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Brussels, 16 November 2022

Indo-Pacific: EU and Australia Leaders meet in Bali

Today, the President of the European Commission, Ursula **von der Leyen**, the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and the Prime Minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese, held the **2nd EU-Australia Leaders' Meeting** in the margins of the G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia.

They welcomed the entry into force of the Framework Agreement between the EU and Australia, which marks a new milestone in the relationship.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of Russia's war of aggression against **Ukraine** and a changing strategic outlook in the **Indo-Pacific**. The Leaders reaffirmed their strong commitment to their **shared values**, in particular democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and a rules-based multilateral order. They will work closely together to address the **climate and biodiversity** crises and other urgent global challenges, and promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Read the full joint press release here. Read more about EU-Australia relations in this factsheet.

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Combating antisemitism: Commission hosts an EU Civil Society Forum to launch network of Young European Ambassadors on Holocaust Remembrance

The European Commission is hosting today and tomorrow the first-ever **EU Civil Society Forum** on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life. At the Forum, the Commission will launch a network of **Young European Ambassadors** to promote Holocaust remembrance. Both, the Forum and the network of Ambassadors are flagship initiatives of the 2021 EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life.

Vice-President **Schinas** stated: *"We are stepping up our work on antisemitism and fostering Jewish life. The Forum will provide a platform for the civil society to help connect initiatives in different Member States. By the end of this year, the Commission will make €20 million available to fighting all forms of discrimination, racism and antisemitism and €10 million to support initiatives on Holocaust remembrance. Through a new network of Young Ambassadors we are building bridges between young Europeans and Holocaust survivors, making sure their stories are never forgotten."*

The Forum aims to empower civil society to develop new actions and projects on **Jewish culture**, **Holocaust remembrance**, and **fight against online antisemitism**. In addition to bringing together civil society from across the EU, representatives from Israel and other partner countries will also participate. The network of Young European Ambassadors, launched as part of the **European Year of Youth 2022**, will help young Europeans to learn how to access and share accurate information about the Holocaust, commemorate it in their local communities, and recognise and rebut Holocaust distortion online. The opening plenary and the launch of the network of Young European Ambassadors can be followed online here. The agenda of the Forum is available here.

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Loi sur les services numériques : Entrée en vigueur des nouvelles règles de l'UE pour les plateformes en ligne

Aujourd'hui, la législation sur les services numériques (DSA), **un ensemble de règles de l'UE qui fera date en créant un environnement en ligne sûr et responsable**, entre en vigueur. Cette législation **s'applique à tous les services numériques** qui mettent les consommateurs en relation

avec des biens, des services ou des contenus. Elle crée de nouvelles obligations globales pour les plateformes en ligne afin de réduire les dommages et de lutter contre les risques en ligne, instaure de solides protections des droits des utilisateurs en ligne et place les plateformes numériques dans un nouveau cadre unique de transparence et de responsabilité. Conçues comme un ensemble unique et uniforme de règles pour l'UE, ces règles offriront aux utilisateurs de nouvelles protections et aux entreprises une sécurité juridique sur l'ensemble du marché unique. La législation sur les services numériques **est une boîte à outils réglementaire pionnière à l'échelle mondiale** et établit une **référence internationale** pour une approche réglementaire à l'égard des intermédiaires en ligne.

La **Commission a aussi désormais le pouvoir de superviser directement les grandes plateformes en ligne ou moteurs de recherche comptant plus de 45 millions d'utilisateurs**. Pour ceux-ci, d'autres obligations comprennent par exemple des évaluations annuelles extensives des risques sur leurs services. La Commission met actuellement en place un Centre européen pour la transparence algorithmique (ECAT) afin de soutenir son rôle de surveillance grâce à des connaissances multidisciplinaires internes et externes. Vous trouverez plus de détails, y compris sur le calendrier de mise en œuvre et les prochaines étape dans ce communiqué de presse et dans ce document de questions/réponses mis à jour.

(Pour plus d'informations: Johannes Bahrke - Tél: +32 229 58615; Charles Manoury - Tél: +32 229 13391)

Commission awards 2022 Innovation Radar award to NVision Imaging Technologies for improvements to early insights in medical treatment efficacy

Yesterday, the Commission awarded prizes to Europe's **most promising innovations** that have emerged from **EU-funded research and innovation projects**. *NVision Imaging Technologies* from Germany was awarded the 2022 Innovation Radar Prize for its 'Cell level Metabolic MRI' which shows **how quantum technology can significantly improve MRI capabilities in detecting the efficacy of medical treatments at early stages**. Winners were also selected in three other categories; the award for Purpose-Driven and Green for innovations on sustainability was won by *Svelte* from Romania for its project bringing innovation to the field of building design and construction. The winner in the category of 'Disruptive Health' for well-being projects was *Innovation Sprint* from Belgium for its digital clinical solution that outperforms traditional treatments. The winner of the Kickstarter category, which spotlights high-potential innovations still in the early stages of development, but with a convincing go-to-market strategy, was *Polytechnic University of Madrid* from Spain for their Thermophotovoltaic battery technology which can provide a cost-efficient solution to storing large amounts of energy for long periods of time. In the annual event of the Innovation Radar, held yesterday 12 finalists from all across Europe pitched to a jury of investors their plans for getting to market with their EU-funded ground-breaking innovations. The **Innovation Radar is the Commission's initiative to make it easier to discover innovations emerging from research and innovation projects financed by the EU under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe**, the world's largest public funded research programmes as well as the LIFE Programme. More information is available here.

(For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Charles Manoury – Tel.: +32 229 13391)

La Commission européenne émet une nouvelle obligation verte NextGenerationEU d'un montant de 6 milliards d'euros et débloque 2,5 milliards d'euros supplémentaires pour soutenir l'Ukraine

La Commission européenne a levé aujourd'hui des obligations pour un montant supplémentaire de **8,5 milliards d'euros**, dont 6 milliards d'euros par l'émission d'une **obligation verte NextGenerationEU** pour son programme de relance et 2,5 milliards d'euros pour **soutenir l'Ukraine** dans le cadre du programme d'assistance macrofinancière (AMF) d'urgence proposé à la suite de la guerre d'agression menée par la Russie contre le pays. L'obligation verte NextGenerationEU a une échéance de 10 ans, fixée au 4 février 2033, et l'obligation AMF a une échéance de 30 ans, fixée au 4 mars 2053.

Avec l'obligation verte d'aujourd'hui, la Commission a émis un **total de 35,5 milliards d'euros d'obligations vertes NextGenerationEU** pour financer des projets verts dans le cadre des plans de relance et de résilience des États membres de l'UE. Dans l'ensemble, la Commission a émis un total de 96,5 milliards d'euros de financement à long terme dans le cadre de NextGenerationEU en 2022 et 167,5 milliards d'euros depuis le début du programme en juin 2021.

En ce qui concerne le produit de l'obligation à 30 ans, il sera utilisé pour financer la dernière tranche des prêts d'AMF à l'Ukraine. Jusqu'à présent, en 2022, la Commission a levé **6,7 milliards d'euros pour financer les prêts AMF à l'Ukraine**. La transaction d'aujourd'hui fait suite au versement de 1,2 milliard d'euros au cours du premier semestre de l'année, de 1 milliard d'euros en août et de 2 milliards d'euros en octobre. Un montant supplémentaire de 500 millions d'euros est prévu avant la fin de l'année.

Le Commissaire en charge du budget et de l'administration, Johannes **Hahn**, a déclaré : *"L'Union européenne demeure solidaire de l'Ukraine et notre programme d'AMF est une nouvelle expression du soutien permanent que nous apportons à ce pays. D'autres mesures suivront, notamment grâce à l'enveloppe de 18 milliards d'euros que nous avons proposée pour 2023."*

Plus de détails figurent dans le communiqué de presse. *(Pour plus d'informations: Balazs Ujvari - Tél.: + 32 229 54578).*

EU and Japan meet during 3rd Competition Week to reinforce cooperation

Officials and experts from the EU and Japan will meet online from **16 to 18 November 2022** to discuss and exchange good practices in competition policy and enforcement.

The sessions will focus on approaches to **competition enforcement**, including how to assess arguments about sustainability goals in this context, and the use of **remedies in antitrust prohibition decisions**. Participants will also discuss issues pertaining to **merger investigation in digital markets**, as well as recent developments in the regulation of these markets.

The annual EU-Japan Competition Week is part of the Competition Cooperation project, a 5-year EU-funded programme offering **technical cooperation to competition authorities in Asia**. It provides a platform for exchanges between the European Commission Directorate-General for Competition and the Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC). The objective of the project is to exchange experiences and strengthen convergence in competition policy, to the benefit of citizens and businesses in both the EU and Japan.

More information about the European Commission's bilateral dialogue with Japan in the field of competition policy is available on the Commission's website.

(For more information: Arianna Podesta – Tel.: +32 229 87024; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

Mergers: Commission clears creation of joint venture by Liberty Global, Telefónica and InfraVia

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the creation of a joint venture by Liberty Global plc of the UK, Telefónica S.A. of Spain, and InfraVia Capital Partners S.A.S. (`InfraVia') of France.

The joint venture, Liberty Global Investment JVco Limited (`**Opal**'), will be based in the UK and will construct and operate a fibre-to-the-home network in the UK with a view to wholesaling it to VMED O2 UK Limited (`VMED'), third party internet service providers and business customers in the UK. VMED is jointly controlled by Liberty Global and Telefónica.

Liberty Global owns and operates cable networks offering television, broadband internet, fixed-line voice telephony and mobile telecommunications services in several countries in Europe. **Telefónica** is a global telecommunications company operating fixed and mobile communication networks and offering mobile, landline, internet and television services under a number of brands. **InfraVia** is an independent investment company which manages investment funds specialised in the infrastructure and technology sectors.

The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, given that Opal has no actual or foreseen activities 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.10906.

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APPOINTMENTS

COLLEGE MEETING: The European Commission transfers in the interests of the service a new Director-General for its Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations*

The European Commission has decided to transfer in the interests of the service **Gert Jan Koopman** to the function of Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations **(DG NEAR)**. The mission of DG NEAR is to take forward the EU's Neighbourhood and Enlargement policies. **The decision will take effect on 16 January 2023.**

In his new position, Gert Jan Koopman, a Dutch national, will draw on his extensive experience of over 30 years in a range of EU policy areas at the European Commission. In addition to his excellent communication and established management skills, he has robust experience in providing leadership in the face of crisis and steer the development of innovative policies. He played a key role in putting in place the €800 billion worth NextGenerationEU recovery plan, and worked to enable its financing on the capital markets through a sovereign-style funding system. Most recently, he also oversaw borrowing operations under the EU`s Macro-financial assistance (MFA) programme for a number of enlargement and neighbourhood partners, including Ukraine. He also played a central role in the conception of the MFA+ programme for Ukraine, which will provide the country with up to €18 billion of assistance in 2023.

At his new department, he will greatly benefit from his thorough experience in dealing with multifaceted crisis situations given the complex set of challenges affecting EU's neighbourhood in the current context. Gert Jan Koopman is currently the Director-General of the European Commission's budget department (DG BUDG) – a position that he has assumed since 2018. Previously, he was Deputy Director-General responsible for state aid control at the Directorate-General for Competition (DG COMP). His earlier assignments included senior management posts in the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN) as well as Enterprise and Industry (DG GROW). At an earlier stage of his career, he was also a member of the Commission's Impact Assessment Board, assessing whether the draft EU legislation would achieve the desired results.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Vice-President Vestager in Madrid to receive the Xataka Legend Award and to meet representatives of the Spanish government

Executive Vice-President Margrethe **Vestager** is travelling today to Madrid. Tonight, she will receive the Xataka Legend Award, which recognises the career of a highly relevant person in the field of science and technology.

As part of her activities in Madrid, Margrethe **Vestager** will also visit the Spanish fashion hub oriented towards sustainable luxury, a project funded by NextGenerationEU.

The Executive Vice-President will also attend the 5th edition of "Connecting Innovation. Education that works". She will meet with José Manuel Álbares, Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, and finally conclude her visit to Madrid with a discussion with Nadia Calviño, First Vice-President and Minister for Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation, which will be followed by a short press point.

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Central Asia: High Representative Borrell to visit Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan

High Representative/Vice-President Josep **Borrell** will travel to Central Asia, starting his visit in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 16 to 17 November, and continuing to Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on 17 to 19

November. His mission aims to further strengthen and build on the positive dynamics in EU's bilateral and regional relations, in particular through chairing the EU-Central Asia Ministerial and co-hosting the EU-Central Asia Connectivity Conference: Global Gateway.

In Kazakhstan, the High Representative will meet President Tokayev and Foreign Minister Tileuberdi, following which a joint press conference is planned at 11:40 local time (06:40 CET) on 17 November.

HR/VP **Borrell** will then travel to Samarkand, Uzbekistan, where he will chair the 18th EU-Central Asia Ministerial meeting, which is hosted by the Uzbek Foreign Minister Norov. The meeting will provide an opportunity to step up cooperation with the countries of the region in areas such as security, trade and investment, transport, green energy and sustainable growth, improved connectivity as well as closer cooperation in education, science and innovation. Ministers will also exchange on regional challenges, including the situation in Afghanistan and the negative consequences caused by Russia's illegal military aggression against Ukraine. Following the meeting, a joint press point with Foreign Minister Norov is planned around 19:00 local time (15:00 CET) on 17 November.

On 18 November, HR/VP **Borrell**, will co-host the **EU-Central Asia Connectivity Conference: Global Gateway**. The conference will explore three themes: digital connectivity, transport connectivity, and energy connectivity between Central Asia and the European Union. In this context, the EU, together with International Financial Institutions, will aim to stimulate investment in the region. HRVP will deliver the opening statement at 10:00 local time (06:00 CET).

In the margins of the Conference, HR/VP **Borrell** will meet with the President of Uzbekistan and Foreign Ministers of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan to discuss bilateral relations and regional cooperation.

Audiovisual material will be available on EbS. Follow @JosepBorrellF or @eu_eeas on Twitter.

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Culture: The Commission brings together stakeholders to discuss the role of culture as a driver for health and well-being in EU policies

*Today, Mariya **Gabriel**, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, and Sabine Verheyen, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education, are jointly organising the seminar "Culture as a driver for health and well-being in the EU."*

Participants from all over Europe and from various backgrounds, including cultural players, medical practitioners, architects, and representatives of municipalities will discuss the role that culture plays for health and well-being.

*Ahead of the event Commissioner **Gabriel** said: "Culture and arts play a fundamental role to improve health and well-being. With this first-of-its-kind event, in cooperation with the European Parliament, we will demonstrate how EU-funded existing best practices can inspire. Joining forces across culture, creation, health and education for long-lasting social impact: this is our ambition."* The event will be the occasion for the "CultureForHealth" project to present its recommendations, based on a series of roundtables, study visits, webinars and workshops. *Ahead of this event, the Commission published a brochure with good practice examples of EU funded projects linking culture, health and well-being.*

*This seminar on "Culture as a driver for health and well-being in the EU" comes as one of the actions undertaken by the European Commission and the European Parliament to inspire a true policy change in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on everyday life, as it became necessary to address the topics of culture, health and well-being at a larger scale. The seminar is part of the Commission's work on mental health, whose importance has been underlined by President **von der Leyen** in her latest Sate of the Union address. You can follow the event online here. More information available here.*

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Commissioner Johansson attends the G7 Interior and Security Ministerial meeting

Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva **Johansson** will be in Wiesbaden, Germany to participate on behalf of the European Union at the G7 Interior and Security Ministerial meeting. The meeting takes place from **16 to 18 November** and gathers the Interior and Security Ministers, as well as senior

officials from all G7 countries.

Discussions will focus on the **fight against extremism and terrorism**, **organised crime**, **child sexual abuse online** and more broad security challenges posed by Russia's unjustified and unprovoked invasion of **Ukraine** in February.

Commissioner **Johansson** will also hold a series of bilateral meetings with the Minister for Public Safety of Canada, Marco Mendicino, Italian Minister for Interior of Italy, Matteo Piantedosi and Secretary of State for the Home Department of the United Kingdom, Suella Braverman.

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La commissaire Johansson promeut les travaux sur la lutte contre les abus sexuels au Parlement européen

La commissaire aux affaires intérieures, Ylva **Johansson**, participera aujourd'hui au tout premier sommet européen sur l'avenir des technologies, au Parlement européen.

Les discussions porteront sur les technologies de détection, de signalement et de suppression en ligne du matériel pédopornographique. Cet aspect est également au cœur de la proposition de règlement de la Commission relative à la prévention et à la **lutte contre les abus sexuels et l'exploitation sexuelle des enfants en ligne**.

La présidente et la vice-présidente du Parlement européen, Roberta Metsola et Eva Kaili seront les hôtes de l'événement. Les discussions d'aujourd'hui précèdent la Journée européenne pour la protection des enfants contre l'exploitation et les abus sexuels, célébrée le 18 novembre.

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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.

Prochains événements de la Commission européenne

Eurostat: communiqués de presse

*Modified on 16/11/2023 at 19:00 CET

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