



TODAYS  
News

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**EUROSTAT: Flash estimate - April 2015 - Euro area annual inflation up to 0.0%**

Euro area annual inflation is expected to be 0.0% in April 2015, up from -0.1% in March, according to a flash estimate from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. Looking at the main components of euro area inflation, services (0.9%, compared with 1.0% in March) and food, alcohol & tobacco (0.9%, compared with 0.6% in March) are expected to have the highest annual rates in April, followed by non-energy industrial goods (0.1%, compared with 0.0% in March) and energy (-5.8%, compared with -6.0% in March). Read the [EUROSTAT press release](#).

**EUROSTAT: Fourth quarter of 2014 - Household real income per capita slightly up in both euro area and EU28, real consumption per capita also slightly up in euro area and EU28**

In the euro area (EA18), in real terms, household income per capita increased by 0.1% in the fourth quarter of 2014, after an increase of 0.6% in the previous quarter. Household real consumption per capita increased by 0.1% in the fourth quarter of 2014, after an increase of 0.4% in the previous quarter. Read the [EUROSTAT press release](#).

**EUROSTAT: March 2015 - Euro area unemployment rate at 11.3%, EU28 at 9.8%**

The euro area (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 11.3% in March 2015, stable compared with February 2015, but down from 11.7% in March 2014. The EU28 unemployment rate was 9.8% in March 2015, stable compared with February 2015 and down from 10.4% in March 2014. Eurostat estimates that 23.748 million men and women in the EU28, of whom 18.105 million in the euro area, were unemployed in March 2015. Compared with February 2015, the number of persons unemployed decreased by 75 000 in the EU28 and by 36 000 in the euro area. Compared with March 2014, unemployment fell by 1.523 million in the EU28 and by 679 000 in the euro area. Read the [EUROSTAT press release](#).

**EU provides €30 million to reinforce cooperation among the Portuguese-speaking African countries and Timor-Leste**

Today, the European Union and the Portuguese-speaking African countries ([Angola](#), [Cape Verde](#), [Guinea Bissau](#), [Mozambique](#), [São Tomé e Príncipe](#)) and [Timor-Leste](#) signed an agreement under which the EU will

provide support of €30 million for their cooperation under the [11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund \(EDF\)](#). The ceremony took place in São Tomé e Príncipe in the presence of Director-General for International Cooperation and Development, Fernando Frutuoso de Melo, and the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Mozambique, Nyeleti Brooke Mondlane, who signed on behalf of PALOP-TL. The aim of the new programme is to reinforce an existing regional network within the Portuguese speaking countries' community. The main objective will be to promote employment, through mobility and social inclusion, using the common language. A specific component on governance capacity development will reinforce institutional capacity in key policy areas of common interest, such as statistics, justice, electoral cycles, and new domains such as research, climate change or environmental issues. This will allow countries to reinforce cooperation within their network, mobilising expertise on demand in specific areas of interest. More information is available online on the [European Commission's webpage for Development and Cooperation](#).

## STATEMENTS

### **Vice-President Georgieva welcomes European Parliament decision to grant discharge to EU Budget implementation**

The European Parliament approved on Wednesday the way the European Commission implemented the EU budget in 2013, by granting discharge of the budget in a vote in plenary. The vote on the overall discharge of the EU budget was 513 in favour and 184 against, with 4 abstentions. This compares with 488 for, 121 against and 10 abstentions last year. Kristalina **Georgieva**, Vice-President in charge of the budget, said: *"This vote by the European Parliament is recognition of the hard work done to protect EU taxpayers' money. Our focus now is on doing even more and doing it better, especially in areas of shared management with the EU Member States, notably agriculture and cohesion. The Commission will continue to work to detect errors early, correct those errors where possible and recover money if necessary. We also have a strong commitment to make the EU budget investment even more focused on results for European people, making every euro count."* More on the discharge procedure is available [online](#).

### **Commissioner Thyssen on the European Parliament vote on 29 April on advancing 1 billion euro in pre-financing for the Youth Employment Initiative**

*"I welcome today's vote in the European Parliament on my proposal to make 1 billion euro available for the young unemployed as early as this year. We will increase by up to 30 times the pre-financing Member States receive. This will allow Member States to speed up their efforts to get young people into jobs, apprenticeships, traineeships or continued education. Our goal is to reach up to 650 000 young people and help them better and faster. Getting young people back to work is a top priority for me and the whole European Commission. I am glad that the Parliament has shown its strong support today and has reached agreement on this crucial legislative proposal in record speed. I now look forward to an equally swift adoption by the Council. Our youth cannot wait any longer."* Further information is available online on the [Commission's webpage for Employment](#).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **HRVP Mogherini travels to South Korea and China**

Federica **Mogherini**, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, travels to the [Republic of Korea](#) on 4 May 2015 and the [People's Republic of China](#) on 5-6 May. In Seoul she will meet with President PARK Geun-hye, Foreign Affairs Minister YUN Byung-se and the Minister of National Defence HAN Min-woo. The High Representative and Foreign Affairs Minister YUN Byung-se will also participate in a ceremony to mark Europe Day. The High

Representative then travels to Beijing to co-chair the EU-China High Level Strategic Dialogue with State Councillor Yang Jiechi, on Tuesday 5 May, and to celebrate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the EU and China on 6 May. She will meet with the Minister in charge of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Party, Mr Wang Jiarui, and with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Wang Yi. She will also pay a courtesy call on Premier Li Keqiang. On Wednesday 6 May, the HRVP will meet with business representatives and have an interactive discussion with students at Peking University.

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Find out [here](#) what will be discussed next week in the European Commission, European Council and the European Parliament.

