



## Daily News 12 / 11 / 2021

Brussels, 12 November 2021

### **Procédures d'infraction: la Commission prend des mesures en vue d'une mise en œuvre complète, correcte et en temps utile du droit de l'Union dans l'intérêt des citoyens et entreprises**

Pour aider les citoyens et les entreprises à pleinement profiter du marché intérieur, la Commission européenne est en dialogue permanent avec les États membres qui ne respectent pas le droit européen et, au besoin, ouvre des procédures d'infraction à leur égard. Les décisions prises aujourd'hui, dans le cadre des décisions régulières d'infraction, comprennent 34 lettres de mise en demeure. Plus précisément, il s'agit de 29 mises en demeure au titre de l'article 258 du Traité sur le fonctionnement de l'Union européenne (TFUE) and 5 mises en demeure au titre de l'article 258-260(3) du TFUE, 15 avis motivés et 1 avis motivé complémentaire, et 6 renvois à la Cour de justice de l'UE, dont 4 renvois au titre de l'article 258 du TFUE et 2 au titre de l'article 260 du TFUE. Elle clôt également 46 dossiers en cours lorsque l'État membre concerné, en coopération avec la Commission, a résolu le problème et assuré le respect du droit de l'Union et que, dès lors, une saisine de la Cour de justice de l'Union européenne n'est pas nécessaire. Un résumé des principales décisions et les références des communiqués de presse correspondants figurent [ici](#). Les aspects essentiels des procédures d'infraction de l'UE sont décrits [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Dana Spinant – Tél.: +32 229 90150; Ewelina Juszczak – Tél.: +32 229 91745)

### **NextGenerationEU: Commission receives payment request from Spain for €10 billion under the Recovery and Resilience Facility**

The Commission has today received the first payment request from Spain under the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#) (RRF) for a disbursement of €10 billion in financial support (net of pre-financing). Spain's overall recovery and resilience plan will be financed by €69.5 billion in grants. Payments under the RRF are performance-based and contingent on Spain implementing the investments and reforms outlined in its recovery and resilience plan. This first payment request relates to 52 milestones covering several reforms in the areas of sustainable mobility, energy efficiency, decarbonisation, connectivity, public administration, skills, education and social, labour and fiscal policy. The Commission now has two months to assess the request. It will then send its preliminary assessment of Spain's fulfilment of the milestones and targets required for this payment to the Council's Economic and Financial Committee. More information on the process of the payment requests under the RRF is available in this [Q&A](#). More information on the Spanish recovery and resilience plan is available [here](#). (For more information: Veerle Nuyts – Tel.: +32 229 96302; Andrea Masini – Tel.: +32 229 91519)

### **Digital Economy and Society Index 2021: Overall progress in digital transition but need for new EU-wide efforts**

Today, the Commission published the results of the [2021 Digital Economy and Society Index](#) (DESI), which tracks the progress made in EU Member States in digital competitiveness in the areas of human capital, broadband connectivity, the integration of digital technologies by businesses and digital public services. The DESI 2021 reports present data from the first or second quarter of 2020 for the most part, providing some insight into key developments in the digital economy and society during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the effect of COVID-19 on the use and supply of digital services and the results of policies implemented since then are not captured in the data, and will be more visible in the 2022 edition. Executive Vice-President for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age, Margrethe **Vestager**, said: "The message of this year's Index is positive, all EU countries made some progress in getting more digital and more competitive, but more can be done. So we are working with Member States to ensure that key investments are made via the Recovery and Resilience Facility to bring the best of digital opportunities to all citizens and businesses." Commissioner for the Internal Market, Thierry **Breton**, added: "Setting ourselves 2030 targets was

*an important step, but now we need to deliver. Today's DESI shows progress, but also where we need to get better collectively to ensure that European citizens and businesses, in particular SMEs, can access and use cutting-edge technologies that will make their lives better, safer and greener."* All EU Member States have made progress in the area of digitalisation, but the overall picture across Member States is mixed, and despite some convergence, the gap between the EU's frontrunners and those with the lowest DESI scores remains large. Despite these improvements, all Member States will need to make concerted efforts to meet the 2030 targets as set out in [Europe's Digital Decade](#). You will find more information in a dedicated [press release](#) and [Q&A](#). (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Marietta Grammenou – Tel.: +32 229 83583)

## **Overview of EU financing for border infrastructure, border management and visas: €12.8 billion allocated in 2021-2027**

The EU provides significant funding to Member States for border management and infrastructure at the EU's external border. An overview of relevant EU funding is now available [online](#). For the current Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027), €6.4 billion will be allocated for border management and visa policy. In addition, for the same period, €6.4 billion has been earmarked for Frontex, which will reach a capacity of 10,000 border guards. Looking back at the 2014-2020 period, a total of €2.8 billion was allocated to Member States for long-term border management and visa policy projects, under shared management, as well as for emergency assistance. In addition to the overview made available today, for examples of specific projects, you can consult the [website of DG Migration and Home Affairs](#), including this [booklet](#) presenting snapshots of projects funded under the Internal Security Fund. (For more information: Adalbert Jahnz - Tel.: + 32 229 53156; Ciara Bottomley - Tel.: +32 229 69971; Laura Bérard - Tel.: +32 229 55721)

## **La Commission adopte un plan d'urgence destiné à garantir l'approvisionnement et la sécurité alimentaires en temps de crise**

À la suite de la crise de la COVID-19 et comme annoncé dans la stratégie « [De la ferme à la table](#) », l'UE entend renforcer la coordination au niveau européen en temps de crise afin de garantir que les populations ne seront pas confrontées à des pénuries alimentaires en temps de crise. Le plan d'urgence adopté aujourd'hui reconnaît la résilience globale de la chaîne d'approvisionnement alimentaire, recense les lacunes existantes et propose des mesures visant à améliorer la préparation au niveau de l'UE. Pour ce faire, la Commission mettra en place un mécanisme européen permanent de préparation et de réaction aux crises de sécurité alimentaire, un groupe d'experts de la chaîne d'approvisionnement coordonné par la Commission pour échanger des données et des pratiques et renforcer la coordination. La crise de la COVID-19 a montré la résilience des secteurs de l'agriculture, de la pêche, de l'aquaculture et de l'alimentation, qui a permis d'éviter que la crise sanitaire entraîne également une crise de la sécurité alimentaire. Pour soutenir ces secteurs, l'UE a pris des [mesures exceptionnelles](#). La politique agricole commune et la politique commune de la pêche, par exemple, ont fourni des outils pour lutter contre les déséquilibres des marchés ou les problèmes de trésorerie des producteurs. De plus, afin d'assurer la circulation des marchandises et des travailleurs essentiels au sein du marché unique, la Commission a mis en place des voies réservées et publié des lignes directrices qui ont permis une coordination étroite entre les États membres en vue de faciliter le franchissement des frontières. La communication d'aujourd'hui reconnaît que des améliorations sont encore nécessaires dans certains domaines pour continuer à garantir l'approvisionnement et la sécurité alimentaires en temps de crise. Un communiqué de presse est disponible [en ligne](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Miriam Garcia Ferrer - Tél.: +32 229 99075; Sophie Dirven - Tél.: +32 229 67228)

## **EU exports support 38 million jobs in the EU according to a report on jobs and trade**

One of the many figures in a new [report](#) released today by the European Commission shows just how important an open trade policy is for European employment. The Trade and Jobs Report provides a host of statistics on European jobs connected to European trade. The report provides data over time at both European and Member State level, and gives statistics by industry, skill level, gender etc. For example, it shows that over 38 million jobs in the EU are supported by EU exports, 11 million more than a decade ago. These jobs are on average 12% better paid than those of the economy as a whole. The increase in export-supported jobs follows an even stronger increase in EU exports: alongside a 75% increase in export-related jobs between 2000 and 2019, total exports increased by 130%. The data indicate clearly that more trade means more jobs, and the best way to increase this is through securing new opportunities through trade agreements and diligently enforcing them. Given that 93% of all EU exporters are small and medium-sized companies (SMEs), it is also vital to

help them understand opportunities and terms offered by a comprehensive network of 45 trade agreements concluded by the EU. Executive Vice-President and Commissioner for Trade, Valdis **Dombrovskis**, said: "These figures confirm that trade is a key driver for job growth in the EU, as shown by the astonishing 75% growth in export-related jobs in the last two decades. As economic recovery gathers pace, it is our priority to keep boosting exports and create markets for EU goods and services. This will support our companies – especially SMEs, which represent 93% of all EU exporters – to create jobs for people across the EU. The continued roll-out of our new EU trade strategy, with its strong emphasis on opening new opportunities and being assertive in implementing our trade agreements, will play a crucial role in reinforcing this trend." The press release is available [here](#). (For more information: Miriam Garcia Ferrer - Tel.: +32 229 99075; Sophie Dirven - Tel.: +32 229 67228)

## **REACT-EU: la Commission approuve plus de 114 millions d'euros de ressources supplémentaires en faveur d'une relance écologique et numérique en France et en Autriche**

La Commission a accordé plus de 114 millions d'euros à la France et à l'Autriche au titre de l'[aide à la relance pour la cohésion et les territoires européens \(REACT-EU\)](#) à la suite de la modification de deux programmes opérationnels (PO) du [Fonds européen de développement régional](#) et du [Fonds social européen \(FSE\)](#). En France, le PO Corse bénéficiera de 25,6 millions d'euros de ressources supplémentaires pour les secteurs du tourisme et de la culture y compris pour la création d'un « living lab » du tourisme ou de l'écotourisme, ainsi que des mesures en faveur de la numérisation, comme la mise à disposition d'outils numériques pour les écoles. D'autres investissements soutiendront la transition, notamment dans les bâtiments économes en énergie, la mobilité verte et les petites et moyennes entreprises et les infrastructures sociales telles que les refuges d'urgence pour les sans-abri. En Autriche, le PO national du FSE « Emploi » recevra 88,5 millions d'euros supplémentaires pour soutenir les jeunes touchés par la pandémie de coronavirus et ceux qui ont perdu leur emploi à cause de la crise. Des aides spécialisées seront offertes aux élèves dans les écoles et à la transition de l'école au travail. Des mesures de soutien permettront également d'éviter les décrochages précoces de l'enseignement et de la formation professionnelle. En outre, les nouveaux fonds financeront la formation des chômeurs afin d'améliorer leurs compétences et d'en développer de nouvelles, en mettant l'accent sur les soins de santé, les technologies de l'information et de la communication, la durabilité et l'économie circulaire. REACT-EU fait partie de [NextGenerationEU](#) et fournit 50,6 milliards d'euros de financement supplémentaire (en prix courants) au cours de 2021 et 2022 aux programmes de la politique de cohésion. (Pour plus d'informations: Vivian Loonela - Tél.: +32 229 66712; Veerle Nuyts - Tél. : +32 229 96302)

## **President von der Leyen announces the EU will join the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace**

Commission President Ursula **von der Leyen** addressed the [Paris Peace Forum](#) yesterday. The President announced that the European Union and its 27 Member States will join the [Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace](#), alongside the United States. The President highlighted that "citizens must feel empowered, protected and respected online, just as they are offline". In her speech, the President drew parallels between the European Commission's initiatives and the objectives of the Paris Call, on cyber-resilience, artificial intelligence (AI) and responsibility of platforms. Recent cyber-attacks across Europe underline the need to step up cybersecurity. That is why the Commission has proposed a revision of the Directive on the security of network and information systems and announced a Cyber Resilience Act. The Artificial Intelligence Act will help ensure that AI keeps changing lives for the better, by managing risks in sensitive sectors, like health. The President welcomed the transatlantic cooperation on defining shared principles for trustworthy AI in the EU-US Trade and Technology Council. Finally, regarding responsibility of platforms, President **von der Leyen** highlighted that the Digital Services Act (DSA) will provide the EU with the tools it needs to tame algorithms that spread illegal content, hate speech or disinformation, while protecting freedom of expression online. She calls for the adoption of the DSA during the French Presidency of the Council next year. You can read the full speech [here](#) and rewatch it [here](#). (For more information: Dana Spinant - Tel.: +32 229 90150; Johannes Bahrke - Tel.: + 32 229 58615)

## **Armenia becomes associated to Horizon Europe**

Today, the Commission signed an agreement with Armenia for tighter cooperation in research and innovation. For the period 2021-2027. Armenia has been granted association status to [Horizon Europe](#), Europe's €95.5 billion research and innovation programme. Researchers, innovators and

research entities established in the country can now participate, under the same conditions as entities from the EU Member States. Mariya **Gabriel**, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, said: *"I welcome Armenia to our Horizon Europe programme. Armenia has continuously increased its participation in the previous Horizon 2020 programme and has supported the acceleration of the reforms of the Armenian national research and innovation system in the past few years. Armenia will build on its past successes in Horizon Europe."* Association to Horizon Europe supports the ['Global Approach to Research and Innovation'](#) and reconfirms Europe's commitment to a level of global openness needed to drive excellence, pool resources for faster scientific progress and develop vibrant innovation ecosystems. Armenia was since 2016 fully associated to Horizon 2020, the previous EU research and innovation programme (2014-2020), and multiple success stories resulted from this cooperation in areas like health, skills and innovation capacity for SMEs, and more. Further information is available [here](#). (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Marietta Grammenou – Tel.: +32 229 83583)

### **Investment Plan for Europe supports €35 million investment into new blue economy fund**

The European Investment Fund (EIF) has approved a commitment of €35 million to the Ocean 14 Capital's inaugural fund. This is the first investment fund fully dedicated to the blue economy under [BlueInvest](#), a joint initiative by the Commission and the EIF. The EIF's investment is guaranteed by the [European Fund for Strategic Investments \(EFSI\)](#), the main pillar of the Investment Plan for Europe. The new blue economy fund is a unique combination of marine industry and nature conservation knowledge that comes from Ocean 14 Capital, a private equity firm focused on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 14, which aims to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. The Ocean 14 Capital Fund will target investments in growth-stage technologies and companies promoting sustainable fishing, aquaculture and alternative proteins as well as ocean conservation and health including marine flora and plastic waste solutions. Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus **Sinkevičius**, said: *"With BlueInvest, the Commission and the EIF have a powerful instrument in place to promote the sustainable blue economy as a cornerstone of the European Green Deal. We encourage innovative small and medium sized companies and start-ups to take advantage of the funds and we believe that the funds will enable them to deliver the innovation needed to meet our climate and sustainability goals."* The [Investment Plan for Europe](#) has so far mobilised €546.5 billion of investment, benefitting over 1.4 million SMEs. The press release is available [here](#). (For more information: Veerle Nuyts - Tel.: +32 229 96302; Flora Matthaes - Tel.: +32 229 83951)

### **Novel foods: Commission authorises a second insect as food ingredient for the EU market**

Today, the Commission has authorised the placing on the market of a second insect, *Locusta migratoria* (migratory locust), as a novel food. It will be available in the form of frozen, dried and powder and is intended to be marketed as a snack or a food ingredient, in a number of food products. This authorisation comes after a stringent scientific [assessment](#) by EFSA which concluded that migratory locust is safe under the uses submitted by the applicant company. Products containing this novel food will be labelled to inform about potential allergic reactions. This authorisation by the Commission follows a positive vote, last September, from the Member States to which the application was submitted. The [first authorisation of an insect](#) as novel food, for dried yellow mealworms, was adopted last July. In various studies, the Food Agriculture Organisation has identified insects as a highly nutritious and healthy food source with high fat, protein, vitamin, fibre and mineral content. Insects, which are consumed daily by millions of people on the planet, were identified under the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) as an alternative protein source that could facilitate the shift towards a more sustainable food system. You can find more information in our [Q&A](#). (For more information: Stefan De Keersmaecker – Tel.: +32 229 84680; Anna Wartberger – Tel.: +32 229 82054)

### **Union européenne de la santé: feu vert pour deux nouveaux traitements contre la COVID-19**

L'Agence européenne des médicaments (EMA) a rendu hier un avis positif sur deux traitements contre la COVID-19 – Ronapreve et Regkirona – que la Commission a identifiés comme étant prometteurs dans le cadre de la [Stratégie de l'Union européenne en matière de traitements contre la COVID-19](#). Ces deux traitements sont destinés à être utilisés aux premiers stades de l'infection et reposent sur des anticorps monoclonaux antiviraux. Se félicitant de cette avancée importante dans le cadre de la stratégie, Stella **Kyriakides**, commissaire à la santé et à la sécurité alimentaire, s'est exprimée en ces termes: *« Avec la montée des infections par la COVID-19 dans presque tous les États membres, il est rassurant de voir que de nombreux traitements prometteurs sont en cours de*

développement dans le cadre de notre stratégie en matière de traitements contre la COVID-19. Nous réalisons aujourd'hui une avancée considérable vers notre objectif consistant à autoriser jusqu'à cinq nouveaux traitements dans l'UE d'ici la fin de l'année. La vaccination reste l'outil essentiel pour lutter contre la COVID-19 et se protéger contre les infections, les hospitalisations, les décès et les conséquences à long terme de la maladie. Bien que l'UE affiche l'un des taux de vaccination les plus élevés au monde, des personnes continueront à tomber malades et à avoir besoin de traitements sûrs et efficaces pour lutter contre l'infection et améliorer leurs chances non seulement de guérison plus rapide, mais aussi de survie. » Un communiqué de presse est disponible [en ligne](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Stefan De Keersmaecker - Tél.: +32 229 84680; Darragh Cassidy - Tél.: +32 229 83978)

### **State aid: Commission approves €800,000 Maltese scheme to support fishers affected by coronavirus outbreak**

The European Commission has approved a €800,000 Maltese scheme to support fishing vessel owners 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. The aid amount per beneficiary will be calculated by multiplying the amount of fish (in kg) caught in 2020 by €0.98, up to a maximum ceiling of EUR €5,000 per vessel. The measure will partially address the loss of income suffered by the beneficiaries due to the coronavirus outbreak and the restrictive measures that the Maltese government had to implement to limit the spread of the virus. The scheme aims to address the liquidity needs of fishing vessel owners and to help them continue their activities during and after the outbreak. The Commission found that the Maltese scheme is in line with the conditions of the Temporary Framework. In particular, the aid (i) will not exceed €270,000 per beneficiary; and (ii) will be granted until 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 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.100440 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; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

### **Concentrations: la Commission autorise l'acquisition du contrôle conjoint de SCI OPG Avenue de France par Electricité de France et Generali Europe Income Holding**

La Commission européenne a approuvé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l'acquisition du contrôle conjoint de SCI OPG Avenue de France (« SCI »), par le groupe Electricité de France S.A. (« EDF »), tous les deux basés en France, et Generali Europe Income Holding SA (« GEIH »), basé au Luxembourg. SCI est une société civile propriétaire et gestionnaire d'un complexe immobilier à usage professionnel et commercial situé à Paris. Le groupe EDF est une entreprise de production, de fourniture et de distribution d'électricité, active en France et à l'international. GEIH, contrôlé par le groupe Generali, est un fonds d'investissement spécialisé dans l'investissement et la gestion d'établissements à usage résidentiels, professionnels et à usage mixte dans l'Union européenne, au Royaume Uni, en Norvège et en Suisse. La Commission a conclu que l'opération envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème concurrentiel dans l'Espace économique européen, 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.10437](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Arianna Podesta – Tél.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tél.: +32 229 90526)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **EU at COP26: Executive Vice-President Timmermans in Glasgow**

Today, Executive Vice-President Frans **Timmermans** will participate in the plenary sessions scheduled for 13:00 CET that you can [follow live](#). He will also give a press conference at 15:30 CET to brief press on the progress of negotiations. Follow it live [here](#). This morning, he participated in the High Ambition Coalition Ministerial and met with the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change. This afternoon he will meet bilaterally with Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Labour and Employment, Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India; and Simonetta Sommaruga, Federal Councillor, Minister of the Environment of Switzerland. Keep up with all EU side events and register [here](#). (For more information: Tim McPhie – Tel.: +32 229 58602; Lynn Rietdorf – Tel.: +32 229 74959)

### **Vice-President Schinas in Lebanon to address the situation at the Poland-Belarus border**

Today, Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, Margaritis **Schinas**, is in Beirut, Lebanon. Today's visit is the second stop in a tour of partner countries key to putting a stop to the instrumentalisation of migrants by the Belarusian regime. In Beirut, the Vice-President will meet with President of the Lebanese Republic, General Michel Aoun; Prime Minister Najib Mikati; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Abdallah Bou Habib; Speaker of the Parliament, Nabih Berri; and Minister of Interior and Municipalities, Bassam Mawlawi. Vice-President **Schinas** will give a press statement at 12:15 CET, which will be broadcast on [EbS+](#). Today's visit follows a constructive visit to Dubai yesterday where the Vice-President welcomed the strong engagement of the UAE authorities to address this issue jointly. (For more information: Adalbert Jahnz - Tel.: +32 229 53156; Ciara Bottomley - Tel.: +32 229 69971; Laura Bérard - Tel.: +32 229 55721)

### **Commissioner Breton visits major European chips valley in Dresden**

Today, Industry Commissioner **Breton** is touring a major European semiconductor ecosystem in Dresden, Germany, pursuing his global discussions in preparation of the European Chips Act announced by President **von der Leyen** in her [State of the Union speech](#). The Commissioner is visiting major semiconductor research and production sites (Infineon, Bosch, Globalfoundry, NXP and Fraunhofer), together with Minister-President for Saxony Michael Kretschmer. Ahead of the visit, Commissioner **Breton** said: *"I am thrilled to visit one of Europe's major chips valleys. The global race for the most advanced semiconductors is a race about technological and industrial leadership. In this race, Europe has what it takes to be in the driver's seat: research excellence, industrial production capacity, and a vision. With the European Chips Act, we will increase the production of most advanced cutting-edge chips both for European and global demand."* The visit follows a lunch meeting in Berlin yesterday with German Vice-Chancellor and Finance Minister Olaf Scholz during which they discussed cooperation to address common challenges for the years to come, notably regarding the transformation of European industry, the green transition and energy needs, the challenges of the automotive sector and the geo strategy of global supply chains and their resilience. (For more information: Johannes Bahrke - Tel.: +32 229 58615; Charles Manoury - Tel.: +32 229 13391)

### **Conference on the Future of Europe: Citizens debate European democracy, values and rights, rule of law and security**

On 12-14 November, the second European Citizens' Panel will meet again online to discuss how to strengthen rights and non-discrimination values, protect democracy and the rule of law, reform the EU, build European identity and strengthen citizens' participation in the EU. This citizen-led process is a cornerstone of the unprecedented democratic process of the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#). The Panels bring together randomly selected Europeans of various ages and backgrounds, from across the EU, to discuss the Union's future. This weekend, up to 200 citizens in the '[European democracy/values and rights, rule of law, security](#)' Panel will continue discussions on topics identified in [their first session](#) in September, and will begin preparing concrete recommendations. The recommendations of this Panel will be finalised and endorsed in the third and final round of European Citizen's Panel meetings in December, in Florence. All European Citizens' Panels will hold [their second sessions online this month](#). 80 representatives of the Citizens' Panels – of which at least one-third are younger than 25 – are Members of the Conference Plenary, where they present outcomes of their respective Panel discussions and debate them with MEPs, national politicians, European Commissioners, and other Plenary members from EU bodies and civil society. This weekend's meetings of all panellists of the second European Citizens' Panel - on Friday and Sunday afternoon - will be livestreamed [here](#). All Europeans can get involved and share their ideas on how to shape our shared future on the [Multilingual Digital Platform](#), which so far has collected over 9,500 ideas from almost 35,000 participants. Find out more about the [process](#) and the [timeline](#) of the Conference. (For

more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Sinéad Meehan - Van Druten – Tel.: +32 229 84094)

### **Commissioner Simson travels to Dubai and Qatar to visit EXPO2020 and hold energy meetings**

**On Sunday, 14 November**, Commissioner for Energy, Kadri **Simson**, will travel to Dubai, to open the EU Energy Day at [EXPO2020](#). She will deliver a keynote speech and participate in a panel at the 'EU Energy Day High-level Roundtable on hydrogen', organised at the Dutch pavilion. The event will focus on the key role of renewable hydrogen in the global clean energy transition and bring together prominent speakers from Europe, the Gulf region and the United States, ranging from academia and business to governments and international organisations. She will also visit EXPO pavilions with the focus on sustainability, renewable energy and energy efficiency. On Monday, Commissioner **Simson** will travel to Doha, Qatar to discuss energy and bilateral relations, including a meeting and a working lunch with H.E. Saad bin Sherida Al-Kaabi, Minister of State for Energy Affairs. *(For more information: Tim McPhie – Tel.: +32 229 58602; Ana Crespo Parrondo – Tel.: +32 229 81325)*

### **Migration: Commissioner Johansson in Egypt**

On Monday, 15 November, Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva **Johansson**, will be in Egypt to participate in a high-level migration dialogue. The Commissioner will have meetings with high-level representatives from the Egyptian government. She will also meet with representatives from civil society and international organisations. The visit will be an opportunity to discuss joint priorities when addressing migration-related challenges and opportunities, in the short and longer term. It is part of the Commission's partnership approach under the [New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#). *(For more information: Adalbert Jahnz - Tel.: +32 229 53156; Ciara Bottomley - Tel.: +32 229 69971; Laura Bérard - Tel.: +32 229 55721)*

[CALENDAR](#) - Commissioners' weekly activities

[Tentative agendas](#) for forthcoming Commission meetings

*Note that these items can be subject to changes.*

[Upcoming events](#) of the European Commission

[Eurostat](#) press releases

**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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