


 TODAY'S
 News


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European Commission presents a European Agenda on Migration

Today, the European Commission presented a European Agenda on Migration outlining the immediate measures that will be taken in order to respond to the crisis situation in the Mediterranean as well as the steps to be taken in the coming years to better manage migration in all its aspects. First Vice-President **Frans Timmermans** said: *"The tragic loss of life in the Mediterranean has shocked all Europeans. Our citizens expect Member States and European institutions to act to prevent this tragedy from continuing unabated."* High Representative / Vice-President **Federica Mogherini** said: *"With this bold agenda, the European Union has proven itself ready to address the plight of those escaping from wars, persecution and poverty. Migration is a shared responsibility of all Member States and all Member States are called now to contribute to tackling this historical challenge."* Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Commissioner **Dimitris Avramopoulos** said: *"In a spirit of greater solidarity, we are determined to implement a comprehensive approach that will improve significantly the management of migration in Europe."* A [press release](#) and [memo](#) will also be available, together with a [glossary](#), [overview summary](#), and [thematic and country fact sheets](#).

President Juncker to discuss innovation investments and a new scientific advice mechanism at meeting with eminent scientists

President **Juncker** is today hosting a lunch meeting with a group of eminent, internationally awarded scientists. Joined by Vice-President Jyrki **Katainen** and Commissioner Carlos **Moedas**, they will exchange views on how to ensure Europe remains a global centre for excellent science and make sure the Commission benefits from the best science advice in all policy making. In advance of the meeting, President **Juncker** said: *"The thirst for discovery is what has helped move society from the Stone Ages. The world has changed, but for our society to continue advancing and our economy to grow, we need the highest ambition in pursuing knowledge, breakthroughs, innovations. For that to happen, a formidable brain alone doesn't always suffice. We need additional sources of finance and investment for research and innovation. The [Investment Plan for Europe](#) will play a fundamental role in achieving that. Investing in research is a priority for Europe. We are currently in the last miles of negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council to get the [European Fund for Strategic Investments](#) up and running. I am actively working with the co-legislators to make sure that the potential short-term impact on fundamental research - which I know has been a concern in the research community - is minimised."* Today the President has also

endorsed Commissioner **Moedas**' recommendation to set up a mechanism for high quality, timely, independent scientific advice. Commissioner **Moedas** said: *"In combination with the forthcoming proposals on better regulation, the new model for independent scientific advice will contribute to the Commission's continued pursuit of the best possible evidence-based policy. This will be a significant step forward for an effective European Commission that delivers for citizens, and addresses the major societal challenges which Europe faces."* A press release is available [online](#). A press point with Commissioner **Moedas** and Nobel laureates Sir Paul Nurse and Mr Jules Hoffmann will follow the meeting at 14.30h with live broadcast available on [EbS](#).

State aid: Commission approves amendment to Finnish regional aid map 2014-2020

The European Commission has found a modification of the Finnish regional aid map for the period 2014-2020 to be in line with EU state aid rules. In addition to the regions already approved by the Commission [in April 2014](#), the regions of Viitasaari-Pihtipudas and Äänekoski will also become eligible for regional aid under Article 107(3)(c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Finland will be able to grant regional aid for investments in this area from today until 31 December 2020. This was possible because in the Finnish regional aid map for 2014-2020 that was originally approved Finland had not used up all of its population coverage. With this amendment the established population reserve has now been exhausted. More information will be available on the Commission's competition website, in the public case register under case number [SA.41045](#).

EUROSTAT: Industrial production down by 0.3% in euro area

In March 2015 compared with February 2015, seasonally adjusted industrial production fell by 0.3% in the euro area (EA19) and remained stable in the EU28, according to estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In February 2015 industrial production rose by 1.0% and 0.8% respectively. In March 2015 compared with March 2014, industrial production increased by 1.8% in the euro area and by 2.0% in the EU28. The Eurostat press release can be found [here](#).

EUROSTAT: Women in the EU gave birth to their first child at almost 29 years of age on average

In 2013, a majority (51.2%) of women in the European Union (EU) gave birth to their first child when aged in their 20s, while 40.6% became mothers in their 30s. In addition, more than 127 000 births of first children in the EU in 2013 were to women aged less than 20 (teenage mothers) and around 65 500 to women aged 40 and over. On average, women in the EU were 28.7 years old when they became mothers for the first time. Among the 5.1 million births in the EU in 2013, nearly 1 in 5 (or more than 880 000) concerned a third or subsequent child. On the occasion of the International Day of Families on 15 May 2015, Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, publishes a selection of demographic data related to families in the EU. The Eurostat press release can be found [here](#).

EUROSTAT: GDP up by 0.4% in the euro area and the EU28

Seasonally adjusted GDP rose by 0.4% in both the euro area (EA19) and the EU28 during the first quarter of 2015, compared with the previous quarter, according to flash estimates published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In the fourth quarter of 2014, GDP grew by 0.3% in the euro area and by 0.4% in the EU28. Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, seasonally adjusted GDP rose by 1.0% in the euro area and by 1.4% in the EU28 in the first quarter of 2015, after +0.9% and +1.3% respectively in the previous quarter. During the first quarter of 2015, GDP in the United States increased by 0.1% compared with the previous quarter (after +0.5% in the fourth quarter of 2014). Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, GDP grew by 3.0% (after +2.4% in the previous quarter). The press release can be found [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Arias Cañete visits Berlin for discussions on climate cooperation in run up to global deal

Climate Action and Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias **Cañete** will visit Berlin, Germany, from 17-19 May for a series of high-level meetings as political momentum for a new global climate deal gathers pace. On 17 May, the Commission and Norway will host an informal round table discussion on climate change. This will be an opportunity for detailed talks with several partner countries regarding shared priorities. Mary Robinson, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Climate Change and Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), will also participate. On 18-19 May, Commissioner Arias **Cañete** will attend the 6th annual Petersberg climate dialogue, a two-day event that will bring together around 40 ministers to discuss the requirements for a successful outcome in Paris. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President François Hollande will give keynote speeches at the event. Commissioner Arias **Cañete's** visit to Germany will conclude with an informal meeting of G7 climate ministers which will consider the role the group can play in mobilising political support in the build up to the adoption of a new global climate deal.

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

