



TODAYS
News

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European Commission to strengthen cooperation on migration and economic development with African partners at Valletta Summit

On 11-12 November, President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude **Juncker**, EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission, Federica **Mogherini**, and Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**, will be representing the EU, together with President Tusk at the [Valletta Summit on Migration](#) in Malta. This Summit will bring together European and African Heads of State and Government in an effort to strengthen cooperation in the area of migration and address the current challenges and opportunities. A large number of international and regional organisations, such as the African Union Commission, the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, the UN, the UN's Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), have also been invited to participate. On Thursday 12 November, President **Juncker** is also expected to sign the [EU's Emergency Trust Fund for Africa](#), one of the tools set up to urgently respond to the current refugee crisis. This Trust Fund will receive €1.8 billion of funding from the European Commission, complemented with funding from a number of EU Member States and other donors. A factsheet on the EU's cooperation with Africa is available [here](#). Further press material will be made available during the Summit. The concluding press conference will take place on 12 November at 13:30 and will be [live streamed on EbS](#).

European Commission awards €16.43 million in emergency funding to Croatia to manage the high influx of migrants in the country

The European Commission has awarded an amount of €16.43 million in emergency funding to Croatia to support the country in managing the high influx of migrants and improve the situation on the ground. The funding comes from the Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa (ISF) and from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) which make available €3.99 million and €12.43 million respectively. Welcoming this decision, Commissioner **Avramopoulos**, in charge of Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, said: *"With this decision, we continue to show our support to EU countries confronted with increasing asylum and migratory pressure. We are making €16.43 million available to the Croatian authorities to improve border management and deal with the high influx of third country nationals."* The funding will be used to finance measures, taken since 16 September, to increase the presence of police staff at the Croatian-Serbian border to improve management, as well as to improve conditions in temporary accommodation centres. A press release can be found [here](#).

Ahead of the Justice and Home Affairs Council

Commissioner for Home Affairs, Migration and Citizenship Dimitris **Avramopoulos** will represent the European Commission at the Justice and Home Affairs Council, taking place this afternoon in Brussels, to discuss, amongst others, the state of play of the implementation and follow-up of the extensive measures taken to address the migration and refugee crisis and the follow up of the Western Balkan Leaders' Summit which took place on 25 October. Commenting ahead of the meeting, Commissioner **Avramopoulos** said: *"Today's meeting with Home Affairs Ministers will be a crucial moment to assess the current state of play. Member States have already made clear political commitments on border management, relocation and humanitarian aid. It is now time for them to accelerate the work to make these promises a reality on the ground. We need assets and human resources in the hotspots in Greece and Italy as well as at other external borders, we need to increase reception capacities, we need to see more relocations from Greece and Italy as a matter of urgency, and we need to step up the pace of return operations. Now is the time for delivery on all fronts."* The press conference can be followed [here](#).

Preparation of Economic and Finance Ministers Council (ECOFIN)

On 10 November in Brussels, Vice-President **Dombrovskis**, Commissioner **Moscovici** and Commissioner **Hill** will participate in the EU's Council of Economic and Finance Ministers, which will be followed by a press conference, transmitted [by EbS](#). Ministers are due to adopt conclusions on the [Capital Markets Union Action Plan](#) that the Commission presented on 30 September. The EU and its Member States have committed to scaling up the mobilisation of climate finance ahead of the COP21 which will be held in Paris in December. The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on how Member States can contribute their share of the developed countries' goal to jointly mobilise USD 100 billion per year by 2020. Furthermore, the Council is expected to have a first exchange of views on the European Commission's [package](#) of measures to begin implementing the ambitious plan to deepen Europe's Economic and Monetary Union, following the Report of the Five Presidents, published in June. During the meeting, Ministers will also take stock of the implementation of the Banking Union. The Commission will reiterate its call on Member States to live up to their commitments in order to fully implement the regulatory framework. Discussions on bridge financing for the Single Resolution Fund will also rank high on the meeting agenda, while Ministers are also due to agree on the Commission's [March proposal](#) to repeal the EU's directive on the taxation of savings income. Finally, Ministers will be updated on the October G20 meetings in Lima. Vice-President **Dombrovskis** will also participate in the Ministerial dialogue with the EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries, which will precede the ECOFIN meeting.

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Towers Watson by Willis

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of Towers Watson & Co. of the US by Willis Group Holdings plc of Ireland. Willis is a global provider of insurance brokerage and risk management consulting services. Towers Watson provides technology and services in several areas, including talent management and rewards, risk management and financial services. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, because of the combined entity's moderate market position and the presence of strong competitors. 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.7729](#).

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Chubb by ACE

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of The Chubb Corporation of the US by ACE Limited of Switzerland. ACE is a global property and casualty insurance and reinsurance group providing its services to customers worldwide. Chubb also provides insurance and reinsurance, as well as ancillary services. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because of the combined entity's moderate market position and the presence of other competitors. 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.7752](#).

Mergers: Commission clears joint venture between Marubeni-Itochu, Itochu Corporation and Sumitomo Corporation in steel civil engineering products

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the creation of a joint venture by Marubeni-Itochu Steel Inc. ("MISI"), Itochu Corporation and Sumitomo Corporation, all of Japan. MISI is a fully owned subsidiary of Marubeni Corporation and Itochu Corporation, two conglomerates, which produce a broad range of products, including food, textiles, chemicals, energy and metal. Sumitomo Corporation is a conglomerate producing products and services in a wide range of sectors, including metal products, transportation and construction systems and infrastructure. The joint venture will produce and distribute steel civil engineering products, steel construction products and other steel construction material outside of the European Economic Area (EEA). The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because the joint venture will have no or negligible activities within the EEA. 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.7781](#).

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of joint control over four Coca-Cola bottlers by The Coca-Cola Company and COBEGA

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of joint control over Coca-Cola European Partners Plc. ('CCEP') of the UK by The Coca-Cola Company ('TCCC') of the US and Cobega, S.A. of Spain. TCCC is a brand owner, trademark licensor and producer of soft drink concentrates, syrups, fountain soft drink syrup and finished beverages. It sells its products to bottlers. Cobega is active in bottling and distributing beverages. CCEP will bring together four existing Coca-Cola bottlers active in Germany, Belgium, France, United Kingdom, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Andorra and Iceland. TCCC already controls one of the four bottlers, Coca-Cola Erfrischungsgetränke AG. Cobega already controls two of the bottlers, Coca-Cola Iberian Partners S.A. and Vífilfell. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition raises no competition concerns, as the activities of the bottlers do not overlap geographically and customers currently using the Coca-Cola bottlers would continue to have sufficient alternative choices. 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.7763](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-President Ansip in Brazil to participate in key discussions on internet governance

The internet knows no borders: cooperation at global level is essential to ensure that the internet works well and that its benefits can be shared by everyone. This is why Vice-President **Ansip**, in charge of the [Digital](#)

[Single Market](#), takes part today and tomorrow in the [10th Internet Governance Forum](#) (IGF) in Joao Pessoa, Brazil. This forum was set up ten years ago by the UN World Summit on Information Society in order to progress towards a more inclusive internet governance, involving a wide range of stakeholders. Vice-President Ansip will highlight the European support for the multi-stakeholder IGF and how global governance of the internet could be further improved to be even more transparent and sustainable. He will speak at the official [opening ceremony of the event](#) tomorrow: *"To me, internet governance is about making sure the internet remains a global, open and free space. A space where people enjoy the same rights as they do offline, and have the same degree of protection. Internet governance is essential to the world as a whole. It is about ensuring a safe internet, one that people can trust."* (The full speech will be available [here](#)). A wide range of issues will be discussed during this four-day event, from cybersecurity and trust to diversity and human rights. The Commission will present its initiative (the Global Internet Policy Observatory or [GIPO](#)) to expand access and information on internet governance to ever more partners and in particular to representatives of civil society and developing countries.

Vice-President Šefčovič in Denmark for Energy Union Tour and the first EU Energy Infrastructure Forum

Vice-President for the Energy Union Maroš **Šefčovič** visits Denmark on 10 November as part of his [Energy Union Tour](#). He will meet i.a. with Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen and Energy Minister Lars Christian Lilleholt. Vice-President **Šefčovič** said: *"Denmark is undoubtedly doing well on all five dimensions of the Energy Union, yet, it can benefit greatly from exporting and integrating Danish "cleantech" across the region and the entire EU. Visiting Copenhagen will be an opportunity to discuss regional integration, further decarbonisation of the transport and investments in energy efficiency"*. Vice-President **Šefčovič** will also participate in the first [EU Energy Infrastructure Forum](#) in Copenhagen hosted by Denmark. The Forum gives momentum to the development of trans-European energy infrastructure by raising political attention and building consensus among Member States, project promoters and relevant stakeholders. Vice-President **Šefčovič** said: *"The Juncker Commission has promised to be big on big things and to focus on matters which have a significant impact on the lives of European citizens. The [Energy Union](#) is one of them. What we need now is free movement of energy. It is therefore essential that we have the right infrastructure in place"*. The new Energy Infrastructure Forum, set to take place annually, is a key action of the EU Energy Union Strategy launched in February 2015. The conference will be [LIVE web streamed](#). Follow the Energy Union Tour on the Vice President's [blog](#), as well as on his [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts. Find more information on the Commission's website of the [Energy Union](#).

Commissioners Moedas and Hogan to call for more investments into the bioeconomy

Today, Commissioners Carlos **Moedas**, responsible for Research, Science and Innovation and Phil **Hogan**, responsible for Agriculture delivered keynote speeches at the Bioeconomy Forum in Brussels which addresses the need to strengthen the transition from a fossil-based to a bio-based economy in Europe. They have highlighted the Commission's already leading global role in sustainably managing and exploiting our biological resources but pointed out that moving forward requires mobilising further investments. First and foremost, this means strengthening Europe's research and innovation capacity and increase public private investments like those already supported through the Biobased Industries Joint Undertaking and other projects funded by Horizon 2020. Further funding opportunities to invest into the bioeconomy are also available through the European Fund for Strategic Investments and the Capital Markets Union. The Commissioners have also stressed their commitment to work across policy areas both to ensure the conditions to stimulate such investments and work closely with Member States and other relevant organisations to develop national Bioeconomy Strategies. Click here for [more information](#) and webstreaming of the [event](#).

Commissioner Navracsics to speak of "Union of Shared Values" at the Jean Monnet conference

Today, Commissioner Tibor **Navracsics**, in charge of Education, Training, Youth and Sport, will address the opening of the [Jean Monnet Conference](#) where he will reaffirm the central role of Europe's higher education institutions in safeguarding Europe's fundamental values. This year's event is devoted to strengthening civic education across Europe and promoting values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination in education. Commissioner **Navracsics** is expected to say: *"In the face of common challenges like high youth unemployment, increased diversity of classrooms and the rising risk of youth radicalisation, European universities must set an example in promoting tolerance, solidarity, non-discrimination. We want to better support higher education institutions in reaching out to the communities around them and involve teachers, parents and the broader society in sharing these fundamental values."* This annual Commission conference gathers professors and researchers specialised in European Union studies from across the world to discuss politically salient issues with EU decision makers. This year, the event also represents an important follow-up of the commitments agreed by European ministers and Commissioner **Navracsics** in the [declaration](#) following attacks in Paris and Copenhagen earlier in the year. It is also part of the Commission's broader efforts to foster intercultural dialogue, prevent social exclusion and tackle radicalisation. Commissioner **Navracsics**'s speech will be web-streamed [here](#) at 14:30.

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

