

Vocational Education and Training at the heart of Europe: Launch of third European Vocational Skills Week

Under the motto “Discover your Talent”, thousands of young people all over Europe will have a chance to learn about training and career opportunities thanks to vocational education and training at more than 1,000 events taking place across Europe until December 2018. The initiative brings together education and training providers, civil society organisations, public authorities, business organisations, trade unions, and the broader public to raise awareness of the benefits of Vocational Education and Training (VET).

The Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility **Marianne Thyssen**, said: *“We are happy to be back for the third year in a row to show that VET leads to exciting and rewarding careers in all walks of life – pilots, movie makers, aircraft technicians, you name it! What’s more, VET and apprenticeships give people the right skills to match labour market needs in the 21st century, therefore I’m delighted that we take again the time and the opportunity, all across Europe, to showcase these benefits.”*

Heinz Faßmann, Austrian Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research, said: *“The Austrian Presidency is delighted to be hosting the third edition of the European Vocational Skills Week, which will take place for the first time outside Brussels. Through the choice learners have between a dual apprenticeships scheme and a full-time school-based system, VET forms a highly valued and demanded part of Austrian education and training. The European Vocational Skills Week provides a unique opportunity to further boost the attractiveness of VET.”*

“A well-established and functioning VET system is an important factor for economic development. But VET also offers young people a stable basis for successful careers. Therefore, VET has to be promoted and the European Vocational Skills Week is a powerful tool to do this. In this sense the Austrian Presidency is proud to be the centre of European VET policy for one week!” says **Margarete Schramböck**, Austrian Federal Minister for Digital and Economic Affairs.

Vocational Education and Training: a smart choice for the future

The aim of the Week is to show that VET is a smart choice, for young people and adults alike, leading to excellence in education, high-quality jobs and increased employability. In doing so, the Week contributes to the [Skills Agenda for Europe](#) and the roll-out of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#). Through the European Vocational Skills Week, the European Commission wants to raise awareness of the wide range of opportunities available through VET, and encourage more people to participate and learn what it has to offer. This year, the future of VET is also an important focus of the Week, touching on topics such as digitalisation and the internationalisation of VET.

As part of the campaign, opening events and Employers' Days are being hosted in several Member States, 26 national and pan-EU Ambassadors have been appointed to raise awareness of the initiative, and awards to celebrate excellence in VET will be conferred during the Week.

The week has been organised with the strong involvement and support from the [European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training \(Cedefop\)](#) and the [European Training Foundation](#).

Background

Key figures on vocational education in Europe (source: [Eurostat](#))

- 49% of upper secondary students in Europe participate in upper secondary VET (2016)
- The employment rate of recent VET graduates [\[1\]](#) in Europe is 74.8% (2017)
- The percentage of low-qualified adults [\[2\]](#) in Europe has been reducing steadily thanks to the European Social Fund (ESF) assistance but is still too high, at 22.5% (2017)
- 10.9% of Europe's population participates in adult learning (2017)

About the European Vocational Skills Week:

The first edition of the European Vocational Skills Week took place in 2016. In 2017, the second edition took place with more than 1585 activities organised across Europe reaching 1 million people. The events for the third edition per country can be found [here](#).

About the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2018:

Following its presidencies in 1998 and 2006, Austria assumed its third presidency of the Council of the European Union on 1 July 2018.

For more information

[European Vocational Skills Week Website and event map](#)

[Facebook Event Page: European Vocational Skills Week 2018](#)

[Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2018 Website](#)

[Eurostat news item with statistics on vocational education across the EU \(available as of 5 November\)](#)

Follow Marianne Thyssen on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), #EUVocationalSkills [#DiscoverYourTalent](#)

[\[1\]](#) Aged 15-34, [Eurostat](#)

[\[2\]](#) Less than primary, primary, and lower secondary education, [Eurostat](#)

CALENDRIER du 05 novembre au 11 novembre 2018

(Susceptible de modifications en cours de semaine)

Déplacements et visites

Lundi 5 novembre 2018

Eurogroup

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Martin Schulz, former President of the European Parliament, and Ms Daniela Jansen, former member of the regional Parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** in Montréal, Canada: participates in the EU-Canada Joint Ministerial dinner.

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** receives representatives of the Slovak business Agency on the occasion of the 100TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT organised by the Slovak and Czech community in Brussels; and gives a keynote speech at the Central European Day of Energy 2018 organised by the Central Europe Energy Partners (CEEP) and DG Energy, in Brussels.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** attends the “Macroeconomic Dialogue at Political Level”, in Brussels.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** delivers the opening keynote speech at the “[The Single Market as a Driver of Investment in Europe](#)” High-Level Conference, in Brussels.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** in Hamburg, Germany: meets Mr Peter Tschentscher, First Mayor of Hamburg; and is awarded the [Hanse-Prize of the Hanse-Verein](#).

Mr Karmenu **Vella** in Kiel, Germany: delivers a speech at the “Deutscher Meerespreis 2018”, at the GEOMAR Institute.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Shanghai, China (until 07/11): visits the China International Import Expo.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen**, in Belgium: kicks off the [EU Vocational Skills Week](#), with visits to two vocational education schools: the Institute Damiaan in Aarschot and Ter Groene Poorte in Bruges.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** in Graz, Austria: delivers a Speech in the High-Level Space Conference.

Ms Věra **Jourová** in Lisbon, Portugal: attends the Opening Ceremony of the [Web Summit](#).

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Florence, Italy: participates in the opening session of the first Conference of the Mayors of European Capitals of Culture (Programme).

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** in Denmark: delivers a keynote speech on “the Future of Europe” at the senior school Ringe Midtfyn, in Ringe; delivers a keynote speech at the Association of Danish Journalists “Dansk Journalistforbund” [Media Festival](#), in Odense; and participates in a [Citizens’ Dialogue](#) at the University of Southern Denmark.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** is in Lisbon, Portugal: attends the [Lisbon Web Summit](#) opening night and dinner hosted by António Costa, The Prime Minister of Portugal.

M Julian **King** in Paris, France: delivers a speech at the terrorist victims’ Conference ‘Quels Chemins vers la résilience?’; and participates in the European Summit dedicated to the fight against terrorism.

Mardi 6 novembre 2018

Economic and Financial Affairs Council

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Julius Maada Bio, President of Sierra Leone.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Mário Centeno, President of the Eurogroup.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** in Montréal, Canada: meets Ms Chrystia Freeland, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada; participates in the EU-Canada Joint Ministerial committee; addresses together with Ms Chrystia Freeland an event of the [“Fortune Most Powerful Women International Summit Montréal”](#); addresses the event [“Navigating unchartered waters: the EU and Canada closer than ever”](#) with students of the McGill University.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** delivers opening remarks at the High-Level Industrial Roundtable “Industry 2030”, in Brussels.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Bjarni Benediktsson, Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs of Iceland.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen**, in Helsinki, Finland (until 09/11): attends the Presidency and the Political Assembly of the European People’s Party.

Mr Neven **Mimica** in Oslo, Norway: addresses several panels of the [Global Financing Facility Conference](#).

Mr Neven **Mimica** in Oslo, Norway: meets Ms Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway; meets Mr Nikolai Astrup, Minister for International Development of Norway; and meets Ms Melinda Gates, co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** in Madrid, Spain: delivers an opening speech at [V Foro Solar](#).

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Shanghai, China (until 07/11): visits the Shanghai Yangshan Port; visits the Ruijin Hospital (Jiao Tong University School of Medicine); and participates in a dinner with the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** attends the congress of the European People's Party.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** meets Mr Alexander de Croo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Telecommunications and Postal Services of Belgium.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** attends the Conference on Safe and Secure Parking Places for Trucks, in Brussels.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** attends the Trilogue on the "Port Reception Facility Proposal", in Brussels.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** delivers a keynote speech at the [European Diesel Summit](#) organized by Transport & Environment (T&E).

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** receives representatives of the Polish Bar of Attorneys.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** receives Mr Roman Szełemej, Mayor of Wałbrzycha.

Ms Věra **Jourová** in Lisbon: meets Mr António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, ;speaks at the [Web Summit](#); and meets Ms Gillian Tans, CEO of Booking.com, Mr Greg Peters, Chief Product Officer of Netflix and representatives of Czech IT companies on the margins of the Web Summit.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Florence, Italy: participates in and speaks at the first Conference of the Mayors of European Capitals of Culture.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Vienna, Austria: participates in and speaks at the Special Awards Ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the [EU Prize for Literature](#).

Mr Carlos **Moedas** Mr Carlos Moedas is in Lisbon, Portugal: participates in the [Lisbon Web Summit](#); launches the "2019 EU Prize for Women Innovators" with Commissioner Věra **Jourová**; announces the winners at the iCapital awards ceremony; visits the Social Innovation Village to accept policy recommendations from the Social Innovation Consortia; takes part in the

signature ceremony for the InnoFin/COSME funding project; participates in the “More Social Good in Tech, More Tech in Social Good” panel debate; and attends a chat on “Women in Tech”.

Mr Julian King in Lisbon, Portugal: participates in the Lisbon [Web Summit 2018](#).

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Luxembourg, Luxembourg: attends the Inauguration of the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking ([EuroHPC JU](#)) Governing Board.

Mercredi 7 novembre 2018

College meeting

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** participates in the EPP Summit ahead of the EPP Congress, in Helsinki, Finland.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** receives Mr Andros Kyprianou, Secretary General of the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus (AKEL).

Ms Federica **Mogherini** holds a speech at the event “Africa-Europe Partnership: A Vision Beyond Migration” during the [S&D Group Africa Week 2018](#), at the European Parliament, in Brussels.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** meets Mr Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen**, in Helsinki, Finland: delivers opening remarks at the “Seniors in a Digital Era” conference of the European Seniors’ Union (ESU); delivers a keynote speech at the “Cities delivering smart solutions to climate change” event of the European People’s Party Group in the Committee of the Regions; and attends the [European People’s Party Congress](#) and the EPP Summit.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** participates in the [Global Think Tank Summit 2018](#), in Brussels.

Mr Neven **Mimica** receives Mr Roch Marc Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** delivers a speech at the European Tourism Day 2018: The Renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy: Making EU Tourism stronger in a new industrial era, in Brussels.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** in Prague, Czech Republic (until 08/11): participates in a working dinner with Mr Andrej Babiš, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, and Mr Richard Brabec, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Environment of the Czech Republic.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Shanghai, China: participates in the 12th China International Food Safety and Quality (CIFSQ) Conference; meets Mr Steve

Ostroff, Deputy Commissioner for Foods and Veterinary Medicine of the United States; and meets Mr Junshi Chen, Senior Research Professor at the National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment of China.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** (until 8/11): attends the congress of the European People's Party.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** prononce le discours de clôture de la Conférence sur l'Investissement de long terme au Parlement européen, à Bruxelles.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** receives Mr Johan Lundgren, Chief Executive of EasyJet.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** in Capetown, South Africa: meets Dr Rob Davies, Minister for Trade and Industry; meets Ms Lindiwe Daphney Zulu, Minister for Small Business Development and visits [Gestamp Renewable Industries](#) and [SAREBI incubator](#) at the [Atlantis Special Economic Zone](#) (ASEZ).

Ms Věra **Jourová** in Madrid: meets Ms Carmen Calvo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Presidency, Parliamentary Relations and Equality of Spain (TBC), Ms María Luisa Carcedo, Minister for Health, Consumption and Social Well-being of Spain, Ms. Nadia Calviño, Minister for Economy and Enterprise of Spain and Mr José Vicente González, Vice-President of the Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain.

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** in Lisbon, Portugal: delivers opening remarks at the Opening of the Jean Monnet Chair of the Faculty of Law at the University of Lisbon; delivers a keynote speech at the Lisbon [Web Summit](#) at Altice Arena & FIL on "Building a Fairer digital economy – How do we get the best out of technology?".

Mr Carlos **Moedas** is in Helsinki, Finland: participates at the European People's Party (EPP) Congress.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Helsinki, Finland: (until 08/11) attends the EPP Congress Helsinki. The Commissioner will attend the EPP roundtable "Digital economy for everyone", the EIN seminar roundtable: "Towards an innovation union". On the second day, the Commissioner will join the EPP group study days.

Jeudi 8 novembre 2018

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** participates in the EPP Congress, in Helsinki, Finland.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker**, in Helsinki, Finland: meets Mr Juha Sipilä, Prime Minister of Finland.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker**, in Helsinki, Finland: meets Mr Sauli Niinistö, President of Finland.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** participates in the discharge debate, at the European

Parliament, in Brussels.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** in Helsinki, Finland (until 09/11): attends the [European People's Party Congress](#).

Mr Jyrki **Katainen**, in Helsinki, Finland: attends the [European People's Party Congress](#); addresses the Parliamentary Group of the National Coalition Party; delivers a keynote speech on the EU trade policy in the event "EU as a Global Superpower" in the Europe House; and meets the "Europe Academy" of the Youth League of the National Coalition Party.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Ms Xiana Margarida Méndez Bértolo, State Secretary for Trade of Spain.

Mr Neven **Mimica** participates in the discharge debate, in the European Parliament, in Brussels.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** in Beijing, China (until 09/11): meets Mr Xie Zhenhua, Special Representative on Climate Change Affairs of China.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** in Prague, Czech Republic: participates in a working lunch with Mr Richard Brabec, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Environment of the Czech Republic, and representatives of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Czech Republic; participates in a public debate and attends a High Level Meeting on "Clean Air Dialogue".

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Beijing, China: meets Ms Jiao Hong, Director of National Medical Products Administration of China (NMPA); meets Mr Han Chanfu, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China (MARA); meets Mr Ni Yuefeng, Secretary of the CPC Leadership Group and Minister of the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC).

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** in Vienna, Austria: meets with Ms Elke Bündenbender, First Lady of Germany; and attends a gala dinner on the occasion of the Vocational Skills Week Award Ceremony.

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Helsinki, Finland: participates in the EPP Congress; meets Mr Jari Leppä, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland; meets Mr Petteri Orpo, Minister of Finance of Finland.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** receives Mr Eamonn Brennan, Director General of Eurocontrol.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** is in Johannesburg, South Africa: visits South African National Space Agency (SANSA) Campus and delivers an opening speech at the African Investment Forum for the Launch of the EU-Africa high level platform on sustainable energy investments in Africa.

Ms Věra **Jourová** in Madrid, Spain: speaks at the Citizen's dialogue with Mr Albert Rivera, Leader of "Ciudadanos"; and meets Ms Dolores Delgado, Minister for Justice of Spain.

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** in Madrid, Spain (until 09/11): delivers keynote speech at the Working Breakfast "Desayuno Informativo", at Europa Press Noticias;

delivers keynote speech at the Annual Competition Conference 2018; attends on stage interview with El Economista “Hacia un equilibrio justo en los mercados”.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** is in Helsinki, Finland: participates at the European People’s Party (EPP) Congress.

Mr Carlos Moedas is in Madrid, Spain: participates in the Official dinner hosted by the H.E Felipe VI, King of Spain at the XIX Foro IberoAmerica conference.

Mr Julian **King** in Oxford, United Kingdom: participates in the [Ditchley Foundation](#) conference “Modern deterrence: What does the combination of Nuclear, biological and chemical warfare, cyber and artificial intelligence mean for the evolution of Western Deterrence against State and non-State actors?”.

Vendredi 9 novembre 2018

Foreign Affairs Council (Trade)

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Mr Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary-General of NATO.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** in Helsinki, Finland: delivers a keynote speech at the conference “Sustainable Finance in Nordic-Baltic”; meets Mr Petteri Orpo, Minister of Finance; and meets Mr Jari Lindström, Minister of Employment.

Mr Johannes **Hahn** in Kyiv, Ukraine: on official visit.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Mr Rene Tammist, Minister for Entrepreneurship and Information Technology of Estonia.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** in Beijing, China: meets Mr Li Ganjie, Minister of Ecological Environment of China.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** receives Mr Harald Nesvik, Minister of Fisheries of Norway.

Mr Dimitris **Avramopoulos** in Washington D.C., U.S.: attends the EU-U.S. Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** in Vienna, Austria: gives a keynote speech at the closing event of the Vocational Skills Week and meets with Mrs Doris Schmidauer, First Lady of Austria

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Dublin, Ireland: addresses the American Chamber of Commerce Ireland; addresses the Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC).

Ms Violeta **Bulc** in Madrid, Spain: attends the 39th ALDE Party Congress, including the Plenary Debate on “Europe in a new economic world order – The future of trade, investments and innovation”, and the Roundtable Debate on “Smart Cities”.

Ms Věra **Jourová** in Madrid, Spain: speaks at the Roundtable on Online Competitiveness in the Age of Platforms and attends the 39th ALDE Party Congress.

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Budapest, Hungary: gives a lecture on Christian Democracy in the 21st Century, organised by The [Institute of Social Reflection](#).

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** in Madrid, Spain: attends the ALDE Party Congress.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** is in Madrid, Spain: delivers a keynote speech and participates in a panel discussion on Challenges of future for a digital society at the XIX Foro IberoAmerica.

Mr Julian **King** in Oxford, United Kingdom: participates in the [Ditchley Foundation](#) conference “Modern deterrence: What does the combination of Nuclear, biological and chemical warfare, cyber and artificial intelligence mean for the evolution of Western Deterrence against State and non-State actors?”.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Sofia, Bulgaria: attends the Sofia Tech Park conference on virtual reality and artificial intelligence “Future of Reality”; Meeting with R. Condon and D. Stefanova from VMWare (with demonstration of activities); delivers the closing speech at the Global libraries foundation on “Global libraries today and digital transformation”; and attends the “National Palace of Culture” opening session on “Disinformation: Fake news of true trolls”.

Samedi 10 novembre 2018

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Veszprém, Hungary: attends the celebrations on the occasion of the 100 Years of Polish Independence – organised by the Polish Minority Self-Government.

Dimanche 11 novembre 2018

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** participates in the ceremony for the Armistice centenary, in Paris, France.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** participates in an official lunch for Heads of State or Government hosted by Mr Emmanuel Macron, President of France, in Paris, France.

Prévisions du mois de novembre:

12/11 General Affairs Council (Art. 50); General Affairs Council

14/11 EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Council

16/11 Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Budget)

19-20/11 Agriculture and Fisheries Council

19/11 Foreign Affairs Council

20/11 Foreign Affairs Council (Defence)

22/11 EU-Uzbekistan Cooperation Council

26/11 Foreign Affairs Council (Development)

26-27/11 Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council

29 – 30/11 Competitiveness Council

Permanence DG COMM le WE du 10 au 11 novembre 2018:

Ricardo CARDOSO: +32 (0) 460 76 42 66

Service Audiovisuel, planning studio – tél. : +32 (0)2/295 21 23

[Notice of ESMA's Product Intervention Renewal Decision in relation to contracts for differences](#)

On 23 October 2018, the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) adopted a [Decision](#) under Article 40 of Regulation (EU) No 600/2014 to restrict the marketing, distribution or sale of contracts for differences (CFDs) to retail clients. The Decision renews and amends ESMA Decision (EU) 2018/796.

In accordance with Article 40(5) of Regulation (EU) No 600/2014, this Notice provides details of the Decision and the time from which the measure will take effect. The [full text of the Decision](#) is published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

[CFD Renewal Decision Notice](#)

[Download PDF](#)

[Notice of ESMA's Product Intervention Renewal Decision in relation to contracts for differences](#)

On 23 October 2018, the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) adopted a [Decision](#) under Article 40 of Regulation (EU) No 600/2014 to restrict the marketing, distribution or sale of contracts for differences (CFDs) to retail clients. The Decision renews and amends ESMA Decision (EU) 2018/796.

In accordance with Article 40(5) of Regulation (EU) No 600/2014, this Notice provides details of the Decision and the time from which the measure will take effect. The [full text of the Decision](#) is published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.