

[ERA/ADV/2017-3 – Advice of the European Union Agency for Railways to the European Commission regarding the certification according to withdrawn TSIs](#)

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□The Advice was presented to the Railway Interoperability and Safety Committee (RISC) at its meeting 81 (January 2017).

Description: The Advice offers additional elements in respect to Opinion ERA/OPI/2016-3 (Certification according to withdrawn TSIs), in order to clarify the issues of obsolescence and error-corrections. Related documents:

[Broadband Platform report calls for more investment to tackle the digital divide](#)

The Broadband Platform set up between the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and European Commission's DG CNECT held its second meeting on 2 February. The discussions focalised on the role of Broadband Competence Offices and on boosting broadband investment in view of the discussions on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) of the European Union.

The meeting was co-chaired by **Alin Nica** (RO/EPP), vice-chair of the CoR's SEDEC commission, and **Claire Bury**, deputy director-general of DG CNECT. They highlighted the good cooperation between both institutions through the Broadband Platform and pointed to the importance of connectivity in Europe and the main initiatives that the European Commission had adopted as part of the Digital Single Market strategy, especially the Gigabit Society communication and the Electronic Communications Code.

Broadband Platform members – regional and local politicians from EU Member States – showed great interest in the functioning of the European Commission's [Broadband Competence Offices](#), especially the 73 regional ones,

where it was noted that a lack of data at regional level represented a major problem. The inflexibility of state aid schemes was raised again as a main concern in several Member States as well as speed and reliable coverage, especially in rural areas, and the need for more expertise.

These concerns and the work of the Broadband Platform are reflected in a [report](#) prepared by **Mart Vörklaev** (EE/ALDE) that was adopted by the CoR's SEDEC commission on 21 February. The document recalls that in the current programming period EUR 14 billion is available from the ESI funds for creating broadband infrastructure. Therefore cohesion policy must continue to play a key role in boosting broadband connectivity, in combination and synergy with loan financing from the European Investment Bank and other development banks.

The document also emphasizes that broadband development plans should be developed jointly between telecommunications companies, the national level and local and regional authorities. In the interests of competition, the separation of services from the network (unbundling) is considered necessary in the same way as in the energy sector. Vörklaev's opinion will be adopted at the CoR plenary session on 22–23 March.

The next Broadband Platform meeting is set to take place in autumn 2018 around the DG CNECT's Broadband Days.

[Speech by Commissioner Carlos Moedas at European Industry Day – A New Ecosystem for Science, Start-ups and Industry](#)

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon. I'm very happy to be at the European Industry Days again this year.

Industry is at the heart of the story of Europe. It always has been. At the beginning of the last century, after decades of fighting, Europe was torn apart.

In the aftermath, industry was the catalyst for bridging our nations together. The European Coal and Steel Community helped us take the first steps on a path to integration. The Community formed a blue print for what would later become the European Union. It looked beyond the horrors of the beginning of the century. Because regardless of their past, the founding countries found strength by uniting around a common industrial endeavour.

And industry has been a part of our DNA ever since.

Now we are in a new century. And in a new world. Our union's industrial integrity is facing new threats.

Beyond our borders, to the west, the world's largest economy is becoming more closed and protectionist. To the east, a rising economy and a formidable competitor is making its presence known.

Nonetheless, the role of our industry in our Union remains the same. And it is getting stronger by the day.

Now we must continue our story. We need to put our full forces behind sustaining a competitive and resilient European industry.

A new wave of innovation is arriving which will bring huge opportunities for European industry.

Some call it Industry 4.0. Others call it deep tech. In Japan they call it Society 5.0. But we all agree that there will be a merging of physical and digital technologies. And that this will fundamentally change most, if not all, industrial sectors.

And I believe that Europe is in pole position for this next wave of innovation. Our scientific strengths will be a huge asset. The next wave – from AI, to biotech, to two dimensional materials – they all require leading edge science.

But of course science alone is not enough.

For Europe to lead the next wave of innovation, we need a new force of momentum.

In my mind, I see it almost like the propeller of a plane, with three strong blades: the first is **Science**; the second is **Start-ups**; and the third is **Industry**.

1. **Science** to develop the new ideas and technologies of the future.
2. **Start-ups** and SME to develop the breakthrough innovations. Combining technologies and new business models.
3. And **industry** to scale up innovations and create economic and social impact.

Without all three as strong components, we won't have the lift-off we need for the future of innovation in Europe.

So as we develop the next EU programme for research and innovation, I ask myself this:

How can the new programme make sure that Europe does not just start the race in pole position. But make sure Europe also finishes the race first?

To do this, we must support **science, industry and start-ups**. We already have an amazing success with Horizon 2020, so we need to build on this.

1- Science

Our support to science, through the European Research Council, is probably the best in the world. So we should do more.

2- Industry

I am also very proud of Horizon 2020's support to industry. The level of industry participation has gone up:

– Over this 7 years cycle we will invest more than 20 billion euro directly in industry. More than ever before..

– Nine out of ten of the collaborative projects include at least one private sector partner.

Statistics only tell one part of the story. In real terms, this participation means tangible innovation. It is making our industry stronger, smarter and more circular. It gives us amazing projects, like **Kraken**.

The Kraken project is developing one single machine with many possibilities. It can affordably produce large parts for industry up to 20 metres long. What makes it exceptional is the fact that all at once it is a digitally controlled robot, a 3D printer, a cutter and a welder!

As one machine, it can produce 40% faster than having multiple ones. And it only takes up one tenth of the space on site. Projects like these have the potential to transform manufacturing.

Think of the potential this could have for the automotive industry. For the construction sector.

There are two particular ways we work with industry: the so called PPPs and the KETs.

– The **Public Private Partnerships** have been a success. Through IMI we developed the first ever Ebola vaccine. Through Clean Sky we are developing new open rotors that will reduce CO2 emissions by 30%.

So we need to take forward the **Public Private Partnerships**. Learning from the experience in Horizon 2020.

In my view we need to do three things:

1st: Many people get confused by the number of different types of partnerships: cPPPs, JTIs, ETPs, JPIs, ERA Nets, FET, KICs. So let's simplify this. With fewer acronyms.

2nd: Let's make these Partnerships more open. Open to new entrants. But also open to other funders. For example, why not open the Public Private

Partnerships to investments by Member States, by regions, and by foundations.

3rd: We also need to create more flexibility so that, when the time comes, we will have the capacity to adapt to our current and future needs.

In terms of the **Key Enabling Technologies**.

They are our essential building blocks. With them, we have the power to create products that place us at the forefront of an advanced economy. And they underpin our global leadership in so many of our industries. Their importance cannot be understated.

Here I have to pause for a moment to say “thank you” to the **High Level Strategy Group, chaired by Mr. Ruttgers**. I very much welcome your report:

– First you have well advised us to simplify and merge some of the existing Key Enabling Technologies

-Second you have suggested to introduce two new fields; **artificial intelligence**, and **security and connectivity**.

Your report will guide us towards the next generation of KETs.

So I see a bright future for industry in the next EU research and innovation programme.

– Building on the strong industry participation in Horizon 2020;

– Making the partnerships simpler, more open and more flexible;

– Supporting the next generation of Key Enabling Technologies.

[Building on our success in the future – EIC]

But let me now turn to the third blade of the innovation propeller: **start-ups and SMEs**. This is where there is the greatest potential for breakthrough innovation. The new, high risk, innovations that merge the physical and digital in novel ways.

And this is the area where I see the greatest, and most urgent, need for improvement. And this is why I have been championing the idea of a **European Innovation Council**.

The recent report by the EIC Group provides clear and compelling recommendations on what we need to do.

Bring our various funding schemes together in a single place. Simplify them. Make them innovator centric.

There is one particular recommendation in the EIC report that makes the link between Industry and Start-ups.

Let me quote Jim Snabe, one of the EIC Group members, and the new Chair of Siemens: “ Large corporates have scale, but are often limited when it comes

to developing new ideas that challenge business models. A partnership between innovative start-ups and large corporates is a way to overcome this challenge “

So the EIC should be the link between the start-ups and the corporates. By helping startups to access partners across value chains. From corporates, to investors, to public procurers, and technology providers.

At the same time large corporates should be able to help start-ups to scale-up. As Jim says: “EIC is a unique opportunity for small and large companies to collaborate and leverage the diversification of Europe.”

The EIC will provide the missing blade of our propeller. This will be the formula for winning the next innovation race.

But we are not waiting until 2021 for a European Innovation Council. We have already launched a 2.7 billion euro pilot phase. Making changes that are possible under Horizon 2020 rules.

One of these changes is to increase the level of ambition with prizes. We have identified six prizes. Each targeting an area of breakthrough innovation and offering a substantial prize reward.

Today, I am very happy to announce the launch of the **EIC Horizon Prize on Innovative Batteries for e-Vehicles**.

The concept is simple. We will award 10 million euro to those who can crack the challenge of developing a safe and sustainable battery for electric vehicles.

What does it mean:

- Batteries with the same driving ranges as internal combustion;
- Batteries able to be recharged in the same time you fill a conventional fuel tank.

We won't ask the how or the who. The winner will be the one who thinks outside the box and who best meets the challenge.

Developing electric vehicles is moving at break-neck speed. Much faster than any of us had anticipated. And our competition is tight. With this prize, let's put our foot on the accelerator.

In my experience, make something a challenge and you can achieve amazing results. Something you thought unfathomable.

Henry Ford, when he opened his first factory to create his famous Ford Model-T, once said

“I am looking for a lot of people who have an infinite capacity to not know what can't be done”.

His words are as perfect today as they were then. We are searching for the very same people. When it comes to innovation, that is where the real magic happens.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Industry in Europe has overcome so many obstacles. It is strong.

But it will face new challenges with the next wave of innovation.

I am confident that this next wave represents a unique opportunity for European industry. To leverage Europe's fantastic science and technology. To create new ecosystems between science, start-ups and industry. And to start winning the race on breakthrough innovation. **Thank you.**

CALENDRIER du 26 février au 04 mars 2018

(Susceptible de modifications en cours de semaine)

Déplacements et visites

Dimanche 25 février 2018

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** in Skopje, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: meets Mr Zoran Zaev, Prime Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; holds a joint press conference with Mr Zoran Zaev; and meets Mr Gjorge Ivanov, President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** in Tirana, Albania: meets, together with Mr Johannes **Hahn**, Mr Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania; holds a joint press conference with Mr Edi Rama; and participates at an official dinner reception hosted by Mr Edi Rama.

Lundi 26 février 2018

Foreign Affairs Council

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on energy

EU-Kazakhstan Cooperation Council

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** in Tirana, Albania: meets, together with Mr Johannes **Hahn**, Mr Ilir Meta, President of Albania.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** in Belgrade, Serbia (until 27/02): meets, together with Mr Johannes **Hahn**, Mr Aleksandar Vučić, President of Serbia; holds a joint press conference with Mr Aleksandar Vučić; and participates in a dinner hosted by Mr Aleksandar Vučić.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** receives Mr Jesper Brodin, President and CEO of IKEA.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** in Leuven, Belgium: participates in a Citizens' Dialogue with Mr Geert Bourgeois, Minister-President of Flanders; attends the EuroCommerce CEO Dinner.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** receives Mr Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** receives Ms Zehava Galon, Member of the Parliament of Israel (Knesset) and Chairperson of Meretz political party.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** in Barcelona, Spain (until 27/02): participates in the [Mobile World Congress](#); visits pavilions; participates in the EU CEO lunch roundtable; in a panel discussion on "Delivering 5G for All"; meets Mr Steve Mollenkopf, CEO of Qualcomm; participates in the "Trans-Atlantic Regulation and the Digital Economy" conference and delivers a speech. He also meets Mr Ajit Pai, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** hosts a roundtable on cryptocurrencies, in Brussels.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** receives Ms Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine.

Mr Günther H. **Oettinger** in Madrid, Spain: on a tour to gather views on the Future of EU finances and the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** in Sofia, Bulgaria (until 27/02): participates in a [Citizens' Dialogue on 'Global trade – A threat or opportunity for the EU?'](#).

Mr Neven **Mimica** receives Mr Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Mr Jesper Brodin, President and CEO at IKEA Group.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** receives representatives of European Federation of Nurses Associations.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** à Toulouse, France: rencontre Mme Carole Delga, Présidente de la région Occitanie; participe à la signature du lancement du projet de financement pour des PME géré par les Fonds européen d'investissement (FOSTER Occitanie); participe à un [dialogue citoyen](#) sur "L'Occitanie et l'Europe"; et à une table ronde sur "Comment favoriser le développement de l'économie locale avec l'Europe?".

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives Mr Jesper Brodin, President and CEO of IKEA.

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives Representatives of intergovernmental organizations and NGOs on the protection of children in migration.

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives a delegation of the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS).

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** receives representatives from the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS).

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** receives Ms Mateja Vraničar Erman, Minister for Finance of Slovenia.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Barcelona, Spain (until 27/02): participates in the Mobile World Congress. She also visits the Deutsche Telecom stand where she meets Mr Tim Höttges, Chief Executive Officer of Deutsche Telekom AG; visits the Mobile World Capital, GSMA (GSM Association) Innovation City, Huawei, Ericsson and Nokia stands. Ms Gabriel participates in the CEO lunch roundtable and in the GSMA Trans-Atlantic Dialogue, meets Mr Mats Granryd, Director General of GSMA, with Mr Johan Dannelind, President and Chief Executive Officer of Telia Company, and Mr Bob Quinn, Senior Executive Vice President of External & Legislative Affairs of AT&T.

Mardi 27 février 2018

General Affairs Council

General Affairs Council (Art. 50)

Informal meeting of foreign affairs ministers on trade, in Sofia

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** in Serbia, in Belgrade: meets, together with Mr Johannes **Hahn**, Ms Ana Brnabić, Prime Minister of Serbia.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** in Podgorica, Montenegro: meets Mr Duško Marković, Prime Minister of Montenegro; holds a joint press conference with Mr Duško Marković; and addresses the Parliament of Montenegro.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** receives Ms Helena Dalli, Minister for European Affairs and Equality of Malta.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** receives Mr Dietmar Woidke, Minister-President of the Land of Brandenburg (Germany).

Ms Federica **Mogherini** receives Mr Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator at the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Ms Federica **Mogherini** participates in the EU-ASEAN Young Leaders Forum, in Brussels.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** in Barcelona, Spain: participates in the [Mobile World](#)

[Congress](#): meets Mr Tim Höttges, CEO of Deutsche Telekom AG; Mr Mats Granryd, Director General of GSMA innovation city; Mr Manoj Sinha, Minister for Communications of India; and visits the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** participates in a high-level dialogue on Coal regions in transition, at the European Parliament, in Brussels.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** receives Ms Rovana Plumb, Minister for European Funds of Romania.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** receives Mr Merel van Vroonhoven, Chairwoman of the Executive Board of the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM).

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** delivers the keynote speech at the [Second Annual FinTech Conference](#) on “Regulation at the European level and beyond”.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Jean-Louis Bancel, President of Cooperatives Europe.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Antti Vasara, CEO of the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd and Vice-President of European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO).

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Gabriel Bernardino, Chairman of the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA).

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** in Sofia, Bulgaria: participates in the Informal meeting of foreign affairs ministers on trade.

Mr Neven **Mimica** receives Mr Mark Lowcock, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator at the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives directors and heads of “Green 10” organisations.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Mr Richard Brabec, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Environment of the Czech Republic.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** delivers a speech at the [EURACTIV high-level debate on: “Plastics Strategy: Challenges and Opportunities of Recycling”](#), in Brussels.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** delivers a speech at the “Digital transformation of health and care for Active and Healthy Ageing in Europe” conference, in Brussels.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** receives Mr Hassan Ghazizadeh Hashemi, Minister for Health and Medical Education of Iran.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** receives high-level representatives of the Agriculture Division of DowDuPont.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** in France: meets Mr François Asselin, President of Confédération des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises (CPME).

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** receives Ms Julia Bogner-Strauß, Federal Minister for Women, Families and Youth of Austria.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** receives Ms Ramber-Koller, President of the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (UEAPME).

M. Pierre **Moscovici** à Montpellier, France: visite une opération de rénovation thermique à Colomiers; fait visite à un groupe de projets locaux innovants à Labège; et visite 'l'Ecole de la 2ème chance'.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** receives Mr Mark Lowcock, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator at the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Mr Phil **Hogan** receives Mr Hassan Ghazizadeh Hashemi, Minister for Health and Medical Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr Phil **Hogan** addresses the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), in Brussels.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** delivers a keynote speech at the conference "[One million electric vehicles just around the corner – What next?](#)", in Brussels.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** holds a live Facebook chat on single market.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** receives Ms Ulrike Rabmer-Koller, President, and Ms Véronique Willems, Secretary General of European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (UEAPME).

Ms Věra **Jourová** delivers a keynote speech at the [Conference on Radicalization in Prisons](#), in Brussels.

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives Ms Aurelia Frick, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Justice and Culture of Liechtenstein.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** receives Ms Françoise Nyssen, Minister for Culture of France.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** receives Ms Juliane Bogner-Strauß, Federal Minister within the Federal Chancellery for Women, Families and Youth of Austria.

Ms Corina **Crețu** receives Mr Piet Jaspert, Vice-President, and Ms Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović, Secretary General, of Europa Nostra.

Ms Corina **Crețu** receives Mr Willy Borsus, Minister-President of Wallonia (Belgium).

Ms Corina **Crețu** receives Mr Dietmar Woidke, Minister-President of the Land of Brandenburg (Germany).

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Copenhagen, Denmark: delivers an opening speech at the [Big Science Business Forum 2018](#). Mr Moedas meets Mr Kristian Jensen, Minister for Finance, Mr Soren Pind, Minister for Higher Education and Science, and

participates at the Citizens' dialogue and round-table debate about future European R&I at the University of Copenhagen.

Mr Julian **King** participates in a panel discussion at the European Cybersecurity Forum, in Brussels.

Mr Julian **King** delivers closing remarks at the Conference on Radicalisation, in Brussels.

Mr Julian **King** receives Mr Emily Haber, State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of the Interior.

Mr Julian **King** receives Mr John Cunningham, Director of Sales for Europe at CheckRisk.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** receives Ms Françoise Nyssen, Minister for Culture of France.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** receives Mr Krzysztof Szubert, Secretary of State, The Government Plenipotentiary for Digital Single Market of Poland.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** delivers a speech at the [Colloquium on Fake News and Disinformation Online](#), organised by the European Commission, in Brussels.

Mercredi 28 février 2018

College meeting

Informal meeting of education, youth, culture and sport ministers on culture, in Sofia

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: meets, together with Ms Federica **Mogherini** and Mr Johannes **Hahn**, Mr Dragan Čović, Mr Bakir Izetbegović and Mr Mladen Ivanić, Members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina; and addresses the Joint Session of the House of Representatives and House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** in Pristina, Kosovo: meets, together with Ms Federica **Mogherini** and Mr Johannes **Hahn**, Mr Hashim Thaçi, President of Kosovo, Mr Kadri Veseli, Chairman of the national Parliament, and Mr Ramush Haradinaj, Prime Minister of Kosovo; and representatives of the civil society.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** in Vienna, Austria (until 01/03): on Energy Union tour: participates in a dialogue and discussion with students.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Alexander Stubb, Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB).

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives a delegation from the Federation of Austrian

Industries.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Mr Milutin Simović, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Financial System and Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** delivers a speech at European Reference Networks Rare Diseases event: "Accelerating and Improving Diagnosis for Rare Diseases Patients", at the European Parliament, Brussels.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** receives Mr Terkel Andersen, President, Mr Yann Le Cam, CEO, and Ms Valentina Bottarelli, Public Affairs Director and Head of European and International Advocacy, of Eurordis.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** receives Mr Cees-Jan Adema, Member of the Executive Committee and Chairman of the Consumer Information Expert Group at The Brewers of Europe; Mr Pierre-Olivier Bergeron, Secretary-General; and other high-level representatives of The Brewers of Europe.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** receives Mr Milutin Simović, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Financial System and Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** attends a trilogue on Posting of Workers, at the European Council, in Brussels.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** reçoit M. Pierre Gattaz, Président du Mouvement des entreprises de France (MEDEF), à Bruxelles.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** participates in the launch of the Ukraine Humanitarian Plan with the United Nations, in Brussels.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** meets Mr Roland Wöllner, Minister for the Interior of the Land of Saxony, Germany.

Mr Phil **Hogan** receives Mr Milutin Simović, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Financial System and Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Montenegro.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** receives Mr Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** delivers an opening speech at the Commission High Level Expert Group on Energy Intensive Industries.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Sofia, Bulgaria: participates in the Informal Culture Council.

Ms Corina **Crețu** receives Ms Rovana Plumb, Minister for European Funds of Romania.

Ms Corina **Crețu** receives Mr Jānis Reirs, Minister for Welfare of Latvia.

Mr Carlos Moedas receives the Presidents of the Rectors' conference of the Spanish Universities (CRUE) and of the Council of Rectors of the Portuguese Universities (CRUP).

Mr Julian **King** receives Mr Roland Wöllner, Minister for the Interior of the Land of Saxony, Germany.

Mr Julian **King** delivers the keynote address at the "Cyber Wales Trade Mission to Brussels" conference, in Brussels.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** receives Mr Christophe Deloire, Secretary General of Reporters Without Borders.

Jeudi 01 mars 2018

President Jean-Claude Juncker in Sofia, Bulgaria: meets, together with Ms Federica **Mogherini** and Mr Johannes **Hahn**, Mr Boyko Borissov, Prime Minister of Bulgaria; holds a joint press conference with Mr Boyko Borissov; and participates in an official lunch hosted by Mr Boyko Borissov, with the Leaders of the Western Balkan countries.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** in Bucharest, Romania: meets Mr Liviu Dragnea, President of the Chamber of Deputies; meets Mr Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu, President of the Senate; meets Members of the Joint Special Committee of Chamber of Deputies and Senate; meets Mr Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania; meets Ms Viorica Dăncilă, Prime Minister of Romania.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** and Ms Věra **Jourová** receive privacy and consumers' associations on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) implementation, Privacy Shield and e-Privacy.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** in Vienna, Austria (until 01/03): on Energy Union tour: delivers a keynote speech at the [Urban Future Conference 2018](#); meets members from all parliamentary groups in the National Council; Ms Elisabeth Köstinger, Minister for Sustainability and Tourism of Austria; Mr Wolfgang Sobotka, President of the National Council of Austria; representatives of social partners; visits the on-site project "Aspern Smart City Research"; and meets Ms Ulli Sima, Executive City Councillor for the Environment and Vienna Public Utilities.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** in Portugal (until 02/03): meets Ms Elisa Maria da Costa Guimarães Ferreira, Vice-Governor of the Bank of Portugal; Mr José Vieira da Silva, Minister for Labour, Solidarity and Social Security of Portugal; Mr Mário Centeno, Minister for Finance; and participates in a [Citizens' dialogue](#) on strengthening Europe's Economic and Monetary Union.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Jukka Juusti, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of Finland.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr John MacFarlane, Chairman of Barclays PLC and Chairman of TheCityUK.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** delivers a keynote speech at the [Business Europe Day 2018](#)

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Vincenzo Boccia, President of Confindustria.

Mr Neven **Mimica** in Madrid, Spain (until 02/03): meets together Mr Ildefonso Castro López, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Spain, Mr Jorge Toledo Albiñana, Secretary of State for the EU, and Mr Fernando Casas, Secretary of State for International Cooperation for Ibero-America and the Caribbean. Mr Mimica also meets Mr Cristóbal Montoro, Minister for Finance and Public Function, and Mr Alberto Nadal Belda, Secretary of State for the Budget and Expenditure; and Mr Alfonso Dastis, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** gives a keynote speech at the Energy Storage and Sectoral Integration Roundtable, in Brussels.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** attends the [Centre for European Reform \(CER\) and Kreab breakfast meeting on "Why the Arctic matters for Europe"](#), in Brussels.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Mr Ostap Semerak, Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

Mr Dimitris **Avramopoulos** in Delphi, Greece: delivers a keynote speech at the Delphi Economic Forum event entitled 'Outlook for Greece and the Region: A Vision 2020-2030'.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** reçoit M. Niels Thygesen, Président du Comité budgétaire européen.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** prononce un discours devant la Représentation Permanente de la France, à Bruxelles.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** in Bucharest, Romania: meets Ms Carmen Dan, Minister of Interior of Romania.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** in Delphi, Greece: holds a keynote speech during the opening ceremony of the 3rd annual Conference of the Delphi Economic Forum.

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Dublin, Ireland: addresses the Seanad Éireann (Senate of Ireland); and attends the launch of AgriChemWhey.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** in Frankfurt, Germany: meets Mr Günther Bräunig, CEO of KfW Bankengruppe, and executive board members; and staff of the European Central Bank (ECB).

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** in Krakow, Poland: delivers an opening speech at 1st Biennial International Conference: Historical Cities 3.0 "Residents and visitors – in search of quality and comfort".

Ms Věra **Jourová** delivers a keynote speech at the meeting of the High-Level Group on Non-Discrimination, Equality and Diversity, in Brussels.

Ms Věra **Jourová** receives Mr Jiří Šesták, Vice-President of the Senate of the

Parliament of the Czech Republic.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Sofia, Bulgaria: participates in and speaks at the 8th Asia-Europe Culture Ministers' Meeting.

Ms Corina **Crețu** in Paris, France (until 02/03): meets Mr Jacques Mézard, Minister for Territorial Cohesion; Mr Philippe Étienne, Diplomatic Advisor to the President.

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** in Copenhagen, Denmark (until 02/03): delivers a speech at a conference for CEOs on "The role of the EU in ensuring trust and coherence".

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives Mr Michael Peters, CEO of Euronews SA.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives Mr Roman Escolano, Vice President at European Investment Bank.

Vendredi 02 mars 2018

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** in Hamburg, Germany: meets Mr Olaf Scholz, Mayor of Hamburg and Mr Joschka Fischer, former Vice-Chancellor and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany; and participates in the *Matthiae-Mahlzeit*.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** in Portugal: meets Mr António Costa, Prime Minister of Portugal; Ms Gabriela Figueiredo Dias, President of the Securities Market Commission (CMVM); and participates in a hearing at the Portuguese Parliament with members of the European Affairs Commission.

Mr Günther H. **Oettinger** in Valletta, Malta: on a tour to gather views on the Future of EU finances and the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF); together with Mr Karmenu **Vella**, meets Mr Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** in Singapore: participates in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Ministerial meeting.

Mr Neven **Mimica** in Madrid, Spain: participates in the opening of an event on the European Investment Plan and the role of the private sector organised by the *Confederación Española de Organizaciones Empresariales*; meets representatives of the Parliamentary Commission for International Development Cooperation of the Parliament of Spain; Ms Eva Valle Maestro, Director of the Government Economic Office of Spain; and civil society representatives.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** in Malta: delivers an inaugural speech for the EU Maritime Law and Policy Programme at the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI); attends the White Flag award ceremony at which Malta will become a member of the Ocean Alliance Conservation Member (OACM); and delivers a speech at the [5th Mediterranean Tourism Forum](#).

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** in Brugge, Belgium: delivers a speech at the European Youth Parliament of Belgium (EYP).

M. Pierre **Moscovici** visite le [Salon de l'Agriculture](#) à Paris.

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Dublin, Ireland: [participates in a Citizens' dialogue on 'Women Entrepreneurs in Rural Ireland'](#); and meets Mr Michael Tennyson, member of the Agricultural Consultants Association (ACA).

Ms Corina **Crețu** in Paris, France: visits an EU-funded project in Ile-de-France; meets Ms Nathalie Loiseau, Minister for European Affairs, attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** in Copenhagen, Denmark: meets Mr Søren Pape Poulsen, Minister for Justice of Denmark.

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** in Boston, the United States: delivers a keynote speech at the Harvard Kennedy School conference "Europe alive and kicking. Exploring the renewed promise of the European way".

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[Hong Kong welcomes the Year of the Dog in London \(with photos\)](#)

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London (London ETO), greeted the Year of the Dog in the United Kingdom by hosting a Chinese New Year reception in London on February 21 (London time) and participating in the large-scale London Chinatown Chinese New Year celebration in Trafalgar Square, Chinatown and Charing Cross Road on February 18.

The Director-General of the London ETO, Ms Priscilla To, welcomed more than 500 guests at the Chinese New Year reception on February 21 at the Banqueting House, Whitehall in London. Amongst the guests were United Kingdom government officials, parliamentarians, the Lord Mayor of the City of Westminster, mayors from various London Boroughs, senior diplomats, leading figures in the business world, academics, media representatives and members of the Hong Kong community.

Speaking at the reception, Ms To highlighted Hong Kong's many advantages and opportunities, and its openness to trade. She outlined Hong Kong's unique strengths under "one country, two systems", with its key fundamentals including the rule of law, judicial independence, free flow of capital and

information and freedom of speech and expression, all protected and guaranteed under the Basic Law of Hong Kong.

She said, "With our position as the world's largest offshore RMB centre, a leading market for initial public offerings and a premier centre for asset management and risk management, we have much to offer to assist Chinese companies to go global, to serve as a financing platform for Belt and Road projects and to help technology companies in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area to raise capital and attract investment for further growth."

She also introduced the measures aiming to develop Hong Kong as a global innovation and technology hub. She said, "We will allocate more funding to universities to conduct research, introduce tax deduction for expenditure incurred by private enterprises on research & development, and co-invest with private venture capital into our start-ups."

Ms To welcomed Hong Kong's continuing and growing relationship with the UK. "As the UK is deepening its trade ties with new markets on leaving the EU, we welcome more UK exporters to partner with Hong Kong during their journey in Asia. In this, we have already launched a Strategic Dialogue on Trade Partnership with the UK government to examine the existing trade environment of both markets and identify priority areas for future collaboration."

She also mentioned ongoing co-operation with the UK in the field of fintech. Following the fintech bridge agreement signed with the UK government last September, Invest Hong Kong will organise the first UK Fintech Awards in partnership with the UK's Department for International Trade. She highlighted that Hong Kong will soon welcome the UK Great Festival of Innovations which will enable UK companies to showcase their innovations in Asian markets using Hong Kong as a platform.

The reception featured a lion dance as well as a performance by Hong Kong musical group, Artemisia, who played a variety of classical and contemporary Chinese and Hong Kong pieces, several inspired by the cultural history of the ancient Silk Roads which linked East and West.

On February 18, the London ETO took part in the large-scale annual London Chinatown Chinese New Year celebration, which was attended by hundreds of thousands of people. The London ETO ran its own marquee in Trafalgar Square to promote Hong Kong, with thousands of visitors coming by to learn about Hong Kong's culture and to enjoy traditional Hong Kong games. The London ETO also sponsored a special stage in Charing Cross Road which featured performers with a connection to Hong Kong, and where Ms To greeted the audience and conveyed Chinese New Year wishes to them. With the support of the London ETO, Artemisia performed both on the main stage in Trafalgar Square and on the Charing Cross Road stage.

The London ETO will organise further Chinese New Year events in St Petersburg (February 26) and Moscow (February 27).

