



Tuesday, 12 July, 2016

Pesticides: Member States support Commission's proposal to restrict the conditions of use of glyphosate

Yesterday in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, the Member States voted in favour of a proposal by the Commission to restrict the conditions of use of glyphosate in the EU. These conditions include a ban on a co-formulant (POE-tallowamine) from glyphosate-based products, obligations to reinforce scrutiny of pre-harvest use of glyphosate as well as to minimise its use in specific areas (public parks and playgrounds). The proposal was made in parallel with the extension of the approval of the active substance for a limited time and it will apply for the duration of that extension, until the European Agency for Chemical Products (ECHA) issues its opinion on glyphosate. [Questions and Answers on Glyphosate.](#)

President Juncker and Members of the College in Beijing for the 18th EU-China Summit

Today, 12 July, in Beijing European Commission President, Jean-Claude **Juncker**, participated in the 18th EU-China Summit accompanied by EU High Representative and Commission Vice-President, Federica **Mogherini**, Commission Vice-President, Jyrki **Katainen**, and Commissioner **Malmström**, alongside European Council President, Donald Tusk. Following a bilateral meeting with the Chinese Premier, Li Keqiang, President **Juncker** spoke at the Summit meeting of the EU's determination to forge a "strong partnership" with China: "These are turbulent times but we need to continue with our project," said the President. The Summit agenda included human rights, the global refugee crisis, climate change, investment, over-capacity in the steel industry and the debate on market economy status for China. President **Juncker's** remarks are available [online](#). Tomorrow, 13 July, at 7:30 a.m. CET President **Juncker** and President Tusk will hold a joint press conference in the EU Delegation in Beijing.

European Commission launches EU-U.S. Privacy Shield: stronger protection for transatlantic data flows

Today the European Commission adopted the EU-U.S. Privacy Shield. This new framework protects the fundamental rights of anyone in the EU whose personal data is transferred to the United States, and brings

legal clarity for businesses relying on transatlantic data transfers. Vice-President **Ansip** said: "We have worked hard with all our partners in Europe and in the US to get this deal right (...) Data flows between our two continents are essential to our society and economy – we now have a robust framework ensuring these transfers take place in the best and safest conditions". Commissioner **Jourová** added: "The EU-U.S. Privacy Shield is a robust new system to protect the personal data of Europeans and ensure legal certainty for businesses. It brings stronger data protection standards that are better enforced, safeguards on government access, and easier redress for individuals in case of complaints". The EU-U.S. Privacy Shield is based on the principles of strong obligations on companies handling the data; limitations and safeguards on any U.S. government access; and effective protection of individual rights. There will be an annual joint review mechanism which will monitor the functioning of the Privacy Shield, including the commitments and assurance regarding access to data for law enforcement and national security purposes. Once companies have had an opportunity to review the framework and update their compliance, companies will be able to certify with the Commerce Department as of 1 August. More information is available in the [press release](#) and [Q&A](#). Re-watch the press point by Commissioner **Jourová** and U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Penny Pritzker [here](#)

Poland: ESI Funds invest over €475 million to modernise key railway infrastructures

The Commission recently approved the continuation of eight [major projects](#) to improve railway infrastructure in Poland in 2014-2020. Started in the 2007-2013 period, these projects concern the modernisation of hundreds of kilometres of railway across several Polish regions. Over €475 million from the [Cohesion Fund](#) will be invested in these projects in 2014-2020. Regional Policy Commissioner Corina **Crețu** said: "These investments will contribute to a better connectivity in the country, to a faster, safer and greener mobility, while linking Poland to EU-wide transport networks. And upgrading railway infrastructure does not only boost the economic competitiveness of a region; it also has a positive impact on the environment, and on the quality of the citizens' everyday life. This is why I am particularly proud of these projects." Four projects, worth €319.3 million, will upgrade linkages between the regions of Mazowieckie and Łódzkie. They will modernise existing railway lines, improve safety and increase travel speed, both for passengers and freight traffic. Thanks to these projects, connections from and to Warsaw will be improved. The Commission will also invest €74.6 million in a project in the region of Wielkopolska, in order to complete the modernisation of a railway section from Czempin to Poznań, part of the Baltic-Adriatic corridor of the [Trans-European Transport \(TEN-T\) network](#). Railway lines running through the region of Pomorskie, also part of the Baltic-Adriatic corridor, will be improved thanks to three projects worth €81.5 million. These investments will notably upgrade the connections to the cities of Gdansk, including to the port of Gdansk, and Gdynia, thus contributing to less traffic congestion in these urban areas. **More information on ESI Funds investments in Poland is available [on the Open Data Platform](#) and [in this factsheet](#).**

Commissioner Avramopoulos in Berlin: Roundtable on Refugees and Migration

Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris **Avramopoulos**, is in Berlin today to participate in a "Roundtable on Refugees and Migration" hosted by Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Frank-Walter Steinmeier. In the afternoon, Commissioner **Avramopoulos** will hold meetings with Federal Minister of the Interior Thomas de Maizière and with the Head of the Federal Chancellery and Federal

Minister for Special Tasks Peter Altmaier to discuss the latest developments in the fields of migration and security.

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of an automotive component business of Faurecia by Plastic Omnium, subject to conditions

The Commission has cleared under the EU Merger Regulation the proposed acquisition of the automotive plastic exterior component business of Faurecia by Compagnie Plastic Omnium, both of France. The clearance is conditional upon divestment of some production facilities in France, Spain and Germany. Commissioner Margrethe Vestager, in charge of competition policy, said: "*Plastic Omnium offered to divest key production facilities to address our concerns. This ensures that car manufacturers in Europe will continue to have a choice of suppliers for automotive parts, such as bumpers, at competitive prices after the takeover*". Both Plastic Omnium and the Faurecia business that it is acquiring manufacture plastic exterior components for the automotive sector such as bumpers and hatchbacks /tailgates. **More information [here](#)**

EUROSTAT: Record EU deficit in trade in goods with China of €180 billion in 2015 and record surplus for trade in services

On the occasion of the European Union-China summit, which takes place on 12-13 July in Beijing, Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, has issued data on economic relations between China and the EU. **The data is available in the Eurostat press release [here](#).**

EUROSTAT: House prices up by 3.0% in the euro area

House prices, as measured by the House Price Index, rose by 3.0% in the euro area and by 4.0% in the EU in the first quarter of 2016 compared with the same quarter of the previous year. These figures come from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. Compared with the fourth quarter of 2015, house prices rose by 0.4% in the euro area and by 0.7% in the EU in the first quarter of 2016. **A Eurostat press release is available [here](#).**

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Upcoming Events.

[Tuesday 12 – Wednesday 13 July: EU-China Summit in Beijing](#)

[Friday 15 – Saturday 16 July: 11th Asia-Europe Meeting \(ASEM\)](#) .

[Friday 22 July: The Commission adopts its monthly infringements package](#)



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