



TODAYS  
News

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### **Commission offers €9 million emergency funding under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund for Austria and Hungary**

Yesterday, Austria received €5 million under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), following a request made at the end of July, to increase the reception capacity for a total of 1.270 newly arrived asylum seekers, as well as to increase the administrative capacity to deal with increased asylum claims. Commissioner **Avramopoulos** was in Vienna and Traiskirchen yesterday, where he [said](#): *"The refugee crisis is not somewhere far away. It is happening right in front of us. It's knocking on the door of one EU Member State after the other. No Member State in the EU can address this issue alone. We can only overcome this crisis if we act as a true Union; if we act with responsibility and solidarity."* Today, the Commission has allocated €4 million in emergency assistance under AMIF to Hungary, following a request made by the country in mid-August. In response to the increased migratory flows to Hungary, the funding will be used to improve the infrastructure of existing reception facilities as well as develop new ones, to purchase further equipment and supplies for reception centres, as well as to expand human resources and increase transport capacities in the country. Commissioner **Avramopoulos** was in Budapest at the end of June, and is planning to visit Budapest again by the end of the month.

### **€60 million of EU funds to boost cooperation between Hungary and Croatia**

Yesterday evening the Commission adopted the 2014-2020 cross border cooperation programme between Hungary and Croatia. With a total budget of €73.9 million, with €60.8 million from the [European Regional Development Fund](#), the programme aims to strengthen economic ties between the two countries, to support local SMEs and to preserve the region's environment. Corina **Crețu**, Commissioner for Regional Policy said: *"This programme will directly benefit the people living in the Hungarian and Croatian border regions. Our cross border programmes tangibly show the EU's added value, by bringing together communities and helping them find joint solutions to common problems. Thanks to this cross border programme, increased cooperation will bring many opportunities to both Hungarian and Croatian citizens, especially in terms of job creation, economic growth and improved quality of life."* This programme is an [Interreg programme](#); the fifth programming period of Interreg for 2014-2020 has a budget of €10.1 billion, invested in over 100 cooperation programmes. The descriptions of the 2014-2020 programmes are available on [Commissioner Crețu's webpage](#) and on the [Info regio website](#).

### **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of AOR by ADM in seed oil sector**

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of AOR NV and AOR Plastics NV of Belgium ("AOR") by Archer-Daniels-Midland UK of the United Kingdom, controlled by Archer-Daniels-Midland Corporation of the United States ("ADM"). AOR is active in the packaging of refined seed oils and supplies retail and foodservice customers. ADM is a global agricultural company active in the production and sale of both, bulk and packed refined seed oil. ADM distributes its packed oils to retail customers through its joint venture Edible Oils Limited which has an exclusive distribution agreement with Princes Limited. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, because of the moderate increment in market shares brought about by the transaction, the presence of a number of strong market players and the overall level of overcapacity in the market. The transaction was examined under the normal merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.7625](#).

### **State aid: Commission publishes Member State reports to make state support for the provision of public services more transparent**

The European Commission has today [published Member States' reports](#) on compliance with the rules on State aid for the provision of services of general economic interest (SGEI) in 2012-2014. The reports allow citizens to see which sectors have received State support to compensate for the cost of carrying out public services, and the conditions on which it has been received, according to Member States. [EU state aid rules on public service compensation](#), adopted in 2011, allow the compensation of companies through State aid for the extra cost of providing a public service, subject to certain conditions. In particular, the rules allow State support for the provision of public services whilst at the same time making sure that companies entrusted with such services do not get overcompensated. This ensures an efficient use of public resources and that distortions of competition are minimised. Today's publication of the reports is part of the Commission's efforts to implement its [State Aid Modernisation \(SAM\) initiative](#) and [to make more transparent where public money goes](#).

### **EUROSTAT: GDP up by 0.4% in both euro area and EU28**

Seasonally adjusted GDP rose by 0.4% in both the euro area (EA19) and the EU28 during the second quarter of 2015, compared with the previous quarter, according to a second estimate published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In the first quarter of 2015, GDP grew by 0.5% in both areas. A EUROSTAT press release is available [here](#).



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

