



## Daily News 14 / 10 / 2021

Brussels, 14 October 2021

### European Innovation Council announces new wave of start-up champions

The European Commission's [European Innovation Council](#) has selected 65 innovative start-ups and SMEs to receive €363 million of funding for breakthrough innovations. Each company will receive a combination of grant financing and equity investment of up to €17 million to develop and scale up their ground-breaking innovations in healthcare, digital technologies, energy, biotechnology, space and other. This is the first batch of companies that will be funded under the fully-fledged [European Innovation Council \(EIC\) Accelerator](#). Mariya **Gabriel**, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, said: *"The EIC Accelerator is a unique European funding instrument of the European Innovation Council. It supports the development of top-class innovations through crowding-in private investors and offers a portfolio of services to support their scaling-up. With the European Innovation Council we aim to bring Europe to the forefront of innovation and new technologies, by investing in new solutions for the health, environmental and societal challenges we are facing."* The companies were selected following a new two-step process, introduced under Horizon Europe. Applications are rigorously assessed by external experts and followed by an interview with a jury of experienced investors and entrepreneurs. More information is available in this [press release](#). (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Marietta Grammenou – Tel.: +32 229 83583)

### REUNION DU COLLEGE: la Commission lance sa proposition officielle pour faire de 2022 l'Année européenne de la jeunesse

À la suite de l'annonce faite par la présidente **von der Leyen** dans son [discours sur l'état de l'Union 2021](#), la Commission a adopté aujourd'hui sa proposition officielle visant à faire de 2022 l'Année européenne de la jeunesse. L'Europe a besoin de la vision, de l'engagement et de la participation de tous les jeunes pour construire un avenir meilleur, plus écologique, plus inclusif et numérique. Avec cette proposition, l'Europe s'efforce d'offrir aux jeunes des possibilités plus nombreuses et meilleures pour l'avenir. La Commission publie également son [dernier rapport](#) de l'UE sur la jeunesse, qui donne un aperçu de la situation des jeunes Européens sur le plan de l'éducation, de la formation, de l'apprentissage, de l'emploi et de la participation civique et politique. La Commission élabore actuellement son programme d'activités et toutes les parties intéressées seront invitées à soumettre leurs idées et propositions. Une enquête spécifique sur le portail de la jeunesse sera lancée dans les prochains jours. Pour plus d'informations, veuillez consulter notre [communiqué de presse](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Sonya Gospodinova – Tél.: +32 229 66953; Célia Dejond – Tél.: +32 229 88199)

### Santé publique: la Commission propose une mise en œuvre progressive du nouveau règlement relatif aux dispositifs médicaux de diagnostic in vitro

La Commission européenne a proposé aujourd'hui une mise en œuvre progressive du nouveau règlement relatif aux dispositifs médicaux de diagnostic in vitro afin d'éviter toute rupture dans l'approvisionnement de ces produits de santé essentiels. Les défis sans précédent posés par la pandémie de COVID-19 ont exigé une réaffectation des ressources des États membres, des établissements de santé et des opérateurs économiques pour faire face à la crise, si bien qu'il était devenu difficile de se conformer aux nouvelles règles dans les délais prévus. Stella **Kyriakides**, commissaire à la santé et à la sécurité alimentaire, a déclaré: *« La pandémie de COVID-19 a montré combien il était essentiel de disposer de diagnostics précis et d'un cadre réglementaire solide pour les dispositifs médicaux de diagnostic in vitro. Des pénuries à ce stade sont inconcevables. La pandémie a aussi posé des défis sans précédent à notre industrie des dispositifs médicaux. En laissant plus de temps pour se préparer à l'application des nouvelles règles de l'UE, nous garantirons la continuité de l'approvisionnement en dispositifs médicaux de diagnostic in vitro essentiels sur le marché sans pour autant compromettre la sécurité. J'invite tous les fabricants à se préparer dès que possible à la certification au titre du nouveau règlement et à ne pas attendre la fin de la période de*

transition. » Le [communiqué de presse](#) et les [questions-réponses](#) sont disponibles en ligne. (Pour plus d'informations: Stefan De Keersmaecker - Tél.: +32 229 84680; Darragh Cassidy - Tél.: +32 229 83978)

## **REUNION DU COLLEGE: un engagement renforcé de l'UE en faveur d'une région arctique plus verte, pacifique et prospère**

Le haut représentant et la Commission ont présenté hier leur approche relative à un engagement renforcé de l'UE en faveur d'une région arctique pacifique, durable et prospère. La région arctique est d'une importance stratégique majeure pour l'Union européenne, au regard du changement climatique, des matières premières ainsi que de l'influence géostratégique.

La [communication](#) apporte une réponse à ces défis géopolitiques, environnementaux, économiques, sécuritaires et sociaux et évoque les perspectives. Elle a pour objectif de renforcer la coopération avec les partenaires sur des approches durables face à ces défis. L'UE va établir un bureau de la Commission européenne au Groenland, qui améliorera la visibilité des questions liées à l'Arctique dans les relations extérieures de l'Union. L'appui financier de l'UE visera également à favoriser la transition verte dans l'Arctique, au bénéfice des populations arctiques. Dans la perspective de la [conférence des Nations unies sur les changements climatiques \(COP 26\)](#) et à l'appui de l'action mondiale pour le climat, la communication lance un appel pour que le pétrole, le charbon et le gaz restent enfouis dans le sol. Plus d'informations dans le [communiqué de presse](#), un document [questions-réponses](#) et une [fiche d'information](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Vivian Loonela - Tél.: +32 229 66712; Peter Stano — Tél.: +32 229 54553; Daniela Stoycheva – Tél.: +32 229 53664; Paloma Hall Caballero — Tél.: +32 229 68560)

## **Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland: Commission proposes bespoke arrangements to benefit Northern Ireland**

The European Commission yesterday proposed [bespoke arrangements](#) to respond to the difficulties that people in Northern Ireland have been experiencing because of Brexit, by further facilitating the movement of goods from Great Britain to Northern Ireland. The package proposes further flexibilities in the area of food, plant and animal health, customs, medicines and engagement with Northern Irish stakeholders. It also proposes a different model for the implementation of the Protocol, in which the flow of goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland - in respect of goods destined to stay in Northern Ireland - is facilitated to a significant extent. These measures come in addition to [the package that was presented in June 2021](#), which facilitates the movement of live animals from Great Britain to Northern Ireland. Vice-President Maros **Šefčovič** said: "I have listened to and engaged with Northern Irish stakeholders. Today's proposals are our genuine response to their concerns. We have put a lot of hard work into them to make a tangible change on the ground, in response to the concerns raised by the people and businesses of Northern Ireland. We are looking forward to engaging earnestly and intensively with the UK government, in the interest of all communities in Northern Ireland." The Commission now stands ready to engage in intensive discussions with the UK government, with a view to reaching a jointly agreed permanent solution as soon as possible. The Commission will do this in close collaboration and constant dialogue with the European Parliament and Council. You can watch yesterday's [press conference](#) and read Vice-President **Šefčovič**'s [remarks](#) online. A [press release](#) and [Q&A](#) are also available online. (For more information: Daniel Ferrie – Tel.: +32 229 86500)

## **Concentrations: La Commission autorise l'acquisition de l'Immobilière de la Laine par BNP Paribas et CDC**

La Commission européenne a approuvé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l'acquisition de l'Immobilière de la Laine SA, basée en Belgique, par BNP Paribas S.A. et La Caisse des dépôts et consignations (la « CDC »), toutes les deux basées en France. L'Immobilière de la Laine possède un seul immeuble de bureaux en Belgique, situé à Bruxelles. BNP Paribas est un groupe bancaire mondial exerçant des activités de banque de détail, de gestion d'actifs, et de services de banque d'affaires et d'investissement. La CDC est un établissement public qui exerce principalement des activités de service public et d'intérêt général et des activités commerciales sur le marché. La Commission a conclu que la concentration envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème de concurrence, compte tenu de son impact très limité sur la structure du marché. La transaction a été examinée dans le cadre de la procédure simplifiée de 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.10395](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Arianna Podesta – Tél.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tél.: +32 229 90526)

## **Mergers: Commission clears the acquisition of joint control of Digital UK by Channel 5, together with BBC, ITV and Channel 4**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control of Digital UK Limited by Channel 5 Broadcasting Limited, along with Digital UK's current controlling members, the British Broadcasting Corporation ('BBC'), ITV Network Limited ('ITV') and Channel 4 Television Corporation ('Channel 4'), all of the UK. Digital UK provides services to enable a free-to-air ('FTA') broadcast over a digital terrestrial television network and internet protocol delivered distribution for audio-visual content in the UK. Channel 5 provides FTA TV network in the UK operating different services including FTA TV channels as well as video-on-demand ('VOD') services. BBC is a public sector broadcaster providing a wide range of TV and radio channels and services. ITV is an integrated producer broadcaster who creates and distributes content on multiple platforms globally and broadcasts a portfolio of commercial channels. Channel 4 is a publicly owned and commercially funded UK public service broadcaster, which operates a portfolio of channels. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns given the absence of horizontal overlaps and vertical links between the activities of Channel 5 and Digital UK. The operation was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information will be available on the Commission's [competition website](#), in the [public case register](#) under the case number [M.10184](#). (For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

## **STATEMENTS**

### **Statement by Commissioner Gentiloni on the G20's endorsement of the agreement on international taxation reform**

Following yesterday's G20 finance ministers' meeting, Commissioner **Gentiloni** made the following statement: *"The endorsement by G20 finance ministers marks a key step towards the implementation of the historic global tax reform agreed last Friday. With 136 jurisdictions on board, including all G20 members, all OECD members and all EU Member States that are part of the Inclusive Framework, this is nothing less than a tax revolution. As we emerge from the shadow of the pandemic, we have a unique opportunity to rebuild our economies on a new footing. We want to see not just a rebound, but a new era of sustained and sustainable growth. The Pandora papers were another reminder of the injustices that characterise our economic system today. The green and digital transition can only happen if it is based on fairness. So this reset of global corporate taxation is a fundamental part of the change we need to see: everyone must pay their fair share. Once the OECD has finalised the model rules for Pillar 2, the Commission will swiftly put forward a directive for its implementation in the EU. For Pillar 1, we will carefully examine whether a directive is needed to ensure its consistent and effective implementation at EU level. The European Commission has worked hard to drive forward this international effort. Getting to this point has required difficult choices for many countries, both in the EU and elsewhere. A spirit of compromise and common interest, in Europe and worldwide, enabled us to get here. We should be proud of this triumph for multilateralism. Now we must move forward together and without delay."* The [statement](#) is available online. (For more information: Daniel Ferrie - Tel: +32 229 86500; Francesca Dalboni – Tel: +32 229 88170)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Building sustainable food systems: Executive Vice-President Timmermans, Commissioners Wojciechowski and Kyriakides at Farm to Fork Conference**

The second edition of the annual Farm to Fork Conference 'Building sustainable food systems together' will be held this afternoon and tomorrow morning (14-15 October 2021). This year's

conference will be opened by Executive Vice-President for the Green Deal, Frans **Timmermans** and will be hosted by Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella **Kyriakides**, Commissioner for Agriculture, Janusz **Wojciechowski**, as well as by representatives of the Commission's Directorate-General for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth. The conference will focus on the progress made on the initiatives foreseen in the [Farm to Fork Strategy's Action Plan](#) and on the efforts to achieve a global transition to sustainable food systems. Three panel discussions will be held throughout the first day involving high-level speakers from the EU and other international partners, such as Jože Podgoršek, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia, representing the Council Presidency, Dr Martin Frick, UN Deputy Special Envoy for the UN Food Systems Summit, and Arai Yutaka, Vice-Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in Japan. Panellists will debate on the challenges and opportunities of a global transition to sustainable food systems, assess the results of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit and plug in to the Dubai Expo2020 while discussing the developing of partnerships/green alliances on sustainable food systems. On Friday morning Dario Nardella, Mayor of Florence and President of Eurocities, will give a speech on how cities can participate in building sustainable and resilient food systems. Several breakout sessions on concrete ways to achieve this transition will follow during the day. You can find more information in the [Agenda](#) and follow the events live on [14 October](#) and on [15 October](#). (For more information: Stefan De Keersmaecker – Tel.: +32 229 84680; Anna Wartberger – Tel.: +32 229 82054)

### **Ten years of the European Asylum Support Office**

Today, Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, Margaritis **Schinas**, and Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva **Johansson**, will give keynote speeches at the conference organised by the European Asylum Support Office to mark its 10-year anniversary. Since taking up its responsibilities in 2011, EASO has continuously supported Member States in applying EU asylum rules, by providing national country of origin information to encourage more uniform decisions, training and setting up dedicated networks of national authorities to enhance operational cooperation on asylum-related matters. In May 2021, the European Parliament and the Council reached an [agreement](#) to transform the European Asylum Support Office into a [European Union Agency for Asylum](#), a key initiative under the [New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#). Held over two days, the conference will be an opportunity to discuss the Agency's changing role over the past 10 years and what the future holds for international protection regimes as well as for the new European Union Agency for Asylum. The conference will bring together EU and international policy makers, politicians as well as representatives from UNHCR and civil society. More information can be found [here](#) with online registration for remote participation possible [here](#). (For more information: Adalbert Jahnz - Tel.: + 32 229 53156; Laura Bérard - Tel.: + 32 229 55721; Ciara Bottomley - Tel.: +32 229 69971)

### **ErasmusDays 2021: The world celebrates the success of the Erasmus+ programme**

On 14, 15 and 16 October, the 5th edition of [#ErasmusDays](#) will celebrate the [Erasmus+ Programme](#) with close to 5,000 events, both digital and in-person, taking place in 60 countries all over world. This year's edition will focus on the objectives of the new [Erasmus+ 2021-2027](#) programme: inclusion, environmental protection, digital transformation and participation in democratic life. Events are open to the public and include conferences, exhibitions, sports events, social media contests, festivals or podcasts. The organisers are Erasmus+ beneficiaries of all types, from schools and universities, to vocational education institutions and youth organisations. The [new Erasmus+ programme](#) was launched in March 2021 with an increased budget of over €28 billion to support learning mobility and cross-border cooperation projects for 10 million Europeans of all ages and all backgrounds. Known as Erasmus+ since 2014, when it enlarged its scope of activities, this emblematic programme is ranked by Europeans as the EU's third most positive result, just after free movement and peace. Over the last three decades, more than 10 million people have participated in the programme, in 33 countries (EU plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Turkey). The [#ErasmusDays 2021's official website](#) includes a map with the full programme. (For more information: Sonya Gospodinova – Tel.: +32 229 66953; Célia Dejond – Tel.: +32 229 88199)

### **Executive Vice-President Timmermans and Commissioner Gabriel in Sofia to speak about Bulgaria's Green Transition**

Executive Vice-President Frans **Timmermans** and Commissioner Mariya **Gabriel** will travel to Sofia, Bulgaria to speak at the event '[Green Transition: Solution and Challenges for Bulgaria](#)' tomorrow. Together with representatives of the Bulgarian institutions, business and non-governmental sector, they will discuss the opportunities and challenges of the green transition in Bulgaria. In order to

speed up the decarbonisation of the European economy and reduce greenhouse gas emission by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels and to reach climate neutrality by 2050, every country needs to contribute. It is crucial to make sure this major transition towards a prosperous, resilient and climate neutral economy by 2050 is done in a socially fair manner, leaving no one behind. This transition brings many benefits, not only will it drastically improve living conditions of Europeans with cleaner air, greener cities, better connected rural areas and healthy food but it will also create new business opportunities and future-proofed jobs, the Commission wants to make sure that every European gets equal access to these new opportunities. Education, research and innovation will play a central role in accelerating and navigating the necessary transitions, deploying solutions, engaging citizens in social innovation, and developing skills. [Horizon Europe](#), [Erasmus+](#), in synergy with other EU programmes, will be key to leveraging national public and private investment. Together they will foster new technologies, sustainable solutions and disruptive innovation, needed skills and competences, as well as spread successful new solutions across Europe and the world. Executive Vice-President **Timmermans** will also meet bilaterally with Prime Minister Stefan Yanev. (For more information: Tim McPhie – Tel: +32 229 58602; Johannes Bahrke – Tel: +32 229 58615; and Sonya Gospodinova – Tel: +32 229 66953)

## **Le commissaire Schmit à la réunion des ministres de l'emploi et des affaires sociales à Luxembourg**

Demain, les [ministres de l'Emploi et des Affaires sociales se réuniront à Luxembourg](#) pour le premier Conseil EPSCO formel (« Emploi, politique sociale, santé et consommateurs ») sous présidence slovène. Nicolas **Schmit**, commissaire chargé de l'emploi et droits sociaux, y représentera la Commission. Les discussions porteront sur l'avenir du Semestre européen, avec un rôle important pour le [Socle européen des droits sociaux](#), ainsi que sur l'importance de la sécurité et la santé dans l'avenir du travail. Dans le contexte du Semestre européen, le tableau de bord social révisé, proposé dans le [Plan d'action sur le Socle européen des droits sociaux](#), permettra de suivre les progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre des principes du socle. En ce qui concerne la santé et la sécurité dans le contexte de l'avenir du travail, les participants débattront de la meilleure manière d'atteindre les objectifs du nouveau [Cadre stratégique de l'UE en matière de santé et de sécurité au travail pour la période 2021-2027](#). Les ministres discuteront également du suivi du [Livre vert de la Commission sur le vieillissement](#) et recevront des informations sur l'état d'avancement de l'échange électronique d'informations sur la sécurité sociale et des projets de cartes européennes de sécurité sociale, ainsi que sur le prochain [Sommet social tripartite](#), qui aura lieu le 20 octobre. Le Conseil devrait adopter une décision relative aux lignes directrices pour les politiques de l'emploi et des conclusions sur l'intégration de la dimension de genre dans le budget de l'UE. La majorité de la réunion sera retransmise en direct [ici](#). Une conférence de presse avec le commissaire **Schmit** peut être suivie en direct [ici](#) vers 17h00. (Plus d'informations: Veerle Nuyts – Tél.: +32 229 96302; Flora Matthaes – Tél.: +32 229 83951)

## **Commissioner Kyriakides hosts launch of the UNICEF report on the State of the World's Children 2021**

Tomorrow, alongside Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians and UNICEF, Commissioner **Kyriakides** will participate in the launch of the UNICEF European Regional Brief on the State of the World's Children Report 2021, 'Mental health: breaking the silence.' The report represents the most comprehensive analysis of global trends affecting children and examines children and young people's mental health and well-being worldwide. Stella **Kyriakides**, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, said: "After almost two years of living with COVID-19, a silent pandemic of mental health has been spreading across the world. Everyone has been affected to a larger or lesser degree, but in particular our children who have missed out on socialisation, crucial experiences and education. Many are seeing their parents struggling, and unfortunately domestic violence reports have increased. Tomorrow, we come together to listen to our young people, and what they want to tell us on wellbeing and mental health. Mental health matters – now more than ever – and young people are the future of the strong European Health Union we are building." The launch event aims at listening to children and young people's views, their concerns and solutions on their wellbeing and mental health while engaging live with high-level personalities and policymakers. Follow the live webcast tomorrow, 15 October, from 10:00-11:00 CET [here](#). (For more information: Stefan de Keersmaecker – Tel.: +32 229 62253; Darragh Cassidy – Tel.: +32 229 83978)

## **Conference on the Future of Europe: Fourth European Citizens' Panel to focus on Europe in the world**

The fourth European Citizens' Panel of the Conference on the Future of Europe will take place in Strasbourg this weekend (15-17 October). This time, 200 citizens, a third of whom are under 25 years, will discuss the role of the EU in the world, including objectives and strategies for the EU's security, defence, trade policy, humanitarian aid and development cooperation, as well as foreign policy, neighbourhood policy and EU enlargement. The panellists will also debate on migration. Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, Dubravka Šuica, as Co-chair of the Executive Board of the Conference on the Future of Europe, will welcome the citizens before they begin their deliberations. European Citizens' Panels are a key feature of the Conference, co-organised by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. The Panels offer Europeans a central role in shaping the future of the EU, and giving them a unique opportunity to debate the challenges facing Europe, and its priorities. Panel deliberations take into account the contributions collected from across Europe on the [Multilingual Digital Platform](#). For more information on how to follow this weekend's Panel, see [here](#). The first European Citizens' Panel took place from [17-19 September](#) in Strasbourg, followed by a second on [24-26 September](#) and a third on [1-3 October](#). At each meeting, close to 200 citizens from across the Member States debated topics within their respective Panel's remit. The first panel focused on: a stronger economy, social justice, jobs/education, youth, culture, sport/digital transformation. The second panel focused on: European democracy/values and rights, the rule of law, and security. The third panel related to the effects of climate change, environmental issues and new health challenges for the European Union. From September 2021 to January 2022, four panels, each comprising around 200 citizens, reflecting the EU's demographic and social diversity will deliberate and make concrete recommendations on the future direction they want for Europe. 20 citizens from among the panellists will represent each Panel in the Plenary to present their recommendations and discuss them with the other participants. More information on the European Citizens' Panels [here](#). (For more information: Daniel Ferrie – Tel.: +32 229 86500; Célia Dejond – Tel.: +32 229 88199)

[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/21/5263