



TODAYS
News

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EU's Civil Protection Mechanism helps Serbia cope with refugee influx

Serbia has activated the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism to benefit from material support to help cope with the influx of refugees and asylum seekers in the country. The European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) is working closely with the Serbian authorities and the other participating states in the Mechanism to coordinate a swift response to the request. Serbia has requested material support for beds, mattresses, hygiene items, vehicles, fuel and food. *"I call upon EU member states to show solidarity towards Serbia at this time of need. We are in close contact with the authorities in Belgrade to help coordinate the swift delivery of material support offered by participating states,"* said EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos **Stylianides**. A factsheet on the Civil Protection Mechanism is available [here](#).

The EU invests €5.5 million in 20 projects to boost secure and efficient online services across Europe

The Commission has announced today the projects that will receive EU support to ensure better electronic identification (eID) services across Europe. The selection follows a call for proposals under the [Connecting Europe Facility \(CEF\)](#) programme in the sector of telecommunications. EU funding will help Member States with the roll-out of technical infrastructure to create interoperable, pan-European eID services. As a result, there will be fewer burdens on citizens, public administrations and businesses: they will be able to access efficient and secure online services. With eID, many more activities can be done easily online without losing time and money: no endless queues to get a stamp or countless paper forms to fill in. eID also makes e-commerce transactions safer. Boosting trust in e-services and ensuring that different systems can "talk" to each other across borders are part of the [Digital Single Market Strategy](#) presented by the Commission in May. More details – including the list of beneficiaries – can be found [here](#).

New framework for action on gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide through EU external relations

A [new framework for the EU's activities on gender equality and women's empowerment in EU's external relations for the 2016-2020 period](#) was adopted today by the European Commission and the EEAS. Its aim is to support partner countries, especially in developing, enlargement and neighbouring countries, to achieve tangible results towards gender equality which is at the core of European values, as well as the new Sustainable Development Goals to be formally adopted this week. EU High Representative / Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** said: *"With this new framework the EU takes forward working for gender equality in all its external actions. Women's rights are human rights and human rights are women's*

rights. We want to provide our partners with the effective support they need in order to fight violence against women and girls and at the same time to empower them socially and economically, so that women can participate actively in the political, social and cultural life of their countries." EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**, said: "It is my firm conviction that our new approach will not bring only words but concrete actions and results. It will be translated into real improvements in the livelihoods of women and girls in third countries – where progress needs to be accelerated if we are to transform our world and unlock a development that is really sustainable." A [press release](#) and [memo](#) are available online.

State aid: Commission approves aid for Finland's first LNG terminal

The European Commission has concluded that Finland's plans to grant €23 million of public funding for the construction of a small scale LNG terminal at Pori, in the Satakunta region on Finland's west coast, are compatible with EU state aid rules. The project aims to encourage the use of LNG as fuel for ships, in place of fuel oils and liquefied petroleum gases. The Commission concluded that the project contributes to environmental protection and to the security of gas supply in Finland whilst maintaining competition in the Single Market. Seeking to end the energy isolation of the Baltic Sea Region and to integrate it fully into the EU energy markets is a key building block for the EU's Energy Union strategy and one of the key priorities of the Juncker Commission. EU Commissioner in charge of competition policy Margrethe **Vestager** said: "The LNG terminal in Pori is the first of its kind in Finland. It will provide a new source of cleaner fuel for the maritime industry and diversify Finland's gas supply sources. It is a good example of how EU state aid rules can encourage sound public investment that helps the EU reach its goals on energy security and environmental protection." A full press release is available online in [here](#).

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Moy Park by JBS

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of Moy Park (Holdings) Europe Limited of the United Kingdom by JBS S.A. of Brazil. JBS is a meat producer with activities in various countries. Moy Park is a supplier of fresh and processed poultry meat active particularly in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because of the parties' limited market shares and the small market share increments brought by the transaction. Numerous alternative suppliers will also continue to be active in the markets concerned by the transaction. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.7732](#).

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of TriStyle by investment firm Equistone

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of TriStyle Mode GmbH of Germany by Equistone Partners Europe Ltd. (together with its portfolio companies "Equistone") of the United Kingdom. Equistone, headquartered in London, is an independent investment firm that invests mainly in medium-sized companies, with a portfolio spanning a number of industries. TriStyle is a Munich-based multi-channel clothing and footwear retailer, with a focus on high quality women's apparel sold mainly in Germany under the domains "Peter Hahn" and "Madeleine". The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, because the parties are not active in the same markets. The Commission also took into account that one of Equistone's portfolio companies supplies shoes at wholesale level. Nevertheless, the impact of the transaction on the market for retail sale of shoes is negligible and numerous alternative suppliers will continue to be active on the market at, both wholesale and retail level. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger procedure. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.7717](#).

STATEMENTS

EU Budget Focused on Results conference takes place today

Today European Commission President Jean-Claude **Juncker** will deliver a keynote speech at the high-level conference "[EU Budget Focused on Results](#)". It will be broadcast live on [EbS](#) from 15:45 CET. In her opening speech earlier today, Vice-President Kristalina **Georgieva**, in charge of budget and human resources, said: "*The budget is there because of the European people – it is their tax money - and it goes back to them: To our farmers, our communities, our researchers, our students, and many more. How we invest the EU budget directly affects their lives. The needs are growing, but the resources are not. So the only way to square the circle of more needs, more demands, and less money, is to improve drastically the effectiveness and efficiency of how we use our money - and that is what the EU Budget Focused on Results is about: what we can do more and what we can do better. Its four key components are: Where we spend; How we spend; How we are assessed; How we communicate.*" The full speech will be made available [here](#). More about the 'EU Budget Focused on Results' initiative is available [here](#). Pictures from the conference are accessible [on EbS](#). You can follow the event online via the following [link](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Malmström in the US

From today until the end of this week, EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia **Malmström** will be in the US for a number of meetings and public appearances. Today, the Commissioner will meet Michael Froman, the US Trade Representative in Washington DC in order to take stock of the ongoing negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) at political level, as they have done so before between rounds. She will also meet Tom Vilsack, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, and Caroline Atkinson, Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs. Her meeting with Richard L. Trumka, the President of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations is scheduled for Wednesday. On Thursday, the Commissioner will be in New York to deliver the [2015 Isaiah Berlin Lecture](#) at Liberal International. Finally, on Friday, she will be speaking to students and faculty members at Columbia University on "TTIP and Beyond: EU Trade Policy in the 21st Century."

Commissioner Oettinger in the United States to meet top tech companies, start-ups and policy makers

Starting today in San Francisco, Günther **Oettinger**, Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society, is on a five-day visit to the USA where he will meet the top management of tech giants such as Facebook, Google, Apple and eBay. He will also meet a delegation of European entrepreneurs from '[Startup Europe Comes to Silicon Valley](#)'. After the West Coast, Commissioner **Oettinger** will head to Washington to meet policy makers and will finally stop in New York to participate in the UN Broadband Commission for Digital Development meeting. Commissioner **Oettinger** will stress the opportunities offered by the European [Digital Single Market](#), presented in May, for both European and non-European companies, and the importance of the global digital economy to remain open. By breaking down national barriers and creating common rules in the EU, the European Commission wants to encourage all companies to develop, invest and make the most out of a market of 500 million potential customers. The full agenda of the Commissioner in the USA can be found [here](#).

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

