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Brussels, 29 January 2025

Le rapport 2025 sur le marché unique et la compétitivité met en avant les défis et opportunités qui s'offrent à l'UE

Aujourd'hui, la Commission européenne publie son [rapport annuel](#) sur le marché unique et la **compétitivité**, qui dresse un état des lieux des forces et faiblesses de l'économie de l'UE. Il sert de cadre analytique pour la **boussole de compétitivité**, un plan d'action destiné à redynamiser l'économie européenne.

Le rapport s'appuie sur **22 indicateurs clés**, tels que l'intégration au marché unique, les dépenses en recherche et développement ou encore les prix de l'électricité. Ces éléments permettent d'évaluer la compétitivité de l'UE et d'identifier les domaines nécessitant une attention particulière, notamment le parachèvement du marché unique, le renforcement des capacités d'innovation, la décarbonation de l'industrie et la diminution des dépendances stratégiques.

Stéphane **Séjourné**, vice-président exécutif chargé de la prospérité et de la stratégie industrielle, a déclaré : « *Notre succès économique repose sur un chiffre simple mais puissant : **450 millions de consommateurs**. Le marché unique est, de loin, le moteur le plus important – et pourtant encore largement sous-exploité – de la compétitivité européenne. Les conclusions de ce rapport sont claires : il est temps de d'abattre les dernières barrières entre les 27 États membres, et de tirer pleinement parti des effets d'échelle du marché unique, afin d'offrir aux entreprises européennes un accès simple et fluide à l'un des plus grands marchés intégrés du monde.* »

Les conclusions de cette édition guideront l'élaboration des politiques visant à renforcer la compétitivité de l'UE et à exploiter pleinement le potentiel du marché unique. Elles alimenteront notamment les initiatives à venir telles que le **Pacte pour une industrie décarbonée** et la **stratégie pour le marché unique**.

Plus d'informations dans le [communiqué de presse](#).

(Pour plus d'informations : Lea Zuber — Tél. : +32 2 295 62 98 ; Federica Miccoli — Tél. : +32 2 295 83 00)

Commission clears acquisition of Arbonia Climate Division by Midea

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of sole control of Arbonia Climate Division of Switzerland by Midea Group Co. Ltd. ('Midea') of China.

The transaction relates primarily to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning sector.

The Commission concluded that the notified transaction would not raise competition concerns, given its limited impact on competition in the markets where the companies are active. The notified transaction was examined under the normal merger review procedure.

More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.11570](#).

(For more information : Lea Zuber – Tel.: +32 2 295 62 98; Sara Simonini - Tel.: +32 2 298 33 67)

Commission clears acquisition of Hostaway Oy by GA and PSG

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint

control of Hostaway Oy of Finland by General Atlantic HW B.V. ('GA') of the Netherlands and affiliates of PSG Equity L.L.C. ('PSG') of the US.

The transaction relates primarily to the sector of software products.

The Commission concluded that the notified transaction would not raise competition concerns, given that the companies are not active in the same or vertically related markets. The notified 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.11846](#).

(For more information : Lea Zuber – Tel.: +32 2 295 62 98; Sara Simonini - Tel.: +32 2 298 33 67)

Commission clears acquisition of Railr and Equals by TowerBrook and J.C. Flowers

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control of Embedded Finance Limited ('Railr') and Equals Group Plc ('Equals'), both of the UK, by TowerBrook Capital Partners (UK) LLP ('TowerBrook') of the UK, and J.C. Flowers & Co LLC ('J.C. Flowers') of the US.

The transaction relates primarily to the financial sector.

The Commission concluded that the notified transaction would not raise competition concerns, given that the companies are not active in the same or vertically related markets. The notified 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.11861](#).

(For more information : Lea Zuber – Tel.: +32 2 295 62 98; Sara Simonini - Tel.: +32 2 298 33 67)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Les vice-présidents exécutifs Mînzatu et Fitto en Pologne pour discuter de l'avenir de la politique de cohésion et de l'agenda social

Cette semaine, les vice-présidents exécutifs pour les droits sociaux, les compétences, les emplois de qualité et la préparation, Roxana **Mînzatu**, et pour la cohésion et les réformes, Raffaele **Fitto**, seront à Cracovie, en Pologne, pour discuter de l'avenir de la **politique de cohésion** et de sa contribution à la **compétitivité**, à la **croissance** et à l'**agenda social de l'Europe**.

Le vice-président exécutif **Fitto** débutera sa visite aujourd'hui, mercredi 29 janvier, par une réunion avec la ministre polonaise des fonds de développement et de la politique régionale, Katarzyna Pełczyńska-Nałęcz, pour échanger sur la [facilité pour la reprise et la résilience](#) et l'avenir de la [Politique de Cohésion](#). Il visitera également le camp d'extermination nazi d'Auschwitz-Birkenau, en raison du 80e anniversaire de sa libération par les forces alliées.

Le jeudi, 30 janvier, les vice-présidents exécutifs **Mînzatu** et **Fitto** participeront à la [conférence organisée par la présidence polonaise du Conseil](#) sur « La voie européenne de la croissance : une politique de croissance pour une Union européenne sûre, résiliente et compétitive à l'échelle mondiale ». Les deux vice-présidents exécutifs ouvriront la conférence aux côtés de la ministre Pełczyńska-Nałęcz et du maire de Cracovie, Aleksander Miszański. Ils aborderont le rôle de la politique de cohésion en tant qu'outil de **renforcement de la sécurité** et de la compétitivité de l'Europe, ses réalisations et les défis à venir, ainsi que sa dimension sociale.

La vice-présidente exécutive **Mînzatu** rencontrera également Monika Sikora, sous-secrétaire d'État au ministère des Fonds de développement et de la politique régionale.

(Plus d'informations: Maciej Berestecki – Tel.: +32 2 299 63 02; Isabel Arriaga e Cunha – Tel.: +32 2 295 21 17)

Les commissaires Brunner et Lahbib participent à la réunion informelle des ministres de la Justice et des Affaires intérieures des 30 et 31 janvier à Varsovie

Demain, Magnus **Brunner**, commissaire aux Affaires intérieures et à la migration, et Hadja **Lahbib**, commissaire chargée de l'Égalité, de la préparation et de la gestion des crises, se rendront à Varsovie, en Pologne, pour la réunion informelle des ministres de la Justice et des Affaires intérieures organisée par la présidence polonaise du Conseil.

Le premier jour, les discussions se concentreront d'abord sur les retours et les solutions innovantes, où le commissaire **Brunner** discutera des projets de nouvelle **législation en matière de retours**. La commissaire **Lahbib** se joindra aux ministres de l'Intérieur pour la discussion, lors du déjeuner de travail, sur la préparation de l'UE, compte tenu des conclusions du [rapport élaboré par Sauli Niinistö](#), et sur la **préparation civile et militaire**. Dans l'après-midi, les échanges se poursuivront sur les défis et les menaces qui pèsent actuellement sur la **sécurité intérieure** de l'UE, ainsi que sur la future stratégie de sécurité intérieure de l'UE et la stratégie pour l'Union de la préparation. Une conférence de presse avec le commissaire **Brunner** aura lieu vers 17h00 et sera diffusée en direct sur [EBS](#).

Le deuxième jour, le Conseil débattrra de questions liées aux défis en matière de **droits fondamentaux** et **d'état de droit**, ainsi que de leur incidence dans le domaine de la justice. Au cours du déjeuner de travail, la présidence débattrra de l'avenir de la justice, en mettant l'accent sur la nécessité de réaffirmer l'engagement de l'UE pour un **système judiciaire juste et efficace**. Les ministres se concentreront également sur le renforcement de la réponse de l'UE aux **crimes de guerre russes en Ukraine**, notamment sur la question de savoir si des efforts supplémentaires sont nécessaires pour faciliter la collecte de preuves et sur les mesures supplémentaires que l'UE pourrait prendre en ce qui concerne les droits des victimes.

(Pour plus d'informations : Markus Lammert — Tél. : + 32 2 296 75 33 ; Eva Hrnčířová — Tél. : + 32 2 298 84 33)

APPOINTMENTS

The European Commission appoints a new Director at its Directorate-General for Communication

The European Commission has decided today to appoint **Stefan de Keersmaecker** as Director for Strategy and Corporate Communication at the Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM). This department is the corporate communication service under the responsibility of the President of the Commission, promoting and supporting the political priorities of the Commission, while contributing to bring Europe closer to its citizens. The date of effect will be determined later.

Mr de Keersmaecker brings over 30 years of experience across both the public and private sectors, with a significant exposure to a variety of policy areas ranging most notably from communication to employment, humanitarian aid as well as health matters and regional policy. Having taken on several management and coordination responsibilities throughout his career at the Commission, he is equipped with robust management skills, together with a proven track-record of effective leadership and an excellent ability to plan, structure, and prioritize tasks and resources under his responsibility. As a spokesperson who managed the health portfolio at the European Commission during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr de Keersmaecker demonstrated exceptional resilience, composure, and clarity under immense pressure. His ability to effectively communicate complex and evolving information while maintaining public trust showcased his dedication and skill in crisis communication. His broad expertise in communication will enable him to continue to convey policies and priorities effectively,

fostering understanding and trust across diverse audiences.

Mr de Keersmaecker, a Belgian national, is currently a Deputy Chief Spokesperson of the European Commission. He joined the Spokesperson's Service in 2019, assuming responsibility for a range of policy areas including health and transport. In 2022, he became Coordinating Spokesperson in charge of the Green Deal. Between 2017-2019, he served as Head of Unit responsible for relations with the European Court of Auditors at DG Employment. In earlier stages of his career, he was Deputy Head of Unit at the same DG working on the European Social Fund and led several teams at the Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation. Before joining the Commission in 2001, he worked as an attorney in different law firms.

(For more information: Balazs Ujvari - Tel.: +32 2 295 45 78; Isabel Otero Barderas - Tel.: +32 2 296 69 25)

The European Commission appoints a new Head of Representation in Dublin

Peter Power has been appointed today as new Head of the European Commission Representation in Dublin, Ireland.

In this function, he will act as the official representative of the European Commission in Ireland under the political authority of President Ursula **von der Leyen**. The date of effect of his appointment will be determined later.

Peter Power brings a wealth of political acumen, managerial experience, and representational expertise, making him an ideal candidate to lead the European Commission Representation in Dublin. With over a decade of experience in high-ranking positions within the European Commission and Cabinets, he has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership and an in-depth mastery of, not only EU policies, but also the institutional landscape, and the Commission's collaboration with Member States. His skill at engaging with stakeholders across diverse levels, combined with his strategic foresight and polished communication skills, will ensure an excellent promotion and articulation of EU priorities. Since 2022, Mr Power, an Irish national, has served as Senior Adviser to the Director-General of the Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations.

For more information, a [press release](#) is available online.

(For more information: Balazs Ujvari - Tel.: +32 2 295 45 78; Isabel Otero Barderas - Tel.: +32 2 296 69 25)

The European Commission appoints a new Head of Representation in Rome

Claudio Casini has been appointed today as new Head of the European Commission Representation in Rome, Italy. In this function, he will act as the official representative of the European Commission in Italy under the political authority of President Ursula **von der Leyen**. The date of effect of his appointment will be determined later.

Mr Casini has amassed extensive expertise across a wide range of EU policy areas, including international and interinstitutional negotiations, representation, diplomatic relations, management, communication, and political analysis. His career also reflects a deep understanding of EU governance and decision-making processes, combined with strategic insight and a proven ability to foster cooperation between the EU institutions and Member States. Mr Casini, an Italian national, is currently seconded to the Italian Prime Minister's Office as Lead Negotiator for the implementation of Italy's Recovery and Resilience Plan.

For more information, a [press release](#) is available online.

(For more information: Balazs Ujvari - Tel.: +32 2 295 45 78; Isabel Otero Barderas - Tel.: +32 2 296 69 25)

The European Commission appoints a new Head of Representation in Vienna

Patrick Lobis has been appointed today as new Head of the European Commission Representation in

Vienna, Austria. In this function, he will act as the official representative of the European Commission in Austria under the political authority of President Ursula **von der Leyen**. He will take up duty in Vienna on 16 February 2025.

Mr Lobis possesses extensive expertise in communication, political analysis, and management, making him well-suited to serve as Head of the European Commission Representation in Austria. Over the course of his career, he has developed a strong ability to engage with diverse stakeholders, including citizens, media representatives, and institutional partners, ensuring clear and impactful communication of EU policies and priorities. Mr Lobis, an Austrian and Italian national, is currently the Deputy Head of Unit for Political and Economic Intelligence at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Communication.

For more information, a [press release](#) is available online.

(For more information: Balazs Ujvari - Tel.: +32 2 295 45 78; Isabel Otero Barderas - Tel.: +32 2 296 69 25)

The European Commission appoints a new Head of Regional Representation in Wroclaw

Joanna Sterzyńska Lindberg has been appointed as new Head of the European Commission Regional Representation in Wroclaw, Poland. In this function, she will support the official representative of the European Commission in Poland under the political authority of President Ursula **von der Leyen**. The date of effect of her appointment will be determined later.

Ms Sterzynska Lindberg offers a distinguished track record of nearly 30 years working with international organizations, EU institutions, and governmental bodies, positioning her as an outstanding candidate to lead the European Commission Regional Representation in Wroclaw. Her professional path spans responsibilities such as representing the Commission in international negotiations, high-level initiatives for EU leadership, and leading legislative proposals through policy cycles. She combines a profound understanding of national and EU-level policymaking with an unwavering commitment to fostering cooperation between the European Commission and Member States. Ms Sterzynska currently serves as the lead for Euratom Policy Coordination and Interinstitutional Relations at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy, where she coordinates initiatives on nuclear energy policy.

For more information, a [press release](#) is available online.

(For more information: Balazs Ujvari - Tel.: +32 2 295 45 78; Isabel Otero Barderas - Tel.: +32 2 296 69 25)

[Tentative agendas](#) for forthcoming Commission meetings

Note that these items can be subject to changes.

[Upcoming events](#) of the European Commission

[Eurostat](#) press releases

*Updated on 29 January 2025, at 14:45 CET.