



Friday, 02 September, 2016

### **Commissioner Hogan in Ireland for the Cork 2.0 Rural Development Conference**

On 5-6 September Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Phil **Hogan** will attend the second edition of the Cork Rural Development Conference which will focus on the challenges facing farming and rural areas, and the potential policy responses. Approximately 300 delegates are expected to attend this 2-day European conference, which falls exactly 20 years after the first Cork Conference on Rural Development which culminated in the [Cork Declaration on Rural Development](#). Next week's Cork 2.0 Rural Development Conference is designed to bring stakeholders together in a series of workshops, with a view to drafting a new Cork Declaration, reflecting the new challenges facing the sector in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Commissioner **Hogan** will open and close the conference, with other speakers in the [programme](#) including European Parliament Agriculture Committee Chair Czesław Siekierski, the current AgriFish Council President Slovak Minister Gabrielea Matečná, and former EU Commissioners Janesz Potočník and Franz Fischler (who hosted the 1996 conference). Starting at 14:30 on Monday 5 September, the plenary sessions of the conference will be webstreamed [here](#). For more details and updates as the conference progresses, see the [conference website](#).

### **The EU at the G20 summit**

European Commission President Jean-Claude **Juncker** and European Council President Donald Tusk will represent the EU at the 11<sup>th</sup> G20 leaders' summit, which takes place on 4 and 5 September in Hangzhou, China. On Sunday 4 September at 12:00 China standard time (6:00 am Brussels time) they will hold a joint pre-summit press conference in the G20 media centre. It will be transmitted live on [EBS](#). A brochure titled "*Did you know...? Facts and figures about the European Union and the G20*", has been published. It contains relevant statistics, facts and concrete policy examples on G20 matters and will be available in the Commission's Press Release database [here](#).

### **EUROSTAT: The EU in the world - A statistical portrait of the European Union compared with the 15 non-EU G-20 countries**

Population, living conditions, health, education & training, labour market, economy & finance, trade, industry & services, research & communication, transport, agriculture, environment and energy: the 2016 edition of the Eurostat publication "The EU in the world" compares the **European Union** (EU) with the 15 non-EU G-20 countries across thirteen statistical fields using a range of European and international statistics. [Full text available on EUROSTAT website](#)

## **Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič visits Kyiv, discusses energy policy**

Today, Vice-President for Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič, on a working visit in Kyiv, Ukraine, has discussed a broad agenda of topics related to energy policy. In meetings with the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Andrii Parubii, Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Regional Development Hennadii Zubko and Energy Minister Ihor Nasalyk, Vice-President Šefčovič has also reiterated the need for Ukraine to continue on the path of reforms. On this topic, Vice-President Šefčovič said: *"Further reforms are central for modernising Ukraine's economy, to bring advantages to consumers and enterprises alike, and thereby to unlock the potential for higher standards of living"*. He also reconfirmed the readiness of the European Commission to pursue gas talks with the successful trilateral format used in the past. The corresponding press release is available [here](#).

## **Commissioner Crețu in Poland: "Let's fully seize the opportunities offered by combining the ESI Funds and the EFSI"**

This morning, Commissioner for Regional Policy Corina Crețu attended a high-level information session on the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) in Kraków, Poland, with Mr Jerzy Kwieciński, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Economic Development, and representatives of the European Investment Bank (EIB). In her keynote speech, she encouraged the Polish authorities to develop joint EFSI-ESI Fund projects: *"It can help bring investment to regions and sectors where the EFSI has had a rather limited take-up so far, and support strategic investments in areas such as energy efficiency, infrastructure, research and innovation, and support to small businesses,"* she said. *"I want national and local authorities to spread the word and fully seize these opportunities. [The Investment Plan](#) and the ESI Funds reinforce each other and they have one goal – to get Europe growing again."* You can find her press statement [online](#). Learn about the possibilities to combine EFSI support with other EU funds in [this factsheet](#) and in the [guidelines](#) designed for local authorities and jointly presented by Vice-President **Katainen** and Commissioner Crețu. In addition, more information on ESI Funds investments in Poland is available in [this factsheet](#) and on the [Open Data Platform](#).

## **State aid: Commission finds settlement between Austria and Heta creditors involves no new aid**

The European Commission has concluded that the settlement reached between Austria and creditors of Heta Asset Resolution AG, the wind-down entity of the former Austrian bank Hypo Group Alpe Adria, is in line with EU state aid rules. The agreement settles outstanding state-guaranteed liabilities of the bank that is in wind-down after it got into difficulties during the financial crisis. For reasons of legal certainty, Austria has notified the law "Haftungsgesetz Kärnten", which enables Austria to make a formal offer to settle creditor liabilities on the basis of a signed Memorandum of Understanding. The Commission found that the settlement involved no new state aid, because it is only a pay-out to beneficiaries of a previously approved State guarantee (see also [Commission decision of April 2003](#)). In 2013, the Commission had [approved the wind-down of Hypo Group Alpe Adria](#). More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number SA.45940.

## **Mergers: Commission clears car-sharing joint venture by Citroën and EYSA**

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the creation of a joint venture by Automobiles Citroën of France and Estacionamientos y servicios (EYSA) of Spain. The joint venture will provide car-sharing services in Spain and Portugal. Citroën is a subsidiary of the French motor

vehicles manufacturer Groupe PSA, in charge of the commercialisation of motor vehicles under its own brand. EYSA provides parking management and vehicle towing services and tax and sanction management. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because of its limited impact on the market structure. 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.8163](#).

### **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of GE MONEY BANK, SOREFI, SOMAFI-SOGUAFI and GE FINANCEMENT PACIFIQUE by CERBERUS**

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of GE Money Bank, SOREFI SCA, SOMAFI-SOGUAFI SCA and GE Financement Pacifique SAS of France (the "Target Companies") by the Cerberus Group of the US. Both, the Target Companies and Cerberus Group provide banking services to retail customers and SMEs. The Cerberus Group provides banking services in Austria and the United-Kingdom while the Target Companies are active in France. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because there are no overlaps between the companies' activities in the European Economic Area (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.8135](#).

### **EUROSTAT: July 2016 compared with June 2016 - Industrial producer prices up by 0.1% in both euro area and EU28**

In July 2016, compared with June 2016, industrial producer prices rose by 0.1% in both the **euro area** (EA19) and the **EU28**, according to estimates from **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. In June 2016 prices increased by 0.8% in both zones. [Full text available on EUROSTAT website](#)

### **MEX/16/2944**

## **COMING UP**

**4-5 September: The EU at the G20 summit in Hangzhou, China** The President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, and the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, will represent the European Union at the G20 summit in Hangzhou (China), from Sunday 4 to Monday 5 September 2016.

**Wednesday 14 September: President Juncker delivers his State of the Union address at the European Parliament** Jean-Claude Juncker, will deliver his State of the Union address at the European Parliament. The speech will be followed by a plenary debate.



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