

TODAYS
News

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A deeper and fairer Single Market: Commission boosts opportunities for citizens and business

Today the European Commission is presenting a roadmap to deliver on President **Juncker**'s [political commitment](#) to unleash the full potential of the Single Market and make it the launch pad for Europe to thrive in the global economy. The Single Market offers opportunities for professionals and businesses and a greater choice and lower prices for consumers. It enables people to travel, live, work and study wherever they wish. But these opportunities do not always materialise, because single market rules are not known, not implemented or simply jeopardised by unjustified barriers. And the Single Market needs to adapt to reflect today's realities: innovative ideas and new business models must find their place too. The Single Market Strategy includes a set of targeted actions that will address current challenges and deliver results for consumers, SMEs and start-ups, innovative services and professionals across Europe. Commission Vice-President Jyrki **Katainen**, responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, and Commissioner Elzbieta **Bieńkowska**, responsible for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, will present the Strategy today at 12:45 CET in the Commission's press room, with [live broadcast on EBS](#). A [press release](#), a [factsheet with questions and answers](#) as well as a [video](#) are available online.

New EU-level rules for monitoring drinking water come into force

The EU is introducing new and more flexible rules to improve the monitoring of drinking water across Europe. Safe and high-quality drinking water is essential for public health and wellbeing. This was clearly voiced by Europe's citizens in their initiative [Right2Water](#). As part of a wider response to this call, the European Commission has amended the [Drinking Water Directive](#) with the aim to make the monitoring of drinking water across some 100 000 supply zones more tailored to the required needs of Member States. This will allow for more focused, risk-based monitoring, while ensuring full protection of public health. It follows the same standards that are used in food hygiene regulation (Hazard analysis and critical control point – HACCP) and the World Health Organisation's water safety plan. Commissioner **Vella** said: "*High-quality, safe drinking water is essential for well-being and public health, so we need to ensure high standards across the Union. This new monitoring and control system allows us to reduce unnecessary analyses and concentrate on controls that really matter.*" Member States have two years to apply the provisions of this new legislation. The Commission is meanwhile evaluating the current [EU legislation on the quality of drinking water](#). A press release is available [here](#).

France and the United Kingdom: over €223 million of EU funds for cross-border initiatives

The Commission adopted yesterday the new [interregional programme](#) ("Interreg") "Manche-Channel" between France and the United Kingdom, worth over €315 million, with €223 million coming from the [European Regional Development Fund](#). Commissioner for Regional Policy Corina Crețu said: "*Our cross-border programmes are one of the most tangible examples of the EU's work to help citizens address common challenges with shared resources. The programme adopted today will allow the regions on either side of the Channel to work together in the promotion of smart and sustainable growth. We expect nearly 24 million people in these regions to benefit from the projects funded on the back of today's decision.*" This programme will support innovation and the low carbon economy in regions bordering the Channel. It will also promote the regions' natural and cultural assets and foster cross-border initiatives to enhance and protect the regions' shared water ecosystems. The descriptions of the 2014-2020 programmes are available on [Commissioner Crețu's webpage](#) and on the [InfoREGIO website](#).

Eurostat: Household real income per capita nearly stable in both euro area and EU28

In the euro area, in real terms, household income per capita increased by 0.1% in the second quarter of 2015, after an increase of 0.9% in the previous quarter. Household real consumption per capita was stable in the second quarter of 2015, after an increase of 0.8% in the first quarter of 2015. A Eurostat press release is available [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Three new Deputy Secretaries-General for the Juncker Commission

The European Commission has decided to appoint Ilze Juhansone (as of 16 November 2015), Paraskevi Michou and Jean-Eric Paquet (both as of 1 November 2015) as Deputy Secretaries-General. Together with the nomination of Alexander Italianer as Secretary-General as of 1 September 2015, these appointments ensure a strong and diverse leadership team at the helm of the Secretariat-General. Presenting the decision, President Jean-Claude **Juncker** said: "*The Secretariat-General plays a pivotal role in the newly organised political Commission – which is all about delivery and team-work. Together with Alexander Italianer, there is now an exceptionally strong team with broad experience in all key EU policy areas in place. I very much look forward to working with them closely.*" For more information, check the press release [here](#).

Vice-President Kristalina Georgieva on an official visit to the United Kingdom

European Commission Vice-President Kristalina **Georgieva** is on an official visit to the United Kingdom on 29 and 30 October to discuss the EU budget and the optimal use of EU resources to tackle the most pressing political challenges. In London she will meet with Mr George Osborne, First Secretary of State and Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr David Lidington, Minister of State for Europe, and Ms Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development. She will also have meetings with representatives of the European Scrutiny Committee of the House of Commons and of the European Union Committee of the House of Lords. Vice-President **Georgieva** will also visit an EU-funded project at the British Library and take part in a meeting of UN High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing, which she is co-chairing. More information 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.

