



TODAYS
News

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Refugee Crisis: European Commission agrees joint Action Plan with Turkey

Yesterday the European Commission reached an agreement with Turkey on a [Joint Action Plan](#) to step up their cooperation on migration management in a coordinated effort to tackle the refugee crisis. At the European Council last night, Heads of State and Government of the EU's 28 Member States [endorsed](#) the agreement and welcomed the joint Action Plan. The Action Plan identifies a series of collaborative actions to be implemented as a matter of urgency by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey with the aim of confronting common challenges in a concerted manner and supplementing Turkey's efforts in managing the large number of people in need of protection in Turkey. In addition, the European Union – the institutions and its Member States – also committed yesterday to increasing political engagement with Turkey, providing Turkey with significant financial support, accelerating the fulfilment of the visa liberalisation roadmap and re-energising the accession process with Turkey. The agreement negotiated by the Commission, represented by First Vice-President **Timmermans**, is the result of intensive talks with the Turkish authorities, President Erdoğan, the Prime Minister Davutoğlu and the Foreign Minister Sinirlioğlu. For more information, see the [text of the joint Action Plan](#) and European Commission President Jean-Claude **Juncker's presentation to the European Council**.

Better regulation for better safety: adjusting course on EU passenger ship safety legislation

Today the Commission delivered the result of a fitness check (REFIT) of the EU legislation on safety of passenger ships. With almost 400 million passengers passing through EU ports every year, maritime transport plays an important role in the mobility of EU citizens. While the fitness check confirms that the existing legislation performs well, it also shows that the current framework can be simplified. As a follow-up, the Commission therefore envisages to remove outdated, ambiguous or disproportionate requirements. This is in line with the [Better Regulation Agenda](#) adopted by the Commission in May 2015. EU Commissioner for Transport, Violeta **Bulc** stressed that "*Both cutting red tape for business and enhancing the safety of European citizens is at the heart of the Commission's transport policy*". More information is available [here](#).)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of joint control of Zaldivar by Antofagasta and Barrick

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of joint control of Compañía Minera Zaldívar SpA of Chile by Antofagasta PLC of the UK and Barrick Gold Corporation of Canada. Antofagasta operates three copper mines located in Chile. Barrick owns 16 mines of which only two are copper mines and currently holds sole control over Zaldivar. Zaldivar operates the Zaldivar copper mine in Chile. The Commission concluded that the proposed transaction would raise no competition

concerns as the companies' market shares are very low in the markets where their activities overlap. The operation 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.7774](#).

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Sikorsky Aircraft by Lockheed Martin

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of United Technologies Corporation's business unit Sikorsky Aircraft by the security and aerospace company Lockheed Martin, all of the United States. Sikorsky Aircraft is specialised in the manufacturing of military and civil helicopters and the supply of related services. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, because there are no overlaps between the companies' activities. The Commission also assessed the possible effects on competition arising from the relationship between Lockheed's supply of mission systems for military helicopters which can be used in the naval medium-lift military helicopters which Sikorsky produces. However, the Commission found that the position of the two companies is not important enough on these markets to shut out competitors or customers. 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.7774](#).

EUROSTAT: Euro area international trade in goods surplus €11.2 billion

The first estimate for euro area (EA19) exports of goods to the rest of the world in August 2015 was €148.3 billion, an increase of 6% compared with August 2014. Imports from the rest of the world stood at €137.1 billion, a rise of 3% compared with August 2014. As a result, the euro area recorded a €11.2 billion surplus in trade in goods with the rest of the world in August 2015, compared with +€7.4 billion in August 2014. Intra-euro area trade rose to €114.7 billion in August 2015, up by 2% compared with August 2014. A Eurostat press release can be found [here](#).

EUROSTAT: The risk of poverty or social exclusion affected 1 in 4 persons in the EU in 2014

In 2014, 122 million people, or 24.4% of the population, in the European Union were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This means that they were in at least one of the following three conditions: at-risk-of-poverty after social transfers (income poverty), severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity. After a slight decrease in 2013 following three consecutive years of rise, the proportion of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU remains in 2014 nearly stable but higher than its 2008 level (23.8%). The reduction of the number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU is one of the key targets of the Europe 2020 strategy. Commenting on the figures, Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, said: *"Although the economic recovery is strengthening in the EU and slowly translating into the creation of jobs, the EU is still faced with unacceptably high unemployment and poverty. More than 23 million people are unemployed in the EU, 12 million have been so for more than a year, and 122 million people are at risk of poverty. My top priority is addressing this, creating decent jobs and ensuring social fairness. This year we have given an important boost to the youth employment initiative and proposed guidance to the Member States to help Europe's long-term unemployed back to work."* A Eurostat press release can be found [here](#).

EUROSTAT: Annual inflation down to -0.1% in the euro area

Euro area annual inflation was -0.1% in September 2015, down from 0.1% in August. In September 2014 the rate was 0.3%. European Union annual inflation was -0.1% in September 2015, down from 0.0% in August. A year earlier the rate was 0.4%. These figures come from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In September 2015, negative annual rates were observed in seventeen Member States. The lowest annual rates were registered in Cyprus (-1.9%), Romania (-1.5%) and Spain (-1.1%). The highest annual rates were recorded in Malta (1.6%), Belgium, Portugal and Sweden (all 0.9%). Compared with August 2015, annual inflation fell in eighteen Member States, remained stable in four and rose in six. The largest upward impacts to euro area annual inflation came from restaurants & cafés (+0.12 pp), vegetables

(+0.11 pp) and tobacco (+0.08 pp), while fuels for transport (-0.71 pp), heating oil (-0.25 pp) and milk, cheese & eggs (-0.06 pp) had the biggest downward impacts. A Eurostat press release can be found [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Infrastructure that unites": Commissioner Bulc inaugurates first section of Rail Baltica

Today EU Commissioner for Transport Violeta **Bulc** and Lithuania's Prime Minister Algirdas Butkevičius inaugurate in Kaunas the first section of Rail Baltica. Upon completion by 2025, this high-speed railway line will connect the Baltic States to central Europe. One day after [the signature of an agreement on the first gas pipeline connecting Poland and Lithuania](#), this event is another illustration of President **Juncker's** commitment to put "*more union in this union*", notably through "*infrastructure that unites*". The first section, from Kaunas to the Lithuanian-Polish border, will provide a solid basis for further implementation of the overall Rail Baltica project. The EU has a long-standing commitment to this project, which it financially supports through regional and transport funds. Its completion is indeed essential to the creation of a Trans-European transport network and to the accessibility and connectivity of the Baltic region. Commissioner **Bulc** said: "*I am delighted to see that Rail Baltica is becoming a reality. It is European investment and cross-border cooperation at their best. Transport is a key driver for our economy, and Rail Baltica will speed up communication and exchanges, connect people, and enable job creations and growth*".

Launch of the Second Phase of Global Climate Change Alliance

On 29 October 2015, the European Commission will launch the second phase of the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+) during an event in Brussels. The GCCA+ is EU's principal means of delivering climate-related support to developing countries, a partnership of EU countries and developing countries most vulnerable to climate change, coordinated by the European Commission. The event is very timely since in December 2015, global leaders from around the world will gather in Paris during COP21 to reach an agreement tackling one of the most pressing issues of the 21st century. Moreover, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been approved by the UN General Assembly on 25 September in New York. The ambitious and comprehensive outcome document, [Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), together with the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) agreed last July, will guide international development and cooperation for the next fifteen years. The GCCA+ is one of the EU's major contributions to the implementation of this [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) and to the upcoming COP21. The media is invited to attend and follow key note speeches, including the one by EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**. The event is also open to Member States representatives, EU partner countries and civil society organisations. More information about the programme is available [here](#). Media Registration (deadline for registration is 21 October) can also be done [here](#) or by sending an email to: patriciarodriguez@communicationpackage.com.

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

