

 TODAYS
News

Monday, 09 March, 2015

Click on [blue](#) link to view full Press**Commissioner Věra Jourová presents the 2015 EU Justice Scoreboard**

Commenting on today's presentation of the main findings of this year's EU Justice Scoreboard, Commissioner **Jourová** said: *"An effective justice system is a fundamental pillar of every democracy. Justice reforms play a key role in strengthening the Union's common values and creating the investment friendly environment that we need for sustainable growth"*. The [EU Justice Scoreboard](#) focuses on three key areas: efficiency, quality, and independence of EU Member States' justice systems. The Scoreboard contributes to identifying good practices and trends on the functioning of the national justice systems over time. The Scoreboard is part of the [European Semester](#), the EU's annual economic policy coordination process that aims to boost Member States' economic performance and competitiveness. In its third edition, this year's Justice Scoreboard includes more data and new indicators including availability and use of ICT tools, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), and gender balance among judges. You'll find more information in the [press release](#), the [2015 Scoreboard](#), the [Q&A](#) and the [press conference](#).

Investment Plan for Europe: France to contribute €8 billion

On Friday, 6 March, France announced that it would contribute €8 billion in the context of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is the core element of the [Investment Plan for Europe](#). The contribution will come via France's National Promotional Banks [Caisse des Dépôts](#) (CDC) and [Bpifrance](#) (BPI). Commission Vice-President Jyrki **Katainen**, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, said: *"I welcome the excellent news from France. The contribution via the National Promotional Banks will ensure the Investment Plan for Europe is adequately implemented in France, benefitting from the expertise of CDC and BPI. The plan is progressing fast with the commitment of Member States, and we are confident that the results will start to be visible this summer."* Read [press release](#).

OTHER NEWS**Mergers: Commission welcomes General Court judgment upholding its prohibition of the NYSE Euronext / Deutsche Börse merger**

The European Commission welcomes today's judgment by the General Court (case [T-175/12](#)) which fully upholds the [Commission's 2012 decision](#) under the EU Merger Regulation to prohibit the proposed merger between Deutsche Börse and NYSE Euronext. The judgment is important because it confirms that the

merger would have eliminated healthy competition between trading and clearing platforms in Europe and that the Commission acted properly by prohibiting it. The merger would have caused significant harm to worldwide users of European financial derivatives and to the European economy as a whole. A statement is available [here](#).

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of CNP Barclays Vida y Pensiones by Barclays Bank in insurance sector

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of CNP Barclays Vida y Pensiones Compañía de Seguros of Spain by Barclays Bank of the UK. Barclays is a global financial services provider. CNP BVP provides insurance and pension products in Spain, Portugal and Italy. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because of the companies' moderate combined market shares on the markets concerned and because Barclays already had joint control over CNP BVP together with another company. 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.7511](#).

EU Prize for Women Innovators celebrates outstanding women in science

To mark the International Women's Day, Carlos **Moedas**, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation is today launching the [3rd EU Prize for Women Innovators](#). The [award celebrates women](#) who have achieved outstanding success by bringing their innovative ideas to the market. The [award](#) will give public recognition to three remarkable women and aim to inspire others to follow in their footsteps. Speaking before the lunch event with distinguished women from academic, industry and the media where the prize will be launched, Commissioner **Moedas** said: *"There may have been some improvement in recent years but, in Europe, female researchers and entrepreneurs remain a minority. Whether economically, intellectually or socially, we cannot afford to continue missing out on this vast pool of untapped talent. The EU Prize for Women Innovators recognises women entrepreneurs for their valuable achievements, inspiring both men and women alike."*

Report on the implementation of EU water legislation

Today the Commission has published a Communication and two reports showing how [water policies](#) can be a source of green and blue economic growth, with water management technologies at the heart of eco-innovation. The [EU Water Framework Directive](#) sets a framework at European level that aims to ensure clean water in sufficient quantities for people and nature, and for use in economic sectors such as agriculture, aquaculture, energy, transport and tourism. Karmenu **Vella**, Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries said: *"Water is the basis of all life: We need it for drinking and sanitation, to grow food, produce goods and energy. Its preservation is one of the world's biggest challenges. The Communication and reports published today show that Member States need to sustain and enhance action to implement the Water Framework and Floods Directives to benefit people, nature and the environment addressing pollution, excessive abstraction and rivers alterations. To this end, EU funding opportunities should be exploited to the full"*. Read [Press Release](#).

Commissioner Neven Mimica signs the National Indicative Programme (NIP) with Mali for EUR 615 million

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**, signed last Friday the [National Indicative Programme \(NIP\)](#) on development cooperation in [Mali](#) within the framework of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for the 2014-2020 timeframe. The signing ceremony took place in the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and Development Cooperation of Mali, Mr Abdoulaye Diop, who is also the National Authorizing Officer (NAO) on the EDF. Neven **Mimica** stated that *"with this new European support to Mali, the EU is confirming its determination to stand by the people of Mali to stabilise the country and assist it in eradicating poverty. There can be no development without security and no security or peace without development."*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners Oettinger and Moedas at the European Summit on Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing in Brussels

By 2060, one in three Europeans will be over 65. Europe's ageing population is an important challenge, but it also provides opportunities. "Ageing will impact many sectors of our economy, which all could profit from technological innovation that meets the needs of an ageing population", said Commissioner **Oettinger**, in charge of the Digital Economy and Society, while opening the [European Summit on Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing](#) in Brussels today ([more information - speech](#)). Commissioner **Moedas**, responsible for Research, Science and Innovation, will speak this afternoon (speech will be available [here](#)). He will notably highlight how the EU programme [Horizon 2020](#) invests in innovative projects helping elderly people live healthier and longer.

Preparation of Economic and Finance Ministers Council (ECOFIN)

On 10 March in Brussels, Vice-President Dombrovskis, Vice-President Katainen, Commissioner Moscovici and Commissioner Hill will participate in the EU's Council of Economic and Finance Ministers' meeting. On the legislative front, the Ministers are due to agree on the Commission's proposal for a [Regulation on the European Fund for Strategic Investments](#) (EFSI). This is the essential legal component to establish the new Fund and render the Investment Plan for Europe operational. The Commission stands ready to provide all the technical support needed to get the proposal adopted by the co-legislators swiftly. Ministers will also discuss the implementation of national transposition measures for the legal instruments underpinning the [banking union](#). The Commission will call on Member States to accelerate implementation. As regards the economic and fiscal policies coordination agenda, the Commission will present to the Ministers the comprehensive economic surveillance package published on 26 February. It includes in particular the "[country reports](#)" that the Commission decided to issue earlier in the European Semester cycle to allow more time for discussions with stakeholders and more ownership by Member States. Further, the Council is set to discuss the [Commission proposal](#) to recommend to France to correct its excessive deficit by 2017.



See what will be discussed in the European Commission, European Council and the European Parliament [here](#)

