



Wednesday, 11 May, 2016

### Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete in London and Dublin

Climate Action and Energy Commissioner Miguel **Arias Cañete** will be visiting London on Thursday 12 May, and Dublin on Friday 13 May. In London, the Commissioner will be meeting with UK's Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Rt Hon Amber Rudd, and in Dublin he will meet with Mr Enda Kenny, Ireland's Taoiseach (Prime Minister), Mr Denis Naughten, Minister for Communications, Climate Change and Natural Resources, Mr Michael Creed, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and Mr Shane Ross, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport. The main purpose of the visits is to discuss emissions targets for the sectors not included in the Emissions Trading System (ETS) in view of the upcoming Effort Sharing Decision proposal, which is the next step in delivering on the EU's target to reduce emissions by at least 40% by 2030, as agreed in October 2014. Steps for a swift ratification and further implementation of the recently signed Paris Agreement on climate change will also be part of the agenda.

### Mergers: Commission prohibits Hutchison's proposed acquisition of Telefónica UK

The Commission has blocked the proposed acquisition of O2 by Hutchison under the EU Merger Regulation. It had strong concerns that UK mobile customers would have had less choice and paid higher prices as a result of the takeover, and that the deal would have harmed innovation in the mobile sector. Today's decision follows [an in-depth investigation](#) by the Commission of the deal, which would have combined Telefónica UK's "O2" and Hutchison 3G UK's "Three", creating a new market leader in the UK mobile market. The takeover would have removed an important competitor, leaving only two mobile network operators, Vodafone and BT's EE, to challenge the merged entity. The significantly reduced competition in the market would likely have resulted in higher prices for mobile services in the UK and less choice for consumers than without the deal. The takeover would also likely have had a negative impact on quality of service for UK consumers by hampering the development of mobile network infrastructure in the UK. Finally, the takeover would have reduced the number of mobile network operators willing to host other mobile operators on their networks. The remedies proposed by Hutchison failed to adequately address the serious concerns raised by the takeover. Commissioner Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy, said: "*We want the mobile telecoms sector to be competitive, so that consumers can enjoy innovative mobile services at fair prices and high network quality. The goal of EU merger control is to ensure that tie-ups do not weaken competition at the expense of consumers and businesses. Allowing Hutchison to takeover O2 at the terms they proposed would have been bad for UK consumers and bad for the UK mobile sector. We had strong concerns that consumers would have had*

*less choice finding a mobile package that suits their needs and paid more than without the deal. It would also have hampered innovation and the development of network infrastructure in the UK, which is a serious concern especially for fast moving markets. The remedies offered by Hutchison were not sufficient to prevent this."* A press release is available online in [here](#) as well as a Factsheet in [here](#),

## **Commission makes justice decisions more accessible to citizens, businesses and law professionals**

As part of continuous efforts to make justice more accessible, the European Commission has today launched a new case law search engine on the European [e-Justice Portal](#). Since 2010, this Portal guides citizens, businesses and law professionals through justice procedures both at EU and national level. For instance, the portal helps them find a lawyer or understand how they can access to courts in any Member State. The [European Case Law Identifier](#) (ECLI) search engine will now allow citizens, businesses, legal practitioners and academics to find information on case law published by national and international courts and tribunals more easily. By having easy access to previous cases, they will be able to see how similar situations were treated on previous occasions and use this information for their own cases. The search engine provides access to around 4 million case law decisions from the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Patent Office, and 7 Member States: France, Spain, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Germany, the Czech Republic and Finland. The search engine is available in all official EU languages except Irish and users will be able to search by keywords, country, court and date of decision among other things. More information on the European Case Law Identifier search engine is available [online](#).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Commissioner Johannes Hahn visits Algeria**

Johannes **Hahn**, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, will visit Algiers today and tomorrow for an official visit. The Commissioner will meet key interlocutors including Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ramtane Lamambra, Minister of Interior and Local Communities Nouredine Bedoui, Minister of Industry and Mines Abdessalem Bouchouareb, Minister of Work, Employment and Social Security Mohamed El Ghazi as well as civil society representatives. The aim of the mission will be to launch a discussion on common partnership priorities, in terms of the revised European Neighbourhood Policy Communication. Ahead of the visit Commissioner **Hahn** said: *"I am very much looking forward to my first visit to [Algeria](#) as Neighbourhood Commissioner. This visit to a key partner of the EU will allow me to discuss with Prime Minister Sellal and his colleagues the priorities of our partnership in the context of the recently revised European Neighbourhood Policy. It will also be an opportunity to discuss how the EU could play a role in Algeria's efforts to diversify its economy "*. Videos and photos of the visit will be available on [EbS](#).

### **European Commission: new Directors in Secretariat General, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations**

The European Commission has decided to appoint Tatjana Verrier to the position of Director "Resources" in its Secretariat-General (SG) and Ms Genoveva Ruiz Calavera to the position of Director "Western Balkans" in its department for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), both as of 1 June. Ms Verrier, a Latvian national, comes from a Head of Unit position in the Commission's Competition department, which she joined in 2008. This was her first permanent assignment in the Commission, following three years as a member to an advisory group providing expertise to the European Commission in the area of financial services. Ms Verrier also has extensive private sector experience, including six years with Deutsche Börse Group AG. Ms Ruiz Calavera, a Spanish national, has been

working in the area of external relations and neighbourhood policy for nearly two decades, serving in the European Commission Taskforce for the Reconstruction of Kosovo and the departments for neighbourhood policy, external relations and the Foreign Policy Advisers. She has extensive management experience, having first been appointed to a Head of Unit job in 2006. She joined the Commission in 1992 and first worked in the area of taxation and customs, after nearly a decade in the private sector in Spain.

## Upcoming events

**[26-27 May: The EU at the G7 summit in Japan](#)** European Commission - Upcoming events The news: The 42nd edition of the G7 will take place from 26 to 27 May in Ise-Shima, in the Mie Prefecture (Japan), under Japanese presidency. The European Union, who is a full member of the G7 (and the G20), will be jointly represented by by the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, and the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk.

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