



TODAYS
News

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College of Commissioners in Luxembourg for the official launch of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union

To mark the inauguration of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union which officially took office on 1 July, President **Juncker** and the College of Commissioners are in Luxembourg today. During the day, Commissioners will meet with their counterparts in the Luxembourgish government to discuss the priorities for the next six months. The meetings will cover three main policy areas: (1) Growth, competitiveness, investment and environmental issues; (2) Economic and Monetary Union, the social dimension and financial issues; and (3) External relations, including development, trade and defence as well as freedom, justice and security. At 12:30 CET there will be a joint press point with President **Juncker** and the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Xavier **Bettel** in the European Convention Centre in Luxembourg. It will be [live streamed](#) and made [available online](#) afterwards via EBS.

Commission calls for stricter enforcement of passenger rights legislation in Europe

As millions of European citizens will be travelling during the summer period, the Commission is today calling for better application and enforcement of EU legislation on passenger rights. In doing so, the Commission is again demonstrating its commitment to put citizens at the heart of its transport policy, as explained by EU Commissioner for Transport Violeta **Bulc** in a new [video message](#). To assist Member States in bridging the enforcement gap, the Commission today adopted interpretative guidelines clarifying the existing rules applicable to the rail sector. Commissioner Violeta **Bulc** also invited the Council to move forward with the discussions on a new Regulation on the rights of passengers travelling by air. A press release is available in [here](#).

Investment Plan for Europe: New financing agreement to support innovative companies in Luxembourg

The European Investment Fund (EIF) and Banque Internationale of Luxembourg SA (BIL) today signed an agreement to increase lending to innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as well as small mid-caps in Luxembourg. This is the first transaction in Luxembourg to benefit from the support of the [European Fund for Strategic Investments](#) (EFSI). The new agreement allows BIL to provide €60 million of finance to innovative companies in Luxembourg over the next two years. The loans will be backed by a guarantee of the EIF, enabled by the [InnovFin](#) initiative with financial backing from [Horizon 2020](#), the EU's

research and innovation funding programme. Speaking at the high-level signing event in Luxembourg, Commission Vice-President Jyrki **Katainen**, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, said: *"Today is a very important day for innovative companies in Luxembourg. This deal will allow start-ups to turn their ideas into reality, to provide more jobs and to help create growth in Europe. I wish the Banque Internationale of Luxembourg every success and thank the European Investment Fund for the role they are playing in implementing the Investment Plan for Europe"*. Carlos **Moedas**, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, added: *"Thanks to EFSI and the work of local intermediaries, Horizon 2020 financing can flow more quickly to SMEs and start-ups, which is one of the key objectives of the Investment Plan."* A press release is available [here](#)

Adoption of the Rural Development Programme of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

The European Commission adopted the [Rural Development Programme \(RDP\) of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg](#) for an amount of € 368 million of public funds available for the period 2014-2020, € 100.6 million of the budget of the European Union. The RDP of Luxembourg attaches great importance to the environmental aspect (biodiversity, water and soil management, reduction of greenhouse gases) and to the competitiveness of the agricultural sector by supporting innovation. Young farmers also receive special aid for first installation. Phil Hogan, Commissioner for Agriculture, today commented on the adoption of the Luxembourg program: "I welcome the emphasis in this program on actions related to the restoration, preservation and enhancement of ecosystems. It is indeed important in a country with over 80% of its territory classified as rural. I have every confidence that the new PDR will allow rural areas to prosper and contribute to the objectives of rural development policy the EU. " This decision brings the total to 56 RDP adopted an EU contribution of € 62.9 billion (of a total of 118 programs with a budget of € 99.6 billion). The Commission also adopted this week the French National Framework, and Molise regions of the programs (Italy) and Murcia (Spain).

Mergers: Commission clears Mitsui's acquisition of a stake in GRI

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of joint control over Gonvarri Eólica, S.L. and its subsidiaries -which trade under the name Gestamp Renewable Industries ("GRI") of Spain by Mitsui & Co., Ltd. ("Mitsui") of Japan, together with Holding Gonvarri, S.L. ("Holding Gonvarri") of Spain. GRI manufactures metal components for wind turbines, in particular wind towers and flanges. GRI is currently solely controlled by Holding Gonvarri. Mitsui is a global trading company. The Commission concluded that the proposed transaction would raise no competition concerns because it does not alter the market structure. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.7634](#).

EUROSTAT: Volume of retail trade up by 0.2% in euro area

In May 2015 compared with April 2015, the seasonally adjusted volume of retail trade rose by 0.2% in the euro area (EA19) and by 0.3% in the EU28, according to estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In April retail trade increased by 0.7% and 0.6% respectively. In May 2015 compared with May 2014 the retail sales index increased by 2.4% in the euro area and by 3.0% in the EU28. A press release is available [here](#).

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

