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European Semester Autumn 2018 Package: Striving for sustainable and inclusive growth

The Commission today sets out its views on the EU's economic, fiscal and social priorities for the year ahead, building on the guidance from President **Juncker**'s [2017 State of the Union](#) address and on the latest economic data from the [Commission's Autumn 2017 Economic Forecast](#). The 2018 European Semester cycle of economic governance starts against the backdrop of robust economic activity in the euro area and the EU, record high employment rates and unemployment rates declining towards pre-crisis levels. As all Member States contribute to this strong growth momentum, the priority now is to make sure that this lasts and brings benefits to all members of our societies. Structural reforms should focus on creating the conditions to boost investments further and to increase real wage growth to support domestic demand. A [press release](#) and [memo](#) are available online. The remarks of Vice-President **Dombrovskis**, Commissioner **Thyssen** and Commissioner **Moscovici** at the press conference will be available online soon. Further information is available on the [European Semester](#) and [DG ECFIN](#) websites. (For more information: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Juliana Dahl – Tel.: +32 229 59914; Christian Wigand Tel.: +32 229 62253; Sara Soumillion Tel.: +32 229 67094)

Women in management: Commission moves closer to its target of at least 40%

The European Commission is steadily moving towards meeting the target set by President Jean-Claude **Juncker** of ensuring that, by the end of the current mandate, at least 40% of its middle and senior managers are women. According to the latest data, female managers at all levels have reached a total of 36% on 1 November 2017, up from 30% at the beginning of the mandate. Commissioner Günther H. **Oettinger**, in charge of human resources and budget, said: "*Gender-diverse management is more effective and achieves better results. The Commission owes the best to the EU citizens, which is why we have to lead by example. We are on the right path and we will continue making targeted efforts until our female colleagues are well represented at all management levels.*" More details are available [online](#), also in [DE](#) and [FR](#). (For more information: Alexander Winterstein – Tel.: +32 229 93265; Andreana Stankova – Tel.: +32 229 57857)

Drones: Commission coordinates sector-wide efforts to offer commercial services in 2019

The European Commission, national authorities and the industry today endorsed the "[Helsinki Declaration](#)" aiming to deliver advanced drone operations safely and securely in Europe. This Declaration was adopted at a high-level conference on drones organised jointly by the Commission and the Finnish authorities. It identifies three priority areas for sector-wide cooperation in order to ensure that safe commercial drones operations are up and running by 2019. Commissioner for Transport Violeta **Bulc** said "*The Commission is*

focussing on a clean and quiet, safe and secure development of drones. The months ahead will be crucial, but I am confident that the Helsinki Declaration will give us the necessary impetus. It sets out a clear and common strategy endorsed by the entire sector. Let's now turn words into reality!". As a first step, the Commission is calling on the European Parliament and the Council to agree on its [proposal from December 2015](#) establishing an EU-wide framework for drones. This constitutes an important deliverable under the [Aviation Strategy](#) aiming to give a boost to European aviation. More information is available [here](#). (For more information: Enrico Brivio – Tel.: +32 229 56172; Alexis Perier – Tel.: +32 229 69143)

Agriculture: les volailles de plein air pourront rester confinées plus longtemps sans risque de perdre le label pour leurs œufs

La Commission européenne a [prolongé de 12 à 16 semaines](#) la période de dérogation permettant de commercialiser les œufs en tant qu'«œufs de poules élevées en plein air» en cas d'accès restreint aux espaces extérieurs pour raisons vétérinaires. Cette décision, prise après de nombreuses consultations avec les Etats membres, les eurodéputés et les représentants d'éleveurs et consommateurs, intervient alors que de nombreux producteurs avaient ainsi perdu le label "plein air" pour leurs œufs suite aux longues périodes de confinement exigées l'année dernière. Cette prolongation devrait contribuer à minimiser les pertes financières subies par les éleveurs en cas d'épidémie tout en maintenant des garanties pour les consommateurs au vu de la nature limitée de la dérogation. Les autres exigences de production pour bénéficier du label «œufs de poules élevées en plein air» restent en vigueur, notamment les critères de densité des poules sur le terrain et dans les enclos. Il y a actuellement un peu plus de 390 millions de poules dans l'UE dont 54 millions sont élevées en plein air. Les plus grands élevages de plein air se situent au Royaume-Uni, en Allemagne, France, Irlande et Pays-Bas et ce sont ces pays avec la Belgique qui ont dû faire face aux restrictions vétérinaires les plus sévères durant l'épidémie d'influenza aviaire de 2016/2017. Plus d'informations sont disponibles [en ligne](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Daniel Rosario – Tel.: +32 229 56185; Clémence Robin – Tel.: +32 229 52509)

EU leads international efforts to ensure sustainable tuna stocks in the Atlantic

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), responsible for the conservation of tunas and tuna like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas, has concluded its Annual Meeting in Marrakesh on 14 – 21 November. Dominating the negotiations was the stock of Eastern Atlantic tuna for which, following a widely recognized improvement in their stock compared to a decade ago, ICCAT agreed to a gradual increase in the total allowed catches (TAC) reaching a maximum of 36,000 ton in 2020 (28,200t in 2018 and 32,240t in 2019). The increase reflects the outcome of action led by the European Union and the sustained efforts by fishermen and the fishing industry, in the last decade. Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries said: "Our experience of recent

years is that concerted efforts by all parties can secure rapid progress towards more sustainable fisheries. We now need to continue our work towards a long-term management regime for Eastern Bluefin tuna as proposed by the European Commission.” Based on an EU-proposal, for the first time in ICCAT history, Harvest Control Rules were adopted for the Northern albacore and a quota increase of 20%. Harvest Control Rules are the latest generation of science-based approaches to effective fisheries management and provide guidelines on how much fishing can take place according to the state of the stock. Moreover, ICCAT adopted measures to freeze the fishing effort on the stock of Mediterranean albacore and adopted Recommendations reducing the TACs for Northern and Southern Atlantic swordfish, as tabled by the EU. Finally, important steps were taken to protect sharks in the North Atlantic, including the Northern shortfin mako. As member of ICCAT, the European Union is represented in the negotiations by the European Commission. More information [here](#). (For more information: Enrico Brivio– Tel.: +32 229 56172; Iris Petsa – Tel.: +32 229 93321)

Antitrust: Commission fines five car safety equipment suppliers €34 million in cartel settlement

The European Commission has fined Tokai Rika, Takata, Autoliv, Toyoda Gosei and Marutaka a total of €34 million for breaching EU antitrust rules. The companies took part in one or more of four cartels for the supply of car seatbelts, airbags and steering wheels to Japanese car manufacturers in the European Economic Area (EEA). All five suppliers acknowledged their involvement in the cartels and agreed to settle the case. Takata was not fined for three of the cartels as it revealed their existence to the Commission. Tokai Rika was not fined for one of the cartels as it revealed its existence to the Commission. The five car component suppliers addressed in this decision coordinated prices or markets, and exchanged sensitive information for the supply of seatbelts, airbags and steering wheels to Japanese car manufacturers Toyota, Suzuki and Honda in the EEA. The cartel may have had a significant effect on European customers, since around one out of every eleven cars sold in Europe is produced by a Japanese company. Furthermore, all the Japanese car companies affected by the cartel have manufacturing plants in the EEA. Commissioner Margrethe **Vestager**, in charge of competition policy said: *“Seatbelts and airbags protect lives every day and are essential in all cars in the EU. The five suppliers fined today colluded to maximise their profits from the sale of these components. This may have raised the costs of these car parts for a number of manufacturers selling cars in Europe, potentially affecting consumers. We do not accept cartels that affect the European consumers, even if the cartel is organised outside Europe.”* The press release is available online in [EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

Concentrations: La Commission autorise l’acquisition de EasyMile par Alstom et Continental

La Commission européenne a approuvé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les

concentrations, l'acquisition de EasyMile par Alstom Holdings, les deux basées en France, et Continental Automotive Holding Netherlands BV ("Continental") basée aux Pays Bas. EasyMile est une entreprise commune de plein exercice, active dans le développement et la commercialisation de technologies sans conducteur et de solutions de mobilité intelligente pour les courtes distances. EasyMile est actuellement contrôlée par Alstom. Alstom est actif dans la fourniture d'équipement et services pour les transports ferroviaires, comprenant des matériaux roulants, infrastructure de transport, et des équipements et services de signalisation et de maintenance. Continental est une entreprise internationale active dans la fabrication et la fourniture de différents composants et pièces détachées, notamment pour l'industrie automobile. La Commission a conclu que l'opération envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème de concurrence compte tenu de l'activité limitée de EasyMile dans l'Espace Economique Européen. L'opération a été examinée dans le cadre de la procédure normale du contrôle des concentrations. De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur le [site internet concurrence](#) de la Commission, dans le [registre public](#) des affaires sous le numéro d'affaire [M.8588](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Paysafe by CVC and Blackstone

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of Paysafe Group PLC of the UK by CVC Capital Partners of Luxembourg and the Blackstone Group L.P. of the US. Paysafe is active in the provision of online and mobile payment processing services. CVC provides advice to and manages certain investment funds and platforms. Blackstone is a global alternative asset manager. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because there are only minor horizontal overlaps or vertical relationships between the activities of Paysafe and a number of companies owned by one of its parents, CVC. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.8640](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Sarantopoulou – Tel.: +32 229 13740)

Eurostat: La production agricole totale dans l'UE a diminué de 2,8% en 2016 par rapport à 2015

Les comptes économiques de l'agriculture font apparaître que la valeur totale de la production agricole dans l'Union européenne (UE) s'établissait à 405,0 milliards d'euros au prix de base en 2016, soit en baisse de 2,8% par rapport à 2015. En 2016, l'équivalent de 59% de la valeur de la production agricole générée a été consacré à la consommation intermédiaire (intrants de biens et services), tandis que la valeur ajoutée brute (c'est-à-dire la valeur de la production moins la valeur de la consommation intermédiaire) a atteint 41% (165,7 milliards d'euros). Un communiqué d'eurostat est disponible [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Daniel Rosario – Tel.: +32 229 56185; Clemence Robin – Tel.: +32 229 52509)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Mimica participates in the #YouthTakeover

Tomorrow morning, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven **Mimica** will symbolically hand over his social media accounts to Upendo Abisai, a 23-year old woman from Tanzania. This comes one week before the [5th African Union-European Union Summit 2017](#) in Abidjan, which will focus on "Investing in youth for a sustainable future" as its central theme. Ms Abisai is a fellow of the [African Union-European Union Youth Plug-In Initiative](#). This EU-funded initiative has allowed a group of 36 young people from Africa and Europe to jointly develop recommendations for African and European leaders that they will present in the form of a Youth Agenda. Commissioner **Mimica** said: *"I am happy to welcome and learn from Upendo, as well as the other fellows of our Youth Plug-in Initiative. Their participation and their contributions are key for the AU-EU Summit which takes place next week. Their work will contribute greatly to the future of our partnership with Africa."* Ms Abisai will spend the morning shadowing Commissioner **Mimica** in his work. They will meet with journalists, and conduct a live Twitter Q&A from the Commissioner's account between 10.30 and 11.00. She will touch upon issues related to the priority themes of the Youth Plug-In Initiative: business, job creation and entrepreneurship; education and skills; government, political and democratic inclusion; culture and arts; peace and security; environmental preservation and climate change. (For more information: Carlos Martin Ruiz De Gordejuela – Tel.: +32 229 65322; Christina Wunder – Tel.: +32 229 92256)

Commissioner Thyssen co-hosts first European Business-Education Summit

Tomorrow 23 November, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne **Thyssen**, will host the very first Business-Education Summit, together with Etienne Davignon, President of [CSR Europe](#), a European business network for Corporate Social Responsibility. This high-level event will gather together 650 participants, including Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue, Valdis **Dombrovskis**, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor **Navracsics**, President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, around 50 CEOs of several companies as well as representatives of youth organisations, civil society and national and EU policy makers. It will be an opportunity to take stock of the accomplishments of the [Pact for Youth initiative](#), a mutual engagement of EU and business leaders, in close collaboration with youth representatives, aiming to set-up business-education partnerships to improve the chances for young people of getting a job. Ahead of the Summit, Commissioner **Thyssen** said: *"At the [Social Summit in Gothenburg](#) last week, European leaders proclaimed the European [Pillar of Social Rights](#). The first principle of the Pillar is the right to Education, Training and Life Long Learning. Business is an essential partner to teach the right skills through traineeships, apprenticeships and on the job training. The Pact for Youth has built a bridge to harness the divide between education and business, and I hope it will continue to do so."* Mr Davignon added: *"Throughout Europe, the partners of the Pact for Youth have provided a critical mass of practical examples of how enterprises collaborate with schools and colleges, to the benefit of students at various stages of their education, teachers, employees, and their business. Our ambition is clear, to better equip youth for the future of work by making business-*

*education partnerships the new norm in Europe.” Since its launch in November 2015, the Pact has helped to form 23,000 business-education partnerships and create 160,000 new opportunities for young people in Europe. The Business-Education Summit will also be an opportunity for participants to explore new ways to boost youth employment in the years to come. More information about the Summit can be found [here](#). Tomorrow at 11:30, a press statement with Commissioner **Thyssen** and Mr Davignon will take place in the Commission’s Charlemagne building. The press statement can also be followed [online](#). (For more information: Christian Wigand– Tel.: +32 229 62253; Sara Soumilion – Tel.: + 32 229 67094)*

Commissioner Navracsics to announce the winners of the first #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards

*At the very first [#BeInclusive EU Sport Awards](#) ceremony in Brussels this evening, Tibor **Navracsics**, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, will present the three winners with their awards and a prize of EUR 10,000 each. Ahead of the event, Commissioner **Navracsics** said: “With the #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards, I want to highlight and reward outstanding work and commitment in promoting social inclusion through sport across Europe. Sport is a powerful tool for breaking down barriers and building a more inclusive society, and I want to give recognition to that.” The Awards were launched in June and the competition was open to all organisations established in the EU – public or private, commercial or not-for-profit – that have successfully developed sport projects aimed at social inclusion of ethnic minorities, refugees, people with disabilities or any other group facing challenging social circumstances. The initiative is part of the Commission’s efforts to promote the values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education, both formal and non-formal, as set out in the so-called Paris Declaration. Projects were evaluated according to their impact, replicability and innovation. Nine projects were shortlisted with the three best projects being unveiled this evening. The names of the winners will be available [here](#) later along with information on all the projects. (Further information: Nathalie Vandystadt – Tel. [+32 229 67083](#); Joseph Waldstein – Tel. [+32 229 56184](#))*

La Commissaire Crețu au forum de la Stratégie Alpine à Munich

*Demain, la Commissaire à la politique régionale Corina **Crețu** sera à Munich, en Allemagne, pour participer au premier forum annuel de la [Stratégie macro-régionale Alpine](#), aux côtés de Karl-Heinz Lambertz, Président du Comité européen des Régions. “Ce premier forum sera l’occasion de faire un premier bilan et de renouveler notre engagement en faveur de la Stratégie, pour travailler plus étroitement ensemble, au-delà des frontières, dans cette grande et belle région,” a déclaré la Commissaire **Crețu**, “Ce sera aussi l’occasion de réfléchir à l’avenir de nos stratégies macro-régionales, après 2020.” La Stratégie Alpine, qui regroupe sept pays (France, Allemagne, Italie, Autriche, Slovaquie, ainsi que le Liechtenstein et la Suisse) et 70 millions d’habitants, vise à davantage mutualiser les ressources de la région pour faire face à des défis communs, comme la pollution atmosphérique ou la congestion routière, et accroître les échanges. Parmi ces ressources; 80 programmes différents financés par les [Fonds Structurels et d’Investissements](#)*

[européens](#), que la Stratégie a pour objet de mieux utiliser en commun. (*Pour plus d'informations: Johannes Bahrke – Tel.: +32 229 58615; Sophie Dupin de Saint-Cyr – Tel.: +32 229 56169*)

Commissioner Avramopoulos in Morocco to discuss cooperation on migration and border management

Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris **Avramopoulos** will be in HOBBSAL Morocco on 23-24 November to discuss cooperation on migration and border management. He will meet among others Moroccan Minister of the Interior Abdelouafi Laftit and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Nasser Bourita. (*For more information: Natasha Bertaud – Tel.: +32 229 67456; Tove Ernst – Tel.: +32 229 86764; Thomas Kramer – Tel.: +32 229 58602*)

Commission appoints senior managers in its departments for agriculture and for environment

The Commission has today appointed two Directors – Ms Veronica Manfredi and Mr Michael Niejahr – in its departments for the environment (DG Environment) and for agriculture and rural development (DG Agriculture), respectively. It has also appointed Mr Thomas Verheye to the position of a Principal Adviser in its department for the environment. Ms Manfredi, an Italian national, joined the European Commission in 1999. Between 2002 and 2011, she consecutively worked in the private offices of Commissioners Bolkestein – then in charge of internal market and fiscal affairs – and Kallas – first in charge of administration and then, of transport. Ms Manfredi has been Head of the Consumer and Marketing Law Unit in the Commission's justice department since 2011. She will take up her new position of Director "Quality of life" in DG Environment at a date that will be set later. Mr Niejahr, a German national, is taking up his new position of a Director "Legal, Institutional and Procedural Matters" in DG Agriculture as of 1 December. Mr Niejahr joined the European Commission in 1993. He has worked in the area of agricultural law since 1998 – first in the Commission's Legal Service and then in DG Agriculture, where he first became Head of Unit in 2005. Mr Niejahr is currently leading DG Agriculture's agricultural law team. Mr Verheye, a Belgian national, will become a Principal Adviser "Green finance and investments" on 1 December in DG Environment. After jobs in the International Monetary Fund and in the private sector, Mr Verheye joined the European Commission in 1996 and DG Environment in 2002. Mr Verheye first became Head of Unit in 2011. He is currently Head of Unit in charge of green finance and economic analysis in DG Environment. (*For more information: Alexander Winterstein – Tel.: +32 229 93265; Andreana Stankova – Tel.: +32 229 57857*)

[Upcoming events](#) of the European Commission (ex-Top News)