



TODAYS
News

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EU increases investment and business cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean

Today the European Commission has announced €118 million of new support for Latin America and the Caribbean, to increase EU investment and business cooperation in the region. The announcement was made at [the Business Summit](#) of the EU and the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC), hosted by Commissioners Neven **Mimica** and Elżbieta **Bieńkowska**. Commissioner **Mimica**, responsible for International Cooperation and Development said: *"Today's event is an opportunity for businesses from both sides of the Atlantic to come together, share ideas and strengthen ties. The new programmes signed today will help to further strengthen inclusive growth for European and Latin American societies."* Commissioner **Bieńkowska**, responsible for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs said: *"Business creates the jobs and growth we need, on both sides of the Atlantic. SMEs have a lot to gain from internationalisation. This event can help build and strengthen partnerships and extend value chains connecting our continents."* [A press release](#) and [a factsheet](#) are available online.

European Commission initials bilateral visa waiver agreements with Peru and Colombia

Today, the European Commission will initial the reciprocal bilateral visa waiver agreements between the EU and Peru and Colombia at 18:45. Commissioner Dimitris **Avramopoulos** will be signing together with Peru's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ana María Liliana Sanchez Vargas de Ríos, and Colombia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, María Ángela Holguín Cuellar. The initialling ceremony, hosted by High-Representative and Vice-President Federica **Mogherini**, will take place in the margins of the EU-CELAC Summit in Brussels, in the presence of the President of Peru, Ollanta Humala **Tasso**, and the President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos **Calderón**. Initialling of international agreements takes place once both sides have agreed on the contents of the agreements. Only once the agreements have been formally signed, they will enter into force and from that date onwards the citizens of the two Latin-American countries will be able to travel without a visa to the EU for stays of up to 90 days (within any 180-day period). Signature of the two agreements will take place once internal procedures are completed, likely by the end of October. The visa-free regime applies to stays in the territories of the EU Member States, except for the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Public consultation on radio spectrum use shows clear support for EU coordination

Today the European Commission publishes the [results of a public consultation](#) on the future use of the Ultra High Frequency band (see the related [Lamy report](#) published in September 2014). This range of radio waves is notably used for television broadcasting and wireless microphones, and would also be well-suited for mobile broadband services in rural areas. As radio waves know no borders and are a scarce resource, defining how to use them at EU level is key. This is the opinion of most stakeholders who replied to the public consultation (around 350 contributions have been received in total). More than 60% of respondents call for EU coordination to reduce fragmentation and to ensure a timely and cost-efficient transition. Stakeholders also ask for a European position at the World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 taking place in November. Vice-President **Ansip**, in charge of the Digital Single Market, and Commissioner **Oettinger**, in charge of the Digital Economy and Society, commented: "*We need a more harmonised framework for spectrum management in Europe. This is a key objective of our Digital Single Market Strategy. Today's results show a clear support for this goal. The more divided spectrum is, the less efficient. More coordination is essential to boost Europe's connectivity and innovation*". As a first step, the Commission will make specific proposals on the coordinated release of the 700 MHz band (see [press release](#) on the Digital Single Market Strategy).

EUROSTAT - Structure of government debt in 2014

In most EU Member States, the largest share of public debt is held by non-residents. Among the Member States for which data are available, Sweden (29% of total government debt has a term below one year) and Bulgaria (21%) registered in 2014 the highest proportions of short-term initial maturities of debt. Italy (15%), Hungary (14%), Portugal (13%) and France (12%) also recorded shares of short-term maturity debt above 10%. At the opposite end of the scale, almost all debt was made up of long-term maturities in Poland, Estonia and Slovakia. This information comes from a [report](#) released by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. It provides detailed information on general government debt in the EU Member States broken down by subsector, financial instrument, debt holder, maturity, currency of issuance as well as government guarantees and other features. A press release is available [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-President Šefčovič discusses climate and energy cooperation with Serbia

Vice-President Maroš **Šefčovič** in charge of Energy Union travels to [Serbia](#) on 10-11 June as part of EU diplomatic outreach in the run-up to the [Paris climate conference](#) in December. He will discuss Serbian action on climate change with Prime Minister Aleksandar **Vučić** and meet with the [Energy Community Treaty Secretariat](#) and other partners to discuss support to Serbia in implementing its energy efficiency and renewable targets under the Treaty. He will also visit the "NIKOLA TESLA" thermos power plant in Obrenovac - a showcase project of EU-Serbia cooperation. On 11 June, Vice-President **Šefčovič** will participate in the EU-Serbia high-level climate conference to talk about the EU's climate and energy policy framework for 2030 and EU expectations for the 2015 climate agreement. The Vice-President will also meet with Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Snezana Bogosavljević Bošković, Minister of Economy Željko Sertić and Minister of Mining and Energy Aleksandar Antić. Vice-President **Šefčovič** said: "*Serbia is making progress on climate policy. Continued efforts are needed to further strengthen climate action and realise the expected co-benefits and synergies with the energy sector. These will include better health due to lower pollution, affordable energy and new jobs in climate-friendly technologies. This work will also move forward Serbia's contribution to the international climate negotiations and the EU accession process. I look forward to working closely on these issues with Serbia*".

Vice-President Dombrovskis on European Semester visit to Spain

Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, will visit Spain tomorrow, to discuss the European Semester of economic policy coordination and reforms underway in the country. The Vice-President will meet Luis de Guindos, Minister for Economy and Competitiveness, Fátima Báñez, Minister

for Employment and Social Security and Cristóbal Montoro, Minister for Finance and Public Administration. He will also have discussions with social partners from the Spanish Economic and Social Committee, and the Governor of the Bank of Spain, Luis María Linde. The Vice-President 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, Vice-President **Dombrovskis** engages national authorities and social partners in a constructive discussion on the issues raised in the recommendations. After Spain, the Vice-President will visit Portugal on 12 June.

Commissioner Thyssen participates in the annual ILO Conference in Geneva

Today and tomorrow Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Labour Mobility and Skills, Marianne **Thyssen**, will participate in the [104th International Labour Conference](#), the highest body of the International Labour Organisation. In her address to the Conference at the World of Work Summit, she will stress the importance of the ILO for decent work, social justice and sustainable development. Commissioner **Thyssen** will also attend an informal ministerial meeting on occupational health and safety in micro and small companies organised by the Latvian Council Presidency and the ILO, stressing the EU's commitment to enhance international cooperation in this field. She will meet with labour ministers from G20 countries and hold bilateral talks with ILO leaders, Ministers from Bangladesh and China as well as international social partners. She will also sign the '50 for Freedom campaign' to end modern slavery, which aims at encouraging 50 countries to ratify by 2018 the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention. The ILC, the ILO's supreme body formed by tripartite delegations from 185 countries, is expected to adopt conclusions on application of international labour standards in the world and at country level, labour protection, SMEs and decent employment creation, as well as a recommendation on transition from the informal to the formal economy.

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

