



Thursday, 05 January, 2017

### **The European Social Fund has helped almost 10 million Europeans to find a job between 2007 and 2014**

Today, the European Commission has published an evaluation report of investments under the [European Social Fund](#) (ESF) during the 2007-2013 period, with specific reports for each Member State. The report shows that by the end of 2014, at least 9.4 million European residents found a job with support from the Fund and 8.7 million gained a qualification or certificate. Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, said: *"Today's report shows that the European Social Fund has, within 7 years, helped millions of Europeans find jobs, acquire extra skills and qualifications. The European Social Fund had an essential role in the functioning of labour markets in all Member States, it helped modernise employment services, supported education systems and general public administration, and supported the most disadvantaged in society. We should now build on this experience to invest in Europe's human capital - workers, young people and all those looking for a job."* Marianne **Thyssen**, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, added: *"Today's evaluation proves that the European Social Fund makes a real difference in the lives of Europeans. It is our main instrument to invest in human capital. Thanks to European support, millions of people have found a job, improved their skills or found their way out of poverty and social exclusion. It is solidarity at its best."* The ESF is the EU's oldest fund, created by the Treaty of Rome in 1957, and Europe's main tool for investing in human capital, by promoting employment and social inclusion. A full [press release](#), a [memo](#) as well as [country-specific factsheets](#) are available online.

### **EUROSTAT: November 2016 compared with October 2016- Industrial producer prices up by 0.3% in both euro area and EU28**

In November 2016, compared with October 2016, industrial producer prices rose by 0.3% in both the euro area (EA19) and the EU28, according to estimates from Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. In October 2016 prices increased by 0.8% in the euro area and by 1.0% in the EU28.

In November 2016, compared with November 2015, industrial producer prices rose by 0.1% in the euro area and by 0.7% in the EU28. Full text available [here](#)

## **State aid: Commission publishes the non-confidential version of the decision to open an in-depth investigation into Luxembourg's tax treatment of GDF Suez (now Engie)**

Today, the Commission has published the [non-confidential version of the decision](#) adopted on 19 September 2016 to open an in-depth investigation into Luxembourg's tax treatment of the GDF Suez group (now Engie). The Commission has concerns that several tax rulings issued by Luxembourg may have given GDF Suez an unfair advantage, which are not available to other companies subject to the same national taxation rules in Luxembourg, in breach of EU state aid rules. The decision is available under the case number [SA.44888](#) on the [competition](#) website.

## **Mergers: Commission clears joint venture by Rheinmetall and Yinlun in automotive sector**

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the creation of a joint venture by Rheinmetall AG of Germany and Zhejan Yinlun Machinery Co., Ltd. of China. Rheinmetall is active in the manufacturing and supply of defence equipment and automotive components such as exhaust gas recirculation ("EGR") valves and modules. Yinlun is active, primarily in China, in the manufacturing and supply of automotive components such as EGR coolers. The joint venture will be active in the design, production and sale of EGR modules mainly in China. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns given that the joint venture will not be active within the European Economic Area. 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.8227](#).

## **Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Calsonic Kansei by KKR**

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the proposed acquisition of sole control over Calsonic Kansei Corporation of Japan by KKR of the US. Calsonic Kansei is a global supplier of automotive components such as cockpit modules, climate control systems, engine cooling products, automotive compressors and exhaust systems. KKR owns and manages private equity funds investing in companies active in a variety of sectors. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because the companies are not active on the same or on related markets. The operation 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.8317](#).

## **Upcoming events**

- [Wednesday 11 January: the College travels to Valetta to meet the Maltese presidency of the Council](#)

## **MEX/17/18**



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

