



Monday, 05 September, 2016

### EU secures important outcomes at G20 Summit, Hangzhou, China

The European Union has secured important outcomes at the G20 Leaders' Summit which took place on 4-5 September in Hangzhou, China. European Commission President, Jean-Claude **Juncker** arrived at the summit calling for firm global action on over-capacity in the steel industry, fair taxation and the global refugee crisis. Published today, the G20 Leaders' Communiqué sets out immediate action in all three areas. On steel, the G20 has agreed to launch a "Global Forum on steel excess capacity, to be facilitated by the OECD". On taxation, the G20 has committed to work for a "fair and modern international tax system", in particular by combatting tax avoidance. To ensure that multinationals pay their fair share of tax in the countries where they make their profits, G20 countries will implement a package of measures on Base Erosion and Profits Shifting. To ensure greater tax transparency, the Leader's Communiqué calls on all countries to "commit without delay to implementing the standard of automatic exchange of information by 2018". It also endorses the OECD proposals on the "criteria to identify non-cooperative jurisdictions with respect to tax transparency". By June 2017 the OECD will report back to Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on progress towards tax transparency. On the refugee crisis, the G20 calls for a global concerted effort to address both the consequences and root causes of the crisis, and in particular urges greater humanitarian assistance for refugees and refugee resettlement. In the margins of the summit, President **Juncker** held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, to discuss the new EU-Canada free-trade deal, CETA, which President **Juncker** described as the "*best and most progressive*" the EU had ever negotiated.

### 2016 Consumer Markets Scoreboard: Market performance improved, but more efforts needed in telecoms and energy sector

The European Commission published today its [2016 Consumer Markets Scoreboard](#) which monitors EU consumers' ratings of how 42 goods and services markets work. These ratings show that markets performance has improved since the last scoreboard in 2014. "*We can see from this year's Scoreboard that consumer-friendly rules, market reforms, as well as effective enforcement of consumer rules, have made consumers more confident in the markets*", said Věra **Jourová**, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. "*We must keep this encouraging trend going, especially for markets that still underperform, like telecoms and energy. That's why consumers are at the heart of the Commission's priority projects, like the Digital Single Market and the Energy Union.*" The Consumer Scoreboards are used by national policymakers and stakeholders to assess the impact of policy over time and compare the situation between Member States. Markets perform better when consumers feel more confident. The Commission priority initiatives address the issues encountered by consumers on the low performing markets. Under the Digital Single Market, the recent Digital contracts proposals aims at improving consumers' trust in cross-border purchases online and the upcoming Telecoms package will tackle

difficulties when dealing with the telecommunications markets. The Capital Markets Union and the Energy Union will also address weaknesses in the financial sector and the energy market. The full Consumer Markets Scoreboard is available [online](#), as well as a [press release](#) and a [factsheet](#).

### **End of roaming charges in June 2017: Commission defines fair use policy**

As foreseen in the rules to end roaming charges in June 2017 ([press release](#)), the Commission today presented [a draft for an implementing act](#) defining different measures to make it work properly. The specific parameters include a fair use policy preventing abusive usages: for example, if the customer buys a SIM card in another EU country where domestic prices are lower to use it at home; or if the customer permanently stays abroad with a domestic subscription of his home country. Such situations could have a negative impact on domestic prices, and ultimately on all consumers. Based on the [results of a public consultation](#), the Commission proposes an approach in line with the needs of Europeans: customers should be able to roam at domestic prices for a total of at least 90 days per year. Frontier workers who log on at home every day cannot be considered to be engaged in anomalous, permanent roaming. For open mobile phone bundles (i.e. those which have unlimited or very high volumes) roaming customers should be able to consume at domestic prices at least the average volume consumed by users on the bundle. Beyond fair use policy, a mobile operator may apply a surcharge not exceeding the corresponding wholesale roaming caps. However, such situations would be very limited due to the proposed fair use policy. The Commission has proposed EUR 4 cents/min, 1 cent/SMS, 0,85 cents/MB as wholesale roaming caps – still to be adopted by the Parliament and Member States in the current wholesale roaming review. Today's draft for an implementing act will be discussed with Member States following consultations with the Body of European Regulators of Electronic Communications (BEREC) before the Commission can adopt the implementing act by 15 December this year. More information on [roaming](#).

### **EUROSTAT: July 2016 compared with June 2016 - Volume of retail trade up by 1.1% in euro area - Up by 1.0% in EU28**

In July 2016 compared with June 2016, the seasonally adjusted volume of retail trade rose by 1.1% in the **euro area** (EA19) and by 1.0% in the **EU28**, according to estimates from **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. In June the retail trade volume decreased by 0.1% in the **euro area** and by 0.2% in the **EU28**. [Full text available on EUROSTAT website](#)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Commissioner Bulc in Montenegro and Serbia to promote regional transport cooperation**

EU Commissioner for Transport Violeta **Bulc** is in Montenegro and Serbia today and tomorrow to encourage further cooperation and the modernisation of the transport sector, in line with the conclusion of the [Western Balkans Summit](#) held in Paris in July. Commissioner **Bulc** will have a series of meetings including with Mr Ivan Brajović, Minister of Transport and Maritime Affairs of Montenegro, Mr Edmond Haxhinasto, Minister of Transport and Infrastructure of Albania and Ms Zorana Mihajlović, Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and Minister for Construction, Transport and Infrastructure. Commissioner **Bulc** will also visit several projects in the region co-funded by the EU (such as the [cross-border road section between Bozaj in Montenegro and Hani i Hotit in Albania](#)). Transport is one of the main areas of cooperation between the EU and the Western Balkans who agreed on a "[Connectivity Agenda](#)" covering both infrastructure development and policy reforms in this sector. During her visit, Commissioner **Bulc** will

recall the importance to implement this Agenda, in order to bridge the development gap and support regional stability and prosperity.

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## **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.