



TODAYS
News

Tuesday, 14 April, 2015

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Investment Plan for Europe: Vice-President Katainen takes roadshow to the Netherlands, Bulgaria and Hungary

European Commission Vice-President Jyrki **Katainen**, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, is in the Netherlands today as part of his roadshow to promote the [Investment Plan for Europe](#). He then travels to Bulgaria on Thursday 16 April and to Hungary on Friday 17 April. Vice-President **Katainen** will meet Heads and Members of Government, business leaders, SMEs, investors and students as part of the 28-country roadshow to promote and explain the €315 billion Investment plan. Vice-President **Katainen** said: *"I am looking forward to this busy week on the road. The roadshows have already proved a great success as they allow me to meet a large numbers of stakeholders and answer questions on how the Investment Plan will work, and how it could benefit each Member State. On each roadshow, I learn something new and I get to visit some of the projects which already benefit from EU funding, which is very inspiring."*

The Commission approves two new Protected Geographical Indications and one new Protected Designation of Origin

The Commission has approved the addition of three new products to the register of Protected Geographical Indications (PGIs) and Protected Designation of Origin (PDOs). These are, for **Austria**, '[Pöllauer Hirschbirne](#)' (PDO), a perry pear from the variety 'Hirschbirne'. The designation only applies to unprocessed fruit obtained from the pears and unfermented fruit juice obtained from them. For **Croatia**, '[Krčki pršut](#)' (PGI), a preserved dry-cured meat product made from pork ham, dry-salted with sea salt and spices, air-dried without smoking and then dried and matured for a minimum of one year; and for the **United Kingdom**, '[Traditional Ayrshire Dunlop](#)' (PGI), a hard cheese with a cylindrical shape and natural pale yellow colour made from the raw or pasteurised whole milk of cows from the Ayrshire breed. These three denominations will be added to the list of over 1,200 products already protected. More information: webpages on [quality products](#) and [DOOR database](#) of protected products.

Commission announces 12 winners of 2015 European Union Prize for Literature - Donal Ryan (Ireland) for *The Spinning Hear*.

Today, the Commission is announcing the [winners](#) of the 2015 [European Union Prize for Literature](#) (EUPL) at the [London Book Fair](#). The prize recognises the best new and emerging authors in Europe and is open to countries participating in [Creative Europe](#), the EU funding programme for the cultural and creative sectors. Tibor **Navracsics**, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport said: *“My warmest congratulations to the winners of the European Union Prize for Literature! This unique prize is the only book award dedicated to the best emerging authors from all over Europe, regardless of their country of origin or language.”* Every year, participating authors are nominated by selected national juries. Each winner receives €5000, benefits from extra promotion and international visibility, and is encouraged to apply for EU literary translation grants. Since the start of the prize in 2009, the *EU Culture Programme* (2007-2013) and the *Creative Europe Programme* (2014-2020) have granted support to 203 translations of 56 EU Prize for Literature winning books into 20 different languages. The next such call for proposals will open in November 2015. This year's awards will be presented to the winners at a gala ceremony at the *Concert Noble* in Brussels on 23 June, in the presence of the Commissioner **Navracsics** and members of the European Parliament.

EUROSTAT: Industrial production up by 1.1% in euro area - Up by 0.9% in EU28

In February 2015 compared with January 2015, seasonally adjusted industrial production rose by 1.1% in the euro area (EA19) and by 0.9% in the EU28, according to estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In January 2015 industrial production fell by 0.3% in both zones. In February 2015 compared with February 2014, industrial production increased by 1.6% in the euro area and by 1.4% in the EU28. Press release available [here](#).

EUROSTAT: Household saving rate up to 13.0% and investment rate stable at 8.2% in the euro area

The seasonally adjusted household saving rate in the euro area (EA18) was 13.0% in the fourth quarter of 2014, compared with 12.8% in the third quarter of 2014. The seasonally adjusted household investment rate in the euro area was 8.2% in the fourth quarter of 2014, stable compared with the previous quarter. These data come from a first release of quarterly European sector accounts released by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union and the European Central Bank (ECB). Press release available [here](#).

EUROSTAT: Business investment rate stable at 21.9% in the euro area - Business profit share down to 38.7% in the euro area

In the fourth quarter of 2014, the seasonally adjusted business investment rate was 21.9% in the euro area (EA18), stable compared with the previous quarter. The seasonally adjusted business profit share in the euro area was 38.7% in the fourth quarter of 2014, compared with 39.1% in the third quarter of 2014. These data come from a first release of quarterly European sector accounts released by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, and the European Central Bank (ECB). Press release available [here](#).

STATEMENTS

Declaration of President Juncker on the death of Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature, Günter Grass

"Günter Grass has left us. It is with deep sadness that I have learned about this news, and this loss. The Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature was one of the most important representatives of European literature. With his book "The Tin Drum", Grass created the work of a century, a milestone of German postwar literature. With his political commitment, and his active engagement in social discussions, Günter Grass was throughout his life an important and challenging interlocutor, in Germany and abroad. He could be tough when discussing substance, being ready to point his fingers to painful wounds. A convinced European, Grass has defended the interests of the weakest members of our society. As a man of vision, he saw some of Europe's current problems approaching from a very early stage. With Günter Grass, we lose a great European." The declaration is available [here](#).

Vice-President Ansip: Turning Europe digital, preparing for future growth

"Our strategy for building a Digital Single Market is not only about fixing the short term but also about Europe's future," Vice-President Andrus **Ansip**, in charge of the Digital Single Market, said today at the European Policy Centre in Brussels. "It will look ahead, to prepare for new growth as the world advances in areas like cloud computing, the Internet of Things and big data," he said. The potential from digitising industry is huge. But so far, digitising EU business and industry has been rather slow. "Firstly, we need to make sure data is properly protected. Only then can people fully trust online services – so we want to finalise the reform of EU data protection rules as soon as possible," he added ([speech](#)).

Commissioner Oettinger: Europe's future is digital

"Our challenge is to ensure that all industrial sectors make the best use of new technologies," Commissioner **Oettinger**, in charge of the Digital Economy and Society, will say at the industrial trade fair Hannover Messe this afternoon. He will propose to take action in four key areas: digital innovation hubs; leadership in platforms for digital industry; closing the digital skills gap; and smart regulation for smart industry. These steps would complement the efforts to create a Digital Single Market and to further invest in broadband infrastructure ([speech](#) available later).

MEX/15/4773



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

