourg, Munich), en Autriche (Vienne), au Danemark (Copenhague), en France (Bordeaux, Hossegor, Lyon, Marseille, Paris), en Italie (Florence) et en Suisse. Accor est principalement actif dans le domaine de la gérance et du franchisage d'hôtels en Europe, Asie, Afrique, au Moyen-Orient, et en Amérique. Keys est une société de gestion d'actifs spécialisée dans l'acquisition et la gestion d'actifs immobiliers, contrôlée en dernier ressort par le groupe bancaire français BPCE. Les actifs gérés par Keys sont principalement situés en France. La Commission a conclu que l'acquisition envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème de concurrence compte tenu de son impact très limité sur la structure du marché. L'opération a été examinée dans le cadre de la procédure simplifiée du contrôle des concentrations. De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur le site internet [concurrence](#) de la Commission, dans le [registre public](#) des affaires sous le numéro d'affaire [M.10250](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Arianna Podesta – Tél.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tél.: +32 229 90526)

APPOINTEMENTS

COLLEGE MEETING: The European Commission appoints a new Director in DG MARE

Today, the European Commission has appointed Mr Fabrizio Donatella as Director in the Directorate "Fisheries Policy Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic and Outermost Regions" of DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE) with date of effect to be determined later. Mr Donatella, an Italian national, has nearly three decades of experience at the Commission during which he has obtained a thorough knowledge of maritime affairs, trade policy and international cooperation in particular, complemented by a considerable amount of experience in leading negotiations on behalf of the EU with a variety of interlocutors. He is currently Chief Negotiator for the fisheries agreements between the EU and the coastal states in the North Atlantic, the Baltic, the North Sea and the Skagerrak area while also having the role of Head of the EU Delegation to the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission. Earlier in his career, he served in a number of managerial positions in DG MARE as acting Director and Head of Unit. Building on his robust management skills, he is well suited to provide strong leadership as a Director in DG MARE. (For more information: Balazs Ujvari - Tel.: +32 229 54578; Daniel Puglisi - Tel.: +32 229 69140)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EU side-event at the United Nations Forum on Sustainable Development Goals supporting global recovery

Today as part of the United Nations [High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#), Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta **Urpilainen** and Commissioner for Economy, Paolo **Gentiloni**, together with the Slovenian Presidency of the Council, organise a flagship side-event starting at 19:00 CET, 13:00 EDT: '[The SDGs as the compass for recovering after the pandemic](#)'. Together with participants from the international development community, they will discuss how to better integrate the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) as a shared blueprint into recovery strategies and how to build global resilience to meet the 2030 Agenda. Commissioner Jutta **Urpilainen** says: "At global level, by working together as Team Europe - EU institutions, Member States and European public financial institutions - and being guided by the SDGs, we have increased our impact on the way to a sustainable recovery. Team Europe has already mobilised over €40 billion to help partner countries address the economic and social impact of the crisis. Its contribution to COVAX amounts to over €3 billion for access to safe and affordable medicines and vaccines, as well as better preparedness for future pandemics. The EU remains committed to the implementation of the SDGs to make sure that no one is left behind." Commissioner Paolo **Gentiloni** says: "The pandemic has significantly challenged progress towards the 2030 Agenda. So more than ever, we have to integrate SDGs across all our policies. Within the EU, we are doing just that with the European Green Deal, the European Semester, our Digital Strategy and the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan. With the proposed policy measures, notably through NextGenerationEU, we are supporting a green and digital transition consistent with the SDGs." The Sustainable Development Goals are a shared blueprint that will guide the world towards a sustainable recovery. The aim is to advance common objectives and put the world on track to build a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient future. To learn more about the state of play and explore successful stories, challenges and lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, participants are invited to register [here](#). The High-Level Political Forum is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development. It has a central role in the follow-up and review of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) at the global level. A [monitoring report](#) on progress made towards the SDGs in the EU is available online. (For more information: Peter Stano - Tel: +32 229 54553 ; Arianna Podesta - Tel.: +32 22987024; Gesine Knolle - Tel.: +32 229 54323; Enda McNamara - Tel.: +32 229-64976)

Les commissaires Reynders et Johansson se rendent à Brdo pri Kranju en Slovénie pour le Conseil informel « Justice et affaires intérieures »

Didier **Reynders**, commissaire chargé de la justice, et Ylva **Johansson**, commissaire chargée des affaires intérieures, participeront à la réunion informelle des ministres de la justice et des affaires intérieures à Brdo pri Kranju en Slovénie. Demain matin, la commissaire **Johansson** rejoindra d'abord les ministres de l'intérieur pour une session de travail sur la lutte contre la criminalité à l'ère numérique, suivie d'un débat sur la coopération avec les partenaires des Balkans occidentaux dans les domaines de la sécurité intérieure, de la migration et de l'asile. Au cours d'un déjeuner de travail, les participants procéderont à un échange de vues sur les prochaines réalisations concrètes dans le cadre du [nouveau pacte sur la migration et l'asile](#). Dans l'après-midi, les ministres discuteront les prochaines étapes concernant la stratégie pour [un espace Schengen plus fort et plus résilient](#), présentée par la Commission le 2 juin 2021. Une conférence de presse avec la commissaire **Johansson** aura lieu demain vers 17.00 heures CET que vous pourrez suivre en direct sur [EbS](#). Vendredi, le commissaire **Reynders** rejoindra les ministres de la justice pour une première discussion sur les [aspects de justice de la loi sur l'intelligence artificielle](#) et sur la manière de garantir la protection des droits fondamentaux des citoyens dans le développement de nouvelles technologies. Le commissaire **Reynders** informera également les ministres des instruments juridiques et des initiatives de l'UE en matière de [justice adaptée aux enfants](#). Le commissaire **Reynders** participera à la conférence de presse vendredi à ± 13.30 HEC, que vous pourrez suivre en direct aussi sur [EbS](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Adalbert Jahnz — Tél. + 32 229 53156; Christian Wigand — Tél. + 32 229 62253)

[Liste des points prévus](#) à l'ordre du jour des prochaines réunions de la Commission

Veillez noter que ces informations sont données sous réserve de modifications.

[Eurostat](#): communiqués de presse

The Spokesperson's Service has re-opened the Berlaymont press room to a limited number of journalists. For more information, please see [here](#).

MEX/21/3703