



TODAYS  
News

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### EU boosts humanitarian aid to Iraq with extra €25 million

The European Commission has just announced an extra €25 million in aid for the victims of the worsening humanitarian crisis in Iraq. This will help the internally displaced people, including those who recently fled the fighting in Ramadi, Anbar governorate, with water, food, sanitation, shelter, medical supplies and health care. With today's increase, the Commission's humanitarian aid for Iraq in 2015 stands at more than €63 million. A press release is available [here](#).

### €1.3 billion EU support to Southern and Eastern Africa and the Indian Ocean

Today, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**, co-signed new regional funding for cooperation with Southern, and Eastern Africa and the Indian Ocean, between now and 2020. The so-called Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) under the [11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund \(EDF\)](#) amounts to a total of more than €1.3 billion. The co-signatories were the Secretaries General and Executive Secretaries of five regional organisations, representing 29 African countries. Commissioner **Mimica** commented: *“The regional organisations are very important partners for the EU in our cooperation with Africa – the fact that our funding to South and East Africa and the Indian Ocean has more than doubled since the last financing period is clear proof of that. We will now be able to launch programmes in key sectors of regional cooperation such as peace and security, economic integration and the management of natural resources.”* A press release is available [online](#).

### 2014 Annual Competition Report: EU competition policy's contribution to the Commission's growth and jobs agenda

The European Commission has today published the 2014 Annual Competition Report, which illustrates the extent to which EU competition policy initiatives and enforcement activities have contributed to the European Commission's growth and jobs agenda. The Report in particular provides concrete examples of how competition policy was used in 2014 to address EU challenges in priority areas such as the Digital Single Market, the Energy Union, financial services, industrial policy and the fight against tax avoidance and evasion. The Foreword to the Report by EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe **Vestager**, the full text and the accompanying staff working document are available [here](#).

## **Commission asks the public on its views regarding the EU's role in shaping international ocean governance**

The international debate on ocean governance is growing as the use of marine resources is increasing globally. Illegal fishing, uncontrolled seabed mining, marine litter are only some of the challenges that need to be addressed through global cooperation. The existing international ocean governance framework can be ineffective in addressing such maritime challenges; notably in the 60 per cent of the oceans that are beyond national jurisdictions. The EU plays a prominent role in this debate. In order to assess the best path for action, the Commission is reaching out to all stakeholders - international organisations, state actors, NGOs, business, the research community, academia and civil society – via an online public consultation. On its launch today at the [World Ocean Summit](#) in Portugal, Commissioner Karmenu Vella, responsible for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries said: "*If our oceans are not healthy, our economy falls ill. Global maritime challenges require global solutions. I am committed to work intensively to define Europe's role in international ocean governance, for a sustainable blue economy and blue growth.*" A [press release](#) and Commissioner Vella's [speech](#) is available.

## **Commission extends transitional period for capital requirements for banks' exposures to central counterparties (CCPs)**

The European Commission has today decided to extend the transitional period for capital requirements for EU banking groups' exposures to central counterparties (CCPs) under the Capital Requirements Regulation ([CRR](#)). The CRR introduced a capital requirement for the exposures of EU banks and their subsidiaries to a CCP. "*The decision will give the market the legal certainty it needs for the next six months,*" said Jonathan Hill, EU Commissioner responsible for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union. The current transitional [period](#) expires on 15 June 2015. Today's decision is available [here](#) and a full press release can be found [here](#).

## **STATEMENTS**

### **President Juncker congratulates Mr Vējonis, newly elected President of the Republic of Latvia**

Mr Raimonds Vējonis was elected yesterday President of the Republic of Latvia, the country currently holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, congratulates him for his election and expresses confidence that "*Lavia will successfully continue the pace of reforms and be among the fastest growing economies in the European Union.*" You can read the full statement [here](#). The President Elect will take office on July 8, 2015.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Vice-President Dombrovskis on European Semester visit to Hungary**

Valdis Dombrovskis, Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, will visit Hungary today to discuss the [European Semester](#) of economic policy coordination. The Vice-President will meet Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, Minister for National Economy, Mihály Varga, and social partners. Vice-President Dombrovskis is visiting Member States as part of the Commission's outreach on the European Semester. It takes place on the basis of the [country-specific recommendations](#) published by the Commission in May. During these visits, the Vice-President engages national authorities and social partners in a constructive discussion on the issues raised in the recommendations. After Hungary, the next country visits will be to Slovenia on 5 June, Spain on 11 June and Portugal on 12 June.

### **Commissioner Avramopoulos is in Lisbon to launch the 20th European Drugs Report and visit the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)**

Today, Commissioner **Avramopoulos** is visiting the [European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#) (EMCDDA) in Lisbon. He will be launching the 2015 European Drugs Report (recorded video will be available [here](#)), which offers a top-level analysis of the latest trends across the 28 EU Member States, Turkey and Norway. A joint [press conference](#) will follow, with EMCDDA's Director, Wolfgang Götz. Commissioner **Avramopoulos** said: *"Anti-drugs policy is an integral part of the European Agenda on Security. This is why close and constant cooperation has to be further developed among relevant European Agencies."* Commissioner **Avramopoulos** will also be visiting the [European Maritime Safety Agency](#) (EMSA) and the Portuguese Parliament. More information on the 2015 European Drugs Report is available [here](#).

### **Commissioner Hogan in EXPO Milan 2015 for a Forum of Agriculture Ministers**

Phil **Hogan**, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, is today and tomorrow (4-5 June 2015) visiting for the first time the EXPO 2015 Universal Exhibition in Milan centred on the theme of global food and nutrition challenges ("Feeding the planet, energy for life"). He will be participating in a Forum gathering the Agriculture Ministers from more than 100 countries participating in the event. The Forum, entitled 'From Expo Milan 2015 and beyond: agriculture to feed the world', will hold discussions around three themes linking agriculture to food and development, food and culture, and food security. On the sides of the forum, Commissioner **Hogan** will also hold bilateral meetings with the Agriculture Ministers of different countries, including South Korea, New Zealand, Mexico and Italy. *"As EU Commissioner for Agriculture, my priority is to ensure that high quality, safe and sustainable food is available to populations of Europe and the world"*, said Commissioner **Hogan** in [a video message](#) recorded at the occasion of the opening of EXPO 2015. More information on the EU presence and events at the EXPO is available [here](#).

### **Commissioner Jourová on official visit to The Hague**

Věra **Jourová** will visit The Hague today and Friday. The Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender equality will meet Mr Ard van der Steur, Minister of Security and Justice, Ms Jet Bussemaker, Minister of Education, Culture and Science, and Mr Dijkhoff, State Secretary of Security and Justice and Minister for Immigration, to discuss ongoing files and prepare for the Dutch presidency. She will open the European Networks of Councils for the Judiciary's General Assembly and participate in an exchange of view with the Justice and Security Committee of the House of Representatives. On Friday, the Commissioner will visit Eurojust, where she will meet the agency's president, Michèle Coninx. She will then speak at the Consultative Forum for Prosecutors General and finally meet Mr Ola Løfgren, Secretary to the European Judicial Network.

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

