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Stimuler l'innovation en Europe: l'Institut européen d'innovation et de technologie et le Fonds européen d'investissement unissent leurs forces

L'[Institut européen d'innovation et de technologie](#) (EIT) et le [Fonds européen d'investissement](#) (FEI) ont signé un protocole d'accord afin de collaborer plus étroitement et de stimuler l'innovation européenne en vue des transformations vertes et numériques. Ce protocole d'accord marque une étape importante dans la collaboration de deux organismes qui soutiennent les innovateurs européens, les PME et les entrepreneurs. Il crée un cadre pour collaborer et partager des informations sur les possibilités de financement et d'innovation, dans des domaines tels que les investissements en fonds propres pour les PME et les jeunes entreprises européennes, ainsi que dans des secteurs clés européens tels que les technologies climatiques, énergétiques et environnementales, les technologies stratégiques numériques et profondes, l'éducation et les compétences, la santé et les sciences de la vie. Mariya **Gabriel**, commissaire à l'innovation, à la recherche, à la culture, à l'éducation et à la jeunesse a ainsi déclaré: « *Un meilleur accès au financement est un élément essentiel de toute politique d'innovation réussie. En réunissant l'Institut européen d'innovation et de technologie et le Fonds européen d'investissement, nous veillons à ce que tous les innovateurs et les PME en Europe capables de stimuler la reprise et les transformations verte et numérique puissent obtenir le soutien dont ils ont besoin* ». La collaboration entre institutions continuera de soutenir la transition vers une Europe neutre pour le climat, moteur de l'innovation, du numérique et des transformations des compétences. L'EIT est un organe de l'UE et fait partie intégrante d'Horizon Europe. Avec des entreprises de premier plan, des laboratoires de recherche et des universités, l'EIT propose un large éventail d'activités d'innovation et d'entrepreneuriat dans toute l'Europe: cours d'éducation à l'entrepreneuriat, services de création et d'accélération d'entreprises et projets de recherche axés sur l'innovation. Le FEI fait partie du Groupe Banque européenne d'investissement. Sa mission principale est de soutenir les start-ups et les PME européennes en les aidant à accéder au financement. De plus amples informations sont disponibles [en ligne](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Sonya Gospodinova – Tél.: +32 229 66953; Célia Dejond – Tél.: +32 229 88199)

Démocratie et droits de l'homme: L'UE annonce une aide supplémentaire de 119.5 millions d'euros pour 2021*

À la suite de la [Semaine internationale de la démocratie 2021](#), l'Union européenne a annoncé cinq actions pour un montant de 119,5 millions d'euros en vue de renforcer le soutien de l'UE à la démocratie et aux droits de l'homme dans le monde en 2021. La commissaire chargée des partenariats internationaux, Jutta **Urpilainen**, a déclaré: « *La démocratie est essentielle au développement durable et l'égalité des chances: Cela signifie des institutions démocratiques fortes, l'inclusion sociale et des sociétés participatives. Avec ces 119,5 millions d'euros, nous renouvelons notre engagement en faveur de la démocratie mondiale. Je suis également fière que l'UE continue de soutenir le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme tout en contribuant au renfort des moyens d'action des organisations locales de la société civile, des défenseurs de la démocratie, des défenseurs des droits de l'homme, des jeunes et des femmes dans le monde.* » L'UE est pleinement déterminée à protéger et à donner plus d'autonomie aux personnes, à bâtir des sociétés résilientes, inclusives et démocratiques, ainsi qu'à promouvoir un système mondial de droits de l'homme et de démocratie. Les mesures annoncées aujourd'hui garantiront un soutien de l'UE aux organisations de la société civile, aux activistes pour la démocratie et aux défenseurs des droits de l'homme dans 116 pays, en accordant une attention particulière aux femmes et aux jeunes. Elles contribueront également à encourager la coopération politique au plus haut niveau pour la défense de la démocratie à l'échelle mondiale. Les fonds contribueront à la mise en œuvre du [Plan d'action de l'UE en faveur des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie 2020-2024](#) et des plans nationaux au titre [du plan d'action de l'UE sur l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes \(GAP III\)](#). Ils fourniront également une aide indispensable au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme.

Vous pouvez accéder au communiqué de presse [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Ana Pisonero - Tél: +32 229 54320 ; Gesine Knolle - Tél: +32 229-54323).

Winners of the EU Contest for Young Scientists 2020-2021

Yesterday, the Commission announced the winners of the 32nd [EU Contest for Young Scientists](#), with the top prizes awarded to six projects from Bulgaria, Germany, Ireland, Spain, Turkey and Ukraine. The winners will receive €7,000 for each of their outstanding projects in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), as well as in social sciences. Among the many research topics were quantum computing, innovative solar cells and a statistical investigation into gender stereotyping in 5-7 year olds. The second and third prizes were granted to projects from Bulgaria, Czechia, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkey, Belarus, and Canada. Mariya **Gabriel**, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, said: "*Congratulations to all winners of this year's contest on their outstanding achievement. The last year has shown us the importance of excellent research and innovation in overcoming crises that affect all of us. This competition celebrates a new generation of talents whose discoveries and innovations will be essential to shape the future we want to live in. I'm really proud of our youth's exceptional work.*" The EU Contest for Young Scientists was set up by the European Commission in 1989 to encourage cooperation and exchange between young scientists and to give them the opportunity to be guided by some of Europe's most prominent researchers. It also seeks to encourage young people to study STEM and to pursue a career in science. This year, 158 promising young scientists, aged between 14 and 20 years old and coming from 34 countries, participated. The students presented 114 different projects to an international jury of renowned scientists, chaired by Dr Attila Borics from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The winners shared a total of €93,000 in prize money, divided between the 18 core prizes, as well as [other prizes](#), such as visits to some of the most innovative organisations and companies in Europe. They were announced during a ceremony in the University of Salamanca, Spain, following a two-day virtual competition. The detailed list of the winners is available [here](#) and more information is available [here](#). (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Marietta Grammenou – Tel.: +32 229 83583)

EU-US join forces on the Global Methane Pledge

The European Union and the United States announced on Saturday 18 September the Global Methane Pledge, an initiative to reduce global methane emissions to be launched at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in November in Glasgow. President Biden and European Commission President Ursula **von der Leyen** urged countries at the US-led Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF) to join the Pledge and welcomed those that have already signaled their support. Countries joining the Pledge commit to a collective goal of reducing global methane emissions by at least 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030 and moving towards using best available inventory methodologies to quantify methane emissions, with a particular focus on high emission sources. Delivering on the Pledge would reduce warming by at least 0.2 degrees Celsius by 2050. A [joint EU-US press release](#) is available online. (For more information: Tim McPhie – Tel.: +32 229 58602; Ana Crespo Parrondo – Tel.: +32 229 81325)

State aid: Commission launches public consultation on availability of private short-term export-credit insurance capacity for exports in light of economic impact of coronavirus outbreak

The Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) to assess the availability of private short-term export-credit insurance capacity for exports to all countries listed as 'marketable risk countries' in the 2012 [Short-term export-credit Communication](#). Based on the results of the public consultation, the Commission will assess whether the current temporary removal of all countries from the list of 'marketable risk' countries remains justified and, therefore, needs to be further prolonged. Export-credits enable foreign buyers of goods and/or services to defer payment. Deferred payment implies credit risk for the seller/exporter, against which they insure themselves, typically with private insurers (so-called export credit insurance). According to the 2012 [Short-term export-credit Communication](#), which is in force since 2013, trade within 27 EU Member States and nine OECD countries listed in its Annex with a maximum risk period of up to two years entails marketable risks and should, in principle, not be insured by the State or State supported insurers. With a view to make public short-term export credit insurance more widely available in light of the crisis linked to the coronavirus outbreak, on [27 March 2020](#), the Commission decided to temporarily remove all countries from the list of 'marketable risk' countries until 31 December 2020. The Commission

prolonged the temporary removal twice, the last time on [28 January 2021](#), until 31 December 2021. The decisions to prolong the removal followed public consultations that had pointed to a lack of sufficient private capacity to cover all economically justifiable risks for exports to countries from the list of marketable risk countries and to an expected rise in demand for insurance as a result of the outbreak. Depending on the results of the present consultation and taking into account the relevant economic indicators, the Commission may decide to prolong the removal of all countries from the list of 'marketable risk countries' as a temporary measure, beyond December 2021. (*For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526*)

State aid: Commission approves €11 million Italian scheme to support inland waterway transport in Italy

The European Commission has approved, under EU State aid rules, a €11 million Italian scheme to support freight transport by inland waterways in Italy. The scheme takes the form of direct grants to inland waterway transport companies. It consists of three measures. The first measure aims at better integrating the inland waterways network in the logistic chains and at increasing its competitiveness, efficiency and safety, by providing aid for the modernisation of vessels and their adaptation to make them suitable both for inland waterway navigation and for accessing and mooring in seaports. The second measure aims at encouraging the entry of new players in the market by providing aid for the purchase of their first vessel, thus contributing to the revitalisation of the sector. The third measure aims at offsetting some of the additional costs of switching from road to inland waterway transport through the partial coverage of operating costs. The Commission assessed the scheme under EU State aid rules, in particular [Article 93](#) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) regarding transport coordination. It found that the scheme is beneficial for the environment and for mobility, as it supports waterway transport which is less polluting than road transport, while also decreasing road congestion. In this respect, it will contribute to the reduction of CO₂ and air pollutant emissions, in line with the EU's climate and environmental objectives set out in the [European Green Deal](#). The Commission also found that the scheme is proportionate and necessary to achieve the objective pursued, namely to support the modal shift of freight transport from road to waterways. The Commission therefore concluded that the positive effects of the scheme outweigh any potential distortion of competition and trade brought about by the aid. On this basis, the Commission approved the scheme under EU State aid rules. The approved scheme forms part of a major modernisation of Italian inland waterway transport, which follows up and builds on the projects for the infrastructural upgrade of the Northern Italy Waterway System, which were implemented and co-financed by EU funds as part of the TEN-T Core Network. It also complements the [Ferrobonus](#) and [Marebonus](#) aid schemes within the broader policy pursued by the 2015 'National Strategic Plan for Port and Logistics activities' that aims at promoting the intermodal chain and developing inland waterway transport. The non-confidential version of the decision will be made available under the case number SA.58817 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 refers to Italy the assessment of the creation of an Italian e-mobility joint venture by Enel X and VWFL

The European Commission has referred to the Italian national competition authority ('Autorità garante della concorrenza e del mercato') the assessment of the proposed acquisition of joint control over a newly created Italian joint venture by Enel X of Italy and VWFL of Germany. The joint venture will install, own and operate a network of publicly accessible ultra-fast charging stations for electric vehicles in Italy. Enel X is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Italian-based Enel SpA, the parent company of the multinational energy group Enel Group. Enel Group is an Italian energy group active in the electricity and natural gas sectors, as well as in the development and supply of innovative products and solutions aimed at enabling energy transition, including e-mobility. VWFL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the German-based Volkswagen AG, parent company of the Volkswagen Group. The Volkswagen Group is active worldwide in the design, manufacture, sale and distribution of, among others, passenger cars, light commercial vehicles, trucks, buses, coaches, and ancillary financial and insurance services, as well as mobility service solutions. The Italian competition authority asked the Commission to refer the proposed concentration to it. It considers that the transaction may threaten to significantly affect competition in the installation and operation of publicly available ultra-fast charging stations for electric vehicles in Italy, as well as in several vertically-related markets. The evidence gathered by the Commission confirmed that the conditions for a referral under Article 9 of the Merger Regulation were fulfilled and that the Italian competition authority is best placed to assess the effects of the proposed concentration in Italy. The Commission

has therefore decided to refer the case to Italy. The Italian competition authority will deal with the case under national law. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.10311](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsioni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of sole control over Valtech by BC Partners

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of sole control over Valtech SE of Luxembourg by BC Partners LLP of the UK. Valtech is a global business transformation agency that provides strategy consulting, service design, technology services and optimisation of digital platforms for multichannel commerce and marketing. BC Partners is an international investment firm. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, given the limited horizontal overlaps between the activities of the companies. 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.10386](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsioni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EU at UNGA76: The EU starts its engagements at the UN General Assembly in New York

Today, the EU kicks off a week full of high-level meetings with world leaders in New York. This morning, President of the European Commission, Ursula **von der Leyen** will participate in the Informal Leaders Roundtable on Climate Action, alongside the President of the European Council, Charles Michel. The roundtable is an opportunity to call for more global action and address gaps in urgent actions on climate mitigation, finance and adaptation. The EU remains at the forefront of global efforts with its commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. In the afternoon, President **von der Leyen** and High Representative/Vice-President **Borrell**, together with the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, will meet the UN Secretary General António Guterres. Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta **Urpilainen**, will deliver opening remarks at the [African Union-UNICEF High-level Side Event "Re-imagining Education in Africa"](#) (16:00 EST, 22:00 CET). Later in the evening, High Representative **Borrell** will chair the traditional informal meeting of EU Foreign Affairs Ministers. He will hold a press conference at the end of the meeting at around 20:00 EST (02:00 CET). Audio-visual coverage will be available on [EbS](#). (For more information: Nabila Massrali – Tel.: +32 229 88093; Xavier Cifre-Quatresols – Tel.: +32 229 73582)

Commissioner Sinkevičius on a visit to Spain to meet the fisheries sector, textiles industry and visit natural spots of ecological interest

Today and tomorrow, Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus **Sinkevičius** is travelling to Spain to discuss fisheries with a number of interlocutors from Galicia and the Mediterranean coast. The Commissioner will meet representatives of the Spanish and regional governments including Luis Planas, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Rosa Quintana Carballo, Minister of the Sea of the region of Galicia; Mireia Mollà Herrera, Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development, Climate Emergency and Ecological Transition of the region of Murcia; and Hugo Morán Fernández, State Secretary for the Environment. In addition, he is going on a number of visits starting today to the North with the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) in Vigo and the nature reserve Cíes Islands, as well as visits to textiles companies, and continuing tomorrow to the South with the Mar Menor and the Marine Reserve of Fishing Interest of Tabarca and the fisheries port of Santa Pola. Commissioner **Sinkevičius** will meet representatives from non-governmental organisations, the Spanish fishing industry and fishermen associations, as well as representatives of the marine sector's main scientific institutions. He will give a press point tomorrow at 12:15. (For more information: Tim McPhie – Tel.: +32 229 66712; Daniela Stoycheva – Tel.: +32 229 53664)

Liste des points prévus à l'ordre du jour des prochaines réunions de la Commission

Veuillez 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](#).

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