



Friday, 07 October, 2016

Cohesion Policy at work: key outcomes of EU investments in 2007-2013

One million jobs created, corresponding to one-third of overall net job creation across the EU during this period, and €2.74 of additional GDP for every euro of Cohesion Policy money invested, meaning an estimated return of €1 trillion of additional GDP by 2023 – these are the [key results](#) of the 2007-2013 Cohesion Policy, on the basis of [an evaluation](#) conducted by external experts. The policy has benefitted the economies of all EU Member States and supported them during difficult economic times. It has invested in nearly 400,000 SMEs and start-ups and has been a pillar of the EU's growth and jobs agenda. More information can be found in this [press release](#). Country factsheets are available [here](#).

Commission welcomes landmark international agreement to curb aviation emissions

The European Commission welcomes the landmark agreement reached yesterday by the [International Civil Aviation Organisation \(ICAO\)](#), with the adoption of a Global Market-Based Measure (GMBM) to reduce international aviation emissions. The European Union and its Member States played an instrumental role in brokering this deal, which constitutes the first-ever agreement to reduce CO2 emissions in a global sector. Days after the [ratification of the Paris Agreement by the EU](#), this new deal shows that the EU is committed to keeping global warming well below 2°C. It is also a key deliverable under the [European Strategy for low-emission mobility](#) recently adopted by the Commission. More information is available in a [statement by Transport Commissioner Violeta Bulc](#), in a [press release](#) and a [MEMO](#).

European Commission imposes anti-dumping duties on Chinese steel products

The Commission today decided to impose provisional anti-dumping duties on imports of [hot-rolled flat steel](#) and [heavy plates of steel](#) from China. In a swift reaction to unfair competition, the measures come almost five weeks ahead of the procedural deadline, and in the case of hot-rolled steel, the imposition of duties results from an investigation initiated even before the dumping-related damage could materialise. As for the heavy plates, imports are subject to registration since August and duties can be applied retroactively at the definitive stage. The Commission's investigations confirmed that the Chinese products had been sold in Europe at heavily dumped prices. The EU currently has an unprecedented number of trade defence measures in place targeting unfair imports of steel products, with a total of 37 anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures, 15 of which are on products originating from China. The Commission has been using the available toolbox of trade defence instruments to the full extent possible, but it's necessary

to strengthen these mechanisms to bring them up to the reality of the current state of globalisation. The Commission reiterates the call for Member States' support for the 2013 proposal on the modernisation of the EU's trade defence instruments, notably on the lesser duty rule. This would allow the EU to impose higher duties on dumped products. A full press release [is available here](#).

Culture: Close to EUR 2.4 million awarded to support cultural projects for integration of refugees

In response to the refugee situation in Europe and in line with the Commission's Action Plan on integration of third country nationals under the [European Agenda on Migration](#), the European Union, through its [Creative Europe programme](#), has awarded over [EUR 2 million in funding for cultural projects](#) to help refugees integrate into European societies. The transnational projects will involve 62 organisations in 20 countries. The organisations involved come from a whole range of sectors, including creative writing, publishing, libraries and museums, dance, music, theatre, digital arts, film, video, graphic arts, painting, drawing and photography. The projects will focus on promoting mutual cultural understanding, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, tolerance and respect. They will primarily seek to tell the stories of refugees, but many also focus on refugees working with host communities to promote the sharing of experiences. The projects will be led by organisations from Croatia, Denmark, France, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Mergers: Commission seeks feedback on certain aspects of EU merger control

The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) on the functioning of certain procedural and jurisdictional aspects of EU merger control. The public consultation will seek feedback from citizens, businesses, associations, public authorities and other stakeholders. The public consultation will focus in particular on (i) the effectiveness of purely turnover-based thresholds in the [EU Merger Regulation](#); (ii) the treatment of cases that typically do not raise competition concerns; and (iii) the referral mechanisms between Member States and the Commission. The results of the public consultation will feed into the Commission's evaluation of the relevant procedural and jurisdictional aspects of EU merger control. This evaluation will inform the Commission's decision on possible future reforms in the field of EU merger control. The public consultation will close on 13 January 2017. A full press release is available online in [EN](#)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Premier Farnell by Avnet

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the acquisition of Premier Farnell of the United Kingdom by Avnet of the United States. Premier Farnell and Avnet are wholesale distributors of electronic components, such as semiconductors, passive components, electromechanical and interconnect components and embedded systems. Their activities overlap in most European Economic Area countries. The Commission concluded that the transaction would raise no competition concerns because the merged entity has a moderate market share in the overall market for distribution of electronic components and the increment brought about by the transaction is very small. In addition, customers would be able to source electronic components either from various alternative distributors or directly from manufacturers. 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.8183](#).

State aid: Commission authorises extension of sales process for four Italian bridge banks

The European Commission has authorised under EU state aid rules an extension of the sales process for the four small Italian bridge banks Nuova Banca Marche, Nuova Banca Etruria, Nuova Carife and Nuova Carichi. The amended decision approves a comprehensive solution for the bridge banks in line with EU rules. The sales process aims to maximise the value of the four bridge banks, thereby minimising the cost to the taxpayer and ensuring that no new State aid would become necessary. To protect the effectiveness of the sales process, timelines are kept confidential. The four bridge banks were created in November 2015, when the Bank of Italy, Italy's banking resolution authority, put Banca delle Marche, Banca Popolare dell'Etruria e del Lazio, Cassa di Risparmio di Ferrara and Cassa di Risparmio della Provincia di Chieti into resolution. At the time, the Commission had [approved state aid](#) to cover the difference between the transferred assets and liabilities and to capitalise the bridge banks as well as additional state aid in the form of guarantees. The Commission's approval was based on the [state aid rules for banks in the financial crisis](#) that have been in place unchanged since August 2013. Non-confidential versions of the amendment decision will be published in the [State aid register](#) on the [Competition](#) website under the case numbers SA.39453, SA.41134, SA.41925 and SA.43547 once confidentiality issues have been resolved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Energy Union: Vice-President Šefčovič on official visit to Denmark

Today, Vice-President for the Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič represents the Commission at the 16th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency at the Danish Parliament where he delivers the [keynote speech](#) at the session "The Foreign Policy Dimension of Energy transition". Vice-President Šefčovič will also meet with the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs Kristian Jensen. Besides, he visits the European Environment Agency (EEA) which is headquartered in Copenhagen. In the framework of completing the Energy Union, the EEA is among others responsible for providing data about the performance of EU Member states when it comes to the agreed [emission-reduction targets](#). "*The Energy Union, in its effort to bring about in Europe a transition to a modern and low-carbon economy, needs to ensure that Europe remains resilient to geopolitical challenges – while at the same time push and help other economies to modernise their energy systems*", said Vice-President Šefčovič ahead of the visit. Further information on the Energy Union strategy is available [here](#).

Commissioner Oettinger in the United States to discuss the Digital Single Market strategy and other digital issues

Günther H. Oettinger, Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society, will visit the United States from 7-11 October to discuss the [Digital Single Market strategy](#) and other digital issues with representatives of the US government, the tech industry and other international organisations. Today and tomorrow in Washington, D.C., the Commissioner will meet US Deputy Secretary of Commerce Mr Bruce Andrews and will also speak with senior members of the World Bank, including in a panel discussion on creating an enabling environment for digital development. Next week, from 9-10 October in Seattle, the Commissioner will meet CEOs and top-level industry representatives from companies including Microsoft, Boeing and Amazon to discuss issues including the [recent telecoms proposals](#), the [data economy](#), the [internet of things](#) and the Commission's [plans to digitise industry](#). In New York, he will join roundtable discussions with the American Council on Germany and with the World Economic Forum.

Commissioner King visits Mechelen to discuss prevention of radicalisation

As part of the Commission's commitment to step up its work in tackling radicalisation which can lead to violent extremism and terrorism, Commissioner Julian **King** will today visit Mechelen, Belgium, where he will meet with Bart Somers, Mayor of Mechelen, to discuss the "Mechelen approach" to radicalisation. Commissioner **King** will also meet with a wide range of local experts, including the Council's Radicalisation Officer and the Head of the Mechelen Police. Mr Somers and Commissioner **King** will speak with victims of terrorism and families directly affected by terrorism and will exchange views with frontline workers – such as youth and social workers as well as activists involved in a variety of grassroots initiatives including sports and art projects. A press point with media will follow at 16:30.

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